

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 1 September 1988

THE SPEAKER (Mr Barnett) took the Chair at 10.45 am, and read prayers.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

Football - West Coast Eagles

On motion without notice by Mr Peter Dowding (Premier), resolved with an absolute majority -

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the Premier from moving a motion congratulating the West Coast Eagles.

MOTION

Football - West Coast Eagles

MR PETER DOWDING (Maylands - Premier) [10.48 am]: I move -

That this House wish the West Coast Eagles great success in their historic first appearance by a Western Australian Football team in the finals of the VFL competition and congratulate them on their fine performance as ambassadors for Western Australian sport.

I am sure that I speak for everyone when I say that it has been a very hard road for the West Coast Eagles entering the VFL. The experiment has been an extraordinary one but for the players it has imposed very real difficulties, and for the team to have achieved so much in this time is remarkable. This weekend will be one closely watched by all Western Australians. I hope that we will be able to convey unanimous support of this motion to the Eagles indicating that politicians, if they ever have the opportunity, do think about things that occur outside this Parliament and want to do something very positive for Western Australia.

MR MacKINNON (Murdoch - Leader of the Opposition) [10.50 am]: The Opposition has pleasure in supporting this motion. We are very pleased to see the West Coast Eagles succeeding on the football field in such a short time. I join with the Premier and all Western Australians in wishing our boys all the very best in Victoria. I extend to Ross Glendinning and the team my congratulations, not only on their achievements in reaching the finals in Victoria but also on the way they have conducted themselves on and off the field this year. The Eagles are leaders in their field and many young people look up to them - my sons included. The players have tremendous responsibility, as do members of Parliament, to set a standard and an example. Ross Glendinning is a fine example of what Australian rules football is all about, as is the team he leads. To John Todd, the coach, Ross Glendinning, and all players, the Opposition extends its best wishes.

We look forward to Parliament's recognition of Subiaco's victory in the local grand final in a few weeks. I am sure Subiaco will achieve the same level of success as the Eagles; bearing in mind that the Eagles are being led by many fine footballers from Subiaco.

MR COWAN (Merredin - Leader of the National Party) [10.52 am]: The National Party joins with the Government and the Opposition in supporting this motion, and wishes the West Coast Eagles success in the final round game to be played in Victoria. There is no question that the history of the West Coast Eagles, brief as it is, has been very good indeed. It will be interesting to see what effect the addition of a reserve side has on the Eagles next year. My prediction is that they will become so strong that, notwithstanding what happens this weekend, the Eagles will be a permanent fixture when it comes to final round games in the expanded Victorian Football League competition. Within two or three years I am confident we will see the VFL hierarchy forcing the Western Australian team in the VFL competition to split again, and we will have two sides, one representing the Fremantle area and one representing the Perth area.

I wish the Eagles every success. Football is a wonderful sport. Those people who have played football can recount their victories time and time again; those who have not will never understand the meaning of the term, "That person is not much good because he hears

footsteps." Anyone who understands that has played football. It is a wonderful team sport. I certainly owe it a lot and I hope that the West Coast Eagles perform as well as all their supporters would like them to, and continue on their march towards a VFL grand final.

Question put and passed.

PETITION

Roads - Orange Route

MR TROY (Mundaring - Minister for Labour) [10.50 am]: I have a petition which reads as follows -

The Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, are totally opposed to the construction of the Orange Route through Gidgegannup, Wooroloo and Wundowie, as defined in the Eastern Corridor Major Road Study dated February 1988.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 438 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The **SPEAKER**: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

[See petition No 60.]

LIQUOR LICENSING BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mrs Beggs (Minister for Racing and Gaming), and read a first time.

ACTS AMENDMENT AND REPEAL (FAIR TRADING) BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 31 August.

