

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 20th September, 1977

The SPEAKER (Mr Thompson) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

APPROPRIATION BILL (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) (No. 2)

Standing Orders Suspension

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Treasurer) [4.33 p.m.]: I move, without notice—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the "Appropriation Bill (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (No. 2)" to be introduced without notice, and taken to the stage that the Motion "That the Bill be now read a second time" has been moved, in one day.

By way of explanation, this move is taken with some regret. However, there is a technicality in the actual name of the Bill as notice of it was given in this House. Members who have had experience in the Chamber will realise that if there is any variation between the wording of the long title and the notice which has been given, the Bill itself could be challenged. With a Bill of any significance, it is necessary to follow to the letter the correct parliamentary procedure.

Therefore, to overcome the problem so that we can introduce the Estimates for the Consolidated Revenue Fund today and the General Loan Fund on Thursday, it is necessary for me to seek leave of the House, without notice, to introduce the Appropriation Bill (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (No. 2).

Members will see that I have given the normal notice in respect of the General Loan Fund Bill so that it can be introduced as Bill (No. 2) next Thursday. I have discussed with the Leader of the Opposition the technical point which has arisen, and explained the problem to him; I understand he is prepared to co-operate in the matter, of which I am very appreciative.

When I have permission to proceed, I will go to the second reading of the Bill and explain the Budget in detail to members after which I will table the papers in the normal way.

Mr O'NEIL: Mr Speaker, I formally second the motion.

The SPEAKER: I advise members that in order to pass in the affirmative, this question will need the support of an absolute majority. If, when I put the question, there is a dissentient voice, I shall have to divide the House.

The question is that the motion moved by the Premier be agreed to. All those of that opinion will say, "Aye"; all those against will say, "No".

I have counted the House, and as there is an absolute majority present and there being no dissentient voice, I declare the motion to be carried with the concurrence of an absolute majority of the whole number of members of the House.

Question thus passed.

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Treasurer), and read a first time.

Second Reading

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Treasurer) [4.39 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

In doing so, I thank the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues for their co-operation in overcoming the technical problem in connection with the wording of the Bill.

Each year, the formulation of a budget to provide for the works and services of the state for the year ahead requires that ways and means be found to overcome new problems and to adapt to changing economic conditions.

This year is no exception, for reasons which will emerge during the course of this speech.

Although some satisfaction can be drawn from the fact that economic conditions in Western Australia are in a better state than in most other parts of Australia, the Government is concerned at the continued depressed condition of the national economy.

As I have consistently maintained, the essential first task of all Governments must be the control of inflation. The task is not easy and the medicine is unpalatable but we cannot afford to waver from this aim.

To the credit of the Federal Government, it has not wavered, despite criticism and its own concern at the slowness of economic recovery. That government can rightly point to the slowing down of the inflation rate in the past year to a current annual rate of less than 10%, as vindication of its policies.

Nor can there be any slackening in the battle against inflation. The present rate is still far too high and must be brought down to a level below that experienced by our major trading partners if we are to restore profitability to the great primary export industries on which the health of our economy depends.

There can be no doubt that an important factor contributing to the high inflation rate of recent years has been the excessive growth of government expenditure and the size of the federal deficit hanging over the economy. Too much of the nation's resources have been diverted to financing government expenditure programs, however desirable in themselves, and too little has been available to enable economic recovery in the private sector and provide the base for longer term economic growth.

The need to finance a Commonwealth deficit of unprecedented proportions is draining funds from the private sector that could otherwise be mobilised to support public and private investment in income producing assets. The need to attract lenders for this purpose is contributing to the continuation of high interest rates which all of us, including the Federal Government, wish to see reduced at the earliest opportunity.

My views on the present high interest rates and the crippling burden they impose on business, home buyers and the community in general are well known. I have expressed my concern publicly and at meetings of heads of government on many occasions and will continue to press for a significant reduction in interest rates at the earliest opportunity.

I am aware that substantially lower interest rates can only be achieved by governments adopting responsible and balanced budget strategies, by progress in reducing inflationary forces and by restoring a healthy balance of payments position. The Government of Western Australia is prepared to do all in its power to help achieve those aims.

In particular we must accept and support the efforts of the federal Government to get its own fiscal house in order and bring revenue and expenditure back into balance. This can only be done by imposing higher taxation, or by holding down tightly on the growth of expenditure.

I do not think any member of this Assembly would support the first course. We need to make every effort to reduce the burden of taxation not increase it.

If the excessive expenditure levels generated in the period of the Whitlam Government are to be reduced it is inevitable that a number of recurrent expenditure programs are reduced or held to more realistic growth rates.

We have been acutely aware of this when framing our own budget as we have had to contend with actual reductions in Commonwealth funds for sewerage, hospital buildings and recreation facilities.

Mr Davies: Good old Fraser.

Sir CHARLES COURT: In many other cases the increase provided has been less than we had hoped, often less than required merely to keep pace with inflation of costs during the past year.

Clearly the State does not have the resources to compensate for the reduced Commonwealth funding in all cases, nor would it make sense for us to increase state taxation to maintain levels of expenditure that are already too high for the economy to sustain.

Nevertheless, I am satisfied that there are no major deficiencies in the expenditure estimates which I will outline shortly and provision has been made for steady progress over the whole range of State Government services although at growth rates more in line with what the community can afford to pay.

Members opposite have made great play with the Commonwealth Government's actions in slowing down the previously excessive rate of expenditure of taxpayers funds. However, they are silent as to the alternative, even higher taxes, continued inflation and growing unemployment in the private sector.

Have they learned nothing from the disastrous spendthrift policies of the Whitlam era? Do they really think the taxpayer has a bottomless purse or that money can be churned out of the printing press to pay for lavish welfare programs regardless of the economic consequences?

Mr Tonkin: Why did you appoint extra politicians last year then? That cost money too. We did not need them.

Sir CHARLES COURT: As Treasurer of this State, with the responsibility of framing a budget which provides the people of Western Australia with the best possible services over the whole range of government activities, I would have welcomed a greater increase in Commonwealth funds this year but not at the expense of the economic health of the nation.

I have even been critical of Commonwealth decisions on funding in some areas such as road funds.

But let me make this clear. We are determined to cope; we are determined to live responsibly within our means and continue efforts to reduce taxation. And we are determined to pursue and support policies aimed at reducing inflation, increasing employment and restoring economic growth.

Mr H. D. Evans: What do you mean "continue"? You haven't even started.

Sir CHARLES COURT: There is no other responsible course.

Where I am at variance with the Commonwealth is in their attitude to expenditure on capital works. In this respect it is important to distinguish between expenditure by governments on recurrent services financed from taxation revenue and capital works financed by borrowing.

The former requires the compulsory diversion of funds from individuals and companies to government and creates a long term commitment to higher annual expenditures which are not easily curtailed.

The latter are financed by voluntary loans raised from the pool of public savings. Capital works programs may be expanded or curtailed according to the economic circumstances of the time and the capacity of the market both internal and overseas to provide the necessary funds.

I believe that at the present time an expansion of public sector works programs by increased borrowing would be consistent with anti-inflationary policy, provide increased business and a stimulus to confidence in the private sector and create jobs for the unemployed.

The Commonwealth Government, at the July Loan Council meeting, was not prepared to support an increase of more than 5% in the states' works programs financed by Commonwealth bond issues. The reason was that in view of the heavy call on the market to fund the federal deficit, it was considered that no greater sum could be raised without creating upward pressure on interest rates.

Even if this judgement were correct—and I consider it to be over conservative—I am satisfied that there is capacity in the market to finance a considerably greater program of borrowing by state authorities than the Commonwealth was prepared to support.

Moreover, there is a considerable pool of funds available from overseas markets at attractive rates of interest which could augment the local market if the Commonwealth were to relax its opposition to state authorities borrowing overseas in approved circumstances and under Loan Council supervision and control.

I am unable to understand the Commonwealth Government's rigid attitude on this point. Given our present balance of payments problems and the Commonwealth Government's desire to encourage the inflow of investment funds from overseas, there are obvious advantages in state governments also seeking funds from overseas sources in a carefully controlled and responsible manner.

I believe there is a strong case for an expanded program of public works in the present situation, particularly in upgrading and expanding the capacity of public utility services such as power and water supplies, sewerage and transport.

Not only would such a course help to put men back into gainful employment and provide work for industry and commerce, it would also create community assets of the standard required to cope with the increased demands of the private sector when the upturn gathers momentum.

It was with these considerations in mind that in June I moved to have an economic conference of all state Premiers. Following a preliminary meeting of Premiers at the end of June the full economic conference was held in Melbourne on 5th August.

The August meeting of Premiers was an important milestone. It was the first occasion to my knowledge that the six state Premiers had come together to discuss the national economy and, in a co-operative and constructive way, to seek agreement on proposals to overcome the problems we all face at the present time.

It has always been my belief that the states have a much greater role to play in shaping the economic management policies of this country. State governments collectively are at the grass roots of economic activity of the nation. They are on the scene where it happens and they have a great wealth of experience to contribute in these matters. I do not think they have been consulted sufficiently in a meaningful way, in recent years.

There will be other economic conferences of State Premiers and I would like to see them become established as a regular annual feature.

The unanimous agreement which was reached on a series of positive and balanced proposals was a measure of the success of the first meeting. The proposals envisage a co-operative effort between state and federal governments to stimulate activity in the private sector of the economy, particularly the building and construction industries, and to relieve unemployment.

The Premiers' recommendations were:—

- A reduction in interest rates at the earliest opportunity.
- A special addition of \$200 million to the Loan Council borrowing program for state authorities.
- An increase of at least 20% in the welfare housing allocation.
- A widening of the youth employment training scheme to provide additional opportunities for work experience and retraining for young people and other persons on unemployment benefits for extended periods.
- An in-depth study by the states and the Commonwealth into the longer-term problems of structural unemployment.
- A more realistic approach to be taken to the financing of infrastructure with approval for state authorities to borrow overseas for special projects beyond the scope of the local market.
- A moratorium for the present on any further reduction in protection by way of tariffs or import quotas for existing Australian industries.

The recommendations of the conference have been sent to the Prime Minister and will be discussed at the meeting of Premiers and the Prime Minister next month.

I was pleased with the support accorded by other Premiers for my proposals to expand public sector capital expenditure and for a more realistic approach to the capital needs of the states for the provision of infrastructure for developmental projects.

I have consistently held the view that an investment led recovery is necessary to provide sustained economic growth and I have urged the Commonwealth Government to take steps to stimulate private investment and to acknowledge the key role played by the states in providing the utility services which are basic to the efficient operation of the private sector.

Mr Tonkin: It is no good investing if no-one can afford to buy the goods.

Sir CHARLES COURT: But in the interim, while many businesses are cautious about new investment in the face of uncertainties as to future wage pressures and the resultant effect on inflation, there is an opportunity for governments to put available funds to work and provide a strong base for future growth.

The Premiers' request for a widening of the Youth Employment Training Scheme follows a submission from Western Australia proposing an increased contribution by the Commonwealth Government to the wages of employees appointed under the scheme.

The recent extension of the scheme to include young people under 25 years of age announced in the Commonwealth budget goes some way towards meeting the Premiers' proposal. However, I do not consider it goes far enough and I will continue to seek a bolder approach to the retraining of young people in an on-the-job environment.

The Government has taken the view that the first priority in the Consolidated Revenue Fund and General Loan Fund budgets this financial year must be to provide the maximum amount of employment generating work of a kind which will have tangible benefits in the future.

I wish to say more on this point when outlining the budget strategy for 1977/78 but before doing so I wish to comment briefly on the results for the financial year just ended.

Financial Results for 1976/77

Honourable Members will recall that at this time last year I presented to Parliament a budget in which revenue and expenditure estimates were expected to be in balance at \$1 132.8 million.

As it turned out, the actual Consolidated Revenue Fund receipts were 1.0% above the estimate, and expenditure was up by 0.7% so that the final result for 1976/77 was a surplus of \$3.4 million.

As I remarked when speaking to the Supply Bill earlier this session, the size of any surplus or deficit incurred by the Government when the year has run its course must be viewed in relation to the magnitude of the total transactions which make up the budget of the state.

Variations can occur in any of the items of revenue and expenditure which last year exceeded \$2.2 billion in aggregate. Even a 1% drift overall could make a difference of \$22 million in the eventual outturn compared to the budget estimate. Consequently it is gratifying that we were able to hold the budget result so close to the original estimate. Given the increased size of our budget from year to year and the changes with which the Government can be confronted during the year, this may not always be the case.

When I introduced the Supply Bill I explained the detail of last year's financial outturn and I do not intend to traverse that ground again this evening.

It was the second year in succession in which a small surplus had been recorded and this very pleasing result reflects the efforts of the Government to restrain the growth of recurrent expenditure while endeavouring to find capacity to reduce taxation.

We accept that there is a need to reduce taxation in this country. I think everyone is concerned that the structure and level of taxation is having an effect upon people's enterprise and incentive and leading to undesirable devices and practices of avoidance. It is not good for the community and it is not good for the economy to be subject to these types of pressures.

The move by the Commonwealth Government to reduce income tax and reform the rate scale is therefore a welcome move in this regard. However, I would like to take this opportunity to point out that under the revised tax sharing arrangements the states will share in the cost of those income tax concessions. In fact, nearly 40% of the cost will ultimately be borne by the states.

But there is another side to the story. People must realise that they are being totally inconsistent when in the one breath they ask for taxation reductions and in the next breath they ask for greater government spending. It is surprising how often people do this. They don't seem to relate their requests for more government expenditure on education or their favourite charity with their desire to have taxation reduced.

The Government has to strike a balance, therefore, between doing those things which are necessary for the development and welfare of the State while at the same time minimising demands upon the taxpayers.

The budget result for 1976/77 gives clear evidence of the restraint which has been exercised by the Government in its spending for the year. In addition, it has enabled the Government to supplement the capital works program from revenue sources as well as develop capacity for further tax concessions this year. It is for these important reasons that the financial outturn last year was so satisfying.

Financial Year 1977/78

Mr. Speaker, it is customary when introducing the Consolidated Revenue Fund budget for the Treasurer to confine his speech to the transactions on that fund and deal with loan funds when presenting the General Loan Fund estimates.

On this occasion I propose to spend a little time in outlining our capital funds position so that members may appreciate the constraints with which the government is faced this year and better understand the considerations which underlie the overall budget strategy.

Such is the capital funds allocation Western Australia obtains from the Australian Loan Council that we have no choice but to obtain funds from other sources to support the State's capital works program. This point requires further explanation.

Each state's share of the aggregate borrowing program approved by the Loan Council is determined by applying to the new total the percentage the state obtained in the previous year. There are adjustments from time to time in the form of special additions, usually temporary and lapsing when the need that gave rise to them has passed, but occasionally permanent if a state is able to convince the council that its share of the total cake is deficient.

The weakness of the system is that no account is taken of different rates of population growth. If, as in Western Australia's case, a state experiences a high rate of population growth for an extended period, its per capita allocation decreases relative to the other states.

This is in fact a double penalty because a high rate of population growth requires a state to have access to additional capital funds to be able to build the extra schools, hospitals, power and water supplies required to serve the additional population, not less. However, the system ensures that the state with the greatest need for capital funds gets a progressively smaller share of them.

Ten years ago, Western Australia's per capita allocation of borrowings from the combined totals of the Loan Council borrowing program and the borrowing allocation for larger state authorities was on a par with most other states. Today our total allocation from the two major categories of borrowing is the lowest of all the states in per capita terms.

Our calculations show that Western Australia has fallen behind by no less than \$28 per capita over the ten year period which represents a deficiency of \$34 million a year in borrowing authority.

This is of course not a new problem. It was raised by Sir David Brand as long ago as 1970 in pressing for a compensating adjustment to this State's capital funds allocation.

My predecessor, Mr. Tonkin, renewed efforts to have the anomaly corrected but without success.

I raised the matter again at the July meeting of the Loan Council and followed with a detailed submission to the Prime Minister. We will need the support of the Commonwealth within the Loan Council if the anomaly is to be corrected but it must be borne in mind that any adjustment to the relative shares of the states will also require the agreement of the other states.

I am hopeful that our case is at last being recognised and that when it comes up for discussion at Loan Council the injustice of our position will be acknowledged and redressed.

I have explained the reason for the deficiency in Western Australia's capital funds allocation at some length because it has an important bearing on the problem with which we are faced this year.

The decline in our relative share of Loan Council borrowing programs is bad enough. The problem has been compounded by the small increase of only 5% in the general works allocation for 1977/78 to which the Commonwealth was prepared to agree last July.

Leaving on one side a special borrowing allocation of \$16 million for the Kwinana power station conversion, of which I will have more to say when introducing the Loan Fund Estimates later this week, the increase in funds available from the General Loan Fund and from borrowings by larger state authorities amounted to only 6.6% over 1976/77.

Given the greatly increased requirements of the State Energy Commission and the urgent need for upgrading of the Kalgoorlie-Perth railway among other pressing needs, clearly the overriding problem faced by the Government this year was in framing a satisfactory capital works program which provided for essential works and at the same time presented a balanced program of employment stimulating work for the private sector.

These requirements could not be met from the limited capital funds available and it was necessary for the Government to provide increased support for the works program and for employment stimulation from sources other than the General Loan Fund.

Some of the special steps we have taken will be explained when I am dealing with the expenditure estimates later in this speech and in speaking to the General Loan Fund Estimates. At this point it is sufficient for me to say that the additional expenditure this year from the general revenues of the State which has as its object the stimulation of employment is in the order of \$17 million.

Because of the paramount need to stimulate the level of activity in the economy through works involving private enterprise in the building, construction and associated supply industries, the budget for this financial year is not characterised by major new initiatives in recurrent expenditure programs.

Not that the needs of education, health, welfare and other government services have been neglected. On the contrary, the budget provides for real progress on many fronts of which education has received high priority.

The Government has examined critically all proposals for increased expenditure and requests for new staff and funds have been provided wherever it has been demonstrated that a genuine need exists and that the expenditure will result in real benefits to the community.

The Government's budget strategy can therefore be summed up as—

- continued tight control over the growth of recurrent expenditure by departments and authorities financed from Consolidated Revenue;
- strong support for the capital works program and greatly increased expenditure on maintenance and minor works with the aim of channelling more work to the private sector and stimulating business activity and employment, and
- continuation of the program of taxation relief to the extent our resources permit.

The Budget Proposals

The budget imposes no new taxes—

Mr Davies: None left to impose!

Mr Jamieson: What a laugh; I was able to comment on that before the Budget.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I see members opposite are not distinguishing between taxes and charges.

The budget imposes no new taxes, reduces some existing taxes, makes special provision for increasing employment in the private sector and makes a start on implementing the policies on which the Government was elected.

Mr Barnett: What is it doing with charges?

Sir CHARLES COURT: By careful attention to priorities and by responsible financial management we have achieved this within a budget that is in balance for the third successive year.

The highlights of the budget are:—

- **No increases in taxes and charges.**
- **Further payroll tax concessions.**
- **Abolition of death duties on estates passing to a surviving spouse and a firm timetable for complete abolition of death duties.**
- **A \$4 million special program of minor works and maintenance throughout the State for employment stimulation in addition to**
- **A \$3 million increase in the vote for the Public Works Department for maintenance and minor works.**
- **A new scheme of travel assistance for State sporting teams.**
- **Increased grants for sporting and recreation facilities.**
- **A new scheme of low interest loans for on-farm water supplies.**
- **A \$44 million increase in funds for education.**
- **Further assistance for country schools.**
- **Extension of interest subsidy scheme for independent schools.**
- **A new scheme of subsidies for the purchase of computer equipment for high schools.**
- **A new scheme of grants for private pre-school centres.**
- **Increased payments for State wards, foster children and child care institutions.**
- **A substantial increase in the establishment of the police force and a major re-equipment program for the Police and Road Traffic Authority.**
- **A 50 per cent increase in State funds to buy land for national parks and wildlife reserves.**
- **An expanded program of railway upgrading and maintenance to lift employment.**
- **Provision of \$250 000 for solar energy research.**
- **Provision of funds for 25 per cent concession on pensioners' rates.**

Payroll Tax

The Government recognises that the impact of payroll tax has been magnified by increasing wage costs. We are conscious of the economic problems facing many businesses and consider that a further easing of the burden of payroll tax is warranted, particularly for smaller businesses.

Accordingly, the Government has decided to increase the basic payroll tax exemption for the third year in succession. Last year the measures adopted meant that 650 enterprises no longer had to pay payroll tax and all other businesses had their annual payroll tax bill reduced by amounts ranging up to \$1 200 a year.

This year we propose to increase the basic annual exemption by 25% from \$48 000 to \$60 000 and the minimum exemption from \$24 000 to \$27 000. The increase in the maximum exemption is more than double the amount which would have been necessary to maintain the exemption at the same real level as last year.

For businesses with annual payrolls between \$60 000 and \$109 500 the new exemption will reduce by \$2 for every \$3 increase in the payroll to a new flat exemption of \$27 000. This means that those firms with annual payrolls of \$109 500 and above will be entitled to an exemption of \$27 000 which will apply as a deduction from the payroll before calculating tax payable.

As a result of these concessions it is expected that a further 980 businesses will become totally exempt from payroll tax and all other businesses will have their payroll tax bill reduced.

The cost of the concessions, which are to operate from 1 December 1977, is estimated at \$1 million in 1977/78 and \$2 million in a full year.

Death Duty

Parliament has recently passed legislation introduced by the Government exempting from death duties all property passing to one spouse on the death of the other. The concession, which will apply to the estates of persons dying on or after 1 July 1977, will cost \$2.5 million this year and \$3.9 million in a full year and the budget provides accordingly.

This move brought forward the undertaking given in last year's budget speech when I announced that full spouse to spouse exemption would be phased in over a three year period and was in fulfilment of an election promise.

Members will recall that in the second reading speech on the Death Duty Assessment Act Amendment Bill I also gave a firm commitment to complete the abolition of remaining death duties over the next three budgets. In so doing we recognised the need to remove the difficulties that death duty poses to the viability of some family enterprises and farms and the associated anxiety and uncertainty that it causes. The problems have been accentuated in more recent years by inflation and rising property values.

In drawing up a program for the abolition of death duties, our aim has been to provide the maximum relief possible consistent with the likely financial resources and obligations of the State over the next two financial years. As I have consistently said, it is our aim to achieve the abolition of death duties without having to increase other taxes to compensate for the resulting loss of revenue.

We have given this matter careful consideration and believe that a firm timetable should now be announced for the phasing out of State death duties consistent with that policy.

Accordingly it is proposed to move towards the abolition of death duties in two further steps.

The three steps in total abolition of death duties will therefore be:—

- (i) Abolition of duty on estates passing to a surviving spouse from 1 July this year.
- (ii) In respect of the estates of persons dying on or after 1 January 1979, duty payable on assets passing to beneficiaries not already exempted by the spouse to spouse concession and other provisions will be reduced by 50%.
- (iii) As from 1 January 1980, one year later, no duty will be payable on the estates of persons dying after that date.

Estimated Revenue

After allowing for the cost of the taxation relief I have just announced, revenue from all sources in 1977/78 is expected to be \$1 329.9 million, an increase of \$185.4 million or 16.2%.

State Taxation receipts are estimated to rise by \$24 million to \$265.6 million. Major components of this increase are the expected lift of \$14.1 million in payroll tax collections (after allowing for the concessions to operate from 1 December 1977) and an anticipated \$8.1 million increase in stamp duty collections.

Of the latter figure, duty on conveyance of property is estimated to rise by nearly \$2.9 million. Experience has shown that it is extremely difficult to forecast the level of activity in the land and property market and it must be said that in the case of this item of revenue, more so than many others, the estimate is little more than an informed guess as to the likely receipts.

Revenue from death duties is expected to decline by almost \$3 million this year as a result of concessions granted to date. Members will appreciate that revenue this year will not fully reflect the abolition of duty on estates passing to a surviving spouse as there is a considerable lag in the assessment and subsequent payment of duty on some large and more complex estates.

Territorial Revenue is budgeted to increase by \$10.6 million to \$74.4 million in 1977/78 with almost the whole of the expected rise attributable to the projected increase in royalties from mining operations, mainly iron ore. Revenue from nickel royalties is expected to increase by \$2.2 million this year principally because of the recovery of arrears of royalty payments from the Poseidon operations.

Collections under the heading of Departmental Revenue are expected to be \$19.7 million higher than in 1976/77 of which \$16.4 million arises from an expected increase in Treasury revenue, as a result of increased interest and sinking fund payments from various bodies and the proposed payment to revenue this year of \$8 694 000 being interest earned last year from the investment of Treasury cash resources.

Payments from the Commonwealth Government for general state revenue and for recurrent expenditure programs are estimated to increase by \$106 million to \$688.8 million in 1977/78.

Receipts under the personal income tax sharing arrangements will amount to \$519.8 million this year against \$440.8 million in 1976/77 after allowing for the deduction of \$3.3 million overpayment in 1976/77.

By agreement between the Commonwealth and the states, an important change has been made in the method of calculating the states' share of personal income tax this year which will lead to a revised method of determining state entitlements in subsequent years.

Following the problem that emerged last year of last minute advice of a shortfall of receipts below the estimate, the Prime Minister offered to fix the states' tax share for 1977/78 at \$4 336.1 million which was 33.6% of the then estimate of collections in the current year. He also proposed that in future, the previous year's tax collections be used as the base for determining entitlements instead of the current year with an appropriate amendment to the percentage used in the calculation so as to achieve the same cash result.

The new approach has the advantage of providing the states with a firm and final figure of their tax entitlement for each year at the beginning of the year. Budget uncertainties will be greatly reduced and the states will be cushioned by the lag of one year in the effect on their revenues of any reductions in personal income tax rates as happened this year.

The states have accepted the Prime Minister's offer but subject to further discussion as to the appropriate method of calculating the percentage share in future years. I have pointed out to the Prime Minister that there are disadvantages in the new arrangement in that the change will mean that a large part of state revenues will lag a year behind economic events. For example, if a substantial increase in wages occurred during the year which would have an immediate impact on state expenditure there would be no compensating movement in the tax share until a year later. Commonwealth and State Treasury officers will examine this feature of the scheme in an attempt to find a formula to overcome the difficulty and it will be discussed again at a future Premiers' conference.

On the basis of the latest population estimates, it is forecast that Western Australia's share of the aggregate entitlement of \$4 336.1 million in 1977/78 will be \$523.1 million. This will mean that our share will be \$12.4 million or 2.4% more than we would have received this year under the previous Financial Assistance Grants arrangements. After allowing for the deduction of \$3.3 million overpayment last year, we will receive \$519.8 million which is the figure I mentioned earlier.

Commonwealth specific purpose payments for recurrent programs are expected to amount to \$168.1 million in 1977/78, an increase of \$27.1 million.

The main increases under this heading are payments under the hospitals cost sharing agreement, up \$15.6 million; Schools Commission grants which are \$2.4 million higher than last year and payments under the Aboriginal Advancement Program which are higher by \$1.1 million.

Grants for the Community Health Program, the School Dental Service and the Childhood Services Program will also be higher this year notwithstanding further changes in the proportion of the cost of the schemes now funded by the Commonwealth.

In each case the State is now required to find a greater proportion of the cost of providing these Commonwealth initiated services with a consequential heavy impact on our budget in this and subsequent financial years. For example, the block grant provided for childhood education services this year is estimated to be sufficient to cover only 52% of the salary costs of pre-school and pre-primary centres against 75% when the program was established.

The manner in which these changes were made disturbs me greatly. The decisions were made by the Commonwealth without any prior consultation with the states. I understand the problems confronting the Commonwealth and I accept that the states have to share some of the burden of the fight against inflation. Nevertheless it must be a co-operative effort between the Commonwealth and the states and I am sure that the changes that have been made would have been negotiable if the states had been approached in the right spirit.

The apparent large increase in Commonwealth funds credited to Consolidated Revenue for childhood educational services reflects an accounting change consequent upon the financial responsibility for pre-school centres being assumed by the Education Department from 1 January 1978. Previously Commonwealth funds for pre-school centres were paid direct to the Pre-School Board and were not taken into account in the revenue estimates. However, the estimates now provide for the expenditure to be appropriated in the vote for the Education Department and for receipts from the Commonwealth to be credited to revenue from 1 January next.

As I remarked earlier, we are far from happy about the changes but we understand the reasons for them and support the Commonwealth Government in its efforts to reduce its deficit for reasons I explained earlier.

An operating surplus of nearly \$1 million is forecast on transactions of the Railways in 1977/78 compared with a deficit of about the same amount last year.

Railway revenue in 1977/78 is expected to exceed last year's revenue by almost \$22 million due to additional tonnages of grain, minerals, ores and woodchips and to increased freight rates effective from 1 July.

Grain tonnages in 1977/78 are estimated at 3.8 million tonnes against 3.4 million tonnes last year. Mineral sands and bauxite tonnages are expected to increase by 450 000 tonnes and woodchips by 230 000 tonnes.

Revenue from country water supplies, sewerage, drainage and irrigation is expected to increase by \$2.8 million in 1977/78, of which country water supplies revenue is expected to contribute nearly \$2 million. However, the lack of water in country storages as a result of the low rainfall this year could result in a drop in water sales with a consequential loss of revenue. Although some provision has been made for this contingency, it is difficult to forecast the likely result at this stage of the year.

Estimated Expenditure

The estimates of expenditure provide for a total outlay of \$1 329.9 million, an increase on last year's expenditure of \$188.8 million or 16.5%.

A substantial part of this increase is due to the need to provide for wage increases likely to be awarded in the course of the year. An amount of \$35.3 million has been provided for this contingency on the assumption that wage indexation will continue on the same pattern as in the previous year.

