

endeavoured to obtain some guide on this matter. I procured a copy of the second edition of *A Parliamentary Dictionary* by Abraham and Hawtrej, and, in connection with this matter, on page 91, is the following:—

The importance attached by the House of Commons to the granting of money to the Crown is shown by certain rules which must be observed in all proceedings involving the authorization of public expenditure.

The first of these is that any business which has in view the expenditure of money from the Exchequer may only be entered upon when the Queen's recommendation has been signified.

That, I take it, is by way of Message to the House of Commons or, in this case, to the Legislative Assembly.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: And, as we have all said, with that we all agree.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I am glad we agree on this point; but I disagree that we can afford to treat this measure as anything but one which involves the authorised guarantee of moneys which will come, of course, to Parliament at a later time. I have a doubt in my mind; and we must play safe. Therefore I propose to vote against the dissent and to support your ruling, Sir.

Question put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes—12

Hon. C. R. Abbey	Hon. L. A. Logan
Hon. G. E. D. Brand	Hon. G. C. MacKinnon
Hon. V. J. Ferry	Hon. N. McNeill
Hon. A. F. Griffiths	Hon. H. K. Watson
Hon. C. E. Griffiths	Hon. F. D. Willmott
Hon. J. Heltman	Hon. H. R. Robinson

(Teller)

Noes—15

Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. A. R. Jones
Hon. J. Dolan	Hon. F. R. H. Lavery
Hon. J. J. Garrigan	Hon. T. O. Perry
Hon. E. M. Heenan	Hon. R. Thompson
Hon. J. G. Hislop	Hon. J. M. Thompson
Hon. E. C. House	Hon. W. F. Willesee
Hon. R. F. Hutchison	Hon. F. J. S. Wise
	Hon. H. C. Strickland

(Teller)

Pair

Aye	No
Hon. S. T. J. Thompson	Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs

Question thus negatived.

Bill ruled out.

House adjourned at 11.17 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 21st September, 1966

CONTENTS

	Page
BILLS—	
Bills of Sale Act Amendment Bill—Report	985
Builders' Registration Act Amendment Bill—Returned	996
Camelaries Act Amendment Bill—3r.	984
Companies Act Amendment Bill—2r.	989
Debt Collectors Licensing Act Amendment Bill—8r.	984
Education Act Amendment Bill—2r.	996
Evidence Act Amendment Bill—3r.	984
Fisheries Act Amendment Bill—2r.	999
Judges' Salaries and Pensions Act Amendment Bill—2r.	1004
Message: Appropriations	1004
Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill—3r.	984
Metropolitan Region Improvement Tax Act Amendment Bill—	
Intro.; 1r.	984
Pensioners (Rates Exemption) Act Amendment Bill—2r.	985
Plant Diseases Act Amendment Bill—Returned	986
Strata Titles Bill—2r.	1001
Workers' Compensation Act Amendment Bill—2r.	1000
LOAN ESTIMATES, 1966-67—	
Message: Appropriations	986
Com.	986
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—	
Caravan Parks—Non-conforming Use of Land: Shire of Perth By-laws	982
Cobalt—Human Consumption: Requirement of Food and Drug Regulations	983
Government Buildings at Geraldton: Tenders for Demolition	980
Health—	
Chiropractors: Registrations	980
Fluoridation of Water Supplies—	
By-product of Alumina Refinery: Statement of Minister for Health	979
Costs, and Water Schemes Included	981
Excessive Intake of Fluoride: Effect on Teeth	980
Fluorals: Cost	981
Teeth: Effect on Life Span, and Maintenance Cost	979
Housing—Purchase and Rental Homes: Waiting Period in Metropolitan Area	981
Local Government—	
Loans: Notification of Members of Parliament	978
Wards: Elections, Nominations, and Votes	979
Railways—	
Kalgoorlie Express—Dining Coach: Damage by Fire and Return to Service	983
Standard Gauge Railway—	
Koolyanobbing-Kalgoorlie: Contracts	979
Perth-Eastern States Services: Commencement	979
Research Station: Establishment between Gascoyne Bridge and Kennedy Range	979
Roads in Koolyanobbing District: Main Roads Department Contract	982
Statutes of Western Australia: Availability in Consolidated Form	981
Workers' Compensation Act—Section 4 (5): Maximum Payments	982
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE—	
Barracks Archway: Decision on Retention or Demolition	983
Superannuation and Family Benefits Scheme Fund: Government Contributions	983

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

QUESTIONS (22): ON NOTICE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Loans: Notification of Members of Parliament

1. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Treasurer:

(1) When a member is notified that a loan has been granted to a shire

council, is the notification to the member posted—
before;
at the same time; or
after
a notification has been posted to the shire council?

(2) If before, how long before?

(3) If after, how long after?

Mr. BRAND replied:

(1) Generally at the same time.

(2) and (3) Answered by (1).

Wards: Elections, Nominations, and Votes

2. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

(1) How many wards of the total number of Western Australian local government authorities became due for election this year?

(2) In how many wards was only a single nomination received?

(3) How many wards attracted no nomination?

(4) What was the overall average percentage of votes cast to votes as per rolls for contested wards?

(5) What was the highest percentage and lowest percentage of votes cast in ward elections, and which were these respective wards?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) 414.

(2) 332.

(3) 6.

(4) 33 per cent.

(5) (a) Highest percentage in ward election—

	Per Cent.
Shire of Carnarvon (North Plantation Ward)	100
Babbage Island (East Ward)	100
(b) Lowest percentage in ward election—	
Town of Melville (Country Ward)	5

STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY

Koolyanobbing-Kalgoorlie: Contracts

3. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) Have any contracts been let for the standard gauge project between Koolyanobbing and Kalgoorlie?

(2) If not, when are they likely to be let?

Perth-Eastern States Services: Commencement

(3) Has there been any alteration in the anticipated start of through running standard gauge trains from Perth to the Eastern States?

(4) What is the scheduled date of through running?

Mr. O'CONNOR (for Mr. Court) replied:

(1) No.

(2) This work is now out to tender, the closing date being the 31st October, 1966.

(3) No.

(4) The standardisation agreement provides for completion of the project by December, 1968, and every endeavour is being made to meet this target.

TEETH

Effect on Life Span, and Maintenance Cost

4. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

(1) Has he available any statistics that prove that people with natural teeth have a greater life span than—

(a) people with false teeth;

(b) people without teeth?

(2) If so, what are the details?

(3) Can he supply details as to the approximate average annual maintenance cost, excluding breakage, of—

(a) natural teeth;

(b) false teeth?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

(1) and (2) No; but the advantages of natural healthy teeth cannot be measured in terms of life span alone. Personal comfort, convenience, the indulgence of individual tastes, and freedom from irritation are very relevant factors.

(3) No.

RESEARCH STATION

Establishment between Gascoyne Bridge and Kennedy Range

5. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Agriculture:

Does his department intend to establish a research station between the Gascoyne Bridge and the Kennedy Range; if so, where?

Mr. LEWIS (for Mr. Nalder) replied: No.

FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

By-product of Alumina Refinery: Statement of Minister for Health

6. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

(1) Did he see in *The West Australian* of the 10th September where The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon during an address at a nurses' graduation ceremony was reported to have told those present that "some

people claimed that aluminium companies were pressing for the sale of fluoride as a product of their industry which would be useless otherwise. This was not true. Sodium fluoride was bought by aluminium companies for use in one stage of manufacture. All the residue from this process was recovered and used again by the companies"?

- (2) Was the foregoing a reasonably accurate account of what The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon had said?
- (3) Does he assert that aluminium companies do not have sodium fluoride for sale?
- (4) Does he deny that in January, 1950, actually before there was any "endorsement" for artificial fluoridation, Alcoa advertised "High Purity Alcoa Sodium Fluoride for the Fluoridation of Water" in the Journal of the American Waterworks' Association?
- (5) Is he aware that in May, 1957, H. P. Bonebrake, Chemical Sales Manager for Alcoa, said: "Alcoa's production of sodium fluoride is sold principally through chemical distributors"?
- (6) Has there been such a revolutionary change in the process of producing aluminium in recent years as to change the position regarding sodium fluoride from one of surplus to that of need as implied by the Minister for Health?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. The statement was intended to refute a false allegation that fluoride from Alcoa (Kwinana) was to be purchased by the Government.
- (3) to (6) Inquiries will be made and replies provided when the relevant information is obtained.

CHIROPRACTORS

Registrations

7. Mr. SEWELL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:
 - (1) How many chiropractors have been registered in Western Australia in the past 12 months?
 - (2) How many of those registered were residents of Western Australia and for how long before the coming into operation of the Act?
 - (3) What are the names of the registered chiropractors in Western Australia?
 - (4) How many applicants have been refused registration?
 - (5) What are the names of applicants refused registration and the grounds for the refusal in each case?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Since the Act was proclaimed on the 1st July, 1966, nine chiropractors have been registered.
- (2) All nine were residents of the State. The periods of residence were:—

More than five years	6
More than two years	2
Less than two years	1
- (3) J. R. Tunney
C. E. Watson
F. Curran
B. T. Macnamara
F. G. Price
H. V. Corbett
P. Noble
J. Sossel
G. Gordon.
- (4) One.
- (5) The application for registration of Philip Joseph Stephenson was not approved, because in the opinion of the board the applicant did not satisfy the requirements of subparagraph (i) of subsection (2) of section 20 of the Act; and, furthermore, failed to make written application to the board pursuant to rule 9, paragraph (b) of subrule (2).

8 to 10. *These questions were postponed.*

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AT GERALDTON

Tenders for Demolition

11. Mr. SEWELL asked the Minister for Works:
 - (1) Have tenders for the demolition of the old Government buildings at 356 Marine Terrace, Geraldton (next to the Department of Agriculture) closed?
 - (2) If so, what is the name of the successful tenderer?

Mr. BRAND (for Mr. Ross Hutchinson) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No tender has been accepted.

FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

Excessive Intake of Fluoride: Effect on Teeth

12. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:
 - (1) In places where the water supply has been fluoridated at 1 p.p.m., has it been necessary for persons giving fluoride tablets to their children to discontinue doing so?
 - (2) Did the United States Public Health Service advise that the use of products which are naturally high in fluoride content, such

as bone meal tablets, lozenges, dentifrices, or chewing gum, to which fluoride had been added, should be avoided where the drinking water had been fluoridated and in places where children are subjected to warm temperatures and consequently drink large amounts of water, a lower concentration of fluoride than 1 p.p.m. may be necessary to avoid mottling of the teeth?

- (3) If "Yes", does this not indicate that the margin of safety is very small?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) In such places fluoride tablets would not be necessary.
 (2) I am not aware of any such advice.
 (3) The margin of safety is considerable and sufficient to safeguard general health whilst protecting teeth.

STATUTES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Availability in Consolidated Form

13. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

When is it expected that the complete Statutes of Western Australia will be available in consolidated form?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

The work associated with Statute law revision is proceeding and further Bills will be introduced during the current session of Parliament.

It is difficult to forecast when the work of revision will be completed. That will depend upon the problems encountered as the work proceeds but it will be several years hence.

HOUSING

Purchase and Rental Homes: Waiting Period in Metropolitan Area

14. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Housing:

What is the present period between the date of lodging an application and allocation of accommodation in the Perth metropolitan area for—

- (1) purchase;
 (2) rental:
 (a) three sleeping unit houses;
 (b) two sleeping unit houses;
 (c) two bedroom flats;
 (d) one bedroom flats;
 (e) pensioner cottage flats?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) 24 months.
 (2) (a) 23 months.
 (b) 32 months.
 (c) 28 months.
 (d) 10 months.
 (e) 14 months.

FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

Costs, and Water Schemes Included

15. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Will he give an estimate of the cost of fluoridation of the metropolitan water supply, itemising the costs on an annual basis under the headings—
 (a) interest and sinking fund on equipment;
 (b) chemical costs, stating chemicals to be used and cost per ton on site;
 (c) labour and supervision, including analytical control?
 (2) Are the goldfields and great southern water supplies to be fluoridated; if so, in either instance, please give costs as itemised in (1)?
 (3) What other centres of population are to have water supplies fluoridated; if any, please give costs as itemised in (1)?
 (4) What provisions, if any, are to be made to centres or dwellings for which it is not planned to supply fluoridated water, and what will be the cost of any such service, both capital outlay and annual cost?