MR WATT (Albany) [10.57 am]: I am pleased to indicate at the outset that the Opposition is happy to support this Bill. When the Fair Trading Bill was introduced into the House last year it was indicated that a number of other Acts of Parliament had to be repealed before the Bill could be put into practice. One of the things that this Bill does is repeal those Acts. They are the Clothes and Fabrics (Labelling and Sales) Act, the Pyramid Sales Schemes Act, the Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Act, the Unsolicited Goods and Services Act, and part 8 of the Factories and Shops Act.

One of the reasons for some urgency about this Bill is that until these Acts are repealed it is not possible to proclaim the Fair Trading Act. There is great urgency about that, because of the reappearance of the Golden Aeroplan game. Most of us thought and, indeed, hoped that the Golden Aeroplan game had gone away. Many will recall that in late 1987 the game was bobbing up in most of the metropolitan area with some regularity. Indeed, I found myself in a somewhat invidious position towards the end of 1987 when it had seemed to disappear because the police and the Department of Consumer Affairs had been fairly effective in identifying some of the people playing the game and, probably using largely bluff, had managed to put the lid on the game for a while. At the time I went public and said that the game was being played again and was asked by people to provide details of how I knew. I was not able to do that because of the way the information had been given to me. However, I explained that to Mr Dick Fletcher confidentially and I am sure he understood the invidious position I was in.

It has not just flared up in the metropolitan area; it is being played in the Pilbara, the goldfields and in the region where I live. It is being played in Mt Barker and people from Albany have also been involved in playing it. The thing that bothers me most about this game is that it involves many people who should not be participating in that sort of activity, apart from the legal angles of it. The only people who should gamble are those who can afford to lose and those who are prepared to lose. I do not fall into either category and nor

do many people who play the game. Somehow, the gambling instinct gets hold of people and they talk themselves into thinking that they cannot lose. I am sure that we have all heard sorry tales. We have heard of people who have lost money that has been set aside to be used for legitimate family business, including mortgage payments. There seems to be a touch of irony in the whole thing because those who win seem to be those who have plenty of money.

I am more than pleased to participate in any action that will assist in stamping out this game. Obviously people will attempt to play it illegally and I hope they feel the full force of the law. I think it is important that everybody understands that not only will the promoters of the game be outlawed by this legislation, but also participants in the game will be outlawed. I hope the public is made aware quickly that they will offend against the law if they play the game. Financial penalties under this legislation have been increased. There is no doubt that any penalty should be a meaningful one.

The Opposition welcomes the opportunity to support this legislation which will be proclaimed with some haste to help stamp out this evil game.

MRS BUCHANAN (Pilbara) [11.05 am]: I also take this opportunity to support the Acts Amendment (Fair Trading) Bill which tidies up the parent Act and makes changes to outlaw the Golden Aeroplane game. Although referred to as a game, it is an out and out rort. It is a dreadful con trick to rip off the people of Western Australia. People in the Pilbara have been ripped off to the tune of a thousand dollars a ticket which is a substantial amount of money, particularly as most people at the end of the line who join the game lose their money. In recent weeks the game has been flourishing in the Pilbara and Kimberley. I have received many complaints through my electorate office from people who have been caught by this so called game. I welcome the speed with which this legislation has been introduced because it has spread so quickly. It is essential to stop it as soon as possible.

Some of the ways that the game has spread throughout the north are very disturbing. I am concerned about two things: The first is that people have been coerced into joining to the point of being almost harassed. In small towns in the north west, eventually the game is bound to have an adverse social effect because the participants in the game in most cases, are well known to each other. Ill will between people is certainly a result of the game being played in my electorate. The police are concerned that violence may occur between players.

I and my colleagues who represent the North Province are concerned that the game has been introduced to high school students in Port Hedland. I understand that students in Karratha have also been encouraged to play the game. Students are encouraged to form syndicates and take part shares in a ticket on the plane. It is dreadful that they are being encouraged to play the game and those who are encouraging them should be thoroughly ashamed of themselves.

The second notable aspect of this game are the organisers who I am not prepared to name in the House. Prominent Liberal Party members in the north west, particularly in Karratha and Port Hedland, have been heavily involved in its organisation.