I now turn to the main features of our expenditure proposals.

Stimulation of Employment

As I mentioned earlier, the overall budget strategy is to provide maximum stimulation to employment throughout the State. There are several features of the budget which are designed to achieve this aim.

The Government proposes an increase of \$3 million or 22% in the provision for Public Works Department maintenance of public buildings which it is expected will fully commit the resources of the department to achieve.

However, there is a waiting list of minor works and maintenance required in schools, hospitals and other government assets throughout the State which, if brought forward could provide work for local designers and contractors.

The Government therefore proposes to allocate \$4 million in the Miscellaneous Services Division of the estimates to enable work of this nature to be put in hand as quickly as possible.

Funds will be allocated direct to departments and instrumentalities for approved works on condition that the work will be put out to local contractors providing they have the capacity to undertake the jobs and are competitive in price.

By this means it is hoped that a considerable backlog of maintenance, additions and alterations can be cleared while providing a direct stimulus to local business and employment.

By this means it is hoped that a considerable backlog of maintenance, additions and alterations can be cleared while providing a direct stimulus to local business and employment. I emphasise the local character of that program.

Drought and Unemployment Relief

An amount of \$2 million has been provided in 1977/78 for drought relief measures including assistance to local authorities in declared drought areas for civic works programs to relieve drought caused unemployment. This is of course only an estimate of likely requirements under the heading of national disaster payments and the Government stands ready to provide whatever funds are called for under the approved scheme of assistance.

Details of assistance available to farmers in declared drought areas were announced recently and I will not take up Honourable Members time by repeating them.

The provision for drought relief includes an amount of \$500 000 for the estimated cost of water carting to water deficient areas of which there are expected to be many this summer.

An increased provision has also been made for unemployment relief measures in the goldfields. Last year grants were provided to local councils for relief measures following the then closure of the Mt. Charlotte mine. Funds will be provided this year for financial assistance to the Kalgoorlie, Boulder and Coolgardie local authorities for works programs to employ retrenched Western Mining Corporation workers. A number of projects have already been approved and the councils concerned have been asked to put them in hand as quickly as possible.

On-Farm Water Supplies

The recent period of low winter rainfall in many parts of the agricultural areas has demonstrated the inadequacy of farm water supplies and water storages on many farms.

In these days of greatly reduced farm incomes, few farmers can afford to sink the bores or build the dams necessary to ensure a reasonable security of water supplies.

For many years the Government has operated a scheme of assistance to farmers for the provision of farm water supplies in special areas but only to the extent that farmers have been unable to obtain funds from normal commercial sources. The problem has been that few farmers can afford to take advantage of normal bank loans at today's interest rates even if they are available.

Consequently the Government proposes to introduce a scheme of loans at moderate interest rates which will be available to all bona fide farmers within a wider area than before—and without much of the inhibiting means test formulae that are usually applied in schemes of this kind—to enable them to improve farm water supplies and storages.

Some details of the scheme are still under consideration and an announcement will be made shortly.

Provision has not been made in the budget for this item because it is proposed to use balances in the Delegated Agency Account for this purpose and it is expected that sufficient funds will be available from that source this year. Specific provision will of course need to be made in subsequent years.

Grants for Sport and Recreation

In addition to promoting the economic development of the State, the Government is conscious of its responsibility to seek to improve the quality of life of the individual. An important component is the provision of an environment which offers choice and the opportunity to participate in all forms of sport and recreational activities.

The role of local government in the provision of facilities for sport and recreation has been most important in the past and will continue to be so in the future. However, their funds are limited.

Last year, the government provided an initial contribution of \$1 million to the Community Sporting Facilities Fund. This is a permanent fund to provide grants to supplement expenditure by local authorities and other bodies on the provision of community sporting facilities. Grants from the fund were made on the broad basis of $\frac{1}{3}$ state and $\frac{2}{3}$ local contribution with the aim of increasing the opportunities for individuals to participate in amateur sport.

In addition, an allocation of \$350 000 was made to the Community Recreation Council last year for grants for recreation and leisure facilities to match Commonwealth grants under the Capital Assistance for Leisure Facilities program.

Although the Commonwealth has now discontinued this program a number of local authority projects which would have been eligible are still in the pipeline. Last year it became apparent that there is a considerable overlap between the programs of assistance for sporting facilities and for leisure facilities. Many buildings constructed primarily for sport also provide club meeting rooms, provision for craft activities and the like.

Accordingly, to avoid this overlap, it has been decided to combine the two programs and to increase the amount provided to \$1 500 000. Funds will be used to provide assistance on a similar basis as under previous programs for multi-purpose facilities and will be allocated on the recommendation of the committee set up to administer the sporting facilities grants. To ensure that there is no erosion of grants for sport, no less than \$1 million is to be allocated for sporting facilities this year.

An allocation of \$2 353 000 is proposed for the Community Recreation Council to enable that body to continue to foster community development and voluntary effort through the avenues of recreation, youth work and sporting activities.

In line with our intention of providing as many new jobs as possible, \$367 000 is to be spent on the upgrading and extension of the ten camps operated by the Community Recreation Council. Particular attention will be given to improving the sites at Point Walter and York and to the construction of additional accommodation at Sorrento.

Travel Assistance to State Sporting Teams

Due to the great distances involved, Western Australian sportsmen and sportswomen who compete in national championships have to meet heavy travel costs by comparison with their interstate counterparts. The Government recognises this problem and has decided to introduce a new travel subsidy scheme which will meet a proportion of the travelling costs incurred by members of State teams competing in national championships in other States.

The rate of assistance will be varied so that those qualifying for assistance will contribute the same amount irrespective of the State in which the championships are held. I refer to the greater distances involved if national championships are held in Queensland as against, say, South Australia. An important qualification will be that players receiving remuneration for participation in championships would not be eligible for the subsidy.

An amount of \$110 000 is included in the Community Recreation Council budget for this purpose in 1977/78.

Education

The Government has given high priority to the needs of education.

This year the proposed vote for the Education Department is \$295 million, an increase of \$44 million or nearly 18 per cent on last year.

These figures clearly show the significant real increase in funds which will be spent on education at all levels in 1977/78. They are the most effective answer to arguments that our commitment to education is weakening.

As a Government we recognise the need for an education system attuned to the current and future requirements of the community. Of central importance in this regard is the need to ensure that students of all ages are equipped to take advantage of changing career opportunities.

To achieve this goal, provision has been made for the appointment of an additional 640 teachers and teaching aides in 1978 plus 48 extra staff for pre-school centres.

These appointments will maintain the trend for smaller class sizes in primary and secondary schools throughout the State.

Despite an estimated increase of 3 450 in primary school enrolments the pupil/teacher ratio will decline to 23.3 to 1 in 1978 following the appointment of 250 new teachers. These additional teachers include a further 80 specialised teachers in physical education, music and art and 68 relieving teachers who will enable the release of colleagues for special duties.

The needs of special education at the primary level have not been overlooked and 20 additional teachers will be appointed to special schools for handicapped children.

To further lighten the load on primary school teachers 30 teaching aides will be appointed, mainly to junior primary classes with over 35 pupils.

In the field of secondary education, 160 additional teachers are to be appointed to high schools in 1978. The lift in teacher numbers will have the effect of reducing the pupil/teacher ratio to 13.5 to 1 and allow specialist teachers to be engaged on problem areas such as remedial reading.

The Government is mindful of its responsibility to keep pace with the increasing demand for vocational training at technical schools. Accordingly, this year provision has been made for a further 140 full time staff in the Technical Education Division.

Last year, improvements were made in servicing the educational needs of children in remote areas. In 1977/78 particular attention will be given to maintaining the isolated schools matriculation courses, despite the decision by the Commonwealth Government to discontinue finance for this program.

We will also continue to provide funds to enrich the school life of country children who are disadvantaged because of their isolation. Members will recall that in 1976/77 a subsidy was introduced for student travel to the country high schools annual sports carnival. A similar scheme will apply in 1978 to help country children wishing to participate in annual education excursions.

Provision has also been made for a new scheme of subsidies of computer equipment purchased for schools by Parents and Citizen's groups. Schools will be able to claim a \$ for \$ subsidy to a maximum of \$3 000 to enable the purchase of terminals which can be linked to a central computer.

Honourable Members will recall that earlier this year a number of measures were introduced which were aimed at assisting the parents of school children and the upgrading of facilities at schools. These were in fulfilment of our election policy undertakings and were implemented immediately in order that parents and schools could obtain the benefit of the measures for the whole of this school year. The moves made were:—

- The subsidised text book scheme was increased for years 8, 9 and 10 from \$5 to \$10; for year 11 from \$25 to \$35 and for year 12 from \$15 to \$20.
- The maximum \$ for \$ subsidy for school canteens was increased from \$5 000 to \$10 000 in the metropolitan area and south-west and to \$12 500 elsewhere.
- The maximum 25% swimming pool subsidy was increased to \$10 000 in the metropolitan area and the south-west, and to \$12 500 elsewhere.
- The ground improvements subsidy has been raised to \$2 000.
- The full cost of providing audio visual equipment to schools will now be met by the Government.

Provision has been made in the budget for the full year cost of these measures.

Aid to Independent Schools

The level of assistance to independent schools was increased during the past year and will be expanded further during the current financial year.

In addition to covering borrowings for student residential and classroom accommodation, the interest subsidy scheme was extended during 1977 to include borrowings for library/resource centres and teachers work rooms attached to classrooms.

As well, the Government has set up machinery to assist with the provision of sites for independent schools. Planning information to aid non-government schools in identifying site needs and in maintaining contact with real estate developers is now supplied by the Education Department. Furthermore the Government assists with site acquisition by subsidising interest payments where the sites are to be used within four years of purchase.

The budget provides for a further extension of the interest subsidy scheme to include the cost of supplying accommodation for teachers at independent schools in the north of the State. The scheme will now include borrowings for the provisions of teacher accommodation north of the 26th parallel.

In addition the Government has decided to extend the existing independent schools subsidy scheme to independent pre-school centres. Assistance will be in the form of per capita grants to approved independent centres and will be made retrospective to cover the 1977 school year.

The grants will be paid in respect of all children enrolled who turn five years of age during the year. Consistent with the existing scheme of per capita grants to independent schools, grants will be calculated on the basis of 25% of the cost of educating children in the Government pre-primary classes and pre-school centres.

Pending assessment of an average cost figure for Government Schools in 1978, the per capita grant will be set at \$110 in 1977.

An amount of \$130 000 has been provided in this year's budget to meet the cost of the scheme in 1977 and the first moiety for 1978.

Allowing for these developments, the total provision for independent schools in 1977/78 is \$9.6 million compared with \$8.2 million last year.

Community Welfare

The proposed vote for the Department for Community Welfare is \$30.3 million, an increase of 17.1% after adjusting for accounting changes.

The Department's role is to promote individual and family welfare in the Community. The requirements of needy or disadvantaged groups are given special attention and financial assistance is provided to indigent persons. The Department provides information and treatment for juveniles with behavioural problems and administers a number of treatment centres. The development of the greatest possible degree of service at the local level is encouraged.

Funds have been made available for the continuation of the new initiatives taken last year in assistance to residential child care institutions operated by private organisations. Assistance is provided to meet the salaries of certain categories of staff and per capita grants are provided in respect of children resident in the institutions. Expenditure on assistance to child care institutions is expected to exceed \$1 million in 1977/78.

Increased payments are to be made to institutions, group homes and foster parents caring for State wards to offset the increased cost of living. As from the beginning of October, the new minimum rate will be \$18.75 per week, an increase of approximately 10%. The rates for State wards of high school age will be lifted to \$22 per week.

Comparable increases will apply to children boarded out in private care and in missions and group homes.

In addition, provision has been made for increased pocket money allowances to wards attending high schools and allowances for clothing and school requirements are to be increased.

Police and Road Traffic Authority

The combined amounts provided for the operations of the Police Department and the Road Traffic Authority this year total \$55.1 million—a rise of over 18% on the amounts spent in 1976/77.

It was announced in June that approval had been given for Police strength to be increased to restore the normal Police to population ratio and to bring the ratio of commissioned officers to other ranks back into line following the appointment of a further 21 commissioned officers last year. The Government has since agreed to a further 51 officers being recruited which will bring the total increase for this year to 120. 80 of these officers will be allocated to the Police Department and 40 to the Road Traffic Authority.

The additional numbers will further improve the police to population ratio and enable a number of desirable improvements to be made in the programming of police duties.

Mr T. H. Jones: Waste of money. A duplication.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The police will be very interested in the honourable member's observation.

\$613 000 has been allocated to convert the existing Police and Road Traffic Authority communication system to a "talk-through-repeater-mode" system. This improved system will increase the efficiency and range of the existing network and provide vehicle to vehicle communications over a far greater distance. An important side benefit of the new communications system will be a reduction in interference to television transmissions in the Great Southern and other areas of the State.

A further \$144 000 is to be provided for additional personal radio equipment and VHF transceivers for vehicles.

Hospitals and Health Services

Gross expenditure this year on hospital and medical services is estimated at \$301.4 million, an increase of \$37.3 million over 1976/77.

New hospitals and extensions which were completed in 1976/77 or are scheduled for completion this year will result in a substantial increase in operating costs. Included in this category are the replacement hospitals at Bridgetown and Busselton and the new diagnostic block at the Bentley Hospital.

Revenue from hospital fees and charges is expected to rise by \$5.7 million in 1977/78 to \$53.3 million. The additional revenue arises from the full year effect of increased hospital charges last year and changes in the Medibank arrangements which also occurred at the same time.

The net cost to the State of operating hospital and medical services in 1977/78 is expected to rise by \$16.5 million to \$137.8 million after allowing for the Commonwealth Government's contribution of \$110.3 million under the hospitals cost sharing agreement.

The proposed vote for the Public Health Department this year is \$33 million, an increase of \$8.1 million or 32 per cent. The department is committed to the development of effective preventative health measures which are designed to reduce the demand for hospital beds.

New community health centres are to be opened at South Hedland and Geraldton and provision has been made for the operating costs of these centres.

A further eighty dental therapists and nurses are to be employed in the School Dental Service which offers basic dental services to primary school children.

Decentralisation of laboratory services is to commence in 1977/78 by raising the status and capabilities of existing laboratories at Derby, Port Hedland, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Bunbury and Narrogin to carry out most of the procedures currently referred to Perth.

Recurrent expenditure on mental health services is estimated to increase by \$6.1 million, an increase of 17.9 per cent on 1976/77. Rising wages and higher commodity costs have contributed to the need for this increased provision.

Allowance has also been made for the full year costs of the Swan Outpatient Clinic and four hostels with 96 places which were opened in 1976/77. A further two hostels with 46 places are to be opened this year.

The Government is aware of the important work done by organisations helping children who are mentally retarded. Although we are never in a position to provide them with all the funds they would like, we assign a high priority to their needs. Accordingly, the grant to the Slow Learning Children's Group has been increased from \$1 050 000 in 1976/77 to \$1 250 000 this year and that to the Mentally Incurable Children's Association has been lifted by 29 per cent to \$90 000.

Agriculture

An amount of \$22.6 million is provided in the estimates for the cost of administration and services of the Department of Agriculture.

The department was restructured earlier this year to give effect to the Government's policy to regionalise administration as far as practicable. The new structure should greatly improve coordination between the various activities of the department in the field and provide an improved service to farmers.

In 1977/78 the department is to institute direct mailing of farmnotes to enable farmers to keep abreast of technical developments. A market information service to provide up-to-date information on the market situation for world commodities is also planned.

A pilot farm for sugar has now been established at the Ord. A commercial cane grower from Queensland has been employed and the growing of cane on a commercial scale is to be evaluated. Yield figures for sugar cane grown at the Ord have recently been 50 per cent above yields on which the feasibility study was evaluated.

One of the recurring problems in agriculture is the increased resistance of grain insects to insecticides. Western Australia has taken the lead in instituting a on-farm visiting service to detect insects and advise farmers in good grain hygiene.

Rural and Allied Industries Conference

Prior to the last election the Government announced a major new initiative to strengthen primary industry, the establishment of the Rural and Allied Industries Conference. This is a permanent forum in which sectors of industry can meet to improve mutual understanding and make recommendations to industry and government for the advancement of the rural and allied industries generally.

The Government believes that, despite the great contribution which these industries are making to the economy of Western Australia, many sectors of the industry are not achieving their full potential. The aim

of the Rural and Allied Industries Conference is to identify areas where further study may uncover opportunities for improving efficiency and productivity.

An amount of \$79 000 has therefore been included in the estimates for the Premier's Department to cover the staff and administration expenses of this new initiative.

The first meeting of the Conference was held in July and specialist committees have been formed to follow up the work flowing from the inaugural meeting. The committees will not be confining their attention to recommendations from the conference, but will be encouraging, and be prepared to evaluate, constructive ideas from any source.

An executive officer with high qualifications in agricultural science has been appointed and a secretarial service is provided within the Premier's Department. However, as the work of the specialist committees progresses there will be a requirement to obtain expert assistance either from government departments or agencies, from industry or from consultancy or research organisations.

This is a new co-operative venture between industry and government aimed firstly at encouraging constructive ideas and secondly to provide expert independent evaluation of those ideas as a basis for new strategies by both industry and government.

Conservation and the Environment

The proposed vote for the Department of Conservation and Environment is \$1 676 000, an increase of almost 36% on expenditure in 1976/77.

Reflecting the Government's concern for the environment, the allocation for field studies conducted by that department has been increased by approximately \$300 000 to \$790 000. This allocation is in addition to provision for environmental studies undertaken by other departments and for which provision is made elsewhere in the estimates.

An amount of \$300 000 has been provided for the continuation of the \$500 000 Cockburn Sound study. This study is to form the basis of a management plan for the Sound designed to ensure that the competing demands on the area for both recreation and industry can be reconciled.

The importance of the estuaries and waterways of the State is reflected in both the allocation of over \$100 000 for a multiple use study of the Peel Inlet and in the provision, in the Miscellaneous Services Division of the estimates, of \$326 000 for the Waterways Commission.

In 1977/78 the Forests Department will continue intensive monitoring of the environmental effects of wood chipping and bauxite mining operations.

In addition, more than \$40 000 has been provided in the Forests Department vote for an intensive program of mapping the distribution of dieback disease on areas under quarantine. This program will use large scale aerial photography and is designed to provide the basic information for developing techniques for future management of these areas.

This year, at a cost of \$96 000, the Forests Department will establish a small field section in the Kimberley region to carry out a broadscale inventory of the native woodlands of the region. The existing trial plot program will be expanded to evaluate the forestry potential of the various sites for both commercial and amenity purposes.

In January 1977 I announced a five year working plan for the management of the State's timber resources. The need for a reduction in the hardwood cut to ensure regional stability of the timber industry was part of the plan. To meet the demand for timber the volume of pine sawn is to be progressively increased to about 50 000 cubic metres per annum by 1982.

Honourable Members will be aware that the Environmental Protection Authority has been carrying out a major assessment of the State's national parks and nature reserves to cater for the needs of a growing population. These studies are now culminating in the assessment of System 6, an area of the State in which three quarters of our population lives.

The Government has already accepted almost 300 recommendations from the Authority on national parks and nature reserves in other parts of the State.

Last year \$448 000 was spent by the Lands and Surveys Department from State funds on the purchase of private land for reserves under the new provision for purchase of land for national parks and wildlife reserves. Land was acquired at Greenough Flats for protection of historic buildings, at Capel for addition to Tuart State Forest No. 2 and other acquisitions were made to extend national parks. Areas of wetlands were also purchased to ensure conservation of native flora and fauna.

The initial State allocation of \$500 000 made last year is to be increased by 50% to \$750 000 in the current year to enable the program of land acquisition to be accelerated as more land is offered to the Government or becomes available on the open market for purchase. This allocation is supplemented by Commonwealth grants under the Nature Conservation Program.

The Arts and Cultural Activities

As Western Australia has developed, the rise in living standards and an increased leisure time activity has led to an upsurge in the artistic and cultural life of the State. The diversity of the artistic and cultural heritage of people from all over the world is increasingly finding expression in our community.

The Government fully supports these developments and wishes to encourage the continuation of this trend. The principal manner by which the Government can achieve this aim involves the provision of facilities or grants to support the continued development of these activities.

Her Majesty's Theatre has been acquired at a cost of \$1.9 million and is being renovated with the aim of the theatre reopening early in 1979. The plans involve the removal of the Gallery, extension of the Dress Circle and the restoration of the exterior to its original character. When completed the theatre is expected to seat 1 200 patrons in comfort and with greatly improved sightlines.

An amount of \$2 million has been allocated for this work in 1977/78.

The allocation this year to the Western Australian Arts Council is to be increased to \$1 457 000, \$283 000 greater than that in the previous year. Of this amount, \$1 113 000 is planned for distribution as direct grants to the performing and creative arts.

The Western Australian Literary Fund, which is administered by a committee of the Arts Council, was set up to encourage local writers by assisting them to have their works published. It is proposed to increase the grant to the fund this year from \$25 000 to \$35 000.

Increased grants have also been provided to the Australian Ballet Foundation and the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust to assist those bodies to bring the Australian Ballet and other world class performances to Western Australia.

The Government has also increased the State contribution to the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra to \$90 000 in the current year. By far the greater part of the cost of the orchestra is borne by the Australian Broadcasting Commission which is to be congratulated on the high standard achieved and the strong public response to the orchestra.

The allocation to the Western Australian Museum has been increased to \$2 486 000 in 1977/78. Projects to be undertaken this year include the continued restoration of the old Fremantle Commissariat Building at a total cost of \$374 000 and the restoration and modification of the old

Geraldton railway station for use as a museum. The Commissariat Building will house material recovered from historic Dutch wrecks, the most notable of which is the "Batavia".

The proposed vote for the Art Gallery is \$1 064 000 against \$760 000 last year. This increase mainly reflects the servicing of borrowings for the new art gallery which will be completed early in 1979. The total cost of this project is expected to be \$8.3 million.

The steep rise in the cost of hard bound volumes continues to pose problems for the Western Australian Library Board in maintaining adequate book stocks in libraries throughout the State. In the proposed vote of \$4 078 000, provision has been made for stocking new libraries to be opened this year and for acquisitions necessary to maintain book stocks.

Industrial Development

The Department of Industrial Development's role of encouraging the establishment and expansion of industry has been enlarged through the introduction of a Small Business Advisory Service.

Since its establishment in January last year to give effect to the Government's election promise, it has become one of the most appreciated forms of government assistance to the private business sector.

Consultants from the service have travelled throughout the State to offer on-the-spot service to businessmen in every field of industry and commerce.

This new unit attached to the Department of Industrial Development has taken over the functions vacated by the Commonwealth Small Business Advisory Service. An amount of \$70 000 has been provided in the budget for the operation of the service in 1977/78.

The expansion of business in decentralised locations is being encouraged and actively promoted in many ways. The allocation for refunds of payroll tax to qualifying decentralised industries has been lifted substantially by 50% to \$150 000 this year. At other levels, the department encourages establishment of industry through guaranteed loans, interest rate subsidies, rail freight concessions and preference on Government tendering.

The local products promotion campaign of the department has become the leading promotional campaign of its type in Australia.

The allocation for the department this year is \$3.7 million, of which \$900 000 has been provided for industries promotion.

Tourism

To enable the Department of Tourism to step up its advertising and promotion programs, the allocation for these purposes has been increased by 56% to \$732 000.

The total provision for the department is to be increased from \$2.5 million last year to \$3.1 million in 1977/78.

\$392 000 has been set aside for grants to local authorities to assist in the improvement of facilities throughout the State to cater for the rapid expansion of tourism.

Provision has also been made in the budget to appoint a promotion officer who will be located in London to work with the travel industry in Europe in a special effort to increase the visitors to Western Australia from those countries.

Plans have had to be deferred to establish a travel centre in Brisbane this year because of the Government's desire to channel as many funds as possible into employment generating activities in this State. However, it is the Government's intention to extend our activities to Queensland as soon as possible.

Railways

This year revenue from the operations of the Western Australian Government Railways is estimated to increase by \$21.8 million to \$146.5 million.

About half of the increase will come from anticipated increases in tonnages of grain, alumina, woodchips and mineral sands hauled while the remainder will be the result of the increase in rail charges which operated from 1 July this year.

Operating costs in 1977/78 are expected to increase by almost \$20 million due to increased labour and material costs and additional maintenance expenditure.

Although a small surplus in operating results is expected this year, it must be borne in mind that operating expenditure does not include provision for interest payments or pensions for retired railway personnel. When account is taken of these expenses the overall loss on railway operations will be in excess of \$16 million. This is a subsidy that mainly benefits country people and country industries.

The need for additional expenditure on maintenance of rolling stock and rail tracks has been accentuated in recent years by the dramatic increase in tonnages hauled on the system. Freight has risen from 13.5 million to 19 million tonnes a year over the last six years.

Despite increased expenditure on resleepering and line replacement in recent years a great deal of work is still required, particularly on the Kalgoorlie to Perth standard gauge line, and it is clear that a greatly accelerated program of track maintenance and replacement will be required over the next few years.

The problem has been compounded by the inadequacy of depreciation provisions in the past and the practice of financing sleeper replacement from loan funds. Although the accounting practices were valid, our perennial shortage of capital funds has made it difficult for us to allocate sufficient loan funds to maintain an adequate program.

Consequently we have decided that the cost of resleepering is to be charged to the Railways operating account notwithstanding the short term impact this will have on the department's operating results. An offsetting effect will be that depreciation will not be charged against the asset so replaced.

In addition the Railways—the member for Avon will be interested in this—have been authorised to undertake an accelerated program of track maintenance and an additional special allocation of \$1.5 million has been provided for this purpose and as an employment stimulation measure as well as acknowledgment of the Railways' urgent need.

Solar Energy Research Institute

The Government is well aware of the need to foster and encourage the development of all sources of energy available within the State. This support has in the past been indicated by studies carried out in specific areas of the utilisation of solar energy and of the extensive studies of the potential for tidal power and of the *in-situ* gasification of coal.

The Government has now decided to establish a Solar Energy Research Institute of Western Australia to encourage the general development of solar energy in the State and to sponsor, undertake and evaluate solar research projects considered worthy of support.

Legislation to establish the Solar Energy Research Institute will be brought before Parliament within the next few weeks and an initial allocation of \$250 000 has been made in the budget for its operations during the remainder of the financial year.

Mr T. H. Jones: That is a miserable amount.

Other Activities

Sir CHARLES COURT: Time does not allow me to outline the main features of other departments' votes or to give details of the increased appropriations proposed for other government bodies and charitable organisations. Further information can be obtained from the responsible Minister when the appropriations are being dealt with in Committee.

However, there are a number of other items which warrant brief comment before I conclude.

- The Government has already moved to implement its election commitment to provide a 25 per cent rebate to eligible pensioners on local government, water, sewerage and drainage rates. The concession came into operation on 1 July and pensioners have the choice of taking advantage of the new rebate or continuing to defer rates as provided for under the existing deferment scheme. The total annual cost of the 25 per cent rebate is estimated at \$1.15 million and provision has been made in the budget for the cost to Consolidated Revenue this year.
- To meet demands for a suitably trained workforce the Government will step up its efforts on industrial training. \$523 000 has been allocated to the Department of Labour and Industry for this purpose in 1977/78, an increase of 22 per cent. This includes an amount of \$30 000 for adult training courses for persons whose skills have become redundant and who are willing and suitable to be retrained for another trade.

- Industrial disputes in the Pilbara are a source of grave concern to the Government. We are anxious to improve industrial relations in this region which generates such a large proportion of our export income. Accordingly provision of \$37 000 has been made this year in the Department of Labour and Industry's vote so that three officers can be recruited and stationed on a rotating basis in the Pilbara. These officers will provide on-the-spot guidance and information to union personnel, workers and employers.
- Regional administration is a fundamental part of our policy which recognises the individuality of areas within the State and their differing needs and aspirations. Regional offices have now been established at Albany, Bunbury, Carnarvon, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Karratha and Kununurra. This year we have provided for the appointment of four assistant administrators and six research officers. These appointments will strengthen the seven regional offices throughout the State and enable administrators to become more involved with the local community on regional planning and development.
- The allocation to the National Parks Authority for 1977/78 is \$1 516 000. The Authority will continue to develop the parks under its control for community use and four new rangers are to be appointed, to be placed at Cowaramup, Pemberton, Walpole-Nornalup and in the Avon Valley.
- The Rottnest Island Board is to receive a grant of \$59 200 this year, or nearly \$30 000 more than in 1976/77. Apart from meeting repayment commitments on loans for the development of a new potable water supply and for sewerage and water supply installations at the new Geordie Bay settlement, the grant also provides for an increase from \$10 000 to \$20 000 in expenditure on the reafforestation program.
- In the past the National Safety Council has received grants for its Road Safety Division from the Main Roads Department, while assistance for the Home and Water Safety Divisions has been provided from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The arrangement reduced the resources available for road purposes and, to remedy the situation, the Miscellaneous Services Division of the estimates provides for a grant of \$452 000 to meet the needs of the three divisions. This is an increase of \$72 000 on the total provision in 1976/77.