Fluotabs: Cost

- (5) Did he note a letter in *The West Australian* of the 12th September claiming that fluotabs are purchasable at \$1 per 1,000 thus bettering the price of 12 cents a hundred quoted by him on the 8th September?
 (6) In view of this, will he ascertain and advise the lowest price obtainable for the supply of 66,000,000 tablets per annum?

Mr. BRAND (for Mr. Ross Hutchinson) replied:

- (1) (a) \$11,000.
 (b) The choice of chemical is still under consideration, but based on the use of sodium silica fluoride, which is at present considered to be the most likely chemical to be used, and based on a cost per ton on site of \$130 per ton: \$19,500.
 (c) \$21,500.
 (2) It is intended that both the goldfields and the great southern water supplies be fluoridated.
 Estimated costs are as follows:—
 Goldfields Water Supplies:

- (a) \$1,700 per annum.
 - (b) The choice of chemicals to be used is still under consideration, but on present indications the most likely chemical is sodium silica fluoride, at a cost on site of \$130 per ton, or \$4,000 per year.
 - (c) \$3,000 per year.
- Great Southern Water Supplies:**
- (a) \$1,700 per annum.
 - (b) The choice of chemicals to be used is still under consideration, but on present indications the most likely choice is sodium silica fluoride at \$180 per ton, or \$800 per year.
 - (c) \$3,000 per year.
- (3) In the first instance, towns with a population of 5,000 or over with independent water supplies. Due consideration will be given to other sizeable towns where fluoridation of the water supply could be an economic proposition. Towns to be considered in the first instance are Geraldton, Albany, and Bunbury.

(A) Geraldton:

- (a) \$1,000 per annum.
- (b) Most probably sodium silica fluoride at \$180 per ton on site, or \$550 per year.
- (c) \$3,000 per year.

(B) Albany:

- (a) \$1,100 per annum.
- (b) Most probably sodium silica fluoride at \$180 per ton on site, or \$450 per year.
- (c) \$3,000 per year.

(C) Bunbury:

Not investigated, but comparable with above towns.

- (4) Steps will be taken to ensure that wherever practicable a supplementary alternative supply of fluoride is available for private purchase.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) As the honourable member well knows, for a variety of reasons lowest tenders are not always acceptable.

The price will vary according to the brand of tablet and the pack involved. Inquiries, however, suggest that a supply of 66 million tablets (in ready to issue packs of 200) may be obtainable at a cost of \$59,400, while the same quantity in packs of 1,000 (which would be unsuitable for distribution without repacking) would be \$29,700.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT

Section 4 (5): Maximum Payments

16. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Labour:

What is the present maximum amount payable (adjusted in accordance with provisions of sec-

tion 4, subsection (5)), of the Workers' Compensation Act—

- (a) for dependants (including children) of deceased worker;
- (b) weekly payments male and female;
- (c) hospital and medical expenses;
- (d) weekly allowance for dependent wife;
- (e) weekly allowance for dependent children?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (a) Where dependant wholly dependent: \$7,482.
Each dependent child: \$214.
- (b) Male: \$33.50.
Female: \$24.30.
- (c) Medical expenses—Hospital: \$907.47; General: \$534.91.
- (d) \$6.30.
- (e) \$2.70.

ROADS IN KOOLYANOBING DISTRICT

Main Roads Department Contract

17. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Did the Main Roads Department let a contract some time ago for road construction work in the Koolyanobbing district?
- (2) If so, how many miles of roadway were involved and what was the total contract price?
- (3) Was the contract satisfactorily finalised?
- (4) If not, what was done about it and were any penalties imposed upon the contractor?

Mr. BRAND (for Mr. Ross Hutchinson) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Construction and gravelling of 31.25 miles—\$214,206.
- (3) Yes. Some minor matters, such as reinstatement of fences, completion of drainage, were carried out after the substantial completion of road works. Portion of retention moneys is being held until these works are satisfactorily completed.
- (4) Answered by (3).

CARAVAN PARKS

Non-conforming Use of Land: Shire of Perth By-laws

18. Mr. GRAYDEN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

Bearing in mind that local authority by-laws cannot extinguish "non-conforming use" rights under the Town Planning and Development Act, what specific Shire of Perth by-laws relating to caravan parks are applicable to caravan

parks within the shire which have "non-conforming use" rights?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

By-laws relating to caravans, gazetted the 8th January, 1964.

19. *This question was postponed.*

COBALT

Human Consumption: Requirement of Food and Drug Regulations

20. Mr. W. A. MANNING asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) What is the effect in the human body of cobalt consumed in food?
- (2) Does any liquor sold or manufactured in the State contain cobalt?
- (3) If so, what are the requirements of the food and drug regulations in relation thereto?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Cobalt normally consumed in food plays a part in the formation of vitamin B12 and has some effect on preventing anaemia.
- (2) Yes; beer.
- (3) It may contain not more than 2 parts per million of cobalt as cobaltous chloride.

21. *This question was postponed.*

KALGOORLIE EXPRESS

Dining Coach: Damage by Fire and Return to Service

22. Mr. BURT asked the Minister for Railways:

When will the buffet dining coach, partially destroyed by the fire on the Kalgoorlie Express earlier this year, be put back into service?

Mr. O'CONNOR (for Mr. Court) replied:

The predicted date of return to service is the 10th December, 1966.

QUESTIONS (2): WITHOUT NOTICE SUPERANNUATION AND FAMILY BENEFITS SCHEME FUND

Government Contributions

1. Mr. HALL asked the Premier:

I refer to the question I asked the Premier on Thursday, the 15th September, 1966. This was question 6 on the notice paper, and I now refer to part (3) of that question—

- (3) What payments have been made to the fund by the Government for each of the five years?

to which the Premier replied, "Nil."

The superannuation report as at the 30th June, 1965, shows

the employers' contributions at £104,986 14s. 4d. and the State's share of pensions at £1,209,410 12s. 2d. How does the Premier reconcile his thoughts with the question and the statement he made?

Mr. BRAND replied:

If the honourable member wants a well-informed answer, I think he should put this question on the notice paper.

BARRACKS ARCHWAY

Decision on Retention or Demolition

2. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Premier:

- (1) With regard to the Old Barracks Archway in front of Parliament House, has the Government yet made a decision as to the means to be employed to ascertain public reaction to the question whether the remains shall stay; if so, would the Premier indicate the procedure to be followed?
- (2) Is the matter to be referred to Parliament for a decision to be made?
- (3) As the final decision undoubtedly rests with the Government, how soon, and when, will the Government announce its decision?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) to (3) It is a fact that I stated some endeavour would be made to obtain the reaction of the public in this matter, but it has been found that this is a very difficult task. Short of a referendum, which we do not propose to hold, on this matter, it would seem to me that a Gallup poll of some description might be one method of checking on public opinion.

Mr. Hawke: What about a straw poll?

Mr. BRAND: If the Leader of the Opposition likes to conduct a straw poll, this would be very helpful.

Mr. Hawke: With straw from the Grass Valley area.

Mr. BRAND: As far as Parliament is concerned, I would like members to have the opportunity of deciding on a motion moved in this House. I myself, am giving consideration to moving such a motion. On many of the controversial issues, such as the pool in the park and the reclamation of the river, there is a great clamour for Parliament to have the authority, and the final say. However, on this occasion there has been no evidence of any anxiety on the part of the public for Parliament to come into this matter,

and, of course, for obvious reasons. The Government has not made the final decision, and I am not yet in the position of being able to say when this will be taken, but it will be in the near future.

Mr. Hawke: This year?

Mr. BRAND: Yes, this year.

METROPOLITAN REGION IMPROVEMENT TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Lewis (Minister for Education), and read a first time.

BILLS (3): THIRD READING

1. Evidence Act Amendment Bill.
2. Debt Collectors Licensing Act Amendment Bill.
3. Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill.

Bills read a third time, on motions by Mr. O'Connor (Minister for Transport), and passed.

CEMETERIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

MR. LEWIS (Moore—Minister for Education) [4.52 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

During the second reading of this Bill I was asked to give the meaning of the name "Pinaroo". I have made inquiries and now find that, following the request of the Karrakatta Cemetery Board, the Nomenclature Committee suggested the name "Pinaroo", which is a native name meaning resting place.

Mr. Toms: Before the Minister replied I wanted the opportunity to speak on the third reading.

The SPEAKER: The Minister is only moving the third reading of the Bill, and you will have an opportunity to speak to it. The Minister is now on his feet.

Mr. LEWIS: I did not notice that the member for Bayswater was on his feet, otherwise I would not have commenced speaking. The name "Pinaroo" is also the name of a cemetery in Queensland. I merely wish to add that I hope there will be no difficulty with the addressees.

MR. TOMS (Bayswater) [4.53 p.m.]: I regret that I was unavoidably absent in the south-west when the second reading of the Bill came before the House. I had taken the adjournment of the debate on the second reading stage and, with your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, I would now like to make a few comments on the measure.

Both in this House and in another place the Ministers introducing the Bill did say

there had been approaches to the Government by private enterprise—mention was made particularly of this in another place—to establish private cemeteries in Western Australia. It was said that an approach had been made by a private company in this State, a company in the Eastern States, and also a firm as far distant as Singapore. I commend the Government for not having permitted private enterprise to run riot by entering this particular field, and I am very pleased at the decision it has made.

The Ministers in charge of the Bill in each House did say that it was considered cemeteries should be controlled by a board, and it is a great relief to me to learn that at last private enterprise will not be pandered to by permitting it to have control over man's final act.

In my opinion the establishment of lawn cemeteries is ideal. Any member who has had the opportunity to inspect the Albany lawn cemetery would agree with me. After the tablet at the head of the grave has been erected the lawns can be mowed almost at any time, and they certainly look extremely neat and tidy.

I also wish to make reference to the type of trees the board may plant in the cemetery area, particularly in those sections where there will be grave kerbings and headstones. In the section of the Karrakatta Cemetery where my parents and brother are buried, I have noticed there are trees of a sort which I hope will not be planted in the new cemetery. The trees in the Karrakatta Cemetery have been positioned in such a way that very often, when a limb or branch falls to the ground, the domes on the graves are broken; and every year the trees present a real problem in regard to keeping the graves tidy. So I hope the board administering this Act will select with care the type of tree that will be planted in the new cemetery with a view to avoiding any heartburning or hardship to the relatives of deceased persons.

The Minister has explained the meaning of the word "Pinaroo," which is the name of the new cemetery to be located about 17 miles from Perth, and the main purpose of the Bill is to ensure that this cemetery is properly laid out and cared for in an orderly fashion. I hope the Minister will convey my remarks to the board, particularly those relating to the types of trees and shrubs to be planted in the cemetery area.

I support the third reading of the Bill; and I hope the board, in administering this particular cemetery, will use every endeavour to make it a show place, and will avoid the neglect that often takes place in cemeteries, thus showing proper respect for the burial of the dead.

MR. LEWIS (Moore—Minister for Education) [4.57 p.m.]: I thank the member

for Bayswater for his support of the third reading of the Bill. The remarks he has made will be noted and passed on to the Minister concerned.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

BILLS OF SALE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Report

Report of Committee adopted.

PENSIONERS (RATES EXEMPTION) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. GRAHAM (Balcatta) (4.59 p.m.): I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Commencing from 1922, the Parliament of this State expressed in legislation the thought that pensioners should have some relief from payment of rates, because at that time an Act was passed to provide that age and invalid pensioners—those who are receiving social service pensions under the Commonwealth Act—should be permitted to have their rates, payable to local authorities and to the Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department, deferred, upon making the required application, until the property was disposed of, or until the pensioner died, whichever occurred first.

That procedure has been followed ever since, and, indeed, it has been extended from time to time. In 1936 it was extended to cover any member of the armed forces who would come under the terms of the Commonwealth Repatriation Act; in 1938 it was extended further to cover the wives and widows of Australian servicemen; and in 1943 it was extended still further to include widows who were receiving social service pensions, it being appreciated that when the measure was first introduced in 1922 there was no such thing as social service pensions for widows.

This procedure has worked reasonably well. It became obvious to the Government in 1960—that is the present Government—that there was an omission which created hardship in certain cases; so in the Local Government Act of that year a decision was made by this Parliament which acts, I suggest, quite fairly and equitably. This Bill seeks to overcome what I say was an oversight in not making a similar or parallel provision in respect of water, sewerage, and drainage rates—a provision which has applied since 1960 in respect of local authority rates.