Mr Greig: That is a pretty serious allegation.

Mrs BUCHANAN: It is true.

Mr Watt: Why do you have to politicise everything?

Mr Greig: What about members of the Labor Party?

Mrs BUCHANAN: None of the organisers has been a member of the Labor Party. I am talking about individuals and not suggesting that the Liberal Party is involved in the game. It is interesting to note that the sorts of people who espouse Liberal policies have no hesitation in ripping thousands of dollars off people.

Mr Greig: That is a disgraceful allegation.

Mrs BUCHANAN: Would the member like me to name them? The member would not be silly enough to make me do that.

Mr Greig: Go on?

Mrs BUCHANAN: I can hardly believe my ears that the member would ask me to name members of his party who have been involved in the game.

Mr WATT: Have you reported them to the police?

Mrs BUCHANAN: As the member knows, the game is not illegal. Little can be done until this Bill is proclaimed. I have no doubt that Labor Party supporters have played the game. However, the main organisers of the game in my electorate are prominent supporters of the Liberal Party. Opposition members who check with their people up there will find that it is true.

The penalty of an amount up to \$20 000 for involvement in this activity is appropriately tough and will be a deterrent. There has been a lot of publicity and a lot of public debate surrounding the game in the north. I believe, therefore, that people have had adequate warning that the game is about to be outlawed. It is important that this Bill is proclaimed as quickly as possible to prevent the game being played any more. I congratulate the Minister in the other place for his prompt action on this matter and will be pleased to see an end put to this con trick that has taken over the north west recently.

I am therefore pleased to support the Bill.

MR COWAN (Merredin - Leader of the National Party) [11.10 am]: As members have said the purpose of this legislation is to provide some legislative teeth to deal with those people who initiate the Golden Aeroplane game. Naturally, the National Party supports this move by the Government. The people who become involved in this type of confidence trick are despicable and they should face the consequences of any law which outlaws such a game. As I said, there is no question that the National Party supports this Bill.

MR TAYLOR (Kalgoorlie - Minister for Police and Emergency Services) [11.11 am]: I thank members on both sides of the House for their support of this important legislation. I can also speak from my knowledge of my electorate of Kalgoorlie to advise members that in the last month or so the Golden Aeroplane game has taken off in Kalgoorlie. I am aware of some of the people involved in promoting the game and I believe they have taken unfair advantage of those people who believe the way to get rich is to get rich quickly and to take a gamble. People will certainly never be well off if they believe these games to be the answer to their visions of wealth and prosperity.

I was disturbed to hear the member for Pilbara say that high school students in her electorate have been encouraged to become involved in the game. It is cynical and disgraceful behaviour on the part of those people concerned to engage young children in this sort of activity. There is no doubt whatsoever that the only people who are winners in this game are those people who perhaps started it off. The overwhelming majority of people who believe that in the end they will be winners will lose their investment.

The nature of this Bill is to ensure that the Fair Trading Act provisions apply to this game and the way in which the Government has gone about doing that is to repeal the Pyramid Sales Schemes Act. It will effectively mean that the Fair Trading Act will be applicable. The problem was that the Pyramid Sales Schemes Act did not have sufficient power to ensure that people could be charged in relation to games of this type. There is no doubt in my mind that this Bill will now ensure those powers exist.

I repeat what the Minister for Consumer Affairs said in the other place; that is, those people who organise these games or participate in them should not do it. They should not only be prepared to lose their money, but also - when this legislation is proclaimed people will undoubtedly be fined - they should be prepared to receive a fine of up to \$20 000 if they participate in the game or any game like it. It is fair to protect those people in society who may not know better. It is fair to say to those people who are conned by others or who are doing the conning that this Parliament considers this game to be inappropriate and this legislation is in keeping with that point of view. I thank members on both sides of the House for their support of this legislation.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Taylor (Minister for Police and Emergency Services), and passed.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND EXPENDITURE REVIEW COMMITTEE*Report*

On motion by Mr D.L. Smith, resolved -

That the report of the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee on year-end spending be printed.