- The proposed vote for the Office of Titles provides for an amount of \$63 000 to be spent on participating with New South Wales in the development of the Torrens Register Automatic Processing System. This system is designed to process certificates of title by computer and work has been proceeding on its development in New South Wales for a number of years. Our contribution towards the costs of development of the system will enable us to use the system when it is fully developed.
- The Local Government Department has budgeted for expenditure of \$24 000 for the costs of the operations of the Western Australian Local Government Grants Committee, including the appointment of a research officer and an assistant. The committee was formed as part of the arrangements for income tax sharing by local government in this State. The prime task of the committee is to make allocations to individual local authorities from that portion of federal funds which is available for distribution on a special needs basis. The committee also advises on the distribution of assistance made available by the State through the Local Authorities Assistance Fund.
- The Government has had regard to the genuine needs of charitable organisations and has provided increased assistance in a number of cases. The grant to the St. John Ambulance Association has been lifted from \$1 870 000 in 1976/77 to \$2 100 000 for the current year. Provision has also been made for aid to the Western Australian Deaf Society to increase from \$12 500 to \$25 000 and the grant for the Civil Rehabilitation Council has been increased by \$1 500 to \$9 000. This year Wanslea Hostel for children of sick mothers will receive \$220 000 as against \$195 500 in 1976/77.

Conclusion

To sum up, this budget and the Loan Fund Estimates, which I will present later this week, have as their joint aim the stimulation of the State economy and the creation of jobs to the fullest extent our resources permit.

Proposed expenditure from Consolidated Revenue amounts to \$1 329 903 000 against revenue of the same amount. The Estimates therefore provide for a balanced budget.

As I remarked earlier, this is the third successive year the Government has presented a balanced budget to Parliament which is a clear demonstration of the Government's responsible and realistic approach to the management of the States finances.

Mr H. D. Evans: Or its ability to put things up.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Mr Speaker, I now turn to the main purpose of the Bill which is to appropriate the sums required for the services of the current year as detailed in the Estimates. It also makes provision for the grant of supply to complete requirements for this year.

The expenditure estimate of \$1 329 903 000 includes \$138 591 000 permanently appropriated by Parliament under Special Acts leaving a balance of \$1 191 312 000 which is to be appropriated in the manner shown in a schedule to the Bill.

Supply of \$550 million has already been granted under the Supply Act 1977. Hence a further supply of \$641 312 000 has been provided for in the Bill.

Provision is also made for a further grant of supply of \$50 million from the Public Account for Advance to Treasurer which is to supplement the sum of \$15 million already granted under the Supply Act.

As well as authorising the provision of funds for the current year, the Bill ratifies the amounts spent during 1976/77 in excess of the Estimates for that year. Details of these excesses are given in the relevant schedule to the Bill.

I would be remiss if I did not express appreciation to the officers of the Treasury, led by the Under-Treasurer (Mr McCarrey). These gentlemen toil often unsung and unknown to many members of Parliament but I assure members we could not have a team which is more vigilant in looking after the interests of the taxpayers, and the members of this Parliament for that matter, because they have always adopted the line of serving the Government of the day, as all my predecessors would vouch.

I would like the Treasury officers to know the whole of the Parliament is appreciative of the work they do. It is not the kind of work which hits the headlines but those of us who have personal contact with the Treasury officers know that one of their great concerns is to ensure that, above all things, the State remains solvent while they are in the process of implementing the policies of the Government of the day. I express to them my personal thanks and the thanks of the Government.

I commend the Bill to members, and in so doing table the Estimates for 1977-78.

The following papers were tabled—

Consolidated Revenue Fund—Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Year ending 30th June, 1978 (see paper No. 257).

State Trading Concerns—Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Year ending 30th June, 1978 (see paper No. 258).

The Western Australian Economy, 1976-77 (see paper No. 259).

Financial Statement, 1977-78 (see paper No. 260).

Applause by Government members.

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

Message: Appropriations

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the Bill.

Sitting suspended from 6.13 to 7.30 p.m.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1977-78

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GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
TABLE 1.—BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th JUNE, 1977

30th June, 1976		30th June, 1977	
£		£	£
1 346 622 500	Funds Employed	1 430 989 391	
255 770 322	Loan Flotations	270 171 366	
1 090 852 178	Less Redemptions from Sinking Fund		1 160 818 025
160 447 000			202 564 000
1 251 299 178	Commonwealth Capital Grants		1 363 382 025
96 100 000	Acquisition of Public Debt by Commonwealth		96 100 000
1 347 399 178			1 459 482 025
88 476 533	Trust Funds, Governmental	108 265 180	
9 716 396	Less Investments	12 021 199	
78 760 137			96 243 981
105 368 999	Trust Funds, Private	124 832 675	
97 367 535	Less Investments	112 882 727	
8 001 464			11 949 948
47 764 027	Suspense Accounts		65 964 989
38 583 446	Commonwealth Grants and Advances		14 141 970
16 094 390	Trading Concerns and Public Utilities' Banking Accounts		20 542 576
1 536 602 642			1 668 325 489
	Consolidated Revenue Fund:		
593 777	Add Surplus for year		4 022 369
1 537 196 419			1 672 347 858
	Employment of Funds		
	Works and Services—		
1 530 153 223	Railways, Transport, Electricity, Harbours, Water Supplies, Housing, and other State Undertakings	1 660 337 307	
13 591 458	Flotation Expenses and Discounts and Exchange	13 949 732	
39 413 162	Consolidated Revenue Fund Deficits (Funded)	39 413 162	
14 864 098	Consolidated Revenue Fund Deficits (Funded from Commonwealth Capital Grants)	14 864 098	
1 598 021 941		1 728 564 299	
255 770 322	Less Redemptions of Debt applied to depreciation of assets, etc.	270 171 366	
1 342 251 619			1 458 392 933
	Other Assets—		
146 449 600	Short Term Investment		179 136 370
21 204 303	Cash at Bank	8 719 002	
183 464	Cash in London	257 539	
21 387 767			8 976 541
16 277 303	Stores Accounts		14 443 645
	Advances—		
9 858 812	Treasurer's Advances to Departments, etc.	8 241 644	
122 532	Trust Funds, Governmental (Overdrawn Accounts)	39 144	
3 852	Trading Concerns and Public Utilities (Overdrawn Banking Accounts)		
85 230	Suspense (Overdrawn Accounts)	378	
759 704	Commonwealth Grants and Advances (Overdrawn Accounts)	3 117 203	
10 830 130			11 398 369
1 537 196 419			1 672 347 858

II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND

TABLE 2—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

ESTIMATE FOR 1976-77 COMPARED WITH ACTUAL FOR YEAR

Heads	Estimate	Actual	Increase	Decrease
	\$	\$	\$	\$
REVENUE—				
Taxation	227 994 000	241 663 857	13 669 857	....
Territorial	60 908 000	63 879 482	2 971 482	....
Law Courts	7 090 000	6 818 940	....	271 060
Departmental	113 039 000	107 683 036	....	5 355 964
Commonwealth	583 178 000	582 743 646	....	434 354
Public Utilities	140 583 000	141 751 995	1 168 995	....
TOTAL	1 132 792 000	1 144 540 956	11 748 956	....
EXPENDITURE—				
Special Acts	122 004 000	121 325 907	....	678 093
Governmental—				
Parliament	1 890 000	1 872 690	....	17 310
Premier and Treasurer	112 884 000	120 217 894	7 333 894	....
Deputy Premier, Chief Secretary, Minister for Police and Traffic, and Minister for Regional Administration and the North West	63 328 000	63 996 321	668 321	....
Minister for Agriculture	19 913 000	19 372 310	....	540 690
Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife, Tour- ism and Conservation and the Environ- ment	7 314 990	6 928 735	....	386 255
Minister for Works and Housing	36 674 010	37 713 249	1 039 239	....
Minister for Labour and Industry, Con- sumer Affairs and Immigration	4 629 000	4 434 920	....	194 080
Attorney General	13 330 000	13 553 390	223 390	....
Minister for Education	258 411 000	251 056 695	....	7 354 305
Minister for Industrial Development and Mines	14 952 000	13 592 263	....	1 359 737
Minister for Local Government and Town Planning	2 663 000	2 482 174	....	180 826
Minister for Health and Community Wel- fare	297 379 000	298 399 386	1 020 386	....
Minister for Transport	4 712 000	4 314 955	....	397 045
Minister for Lands and Forests	19 275 000	19 430 229	155 229	....
Public Utilities	153 433 000	162 421 246	8 988 246	....
TOTAL	1 132 792 000	1 141 112 364	8 320 364	....
SURPLUS .....	....	3 428 592	3 428 592	....

II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND

TABLE 3—REVENUE

ESTIMATE FOR 1977-78 COMPARED WITH RECEIPTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Heads	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
TAXATION—					
Land Tax	10 435 283	10 723 891	12 405 960	11 994 647	12 500 000
Stamp Duty	31 426 636	30 344 168	44 201 734	54 483 969	62 600 000
Probate Duty	10 315 930	10 234 157	11 918 865	12 943 287	10 000 000
Pay-roll Tax	58 578 963	90 060 688	110 341 319	127 912 521	142 000 000
Licenses	5 984 229	6 964 789	9 153 578	11 335 470	13 108 000
Third Party Insurance Surcharge	2 592 045	2 753 888	2 930 456	3 170 299	3 400 000
Tobacco Licenses	.....	.....	3 576 813	7 548 615	8 300 000
Betting Taxes—					
Totalisator Duty and Licenses	1 061 829	1 314 325	1 656 869	1 779 077	2 000 000
Bookmakers Betting Tax and Licenses	648 227	724 463	861 403	1 031 445	1 181 000
Totalisator Agency Board Betting Tax	5 804 039	7 097 932	8 464 137	9 374 965	10 440 000
Stamp Duty on Betting	81 393	88 858	87 339	89 562	90 000
TOTAL	126 928 574	160 307 159	205 598 473	241 663 857	265 619 000
TERRITORIAL AND DEPARTMENTAL—					
Land	2 083 178	1 985 375	2 024 191	2 767 687	2 605 000
Mining	37 516 539	42 805 989	46 043 737	55 402 990	65 381 000
Timber	3 746 165	4 218 740	5 160 032	5 708 805	6 463 000
Law Courts	3 700 396	5 225 232	6 413 470	6 818 940	7 250 000
Departmental Fees, etc.	74 101 991	95 933 275	97 932 626	107 683 036	127 410 000
TOTAL	121 148 269	150 168 611	157 574 056	178 381 458	209 109 000
COMMONWEALTH—					
Tax Sharing Entitlement (a)	212 388 133	273 330 157	363 030 612	440 800 000	519 815 000
Additional Assistance Grant	6 500 000	6 500 000	.....	.....	.....
Special Temporary Addition	3 500 000	.....	.....	.....	.....
Special Revenue Assistance	2 854 510	7 072 938	.....	.....	.....
Debt Charges Assistance	4 422 138	5 527 672	.....	.....	.....
Interest Contribution	946 864	946 864	946 864	946 864	947 000
Specific Purpose Grants	3 703 932	21 465 318	89 745 612	140 996 782	168 065 000
TOTAL	234 315 577	314 842 949	453 723 088	582 743 646	688 827 000
PUBLIC UTILITIES—					
Country Areas Water Supplies, Sewerage and Drainage	9 816 180	11 480 957	15 585 665	16 868 491	19 670 000
Railways	75 412 670	97 319 026	118 167 174	124 721 627	146 500 000
State Batteries	62 098	121 239	212 942	161 877	178 000
TOTAL	85 290 948	108 921 222	133 965 781	141 751 995	166 348 000
GRAND TOTAL	567 683 368	734 239 941	950 861 398	1 144 540 956	1 329 903 000

(a) Formula Grants prior to 1976-77.

II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND**TABLE 4—RECEIPTS FROM COMMONWEALTH TAKEN TO CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND (a)****ESTIMATE FOR 1977-78 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS**

Type of Grant	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
GENERAL REVENUE GRANTS—					
Financial Assistance Grant—					
Tax Sharing Entitlement (b)	212 388 133	273 330 157	363 030 612	440 800 000	519 815 000
Additional Assistance Grant	6 500 000	6 500 000	....	....	....
Special Temporary Addition	3 500 000	....	....	....	....
TOTAL	222 388 133	279 830 157	363 030 612	440 800 000	519 815 000
Special Revenue Assistance	2 854 510	7 072 938	....	....	....
Debt Charges Assistance	4 422 138	5 527 672	....	....	....
Interest Contributions	946 864	946 864	946 864	946 864	947 000
TOTAL GENERAL REVENUE GRANTS	230 611 645	293 377 631	363 977 476	441 746 864	520 762 000
SPECIFIC PURPOSE GRANTS—					
Aboriginal Advancement Program	1 669 634	6 212 364	6 736 883	8 348 678	9 488 000
Agriculture Projects	334 650	997 036	1 564 736	1 759 883	1 849 000
Apple Export Industry ....	....	515 902	259 283	99 884	124 000
Apprenticeship Training (c)	43 875	....	....	45 045	184 000
Area Improvement Program ....	....	....	10 000	....	....
Blood Transfusion Services ....	....	....	....	....	586 000
Childhood Services Program ....	....	53 219	513 754	1 663 392	3 695 000
Community Health Program	50 357	582 323	1 961 131	3 130 481	5 217 000
Deserted Wives Assistance ....	....	....	....	....	2 790 000
Family Law Court ....	....	....	82 252	1 079 187	1 291 000
Family Planning Program ....	....	23 000	14 590	....	....
Fisheries and Wildlife Projects....	....	120 153	99 896	92 821	75 000
Health Services Planning and Research Program ....	....	49 494	137 000	120 000	120 000
Hospitals Agreement ....	....	....	56 301 889	97 378 726	112 962 000
Moore River Investigations ....	....	....	412 430	43 079	....
National Air Monitoring Program ....	....	....	33 333	....	....
National Estate Program	7 088	112 747	29 678	....	....
Nature Conservation Program ....	....	....	....	160 060	90 000
Schools Commission	1 499 800	9 788 539	15 232 472	18 888 809	21 289 000
Schools Dental Service	477 053	1 097 283	1 891 640	2 628 229	3 148 000
Social Education Materials Project ....	....	....	99 571	45 022	....
State Emergency Services ....	....	....	....	12 536	28 000
Technical and Further Education ....	....	267 912	2 278 038	3 532 061	3 204 000
Tourist Facilities ....	....	28 796	269 436	118 889	7 000
Transport Planning and Research ....	....	....	....	....	68 000
Water Resources Measurement ....	....	1 616 550	1 817 600	1 850 000	1 850 000
TOTAL SPECIFIC PURPOSE GRANTS	4 082 457	21 465 318	89 745 612	140 996 782	168 065 000
GRAND TOTAL	234 694 102	314 842 949	453 723 088	582 743 646	688 827 000

(a) For detailed historical background of these receipts refer to Return No. 39, Financial Statement, 1975-76.

(b) Formula Grants prior to 1976-77.

(c) Receipts from the Commonwealth in 1973-74 relate to the Government Apprentices Training Scheme. These funds have not been taken to Consolidated Revenue Fund since 1973-74. For later receipts under this particular scheme refer to Table 47.

(d) Prior to 1977-78 credited to Treasurer's Advance Account.

II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND

TABLE 5—EXPENDITURE

ESTIMATE FOR 1977-78 COMPARED WITH EXPENDITURE IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Head	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
SPECIAL ACTS	83 334 230	93 388 150	106 399 722	121 325 907	138 591 000
GOVERNMENTAL—					
Parliament	795 289	1 299 358	1 610 756	1 872 690	2 277 000
Premier's (a)	1 445 615	1 867 914	2 976 775	1 963 080	2 337 990
Public Service Board	878 577	1 140 008	1 355 201	1 617 073	1 910 000
Treasury	755 847	1 106 428	1 288 789	1 562 214	2 088 000
Computer Centre	749 732	1 123 586	1 467 073	1 489 915	1 739 000
Superannuation Board	178 465	379 822	474 277	478 975	589 000
Government Stores	918 623	1 313 092	1 483 631	1 664 813	1 917 000
Government Printing Office	4 779 391	7 057 199	7 864 199	8 336 992	9 455 000
Audit	608 056	806 200	928 834	1 059 578	1 242 000
Taxation	2 752 686	3 623 415	4 073 596	4 476 235	5 074 000
Miscellaneous Services	57 053 026	59 750 176	84 632 116	97 569 019	112 314 000
Deputy Premier's Office (b)	(g)	(g)	(g)	1 012 497	1 242 000
Chief Secretary's (c)	1 157 182	1 575 929	1 771 782	3 219 573	3 151 000
Department of Corrections	6 248 411	8 507 336	9 996 721	12 320 081	14 253 000
Police	16 855 503	26 184 236	27 049 657	31 681 817	37 873 000
Road Traffic Authority	1 870 557	3 441 808	12 523 619	14 952 625	17 267 000
Office of Regional Administration and the North West	197 636	302 703	492 456	809 728	1 175 000
Agriculture	11 240 578	15 454 473	17 327 520	19 372 310	22 609 000
Fisheries and Wildlife	1 532 881	2 288 920	2 739 509	3 154 569	3 762 000
Department of Tourism	1 187 996	1 686 012	2 658 599	2 537 766	3 063 000
Conservation and Environment	202 133	461 797	726 847	1 236 400	1 676 000
Public Works	14 797 329	20 224 856	30 383 948	37 713 249	43 087 990
Labour and Industry (d)	1 810 569	2 693 065	3 212 035	3 696 391	4 504 990
Immigration	544 872	597 299	664 025	738 529	862 000
Crown Law (e)	7 949 896	10 378 858	12 080 629	13 553 390	15 339 000
Education	115 981 660	165 705 267	216 073 193	251 056 695	294 926 000
Industrial Development	1 965 803	2 248 073	3 957 112	3 646 265	3 727 000
Mines	5 931 814	7 663 081	8 891 401	9 945 998	10 678 000
Local Government	404 949	549 084	617 510	690 492	916 000
Town Planning	792 084	1 199 779	1 461 566	1 791 682	2 098 000
Medical	77 245 400	110 983 568	161 099 305	216 553 103	248 077 000
Health	8 726 573	15 828 525	19 383 717	24 908 460	32 969 000
Mental Health Services	14 868 880	21 349 290	26 655 985	34 036 963	40 126 000
Community Welfare	12 711 044	15 725 571	19 012 271	22 900 860	30 323 000
Harbour and Light	2 088 827	2 579 382	4 041 663	4 314 955	5 289 000
Lands and Surveys	5 203 539	6 811 745	7 887 392	9 463 773	11 431 000
Bush Fires Board	294 645	383 074	559 923	690 967	658 000
Forests	2 997 932	3 926 485	4 082 978	9 275 489	12 253 000
Sundries (f)	177 790	273 446	....	....	30
TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL	385 901 790	528 490 860	703 506 610	857 365 211	1004279000
PUBLIC UTILITIES—					
Country Areas Water Supplies, Sewerage and Drainage	18 682 398	24 447 820	24 573 723	35 325 718	39 856 000
State Batteries	894 058	1 091 911	1 418 739	1 409 654	1 627 000
Railways	84 601 892	95 954 298	114 368 827	125 685 874	145 550 000
TOTAL PUBLIC UTILITIES	104 178 348	121 494 029	140 361 289	162 421 246	187 033 000
GRAND TOTAL	573 414 368	743 373 039	950 267 621	1141112364	1329903000
SURPLUS FOR YEAR	....	....	593 777	3 428 592	....
DEFICIT FOR YEAR	5 731 000	9 133 098	....	....	....

(a) Includes London Agency and Tokyo Agency. (b) Includes Governor's Establishment.
(c) Includes Registry, Astronomical Services, Electoral and Licensing. (d) Includes Industrial Commission, Public Service Arbitration and Consumer Affairs Bureau. (e) Includes Corporate Affairs Office, Office of Titles and Public Trust Office. (f) Fuel and Power Commission 1973-75.
(g) Previously under Premier's and Public Works.

II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND**TABLE 6—EXPENDITURE, NORTH WEST****ESTIMATE FOR 1977-78 COMPARED WITH EXPENDITURE IN PREVIOUS YEARS**

Head	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
DEPARTMENTAL—					
Agriculture	1 146 731	1 234 939	1 346 084	1 591 544	1 964 500
Community Welfare	829 868	1 729 188	1 974 453	2 304 417	2 110 000
Corrections	225 812	341 655	590 583	917 983	1 077 000
Country Water Supplies, Sewerage, Drainage and Irrigation	5 182 920	5 789 027	6 112 431	7 632 376	9 846 000
Education	3 774 068	4 573 463	8 083 753	9 667 085	10 769 000
Harbour and Light	1 123 853	1 356 577	1 487 658	2 231 444	3 081 000
Medical	5 768 861	8 420 453	18 875 754	18 939 098	19 985 000
Office of Regional Administration and the North West	197 636	302 703	492 456	809 728	1 209 000
Police	687 830	1 130 243	1 689 314	1 800 305	2 000 000
Public Health	1 319 396	2 729 908	3 249 814	3 915 000	5 081 200
Public Works	2 479 503	3 257 393	3 332 851	4 085 431	4 775 900
Other	1 075 104	1 154 875	1 802 456	2 287 181	2 578 400
ORD RIVER IRRIGATION PRO- JECT—					
Salaries and Allowances	197 000	144 275	167 550	163 685	174 900
Operating Expenses	604 320	675 979	810 509	1 141 541	1 402 300
Assistance to Cotton Growers	175 388	935 130	660 523	150 818	120 000
Other	563 780	653 770	1 141 959	937 273	634 800
GENERAL—					
Air Transport of Perishable Goods to Remote Centres	32 029	45 522	19 293	15 638	30 000
Students Fares to Remote Centres	115 373	133 110	120 680	160 881	220 000
W.A. Coastal Shipping Commis- sion—Loss	4 582 258	5 079 660	7 293 930	6 620 318	8 309 000
Pensioners Travel Concessions— Annual free trip South to pen- sioners residing in North West .....	....	....	3 021	7 640	10 000
Rent Reductions North West Houses—Reimbursement to State Housing Commission	208 219	285 632	349 350	342 370	384 000
TOTAL	30 289 949	39 973 502	59 604 422	65 721 756	75 762 000

II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND

TABLE 7—EXPENDITURE

FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS AND COST PER HEAD OF POPULATION

Details	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
SOCIAL SERVICES					
EDUCATION—					
Primary	45 459 656	68 092 604	90 145 946	106 381 574	122 935 000
Secondary	41 995 528	58 432 783	80 619 180	92 676 621	104 641 000
Technical	13 913 710	18 892 114	25 497 614	30 707 142	36 125 000
Teacher Training and Special Services	12 301 748	13 000 392	16 500 598	16 297 980	22 286 000
Transport of Children	5 156 305	6 582 108	8 064 602	9 497 906	10 776 000
Assistance to Private Schools	3 258 725	4 561 783	6 090 247	8 208 101	9 620 000
Libraries, Museums and Theatres	3 445 701	4 674 642	7 250 038	10 295 457	12 586 000
Other	13 685 209	10 328 830	11 199 395	14 079 136	18 863 000
TOTAL EDUCATION	139 216 582	184 565 256	245 367 620	288 143 917	337 832 000
per capita	126.04	162.73	211.81	243.51	279.71
PUBLIC HEALTH—					
Hospitals	75 411 736	108 460 312	159 416 766	214 631 763	245 955 000
Mental Hospitals	14 935 403	21 499 685	26 386 586	33 566 937	39 591 000
Health of School Children	1 027 652	2 138 636	3 232 520	5 186 215	6 452 000
Ambulance Services	1 348 505	2 060 604	2 818 693	3 234 598	3 582 000
Maternal and Infant Health Centres	1 437 721	1 985 746	2 252 516	2 993 182	3 224 000
Other	10 689 382	17 551 364	20 124 592	30 288 409	37 464 000
TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH	104 850 399	153 696 347	214 231 673	289 901 104	336 268 000
per capita	94.93	135.51	184.94	244.99	278.41
WELFARE—					
Welfare Institutions	2 183 932	2 953 665	3 778 119	4 141 374	4 928 000
Maintenance Allowances	4 766 115	3 156 323	3 742 825	4 704 447	8 424 000
Pensioners Travel Concessions	2 723 863	3 722 555	3 683 415	3 476 448	3 298 000
Other	6 626 773	11 141 907	13 791 621	17 896 869	20 114 000
TOTAL WELFARE	16 300 683	20 974 450	24 995 980	30 219 138	36 764 000
per capita	14.76	18.49	21.58	25.54	30.44
LAW, ORDER AND PUBLIC SAFETY—					
Police	17 707 154	27 679 070	41 470 089	49 970 644	58 584 000
Prisons	6 831 644	9 389 070	10 954 158	13 932 199	16 229 000
Administration and Justice	5 695 912	7 908 876	9 259 331	11 275 311	12 751 000
Custody and Care of Delinquent Children	1 979 245	2 537 716	2 767 851	3 632 577	5 086 000
Other	3 262 318	5 486 881	2 527 277	3 066 919	3 986 000
TOTAL LAW, ORDER AND PUBLIC SAFETY	35 476 273	53 001 613	66 978 706	81 877 650	96 636 000
per capita	32.12	46.73	57.82	69.19	80.01
TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES	295 843 937	412 237 666	551 573 979	690 141 809	807 370 000
per capita	267.85	363.46	476.15	583.23	668.46

II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND

Table 7—Expenditure—continued

FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS AND COST PER HEAD OF POPULATION—continued

Details	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRY—					
Country Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage	16 456 670	21 311 155	31 313 102	41 498 769	43 410 000
Agricultural, Pastoral and Dairying	13 388 198	18 725 519	21 945 848	23 197 329	29 296 000
Mines and Minerals	7 268 889	9 314 661	10 707 508	11 840 314	13 018 000
Forestry	5 744 574	6 841 215	8 145 575	10 701 839	12 257 000
Lands	5 262 157	6 878 652	7 949 520	9 662 991	11 889 000
National Development	4 849 972	5 360 127	7 679 983	11 059 578	12 670 000
Fisheries and Wildlife	1 564 083	2 372 181	2 946 123	3 466 992	4 094 000
Other	7 839 299	9 744 099	10 848 799	8 294 931	8 781 000
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE	62 373 842	80 547 609	101 536 458	119 722 743	135 415 000
per capita	56.47	71.02	87.65	101.18	112.12
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION—					
Railways	85 019 724	96 498 344	115 073 903	126 442 861	146 402 000
Buses and Ferries	5 786 090	14 600 308	19 753 586	21 359 625	24 724 000
Shipping and Harbours	9 422 074	10 597 413	13 911 820	13 414 615	15 475 000
Other	144 503	367 573	285 445	429 564	463 000
TOTAL TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION	100 372 391	122 063 638	149 024 754	161 646 665	187 064 000
per capita	90.88	107.62	128.65	136.61	154.88
PUBLIC DEBT CHARGES—					
Interest	57 606 984	62 968 246	69 625 024	80 384 043	91 966 000
Sinking Fund	11 592 756	12 331 807	12 000 000	12 777 307	13 608 000
Loan Management	578 210	630 741	610 020	646 168	672 000
TOTAL PUBLIC DEBT CHARGES	69 777 950	75 930 794	82 235 044	93 807 518	106 246 000
per capita	63.18	66.95	70.99	79.28	87.97
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICES	29 358 185	31 571 506	36 771 745	60 587 978	71 910 000
per capita	26.58	27.84	31.74	51.20	59.54
LEGISLATURE	3 241 505	4 075 809	5 517 147	6 814 080	7 621 000
per capita	2.93	3.59	4.76	5.76	6.31
REGULATION OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY	2 504 378	3 713 448	4 777 634	5 466 022	6 768 000
per capita	2.27	3.27	4.13	4.62	5.60
MISCELLANEOUS	9 942 180	13 232 569	18 830 860	2 925 549	7 379 000
per capita	9.00	11.67	16.26	2.47	6.11
GRAND TOTAL	573 414 368	743 373 039	950 267 621	1141 112 364	1329903000
per capita	519.16	655.42	820.33	964.35	1 101.09

Based on estimated mean population, viz. 1977-78, 1 207 800.