The matter was drawn to my attention just recently by a constituent of mine who had made application to the Water Board, as it is now known, for a deferment of his water rates. His application to the local authority—which happens to be the Shire of Perth—was automatically granted, because of the amendment that was made to

the procedure with the passing of the Local Government Act in 1960; but the old provisions still apply in the Pensioners (Rates Exemption) Act which I now seek to amend.

I think I can do no better than quote from some correspondence submitted to me by this constituent. First of all, there is a letter addressed, not to him, but to a friend of his in similar circumstances. It is as follows—

In accordance with the War Service Homes Act, the Director of War Service Homes has ruled that the mortgage on a war service home must remain as a first charge on the property and that no other charge can take precedence over the mortgage whilst it is undischarged.

However, the Director will allow a rating body to lodge a second mortgage on a caveat against the property for security on deferred rates, providing the Director is first advised.

There is a letter addressed to my constituent, dated only a few weeks ago, which is in the following terms—

With reference to your application of 26/6/66, for liability for payment of rates on your property to be deferred, I wish to point out that "The Pensioners" (Rates Exemption) Act, 1922", under which you apply, provides that if the property in respect of which the claim is made, is a War Service Home within the meaning of the War Service Homes Act, 1918, the consent of the War Service Homes Commissioner to the rates becoming a first charge on the land shall be obtained before approval may be granted.

A search of the Title discloses that the property is mortgaged to the War Service Homes Commissioner and advice has been received that he will not consent to the rates becoming a first charge on the land. In the circumstances, your application cannot be approved.

This, I repeat, is a person who has already received approval from the Shire of Perth for deferment of rates. At the moment the Act I am seeking to amend provides that upon the property being disposed of, or upon the owner passing away, the deferred rates shall become a first charge against the property. In view of the attitude of the Director of War Service Homes, any person at all who is an ex-serviceman is denied this exemption—or a better word to use is deferment—of rate payments; whilst anyone else who is in receipt of a social service pension, provided he is not buying a war service home, is eligible for the deferment of rates. I am certain it was never the intention of the Government that there should be this discrimination against people who are purchasing war service homes.

That is perfectly obvious, because in the Local Government Act which was passed by this Parliament in 1960, and to which I made reference earlier, there is in section 561—which incidentally has since been amended three times—special provision to cover the various categories of persons who are entitled to the concession I mentioned. In 1964 there was an amendment agreed to by this Parliament; and, added to the other portions of the section, it now provides that in respect of people whose properties are involved with the Director of War Service Homes, the consent of the director to a deferment should first be obtained; but it contains a proviso that any amount due for rates and charges would have first priority thereafter. In other words, the Director of War Service Homes would have the first claim, and the deferred water, sewerage, and drainage rates would have first priority after the Director of War Service Homes had his charge satisfied.

To my knowledge this principle has brought forward no objection whatsoever from any local authority. As members will appreciate they will be amply secured, having regard for the fact that applicants for war service homes are required to find a certain percentage as a deposit. In the majority of cases they are not likely to die, or to dispose of their property immediately upon receiving the benefit of having a war service home allocated; therefore still greater equity would be built up in the amortisation portion of the instalments which had been paid each month, or at other regular intervals.

It would therefore appear that on account of the oversight I have referred to, those who are purchasing war service homes and who seek relief are only getting half relief; that is, relief from local authorities, and not from the Metropolitan Water Board or the country areas water supply authority. I repeat: This Bill seeks to correct the anomaly, or injustice, which might be a more appropriate description.

I was toying with the idea of going a little further than the Bill proposes. If it is the view of Parliament, as undoubtedly it is, that people in certain categories—invariably those in the lower income bracket—should be afforded some relief in respect of local authority rates and charges, and in respect of water, sewerage, and drainage rates, now that there are other factors such as land tax and, in the metropolitan area, the metropolitan region improvement tax, perhaps some consideration should be given to extending the concession to cover the last two impositions. I have not included them in the Bill, because by doing so I could introduce an element of controversy; furthermore by doing that my Bill could, perchance, be endangered, because of the impact for the time being upon the Treasury. For that reason I have chosen to put this matter to one side.

Mr. Brand: Those issues are being examined now.

Mr. GRAHAM: I am pleased to hear that. I was about to ask the Government to look at this matter objectively, to see if it is possible to extend the concession to cover land tax and metropolitan region improvement tax which, of course, are very similar to items already catered for in the legislation. I commend the Bill to the House, and I hope and trust that Parliament will agree to it.

We must bear in mind this fact: That quite a number of persons who are ex-servicemen are not entitled under the Repatriation Act to a pension, but are compelled to live with their families on social service payments only. If as ex-servicemen they are purchasing homes under the very generous terms of the War Service Homes Act, whilst being granted relief from payment of local authority rates, they are still—because of the oversight I referred to—required to pay the water, sewerage, and drainage rates. I hope and trust that Parliament will see fit to agree to this measure.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Brand (Premier).

LOAN ESTIMATES, 1966-67.

Message: Appropriations

Message from the Governor received and read recommending that appropriations be made in accordance with the Estimates of Expenditure from the General Loan Fund for the year ending the 30th June, 1967.

In Committee

The House resolved into Committee to consider the Loan Estimates, the Chairman of Committees (Mr. W. A. Manning) in the Chair.

Vote: Railways, \$11,476,000—

MR. BRAND. (Greenough—Treasurer) [5.15 p.m.]: In introducing these Loan Estimates, I do so using the new currency for the first time. Some very large sums are mentioned making it a little more difficult to put them over. Nevertheless, I would like to explain to the Committee that in presenting these Estimates a great deal of work has gone into the detail. It has been questioned as to whether this was a wise thing to do, but I think it gives members some indication of the detail of the Loan Budget and is a record from which they can obtain information from the time the Loan Estimates are introduced.

The total borrowing programme for all State works and housing purposes has been determined by the Australian Loan Council at \$645,000,000 for this current financial year. This is an increase of \$40,000,000 on the programme approved for last year and is the biggest lift for a long time, but the total sum still falls far short of the needs of the States.

Our share of this programme is \$60,240,000, which exceeds last year's allocation by \$3,737,000. Of the \$60,240,000, a sum of \$9,170,000 has been allotted for Commonwealth-State housing projects. The balance of \$51,070,000 together with \$4,400,000 from loan repayments will enable the carrying out of the works listed in the Estimates to a total of \$55,470,000.

As the Estimates deal only with transactions on the General Loan Fund, it is an advantage to take this opportunity of making a survey of funds available from other sources for capital works, in order to obtain a full appreciation of the programme for this year.

Loan raisings by semi-governmental authorities are an additional source of finance for capital works, but, of course, we are not free to raise unlimited sums in this way as the Loan Council fixes these borrowings just as it does for the works and housing programmes.

In this current year our share of the total approved borrowing programme for semi-governmental bodies and local authorities whose individual raisings exceed \$200,000 in the one year, has been determined by the council at \$10,860,000. This is an increase of \$586,000 over last year's allocation.

After providing for the requirements of the larger local government bodies, the remaining borrowing authority has been allocated to various State instrumentalities which rely on the Government for support of their capital works programmes. Works costing \$8,900,000 are to be carried out this year from this source of fund raising.

Once again, the Loan Council agreed to continue the arrangement first approved in 1962, under which there is to be no limit on the total amount that may be borrowed by authorities raising \$200,000 or less during a year. Included amongst these smaller borrowing authorities is a number of Government instrumentalities which collectively will borrow \$2,400,000 in this current year.

As I have remarked on previous occasions, a feature of the State's capital works programme which is of considerable importance is the assistance provided by the Commonwealth for special projects.

Amounts available this year under various Federal Acts and agreements are estimated to total \$59,667,000. These are—

Commonwealth Aid Roads	26,552,000
Beef Cattle Roads	1,500,000
Standard Gauge Railway	18,000,000
Comprehensive Water Supply	1,250,000
Exmouth Town Development	2,748,000
University of Western Australia	1,160,000
Secondary Schools—	
Science Laboratories	650,000

Technical Training—	\$
Buildings and Equipment	975,000
Colleges of Advanced Education—(W.A. Institute of Technology and Kalgoorlie School of Mines)	1,368,000
Water Resources Investigations	235,000
War Service Homes and Homes for Armed Forces	4,869,000
Mental Institutions	360,000

A number of these advances are recurring, and I have explained the basis for them on previous occasions. I shall therefore confine my comments to brief references to the several arrangements.

The amount available to the State under the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act will rise by an estimated \$1,813,000 in this financial year. Commonwealth grants to the State for beef cattle roads in the north totalled \$6,900,000 to the 30th June last. Under a recent amendment to legislation, the Commonwealth will provide a further grant of \$1,500,000 for 1966-67 on the same terms as applied in previous years. This further grant is an interim measure pending consideration by the Commonwealth of a future programme of beef roads measures.

Financial assistance received from the Commonwealth for the purposes of the standard gauge railway amounted to \$39,944,000 to the 30th June last. It is expected that the contribution for this current year will be \$18,000,000.

The year 1965-66 was the first of an arrangement under which the Commonwealth is to provide financial assistance of up to \$10,500,000 by way of repayable interest-bearing advances for the purpose of accelerating the extension of the comprehensive water supply scheme. The areas to be served total approximately 4,000,000 acres.

A sum of \$1,250,000 was drawn from the Commonwealth in 1965-66, and it is expected that the same amount will be provided this year.

Following further negotiations with the Commonwealth, that Government has agreed to contribute, by way of grant, an estimated amount of \$3,463,000, plus the cost of providing some single accommodation towards the cost of development by the State of a township at Exmouth. This town is to serve an integrated United States-Australian community associated with the United States naval communication station at North West Cape. The grant has been made available on the basis of the Commonwealth meeting half the cost of certain facilities and two-thirds of others. Under these arrangements \$380,000 was drawn from the Commonwealth in 1964-65, \$750,000 in 1965-66, and it is estimated that \$2,748,000 will be provided this year.

The Commonwealth is continuing to make grants to the State for capital works

and equipment for the University of Western Australia, and it is expected that a sum of \$1,160,000 will be available for these purposes in 1966-67.

The 1st January next will see the commencement of a new triennium, and it is expected that an announcement will be made shortly which will reveal the full extent of Commonwealth aid to be made available during the next three years.

For the purpose of improving science teaching in secondary schools, both Government and private, the Commonwealth has made grants in the last two years for laboratories and equipment. Commonwealth legislation authorises continuance of these grants for this year and also next year. Payments made to Western Australia under this scheme have been—

1964-65	\$707,000.
1965-66	\$502,000.

It is expected that the payment in this current year will be \$912,000 of which \$650,000 relates to Government schools.

Commonwealth grants for building and equipping technical schools were also first introduced in 1964-65. Amounts received from the Commonwealth have been—

1964-65	\$714,000.
1965-66	\$269,000.

A sum of \$975,000 is expected from the Commonwealth this year.

In March, 1965, the Commonwealth indicated its acceptance, in principle, of the concept of colleges of advanced education as advocated by the Martin Committee on the future of tertiary education in Australia and its willingness to provide financial assistance for capital and recurrent purposes in respect of these institutions.

As an interim measure, the committee recommended the payment of capital grants for the W.A. Institute of Technology and the Kalgoorlie School of Mines for works to be undertaken in the period ending the 31st December, 1966. Since then, the recently established Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Advanced Education has submitted proposals for capital grants in respect of the triennium commencing the 1st January next.

A sum of \$232,000 was received last year under this arrangement and it is expected that \$1,368,000 will be paid to the State in this financial year. These amounts have to be matched by the State, and the Loan Estimates provide accordingly.

In 1964-65, the Commonwealth agreed to provide financial assistance to the States for accelerated programmes of surface water measurement and of investigation of underground water resources. The surface water programme is aimed at completing within 10 years a basic network of stream gauges throughout Australia. The underground water investigations involve

a general speeding up of the work of locating and measuring underground water resources.

These grants are contingent upon the States expending certain specified sums from their own resources. In 1964-65 Western Australia received \$136,000; in 1965-66, \$211,000; and the amount to be drawn this year is estimated at \$235,000.

The allocations expected this year from the Commonwealth for war service homes and houses for members of the armed forces are a continuation of the programmes which have been running for many years.