[See paper No 392.]

REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS AGENTS AMENDMENT BILL*Committee*

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr Thomas) in the Chair; Mr Taylor (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 3 put and passed.

Clause 4: Section 130 amended -

Mr LEWIS: As the Committee may recall in the second reading debate the Minister responsible for the Bill in this Chamber agreed that he would go back to the real estate industry and be assured of its concerns about the intent of this legislation, particularly in relation to the ability of the Consumer Affairs Department and the Real Estate Business Agents Advisory Board to take funds from the investment trust as set up in the principle Act.

I explained at the time, and notwithstanding the suggestion in the Minister's second reading speech that the industry had been consulted, that the industry had not been consulted and there was either a misunderstanding on behalf of the Minister or he was deliberately misleading the Parliament. I am gracious enough to accept that there may have been a misunderstanding on behalf of the Minister. I would like the Minister representing the Minister for Consumer Affairs in this place to explain the outcome of the discussions held with industry about this legislation.

Mr TAYLOR: During the debate on the second reading stage of this Bill a couple of weeks ago I said I was prepared, based on the comments made by the member for East Melville, to go back to the Minister and ask whether discussions had taken place with the Real Estate Institute. Those discussions have taken place. The point is that this legislation is the result of a request from the board; it did not come from the Minister or his department. The board wants this money put to better use than it is at the moment and that is the key to the exercise. It is not a political exercise, it is a matter of being sensible in the approach to this issue.

As I mentioned to the member for East Melville during debate on the second reading stage, the Minister had written to the Executive Director of REIWA pointing out the nature of the Bill and that he may have misunderstood his second reading speech. Following that letter the Minister has held discussions with REIWA and it is my understanding, from discussions I have had with the Minister, that REIWA is now quite happy with the legislation and recognises it as being appropriate. Its member on the board is a person who I know quite well and he is a very highly valued member of the real estate industry in Western Australia. I understand that he supports this legislation. The legislation is rational and very sensible and I hope the Opposition will support it.

Mr LEWIS: I accept what the Minister has said. However, the point must be made that if statements are made in second reading speeches that the Government has consulted with the industry, it is reasonable to assume that such discussions in fact have taken place. That requirement is upon Governments of all political persuasions. Unfortunately, there was a misunderstanding and the discussions did not take place. The question was properly put, the Minister properly recognised it and the legislation was withdrawn until the discussions were held. It is true that a letter was written in response to REIWA's letter three weeks or so after, but unfortunately it went out only on the afternoon the Bill was debated in the House, so at that time the industry had not received any response from the Government. Of course, it had some apprehensions and it was quite surprised that the Bill was being proceeded with at that time.

I accept what the Minister has said with respect to there being no political reason for the

amendments being made. The Bill gives the Minister the ability to allow appropriation of these funds. However, I draw to the Minister's attention the fact that in recent times the Government has published an excessive number of self laudatory glossy brochures proclaiming its great achievements. These glossy brochures and pamphlets are paid for by appropriation from various Government department votes. I am aware that the housing industry, the real estate industry and a couple of other industries have been approached recently with respect to producing a publication on how to buy a home. It was to have a foreword from the Premier. It is really nothing but another glossy brochure with the Government congratulating itself on what a great job it is doing. Such political propaganda should not be paid for from the votes of Government departments. I would be very upset if the cost of such publications is to be met by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs via the deposit trust of the Real Estate and Business Agents Supervisory Board. However, I accept the Minister's comment that it is not intended that these funds should be used in a political manner.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 5 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Taylor (Minister for Police and Emergency Services), and passed.

STATE ENGINEERING WORKS REPEAL BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 25 August.