II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND

TABLE 8—ORD RIVER IRRIGATION SCHEME—INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
ESTIMATE FOR 1977-78 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

Head	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
ACCRUED INCOME—					
Water Supplies	54 290	73 814	89 261	66 797	94 000
Sewerage	16 873	17 305	22 352	30 718	34 000
Irrigation	172 997	141 239	181 804	129 575	140 000
Kununurra Hostel	196 298	121 432	139 151	109 894	100 000
Kununurra Airport	20 301	8 469	38 498	57 097	57 000
TOTAL INCOME	460 759	362 259	471 066	394 081	425 000
EXPENDITURE—					
Salaries and Allowances generally	197 000	144 275	167 550	163 685	174 900
Administration Expenses	43 973	33 627	33 311	27 501	30 900
Operating Expenses—					
Irrigation	532 703	596 134	717 933	765 202	905 000
Water Supply	58 124	64 951	78 181	76 727	126 000
Sewerage	13 493	14 894	14 395	22 428	35 600
Hostel	214 930	215 789	211 714	182 782	236 000
Airport	54 371	85 616	78 027	94 402	100 000
Additions, Repairs and Maintenance of Housing	25 006	1 888	.....	.....	.....
Publicity	21 039	20 676	24 995	19 948	19 000
Assistance to Cotton Growers	175 388	935 130	660 523	150 818	120 000
Kununurra Townsite Services	43 829	11 739	33 636	18 233	35 000
Commercial Scale Agricultural Experi- ments	47 901	104 666	466 603	557 912	335 000
Land Preparation for Farmers	3 076	1 084	.....	.....	.....
Western Australian Agreement (Ord River Irrigation) Act, 1968—Interest	109 655	171 560	187 234	189 597	200 000
Payroll Tax .....	.....	7 125	8 136	8 213	9 600
Sugar Industry Feasibility Study .....	.....	.....	98 302	115 869	5 000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1 540 488	2 409 154	2 780 540	2 393 317	2 332 000

III.—GENERAL LOAN FUND

TABLE 9—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE

ESTIMATE FOR 1976-77 COMPARED WITH ACTUAL FOR YEAR

Heads	Estimate	Actual	Increase	Decrease
	\$	\$	\$	\$
RECEIPTS—				
Borrowings approved by Australian Loan Council	84 235 000	84 235 000	....	....
Commonwealth Capital Grants for General Purposes	42 117 000	42 117 000	....	....
Interest on Short Term Investments under the provision of Section 4(b) Public Monies Investment Act	6 000 000	....	....	6 000 000
Loan Repayments	8 799 441	13 129 733	4 330 292	....
Balance at beginning of year	5 147 559	5 147 559	....	....
	146 299 000	144 629 292	4 330 292	6 000 000
Less Balance at end of year .....	....	1 089 092	1 089 092	....
TOTAL	146 299 000	143 540 200	....	2 758 800
EXPENDITURE—				
Agriculture	300 000	232 539	....	67 461
Fisheries and Wildlife	68 000	69 615	1 615	....
Forests	2 463 000	1 663 000	....	800 000
Industrial Development	385 000	384 995	....	5
Mines	100 000	1 529	....	98 471
Public Works—				
Engineering and Associated Works	20 904 000	18 837 901	....	2 066 099
Buildings and Associated Works	61 893 000	53 821 554	....	8 071 446
Railways	20 344 000	22 041 348	1 697 348	....
Treasury	1 934 000	1 373 719	....	560 281
Business Undertakings	31 161 000	38 290 000	7 129 000	....
Housing Authorities	3 150 000	3 150 000	....	....
Port Authorities	2 642 000	2 719 000	77 000	....
Other Authorities	955 000	955 000	....	....
TOTAL	146 299 000	143 540 200	....	2 758 800

III.—GENERAL LOAN FUND

TABLE 10—LOAN EXPENDITURE

EXPENDITURE IN 1976-77 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

Undertakings	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Agricultural Development	694 427	506 210	469 998	233 272	232 539
Industrial Development	288 597	426 782	822 782	495 309	384 995
Fisheries and Wildlife Development	76 917	39 055	99 800	124 034	69 615
Forestry Development	1 900 000	1 700 000	3 000 000	3 000 000	1 663 000
Mining Development	11 011	236 280	31 932	71 579	1 529
Public Works—Engineering and Associated Works—					
Improvements to Harbours and Rivers	890 917	1 593 569	1 795 256	2 500 954	2 289 524
Country Areas Water Supplies, Irrigation and Drainage	8 669 294	10 179 823	10 445 962	12 385 242	14 632 309
Country Towns Sewerage	860 535	1 081 703	1 721 455	1 841 929	1 807 178
Kununurra Townsite Development	58 393	23 623	170 730	183 827	108 889
Electricity Undertakings	4 286	.....	.....	.....	.....
Public Works—Buildings and Associated Works including Furniture and Equipment—					
Hospitals (a)	11 357 557	14 727 563	17 029 051	18 118 939	17 105 411
Public Health Department	3 458 373	29 743	553 545	1 092 536	1 258 402
Mental Health Services	781 294	922 346	1 316 525	1 284 760	1 929 204
Schools	14 290 731	15 234 688	19 223 841	25 268 872	25 173 963
Police Department	789 089	1 629 472	3 302 587	1 177 207	1 533 762
Road Traffic Authority .....	.....	.....	.....	282 234	777 673
Community Welfare Department	489 296	422 576	918 782	448 021	417 999
Department of Corrections	361 059	248 162	357 330	288 974	318 116
Public Buildings not otherwise provided for	2 315 032	1 615 631	2 988 460	4 404 788	5 307 025
Railways	7 753 665	9 968 467	11 946 571	22 231 533	22 041 348
Advances to Sundry Bodies .....	.....	346 190	831 000	.....	200 000
Government Printing Office	79 248	56 450	102 000	10 000	418 463
Grants for Unemployment Relief Works	1 000 000	.....	.....	.....	518 874
Rural and Industries Bank—Delegated Agencies.....	45 000	.....	.....	50 000	10 000
Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust	854 000	.....	.....	1 000 000	1 510 000
Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board	14 138 400	15 500 000	12 500 000	20 000 000	21 200 000
State Energy Commission	4 100 000	3 467 000	4 069 000	.....	15 460 000
Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission .....	.....	.....	300 000	.....	.....
Western Australian Meat Commission (b)	1 155 000	500 000	.....	.....	120 000
Housing Authorities	15 650 000	4 950 000	900 000	4 400 000	3 150 000
Bunbury Port Authority.....	430 000	451 000	1 965 000	6 672 000	1 165 000
Fremantle Port Authority	520 000	.....	.....	.....	500 000
Geraldton Port Authority .....	.....	.....	.....	1 232 000	1 054 000
Port Hedland Port Authority	537 000	460 000	.....	.....	.....
Tertiary Institutions	1 822 000	.....	.....	.....	.....
Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority .....	.....	650 000	650 000	650 000	650 000
Industrial Lands Development Authority .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	305 000
	95 381 121	86 966 333	97 511 607	129 448 010	143 313 818
Add Loan Flotation Expenses and Discounts (c)	107 325	53 101	255 085	174 739	226 382
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	95 488 446	87 019 434	97 766 692	129 622 749	143 540 200

(a) Includes Perth Medical Centre.

(b) Includes Midland Junction Abattoir Board and West Australian Meat Export Works

(c) Charged to General Loan Fund.

IV.—PUBLIC DEBT

TABLE 12—SINKING FUND

TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR

						\$	\$
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	....	....	....	....	....		1 190 927
RECEIPTS—							
Loan Liability to the Commonwealth—							
State Contribution	....	....	....	....	....	12 777 307	
Commonwealth Contribution	....	....	....	....	....	2 981 372	
Net Earnings on Investments	....	....	....	....	....	10 300	
							15 768 979
							16 959 906
PAYMENTS—							
Redemptions and Repurchases, etc., at net cost (including Exchange)							14 645 665
BALANCE 30th JUNE, 1977	....	....	....	....	....		2 314 241

TABLE 13—NET PUBLIC DEBT PER HEAD OF POPULATION AS AT 30th JUNE*†

Year		Debt per Head	Year		Debt per Head
		\$			\$
1927	....	315·47	1970	....	896·57
1930	....	326·97	1971	....	898·92
1935	....	393·88	1972	....	919·48
1940	....	405·39	1973	....	951·84
1945	....	392·74	1974	....	968·05
1950	....	393·04	1975	....	986·84
1955	....	540·73	1976	....	1 940·66
1960	....	683·31	1977	....	1 979·04
1965	....	805·73			

* Adjusted on corrected figures of population.

† Prior to 1967 excludes Aborigines.

‡ Decrease due to debt amounting to \$96·1 million assumed by Commonwealth.

|| Preliminary figure.

IV.—PUBLIC DEBT

TABLE 14—CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AS AT 30th JUNE, 1977

	Securities Issued	Re- deemed	In Circu- lation	Funds Invested
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Abattoirs Act (Western Australian Meat Com- mission)	*8 035 000	116 081	7 918 919	209 048
Albany Port Authority Act	3 790 000	7 514	3 782 486	112 733
Art Gallery Act	1 800 000	10 791	1 789 209	10 620
Bunbury Port Authority Act	5 200 000	2 834	5 197 166	171 797
Dairy Industry Act	80 000	32 859	47 141	....
Esperance Port Authority Act	2 900 000	....	2 900 000	83 771
Fremantle Port Authority Act	6 800 000	....	6 800 000	559 203
Geraldton Port Authority Act	3 450 000	23 810	3 426 190	55 082
Government Employees Housing Act	4 700 000	160 825	4 539 175	17 241
Industrial Lands Development Authority	2 900 000	218 243	2 681 757	76 526
Metropolitan Market Act	340 000	197 511	142 489	....
Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust Act	9 121 160	161 579	8 959 581	2 872 394
Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act	13 090 000	875 420	12 214 580	1 044 816
Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act	50 748 550	1 142 334	49 606 216	654 089
Port Hedland Port Authority Act	3 150 000	5 793	3 144 207	49 890
State Energy Commission Act	205 566 760	330 945	205 235 815	6 999 740
State Housing Act	30 675 000	1 482 921	29 192 079	2 355 383
State Trading Concerns Act— State Implement and Engineering Works	850 000	81 584	768 416	860
W.A. Coastal Shipping Commission Act	3 700 000	16 598	3 683 402	127 336
Wood Distillation and Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry Act	700 000	11 244	688 756	7 117
	357 596 470	4 878 886	352 717 584	15 407 646
Guarantees and Indemnities under— Housing Loan Guarantee Act ....	....	....	32 983 671	....
Industry (Advances) Act and Other Statutes	....	....	61 281 446	....
TOTAL ....	....	....	446 982 701	....

*Includes securities issued under the Abattoirs Act (Midland Junction) and the State Trading Concerns Act (West Australian Meat Export Works) to 30 June 1976.

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

TABLE 15—ALBANY PORT AUTHORITY

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital	3 989 263	3 943 514	3 895 706	3 821 198	3 767 886
Private Loans	1 940 000	2 290 000	2 490 000	2 686 876	3 669 754
Other Capital	453 286	453 286	453 286	453 286	453 286
TOTAL	6 382 549	6 686 800	6 838 992	6 961 360	7 890 926
Annual Revenue	629 746	601 041	701 115	887 265	1 231 349
Working Expenses	330 794	292 291	373 498	563 815	717 792
Interest	351 195	377 590	418 321	435 404	522 733
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	43 779	45 749	47 808	49 959	128 084
ANNUAL COST	725 768	715 630	839 627	1 049 178	1 368 609
Loss	96 022	114 589	138 512	161 913	137 260

TABLE 16—BUNBURY PORT AUTHORITY

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital	6 956 692	7 358 745	9 270 286	15 872 254	16 934 619
Private Loans	2 700 000	3 100 000	3 600 000	4 300 000	5 197 166
Other Capital	1 950 176	2 038 000	4 884 000	6 894 200	6 894 200
TOTAL	11 606 868	12 496 745	17 754 286	27 066 454	29 025 985
Annual Revenue	1 044 638	1 253 908	1 583 814	1 236 464	2 477 177
Working Expenses	362 887	592 493	661 017	602 342	772 841
Interest	542 144	612 165	731 564	1 040 647	1 428 813
Depreciation	69 402	66 656	88 131	88 158	108 734
ANNUAL COST	974 433	1 271 314	1 480 712	1 731 147	2 310 388
Profit	70 205	.....	103 102	.....	166 789
Loss .....	.....	17 406	.....	494 683	.....

TABLE 17—COUNTRY AREAS WATER SUPPLY

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital	95 160 376	103 902 451	112 255 187	122 667 238	131 704 904
Annual Revenue	6 644 337	7 747 872	9 767 003	12 688 312	13 908 362
Working Expenses	11 359 590	12 800 911	15 297 770	19 909 353	22 297 038
Interest	5 722 254	6 364 861	7 430 063	8 074 109	8 760 287
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	3 240 800	3 529 964	3 693 531	4 291 004	4 913 094
Provisions and Other Charges	4 186	1 690	2 095	3 020	6 695
ANNUAL COST	20 326 830	22 697 426	26 423 459	32 277 486	35 977 114
Loss	13 682 493	14 949 554	16 656 456	19 589 174	22 068 752

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

TABLE 18—ESPERANCE PORT AUTHORITY

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital	4 628 149	4 600 913	4 572 452	4 542 710	4 511 630
Private Loans	1 900 000	2 300 000	2 400 000	2 700 000	2 900 000
TOTAL	6 528 149	6 900 913	6 972 452	7 242 710	7 411 630
Annual Revenue	458 408	464 504	589 008	609 082	851 977
Working Expenses	207 146	217 046	284 600	331 455	353 735
Interest	392 703	431 621	459 867	468 286	508 681
Depreciation	72 823	74 496	76 362	85 968	84 299
Provisions and Other Charges .....	.....	219	.....	.....	.....
ANNUAL COST	672 672	723 382	820 829	885 709	946 715
Loss	214 264	258 878	231 821	276 627	94 738

TABLE 19—FREMANTLE PORT AUTHORITY

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital	20 662 896	20 384 467	20 093 508	19 789 456	19 971 722
Revenue Capital	11 914	180	.....	.....	426 875
Private Loans	4 650 000	4 800 000	5 300 000	6 000 000	6 800 000
Other Capital	1 321 307	1 498 829	1 682 559	1 860 082	3 237 605
TOTAL	26 646 117	26 683 476	27 076 067	27 649 538	30 436 202
Annual Revenue	11 387 750	13 852 624	15 509 231	18 926 234	21 453 035
Working Expenses	8 164 649	10 021 625	11 784 064	15 095 445	17 485 966
Interest	1 366 743	1 437 741	1 509 515	1 531 454	1 577 185
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	1 404 582	1 632 028	1 482 590	1 457 856	1 525 876
Provisions and Other Charges	187 115	237 036	603 669	655 791	855 206
ANNUAL COST	11 123 089	13 328 430	15 379 838	18 740 546	21 444 233
Profit	264 661	524 194	129 393	185 688	8 802

TABLE 20—GERALDTON PORT AUTHORITY

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital	5 106 524	5 075 442	5 042 862	6 240 744	7 253 102
Private Loans	1 100 000	1 600 000	1 900 000	2 593 272	3 426 191
TOTAL	6 206 524	6 675 442	6 942 862	8 834 016	10 679 293
Annual Revenue	806 088	831 042	663 114	899 350	1 111 250
Working Expenses	263 937	340 716	402 229	534 833	577 040
Interest	369 923	405 668	459 365	520 421	684 549
Depreciation	114 681	121 418	123 836	131 975	130 000
ANNUAL COST	748 541	867 802	985 430	1 187 229	1 391 589
Profit	57 547	.....	.....	.....	.....
Loss .....	.....	36 760	322 316	287 879	280 339

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

TABLE 21—GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital	4 711 322	5 680 717	6 138 747	8 597 626	10 292 155
Private Loans	2 247 492	2 629 229	3 106 526	3 779 134	4 539 175
Other Capital	81 714	291 714	571 714	2 421 714	3 591 714
TOTAL	7 040 528	8 601 660	9 816 987	14 798 474	18 423 044
Annual Revenue	1 633 207	1 861 923	1 068 625	1 395 244	2 314 594
Administration	137 810	101 566	198 511	238 958	265 056
Maintenance	241 329	268 441	464 905	457 643	827 979
Rates on Rental Properties	92 190	117 091	150 488	200 121	253 615
Rents Payable	446 560	569 104	1 008 260	1 314 634	1 685 920
Interest	389 872	422 807	533 041	625 200	813 402
Renovations and Minor Alterations					682 285
Depreciation	188 681	181 937	242 511	293 300	365 381
Provisions	128 889	200 977	162 500	165 000	140 350
ANNUAL COST	1 625 331	1 861 923	2 760 216	3 294 856	5 033 988
Profit	7 876				
Loss			1 691 591	1 899 612	2 719 394

TABLE 22—INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY (a)

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital			400 000	400 000	400 000
TOTAL			400 000	400 000	400 000
Annual Revenue				38 053	36 286
Administration				7 452	17 752
Maintenance				13	37
Rates					1 107
Insurance				100	720
Interest				17 047	
Depreciation				951	3 222
ANNUAL COST				25 563	22 838
Profit				12 490	13 448

(a) Established under Act No. 63 of 1973 proclaimed to operate from 20 September 1974. No revenue transactions for 1974-75.

TABLE 23—METROPOLITAN MARKET TRUST

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital	158 434	147 976	137 047	125 627	113 693
Private Loans	248 171	221 904	194 144	167 092	142 488
TOTAL	406 605	369 880	331 191	292 719	256 181
Annual Revenue	248 043	256 736	303 351	362 414	412 615
Working Expenses	152 316	168 412	217 938	255 196	276 736
Interest	25 065	23 472	22 089	19 804	17 562
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	34 862	36 725	38 689	38 472	36 538
Provisions and Other Charges	34 794	27 869	24 278	47 738	80 170
ANNUAL COST	247 037	256 478	302 994	361 210	411 006
Profit	1 006	258	357	1 204	1 609

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

TABLE 24—METROPOLITAN (PERTH) PASSENGER TRANSPORT TRUST

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital	6 721 039	6 674 551	5 378 505	5 610 903	6 286 504
Private Loans	6 721 039	7 101 125	7 530 034	8 204 557	8 959 581
TOTAL	13 442 078	13 775 676	12 908 539	13 815 460	15 246 085
Annual Revenue	9 013 579	10 795 546	15 004 569	14 955 618	17 521 766
Working Expenses	12 214 747	14 957 167	28 353 449	31 066 034	35 249 877
Interest	636 904	752 060	1 258 103	1 370 237	1 284 270
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	775 463	848 538	1 414 571	1 339 579	1 492 630
ANNUAL COST	13 627 114	16 557 765	31 026 123	33 775 850	38 026 777
Loss	4 613 535	5 762 219	16 021 554	18 820 232	20 505 011

TABLE 25—METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE BOARD

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital	133 788 680	147 848 507	158 765 750	177 051 514	196 514 321
Private Loans	14 150 000	20 150 000	27 402 718	36 720 123	45 669 545
TOTAL	147 938 680	167 998 507	186 168 468	213 771 637	242 183 866
Annual Revenue	19 511 939	20 616 441	29 535 921	42 717 788	48 616 490
Working Expenses	8 567 333	11 777 929	16 001 360	18 870 028	23 517 110
Interest	7 748 589	9 311 319	12 248 490	14 667 676	17 391 373
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	1 490 148	1 706 895	1 958 220	2 285 341	3 525 000
Provisions and Other Charges	1 640 000	*1 350 959	1 163 945	5 936 078	4 381 534
ANNUAL COST	19 446 070	21 445 184	31 372 015	41 759 123	48 815 017
Profit	65 869	.....	.....	958 665	.....
Loss .....	.....	828 743	1 836 094	.....	198 527

* Credit.

TABLE 26—PERTH MINT

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Capital	913 361	913 361	913 361	913 361	913 361
Annual Revenue	284 109	768 201	1 297 725	1 249 569	1 039 356
Administrative Expenses	199 327	236 949	328 059	380 747	431 811
Wages	245 370	392 410	568 966	614 637	573 534
Depreciation	9 912	8 286	8 013	7 485	7 770
Other Charges	127 704	95 126	142 358	160 144	134 410
ANNUAL COST	582 313	732 771	1 047 396	1 163 013	1 147 525
Profit .....	.....	35 430	250 329	86 556	.....
Loss	298 204	.....	.....	.....	108 169

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

TABLE 27—PORT HEDLAND PORT AUTHORITY

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital	3 097 081	3 536 836	3 517 046	3 496 365	3 474 754
Private Loans	1 000 000	1 400 000	1 900 000	2 600 000	3 144 207
TOTAL	4 097 081	4 936 836	5 417 046	6 096 365	6 618 961
Annual Revenue	5 997 461	7 211 065	7 920 805	7 806 050	7 491 966
Working Expenses	5 483 489	6 229 303	7 069 179	7 160 859	6 907 003
Interest	213 577	288 833	357 426	409 628	491 527
Depreciation	183 813	249 833	330 322	344 602	279 406
Provisions and Other Charges	88 125	583 296	286 751	301 279	458 110
ANNUAL COST	5 969 004	7 351 265	8 043 678	8 216 368	8 136 046
Profit	28 457				
Loss		140 200	122 873	410 318	644 080

TABLE 28—RAILWAYS COMMISSION

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital	160 624 808	164 333 223	170 720 482	184 927 454	198 088 650
Loan Capital—non-interest bearing	7 220 254	7 434 281	6 754 166	6 506 685	6 484 516
TOTAL	167 845 062	171 767 504	177 474 648	191 434 139	204 573 166
Annual Revenue	64 792 800	79 968 498	108 309 240	132 397 088	138 345 997
Working Expenses	61 010 672	74 403 476	96 439 125	110 892 707	123 382 253
Interest	12 041 478	12 555 995	13 608 867	14 231 225	14 936 193
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	8 797 175	9 577 373	9 936 950	10 313 969	11 085 477
ANNUAL COST	81 849 325	96 536 844	119 984 942	135 437 901	149 403 923
Loss	17 056 525	16 568 346	11 675 702	3 040 813	11 057 926

* Preliminary Figures.

TABLE 29—RURAL AND INDUSTRIES BANK OF W.A. (RURAL DEPARTMENT)

Details	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital	22 229 544	22 229 542	22 229 540	22 229 538	22 229 536
Annual Revenue	18 632 637	26 951 118	36 513 049	45 110 518	52 842 184
Annual Cost	17 406 539	25 295 886	34 460 337	42 505 946	49 305 174
Profit	1 226 098	1 655 232	2 052 712	2 604 572	3 537 010
General Reserve	8 423 162	10 078 394	11 104 750	12 407 036	14 175 541

‡ Financial Years ending 31st March.

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

TABLE 30—STATE BATTERIES

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital	1 375 570	1 375 465	1 375 130	1 410 140	1 410 140
Annual Revenue	73 097	64 844	101 484	175 557	207 987
Working Expenses	637 797	794 240	945 987	1 279 720	1 462 447
Interest	61 901	61 896	61 881	63 457	63 457
Depreciation	27 207	25 392	32 903	31 884	29 020
Provisions and Other Charges	15 498	15 566	17 027	20 918	35 987
ANNUAL COST	742 403	897 094	1 057 798	1 395 979	1 590 911
Loss	669 306	832 250	956 314	1 220 422	1 382 924

TABLE 31—STATE ENERGY COMMISSION

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital	60 245 496	63 152 476	66 621 240	65 973 648	79 900 212
Loan Capital—Non-interest bearing	2 545 332	2 545 332	2 545 332	2 545 332	3 395 332
Subscribed Loans	116 947 097	133 390 619	154 164 799	174 212 778	205 235 815
TOTAL	179 737 925	199 088 427	223 331 371	242 731 758	288 531 359
Annual Revenue	68 591 560	76 606 529	101 748 705	137 692 034	148 065 000
Working Expenses	52 015 344	62 229 568	84 910 667	111 541 707	138 908 563
Interest	11 104 364	12 744 232	14 299 214	16 698 503	19 956 437
ANNUAL COST	63 119 708	74 973 800	99 209 881	128 240 210	158 865 000
Profit	5 471 852	1 632 729	2 538 824	9 451 824	.....
Loss	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 800 000

* Preliminary Figures.

TABLE 32—STATE ENGINEERING WORKS

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital	299 212	291 445	283 328	274 847	266 006
Private Loans	196 681	385 787	470 099	752 369	767 556
TOTAL	495 893	677 232	753 427	1 027 216	1 033 562
Annual Revenue	2 295 069	2 624 277	3 977 523	4 963 573	5 320 243
Working Expenses	1 840 811	2 157 407	3 147 785	4 058 333	4 139 507
Interest	28 400	42 263	47 518	77 973	84 288
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	61 871	63 646	79 658	82 570	88 103
Provisions and Other Charges	162 618	193 922	305 402	322 008	398 105
ANNUAL COST	2 093 700	2 457 238	3 580 363	4 540 884	4 710 003
Profit	201 369	167 039	397 160	422 689	610 240

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

TABLE 33—STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total Assets	20 544 694	23 387 047	30 160 115	37 305 753	52 292 658
Earned Premiums	10 987 913	14 283 973	20 084 991	32 472 738	42 158 124
Other Revenue (including Interest, Rents, etc.)	1 381 559	1 508 721	1 404 410	2 318 193	3 328 212
Annual Revenue	12 369 472	15 792 694	21 489 401	34 790 931	45 486 336
Claims Paid and Outstanding	9 468 267	12 178 803	23 790 533	30 893 219	37 079 092
Working Expenses (including Taxes, Rebates, etc.)	2 382 841	2 805 607	3 422 652	4 651 210	5 352 143
ANNUAL COST	11 851 108	14 984 410	27 213 185	35 544 429	42 431 235
Taken to Reserves—					
Surplus for the year	518 364	808 284			3 055 101
Loss for the year			5 723 784	753 498	
Transferred from Provisions		3 197 757			
TOTAL RESERVES	8 942 922	12 948 963	7 225 179	6 471 681	9 526 782

TABLE 34—WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COASTAL SHIPPING COMMISSION

Details	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital	7 831 761	6 991 702	3 419 190	2 913 321	2 133 666
Private Loans	2 300 000	2 600 000	2 700 000	3 698 735	3 685 022
Commonwealth Grant	1 500 000	2 500 000	2 500 000	2 500 000	2 500 000
TOTAL	11 631 761	12 091 702	8 619 190	9 112 056	8 318 688
Annual Revenue	4 783 573	4 979 284	6 528 854	6 030 154	7 313 185
Working Expenses	6 717 747	7 429 690	9 349 469	11 069 547	12 301 688
Interest	580 698	614 618	473 276	449 033	467 616
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	785 889	857 868	929 071	949 731	979 742
Provisions and Other Charges	1 113 078	489 722	429 621	523 416	586 186
ANNUAL COST	9 197 412	9 391 898	11 181 437	12 991 727	14 335 232
Loss	4 413 839	4 412 614	4 652 583	6 961 573	7 022 047

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

TABLE 35—WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FIRE BRIGADES BOARD

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital	3 127 551	3 749 938	5 408 715	6 753 250	9 070 058
Liability in respect of Local Authority Debentures	305 926	334 553	373 811	405 762	500 204
TOTAL	3 433 477	4 084 491	5 782 526	7 159 012	9 570 262
Annual Revenue	5 654 427	6 350 525	10 656 276	13 025 240	14 242 392
Salaries, Wages, etc.	4 072 484	5 605 682	7 946 026	9 308 428	10 696 030
Purchase, installation and maintenance of Plant and Equipment	431 529	565 812	725 776	1 006 551	1 183 158
Maintenance of Properties	94 237	133 766	373 915	438 381	285 451
Insurances (Other than Workers' Compensation)	58 032	62 801	81 463	157 619	256 219
Communications	44 942	80 732	89 582	131 424	187 925
Volunteer Fire Brigades	49 699	51 545	62 198	67 024	71 882
Depreciation	193 500	220 800	245 600	500 000	650 000
Debenture Redemption including Sinking Fund	335 360	391 082	477 311	693 067	992 793
Other	64 760	63 453	77 643	97 774	115 040
ANNUAL COST	5 344 543	7 175 673	10 079 514	12 400 268	14 438 498
Surplus	309 884	.....	576 762	624 972	.....
Deficit .....	.....	825 148	.....	.....	196 106

TABLE 36—WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MEAT COMMISSION—MIDLAND DIVISION

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital	10 743 631	10 916 795	10 835 290	10 750 039	10 880 991
Private Loans	3 298 000	3 675 551	3 898 698	3 871 032	4 392 496
TOTAL	14 041 631	14 592 346	14 733 988	14 621 071	15 273 487
Earnings	9 020 226	10 744 210	13 396 063	20 200 484	23 039 968
Increase in Stocks .....	.....	448 478	.....	178 964	440 115
Decrease in Stocks	31 224	.....	146 957	.....	.....
ANNUAL REVENUE	8 989 002	11 192 688	13 249 106	20 379 448	23 480 083
Working Expenses	7 777 338	10 001 688	13 074 842	18 180 679	22 730 716
Interest	766 852	878 868	993 502	994 593	972 238
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	535 636	615 634	738 202	761 281	759 263
ANNUAL COST	9 079 826	11 496 190	14 806 546	19 936 553	24 462 217
Profit .....	.....	.....	.....	442 895	.....
Loss	90 824	303 502	1 557 440	.....	982 134

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

TABLE 37—WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MEAT COMMISSION—ROBBS JETTY DIVISION

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital	3 684 851	3 904 978	3 872 511	3 838 583	3 803 128
Private Loans	1 600 000	1 998 563	2 495 529	3 190 773	3 622 423
TOTAL	5 284 851	5 903 541	6 368 040	7 029 356	7 425 551
Annual Revenue	6 170 452	6 044 256	8 328 076	9 899 317	11 034 992
Working Expenses	5 346 033	5 512 292	7 430 877	8 947 766	9 723 846
Interest	286 628	351 702	409 596	466 806	540 232
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	200 702	238 402	255 131	280 298	326 324
Provisions and Other Charges	183 428	358 061	342 364	473 509	434 295
ANNUAL COST	6 016 791	6 460 457	8 437 968	10 168 379	11 024 697
Profit	153 661	.....	.....	.....	10 295
Loss .....	.....	416 201	109 892	269 062	.....

VI.—TRUST FUNDS

TABLE 38—AGRICULTURE PROTECTION BOARD FUND

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	183 881	83 830	170 743	93 240	129 816
RECEIPTS DURING YEAR—					
Consolidated Revenue Fund	2 056 000	2 552 000	3 277 000	3 645 000	3 906 000
Commonwealth Grants—					
Aboriginal Advancement ....	....	60 000	44 000	65 236	111 301
Regional Employment Development Scheme ....	....	....	54 522	28 575	....
Other	14 709	23 165	20 645	62 260	111 445
TOTAL RECEIPTS	2 070 709	2 635 165	3 396 167	3 801 071	4 128 746
PAYMENTS DURING YEAR—					
Transfers—					
Vermine Act Trust Account (a)	1 214 187	1 505 475	1 658 500	1 912 281	....
Noxious Weeds Trust A/c (a)	583 562	661 291	1 190 863	1 166 888	....
Salaries and Wages	148 567	212 053	332 148	349 539	2 671 312
Buildings	122 416	51 210	37 207	92 055	117 007
Other	102 028	118 223	254 952	243 732	517 040
TOTAL PAYMENTS	2 170 760	2 548 252	3 473 670	3 764 495	3 305 359
BALANCE 30th JUNE	83 830	170 743	93 240	129 816	953 203

(a) Trust Account closed by authority of Section 116 of Act No. 42 of 1976.