Similarly, the contribution expected from the Commonwealth towards meeting capital expenditure on mental health institutions is a continuation of an existing arrangement which is due to cut out at the end of this year.

Other funds which are available to finance capital works this year include the domestic resources of certain instrumentalities. These funds are largely cash accumulations following the charging of depreciation to operating expenses, but in other cases represent cash balances brought forward from last year.

Finance available for spending in 1966-67 from this source is estimated to amount to \$20,401,000, the main items being—

	\$
Railways Rolling Stock Replacement Fund	2,627,000
State Electricity Commission's domestic funds	7,280,000
State Housing Commission's domestic funds	5,346,000

In all, the total capital works programme for 1966-67 is estimated at \$155,908,000 which is to be financed from the following sources:—

	\$
General Loan allocation	51,070,000
Commonwealth-State Housing allocation	9,170,000
Loan repayments	4,400,000
Semi-governmental borrowings	11,200,000
Grants and advances from the Commonwealth	59,667,000
Domestic funds	20,401,000

Expenditure in 1965-66 which was financed from similar sources amounted to \$147,705,000; and so the current programme represents an increase of \$8,203,000 over last year's outlay.

As mentioned earlier, the estimates of expenditure from the General Loan Fund embrace a programme of works totalling \$55,470,000, and I now propose to deal briefly with the main items making up this total.

Railways

Expenditure by the Railways Department on capital works during 1965-66 amounted to \$10,205,000.

Spending on additions and improvements to opened railways was directed largely to completion of work in progress, replacement of worn-out assets, and the undertaking of new works vital to the safe and efficient operation of the railways. Considerable expenditure was also incurred in standard gauge construction and the complementary works associated with the project.

A broad classification of expenditure is as follows:—

	\$
Additions and improvements to opened railways	4,205,000
Kewdale Marshalling Yards	1,114,000
Standardisation of gauge	1,906,000
Narrow gauge works associated with standardisation	2,952,000
Other special works	28,000

An amount of \$11,476,000 is to be provided from the General Loan Fund for 1966-67 for railway purposes, including the State proportion of the cost of standard gauge construction. It is planned to spend \$3,356,000 on additions and improvements to opened railways; \$591,000 on special works; \$7,326,000 on standardisation of gauge and works associated with that project; and \$203,000 on rolling stock.

Additional finance totalling \$2,627,000 is available from the rolling stock replacement fund, and the whole of this amount will be absorbed in programmed works, which include the acquisition of shunting locomotives, grain hopper wagons, refrigerated vans and suburban railcars and trailers.

Standard gauge railway construction and the works associated with this project continue as the dominating features of the overall railway financial programme. Heavy expenditure is planned in the Merredin area and east thereof, whilst commitments in the metropolitan area are also considerable. Tracklaying is currently in progress between Merredin and Koolyanobbing, and formation work between Koolyanobbing and Kalgoorlie is scheduled for commencement early in 1967.

Another milestone in the progress of this work will be attained later this year when, with the link between Merredin and North Fremantle completed, grain will be transported to the coast over the new railway in standard-gauge wagons for the first time. The haulage of iron ore from Koolyanobbing to Kwinana is planned to commence during June, 1967.

With such a large proportion of the available finance so committed, and taking into account the heavy draw on State finances for other major projects, it has not been possible to provide for major improvements to the 3ft. 6in. system, and spending will be restricted mainly to maintaining existing standards of safety and service, and to essential replacement of worn out assets.

Roundly, \$1,500,000 of the funds available for additions and improvements to opened railways will be required to complete works in progress from the previous programme; and the annual provisions for relaying, ballasting, renewals of track components, bridges, and similar works essential to safety requirements have been given priority over other works. In addition to the funds to be provided from State resources the department anticipates drawing \$18,000,000 from the Commonwealth under the standard gauge agreement.

State Electricity Commission

The State Electricity Commission must spend an ever-increasing amount on generating plant and on the extension of its transmission and distribution services to keep pace with the rapid development taking place in the State. The demand by consumers has increased at an unprecedented rate in recent years.

During the 1965-66 financial year an amount of \$13,817,000 was spent on the various capital works of the commission. Of this sum, over \$7,000,000 was spent on power stations—including Muja—and on transmission lines for interconnecting Muja power station with the metropolitan area. An amount of \$3,400,000 was spent on distribution of electricity and the manufacture and distribution of gas in the metropolitan area to serve 161,000 consumers, including 44,000 gas consumers.

In country areas where 37,000 consumers are supplied, \$3,200,000 was spent on transmission and distribution. Over 8,000 new consumers were connected in all areas during the year.

In the present financial year, work will follow much the same pattern. The work of strengthening and extending the transmission and distribution system in existing areas and into some new areas will continue. It is expected that the second 60 megawatt unit will be commissioned at Muja about the end of this year, and preliminary work on the new Kwinana station will include site work, piles and piers for foundations, and the early civil works. It is expected that these works will cost \$15,880,000.

The General Loan Fund will provide \$2,150,000 towards the funds needed for the year and \$6,200,000 will have to be raised by the commission on the public loan market. The balance must be provided from internal funds.

At this stage I would say that the market is responding to the call but both local government and semi-government loans—or the people responsible for raising them—are finding it difficult to get the necessary response. I would urge Western Australians to do their best to fill the present electricity loan and do whatever else they can to assist the loans raised by local authorities. The main reason for the difficulty is, of course, that there are

more attractive investments in other directions.

Mr. Tonkin: And more people with the right to borrow.

Mr. BRAND: Yes, of course, with an ever-increasing number of openings at Government level and outside the Government with very attractive investments. However, if the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is referring to the number of authorities which we have armed with the power to raise loans, they represent a very small number when compared with the amount of money which is available in Australia. The hard, cold fact is that investments elsewhere are much more attractive. The Government interest rate is set down by the Loan Council.

The increased efficiency of modern power stations and a greater usage of electricity by existing consumers are assisting the commission to maintain profits which are wholly used by the commission to help finance its capital works' programme.

It would seem to me that the profit made by the commission should be put back into the commission to help offset the increasing demand for loan works. I realise that we have to leave some of the work for the future generations to provide for. Nevertheless, with such an increased demand for electricity, profits made by the commission should go back into providing capital works.

Mr. May: I thought that was the present position.

Mr. BRAND: It is the present position, and, as I say, that should be the case.

Public Works (Engineering)

An amount of \$9,029,000 was spent by the Public Works Department last year from the General Loan Fund on various capital works throughout the State. Provision has been made in the Estimates for this year to spend \$9,133,000.

The main headings of estimated expenditure for 1966-67 in areas south of the 26th parallel are—

	\$
Bunbury Harbour Works ..	262,000
Geraldton Harbour Works	225,000
Improvements to Harbours and Rivers ..	106,000
Country Areas and Town Water Supplies ..	4,629,000
Sewerage for Country Towns ..	482,000
Drainage and Irrigation ..	640,000

Bunbury Harbour Works

In addition to the General Loan Fund allocation of \$262,000 an amount of \$240,000 is to be provided for capital works by the Bunbury Harbour Board from loan raisings. A sum of \$48,000 will also be made available from the allocation under the Com-

monwealth Aid Roads Act for works connected with transport by road or water.

The total provision for Bunbury Harbour is therefore \$550,000. This sum will allow the completion of the No. 2 land-backed berth, \$470,000; the expenditure of \$48,000 on a fishing boat slipway; and a commencement on the solid fill connecting the operating berths with the shore.

Geraldton Harbour Works

The Estimates allow for expenditure this year of \$225,000, the main works being the completion of No. 4 berth and ancillaries, \$145,000, and further deepening of the approach channel at a cost of \$80,000. In addition, improvements to, and the dredging of the fishing boat harbour at a total cost of \$60,000 are to be financed from the allocation under the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act for works connected with transport by road or water.

Improvements to Harbours and Rivers

The main works this year are a protective groyne to the Fremantle fishing boat harbour to improve mooring facilities, \$120,000, and a rock groyne at Mandurah in an attempt to maintain an opening to the bar at a cost of \$148,000. These projects, together with a number of minor works, are to be financed from a general loan allocation of \$106,000, and an allotment from the amount provided under the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act for works connected with transport by road or water.

Country Areas and Town Water Supplies

The 1966-67 programme makes provision for an amount of \$4,629,000 which, together with a Commonwealth advance of \$1,250,000 for the comprehensive water supply scheme, will mean increased expenditure of \$632,000 above the amount provided in 1965-66.

Apart from normal expenditure in maintaining an adequate supply to country towns, heavy expenditure is planned on further progress in developing a new supply for the town of Geraldton from the Allanooka basin; a commencement on the provision of a new storage at Manjimup; and the provision of a reticulated supply at Furnissdale.

Provision is made for a total expenditure of \$2,500,000 on the comprehensive water supply scheme to be shared on a fifty-fifty basis with the Commonwealth.

The main items of expenditure this year will be—

	\$
Kalannie Farmlands Reticulation ..	330,000
Work has already commenced and is planned for completion by the end of 1966.	
Merredin-Barbalin Main Improvements ..	120,000

A prelude to extending the system north of Bencubbin and in the Wilgoyne district.	\$
Quairading Main	220,000
Completion of supply from the G.W.S. main conduit at Cunderdin.	
Cunderdin South Farmlands Reticulation	400,000
The first year of a five-year programme.	
Bencubbin North, Farmland Reticulation	560,000
Planned for completion this year.	
Goldfields Main Conduit Enlargement	160,000
Wickepin-Dumbleyung Main Planned for completion for the 1967-68 summer.	448,000
A sum of \$3,379,000 is to be spent this year on town water supplies. Major items of expenditure are—	
	\$
Electrification of No. 5 G.W.S. main pumping station	200,000
Provision of a new 5,000,000 gallon service reservoir at Albany in order to ensure an unrestricted supply during periods of peak demand	152,000
New Geraldton Supply from Allanooka	1,140,000
Planned for completion for the 1967-68 summer. At this stage it is felt that restrictions, if any, would be of a relatively minor nature during the 1966-67 summer.	
Kukerin Town Water Supply	54,000
Completion of new reticulated scheme.	
Lake Grace Water Supply Provision of additional storage and catchment area.	128,000
Renovation G.W.S. Main Conduit	235,000
Reticulation Extension to Bullaring Area	135,000
Furnissdale Water Supply Provision of reticulated supply.	115,000
Manjimup Water Supply New storage to augment the existing supply for the 1967-68 summer.	125,000

Many other minor works are to be undertaken at various centres to improve and extend town water supplies generally.

Sewerage for Country Towns

The major projects for this year are—

	\$
Albany Sewerage extension	100,000
Bunbury	80,000
Narrogin	80,000
Wagin	48,000
Kojonup	70,000
Collie	32,000

Drainage and Irrigation

Enlargements to the Collie irrigation channel, \$90,000; Avon River training, \$40,000; Waroona Dam, \$142,000; Collie River improvements to reduce flood risks to Collie, \$120,000; and construction work on the Five Mile Brook, Bunbury, \$60,000, are the main projects for this year.

North-West

In the northern part of the State, allowances have been made for engineering works as follows:—

	\$
Additions and improvements to jetties	508,000
Water supplies and sewerage	684,000
Irrigation	746,000
Electricity for Government establishments	306,000

The principal works to be financed this year under the heading of additions and improvements to jetties are—

	\$
Completion of the Broome jetty	180,000
Port Hedland jetty and goods yard	55,000
Survey of the outer approaches to Broome	54,000
New land-backed berth, Port Hedland	125,000

Expenditure on water supplies amounting to \$928,000 is expected this year of which \$244,000 will be contributed by the Commonwealth Government for work to be carried out at Exmouth.

Projects to be carried out include—

	\$
Carnarvon town water supply	49,000
Port Hedland town water supply	50,000
Wyndham town water supply	95,000
Exmouth town water supply and sewerage	488,000

The major part of the vote for irrigation in the north is related to works connected with the Ord irrigation project. Details are—

	\$
Kununurra townsite development	148,000
Ten new houses for farmers, airstrip improvements, minor town improvements and completion of caravan park.	
Development of farms	107,000

Contractual obligations in preparing land for farmers.	\$
Water distribution system	208,000
Diversion dam	191,000

A major flood was experienced in the Ord River early in 1966 and a certain amount of scouring in what proved to be a soft layer of rock downstream of the dam could have injuriously affected the structure. Concreting of the scoured section is considered necessary before the forthcoming wet season and work is actually in hand.