MR COURT (Nedlands - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [11.25 am]: This legislation repeals the State Engineering Works Act of 1984 and makes allowances for what takes place with the assets and liabilities of that organisation. The Opposition intends to support the legislation, but I take the opportunity to outline some of the events that have taken place in the lead up to the present situation.

What has taken place with the State Engineering Works is a classic case of how not to privatise or wind up a Government business. The process that has taken place over the past five years has put many of the employees of the State Engineering Works under a great deal of stress and uncertainty. During the process of its trying to wind up the State Engineering Works, the Government has shown its commercial naivety. Towards the end of last year the process became a bit of a circus. One of the key players, the ringmaster behind the scenes, was Mr Kevin Edwards, whose name would be familiar to most members because he has been one of the Government's key financial strategists. He was involved in the working party established to handle the winding up of the State Engineering Works. The current Premier was also involved in this process, as were other Ministers. By August last year the Government found itself in a mess over its handling of the State Engineering Works. It is my intention today to go through chronologically the sequence of events leading to the current position. It reached the stage where the unions involved in the metal industry had had a gutful of the Government's activities. They were openly hostile to what was taking place. The private sector was threatening litigation because the Government was about to sell assets and some technology to which other people in the private sector thought they had a right. At one stage, the Government was quite misleading by offering for tender certain assets which, according to two companies, it did not own.

While this debacle was taking place, the only Minister who did not seem to be taking a key role was the then Minister for Industry and Technology and Deputy Premier, who was remarkably silent on this issue. Important decisions were being made about the State's foundry industry. The Minister's department had carried out a comprehensive study on Western Australia's casting and forging industry, producing three volumes of reports. It had

established a Western Australian Foundry Council. Despite the level of Government involvement, the then Minister for Industry and Technology was not involved in the discussions that took place or in the closing of the State Engineering Works. The activities and role of that Minister in the industrial development field is a story in itself, but it is of particular concern that, when important decisions were being made about the future of our foundry industry and public debate was taking place, the Minister who should have been accepting responsibility for it was not to be seen. No direction was being given. The Government was allowing advisers to dictate the rules of the game. As I will point out shortly, they created an absolute disaster.

Mr Troy: Which Minister are you referring to?

Mr COURT: The then Deputy Premier, the Minister for Industry and Technology. Am I off the track?

Mr Troy: I will respond later, but you have some of your facts wrong.

Mr COURT: The former Deputy Premier used to answer my questions on what was taking place. The first Minister for Works and Services was Hon D.K. Dans and then the current Premier, Mr Dowding, became involved in the negotiations. The then Deputy Premier made a big play about his involvement in the foundry industry. A comprehensive study was carried out of the Western Australian casting and forging industry involving three volumes of reports. From that was established the Western Australian Foundry Council.

Mr Troy: They examined the position of the foundry industry in this State.

Mr COURT: He was the Minister responsible for the industry; however, when all the games took place during the winding up of the State Engineering Works, that Minister was not involved and would have nothing to do with it.

Mr Troy: You are wrong.

Mr COURT: The unions were running to the then Minister for Works and Services, the present Premier, trying to get satisfaction. I will run through those events in some detail, if the Minister for Works and Services wants me to. The people who were harmed most while this circus was carrying on were the employees, who for several years went through a period of not knowing what would happen to their jobs. Over the years the State Engineering Works has played an important role in this State's economy. At one time or another many businesses have used its services and we all know of the important role it played in making the castings for that great Australian yacht, *Australia II*. The workers were extremely proud of having cast a number of keels for *Australia II*. On that subject, it is an absolute scandal that this Government is allowing that yacht to be permanently placed in Sydney. Its permanent home should be in Fremantle.

Mr Troy: What is the relevance of that?

Mr COURT: I said that the people at the State Engineering Works did a great job casting the keels.

Mr Troy: So we should keep the State Engineering Works open just to cast keels for 12 metre yachts?

Mr COURT: I said the yacht should stay in Perth.

Mr Troy: It has nothing to do with the Bill.