TABLE 39—DECLARED PLANTS AND ANIMALS CONTROL FUND (a)

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD
RECEIPTS DURING YEAR—					
Consolidate Revenue Fund	250 000
Other	181 584
TOTAL RECEIPTS	431 584
PAYMENTS DURING YEAR—					
Salaries and Wages	96 267
Buildings
Other	188 053
TOTAL PAYMENTS	284 320
BALANCE 30th JUNE	147 264

(a) Under provisions of Section 65 of Act No. 42 of 1976.

VL—TRUST FUNDS

TABLE 40—FORESTRY FUND (a)

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	916 010	1 598 757	1 412 537	1 053 405	1 014 818
RECEIPTS DURING YEAR—					
Appropriation from Revenue					
Fund	2 239 626	2 726 710	2 911 663	4 062 225	10 562 251
Commonwealth Loans—Soft-					
wood Forestry Agreement	1 020 000	415 714	684 663	863 595	775 634
Sundry Receipts	397 515	373 319	341 137	457 651	848 933
General Loan Fund	1 900 000	1 700 000	3 000 000	3 000 000	1 663 000
Private Borrowings .....	....	....	....	....	800 000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	5 557 141	5 215 743	6 937 463	8 383 471	14 649 818
PAYMENTS DURING YEAR—					
Expenditure on Forest Improve-					
ments and Re-forestation during					
year	4 412 394	5 401 963	7 296 595	8 422 058	15 121 255
Repayment Treasurer's Advance	462 000	....	....	....	....
TOTAL PAYMENTS	4 874 394	5 401 963	7 296 595	8 422 058	15 121 255
BALANCE 30th JUNE	1 598 757	1 412 537	1 053 405	1 014 818	543 381

(a) Previously shown as Forest Improvement and Re-forestation Fund.

TABLE 41—HOSPITAL FUND

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
RECEIPTS FOR YEAR—					
Treasury Grants	52 128 567	75 411 736	108 460 312	159 416 766	214 621 763
Miscellaneous Receipts	93 238	43 584	97 427	286 939	257 039
Lotteries Commission	1 659 790	1 879 795	2 499 980	3 159 990	4 490 000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	53 881 595	77 335 115	111 057 719	162 863 695	219 368 802
PAYMENTS FOR YEAR—					
Administration Expenditure	1 627 308	2 287 982	3 461 062	4 908 086	6 170 427
Hospitals Expenditure—					
Departmental	10 665 768	15 088 509	22 987 677	34 505 370	52 121 770
Non-Departmental Subsidies,					
etc.	34 421 979	51 754 841	75 558 115	112 260 149	148 438 812
Miscellaneous	7 166 540	8 203 783	9 050 865	11 190 090	12 637 793
TOTAL PAYMENTS	53 881 595	77 335 115	111 057 719	162 863 695	219 368 802

VL—TRUST FUNDS

TABLE 42—INDUSTRIAL LANDS DEVELOPMENT FUND

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	34 066	877 555	588 350	82 767	3 816 162
RECEIPTS FOR YEAR—					
Sale of Land	769 802	1 620 231	1 524 241	4 607 787	1 012 452
Private Loans	400 000	400 000	400 000	700 000	400 000
Interest	56 423	83 264	95 542	58 941	72 155
Rent	41 410	40 211	46 891	91 901	91 509
Other	62 160	33 650	35 710	196 365	1 408 145
TOTAL RECEIPTS	1 329 795	2 177 356	2 102 384	5 654 934	2 984 261
PAYMENTS FOR YEAR—					
Repayment — Advance from Treasurer		496 233	200 000		100 000
Purchase of Land	180 655	1 687 820	1 767 688	591 145	385 744
Roads, water supplies and drainage	115 070	84 545	186 978	890 380	1 963 639
Principal and Interest Repayments	121 605	119 748	368 611	217 019	304 335
Sinking Fund	12 100	10 560	10 560	10 560	10 560
Other	56 876	67 655	74 130	212 435	1 080 299
TOTAL PAYMENTS	486 306	2 466 561	2 607 967	1 921 539	3 844 577
BALANCE 30th JUNE	877 555	588 350	82 767	3 816 162	2 955 846

VI.—TRUST FUNDS

TABLE 43—METROPOLITAN REGION IMPROVEMENT FUND

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	191 024	10 501	328 582	....	1 051 718
RECEIPTS DURING YEAR—					
Metropolitan Region Improve- ment Tax	1 341 251	1 428 266	1 540 915	1 692 087	2 188 021
Private Loans	1 300 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	800 000
Consolidated Revenue Fund	1 234 200	1 357 600	1 493 400	1 642 700	1 807 000
Treasurer's Advance .....	....	....	212 374	....	....
Commonwealth Grant— Transport, Planning and Re- search .....	....	....	....	114 353	30 870
Rents	175 763	259 136	232 670	378 143	368 797
Recoups for land purchased for Other Departments and Sales of Surplus land	44 850	438 330	569 000	365 366	525 914
Kelmscott Improvement Plan .....	....	19 572	....	....	228 776
Lake Carine—Sale of land .....	....	....	65 678	2 599 576	2 269 101
Regional and Other Planning Studies .....	....	38 000	39 667	45 700	189 357
Interest on Short Term Invest- ments	26 531	45 715	20 809	29 969	196 790
Other	4 536	5 704	7 607	20 058	80 302
TOTAL RECEIPTS	4 127 131	4 592 323	5 182 120	7 887 952	8 684 928
PAYMENTS DURING YEAR—					
Land Acquisition.....	3 529 911	2 777 328	3 228 527	3 502 248	6 043 888
Principal and Interest Repayments	600 183	741 874	770 372	932 643	1 001 861
Sinking Fund	72 680	86 280	85 780	81 740	78 980
Urban Land Council (Interim) .....	....	....	1 000 000	990 757	....
Repayment of Treasurer's Ad- vance .....	....	....	....	212 374	372 581
Regional and Other Planning Studies	38 207	197 850	113 431	296 906	270 016
Development Costs— Kelmscott Improvement Plan .....	....	15 460	....	....	226 576
Lake Carine .....	....	343 525	194 220	586 369	295 083
Properties Maintenance	33 108	37 668	45 603	68 804	41 408
Other	33 565	74 257	72 769	164 393	181 056
TOTAL PAYMENTS	4 307 654	4 274 242	5 510 702	6 836 234	8 511 449
BALANCE 30th JUNE	10 501	328 582	....	1 051 718	1 225 197

VI.—TRUST FUNDS
TABLE 44—ROAD FUNDS—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1976-77

Details	Roads Trust	Australian Road Grants Acts 1974	Road Maintenance Fund	Railway Crossing Protection Fund	Total
RECEIPTS—					
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	\$ 10 007 439	\$ 1 847 367	\$ 592 164	\$ 108 587	\$ 12 555 557
License Fees and Permits	32 985 902	...	4 617 296	...	37 603 198
Recoups by Government Departments and Local Authorities and Payments for Work Done	4 817 030	...	...	...	4 817 030
Commonwealth Government Grants—					
Urban Public Transport Improvement Program	...	230 290	...	...	230 290
Other	...	57 757 609	...	...	57 757 609
Restoration of State Assets—Cyclones	689 620	...	...	...	689 620
Loan Borrowings—Main Roads Act Section 9A	1 000 000	...	...	...	1 000 000
Overload Permits—Traffic Act, Section 14B	290 577	...	...	...	290 577
Overseas Vehicle Permits	9 459	...	...	...	9 459
Rents Received	541 128	...	...	...	541 128
Transfers to Other Funds	50 341 155	59 835 266	5 209 460	108 587	115 494 468
Transfers from Other Funds	203 602	6 188 353	5 045 306	23 995	11 461 256
	11 001 694	...	...	459 562	11 461 256
	61 139 247	53 646 913	164 154	544 154	115 494 468
PAYMENTS—					
Administration, Office Equipment, etc.	11 129 478	...	...	...	11 129 478
Miscellaneous Works—Surveys, Laboratory Operations, Supervision of Works, Overload Policing, etc.	4 010 004	...	...	...	4 010 004
Interest and Sinking Fund	436 175	...	...	...	436 175
Road Construction and Maintenance	32 352 893	39 089 117	...	464 879	71 906 889
Statutory Grants to Local Authorities	2 242 623	14 175 464	...	...	16 418 087
Traffic Control Lights, etc.	1 751 687	...	...	...	1 751 687
Commonwealth Government Grants—					
Urban Public Transport Improvement Program	71 273	277 366	...	...	348 639
Restoration of State Assets—Cyclones	1 092 051	...	...	...	1 092 051
	53 086 184	53 541 947	...	464 879	107 093 010
BALANCE, 30th JUNE, 1977	78 053 063	104 966	164 154	79 275	8 401 458

* Balance excludes \$4 978 192 held in Cheque Suspense Account and \$2 912 906 in Reserve for Operation and Replacement of Plant.

† Balance excludes \$1 810 978 held in Cheque Suspense Account and \$4 106 238 in Reserve for Operation and Replacement of Plant.

VI.—TRUST FUNDS

TABLE 45—STATE HOUSING COMMISSION FUNDS

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	13 356 042	5 469 257	*1 903 392	12 232 277	7 546 303
RECEIPTS DURING YEAR—					
General Loan Fund	15 000 000	3 950 000	400 000	.....	.....
Private Loans	3 500 000	4 000 000	1 600 000	2 400 000	800 000
Sale of Land and Leases	3 506 413	3 711 784	7 453 659	7 076 566	7 706 809
Rents	296 779	302 027	316 754	384 498	667 894
Principal Repayments and Interest from Borrowers	11 688 027	12 271 074	11 705 167	14 983 472	14 991 366
Construction for other Government Departments, etc.	1 328 888	1 939 396	2 243 453	3 479 314	6 233 597
Fees and Agency Commissions	2 856 673	3 325 774	4 836 629	5 644 540	8 833 192
Transfers from Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement Fund (Net)	1 798 269	3 757 478	28 129 930	.....	.....
Other	2 319 798	1 998 609	2 488 511	2 599 519	741 789
TOTAL RECEIPTS	42 294 847	35 256 142	59 174 103	36 567 909	39 974 647
PAYMENTS DURING YEAR—					
Repayment of Borrowed Funds	789 989	2 551 599	1 064 900	1 209 131	1 146 719
Construction	23 959 167	19 148 735	20 387 794	4 746 151	6 436 792
Purchase of Land and Leases	13 000 856	7 743 207	8 541 273	8 304 388	12 512 036
Revenue Vote—Administration	3 853 740	4 826 232	6 077 617	7 313 686	8 643 373
Interest	6 329 189	6 184 221	6 779 719	7 659 415	7 709 940
Transfers to Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement Fund (Net) .....	.....	.....	.....	9 864 941	220 571
Other	2 248 691	2 174 797	2 187 131	2 156 171	1 858 560
TOTAL PAYMENTS	50 181 632	42 628 791	45 038 434	41 253 883	38 527 991
BALANCE 30th JUNE	5 469 257	*1 903 392	12 232 277	7 546 303	8 992 959
CASHIER'S ADVANCE	12 500	20 997	27 520	44 996	12 538
TOTAL	5 481 757	*1 882 395	12 259 797	7 591 299	9 005 497

* Debit.

VL—TRUST FUNDS

TABLE 46—TRANSPORT COMMISSION FUND

Details	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	870 594	360 035	431 604	256 365	243 170
RECEIPTS DURING YEAR—					
Licence and Permit Fees (Net)	920 645	1 168 946	1 455 417	1 662 965	1 773 809
Government Assisted Transport Services—					
Consolidated Revenue Fund	330 036	469 341	773 428	794 767	970 019
Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust	8 400	8 190	....	....	....
Collections (net) from farmers towards the cost of cartage	1 037 233	1 060 328	2 302 402	2 147 795	2 704 400
Recoups—					
Taxi Cars (Co-ordination and Control)	87 105	72 993	119 468	120 579	110 243
Director-General of Transport	122 678	151 789	457 894	436 695	663 295
Other	6 462	5 219	5 575	5 350	6 678
Other	25 881	28 492	41 202	46 627	47 951
TOTAL RECEIPTS	2 538 440	2 965 298	5 155 386	5 214 778	6 276 395
PAYMENTS DURING YEAR—					
Administration	746 258	971 011	1 321 107	1 369 237	1 506 850
Transport Subsidies	31 308	57 606	44 464	153 919	151 946
Government Assisted Transport Services—					
Road Transport Seasonal Services	1 269 259	1 215 351	2 874 567	2 600 480	3 126 433
Other	171 795	253 138	281 835	332 722	406 522
Recoups—					
Taxi Cars (Co-ordination and Control)	87 105	72 993	119 468	120 579	110 243
Director-General of Transport	122 678	151 789	457 894	436 695	663 295
Statutory Authorities	531 239	80 555	93 746	4 497	....
Reserves ....	....	....	....	102 000	110 500
Other	89 357	91 286	137 544	107 844	110 802
TOTAL PAYMENTS	3 048 999	2 893 729	5 330 625	5 227 973	6 186 591
BALANCE 30th JUNE	360 035	431 604	256 365	243 170	332 974

TABLE 47—RECEIPTS FROM COMMONWEALTH TAKEN TO VARIOUS FUNDS OTHER THAN CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND 1976-77

Details	Amount
LAW, ORDER AND PUBLIC SAFETY—	\$
National Safety Council	24 750
State Emergency Service	24 164
EDUCATION—	
Primary and Secondary—Government Schools—	
Schools Commission Program—	
Capital Purposes 1972 Act	2 076 697
Capital Purposes 1976 Act	3 153 243
Primary and Secondary—Non-Government Schools—	
Schools Commission Program—	
Capital Purposes	1 730 700
Recurrent Purposes	13 132 581
Technical—	
Technical and Further Education—	
Capital Purposes	3 689 722
Other—	
Australian Research Grants Committee	665 056
Childhood Services Program	3 410 046
Education Research and Development Committee	89 350
Services and Development Program—Education Centres	180 482
Special Projects (Innovations Program)	633 278
Tertiary—	
Colleges of Advanced Education—	
Affiliated Residential Colleges	343 169
Teachers' Colleges	17 582 864
Western Australian Institute of Technology	33 488 298
Universities—	
Murdoch University	16 112 040
University of Western Australia	34 281 615
University Residential Colleges	228 244
CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES—	
Leisure and Cultural Facilities	760 550
National Estate	215 250
HEALTH—	
Community Health Program	2 565 784
Disposal of Ships Garbage	6 741
Health Education Campaigns	84 750
Hospital Benefits—	
Departmental Hospitals	744 785
Nursing Homes	233 874
Pensioners	1 261 100
Hospitals Development Program	12 000 000
Pharmaceutical Benefits	1 030 671
Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service	459 263
School Dental Scheme	934 908
Tuberculosis Financial Aid	648 328
Carried Forward	151 792 303

TABLE 47—RECEIPTS FROM COMMONWEALTH TAKEN TO VARIOUS FUNDS OTHER THAN CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND 1976-77—continued

Details	Amount
	\$
Brought Forward	151 792 303
WELFARE—	
Aboriginal Advancement	4 117 805
Assistance to Deserted Wives	1 699 990
Coal Mining Industry Long Service Leave Fund	221 682
Dwellings for Aged Pensioners	1 287 670
Home Care Services	99 667
Legal Aid	140 044
Natural Disaster Relief—Drought and Port Hedland Cyclone	3 701 896
Senior Citizens' Centres	789 096
DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRY—	
Agriculture—	
Agriculture Extension Services	1 082 073
Australian Dairy Produce Board Research	2 746
Australian Meat Research Committee	79 963
Australian Wool Board	110 726
Barley Research Advisory Committee	45 314
Beef Industry Assistance	61 168
Cattle Industry Compensation Scheme	107 493
Fruit Growing Industry	33 208
Marginal Dairy Farms Reconstruction Scheme	350 000
Rural Adjustment Scheme	800 000
Rural Reconstruction Scheme	4 144 000
Wheat Research	179 328
Forests—	
Softwood Forestry Agreement Loan	775 634
Mining—	
Kalgoorlie School of Mines Research Laboratory	11 000
Sewerage and Drainage—	
National Sewerage Program	9 228 000
Irrigation—	
Ord River Project	11 929
Other—	
Apprenticeship Training	678 527
Nature Conservation	89 940
Urban Land Development	4 606 000
TRANSPORT—	
Roads—	
National Roads Act	13 199 296
Roads Grants Act	44 000 000
Strategic Roads and Roads of Access to Commonwealth Property	10 000
Other—	
Transport Planning and Research	854 231
Urban Public Transport Program	1 869 044
HOUSING—	
Housing Advances	35 440 000
Housing Grant—Interest Subsidy	627 000
OTHER—	
Assistance for Exmouth	170 500
Local Government Grants	13 162 000
Non-Productive Capital Works	42 117 000
Sinking Fund (Financial Agreement)	2 981 372
Total	340 677 645

VII—STATISTICAL SECTION

TABLE 48—TOTAL NET COLLECTIONS OF STATE TAXATION TAKEN TO THE CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND, TRUST ACCOUNTS, AND SPECIAL ACCOUNTS, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1977

Details	Paid to Consolidated Revenue Fund	Paid to Trust or Special Accounts	Total	Taxation per Head of population (a)
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Probate and Succession Duties	12 758 556	....	12 758 556	11
Land Tax	11 741 524	....	11 741 524	10
Third Party Insurance Surcharge	3 170 299	....	3 170 299	3
Payroll Tax	127 800 660	....	127 800 660	108
Other Stamp Duties—				
Conveyances and Transfers	22 711 653	....	22 711 653	19
Insurance Policies	9 340 114	....	9 340 114	8
Cheques, Orders, Procurations, etc.	4 786 958	....	4 786 958	4
Motor Vehicle Licenses	5 507 440	....	5 507 440	5
Mortgages	2 792 287	....	2 792 287	2
Credit Facilities (including Hire Purchase Agreements)	7 952 302	....	7 952 302	7
Other	1 229 108	....	1 229 108	1
Tobacco Licenses	7 494 673	....	7 494 673	6
Liquor Licenses	11 176 583	....	11 176 583	9
Racing—				
Betting Tax—Totalisator Agency Board	9 374 965	....	9 374 965	8
Totalisator Duty and Licenses	1 778 913	....	1 778 913	2
Bookmakers' Betting Tax and Licenses	1 028 147	....	1 028 147	1
Stamp Duty on Betting	88 021	....	88 021	....
Motor Taxation	1 616 532	39 524 152	41 140 684	35
Other Vehicle Taxation ....	....	236 024	236 024	....
Shipping Fees and Permits ....	....	180	180	....
Fruit Fly Eradication Registration Fees ....	....	8 727	8 727	....
Metropolitan Region Improvement Tax ....	....	2 188 021	2 188 021	2
Licenses not elsewhere included—				
Companies Business Names, etc.	2 416 312	....	2 416 312	2
Boat Registrations	159 305	....	159 305	1
Explosives and Flammable Liquids	105 641	....	105 641	
Factories and Shops	373 403	....	373 403	
Firearms	286 747	....	286 747	
Fisheries	152 088	....	152 088	
Hire Purchase Act	107 078	....	107 078	
Land Agents and Salesmen	97 870	....	97 870	
Motor Vehicle Dealers Act	104 312	....	104 312	
Other	93 962	....	93 962	
TOTAL	246 245 453	41 957 104	288 202 557	244

(a) Based on estimated mean population for year 1976-77—1 183 300.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

SECURITIES INDUSTRY (RELEASE OF SURETIES) BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr O'Neil (Chief Secretary), read a first time.

Second Reading

MR O'NEIL (East Melville—Chief Secretary) [7.49 p.m]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time. The Securities Industry Act, 1970, was repealed on the 1st March last year and replaced by the Securities Industry Act, 1975.

Under section 18 of the repealed Act, the Registrar of Companies, who is now known as the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, was prohibited from granting or renewing a dealer's licence unless the applicant furnished a bond in favour of Her Majesty the Queen in an amount of \$10 000.

Such bonds were required to be entered into by "approved sureties", such as an insurance company.

Before the old Act was repealed, the practice arose of some bondsmen or "sureties" refusing to act as such, or to execute the required bond, unless sufficient assets were deposited by the dealer concerned with the surety to cover any liability that the surety might be called upon to meet under the bond.

As a general rule, any stipulation made by a surety for the lodgment of assets in this fashion was met by the dealer concerned depositing with the surety the sum of \$10 000 in cash, although in some instances in other States the assets lodged were shares or debentures having a value in excess of \$10 000.

However, it is not known whether assets other than cash were so deposited in this State. In this State, the existence of this practice did not come to the Government's attention until after the repeal of the old Act.

Because of this, and because neither the repealed Act nor the transitional provisions of the present Act contained any provision for the return of money or other assets so deposited, the legislation contains no provision under which a dealer who is no longer required to hold such a bond—or a person who was formerly licensed as a dealer but is no longer so licensed—can obtain from the surety concerned the return of such moneys or other assets.

The purpose of the Bill now before the House is to rectify this situation by—

- (1) providing for such sureties to advertise all claims, at the request of the dealer or former dealer concerned;
- (2) providing for the discharge of the bond and the release of the surety if no claims are received within a period specified in such advertisement; and
- (3) requiring the surety to return to the licensee or former licensee concerned any money or assets lodged by him with the surety, once the surety is released from further liability in respect of a bond or such proportion of such money or assets as the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs may direct if the bond is only being partially discharged.

The Bill requires the advertisement to be in the form set out in a schedule to the Bill, or in such other form as the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs may have authorised, and also requires the advertisement to be published in the public notices column of a newspaper circulating generally in the State.

It is proposed that the advertisement give not less than three months nor more than six months notice calling for claims to be made and, upon the expiry of this period of notice, the surety or the dealer concerned may apply for the discharge of the bond and the release of the surety.

The Bill covers the situation where no claims are made in response to any such advertisement, and empowers the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, on being satisfied that no such claims have been received and that there are no outstanding liabilities of the dealer in respect of the business to which the bond relates, to discharge the bond and release the surety.

The Bill also provides for cases in which claims are made and contains provisions for the partial discharge of the bond and partial release of the surety.

If the claims received give rise to a liability less than the amount of cash or other assets deposited by the dealer with the surety, then the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs may give directions as to the manner in which the bond is to be dealt with.

The directions concerned may include directions as to a variation of the bond; the return of the whole or any part of the moneys or other assets held by the surety in respect of the bond; the reference of matters in dispute to any court or to arbitration; or may include directions for the complete or partial release of the surety.

The Bill provides that, where a bond is discharged wholly or in part by the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, the surety is protected from any further obligations under the bond in so far as the bond has been discharged and requiring the surety to deliver up, refund or otherwise return to the dealer in question either the whole of the moneys or assets deposited by the dealer with the surety, in the case of a total discharge or, in the case of a partial discharge, such proportion of such moneys or assets as the commissioner directs.

The Bill makes provision for the protection of the rights of any claimant against the dealer personally and prevents the discharge of the bond or the release of the surety from prejudicing any such claimant's rights against the dealer.

This provision is necessary to protect the rights of any such claimant against the dealer personally, where the claimant is not aware of the publication of the required advertisement.

The old Act was repealed on the 1st March last year and as no complaints have since been received by the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs in respect of dealers formerly licensed under the repealed Act, to the effect that a client is unable to obtain payment from a dealer of moneys due to him, it is unlikely that any member of the public will be prejudiced by the effect of the Bill.

In any event the Bill preserves the rights of any such person to claim such moneys from the dealer himself and further protects any such claimant by the required period of advertisement.

However, in the absence of any such release or discharge, some sureties have been reluctant to return to the dealer concerned moneys or other assets deposited with them at the time when the bond was first issued.

The regulations under the present Act make provision for the return of a bond after the expiration of three months from the date upon which the commissioner receives notice from the licensee concerned that he has ceased to carry on the relevant business, if the commissioner is satisfied that there are no outstanding liabilities owed by the licensee.

In so far as any bonds granted under the present Act are concerned, the matter is therefore amply covered by the present Act and the regulations thereunder.

I commend the Bill to the House.

The SPEAKER: Before I state the question, I would point out that I was in error in allowing the Deputy Premier to proceed to the second reading without having had leave of the House

given for such to occur. I direct members' attention to the *Votes and Proceedings* of the 25th August, item 3 therein, wherein it was moved by the Deputy Premier that—

any Bills coming from the Council for the first time to be, by leave of the House, taken forthwith to the second reading stage.

In fact leave was not sought on this occasion and I take it that, as there was no dissenting voice, in fact leave was given; but I would ask Ministers in future to ask leave of the House before they proceed with the second reading.

Mr O'NEIL: I did move that the second reading of the Bill be taken forthwith; but perhaps I should have moved that leave be given to proceed with the second reading of the Bill forthwith.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Bertram.

JUSTICES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr O'Neil (Chief Secretary), read a first time.

Second Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the second reading.

MR O'NEIL (East Melville—Chief Secretary) (7.55 p.m.): I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Section 12 of the Act provides for certain persons to be justices of the peace for the State by virtue of their office. At present this includes members of the Executive Council, Judges of the Supreme Court, Judges of the District Court of Western Australia, as well as magistrates or coroners.

No provision is made for Family Court judges, an acting judge of the Supreme Court or of the District Court, or a Commissioner of the Supreme Court to be justices of the peace. Obviously such persons should be included. This Bill repeals section 12 and provides for the re-enactment of the section to include these persons.

In addition, certain deficiencies have come to light in sections 9 and 10 of the Act and provision has been made in the Bill for these to be repealed and re-enacted. These sections were last amended in 1926.

One of these deficiencies is the reference in section 9 to "the mayor for the time being of every municipality". It should read "the mayor of a city or town that is a municipality".

A further deficiency is the reference to the magisterial district in which the municipality is situated.

Section 9 of the Local Government Act provides that the inhabitants for the time being of a municipal district constitute a municipality, so reference in the section of the Justices Act should therefore be to a municipal district, not a municipality.

Consequential amendments to section 10 are also required.

To remove an obvious drafting error, it is proposed that section 186 relating to the serving of notices be amended by substituting the word "by" for the word "to" in line one.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Bertram.

APPROPRIATION BILL (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND)

Order Discharged

MR O'NEIL (East Melville—Chief Secretary)

[8.00 p.m.]: I move—

That Order of the Day No. 1 be discharged from the notice paper.

Question put and passed.

Order discharged.

EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Clarko) in the Chair; Mr P. V. Jones (Minister for Education) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1: Short title and citation—

The CHAIRMAN: Progress was reported on clause 1.

Mr PEARCE: I should like to pick up some of the points I made during the second reading debate on this Bill in opposing the adoption of clause 1 and in fact, all clauses of the Bill. I have stated previously the Opposition's contention that the move to abolish the Pre-School Board is a hasty and unwise one. I indicated to the Chamber last week it was my opinion we had come to the situation by trying to rationalise—

Mr P. V. Jones: What does this have to do with the short title?

Mr PEARCE: Everything; it is exactly what this Bill is all about. If the title does not summate what the Bill is all about, nothing does.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Will the honourable member resume his seat. When speaking to clause 1, the honourable member is not permitted to give a second-reading type speech of a general nature relating to the Bill. Therefore, I would ask the member for Gosnells to restrict himself to the title.

Mr P. V. Jones: There is nothing wrong with the title.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 2 to 8 put and passed.

Clause 9: Section 27D added—

Mr PEARCE: I move an amendment—

Page 6, after line 3—Add the following new subsection—

- (3) No teacher or teacher aide who, immediately prior to the coming into operation of the Education Act Amendment Act, 1977, was employed by the Board referred to in subsection (2) of this section, and who is subsequently transferred to the employment of the Education Department, shall suffer any loss or diminution of salary, status or permanency as a result of that transfer. A right of appeal by a teacher or teacher aide who suffers any such loss or diminution shall lie to the Tribunal.

A protection provision must be put into this Act to protect the rights of all those teachers who currently are employed by the Pre-School Board. The Committee will understand that most of the conditions of service of teachers are effected by regulation by the Education Department and so, in the legislative sense, this Chamber does not directly have a chance to express its opinion on those conditions.

It has been suggested quite strongly by some of the teachers involved that their rights will be diminished as a result of this legislation, when the Pre-School Board will be abolished and its teachers transferred to employment either directly with the Education Department in centres which are transferred to the department or who are in pre-school centres which remain more or less community-based but still relate to the Early Childhood Branch of the Education Department.

Perhaps the most contentious point is the suggestion that upon their transfer, they may have to undergo a 12-month probationary period before their permanent status with the Education Department can be confirmed and their eligibility for appointment to the permanent staff achieved.

No guarantee has been given to these teachers that in fact they will be appointed to the permanent staff.

It is a well-known fact, and a cause of much contention amongst teachers, that the Education Department is making it harder and harder for teachers to gain permanency. Many teachers, particularly married women, have complained to me about this matter. The Education Department has made a practice of keeping a fairly large pool of temporary teachers; these people are put off at the end of each year and replaced the following year, in some cases by people coming out of training colleges and also, presumably, from other systems. The temporary teachers then are used as an unemployed pool, to fill vacancies as they occur the following year, whether it be in the first, second, or third term.

I suppose it is an easy way for the department to maintain its staffing in some areas but I believe it is very unfair for teachers to find themselves in such a position. I am fearful that something of this nature may well happen to teachers who are transferred from their present permanent status to the situation of being a temporary teacher, and they may find extreme difficulty in getting back their permanency. Even if a guarantee were given that these teachers automatically would receive permanent status at the end of their probationary year—that would mollify me to some extent—it does not answer the question, "Why should these people be put on the temporary staff?" Their rights and privileges would be considerably lessened by being placed on the temporary staff.