A sum of \$50,000 is also to be spent on irrigation works at Carnarvon.

Additional supplies of water have proved to be available in the bed of the river upstream of the existing irrigated areas, and an extension of the pilot scheme is envisaged.

Electricity for Government establishments in the north will require \$306,000 in 1966-67. The main works are—

	\$
Expansion of generating equipment at Onslow	35,000
Additional generating equipment at Roebourne	99,000
Enlargement of generating and supply system at Kununurra	158,000

It is felt there should be no further need for large expenditure on either the Onslow or the Roebourne scheme for a number of years.

The State's share of expenditure on works at Exmouth is spread over a number of votes. Item No. 32 is related to roads, amenities, electricity supply, and minor town works. Expenditure this year is estimated at \$389,000.

Public Works (Architectural)

The programme this year envisages an outlay from the General Loan Fund of \$16,792,000 which will be supplemented by contributions from the Commonwealth for the specific projects I have mentioned earlier. These total funds will allow the large volume of works in progress at the 30th June last to be continued, and will permit a number of new works to be undertaken.

A total of 290 school classrooms was completed during last financial year, 175 being primary school additions, or new schools, and 115 being for high and technical schools.

The first stages of new high schools were completed at Kewdale, City Beach, and South Bunbury, while work is proceeding on Hampton Park, Balcatta, and South Fremantle high schools with a view to com-

pletion for the 1967 school year. It is anticipated that during the 1966-67 year a start will also be made on the construction of a new high school at Bull Creek.

In addition to these works, extensions have been completed to four high schools while work is proceeding to provide further accommodation at three other schools. The Estimates also provide for major additions to be undertaken to 11 high schools, and work of lesser value is scheduled for five other schools.

Provision has been made for the construction of 14 new primary schools throughout the State, and planning is proceeding with a view to having 10 of these completed early in 1967. New primary schools were erected at Brunswick Junction, Dwellingup, Jerramungup, Esperance, Dianella, Westminster, Grass Patch, and Walkaway during the past year.

Additions have been completed to various primary schools, and it is anticipated that some 180 further classrooms will be built during this financial year.

Tenders have been received for the canteen, administration building, and hall of the Institute of Technology at Collier, and it is anticipated that work will commence shortly.

A new ablution and dormitory block has recently been completed at the Harvey Agricultural High School and provision has been made for further major works of a similar nature at this school.

It is anticipated that construction of the new teachers' training college at Nedlands will commence this year with a view to completion of the first stage as early as possible.

Major hospital works completed last year were the new regional hospital at Bunbury; new hospitals at Augusta and Wongan Hills; amenities block, theatre block and X-ray suite at Fremantle; resident medical officers' quarters for the Royal Perth Hospital; additions at Wyalatchem, Shenton Park, and Narrogin; and staff quarters at Narrogin, Northam, and York. The new regional hospital at Geraldton is nearing completion, and work is proceeding on new hospitals at Bentley and Cunderdin.

Other major works in progress are new laboratories at the King Edward Memorial Hospital, additions at Shenton Park, and a new theatre block at Mt. Barker.

Planning for new hospitals at Beverley, Kununoppin, and Southern Cross is proceeding, and it is anticipated that work will commence at each of these sites in the current financial year. Provision has also been made for the first stage of new nurses' quarters for the Royal Perth Hospital, major additions to hospitals at Albany, Bruce Rock, Collie, Fremantle, Kalgoorlie, Osborne Park, Princess Margaret, and South Perth, and work of a lesser nature at various other centres.

In the north-west, works in progress include the new acute block at Broome, the native wing at Derby, and additional wards at Port Hedland. During last year the new nursing post at Exmouth, additions at Wittenoom, and quarters at Onslow were completed.

Construction of the new Causeway police headquarters was completed last year and new police stations were provided at Brentwood, Broome, Exmouth, Midland Junction, Morley Park, and Gosnells. Currently under construction are new stations at Toodyay, Mukinbudin, and Wittenoom, and a new cell block at Kataning. The Estimates provide for further stations at Kalgoorlie and Ravensthorpe.

The kitchen and service blocks of the Guildford training centre were completed during the year, and work has recently commenced on the staff quarters and is proceeding satisfactorily. It is also envisaged that the administration block will be completed in the current financial year.

Substantial additions in the form of new ward blocks have been completed at the Claremont Mental Hospital, and further work of a similar nature is scheduled for commencement this year. Remodelling of existing wards has gone ahead as planned and further minor works are proposed.

Construction of the Albany goal is proceeding satisfactorily and early completion is expected. It is hoped that planning on a new regional goal at Geraldton will be sufficiently advanced to allow tenders to be called in the current year. Additions are also scheduled for Broome, Pardelup, and Barton's Mill prisons.

Alterations to St. Omer's Hospital were completed during the past year and work has recently commenced on major additions.

The new public offices on the old observatory site were completed last year and work has proceeded on the new Observatory at Bickley. Government Stores building at Welshpool, additions to the Government Chemical Laboratories, Civil Defence store at Belmont, and Agriculture Department offices at Kununurra.

With assistance from the Commonwealth, extensions have been started to the Kalgoorlie School of Mines, and it is expected that the first stage of the school's redevelopment will be completed in this current year.

Work has started on a new courthouse and police station at Morawa, and further funds are provided to allow construction of a courthouse, police station, and lock-up at Esperance, and a new courthouse at Kellerberrin.

The programmed work for other departments in 1966-67 allows commencement of Agriculture Department offices at Lake Grace and Narrogin, Harbour and Light Department offices at Port Hedland,

laboratory and aquarium facilities for the Fisheries Department at Waterman's Bay, and new public offices at Narrogin.

W.A. Coastal Shipping Commission

Expenditure of \$100,000 last year was confined to the purchase of steel containers to meet an increasing demand for this type of cargo handling.

A much larger programme of works has been provided for in the Estimates for 1966-67, and expenditure of \$764,000 is expected. This programme is to be financed from semi-governmental borrowings by the commission of \$400,000 and a General Loan allocation of \$364,000.

The *Koolama* is to be lengthened by inserting a new section forward of the ship's bridge. This lengthening will increase passenger berth accommodation by 75 per cent., and cargo carrying capacity by 33½ per cent. The estimated cost is \$546,000.

In order further to increase the cargo carrying capacity of the fleet, an upper deck is being added to the *Dulverton* at an estimated cost of \$85,000.

Arrangements have been made to purchase the *Wangara* which has been on charter to the commission from the Australian National Line. The price has been agreed at \$263,000, and payments will be spread over three years. The Estimates include provision for the required deposit of \$65,750.

Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board

During last financial year an amount of \$3,511,000 was spent on water supply projects, \$2,086,000 on sewerage, \$632,000 on drainage, and \$550,000 on salaries and incidentals, which brought the board's total expenditure to \$6,779,000.

These works were financed by an allocation of \$6,000,000 from the General Loan Fund, \$500,000 came from semi-governmental borrowings, and the balance of \$279,000 from domestic funds.

Works to the value of \$6,714,000 are planned for this year, which will be financed by an allotment of \$6,114,000 from the General Loan Fund and a semi-governmental borrowing of \$600,000.

Water Supply

During 1965-66 work was continued on the 54 in. diameter Serpentine trunk main. Expenditure was \$454,000. A further \$500,000 has been provided this year to lay approximately three miles of this large main.

The 36 in. north-eastern main from Mt. Yokine reservoir was continued last year at a cost of \$87,000. For 1966-67 a further \$91,000 will be spent. The main outlets from Bold Park reservoir were completed last year at a cost of \$47,000.

A large service reservoir of 25,000,000 gallons capacity at Hamilton Hill was

completed last year. It will improve the supply for the areas south of Fremantle. In 1966-67 a high level tank will be commenced in this area at a cost of \$250,000, and development of the high level outlet main will require \$40,000. This is a rapidly expanding State Housing Commission area.

Large schemes are in hand to supply outlying areas in the region. The Rockingham-Safety Bay scheme was continued last year at a cost of \$321,000, and this year reticulation of most of the area will be completed. Expenditure will be \$150,000.

Expenditure on the supply for Herne Hill in 1965-66 was \$103,000, and a further \$70,000 has been provided this year to complete the work.

The Kalamunda pumping scheme was continued last year with the construction of the 18 in. diameter rising main from Victoria reservoir. The cost of the scheme in 1965-66 was \$217,000, and for this year a further \$190,000 will be required. The reticulation of the Bickley-Carmel area will be completed at a cost of \$56,000. Reconditioning of Victoria reservoir will be continued and will require \$160,000.

During 1965-66 the construction of the Wembley Downs high level water tower was completed and the scheme will be in operation next summer. The cost was \$94,000. An important new work this year will be a 24 in. feeder main to improve the supply of the Welshpool industrial area at a cost of \$50,000.

In the current year \$400,000 has been provided for service connections, \$425,000 for minor extensions and improvements, and \$240,000 for the purchase and fixing of meters.

Sewerage

The first stage of the south of the Swan River sewerage scheme was completed and brought into operation in June, 1966. The expenditure for last year was \$1,274,000. The work, so far, has included 18 miles of 18 in. diameter pressure main from Victoria Park to the new Woodman's Point treatment works, with major pumping stations at Victoria Park and Mt. Pleasant, and construction of the first stage of a treatment plant at Woodman's Point. This plant is now treating sewage from Victoria Park and Fremantle. Most of the expenditure for 1966-67 will be for reticulation in Applecross, Mt. Pleasant, Palmyra, and Melville. Estimated cost is \$950,000.

During 1965-66 major extensions of the sewerage system were carried out at Glendalough at a cost of \$354,000. The provision for 1966-67 in this area is \$250,000. At Armadale, work is in progress on the installation of sewerage reticulation, pumping plant, and treatment works. The expenditure last year was \$116,000 and for 1966-67 the estimate is \$70,000.

Other extensions to suburban sewerage areas during 1965-66 were made in the Belmont industrial area and Wembley. Ex-

tensions to be made this year are in the Belmont industrial area, \$120,000; Subiaco, \$88,000; Victoria Park, \$75,000; at Smith's Lake, \$50,000; and Maylands, \$60,000.

Drainage

Large drainage schemes were continued during 1965-66 at Yokine at a cost of \$60,000; Riverton, \$71,000; Central Belmont, \$59,000; and the first stage of extensive works at Scarborough totalled \$75,000. In addition, drainage was continued at South Belmont, Kelmscott, Bassendean, and Kewdale, and a sum of \$127,000 was spent for the resumption of land required for main drainage works.

In the current year's programme, provision is made for a considerable extension of the Bayswater drainage system in the Dianella and Beechboro areas, at a cost of \$108,000; and a continuation of Scarborough drainage, at \$60,000. Resumption of land for future works will require \$80,000; drainage at Bassendean, \$27,000; and Herdsman Lake drainage, \$49,000.

Mines

The scheme for assisting approved prospectors will be continued in 1966-67, and the weekly allowance to these men has been increased by 25 per cent. Loans to mine-owners will also be continued for development of promising mines and the purchase of machinery where required.

Provision has been made for the purchase of further drilling equipment and vehicles to meet increasing drilling commitments, and the expanding investigation of the State's underground water resources, part of the cost of which is being met by the Commonwealth Government, as I have already mentioned.

Construction of a new cyanide plant to treat 6,000 tons of accumulated tailings at the Cue State Battery will commence this year, and provision has also been made in the Estimates to provide much-needed crude ore bins at the Marble Bar State Battery.

It is also intended to purchase a jig for the Norseman State Battery to cope with the increasing treatment of tin ore at that centre.

State Housing Commission

In the last financial year the commission was allocated \$700,000 from the General Loan Fund. It also borrowed \$1,500,000 under the semi-governmental programme. In addition, the commission was allocated \$8,846,000 under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, and \$5,310,000 for war service homes.

Total funds received in 1965-66 therefore amounted to \$16,356,000 which, together with domestic funds, permitted a total programme of capital expenditure of \$21,612,000. This figure excludes the cost of houses erected for departments and financed from other votes.

In 1966-67 the total capital expenditure of the commission is expected to approximate \$23,085,000 which will be financed from a number of sources. Again, this figure excludes work for other departments. The allocation from the General Loan Fund for this year has been fixed at \$2,300,000, and \$1,400,000 is to be raised from semi-governmental loans.