The other part of my amendment seeks to give a right of appeal to the Teachers' Tribunal by a teacher or teacher aide who suffers any such loss. It may be argued that such an appeal exists anyway under the general provisions of the Education Department, but I am not at all certain that is the case, and it needs to be spelt out. It seems to me to be a fair proposition that pre-school teachers transferred from the board to the Education Department should have all their rights relating to salary, status and permanency upheld.

It has been a long-standing tradition in the Education Department that when changes are made to anyone's situation or expectations, and when changes in structure or anything else are made, some sort of grandfather clause is put in for the purpose of protecting people who find themselves in an anomalous position due to the changes. Clearly, these pre-school teachers believe they will be in such an anomalous position

and the only way we can be certain of protecting their rights is to agree to my amendment.

Mr WILSON: I support the amendment moved by the member for Gosnells for two reasons. In the first place, I believe inconsistency is built into the proposed changes to this section of the Education Act. At some stage following the State election the Government decided to bring about quite radical changes to the way in which pre-school services for five-year-old children are to be delivered to the community. It made that decision without any consultation with or reference to teachers, teachers' representatives, parents, or anybody else. It has shown that it is prepared to bring about these changes by means of quite radical legislation.

On the other hand, the Minister has stated on a number of occasions that in spite of its willingness to use legislation to bring about such drastic changes the Government is not prepared to use legislation to give an assurance to teachers that their status and permanency will be maintained, to which measure of assurance they are entitled.

The Minister has rested his case on the practice in the Education Department of requiring teachers transferred from some other system into the Education Department to be placed on the temporary staff for one year. But in spite of the fact that great changes are taking place in education in Western Australia, which changes are being brought about by means of legislation, the Minister and the Government have not shown any preparedness at all, within that legislation, to make provision for some measure of assurance to these teachers.

Let us consider the position of these teachers. Some of them have spent many years working for pre-school education in the Kindergarten Association, the Kindergarten Union, the Pre-School Education Board, and the Pre-School Board. It is a slap in the face to teachers of long-standing experience and expertise in early childhood education to be told now that they will be treated as novices and that their experience and expertise will be downgraded.

I support the amendment because not enough consideration has been given to the element of insult which is being meted out to such people in return for many years of faithful service and for the special experience and expertise they have to bring to pre-school education in Western Australia.

Mr P. V. JONES: It is passing strange that such an amendment should be moved, and the Government will not accept it on two grounds.

First of all there is the principle involved. The Government has been criticised for not permitting adequate consultation during certain aspects of the preparation of this legislation. The amendment completely cuts across the work that has been done by the Pre-School Teachers' Union, the Pre-School Board, and the various people who have been discussing the employment of the people involved. But that is by no means the major reason.

The major reason is simply the practical aspect of the matter. The amendment refers only to those employed part time or full time by the Education Department, but does not refer to those who will not be employed by the Education Department but will still be serving under the provisions of the Education Act in community-based centres. In other words, the amendment is not capable of doing what the members who have spoken to it have suggested should be done.

I should like to make both members aware of the letter to the Pre-School Teachers' Union of the 2nd August which refers to the aspect of permanency. The member for Dianella indicated that the careers of people were being jeopardised.

Mr Wilson: I did not say that.

Mr P. V. JONES: That is what the member implied.

Mr Wilson: You drew the inference; I did not say that.

Mr P. V. JONES: The member said they were being cast aside.

Mr Wilson: I said they were being slapped in the face.

Mr P. V. JONES: The member suggested that after years of faithful service they were being neglected.

Mr Wilson: I said they were being downgraded.

Mr P. V. JONES: The Pre-School Teachers' Union has accepted that the Education Act provides greater security for its members than they enjoy under the provisions of the Pre-School (Education and Child Care) Act. I should like to quote several examples with regard to permanency. At present the Education Act provides that any teacher on the permanent staff who wishes to resign must give one month's notice of resignation. Under the provisions of the Pre-School (Education and Child Care) Act six weeks' notice of termination is required from either side. So the permanency now enjoyed by these people is six weeks, but under the provisions of the

Education Act they are being offered permanency which, apart from gross misconduct, amounts to a lifetime.

It was also implied that there would be a diminution of salary and entitlement. I give two examples to show that this will not happen. Under the provisions of the Education Act allowances and entitlements are more generous. For example, there is an additional entitlement known as short leave for three days per annum, which condition is not currently enjoyed by members of the Pre-School Teachers' Union. In addition, the district allowance for Port Hedland under the provisions of the Education Act is \$1 737, whereas currently the Pre-School Board pays \$1 523.

I could give many more examples than those I have given to indicate that conditions under the provisions of the Education Act will be to the advantage of people who will work under that Act.

I should like to make one more point. The member for Gosnells referred to the policies of the department regarding the offer of permanency. I do not know whether he is aware that the officers of the Pre-School Teachers' Union have accepted what has been offered to them because the word "probation" is not being used in the way it would normally be used in such circumstances.

We are simply not providing permanency because of the problems related to the Education Act. I am qualifying the point of whether or not it is going to be accepted. The member would be aware of the requirement under the Act that someone who comes from a teachers' college must serve two years' probation. In this instance the word "probation" is not being used; but permanency will be available after 12 months on the temporary staff. In other words, during the 12-month period they will be in a situation which is no more tenuous than at present. Their salary and allowances will be better.

Mr Wilson: Why must they be on the temporary staff?

Mr P. V. JONES: Because of the provisions of the Education Act which have been agreed to by the Education Department and the Teachers' Union over a long period.

The last point concerns the offer of permanency. The Government is often criticised for offering too many people permanency; in this instance, because there are many young graduates from primary teachers' colleges who are unable to obtain teaching positions and unable to enjoy the offer of permanency. I have had

discussions with Mr Bennett on this subject and the Government has been criticised simply because we have been so generous with offers of permanency in this situation when we are not offering it to others under the Education Act. The Government rejects the amendment.

Mr PEARCE: I do not think the Minister's arguments hold water. He suggested that pre-school teachers are in some way better off under the Education Act provisions. We do not argue that, if they are getting higher salaries and better allowances.

Mr P. V. Jones: Your amendment suggests they are.

Mr PEARCE: No, it does not. The amendment says no persons, be they teachers or teacher aides, shall suffer any loss or diminution of salary, status, or permanency as a result of the transfer. Even if the Minister is able to argue that that was the case, that there would be no diminution, there is still no reason why the Committee should not accept the amendment. By his actions he would be *de facto* supporting what the Opposition is trying to include in the Bill. By the end of this year that group of people currently employed by the Pre-School Board will end up under the control of the Education Department. This will happen either directly with pre-school centres transferred to the Education Department or if they are paid under the Education Act under a different set of conditions.

Is the Minister suggesting that the people who started teaching at pre-school centres will continue with the same salaries and conditions?

Mr P. V. Jones: You used the word "department" in your amendment. It would make more sense if you used the word "Act". Some are going to the Education Department, some to community-based centres, and the third lot will be handling the nought to four age group of children.

Mr PEARCE: The Minister made the distinction that they are either being paid by the Education Department or through the Education Department. I am using the "department" in the same sense as the Minister was there. I accept that there are different categories of people. I make the point that irrespective of where they go or how the system operates administratively, all the people involved should not be worse off. This situation is covered by a long-standing tradition when changes are made whereby the Education Department agreed to a grandfather clause which protects the position of those who find themselves in an anomalous position.

Nothing the Minister said indicates that this amendment ought not to be proceeded with, as it would protect the rights of teachers. What the Minister is offering is a statement of what the Education Department intends to do. Even if the department did all the things the Minister said, there would still be a diminution of rights of pre-school teachers so far as permanency is concerned. The situation with pre-school teachers is different from that of teachers from another country or those just out of a teachers' college; these others are unknown quantities and have not taught in the State before. I am speaking about the rights of teachers who have been teaching in a permanent situation in this State in the pre-school education system.

An administrative transfer is taking place. Those people are being moved from employment under the Pre-School (Education and Child Care) Act to employment under the Education Act. We are concerned to ensure that these people are not penalised by this transfer which they have not asked for.

The Education Department is following a policy of keeping a large group of teachers on temporary staff as a way of solving its employment take-up problems during the course of the school year. I fear the same sort of thing will happen with the pre-school teachers. If there is an over-supply of those teachers they may not get permanency when they had previously been permanent.

Mr P. V. Jones: How do they have permanent status?

Mr PEARCE: Under pre-school employment. Pre-school teachers who are dismissed do not have the right of appeal to a tribunal, but presumably they can bring action against their employers for wrongful dismissal.

Mr P. V. Jones: You said they were getting that, anyway.

Mr PEARCE: That might be the case if they transfer. The last sentence of my amendment has in it a specific intention to give them the right to appeal. Unless the Minister accepts the amendment those teachers would not have right of appeal on diminution of rights. A teacher transferring to the Pre-School Board could appeal to the tribunal for permanency, as the Education Department would not have the right to not give that person permanency because of the provisions of this section. The appeal is quite necessary here as well. If the Minister is right in saying pre-school teachers do have this right why does he not put it into the Act?

Mr P. V. Jones: The amendment is not worded properly.

Mr PEARCE: It was drafted by the Parliamentary Draftsman. The Minister does not want the amendment accepted because there will be a diminution of rights as regards permanency, as I believe he has already said to the House. The fact of the matter is that people who see themselves as being permanent will next year be temporary if the department has its way. The Committee can stop this by accepting my amendment.

Mr SKIDMORE: I take the Minister to task on his attitude to a teacher's permanency once he makes the transfer. His permanency is based on his contract of service with the employer.

Mr P. V. Jones: That is right.

Mr SKIDMORE: The argument that the conditions under which the teachers will transfer are better than those under which they are working, but which make them temporary, cannot be sustained.

Mr P. V. Jones: I have not said that.

Mr SKIDMORE: The Minister has said it whether he likes it or not.

Mr P. V. Jones: I have said that the definition of "permanency" is not the same under each Act.

Mr SKIDMORE: The Minister is suggesting that there is no guarantee of permanency to a pre-school teacher at present.

Mr P. V. Jones: I have not said that.

Mr SKIDMORE: The Minister has said it because he has said that when they transfer they will be temporary and therefore they will enjoy all the benefits which are bestowed upon them by the Education Department.

Mr P. V. Jones: You did not quite understand. I did not say that at all. What I am saying is that the definition of the word "permanency" in one Act is different from the definition in the other Act. That is the only point I have been making. The member for Gosnells understands this and appreciates the point. Under one Act—the pre-school Act—permanency is defined as being six weeks while under the other Act it is forever.

Mr SKIDMORE: I am quarrelling with the fact that the Minister said that a teacher transferring from the board will not have permanency. Therefore he will have to serve a 12-month period of temporary employment. Surely that must be a diminution of rights. The teachers are permanent under the Pre-School Board, but the

Minister is going to say to them, "I am sorry but you are now going to be transferred on a part-time basis because we are to take over the board, and you will be temporary."

I wonder whether the part-time workers under the Education Act will receive all the benefits the Minister mentioned. Will they be entitled to long service leave and to all the other conditions?

Mr P. V. Jones: Yes.

Mr SKIDMORE: I doubt very much whether they will be. I hope the Minister can enlighten me on that point.

Mr P. V. Jones: What would you like to know?

Mr SKIDMORE: I am concerned because these people who will be transferred will be at a disadvantage. The amendment is not badly worded, as the Minister stated. It is quite clear if there is a desire for it to be understood; but there are none so blind as those who do not wish to see.

Mr Sodeman: That cuts both ways.

Mr SKIDMORE: The amendment states quite clearly that there shall be no loss sustained by any person who transfers. The Government should accept it.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result—

Ayes 18

Mr Barnett	Mr Hodge
Mr Bertram	Mr T. H. Jones
Mr B. T. Burke	Mr McIver
Mr Carr	Mr Pearce
Mr Davies	Mr Skidmore
Mr H. D. Evans	Mr Tonkin
Mr T. D. Evans	Dr Troy
Mr Grill	Mr Wilson
Mr Harman	Mr Bateman

(Teller)

Noes 25

Mr Blaikie	Mr O'Neil
Mrs Craig	Mr Ridge
Dr Dadour	Mr Rushton
Mr Grayden	Mr Sibson
Mr Hassell	Mr Sodeman
Mr Herzfeld	Mr Spriggs
Mr P. V. Jones	Mr Stephens
Mr Laurance	Mr Tubby
Mr MacKinnon	Mr Watt
Mr Mensaros	Mr Williams
Mr Nanovich	Mr Young
Mr O'Connor	Mr Shalders
Mr Old	

(Teller)

Ayes	Pairs	Noes
Mr Bryce		Mr McPharlin
Mr Taylor		Sir Charles Court
Mr T. J. Burke		Mr Crane
Mr Jamieson		Mr Grewar

Amendment thus negatived.

Mr PEARCE: I would like to canvass the whole question of the abolition of the board which will be achieved under the clause. There are strong and sound educational reasons for pre-school education being conducted away from the department, and particularly in buildings separated from schools. I am unhappy with the way in which the Australian—

Mr P. V. Jones: You are going back to clause 9?

Mr PEARCE: We are still on it. I may have been happier with clause 9 had the Government accepted the amendment.

Two points need to be made. Firstly, the move away from the Australian Pre-Schools Association standard in terms of the physical structure and particularly the removal of fences and so on, is unwise in educational terms.

I want to make the point that this whole scheme was set up by way of agreement between the department and the Teachers' Union. The agreement was that at least in the physical sense the APA standards would be adhered to. Subsequently, the director-general said that the agreement no longer had to be adhered to because the pragmatic reason for the agreement was for the Teachers' Union to agree to the changeover of the pre-primary centres. Once agreement had been reached it was not necessary for the department to continue with its side of the bargain.

The separation of the five-year-olds from the school situation is very important, because going into such a situation can be a traumatic experience for a young child. A child in a secure home environment suddenly finds himself going into an institution where there are perhaps 700 or 800 other children. He is suddenly confronted by a large and impersonal institution. One of the most important principles of pre-school education is to get children into a fairly small scheme.

Mr H. D. Evans: It was promised that this would not happen.

Mr PEARCE: That is so, but once agreement was reached the promises were reneged on. The member for Bunbury is interjecting, but I do not know what the parents in Bunbury think. The

whole point is the needs of the children, which was raised recently by the member sitting next to the member for Bunbury.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There is too much conversation. The member for Gosnells.

Mr PEARCE: Consideration has to be given to the emotional needs of the children in large groupings. The member for Mundaring, during earlier debate, attempted to raise an educational argument for the particular move to be taken. He argued that the institution of a pre-primary centre attached to a school was preferable, in fact, to a Pre-School Board situation.

Mr Herzfeld: That was not my argument: I quoted it. It was the opinion of many authorities.

Mr PEARCE: They do not, in fact, support the arguments adduced by the member for Mundaring. All the opinions, except one from the Nott report, were that it was necessary to have some liaison between pre-schooling and primary schooling, so that there was some continuity of experience. I do not agree with the recommendation that very young children should be taken from the secure home environment and sent straight into the educational system. If that argument were carried forward—and apparently the member for Whitford agrees with the member for Mundaring—the same liaison would be carried through from primary school to high school and, presumably, from high school to university. That would be a massive institution which a child would enter at five years of age and continue through the contiguous steps of the system. That is the logical extension of that idea.

Mr Tonkin: The member for Whitford does not agree.

Mr PEARCE: He probably does not understand. Some of the arguments put forward by the member for Mundaring seemed to support the line I am suggesting. At page 1392 of *Mansard* the member quoted from *Pre-school Theories and Strategies* by G. F. Ashby, as follows—

The difficulties of moving from a pre-school, where the total environment may be populated by fewer than thirty persons, to a school of several hundred cannot be readily overcome.

Mr P. V. Jones: Where does this appear in clause 9?

Mr PEARCE: The purpose of the clause is to abolish the Pre-School Board. There must be educational objectives in the removal of the board, and its replacement with a pre-primary system.

Mr P. V. Jones: Clause 9 refers to the repealing of the Pre-School (Education and Child Care) Act.

Mr PEARCE: That is the Act which set up the Pre-School Board, so it is competent to examine the way pre-school centres operate.

Mr Tonkin: The Minister does not understand his own Bill.

Mr P. V. Jones: I wonder what the member for Warren wants me to do about Boyup Brook?

Mr PEARCE: Surely this whole matter is relevant. The point made in the quote by the member for Mundaring last week is exactly that a child has difficulty in going from a small group of approximately 30 to a large institution of approximately 700. The larger institution would be enlarged further with the addition of 30 or 50 children involved in pre-primary activities.

The Minister for Lands interjected in that debate and asked what the shape of the buildings had to do with the educational objectives. Any person who can ask that question, in an educational sense, ought not to be participating in the debate because the APA standards relate not only to the shape of the buildings, but also to the whole pre-school structure.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I hope the member will ensure that he restricts his remarks to the matters relating to clause 9.

Mr PEARCE: I intend to raise some of these matters subsequently. The system of pre-school education under the Pre-School Board is to be abolished—the board is to be abolished. No-one knows what will happen in five or 10 years' time to those pre-school centres which remain the same as they are today.

This is an unfortunate retrograde step on educational grounds. We have not argued only on administrative and financial aspects; on educational grounds it is a retrograde step. The Committee should not accept the clause to abolish the Pre-School Board.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 10 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

As to Third Reading

MR P. V. JONES (Narrogin—Minister for Education) [8.48 p.m.]: I move—

That leave be granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Point of Order

Mr TONKIN: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, is this the motion that has a requirement that there shall not be a dissentient voice? Is this by leave of the House?

The SPEAKER: Yes, by leave of the House.

Mr TONKIN: It did not seem to be put in that way.

The SPEAKER: I apologise for not having put the question in that particular way. If there is a dissentient voice then leave will be denied.

Debate (as to third reading) Resumed

The SPEAKER: The question is that leave be granted. If there is a dissentient voice leave will be denied. Is there a dissentient voice?

Question put and passed; leave granted.

Third Reading

MR P. V. JONES (Narrogin—Minister for Education) [8.49 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

MR PEARCE (Gosnells) [8.50 p.m.]: I am sorry to prolong the deliberations of the House, but it is a very significant step we propose to take and I think it is worthy of further debate and consideration. I attempted to raise these matters in the Committee stage. Owing to my inexperience with the conventions of the House, I was led to believe I could debate the matter generally when we were dealing with the short title of the Bill, but apparently I was in error.

I have indicated many of the educational reasons which I consider make it necessary to adopt a different form of pre-school education from the one the Government is now proposing in a firm and decided way, this Bill actually being part of the process. In talking about the educational reasons that we should not proceed with pre-school education in this way, I am doing the Government more than justice in suggesting that educational reasons played any part in its decision. It is a matter of great regret to educationists in this State that educational considerations have not been a paramount reason for restructuring pre-school education in this way.

I suggested it was a matter of Government convenience. Looking at the history of the matter since the 1974 election, it was simply a case of the Government bumbling its way through, which led to the *ad hoc* setting up of a pre-primary scheme purporting to show that the 1974 election promises were being honoured. The member for Karrinyup interjected when I suggested that and indicated the Liberal Party policy

at the 1974 election was not as I enunciated it; namely, that lowering the school entry age to five years was not in any way a move towards compulsory education for five-year-olds. The member for Karrinyup attempted, by playing on words, to suggest I misunderstood the situation.

As our leader pointed out by way of interjection, if the policy did not state it was compulsory, it did not state it was noncompulsory. But on a previous page of the policy, pre-school education was definitely stated to be noncompulsory. I looked around for an authority to support my proposition that lowering the school entry age implied, in the way it was presented and in the terms of the Education Act, some degree of compulsion. I found some surprising support from the current Minister for Education when he was speaking to representatives of the pre-school centres at a meeting held in Hay Street, West Perth, on Monday, the 25th July. A question was asked of him from the floor—

Have we any guarantee that the school entry age will not be lowered to five?

The Minister's answer was—

Yes. I cannot guarantee what any future Government will do, but I can only tell you that this one will not lower the school entry age. On financial grounds we could not cope with it, apart from the educational grounds.

When the member for Karrinyup attempts to suggest the present system of pre-primary education is fulfilling to the letter that promise to lower the school entry age to five, he is clearly not in accord with his own Minister, because the Minister understood lowering the pre-school entry age to five means what I said it means.

The Minister for Industrial Development was on the committee of which the member for Karrinyup was a member and which drew up this particular programme. He was one of the spokesmen in the Press prior to the election in 1974. In relation to the lowering of the entry age, he drew comparisons with the systems operating in the other States. None of these matters was mentioned by the member for Karrinyup.

Mr Clarko: You are still wrong.

Mr PEARCE: The honourable member will have a chance to put his point of view when I have finished.

Mr Tonkin: The Premier is not here. He will be allowed to get up!

Mr PEARCE: Having made that commitment, which was impossible to maintain, the Government felt it had to do something and, without

consulting educationists in the State, generally, in a too familiar parallel with the present situation, it decided on a course of action which had strong educational implications, the bulk of which the Government did not understand. Having embarked on pilot projects in 1975, it built the colossus now confronting us, which requires a duplication of facilities.

The member for Mundaring spoke about duplication of facilities and said it was costing \$250 000 a year. If that is true, then since the present Government set up its pre-primary education policy unnecessary duplication has cost the State \$250 000 a year; that is, \$750 000 in all. As the member for Mundaring figured, we have had something like 1 800 or 1 900 wasted places in pre-school education over the last 3½ years. I am not necessarily supporting any of those figures or the correlation between figures and places. I am saying if the member for Mundaring was so concerned about duplication of facilities and cost to the State, he should have been around when his Government set up the duplication leading to the present situation.

Mr Sibson: How many of those pre-school units are empty?

Mr PEARCE: I have not at any stage denied there are more pre-school and pre-primary centres now than when the present Government came to office.

Mr Sibson: How many are empty?

Mr PEARCE: I accept that the present Government has in fact made a reasonable contribution to pre-primary education in this State. I have always accepted that. In terms of places and facilities available, the situation is better now than it has ever been. I am prepared to give credit to the present Government for its efforts. Even though in terms of organisation I think it has been mistaken and its educational rationale is almost nonexistent, pre-primary and pre-school education is available to more children in this State than ever before.

On the other hand, large sections of the programme were carried out because of a commitment of the Whitlam Government to education, generally, and pre-primary education through the Children's Commission. We saw massive expansion of education funding after the 1972 Federal election, and in some States Liberal Governments have carried out the programmes those funds made possible. Those Liberal Governments have been only too quick to grab credit for it. If we listened to members on the other side of the House, we would believe the only thing the Whitlam Government ever did for the

country was to create a massive deficit. That deficit funded the very programme for which they claim credit. The Whitlam Government created a deficit by giving money for programmes for which the State Government claims credit.

The member for Karrinyup would say what a wonderful thing the State Government has done for pre-primary education. Yet members opposite say what a dreadful man Gough Whitlam was because of the deficit he created. If I am prepared to give credit where it is due to the Government of this State, members opposite should be prepared to give credit where it is due to the Whitlam Government.

The Government having set up this dual system, it then became necessary to rationalise it. It was still quite possible to rationalise the system by going the other way, placing the pre-primary centres under the control of the Pre-School Board and operating all pre-school education through that body.

If we are looking at a system of rationalisation, that is still the better way to do it. The expertise in pre-school education still rests largely with the Pre-School Board. Admittedly, through its pre-primary centres, the Education Department has found it necessary to recruit the advisory and support staff for its own centres, but it operates in a different way from the Pre-School Board and in my opinion, generally in a less effective way, because these are pre-primary centres and not pre-school centres. So the Education Department could have put all this funding into the Pre-School Board and established, under its auspices, pre-school centres around the State.

When the member for Bunbury leaps up and down to tell us how great the pre-primary centres are or to tell us about the commitment of this Government to pre-school education, he forgets that the money was made available by the Whitlam Government, and it could have been made available for pre-school centres in selected areas.

Mr Sibson: There were funding problems in that.

Mr PEARCE: Rubbish.

Mr Tonkin: Whitlam did more for education than has any other Australian.

Mr PEARCE: The member for Bunbury ought to be aware that the funding problems were quite the reverse. There was some reluctance on the part of the Children's Commission to fund through the Education Department because the responsibility of the commission was to look after children of pre-school age, so there was some problem about funding this type of education through the

Education Department. The funding could easily have been channeled through the Pre-School Board because that is the type of education with which the Children's Commission was concerned.

Mr P. V. Jones: Does that situation still prevail?

Mr PEARCE: No, it does not.

Mr P. V. Jones: The reverse, in fact.

Mr PEARCE: I will concede that, but I am talking now of the origins of the situation, and the origins of the Pre-School Board.

Our present dual situation was brought about by Government bungling and incompetence. The particular point that hurts me is that it was done without any consideration for the effects on the children involved; it was done for administrative convenience.

When the member for Mundaring spoke to the second reading of this Bill he commenced his speech by quoting part of the Fry report which referred to the fact that the child is of paramount importance, and that administrative convenience is secondary. During most of the rest of his speech he then spoke about administrative convenience! I have to give him credit; he was the only member on that side of the House who made any suggestion of an education rationale, but he was grasping for two or three quotes to support him. I am afraid his quotations did not support the argument he was advancing. In fact, the quotes did not lend themselves to the educational conclusions he drew from them.

So the Government record in the whole pre-primary field has been a sorry one. It made an attempt to salvage a foolish 1974 policy promise on education. The education policy at that time was in three parts: firstly, the promise was that the Government would reduce the age at which children commenced school to the year in which they turned five; secondly, children were to be transferred to high school a year earlier; and thirdly, high schools were to be split into two sections. Not one part of that policy has ever been implemented. This pre-primary move was made to salvage some credibility for the Government. What we saw was a miserly pilot scheme of six pre-school centres set up with Federal Labor Government money.

Mr Sibson: It was taxpayers' money.

Mr PEARCE: The Government's action has led to a chaotic system; pre-school education is duplicated in the State and this programme has been a very costly one; the member for Mundaring is probably right about that!

To salvage part of the election promise, the Government had to sabotage the whole community-based kindergarten system set up in 1911 and bring it under Government control. Perhaps in some ways I ought to applaud such socialistic action from the other side, but I feel that the bungling incompetence that has become manifest in this operation has cut out community involvement in this field of education. These kindergartens were organised by community groups, and this involvement will be lessened. Also, the Government has moved away from APA standards and the educational needs of the children are not being considered. Actions of this type cannot be applauded.

I have not been here a long time, but long enough, I believe, to be able to guess at the result of the voting on the third reading of the Bill. I did at least wish to record my objection to it; in my opinion it is a foolish move to bring pre-school education under the control of the Education Department. I do not have a great deal of confidence in the way the Education Department operates. It is a huge bureaucracy, and it is much too impersonal. Even our primary schools are now large and impersonal institutions which do not meet adequately the needs of the children in this State.

Many teachers in Western Australia struggle against the system, to do the best they can for the children, but now they will be asked to struggle even harder; they will have to try to meet the educational needs of five-year-olds as well as older children. This measure will not help the teachers or the children, and the community will pay for it. We will find that there will be emotional effects on the five-year-olds which will carry through into their future lives.

I do not feel we are doing the best we can for the children of our State. I believe this most strongly, and so I took the relatively unusual step of rising on the third reading of this Bill to register forcibly and finally my objections to it.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

BUILDING SOCIETIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 9th August.

MR B. T. BURKE (Balcatta) (9.06 p.m.): The Opposition views this amending Bill in the same

way as it views most of the Government's performance; that is, as being rather ineffective, rather shallow, and rather innocuous.

The Opposition does not oppose this amending Bill, but it wishes simply to restate the position it has stated several times previously; that is, that the presence of this Bill and the absence of more substantive measures indicate the Government's complete failure to tackle the real problems being experienced by building societies in this State.

I wish to say to the Minister it was very noticeable that during the reply he made to my censure motion to the Address-in-Reply, he avoided studiously replying to those parts of the amendment or those parts of the contributing or supporting debate that I regarded as being most important.

We have yet to hear the Minister try to defend his inactivity. I know he is a relatively new Minister in this portfolio, and building houses is far different from riding police bikes. However, it is time that we heard his views about what action he believes should be taken. It is time he told the Parliament what should be done in this matter. It is time, also, that he told the Parliament his attitude to the major liquidity problems of the societies. Obviously this Bill is intended to relieve some of those problems. At the same time, it will go nowhere near solving the whole problem, a problem which compounds itself through shortages at times, and an over-supply of lending money at other times.

It is important for you, Mr Speaker, to ensure that the Minister makes his position clear on what the Government thinks of the liquid funds being held by societies, sometimes far in excess of the percentage required by the law.

Is the Minister happy with the uneven lending programmes of the societies? Is the Minister happy with the compounding effects of those uneven programmes on the building industry? The Minister says nothing about the unemployment problems that will surely arise.

It is plain from some consideration of the Indicative Planning Commission's findings and predictions that there will be unemployment in the building industry to the tune of 3 000 workers by the end of the year. The Minister has at his disposal an opportunity to try to ameliorate that situation; to try to relieve the very dire straits the industry could be plunged into should the worst of those predictions come to pass.

The Minister does nothing at all. The Minister says nothing, but he introduces insubstantial amendments to the Parliament. No doubt these

amendments are desired by the societies; the amendments in one very small way will help to overcome some of the problems faced by the societies. Nevertheless, the great tragedy of this amending Bill is not what it does, but what it leaves undone.

On that basis the Opposition intends to support the measure.

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Housing) [9.10 p.m.]: In supporting the Bill the member for Balcatta made some points to which I will briefly reply. In the Address-in-Reply debate the member made some points regarding building societies, and I forwarded those points to the department for processing to see whether anything should be done. He made some comment in respect of the liquidity of building societies in Western Australia. I am pleased to say that Western Australian building societies are the most stable societies in Australia.

Mr Tonkin: The most what?

Mr O'CONNOR: The most stable, and I think the member for Morley would agree with that.

Mr B. T. Burke: They are the most active, certainly; but if you want to talk about stability, you should not be so complacent.

Mr O'CONNOR: I am not complacent at all; I am just stating the fact that they are the most stable in Australia. In Queensland problems have been experienced with building societies, and some fairly heavy deficiencies have occurred; I believe one was in the order of \$2.5 million. In this State we keep a very close watch on that aspect.

Mr Tonkin: The main thrust of the remarks of the member for Balcatta was not the stability or otherwise of building societies, but their liquidity.

Mr O'CONNOR: Of course, as the honourable member would know, liquidity frequently has a little to do with stability; if an organisation has no liquidity it is not very stable. We do not have that sort of problem in Western Australia.

The other point made by the member for Balcatta was that perhaps building societies in this State have too much funds and he would like to see those funds used in the building industry. I do not disagree with that. I have spoken to the Housing Commission and we have in mind a programme to assist the housing industry in this State.

As members would know, the cost of houses has risen quite substantially, and we need a great deal more money this year to build the same

number of homes that were built last year. We have gone into this matter and in the not-too-distant future I hope to have something to put before the House in an endeavour to get more money into the building industry.

I thank the member for his comments.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by **Mr O'Connor** (Minister for Housing), and transmitted to the Council.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES' HOUSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 9th August.

MR B. T. BURKE (Balcatta) [9.15 p.m.]: The Opposition supports the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by **Mr O'Connor** (Minister for Housing), and transmitted to the Council.

CHILD WELFARE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 11th August.

MR DAVIES (Victoria Park) [9.18 p.m.]: The Child Welfare Act was amended last year after a considerable number of years of investigation and after a considerable period of waiting in this House. The amendments which were brought down turned out to be more extensive than the Act itself, and it was not unreasonable to suppose this would require the Act to be reprinted at the first available opportunity.

The Minister told us when he introduced this amending Bill that when the Act was being vetted to ensure it was fit for reprinting, several errors were found and it became necessary to correct those errors before reprinting the Act.

I congratulate the Government on that. All too often we seem to have an Act reprinted, and then the very next week, the next year, or the next session we find we have to have an amending Bill brought down. Once an Act is reprinted all the mistakes become obvious, and sometimes they are very extensive although not very far-reaching.

If we were to have an argument about anything, it would be regarding whether policemen should have the right given to them by the director to enter homes for the purpose of inspection. However, as the Minister put it, the amendment is to enable policemen to enter homes for the good and safety of children, and I do not think we can cavil at that in any way whatsoever. After all the director has to give the permission and if there is no member of the director's staff available at the particular point, then obviously the next person the public will fall back on, and the director will also fall back on, is the local policeman.

We can rely on policemen to be a little circumspect in the inspection of houses and to treat the case as it should be treated. Therefore, I will not raise any objection whatsoever in this instance. I would point out to the House that the director has to give the authority and he would give it only if he felt the policeman was the proper person in a situation where none of his staff was available.

There are several other items where words are deleted and new phraseology is inserted. I thought I had looked carefully through the Bill when I was marrying the 1976 Bill to the Act; but I notice on these two occasions I also had missed them. This possibility resulted from the fact that in one instance at least the error occurs in a heading. However, it has been noticed now.

The remaining amendments which may need some comment are in relation to the appearance of children before the children's panels. I believe this legislation was held up for several years at least because there was argument regarding the age limits which should apply to children's panels. About four or five years ago, if I remember rightly, when the Bill was considered there was some suggestion children's panels should have an age limit of 18; and if not 18, then 17 years of age.

The Bill as we amended it last year contained the proviso that children's panels could apply only where the child was seven years of age but had not reached the age of 16. That was a difference of two years from the original intention of the Act.

I might remind the House that a children's panel is something less than a court. It is a very good institution and one that I would like to see used as extensively as possible, because it adopts a less formal approach than is adopted in a case before a court. There is argument, of course, that between 16 and 18 years of age people should be more responsible and, therefore, they should not be given—and I put this word in inverted commas—the “leniency” of the children's panels, and that they should come under the full rigours of the court system. Of course, once a person turns 18, he is brought into the Children's Court in the same way as an adult comes under the magistrate's court and the Supreme Court. They do not get the protection which applies under the Child Welfare Act.

Now we have an amending Bill before the House in an endeavour to come to a conclusion on the upper age limit. However the position still appears to be rather vague. The Bill says, in one instance, that the child should be over seven; and the Act as it stands at the present time says not yet 16, or words to that effect, meaning the child had not reached his 16th birthday.

The amending Bill states that the period will still begin at age seven, but there is a period during which a child will come under the discretion of the panel; that is, words to the effect that it appears the child who has not yet reached 16 years of age will be added. I will not bore the House by quoting the words exactly.

I have my own ideas as to the reason that the panel may be given this discretion; but it does seem to be a rather wide discretion. I do not know whether cases will be decided by a majority decision of the panel; whether they will say, “What do you think? Does he seem to you to be 16 years of age?” One member might say, “Yes.” One member might say, “No.” But there must be some reason for this discretion. I have my own ideas; but the Minister might like to comment on this particular matter when he replies.

There is also an amendment extending the age limit from 16 years of age to “16 years and six months” in the words of the amendment. The words, “has not attained the age of 16 years” are being deleted and the words, “appears to

that court not to have attained at the time of the commission of the alleged offence" the age of 16 years are intended to be substituted. That is another amendment. However, it is not the amendment I originally intended to refer to.

Under clause 7 of the amending Bill paragraph (a)(ii) the following words appear—

... at the time of being dealt with by the panel has not attained the age of 16 years and six months.

It looks as if a compromise may have been reached.

It appears in one case that the panel will be allowed to say that a child does not appear to be 16 years of age; in this instance using the discretionary power. But there is no discretion allowed if there is absolute proof that the child has reached 16 years and six months. I can see some confusion occurring. However, I will return to my earlier remarks which were that there was some debate on the upper age limit for the application of the children's panels and this might be the reason that the Government is bringing forward this particular amendment. The Minister might like to explain whether he has any special knowledge and perhaps he will go into greater detail as to why this discretionary power has been inserted.

I have nothing further to add except a general comment on child welfare matters. There is some considerable concern in my electorate regarding adoptions. Several people who are anxious to adopt children do not seem to be able to get very much co-operation from the child welfare department. I would like to know whether the department is over-selective and whether it allocates children who are available for adoption in strict order of application. I have heard the suggestion that there may be instances of graft. I reject that suggestion completely because I know only too well the people who are handling these matters in the child welfare department. Nevertheless, the Government should know about these suggestions so that if there are any instances of graft they can be nipped in the bud.

I repeat, I reject the suggestions of graft completely. However, people come to me and say they have heard of somebody who applied for an adoptive child after they did, and that family has received a child, but they have not. This person has been waiting for a child for a longer period than the family which has received a child. They ask why their turn has not been reached. I am unable to give them an answer. That is one area of concern in regard to the child welfare department which has been pointed out to me on

several occasions this year. I am taking the opportunity to use this Bill as a medium for bringing the matter before the House, and I hope that the Minister is able to give me a comment on it. I believe it is a more efficient way of handling the matter than putting it in writing and waiting for the answer.

The members on this side of the House support the Bill.

MR RIDGE (Kimberley—Minister for Community Welfare) [9.28 p.m.]: I should like to express my appreciation to the member for Victoria Park for his support of the Bill. As he said, extensive amendments were made to the Child Welfare Act last year and as a result of those amendments, it was necessary to have a reprint. However, in the course of preparing the Act for reprinting it was found there had been some minor omissions and this is the reason that the Bill is before us this evening.

The first point referred to by the member for Victoria Park was in relation to clause 6 which provides for a member of the Police Force to enter premises where it is suspected that a child is in need of care and protection. Of course, this was requested by the Police Department to facilitate administration, particularly in remote areas where it is possible that no community welfare officer is located in the town, but there is a police officer. The member said he was quite sure the police would treat their task properly and would not abuse the situation and I agree.

The second point referred to by the member was in relation to children's panels. He said there was some confusion on this matter. I do not know what he means by this, because so far as I am concerned, and so far as the department is concerned, there is certainly no confusion.

The amending Bill provides for a first offender to appear before a children's panel where an offence was committed before the child attained the age of 16 years. All we are seeking to do is to make provision for a child to appear before the children's panel within six months of committing an offence. Despite the fact that a person may have committed an offence at the age of 15 years 9 months, he may not have been apprehended until he was 16 years 2 months. The Bill will provide for him to appear before the panel if he elects to do so. There is certainly nothing vague about it in my view.

The other query raised by the member for Victoria Park related to adoptions; he complained that some people say they do not get the co-operation they expect of the department, and are

subjected to very long waiting periods for children they wish to adopt. In the society in which we live today, this is probably understandable; as a result of our liberalised attitudes towards abortion, contraception and such things, children are not becoming available for adoption to the extent they were some years ago. At the moment, the waiting period in Western Australia is some four years. In other States, the waiting period is considerably higher and we expect the same situation to apply in Western Australia in time to come.

As to whether people are getting children for adoption before people who applied at an earlier date, that could well be the case; it would depend upon the circumstances. It may be that the people who are successful have no children at all, whereas those who are unsuccessful possibly have children from their own marriages.

Like the member for Victoria Park, I certainly reject very strongly any suggestions of graft within the department. While he did say he rejected the allegations, I am rather sorry he saw fit to bring up the matter in the way he did. If he had any evidence that graft was occurring, most certainly I would like to know about it, as I am sure would other members.

Mr Davies: If people come to me and keep saying these things, they are certainly saying them to other people. We reject it; we all reject it.

Mr RIDGE: I do not think it is a desirable subject to raise in this House, because I believe it casts reflections upon officers of the department.

Mr Davies: How are you going to stop people saying it?

Mr RIDGE: The member for Victoria Park should bring this matter to the attention of the House only if he has supportive evidence. Like the member for Victoria Park, I reject the suggestion that there may be graft in the department.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr Sibson) in the Chair; Mr Ridge (Minister for Community Welfare) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 6 put and passed.

Clause 7: Section 84 of amending Act amended—

Mr DAVIES: Perhaps I did not make myself quite clear when I raised this matter during the second reading debate. I was querying the discretion which will be given to the panel by the

phrase, "it appears to the panel that the child". Either a child is 16 years of age by his birth certificate or he is not. I should imagine the department would be able to ascertain whether or not a child is 16 years of age. Why is this discretion to be given to the panel? Is it because some Aborigines appearing before the court indeed may not know how old they are, or is it because the department may feel that, because of the size of the lad, he has not yet reached 16 years of age whereas in fact, of course, he may be much older than 16? It seems unusual to give them this type of discretion in an area where there has been argument in the past.

Mr RIDGE: I apologise to the member for Victoria Park because I did misunderstand his earlier remarks. I agree the words contained in clause 7 give some discretion to the panel and I also agree it would be for the reason outlined by the member for Victoria Park; namely, there could be a possibility of children, particularly Aborigines, whose age is unknown or cannot be determined positively.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 8 and 9 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Ridge (Minister for Community Welfare), and transmitted to the Council.

FERTILIZERS BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 16th August.

MR H. D. EVANS (Warren) [9.39 p.m.]: The purpose of this Bill is to revise and update the Act which controls the production and handling of fertilizers in Western Australia. It is desirable that the administration of this important aspect of agriculture be made as effective as possible. I suppose in a sense this legislation could be said to be virtually a consumer protection measure and from that standpoint it is most desirable. I do not think anybody would have any objection to the Bill.

It would be fair to say that fertilizers, particularly superphosphate, are not regarded in Western Australia with due import. Western Australia probably is the heaviest user of phosphate,

taking some 32 per cent of Australia's total production. In 1969—one of the years to which the Minister referred—its consumption increased to 38 per cent of Australia's production.

In 1973-74, 1.85 million tonnes of superphosphate were used, which attracted a bounty of more than \$22 million. I shall touch on the bounty because I think it is fairly relevant to this debate.

I shall go back in history to put the whole matter in its proper perspective. The use of superphosphate in 1890 by a man named Perkins was another stage in the rather dramatic development of agriculture in Australia. I think superphosphate was referred to in most reference books as "magic dust" and it had virtually that effect when it was brought into use. Naturally it had the effect of considerably increasing the Australian harvest.

Until the mid-1880s the wheat industry in Australia developed slowly but then technical innovations such as the stripper harvester and the stump-jump plough made significant expansion possible. The industry was still hampered by disease and problems of fertility until the 1890s when the use of phosphorus, and the breakthrough by William Farrow in 1901 with a disease-resistant species, gave a very much needed and important boost to the wheat industry of this nation. In 1896 Howard introduced super plus subterranean clover which produced pastures that were never previously thought to be possible.

The use of trace elements brought about a further tremendous expansion. Trace elements are used only in minute quantities but the extent to which they have improved fertility and production is nothing short of staggering. In 1940 D. S. Reisling brought six million acres in South Australia—the 90-mile desert—into production simply through the use of zinc and copper in very minute quantities. As a result sheep grazing increased 40-fold. The situation expanded from grazing one sheep to 20 acres to grazing two-thirds of a sheep to an acre. That is the magnitude of expansion which has been made possible by the application of fertilizer in Australia.

In Western Australia the same sort of thing occurred. Dr Dunn, a former Director of Agriculture, and Dr Shier, through the use of super, zinc and copper, brought into production tremendous areas in the Esperance Plain region. In 1942 A. J. Anderson, with the use of molybdenum, improved the podzolic soils of the eastern seaboard. By the use of one-sixteenth of an ounce per acre he brought into production an area of 1 000 miles by 150 miles, and it was found that the production of legumes in that region expanded dramatically as a result of that treatment.

Fertilizers and fuels represent the greatest input costs of agricultural industries. In 1974 the average price of superphosphate was \$25.29 per tonne, with a \$12 bounty, which meant that the farmer was paying \$14.90 per tonne. In July, 1977, the price per tonne from Wesfarmers ex the Kwinana terminal, after deducting the bounty in bulk, was \$48.21. Whereas the bounty represented almost 50 per cent of the cost of superphosphate at the time it was removed, it now represents only 20 per cent. In real terms the effectiveness of the superphosphate bounty has fallen from 50 per cent to 20 per cent of the cost, which represents the saving that the farmer would have derived.

At this stage I must have regard to the outcry which arose when the Whitlam Government removed the superphosphate bounty; and I can recall the acrimony of the debates in this House and elsewhere which succeeded that event. I found that I could not condone that action at all, having regard to the situation in Western Australia and having special regard to the new-land farmers whose plight, even at this stage, has not been resolved.

Looking at the matter in retrospect, I cannot for the life of me see why those who were so critical, outspoken, and active in generating opposition in country areas at that time were not so vigorous in restoring the concessions that they lamented so vociferously when they had the opportunity to do so after December, 1975. It is true that the superphosphate bounty was restored, but several comments can be made about that decision.

In the first instance, the superphosphate bounty was restored at the expense of the pensioners of this country. The decision to restore it was taken fairly shortly after the Fraser caretaker Government came into office, but it was not implemented until May; and during that time the increase that was due to pensioners was held back until it roughly approximated the cost that the superphosphate bounty represented to the Treasury and to the taxpayers of this nation.

The restoration of the superphosphate bounty has not changed the basic philosophical regard that should be paid to it; that is, the bounty in this form gives the greatest benefit to those who need it least. If we grade farmers by their incomes we will see that the top 15 per cent receive about 40 per cent of the bounty and that the lower 15 per cent are receiving a much lower percentage. That brings once again into focus the question of whether there should be a revision of the application of a bounty of this kind. It is needed; I do not quibble on that point. But in

the tariff situation which obtains in Australia there must be some compensatory measure. I do not think the answer is to apply the bounty across the board, and I think this matter should be taken up by the parties which form this Government with their colleagues of the same political colour and persuasion in the Federal sphere.

Mr Blaikie: You must have your tongue in your cheek when you say that.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Certainly not.

Mr Blaikie: Come on!

Mr H. D. EVANS: Would the honourable member like me to read out a letter which I wrote to the then Federal Treasurer in 1974 when this decision was taken?

Mr Blaikie: Yes.

Mr H. D. EVANS: My comments were quite forthright and strong and they represented the opinion I express and hold. It was the strongest action that was possible at the time. That does not exonerate or exclude the lack of action taken by the Government coalition parties, both State and Federal. Government members bleated loudly and took political advantage when they could and distorted the situation. The honourable member has some cheek to make that interjection.

I point out that there is a further disparity and reason for criticism of the part of the Federal Government in the fact that it has disregarded the IAC recommendation and has left the super bounty at 20 per cent and fixed the level at \$12 per tonne. This position obviously will be eroded with the passage of time and is another area where the payments of the superphosphate bounty come in for some fair criticism and point to the need for some readjustment.

The most important aspect of farm input is represented by superphosphate. The BAE report released recently suggests a slump of 14 per cent in farm income and puts the average earnings of a farmer at \$199 per week, which is \$10 352 per annum. Averages are never satisfactory as for every one case above the average there are probably several below and it is anticipated that 7 000 beef farmers will quit the industry. I make the observation that many will have quit by the time the Federal Government brings forward the assistance proposed, in whatever form that will be.

Looking a little further with the emphasis that needs to be placed on the value of superphosphate, I noted a letter written by R. A. Christison of Attadale appearing in *The West Australian* dated the 24th July, 1975. I quote as follows—

The recent savage increase of \$4.15 a tonne in the price of superphosphate—bringing the cost of that vital commodity to just short of \$60 a tonne—must bring a feeling of despair to many farmers.

So the average position of farmers is probably one of even greater despair. The situation in this regard has remained virtually unchanged.

There is another query I have and, although I have asked a question in the House on this matter, further explanation and probably some action are needed on the part of the State Government, bearing in mind we are heavily dependent on this commodity. It is a question of the country's phosphate requirements in the near future which are dependent on production from the Nauru and Ocean Islands. Their supplies could be exhausted in 30 years. What has happened to the large deposits in Queensland, where something like 3 000 million tonnes have been proven? I do know they have been brought into some use, but certainly not to the extent which is possible and which will be needed.

The economics of the Australian produced fertilizer, viz a viz that which is imported, leaves room for the action I have suggested on the part of this Government and perhaps for an explanatory comment from the Minister when he replies.

In his speech the Minister stated that during the period of production, handling of fertilizer in Western Australia has been subject to several major changes and these have required an updating of the Act. The Minister cited that the manufacture of compound fertilizers has had a beneficial effect on the State's agricultural industry. He pointed out that the rising costs of labour and materials have brought about an increased demand for bulk fertilizers. This is one of the mechanisations to which farmers have turned and which has brought with it the attendant problems which could be expected.

One of these is the use of bulk fertilizer, which is excluded under the existing Fertilisers Act. This position must be remedied because something like 50 per cent of all fertilizer is now taken out in bulk. As there is no provision for sampling and analysing half the State's production of super, it is a deficiency which cannot be allowed to continue. This is probably the most obvious aspect of it.

The attitude of the company that has produced fertilizer in this State has generally been an acceptable one. The company has not gone in for quick, irresponsible profits. It has taken a long-term action which has been designed to show

it is here to stay. That is fair enough and the company deserves credit for that approach. I will digress slightly to indicate that its declaration of dividends in the recent pages of the financial section of *The West Australian* revealed that it does not operate on a purely philanthropic basis. It is in operation as a business and it has met its responsibilities. The Bill is not directed at this firm.

There could well be an increase in the importation of fertilizers and as this situation arises the need for control will be even greater. Even if the deficiencies of bulk super are plugged up there is still a need to tighten and upgrade the Act.

There is also the problem of the minute quantities of trace elements that are added to the compounds of today. There is also a need to identify them closely with labelling. There is a need to be specific about sampling and analysis because of the various increased costs for different trace element fertilizers. This is a very significant factor.

After deducting the bounty, the price of bulk super is \$48.21 a tonne. The price of super, copper, and zinc is \$72.40; the price of super, copper, zinc, and molybdenum is \$75.70. The price of super and molybdenum is \$58.95. The price of super, manganese and potash is \$61.95. Double super costs \$106.95.

It is essential that the farmer knows what he is getting. If he is paying that price for a particular compound, he is entitled to know. He is gearing his production and directing his growing techniques to the use of these particular trace elements, and he must have some degree of assurance that his techniques are accurate as far as it is possible to gauge them.

With super, copper, and zinc there is 0.66 per cent of copper. With super and copper added, the percentage of copper is 0.33 per cent which is a very small quantity. With super, copper, zinc and molybdenum it is 0.66 per cent plus 0.3 per cent of molybdenum.

I quote these figures to indicate the importance which must be attached to the technique of analysis and to the sampling which is involved in the process. So important is that regarded, as are the difficulties which are to be encountered, that it might be as well to quote the answer to a question I asked the Minister on the 18th August—not so long ago. I asked—

How many samples of fertilizer after being analysed under the Fertilisers Act have been found to be below the required standard in each of the past three years?

The answer was—

			Samples Taken	Below Standard
1974-75	....	....	113	28
1975-76	....	....	88	11
1976-77	....	....	97	14

This information leads me to ask several obvious questions which every producer must consider from time to time.

Where and when are samples taken? Who initiates the action? Is it taken at the whim of an inspector? Does it revolve around a complaint? How do farmers know whether or not the fertilizer, containing the trace elements, is up to standard? What is the machinery involved?

I have given an indication of the number of samples taken and the number below standard. I am not sure whether the samples are taken at the works, in trucks, on the farm, or whatever place. Some clarification on these aspects is required for the peace of mind of the farmers who utilise these compound fertilizers and pay for them accordingly.

I have here a letter which quotes the reply of the Minister as it appeared in *The Countryman* on the 25th August. The writer expresses concern about the number of substandard samples which had been taken, and queries the extent of them. He concludes by saying—

As a suggestion, I would like to see the Agriculture department of Western Australia used more widely in the field of monitoring quality of all farm inputs.

That might not be such a bad idea. Some limitations have been imposed, bearing in mind that bulk superphosphate and fertilizer cannot be checked. They represent half the sum total of production which is possibly one explanation as to why the sampling is down. However, it does not completely explain the number of substandard samples found.

I appreciate the fact that quantities as minute as those involved are difficult to detect and quantify in the course of an analysis, but I also know, as the Minister mentioned in his second reading speech, that far more up-to-date techniques are available in other parts of the world, which as yet are not being adopted in Western Australia. I could very easily ask why this is so, for there must be a reason for our not using them in Western Australia, in view of the fact that their existence is known.

In his second reading speech the Minister said—

There have also been great changes in the methods of analysis developed by scientists throughout the world. However, since the methods of both sampling and analysis are specified under the Act and its regulations, many of these modern techniques have not been able to be put into use by analysts in this State.

The inference to be drawn is that these techniques will be introduced into Western Australia once the Act has been amended to permit of this being done. This is another point on which the Minister might be able to comment in his reply. I hope he will avail himself of the opportunity to elaborate on some of the matters raised because, if they are concerning me and those on this side of the House, certainly they would be concerning the farmers even more.

Mr Blaikie: In the questions you asked in relation to the number of samples below standard, was any indication given of the number above the required standard?

Mr H. D. EVANS: No. I did not ask for that information, but I have no doubt there would have been an equal number above the standard.

Mr Blaikie: I agree that it is a serious situation.

Mr H. D. EVANS: If samples are well above the standard, it demonstrates the uneven distribution throughout the entire range and this is something which is of concern not only because of the cost, but also because of the thoroughness and proper pursuit involved in the management programme. I thank the honourable member for his interjection, but he has not really helped me.

Returning to the contents of the Bill, I make the observation that I cannot recall legislation in which the range of powers that can be granted by regulation is so excessive. The whole of clause 44, extending over approximately three pages, indicates the areas in which the Governor may make regulations. They are in regard to any matter or for any purpose for which regulations are prescribed or contemplated by the Act. He may make all such other regulations as may in his opinion be required or permitted by the Act in order to give full effect to the provisions, the full execution, and the due administration, of the Act.

I cannot recall an Act which contains as thorough and as sweeping a provision as the one contained in the Bill before us. The legislation will never have to come back to Parliament; the regulation-making power will ensure that every possible contingency is covered.

I am a little uneasy about the fact that the procedures for sampling and analysis, for example, are not specifically mentioned in the Bill. So much is left to regulation. I note, too, that part V on page 11, dealing with sales, labelling, and warranties, leaves everything to regulation. Clauses 20 to 22 and clause 23(1) conclude with the words, "commits an offence against this Act". However, no penalties are specified.

Clause 44(3)(d) provides a penalty of \$100 for offences against the Act. That is a little ambiguous because it does not clarify the penalties. If the offences are not covered by the regulations they are not subject to any specified penalty. The only penalty which is specified is insufficient when one has to deal with large multinational companies which export fertilizer to Australia. That fertilizer is of the greatest importance to our rural industries.

That seems to be a difficulty in the Bill; it is cumbersome in that regard. The clause is not satisfactory, and I will possibly take the opportunity to discuss it further with the Minister when we reach the Committee stage of the Bill.

However, apart from those several queries which I have raised, the Opposition has no objection to the Bill. The Opposition supports the import and the intent of this measure. It is one which is for the purpose of protecting our rural industries. The former Fertilisers Act provided some protection, but this measure will bring the provisions more into line with present-day requirements. It is on that basis we support the Bill and look forward to an exposition by the Minister on the several points which have been raised.

MR BLAIKIE (Vasse) [10.12 p.m.]: I desire to make a few comments on the Bill and enlarge on the comments of the member for Warren. At the outset I indicate that I support the Bill and the sentiments expressed in it. It is important to realise that the purpose of this measure is to bring up to date the requirements of the fertilizer industry.

The very success of agriculture in Western Australia is dependent on the application of fertilizer. The use of fertilizer has meant the success of agriculture in the past and it will mean the success of agriculture in the future. I believe it was Sir James Mitchell who once said that agriculture in Western Australia will emerge with the application of fertilizer. Those remarks have proved to be right, and the application of fertilizer has proved to be very important.

I register a protest and say that one of the worst things that happened to agriculture in this State was the removal of the fertilizer bounty by the

Whitlam Government. The removal of that bounty left tens of thousands of people in a parlous situation.

Mr H. D. Evans: Does the member agree with the application of the bounty in its present form, at the same level and in the same way against the recommendations of the IAC report?

Mr BLAIKIE: I will answer one question at a time, realising that the Speaker will rule me out of order otherwise.

Mr T. H. Jones: The member for Vasse knows all about agriculture.

Mr BLAIKIE: First of all, the action of the Whitlam Government in taking away the bounty, which then applied, was reprehensible. It was a factor which virtually led to the almost total devastation of farming land and this affected tens of thousands of people engaged in agriculture in this State.

Mr H. D. Evans: Why has your Government not increased the bounty?

Mr BLAIKIE: On the one hand, the subsidy was removed by the Whitlam Government, but on the other hand it was replaced by the Fraser Government.

Mr H. D. Evans: At the expense of the pensioners, by delaying their increase in pensions for up to 12 months?

Mr BLAIKIE: That is a lot of rot and utter rubbish.

Mr H. D. Evans: It was one of the most reprehensible actions taken by the Fraser Government.

Mr BLAIKIE: With your co-operation, Mr Speaker, I might be able to continue.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BLAIKIE: The member for Warren has said that the fertilizer subsidy was restored to the farmers at the expense of the pensioners, and that is a lot of rubbish and nonsense.

Mr H. D. Evans: But the member for Vasse is aware that it is perfectly right.

Mr BLAIKIE: I would like the member for Warren, and the other members who are interjecting, to go back to their electorates and repeat what they have said here.

Mr H. D. Evans: We have done it.

Mr BLAIKIE: I am certain the apple producers at Donnybrook would not be aware of those comments. I will not tell them of the comments of the member for Collie unless he wants me to do so.

Mr T. H. Jones: It will not make any difference now.

Mr H. D. Evans: The bounty has been given to the Prime Minister. What about doubling it for the beef producers?

The SPEAKER: Order! There are far too many interjections. I ask the member for Vasse to address himself to the Chair.

Mr T. H. Jones: That is a good point.

Mr BLAIKIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The comments of the member for Warren, with regard to the Fertilizer Bill, support the very actions of his colleagues in Canberra when they were in Government.

Mr H. D. Evans: That is rubbish.

Mr BLAIKIE: The Whitlam Government took away the fertilizer bounty. Fertilizer is the life-line for the people of Western Australia. The removal of the bounty did not have such a great impact on people in the other States.

Mr H. D. Evans: That is utter nonsense, and a deliberate untruth.

Mr BLAIKIE: For the Opposition to say the Government restored the bounty at the expense of the pensioners is utter rot.

Mr H. D. Evans: It should have been doubled for the beef producers.

Mr BLAIKIE: I am addressing my remarks to you, Mr Speaker.

Mr H. D. Evans: The bounty is worth \$50 000 to the Prime Minister.

Mr BLAIKIE: That small bounty of \$20 per tonne is worth many thousands of dollars to the people in the Manjimup area.

Mr H. D. Evans: We would have doubled it, and taken it off the Prime Minister.

Mr BLAIKIE: Surely the member for Warren would be aware of the advantage of the bounty to the people in the Manjimup area. However, he is prepared to play the game of petty party politics.

Mr H. D. Evans: How much is the bounty worth to you, and to the member for Moore, and to the member for Mt. Marshall?