The amount to be provided under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, including an allotment of \$320,000 for the housing of serving members of the armed forces, is \$9,490,000. It is anticipated that \$4,549,000 will be available for war service homes. The balance of this year's programme will be financed from the sale of commission land and houses, principal repayments, and credit balances at the Treasury. During 1965-66 the commission completed 2,480 home units under all schemes made up of—

- 1,953 purchase and rental homes
- 118 war service homes
- 34 for Government employees
- 184 for Government departments
- 185 for charitable organisations, and
- 6 for employees of Laporte Titanium (Australia) Pty. Ltd.

In addition to the above, finance allocated to approved building societies assisted 462 families purchasing new homes. War service homes finance enabled 326 applicants to purchase newly-erected homes, and 68 home purchasers were assisted by way of second mortgage finance under the State Housing Act.

At the close of the last financial year, 1,032 homes and flats were in varying stages of construction. These houses will be completed during 1966-67, and it is anticipated that contracts will be let for approximately 1,900 homes under all schemes.

During 1966-67 the new contracts to be let could include up to 30 houses at Koolyanobbing for employees of Broken Hill Pty. Ltd. Also included in the new contracts to be let are—

- A further block of flats at Fremantle for elderly single women.
- Two small blocks of flats for single working women; and
- Several medium density dwelling projects which the commission expects to commence during the year.

Housing for Government Employees

A sum of \$483,000 is available in this current year for Government employees' housing from balances in hand at the 30th June last. This sum is to be increased by a General Loan Fund allocation of \$50,000, and semi-governmental borrowings of \$200,000. The total amount available to the authority for this year is therefore \$733,000.

Agriculture

Loan expenditure for last year amounted to \$501,000. The largest single item was

expenditure on the South Perth buildings amounting to \$173,000, where C block was virtually completed, together with a new post-mortem house and pig reception building.

Ord River regeneration was continued, and \$58,000 was spent on materials for the development of the new West Kimberley Research Station.

The major buildings at the Medina pig research station, where \$72,000 was spent, are approaching completion, and equipment is being installed. The balance of expenditure represents minor improvements to research stations and Muresk Agricultural College.

The administration block at South Perth will be completed this year and further facilities at the vegetable research station will be provided. There will also be a continuation of the programme of improvements at other research stations. Ord River regeneration will continue at a cost of \$60,000 this year, and similar work is planned at Flora Valley Station.

Forests

The proposed General Loan Fund allocation of \$400,000 will be utilised to establish a further 4,000 acres of new pine plantations, and for the maintenance of the 45,000 acres of existing plantations. Research will be continued into tree breeding, establishment and silvicultural techniques of pine operations.

Fisheries

A provision of \$100,000 in the Estimates for this year is to complete and equip a new research vessel to replace the *Lancelin*.

Industrial Development

During 1965-66 a sum of \$230,000 was spent on the purchase of land for industrial development, and \$171,000 went to assist industries. An amount of \$400,000 has been set aside in the Estimates for this year for similar purposes.

Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry

Additional capital of \$390,000 was advanced to the industry last year to meet the cost of approved capital projects, and the Estimates allow for a further advance of \$100,000 to complete these works. These works were authorised by the previous management and were in progress before the recent arrangements with Australian National Industries Ltd. were entered into.

Fremantle Port Authority

Works to be carried out this year are estimated to cost \$2,713,000. They are to be financed from an allocation of \$250,000 from the General Loan Fund, a semi-governmental borrowing of \$200,000 and domestic funds of \$2,263,000. Dredging in the inner harbour is estimated to cost \$900,000 in the current year. This is for the purpose of deepening the upstream area beyond the demolished railway

bridge. The development of North Quay will continue, and there will also be further expenditure on mechanical and other plant.

The current dredging programme provides for an extended and deepened swinging basin for the B.H.P. steelworks in the outer harbour, and the dredging of a channel to the alumina refinery jetty. Another major work will be the construction of a bulk cargo jetty in the outer harbour. The total cost of outer harbour development this year is expected to be \$1,015,000.

Metropolitan Transport Trust

Last year the trust spent \$922,000, of which \$300,000 came from the Loan Fund, \$200,000 from semi-governmental raisings, and \$422,000 from domestic funds.

This year, expenditure is expected to total \$1,104,000 to be provided from—

	\$
General Loan Fund	200,000
Semi-governmental borrowings	200,000
Domestic funds	704,000

The purchase of new buses was the main item of expenditure in 1965-66, and the same applies to the current year.

Midland Junction Abattoir Board

An allocation to the board of \$190,000 is to be made this year from the General Loan Fund to assist it to meet expenditure on extensions to the mutton and beef chillers, and the meat delivery hall. Additional refrigeration plant is also to be installed.

University of Western Australia

In 1965-66 an amount of \$54,000 was advanced to the University from the General Loan Fund, and \$200,000 was raised from private borrowings to finance the State's contribution for capital works. These funds, together with Commonwealth grants and cash balances held by the University, provided \$1,552,000 for capital works in 1965-66.

A new building for the Faculty of Economics and Commerce was completed last year, and substantial progress was made in buildings for organic chemistry, agriculture, and biological sciences. Good progress was also made on the Currie Hall of Residence.

In this current year a capital works programme costing \$2,624,000 is to be undertaken by the University. This programme is to be financed from an allocation from the General Loan Fund of \$1,100,000; private borrowings and cash balances of \$364,000; and estimated Commonwealth grants of \$1,160,000.

Major works to be carried out are the continuation of Currie Hall, a new law school, and a new lecture theatre. A number of other works are also to be started this financial year when the new triennium commences on the 1st January next.

Loans and Grants

Various local authorities and public bodies are assisted from this item in the Estimates. Of the total provision for this year of \$700,000, the sum of \$114,000 is expected to be paid out in assisting with the establishment of swimming pools in country areas.

Grants totalling \$34,000 have been allowed for to meet a proportion of the cost of conversion of electricity undertakings at four country centres. Funds are also provided to make further assistance available for the extension of residential colleges at the University.

A sum of \$85,000 has been set aside for payment to the Silver Chain Nursing Association to assist that body with the erection of a new hospital at Hilton Park. A payment of \$60,000 is to be made to the Home of Peace in respect of a new hospital for the incurable sick.

Government contributions for the establishment of infant health centres and social centres for the aged are expected to amount to \$45,000 in 1966-67. Homes for the aged will be assisted to the extent of \$60,000.

Rural and Industries Bank

The provision in the Estimates of \$300,000 for delegated agencies conducted by the Rural and Industries Bank on behalf of the Government is for the purpose of advances under the dairy farms improvement and consolidation schemes as well as to meet agreed reductions in guaranteed bank overdrafts on account of the Esperance superphosphate works and Canterbury Court Pty. Ltd.

In submitting these Estimates for the consideration of the Committee, I would like to pay a tribute to the Treasury officers who worked so hard to prepare the programme.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr. Hawke (Leader of the Opposition).

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

BILLS (2): RETURNED

1. Builders' Registration Act Amendment Bill.

Bill returned from the Council with an amendment.

2. Plant Diseases Act Amendment Bill. Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. LEWIS (Moore—Minister for Education) [7.35 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill comprises a number of unrelated amendments to the Education Act,

with a view to correcting some anomalies which have arisen over the years and removing administrative problems which have recently become apparent.

The first amendment deals with the age at which a child may leave school. The minimum school-leaving age in Western Australia has, from before the beginning of this century, been the fourteenth birthday. However, until 1943 the Minister had power to exempt a child between the ages of 13 and 14 from attendance at school where the parents were suffering from poverty or sickness.

In 1943 the Act was amended to enable the Government to proclaim an extension of the minimum leaving age to the fifteenth birthday. At the same time the subsection which allowed the Minister to grant exemptions was repealed. The extended leaving age to the fifteenth birthday was never proclaimed.

In 1962 Parliament again amended the Act, this time to require that all children remain at school at least until the end of the year in which they turned 14. This ensured that in the great majority of cases children received a minimum of nine full years of schooling. The 1962 amendment also provided for the Minister to grant exemption from the fourteenth birthday where, in his opinion, the child had a satisfactory job to go to and it would be in the child's best interests to leave school.

The Act was amended again in 1964 to extend the minimum leaving age to the end of the year in which a child turned 15, thus ensuring that the majority of children received three full years of secondary education—10 years' formal education in all. The amendment also raised the minimum age for exemption by the Minister to the fifteenth birthday.

This amendment came into effect at the beginning of this year, but since then I have been confronted with a number of difficult and distressing cases involving 14-year-olds where it would have been desirable to grant exemption. For example, there is a case where a lad was working with a good firm at the beginning of this year, but had to return to school because he was only 14 years of age. He has now become a behaviour problem and will not study. He is of low ability and academically has reached his formal educational limit. It would have been much better for the boy if he could have been left in his employment.

Recently arrived migrant children of 14 years of age and upwards would receive very little benefit from attending school for a few months, as many of them require some months before they can settle down in their new environment. While in the interests of society it might be desirable for such a child to attend school even later than the statutory leaving age, compulsory attendance becomes irksome to the

child, who often develops anti-social behaviour. In such cases it is felt that, provided satisfactory employment is offering, the child should be permitted to leave school as from the fourteenth birthday.

Because of the transient nature of the employment available to the majority of natives, their children frequently change schools and their level of learning suffers. Employment opportunity for these children is particularly difficult, and I feel that a more appropriate course of action would be to exempt them from school attendance where additional schooling would obviously be of no further benefit to them, and provided always that some reasonably satisfactory employment was offering.

In the cases I have mentioned, some form of vocational training in employment would be desirable.

I could continue to cite other cases, but I think that from what I have already said members will agree there are instances where it is in the best interests of a child for the Minister to have discretionary power to exempt it from further attendance at school at an earlier age than 15.

The Bill does not provide for another type of case for which I will make provision by way of amendment during the Committee stage. This is the case where the bright child attains the Junior Certificate before he or she becomes 15. At present there is no option for that child but to remain at school until the exemption age is reached.

Where such a child desires to proceed to special education—for example, commercial college—to further its studies, then exemption should be granted after the fourteenth birthday. These cases are not many but I am informed that they do occur.

The Act as it now stands empowers the Minister to refuse the admission of any child to a Government school if accommodation has been provided for him in another Government school nearer to his place of dwelling.

When this section was enacted many years ago it was not envisaged that circumstances would arise whereby, because of the density of population, the department would have to refuse admission to the nearest school and direct a child to one more remote from its home. Unfortunately, this is now the case in many localities, and particularly in the metropolitan area.

In order to avoid overcrowding of some schools in more populous areas it has been necessary to direct students to a particular school, notwithstanding that there is one located closer to their homes. This practice is provided for by regulation, but a doubt has arisen as to whether there is any authority under the Act to regulate in this way. Should the regulation be tested in court and found to be *ultra vires*,

the position could become chaotic, with some schools badly overcrowded and others with room to spare.

It is in the best interests of the vast majority of the students, and of the department, that the present practice should continue, and this amendment has therefore been introduced, allowing the Minister, by notice published in the *Government Gazette*, to direct children to a particular school.

This will be effected in one of two ways; that is, by refusing admission to children living within a prescribed area to any Government school other than that specified in the notice—normally this will be applied in the case of primary schools—or by refusing children attending certain Government primary schools admittance to any Government secondary school other than that specified in the notice.

Mr. Jamieson: Some of the prescribed areas are pretty ridiculous as far as primary schools are concerned.

Mr. LEWIS: In what way?

Mr. Jamieson: You have children on one side of the road who cannot go to a school on the other side, while other children from miles away have to attend it.

Mr. LEWIS: I do not know of such an instance, but I do know of one where the school is a quarter of a mile away.

Mr. Toms: Hillcrest is like that. The children are looking at the school.

Mr. LEWIS: This amendment also provides for the direction to a particular school of those children who do not attend a Government school during the year they complete their primary education or who, immediately prior to commencing secondary education, change their place of residence.

It is physically impossible for the welfare branch of the Education Department to conduct all of its own prosecutions for breaches of the provisions of the Act without considerably increasing the size of the establishment. For the information of members who are not aware of the change of name, welfare officers are those who, in my day, were known as truant officers.

Prior to November, 1965, it had, therefore, been the practice to give all police officers in country areas a blanket authority to conduct these prosecutions on behalf of the welfare branch of the department. However, this practice came to an end when a magistrate questioned the validity of the arrangement and requested that specific authority by the Minister be produced in court by each separate prosecuting officer. This procedure is inconvenient and cumbersome and can result in unnecessary delays.

It has been amply demonstrated in the past that members of the Police Force are well able to handle these cases and it is now proposed to give an overall authority

to all police officers to conduct welfare cases on behalf of the department.

Parents and citizens' associations are not very clear how far they can go in providing amenities for their schools. The objects of an association are set out in the Act and are as follows:—

To promote the interests of the Government school or group of Government schools in relation to which it is formed by endeavouring to bring about closer co-operation between parents or guardians of the pupils attending the school or the group, other citizens, the teachers at the school or the group, and those pupils, and generally endeavouring to foster community interest in educational matters.

The connection between these objects and the provision of major structural works in school grounds is at best tenuous. It is therefore proposed to add to these objectives the provision of facilities and amenities, including buildings, swimming pools, and any other type of recreational or educational facilities and amenities. I need hardly add that these facilities are already being provided by the associations, and this is merely regularising their activities.

Last year, consequent on submissions from the Teachers Union, the Government agreed that all teachers' salaries be reviewed at intervals of not more than three years. This had indeed been the practice for some considerable time, but prior to this the Government had never bound itself to the three-yearly period. The Act provides that reclassification should be made at least once in every five years. It is proposed to amend the relevant section to bring it into line with the undertaking given by the Government; that is, reclassification at intervals of not more than three years.

The amendment to the Education Act setting up the Teachers' Tribunal was proclaimed on the 17th April, 1961. Its members were appointed for a three-year term as from that date. This means, of course, that the future elections for the representative and deputy representative of the union on the tribunal fall due triennially on the 17th April. This is an inconvenient date for the union and it has requested that it be altered to the 7th May. There appears to be no objection to such a change and it has therefore been provided for in this Bill.

Mr. Davies: What is the reason?

Mr. LEWIS: I referred earlier to the triennial reclassification of the teaching service. This is made in the form of a salary determination by the Minister and in the past has been subject to appeal to the Teachers' Tribunal. However, there is some doubt as to the validity of this arrangement.

The Teachers' Tribunal has jurisdiction to hear and determine an appeal by a teacher, or the union, or a matter referred to it by the Minister concerning any decision involving the interpretation or application of any Act or regulation governing the service of a teacher or group of teachers. The Minister's salary determination is neither an Act nor a regulation and is not specifically referred to in the legislation. The relevant section will be amended to allow an appeal against the Minister's salary determination.

Another small matter which requires clarification is that dealing with the payment of expenses to the appellant and respondent in the case of promotional appeals.

One part of a section of the Act provides for the tribunal to recommend payment of these expenses to both parties but another subsection of the same section, which authorises the Minister to pay them, refers only to the appellant. This obviously is an oversight and should be rectified.

The final amendment in the Bill provides for the substitution of the equivalent decimal currency value for the pounds, shillings and pence money terms.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. W. Hegney.

FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. O'NEIL (East Melville—Minister for Housing) [7.49 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This is not a large Bill. It provides for just four necessary amendments to the existing Act. These are—

- (1) To give power to control the commercial exploitation of seaweeds.
- (2) To rectify an omission from last year's amendments relating to containers or receptacles in which undersized fish or underweight crayfish tails are found.
- (3) To exclude from the higher penalties laid down for processing establishments dealing with undersized crayfish, boats not licensed as processing establishments.
- (4) To permit the payment of license fees for processing establishments by two half-yearly moieties instead of one lump-sum annual payment.

These may be briefly explained as follows: With regard to (1), a number of inquiries have recently been made to the Department of Fisheries and Fauna in relation to the availability of edible seaweeds. Some of the inquirers appear to be anxious to engage in their commercial exploitation, but as the law now stands they are completely uncontrolled. Marine algae, as seaweeds are officially known, are of course not fish, but as the Department

of Fisheries and Fauna is responsible for all other marine products it is considered desirable that the exploitation of marine algae be placed under the jurisdiction of the Minister controlling that department. If the proposed amendments are carried, the licensing powers already in force in relation to fish—that is, fish as defined in the Act—and the power to close beds and to impose close seasons, when necessary, will apply also to seaweeds.

The uncontrolled harvesting of seaweeds could do considerable damage to the habitat of many fishes, including crayfish. In fact, the destruction of the habitat of any living organism could result in the loss of that organism for all time.

With regard to item (2), when the Act was amended last year to provide heavier penalties for offences against the crayfish conservation laws, a clause in the parent Act imposing penalties for having undersized fish or underweight crayfish tails in containers or receptacles was inadvertently omitted. A clause in this Bill seeks to rectify the omission.

With regard to item (3), section 24D of the existing Act provides much heavier penalties for licensees of processing establishments—including freezer boats—convicted of offences relating to undersized crayfish, underweight crayfish tails, and "berried" or "brushed" crayfish than those imposable on ordinary fishermen. However, there is some lack of clarity as to what constitutes freezer boats, and this Bill is designed to amend the section in question to put the issue beyond doubt.

With regard to item (4), last year the Fisheries Act was amended to provide for the licensing of fish processing establishments, the resultant fees to be placed in a special account at the Treasury to be expended only on research, exploration, development, and fisheries extension services. The amendment provided for the payment of license fees annually, but in some cases this is proving a hardship, and the Bill seeks to allow the fees to be paid in half-yearly moieties. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Norton.

COMPANIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Transport) [7.55 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill to amend the Companies Act is in pursuance of the scheme for uniformity of company law. All of the changes to be effected by the Bill have been approved by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General as being suitable for submission for enactment and there is no change now to be made that has not already been enacted in at least one of the other States.

Members will, perhaps, notice that the Bill purports to amend the Companies Act, 1961-65, whereas they may not remember the passing of any Bill amending the Companies Act in the year 1965. The explanation is that in that year, the Companies Act was slightly amended and so re-entitled the Companies Act, 1961-65, by the Decimal Currency Act, 1965.

I trust that members will not be dismayed by the apparent size of the Bill. The great bulk of it is devoted to the repeal and re-enactment of part IX, the part relating to official management.

Part IX, when originally brought in, was novel legislation in that it dealt with a new concept in company law, to wit official management. The original provisions have been observed in operation throughout the Commonwealth and have here been revised in the light of that observation and following the receipt by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General of comment by accountants, lawyers, and the commercial community, generally, on the terms of a proposed draft for the new part, which draft was circulated fairly widely in the Commonwealth.

Apart from the new part relating to official management, the Bill covers the following matters—

- (a) It will enable any partnership carrying on a profession or calling declared by proclamation to be a profession or calling not customarily carried on in the Commonwealth by a company, to have as many as fifty partners.
- (b) Amendment is made so as to ensure that a grant by a company administering a home unit scheme to any of its shareholders of the right to occupy or use a home unit, being part of a property owned or held on lease by the company, does not amount to an unlawful return of capital to the shareholder or a reduction of capital of the company if the grant is in pursuance of or authorised by the memorandum or articles of the company. This provision is to have retrospective effect.
- (c) To give elasticity and promote economy where a borrowing or guarantor corporation is required to ascertain the value of its stock in trade for the purpose of making up the intermediate six months' accounts required by section 74F of the Act, the value of stock is to be permitted to be estimated by the directors of the corporation, unless the trustee for the debenture holders otherwise requires.
- (d) The Registrar of Companies is to be empowered to refuse to register a prospectus of any local company, or of any other company incorporated outside the Common-

wealth, if in his opinion the prospectus contains a statement of matter that, in the form or context in which it is included, is misleading.

- (e) The regulation-making powers are to be extended—
 - (i) in relation to the form, signing and verification of documents to be lodged with the Registrar; and
 - (ii) to provide rules for the calling and conduct of, and proxies at, meetings of creditors or debenture holders and similarly for joint meetings of creditors and shareholders.
- (f) It will simplify the rate of charge by the registrar for copies of registered documents. This amounts only to the substitution of a rate per page for the former folio rate with provision for a reasonable charge for the supply of uncertified photographic copies.
- (g) With the object of providing additional funds to be applied indirectly towards the establishment of an Investigational Section in the Companies Registration Office, it is proposed that the fee on company annual returns be increased by \$2.
- (h) The Bill also contains other provisions of a machinery or consequential nature.

I commend the Bill to members.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Toms.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. O'NEIL (East Melville—Minister for Labour) [8 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The main purpose of this Bill is to extend the compensation provisions in the Workers' Compensation Act to bring them more into line with those now operating in other States. Members will appreciate that in the interests of injured workers and their dependants, it is necessary to review payment scales from time to time.

As the Bill provides for the substitution of amounts of money by reference to them in decimal currency, it is recommended that members go through the Act as it stands at present and change every monetary reference to decimal currency before attempting to read in the provisions of the Bill. The attention of members is also drawn to the fact that whilst reference is made to payments as now stated in the Act, these payments have been subject to alteration by virtue of section 4(5) of the Act, which makes pro-

vision for variation in payments where adjustments to the male basic wage aggregate $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. For example, whilst the maximum payment for permanent total incapacity is shown in the Act to be £3,500, or \$7,000, this amount is now \$7,482. The principal figures were quoted by me today in answer to a question asked in the House.

Like variations apply to other payments, allowances, and benefits under the Act. However, in giving examples I shall, to obviate confusion, refer to the amounts stated in the present Act.

In the first schedule the Act provides for a maximum payment of \$7,000 to be made for death or total disablement resulting from an injury. It is proposed to increase this amount to \$10,000. Where a worker dies and leaves dependent children under the age of 16 years, the amount payable for each dependent child will be increased from \$200 to \$220. Where weekly payments are made during incapacity, \$24 for males and \$18 for females will be payable where weekly earnings at the date of accident were not less than the basic wage. Maximum weekly payments including payment for dependants will be increased from \$24.80 for males and \$18 for females to \$36 in each case.

General and hospital expenses will be increased from \$1,350 to \$1,500 and funeral expenses from \$100 to \$150. At the same time, the compartments which now exist limiting general medical expenses to \$500 and hospital expenses to \$850 will be removed to allow greater flexibility in respect of these classes of compensation payments.

In the case of partial incapacity, the Act at present prescribes a weekly payment not exceeding two-thirds of the difference between pre- and post-accident earnings. The amendment proposes to delete the reference to two-thirds of the difference in earnings and to pay the difference between pre- and post-accident earnings, subject, of course, to the maximum amounts payable, and with the further concession that where the board is satisfied the worker partially disabled has made reasonable endeavours to find suitable employment and failed he may be regarded for such period to be totally incapacitated.

The first schedule to the Act at present makes provision for the case where a worker in receipt of weekly payments dies from causes unconnected with the claim, by allowing his dependants to receive the lump sum that would have been payable to the worker had he lived. Cases have occurred where the worker dies prior to his receipt of weekly payments, although his entitlement has accrued. The Workers' Compensation Board has been allowing these claims by dependants, although entertaining doubts in the matter. A provision has now been included to cover

claims by dependants where the worker's right to weekly payments has existed for six months, although payments have not been made during that period.

The proposed amendments incorporate an alteration in principle inasmuch as the difference in maximum payments between total and partial incapacity is removed. At present payments for partial incapacity are limited to a percentage of the amount paid for total incapacity.

The second schedule to the Act fixes maxima for specified injuries. As it is proposed to increase the absolute maximum payment for death or total disablement from \$7,000 to \$10,000 it follows that the maxima for specified injuries should be adjusted proportionately. Second schedule payments have always been in proportion to first schedule payments. For example, the ratio was maintained in 1964 when the absolute maximum was increased from £2,400 to £3,500.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. W. Hegney.

STRATA TITLES BILL

Second Reading

MR. O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Transport) [8.8 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

A similar Bill with the same title as this was introduced into the Legislative Council last session on the 9th November, 1965, and then allowed to lie in order that everybody interested in the subject and affected by the provisions contained in the measure would have ample opportunity of studying its contents. This course was adopted for the reason that this type of legislation is entirely new to this State, though, indeed, legislation of a similar nature, and upon which this measure is based, has been operating in New South Wales for some years and, more recently, in Queensland.

As, at the time, the provisions of the Bill were not explained in this Chamber, it was considered desirable this session to introduce it first into the Legislative Assembly. During the period which has elapsed since the initial Bill became available to the public, representations have been made by both the Law Society and the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia regarding certain aspects. Discussion has taken place as between interested parties and Crown Law officers and, as a consequence, it is understood that some objections which were raised were withdrawn when the application of the clauses involved was explained by the draftsman.