Mr BLAIKIE: The member for Warren is playing petty party politics. The farmers were held to ransom, just to satisfy the member for Warren and the other jackals who may wish to join with him.

Point of Order

Mr H. D. EVANS: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, no; not that. The word "jackal" I find most objectionable. It might apply to some members on the other side, but not here. I ask for a withdrawal.

The SPEAKER: Order! It seems strange that the member should ask for a withdrawal, and say, in essence, that the remark refers perhaps to members on the other side. I ask the member for Vasse to withdraw.

Mr BLAIKIE: I withdraw the remark.

Debate Resumed

Mr Clarko: The member for Vasse meant, "Jekyll and Hyde"!

Mr BLAIKIE: In order to satisfy the members on the other side who seem to have a tremendous desire to know the pecuniary interests of members of Parliament—whatever that might be—

Mr H. D. Evans: Well, tell us.

Mr BLAIKIE: —I receive nothing from the superphosphate bounty; I do not even use superphosphate.

Mr Grayden: But would the member for Warren use it?

Mr BLAIKIE: I suggest to members opposite that I cannot see any farmers amongst them, but they seem to use a lot of "bulldust".

In no situation would members opposite be prepared to repeat their comments in their electorates.

Mr H. D. Evans: Which comments?

Mr BLAIKIE: The comments relating to the removal of the fertilizer bounty by the Whitlam Government and its replacement by the Fraser Government. The member for Warren knows, and all other members in this House know, that his exercise has been nothing but a charade.

Mr H. D. Evans: The bounty has been given to the Prime Minister, instead of doubling it for the beef producers.

Mr Grayden: Why is the member for Warren prepared to make statements here if he will not repeat them in his electorate?

The SPEAKER: Order! There are far too many interjections and there is far too much background conversation. I ask members to allow the member for Vasse an opportunity to make his speech.

Mr BLAIKIE: An attempt has been made to put a smokescreen around a very important Bill.

Mr Grayden: Why does the member for Warren make here statements which he does not make in his electorate?

Point of Order

Mr B. T. BURKE: Mr Speaker, it may seem frivolous, but would you enlighten the House as to who has the call, the Minister or the member?

The SPEAKER: That is a frivolous point of order and it is quite unbecoming of the member who has taken it. I ask for some sense of decorum to return to this place.

Debate Resumed

Mr BLAIKIE: Fertilizer is a very important commodity. Sir James Mitchell indicated how important it is to agriculture in this State. Over the years the methods of application of fertilizer have improved. I remember as a young lad spreading fertilizer, in company with my father, with a bag around my neck. We subsequently progressed to using a horse-drawn cart, again spreading the fertilizer by hand. As agricultural methods improved and finance became increasingly available, farmers were able to use tractors for spreading fertilizer. I make the point that the success of any farming enterprise has always been related directly to the application of fertilizer and the amount a farmer could afford to put on his pastures or crops.

I can remember at the age of 12 or 13 trying to pick up 180-lb. bags of fertilizer. In those early days I used to think it was a marvellous feat to be able to pick up a bag of fertilizer and hump it around; but as I grew older I wondered why on earth bags of fertilizer were so big. I thought they could have been reduced to 50 or 60-lb. bags, and eventually they were reduced to that size. I wonder how many people have incurred back injuries, etc. from the old methods of handling fertilizer.

In those days when one used trace elements, a bag of fertilizer would be put into the bin of the super spreader and one would add to it five pounds of copper or one pound of cobalt, measured out with a jam tin. It was a rather rough measure. Things have changed since and we now have bulk superphosphate, which has been a tremendous advantage.

I support the remarks of the member for Warren in relation to bulk sampling. The analytical services which are now available are certainly an improvement. The member for Warren said that about 20 per cent of the samples were under standard. I would venture to say an equal percentage of samples were probably over standard. It would be a lucky

farmer who bought fertilizer which was over standard. However, an over-standard fertilizer which contained a higher rate of molybdenum than was required for pasture would create further problems.

I believe this is an important Bill which reflects the passage of time in the industry.

MR OLD (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [10.25 p.m.]: I am amazed that such a mundane Bill has aroused so much interest in the House. The debate has ranged from the use of fertilizer to the difficulty experienced in picking up bags at various ages. It was quite helpful because obviously it will assist the passage of the Bill somewhat.

The member for Warren covered several points in his speech, including the agrarian revolution. The member for Vasse mentioned the bag situation and answered some of the queries. However, as the member for Warren pointed out, the Bill is really aimed at tightening up the current legislation, which was enacted many years ago and has not been updated. These matters come up every now and then. While there have been many changes in the fertilizer industry, they have been fairly steady, and I daresay the time has arrived to tighten up the Act and ensure that a commodity of such value receives the attention it deserves.

This brings me to the matter of sampling, which was mentioned by both members who contributed to the debate. The sampling of a commodity which contains such a small quantity of trace elements obviously must be rather chancy. While I agree the percentage of below-standard fertilizers seems rather high, I think those which contain more than the required percentage of trace elements would more than compensate for those which contain less. It is almost impossible to have a 0.66 per cent mix evenly spread through the product. The number of samples taken over a year is some cause for concern.

Mr H. D. Evans: When do they do the sampling?

Mr OLD: It has been an *ad hoc* situation up to this stage. There are no fertilizer inspectors as such, but the Bill provides for the appointment of inspectors for that purpose.

As the honourable member would be well aware, the CSBP superphosphate company, which is a very reputable company, is continually sampling its own product and is keen to ensure it goes out true to label. However, that does not excuse any lack of sampling, by the Government

or the department, and that is what the Bill is designed to cure. Full-time inspectors will be appointed to sample the fertilizer and ensure it goes out true to label.

I must make some comment about the superphosphate bounty. While I applaud the member for Warren's expression of concern when the bounty was removed and the fact that he made protestations in the right place, I must point out also it was not until there was a change of Government that the bounty was restored. Having been restored, in the eyes of the Opposition it is now far too small. I venture to say, had there not been a change of Government, there would not have been a change in the circumstances of the producers. At least today they are receiving some bounty which they would not have received had it not been for the present Federal Government, and, had it not been for pressure from Western Australia, the State which is the greatest user of superphosphate.

Mr Davies: Both the needy and the greedy.

Mr H. D. Evans: There would have been a change.

Mr OLD: There was a change of Government, and that is the only reason there was a change in policy.

Mr H. D. Evans: I am pretty sure that there would have been a change in policy without the change of Government.

Mr OLD: Hopefully that is so. We would not like to see this bounty removed in the future, and there would be no guarantee about this with a Labor Government.

Mr H. D. Evans: You have no basis for saying that.

Mr OLD: I can only go on past performance.

I was a little concerned about the implication that none of the concessions taken away by the Whitlam Government have been restored. The honourable member knows that this is quite wrong, and I can refer to the income equalisation deposits which are of benefit to the whole community.

Several members interjected.

Mr OLD: Recently the rural community has been granted some taxation concessions, and a 40 per cent depreciation allowance. On the State side, as announced in tonight's Budget, there will be increased assistance for conservation of water on farms, and a liberalisation of conditions

applying. Last year we implemented loans to new-land farmers. These are just a few things I can think of at the moment.

Mr Blaikie: Rural housing.

Mr OLD: Yes, the State Government has assisted with rural housing; I thank the member for Vasse for reminding me. That policy was certainly of assistance to primary producers.

The member for Warren referred to the Duchess deposit. This deposit is being tested currently, and obviously for reasons of economy the fertilizer is not being used widely at this stage. As the honourable member pointed out quite rightly, it is estimated that current deposits will yield 30 years' supply of fertilizer. One reason for the high price of the Duchess fertilizer is isolation, and another reason is the cost of labour which seems to be completely out of control. When the cost of labour increases, obviously the cost of fertilizers increases accordingly.

Currently CSBP is undertaking trials on the Duchess fertilizer and, although I understand some difficulties have been encountered, obviously these can be overcome when it is necessary to use this source of supply.

The member for Warren mentioned the range of regulations which can be introduced with this Bill. I point out that with a commodity such as fertilizers where such changing circumstances occur—the situation has changed radically over the past four or five years, and certainly it has changed by a tremendous degree over the past decade—we must leave some room for flexibility. Therefore, the ability to regulate the changes in the industry are very desirable.

This Bill provides a framework for regulations to protect the rural industry. I believe any Government of any political persuasion would be keen to see that this protection is afforded to a community which is producing products of great value. The desire of course is to see that the quality as marked on the label is actually in the container, and that the description on the bulk product is correct.

I thank members for their support of the Bill, and I commend it to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Clarko) in the Chair; Mr Old (Minister for Agriculture) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 18 put and passed.

Clause 19: Sales by persons who are not primary dealers—

Mr H. D. EVANS: I would like to seek some exposition of the correlation between the terms of the Act and those of the regulations. If I could just move a little ahead, with your tolerance, Mr Chairman, we see that clauses 20 to 23 conclude with the statement, "commits an offence against this Act." However, it is only in the regulations that a penalty is stipulated.

Regulation 44D provides for a penalty not exceeding \$100 for offences against the regulations, but there is no reference to a penalty for the commission of an offence against the Act. Do penalties under the regulations apply to infringements against the Act? If so, are these penalties severe enough when we are dealing with companies of the size of these companies which manufacture fertilizers? I ask the Minister for some clarification of this point.

Mr OLD: I understand the reason for the question, but it is something I will have to look into. I believe the regulations will cover the situation, but it may be that they are a little on the light side. While some of the penalties are aimed at the producing companies, most of them are aimed at the distributors and at incorrect labelling. However, I will look into this matter.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 20 to 44 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

MR OLD (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [10.40 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time. In so doing, I point out to the member for Warren that the penalty provisions in this Act are contained in section 43, something of which I failed to acquaint him in the Committee stage.

MR H. D. EVANS (Warren) [10.41 p.m.]: I thank the Minister for drawing my attention to that section; it clarifies the situation.

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify a couple of points and to explain to the member for Vasse that my views on the super bounty have been expressed not only in my area but in

every rural area I have been in, on television, and in this House. I take exception to the super bounty as it is paid at the present time, I am on the side of the beef farmers in my area, as the member for Vasse should be. I do not like to see the bulk of a payment of this kind going to people such as the Prime Minister, certain members of this place, overseas firms, and tax dodgers who take advantage of the situation. Apparently that is acceptable to the member for Vasse; it is something he condones but which I do not. That is the philosophy I have expounded.

My view on the super bounty also embraces criticism of the present Federal Government for not adopting the IAC recommendations as it should have done.

I also draw attention to the rural policy of the Australian Labor Party that was brought down and expounded by Mr Gordon Scholes, the spokesman on agriculture in the Federal sphere. He has stated explicitly that the policy involves the payment of bounties on fertilizer where required.

Mr Grayden: Are you enunciating the Labor Party policy?

Mr H. D. EVANS: I am stating the rural policy of the Australian Labor Party. Why does not the Minister listen instead of just sounding off?

Mr Grayden: I want you to clarify it, so that you cannot claim later you were misquoted.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I will clarify it; I have been trying to do this with the member for Vasse for some time.

Mr Grayden: Where would you draw the line of demarcation for the payment of the super bounty?

Mr H. D. EVANS: I would like to conclude on the note that a CSIRO specialist addressed a rural conference in Canberra earlier this year, when he expressed the need for the Government to state whether its rural philosophy covered the large farming concept, the corporation farms, or the family farms. He said the first thing that needed to be done was to express a philosophy. That came from an independent and authoritative source. Having made that point, my views on the super bounty are now known in this place.

Mr Grayden: I hope *The West Australian* publishes that tomorrow; but it will not be in the Press in the morning or in the *Daily News* in the evening.

Mr Blaikie: I am glad you support the ALP policy on fertilizer.

Mr Grayden: I want to see this in *The West Australian*, in the *Daily News*, and in the *Manjimup-Warren Times*.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! As I understand it, the member for Warren is making his speech. I ask him to address his remarks to the Chair and to ignore interjections.

Mr Tonkin: The Minister for Labour and Industry is demented.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I will clarify that point in summation. As far as I am concerned, the super bounty needs to be increased for those who need it most; in other words, it needs to be increased at a set tonnage, which is open to discussion and discourse.

Mr Grayden: What is the line of demarcation? Are you prepared to say that?

Mr H. D. EVANS: I have said that is open to discussion and discourse in agreement with the various farmer organisations and having regard to their views upon it.

Mr Grayden: What are your views on the shipment of wheat in Indonesian flag vessels?

Mr B. T. Burke: Good gracious!

Mr H. D. EVANS: The other point is that the IAC recommendations on the fertilizer bounty need to be looked at a little more closely than the present Government has done.

Mr Blaikie: What about the Federal ALP policy?

Mr H. D. EVANS: The Federal ALP policy, as enunciated at the conference in Perth earlier this year, is specific, and it is in support of the fertilizer bounties.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

PUBLIC SERVICE ARBITRATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 18th August.

MR TONKIN (Morley) [10.47 p.m.]: This Bill deals with the right of appeal of workers who have been dismissed. We welcome the fact that in 1975, because of a decision of the industrial appeal court, people who previously did not have the right of appeal against wrongful dismissal were given that right. This applied to something like 50 000 workers in Western Australia.

The problems at that time related to the particular types of public servants and as to whether or not they were Government officers, and to

those people who were Government officers but who were not employed under the Public Service Act and did not have rights of appeal. We welcome this Bill which will give the right of appeal to those people.

The Public Service Appeal Board has had its powers eroded in the last 10 years or so. I would like to make the comment that I find it very hard to see the need for the five Acts we are amending by this Bill and the following five Bills. I am pleased to see that one of the Acts is to be repealed by one of the Bills. It is difficult to see why such matters have to be dealt with by such a large number of Acts of Parliament. It seems to me we could get by far better if we had fewer Acts which did more things.

It is hard to see why we need the Public Service Arbitration Act and the Public Service Act—which is separate from the previous one. It is difficult to understand why the arbitration provisions could not be included in the Public Service Act. It is difficult to see the need for the Public Service Appeal Board Act which, of course, is being repealed by this Bill. It is difficult to see why, in addition, we need the Government Employees (Promotions Appeal Board) Act as well as the Public Service Arbitration Act.

We have a large number of Acts dealing with very similar matters and it does not improve our Statute book to have them all there. There is a need for a massive redrafting and consolidation so that everything will be tied together under fewer Acts in much the same way as the Industrial Arbitration Act covers many different facets. I can see no reason why this could not be done in this case.

Therefore, to the extent that this Bill does provide some consolidation, we on this side of the House believe it is a good measure. The Opposition supports the Bill.

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [10.51 p.m.]: I thank the honourable member for his support of the Bill. I know it sounds very confusing when we have so many Acts referring to specific functions. It is true we are getting rid of one now; but I think, on reflection, the honourable member will appreciate that each of these functions has something special about it and there might be some objection, if my guess is correct, from the association itself if we sought to streamline all of these matters into one piece of legislation.

I believe it was referred to on one previous occasion that the Public Service legislation is the subject of a major review at the present time. I would not hazard a guess as to how soon it will be practical to bring the Public Service legislation forward. It would involve a very detailed survey and in many cases it would mean a complete rewriting, hopefully with a completely new Bill. However, I would not like to say at the moment exactly when it will be ready for introduction.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Premier), and transmitted to the Council.

PUBLIC SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 18th August.

MR TONKIN (Morley) [10.53 p.m.]: The Opposition supports the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Premier), and transmitted to the Council.

PUBLIC SERVICE APPEAL BOARD ACT REPEAL BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 18th August.

MR TONKIN (Morley) [10.55 p.m.]: The Opposition supports the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Premier), and transmitted to the Council.

**GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
(PROMOTIONS APPEAL BOARD)
ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 18th August.

MR TONKIN (Morley) [11.01 p.m.]: The Opposition does not oppose the Bill. Question put and passed.
Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Premier), and transmitted to the Council.

House adjourned at 11.03 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGES***Overseas: Standards*

705. **Mr HODGE**, to the Minister for Health:

What measures does the Chiropractors Registration Board take to ensure that the standards at the overseas colleges named in Chiropractors Registration Board rules 7 (a) (i), (ii), (iii) are still adequate and suitable for use as a criterion for registration in Western Australia?

Mr RIDGE replied:

By advice from individual members of the profession who are in contact with those colleges, reports from members of the board and published reports such as the Webb report.

CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGES*Australian: Standards and Graduates*

707. **Mr HODGE**, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Which Australian colleges of chiropractic does the Chiropractors Registration Board consider have satisfactory curriculums and standards of instruction?
- (2) How many persons have graduated from each of those colleges in the past two years?
- (3) How many graduates from those colleges have been registered by the W.A. Chiropractors Registration Board?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) None.
- (2) This is not known.
- (3) None.

CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGES*Overseas: Standards and Graduates*

708. **Mr HODGE**, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Chiropractors Registration Board ever registered graduates from any overseas colleges other than those named in Chiropractors Registration Board rule 7 (a) (i), (ii), (iii)?
- (2) If "Yes" what measures have been taken to ensure that the curriculum and standards of those colleges are equivalent to the named colleges?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Appropriate inquiries from members of the profession who have been overseas and from published reports.

CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGES*Overseas: Standards*

709. **Mr HODGE**, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Can Western Australian applicants for registration obtain up-to-date copies of the overseas colleges curriculums and standards from the Chiropractors Registration Board?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) Where may they be obtained?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The volume of inquiry has never been large and the board does not have funds to maintain and keep up to date a library of standards from all overseas colleges.
- (3) From the colleges concerned.

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

"All-up" Betting, and Regulations

728. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Where a computerised tote operates—
 - (a) approximately what percentage of moneys invested on two races "all up" is returned to the successful stakers by way of dividends;
 - (b) what percentage of moneys invested on three races "all up" is returned to successful stakers by way of dividends;
 - (c) what percentage of moneys invested on "daily doubles" is returned to investors by way of dividends;
 - (d) what overt action has been taken by the Totalisator Agency Board or its agents in order to ensure that the betting agency patrons can evaluate the "all up" medium of betting as compared with the "daily double" on the same two races;
 - (e) does an agent of the Totalisator Agency Board receive commission on both legs of a two-horses "all up" bet;
 - (f) on which "leg" or "legs" of an "all up" bet on three horses does the agent receive commission?
- (2) When did the last reprint of the Totalisator Agency Board regulations take place?
- (3) Are the regulations available upon request for perusal at any agency?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) 'All up' investments form part of the board's win and place pools of which on an average 83.4 per cent of each pool is returned to backers.
- (c) 83.32 per cent approximately.

(d) Agencies display the formula used for payout calculation of a winning 'all up' bet. Comparison can be made with the daily double dividend declared on the same two races.

(e) No.

(f) First.

(2) 24th February, 1965.

(3) Yes.

POLICE

Domestic Violence

746. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) With reference to his answer to question 703 of 1977, will he table the guidelines or make them available on a confidential basis?
- (2) If "No", why?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) There is no objection to the member viewing the guidelines on a confidential basis, and if he contacts the Commissioner of Police he will make the information available to him.

WATER SUPPLIES

School Playing Areas and Ovals

747. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is he aware that grassed areas where children are expected to play in cluster type schools are normally watered from the mains and that only school ovals are watered from bores?
- (2) Is it a fact that these lawns are arranged in such a random manner that they can only be reticulated with difficulty and at considerable expense, and that schools in less affluent areas will have difficulty obtaining the finance to reticulate these playing lawns?
- (3) Will he give special consideration to offering at least some exemption from water restrictions in these situations so that these school playing areas do not possibly become unpleasant sand traps?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) I am aware that mains water is used on grassed areas at a number of schools.
- (2) Yes.

- (3) Consideration will be given at the appropriate time. I wish to point out to the member that under the current restrictions schools may water their grassed areas by use of a hand-held hose.

SCHOOL DENTAL THERAPY CENTRES

Federal Grant

748. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What proportion of the \$3 million Commonwealth capital grants for the Australian school dental scheme has been allocated for Western Australia?
- (2) How does Western Australia's share compare with that of other States?
- (3) How does this grant compare with those of the past two years?

- (4) How many dental clinics will be provided by this grant and where will they be located?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) The \$3 million capital grants referred to is for projects in other States, viz., South Australia, Victoria, Queensland, and New South Wales. It is understood the grants are the results of claims outstanding some time and only just approved. Western Australia has no outstanding claim.
- (2) Grants to Western Australia are on the same basis as those to other States.
- (3) Annual grants to States in the last two years are as follows—

Grants for School Dental Scheme (In Thousands)

		New South Wales	Victoria	Qld.	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Total
				Recurrent				
1975-76	....	1 845	1 351	998	2 549	2 271	1 547	10 561
1976-77	....	3 589	1 891	2 026	3 099	2 654	1 475	14 733
				Capital				
1975-76	....	2 115	2 044	5 299	825	2 855	317	13 455
1976-77	....	2 191	1 711	1 896	830	935	132	7 695

(4) Not applicable.

LAND

Grey Townsite

749. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) What is the current situation concerning future occupancy of the townsite of Grey by—
 - (a) crayfishermen;
 - (b) holiday-makers,
 currently occupying the townsite?
- (2) If leases have been, or are to be, granted, on what basis and conditions will such leases be granted?
- (3) Will the leases be granted through the Lands Department or the Dandaragan Shire Council?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) (a) The needs of existing *bona fide* fishermen working out of the Grey anchorage are to be assessed and

a sufficient site to contain these fishermen is to be reserved and vested in the Dandaragan Shire Council with power to lease. All leases will require final approval by the Minister for Lands.

- (b) The Department of Lands and Surveys and the council are to make arrangements for the removal of all structures within the townsite area not authorised by the proposed leases.
- (2) Referring to answer (1) (a), the number of leases issued will be limited and will be aligned with boat licences of fishermen working out of the Grey anchorage area. All leases will contain a provision that there will be no call on Government or council for services.
- (3) Answered by (1) (a).

FISHERIES

Jewfish

750. Mr CRANE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) Is it a fact that there are large numbers of jewfish which are being caught by amateur fishermen and sold for cash without record for taxation purposes?
- (2) Is it a fact that these catches far exceed the legal number allowed by law to be caught by amateur fishermen?
- (3) Is the Minister aware of the concern this is causing licensed fishermen who must submit taxation returns and pay licence fees to be permitted to fish?
- (4) If "Yes" in answer to questions (1) to (3), will the Minister investigate this problem and take the necessary steps to have the catches of jewfish checked by fisheries inspectors presently operating?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (4) The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife has insufficient data to answer these questions precisely.

Partly because of reported concern in the industry and the difficulties of preventing and detecting illegal sales of fish by amateurs, bag limits have been introduced in respect of certain classes of fish including jewfish.

Having due regard to their other commitments, inspectors devote as much of their time as possible to these matters.

MILK

Quality

751. Mr SHALDERS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is it a fact that a dairy farmer whose milk, for all but one day of a test period, was of the minimum required quality, would suffer penalty for the full test period, if the milk supplied by him on that one other day, was fractionally below the minimum required quality, as the whole sample for the full test period would be below the required minimum quality?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) and (2) Market milk is tested as a composite of daily deliveries over a seven or eight day test period.

If the composite sample fails to comply with the minimum standard the determined penalty applies.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Memo to Employees at Vapech House

1. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Education:

I apologise to the Minister for lack of notice of the following question—

- (1) Is it a fact that as a result of a news item last week concerning a memo forwarded to the Education Department staff at Vapech House or subsequent to it, staff have now been penalised by the removal of their opportunity to work flexi-time or have had restrictions placed on their flexi-time opportunity?
- (2) If the Minister is not aware of this claim, will he undertake to investigate immediately just who is implementing these oppressive restrictions on his staff?
- (3) If the answer to (2) is "No", why not?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (3) I am unable to thank the honourable member for any notice of this question.

Mr Tonkin: It is a question without notice, isn't it?

Mr P. V. JONES: I am not certain what the member is pursuing in relation to Vapech House. In answer to two questions on notice the other day, I indicated that from my knowledge of the circular I found nothing at all wrong with it. I understand the member has a copy of it and he will note in the last part of the circular forwarded by the Superintendent of Education the superintendent advised anyone who wanted to discuss with him the question of Vapech House and its occupancy—

Mr Barnett: I am talking about flexi-time.

Mr P. V. JONES: —or the Curriculum Branch within the Education Department to contact him.

Mr Speaker, the question related to flexi-time and some suggested imposition on people's rights in that regard. I have no knowledge of it whatever, but I am advised there is no problem at all regarding ongoing arrangements at Vapech House. If the honourable member's information is correct, he will know that certain initiatives are being taken in relation to various floors at Vapech House. Also, the Education Department is a tenant in only one portion.

I would like to repeat that I see nothing whatever wrong with the circular issued by the Superintendent of Education as it related only to the activities of the staff during their working time and the superintendent indicated quite clearly that outside of that time the staff are free to do whatever they like.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Opening of Mail

2. Mr YOUNG, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that personal mail addressed to University of Western Australia staff is being opened by other staff members?
- (2) If "Yes" to (1), who gave such orders?
- (3) Have complaints been made at vice-chancellor level?
- (4) If "Yes" to (3), what was the substance of any reply?
- (5) Does the Minister consider mail addressed by name to be mail which ought to be opened by other persons without the addressee's consent?
- (6) Can any action be taken and, if so, will any action be taken to cease this practice which, at any level of society, is considered highly reprehensible?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

I thank the member for Scarborough for notice of the question, the answer to which is as follows—

- (1) to (6) The only knowledge I have is that which I have seen in the local Press. Since the matter appears to be related to internal policies and procedures of the university, and

since the university is established as a self-governing institution under its own legislation, I believe that it should be handled by the university itself. I understand that there are internal procedures for resolving such disputes, and that the university administration and senate will ensure that reasonable procedures are followed.

I would add that since that answer was formulated I have received additional information which indicates that the university is somewhat concerned and that the matter has been placed in legal hands, and a legal opinion is being sought. As a result of that subsequent advice, I choose not to pursue the question further.

TRANSPORT WORKERS' UNION

Dispute with Owner-drivers and Subcontractors

3. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

I emphasise that this question is without notice, but with the Minister's involvement in the TWU dispute, I am sure he will be able to answer it.

Would the Minister state briefly what is the main issue at present reacting against an expeditious and equitable solution to the industrial problem involving the Transport Workers' Union and owner-drivers and subcontractors?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

Very succinctly, it is the failure on the part of owner-drivers to accept a very substantial increase in cartage rates which has been agreed to by the Road Transport Association.

USED MOTOR VEHICLES

Unlicensed Dealers

4. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

When I say that I have a question without notice for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, I mean it is without notice, so I hope it will not be too traumatic an experience for him. In today's issue of the *Daily News* there

appears on the back page an article referring to the sale of used cars by backyard dealers. I ask the Minister—

- (1) Is he familiar with the article, which deals with the growth in dealings in used cars by people who are not licensed?
- (2) Is he still investigating the matter so as to discover whether there has been a great explosion in the number of used car dealers in this State?
- (3) What action is intended to be taken so that we can bring under control this great development in unlicensed used car dealings, which is causing a great deal of concern to those people who are not receiving the protection of the law?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) to (3) I have read the article in the *Daily News* and it contains quite a number of inaccuracies. I would say very little backyard dealing is going on in Western Australia, and I substantiate that statement by saying recently I received a deputation from used car dealers on this question, and they were not able to give me one instance of it. The deputation was invited to supply instances, and I emphasised that we would prosecute if we were given instances. However, I have not received any instances from the used car dealers. In the newspaper it is indicated there is some method by which backyard dealers can get around the existing Act. As far as I am concerned, that is all nonsense. If a person is doing what has been suggested he can do, he would be leaving himself open to a penalty of \$1 000. If the person concerned handed over the form and failed to notify the RTA of the transfer of a vehicle, I understand he would be liable to a penalty of \$200.

If this problem exists—and all we want is one or two instances of it—I am in a position to go to the RTA and ask it to alter the disposal form to put emphasis on what is required of the person who

sells the vehicle, and to emphasise the penalty attaching to failure to notify the RTA of disposal of a vehicle.

At the moment there is no requirement for the seller to notify the RTA immediately, but this could be easily included in the requirements. In those circumstances we would put a stop to this practice if, in fact, it exists.

As I said, I have not been given a single instance. I have been told the RTA has had one instance, but it is not possible to legislate for every single exigency.

The SPEAKER: I ask the Minister to bring his answer to a fairly swift conclusion.

Mr GRAYDEN: What we want to avoid is preventing transactions between individual people, and some people in the community are striving to do that. They want to see all cars sold through used car dealers. I might also say this: those who buy vehicles with a purchase price of under \$500 do not receive a warranty from used car dealers, anyway, and so they get no greater protection than if they bought them from backyard dealers. So from the point of view of consumer affairs, that is not the problem. If people are selling in backyards they are contravening the Act, and we want to stop it. However, as I have pointed out, the RTA has had only one instance.

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

Increased Revenue

5. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Housing: What is the estimated net additional revenue the State Housing Commission will receive in 1977-78 from the rent increases which take effect on the 1st October, this year?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for ample notice of the question, the answer to which is \$2.2 million.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Motor Vehicle Dealers Act

6. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that there is no policing of the Motor Vehicle Dealers Act by the RTA in respect of unlicensed dealers and that in fact this has been left in the hands of the Consumer Affairs Bureau; but this has one flaw, namely that the Consumer Affairs Bureau is not out in the field as are the RTA people?

- (2) Is he aware that the reason for this is an administrative decision by the RTA which has reversed the previous policy which was that the RTA would actually police the Motor Vehicle Dealers Act?
- (3) Will he endeavour to ensure, through Cabinet discussions, that this position is rectified so that the officers who really know what is going on are required to police the Act?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) to (3) This matter is under investigation by the department and has been for some time.