The measure was drafted in collaboration with the Commissioner of Titles, the Town Planner (Mr. Lloyd), the Secretary for Local Government (Mr. Paust), and officers of the Crown Law Department; and, before explaining its main provisions,

it would be desirable, I think, if I were to relate something of the facts in respect of unit ownership as we know it in this State and the difficulties which have been encountered in the matter of establishing satisfactory titles of ownership.

It may be conceded, I think, that unit ownership was introduced into this State in the main through the purchase of old, and quite often substandard, buildings on a single stratum with the joint purchasers arranging amongst themselves that each would own a separate room or rooms. Gradually, this has developed into a system of people owning their own flats on different strata levels. The idea has obviously gained ground and popularity, and this is evidenced by the number of substantial buildings comprising home units.

There have been two methods commonly used here to achieve unit ownership. In the first place, tenancy in common gives in law an undivided interest in the whole land but, by agreement with co-owners, results in each tenant having the right to the free and exclusive use and possession of portion of the building on the land with obligations to other owners as regards rates, repairs, and contingencies, yet permitting enjoyment of certain portion of the land and buildings thereon in common with other occupiers.

The second method comprises ownership as the owner of certain specified shares in a home unit company. This ownership carries with it the right to occupy exclusively particular parts of a building, while also benefiting from the use of other parts in common with other occupiers.

Some disadvantages are apparent under either approach. A scheme based on tenancy in common can be frustrated through one of the owners selling his share to a purchaser without obtaining from him an agreement in terms similar to those of the agreement originally executed with the other owners. In this respect, it is important to remember that the agreement cannot be registered nor—unless it provides for release—can it be protected by *caveat* and, therefore, there is no practical method of ensuring that incoming co-proprietors will adhere to its terms. These difficulties have become particularly apparent where the share is transmitted under a will or on intestacy. For instance, banks and other lending bodies do not regard the interest of a tenant in common as an attractive security.

Now, as regards home unit companies, courts will not recognise the shareholder as owner of his flat or unit. He is unable, therefore, to pursue the normal legal remedies of a landowner such as trespass, ejectment, and so on. His rights to his flat or unit are contractual and not proprietary and may be varied against his will by alteration to the articles of asso-

ciation. Lending bodies are averse to lending money on the security offered. Indeed, it is an expensive way of achieving ownership of a flat or unit; and there is the further point that the owner cannot claim tax deductions for rates and taxes in respect thereof.

I made earlier reference to legislative action taken by other States with a view to overcoming these disabilities. As we regard the New South Wales legislation as providing the most acceptable scheme for operation in this State, the laws contained in this measure are modelled in the main on the New South Wales Act. Numerous strata titles have been issued there and huge amounts of money have been advanced by banks and finance houses thereon. In introducing this measure, the Government is supported by several responsible bodies; namely, the City of Fremantle, the Law Society of W.A., the R.S.L., and others that have urged the introduction of the legislation for very good reasons. Firstly, high land values in city and inner suburban areas require the maximum utilisation of a site.

Secondly, there is a demand for higher density living in such areas. Thirdly, there is a demand for separate and exclusive occupation of flats or homes on an ownership basis which facilitates acquisition of interest, the securing of finance, and the disposal of the interest; and it also gives security of tenure.

Fourthly, the present law is unsatisfactory for reasons already stated and also because agreement with purchasers and subpurchasers are often not executed at all or are lost; and section 20 of the Town Planning Act is a stumbling block. It has occurred in this connection that people, particularly elderly folk, have bought home units in ignorance of all the liabilities and frustrations which they are likely to, or may, encounter. Often the scheme as prepared is unsatisfactory and does not provide for important contingencies, or the building may have major defects which become apparent before long.

Fifthly, the system of unit ownership has come to stay, but it is at present most defective and should be improved and regulated by law as soon as possible. The Government is further encouraged by the system of unit ownership being recognised by legislation overseas and in most other States; and, as the present position in this State is quite unsatisfactory to buyers, the situation should not be allowed to continue unchecked.

As its title implies, the Bill has as its basis the registration of a strata plan. The strata plan is clearly defined, and there is provision for defining the land contained in the parcel of which it is comprised. The plan must set out the separate lots contained in the building and define the boundaries of each lot by reference to floor,

walls, and ceilings, and the approximate floor area of each lot.

The strata plan will also have annexed to it a schedule specifying the unit entitlement of each lot. "Unit entitlement" is defined in respect of a lot as meaning the unit entitlement of that lot specified or apportioned in accordance with the provision of the appropriate clause.

Under this clause, every plan lodged for registration as a strata plan will have an endorsement on it specifying in whole numbers the unit entitlement of each lot and a number equal to the aggregate unit entitlements of all the lots. The endorsed entitlement determines, firstly, the voting rights of a proprietor; secondly, the quantum of the undivided share of each proprietor in the common property; and, thirdly, the proportion payable by each proprietor of contributions levied for the establishment of a fund to meet administrative expenses.

The success of a home unit proposition in its management and administration depends so much upon clearly defined unit entitlement that it is considered this important factor—the holding of a satisfactory certificate of title—should be endorsed directly on the title itself.

The schedule of the strata plan also will specify the aggregate unit entitlement of all lots, and this unit entitlement will determine the voting rights of proprietors, the quantum of the proprietors' shares in the common property, and the proportion payable by each proprietor of contributions towards the maintenance of the building.

"Common property" for the purpose of this Bill means so much of the land for the time being comprised in a strata plan as is not comprised in a lot shown in the plan, and covers such facilities as stairways, garden plots, and many appurtenances referred to in the schedule.

It is required that before the strata plan may be registered, it must have a certificate by a registered surveyor that the building shown on the plan is within the external boundaries of the parcel, and a certificate of compliance under the Local Government Act of 1960, together with a certificate under the hand of the Chairman of the Town Planning Board that the proposed subdivision of the parcel shown in the plan has been approved by the board. There is a right of appeal upon refusal by the local authority or the Town Planning Board to direct the issue of a certificate.

When the strata plan is registered under this measure, a memorial shall be entered on the certificate of title relating to the parcel, and this will enable the Registrar of Titles to issue a separate certificate of title for each lot, together with the share of the common property appurtenant to it. But no share in the common property may be disposed of except as an appurtenant to the lot of the proprietor.

Upon the registration of a strata plan, the proprietors become a body corporate known as the company, but are not subject to the Companies Act of 1961. The company may make by-laws for its corporate affairs and for the control, management, use and enjoyment of the lots, the common property, and the parcel. Until such by-laws are made, the by-laws set out in the schedule to the Bill will regulate the rights between the company and the proprietors, and between the proprietors themselves.

The powers and duties of the body corporate are exercised and performed by a council of the body corporate. The council will consist of not less than three nor more than seven proprietors of lots, elected at each annual general meeting of the body corporate. The body corporate will have defined powers including that of establishing a fund for administrative expenses sufficient for the control, management and administration of the common property, and for the payment of any premiums of insurance, and for the discharge of any other obligations of the body corporate. For this purpose, the body corporate is empowered to determine from time to time the amounts to be raised from the lot owners, and the contributions to be levied on individual lot owners to meet these expenses.

This system, which has been called the "company method," makes full provision for all normal procedures adopted in existing home unit undertakings without any of the initial expense involved in forming a company.

To protect minority voters, the Bill permits application to the Supreme Court for the appointment of an administrator to safeguard against irregularities or neglect on the part of the body corporate. There is provision for the court, when satisfied that there is no person able to vote in respect of a particular lot, to appoint the Public Trustee, or some other person, for the purpose of exercising such powers of voting. The necessity for this could occur with a unit being vacant in a block when its owner had died and his affairs were being wound up.

The position of mortgagees has also been closely considered to ensure that the security afforded by a home unit title is adequate for its purposes. Thus, special provisions are directed to the destruction or partial destruction of the building, and it will be readily appreciated that the question of insurance is of much consequence in this regard.

Members will notice that valuation and rating aspects form an important part of this measure. It will be apparent that the proprietor of each lot comprised in the parcel is deemed to be the owner in fee simple in possession of the lot, as if it were a separate parcel of land having a value equal to that apportioned to it in proportion to the unit entitlement.

Similar provisions exist as regards the apportionment of land tax, for under this Bill a reference in the Land Tax Assessment Act of 1907 to an owner includes a proprietor of a lot.

In commending this Bill to members, I would emphasise that there is a growing demand for this type of legislation in this State. In saying that, I do not wish to appear to be unmindful of the fact that the subject matter of this type of legislation is not easy of solution. Lack of trained staff to implement it is a major consideration.

Defects and difficulties under the legislation, if it is passed, will surely arise, but the system of unit ownership, nevertheless, continues to enjoy a great deal of support throughout many sections of the community; and the problems associated with providing the means of buyers procuring a satisfactory title must be faced.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Jamieson.

JUDGES' SALARIES AND PENSIONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Transport) 18.25 p.m.): I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

From time to time, the Government of the day makes adjustments to the salaries payable to the judges in this State to bring them more into line with the amounts payable in other States.

An amendment of a similar nature was brought to the House in 1964. Under that amendment, a uniform increase of \$1,200 per annum for all judges was provided, bringing the salary of the Chief Justice to \$14,000 per annum, and that payable to the Senior Puisne Judge to \$12,700, and increasing the puisne judges' salaries to \$12,400 per annum.

Until these amended salaries became effective, the Chief Justices in Tasmania and Western Australia were paid a salary equivalent to \$12,800 per annum, and they were the lowest in Australia.

Mr. Graham: You mean the lowest in salary?

MR. O'CONNOR: The lowest in Australia.

Mr. Graham: In salary?

MR. O'CONNOR: Yes. The 1964 decision was based on the rates of salary being paid to the Chief Justices of Queensland and South Australia; namely, \$14,000 per annum in each of those States. When the member for Balcatta interjected I thought he was referring to the expenses that are paid, or to something of that nature.

Mr. Graham: I thought you were saying that our judges were the lowest in Australia, and that was why I wanted you to make the position clear.

MR. O'CONNOR: The average of the salaries payable in the other States at present is \$16,000 to the Chief Justice, and \$14,460 to the puisne judges. This Bill proposes to raise the salary of the Chief Justice of Western Australia by \$1,400 to \$15,400, the salary of the Senior Puisne Judge by \$1,300 to \$14,000, and the salaries of the puisne judges by \$1,200 to \$13,600 per annum.

These new salaries will compare with \$14,000 per annum being paid to the Chief Justice in Tasmania, \$15,000 per annum in Queensland and \$15,200 per annum in South Australia—in the smaller States.

By comparison, the Chief Justice in Victoria is paid \$18,300, which includes an expense allowance of \$1,000; the amount in New South Wales is \$19,300, including an \$800 expense allowance; and the Chief Justice of the High Court receives \$24,000 per annum.

It will be appreciated, therefore, that in this State we now, as in the past, endeavour to assess an equitable figure in relation to that paid in the financially smaller States, and this measure will bridge the gap at present existing.

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

JUDGES' SALARIES AND PENSIONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Message: Appropriations

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

House adjourned at 8.28 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 22nd September, 1966

CONTENTS

	Page
ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL	1025
ASSENT TO BILL	1005
BILLS—	
Bills of Sale Act Amendment Bill—Returned	1010
Bread Act Amendment Bill—	
2r.	1012
Com.; Report	1018
Eastern Goldfields Transport Board Act Amendment Bill—	
2r.	1006
Com.; Report	1007
Grain Pool Act Amendment Bill—Assent	1005
Hotel Proprietors Bill—2r.	1023
State Electricity Commission Act Amendment Bill—	
2r.	1018
Com.; Report	1023
Stock Diseases Act Amendment Bill—	
2r.	1010
Com.; Report	1012
Totallisator Agency Board Betting Act Amendment Bill—2r.	1007
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—	
Crosswalks—	
Preston Point Road-Canning Highway: Reduction of Traffic Hazard	1005
Sodium Lighting: Cost	1006
Goldmining—Prospectors: Number, and Gold Recovered	1005
Houses at Mt. Pleasant—Damage by Sand Trucks: Road Tests by Grubb-Parsons Vibration Meter	1005
Superphosphate—Trace Elements: Correct Mixture	1006