Mr COURT: I agree that it has nothing to do with the Bill, but I wanted to make that point while on the subject of *Australia II*.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Dr Alexander): I ask the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to confine his remarks to the subject matter of the Bill.

Mr COURT: I will do so, but I am very angry that *Australia II* is going to Sydney. The State Engineering Works has played a key role in many industrial areas and over the years the staff have developed a number of skills. The Liberal Party Opposition took the view that the time had come for the State Engineering Works to be sold and for the Government to get out of that business. It was losing money, had a declining turnover, and was competing directly against people in the private sector. The Opposition was keen to stop that competition with the private sector and suggested the orderly disposal of its assets together with an assurance

that the skilled work force would be given employment. After a great deal of pressure, including sensible pressure from the union involved, the Government finally agreed to accept a purchaser for the main assets, who was also prepared to take over the skilled work force. That is a very important aspect.

In summary: In 1985, prior to the last election, the Government deferred plans to sell the State Engineering Works, and it also attacked the Liberal Party on its privatisation policy. The Government said that if the Liberal Party were elected to govern it would sell the State Engineering Works and its employees would be thrown out of their jobs. The Government made a great deal of political mileage at the time from the Opposition's responsible policy that the State Engineering Works should be sold in an orderly way with a guarantee of employment for the skilled work force. The works had lost \$1.25 million in that year on a declining turnover. The Government deliberately did not release a report which recommended that the State Engineering Works be sold. A Government business was competing against the private sector and its losses were being subsidised by the taxpayers. The employees did not know of the Government's plans to dispose of the works after the election. Before the election the Government had adopted scare tactics stating that the Liberal Party would sell off the plant, and the work force, although knowing that a report had been prepared recommending that the works be sold, did not know where they stood. After several years of uncertainty the pressure on the work force was quite strong. I spoke to a number of employees at the State Engineering Works, particularly last year when the circus was in full swing, and they were extremely concerned about the way the Government had been stringing them along. It was playing cheap political games using the employees as its pawns.

When the Government finally decided it would sell the State Engineering Works it initially proposed a joint venture at Midland. I shall run briefly through the scenario since 1986 when the then Premier made his announcement. In November 1986 Mr Burke announced moves to reorganise the foundry operations and he said the decision followed a long and extensive investigation of the operations of the State Engineering Works and Westrail facility at Midland. Mr Burke said the Government wanted a joint venture and it sought submissions by March 1987 on the basis of establishing a new foundry at Midland. On 11 December 1986 Mr Chris Will, describing himself as the coordinator of the Board of the State Engineering Works, wrote that a new foundry would be built at Midland incorporating the existing State Engineering Works foundry and pattern shop employees. That was done with the approval of the then Minister for Works and Services. A few days later the then Minister for Employment and Training, and Industrial Relations, and the Minister assisting the Minister for Public Sector Management, wrote to Mr Terry Cook, the State Secretary of the Australasian Society of Engineers, Moulders and Foundry Workers stating that the Premier had recently announced the Government's final decision on the future of the works.

That was in December 1986, but a lot of water flowed under the bridge before the Government decided who would buy the State Engineering Works. In February 1987 the Minister for Transport wrote to Mr Bob Wells, the State Secretary of the Australian Railways Union confirming the Government's announced intentions in respect of its involvement in the foundry industry and its decision regarding the Westrail foundry. The Minister confirmed the planned joint venture and the decision to locate the foundry at Midland. The Minister indicated that there were 18 expressions of interest in the joint venture and once again mentioned 17 February as the closing date. That day came and went, and the Government did not proceed with the joint venture timetable set out. Why did it not proceed? The Opposition believes that was because of the contents of a telex from a company called Warman International to the then Minister for Industrial Relations, Mr Dowding, on 31 July. That telex referred first to an article in *The West Australian* of that date indicating the likelihood of the Minister's accepting an offer from Bradford Kendall for the State Engineering Works' assets and technology.

Secondly, an agreement was reached between Warman International and the works in December 1986 regarding an exclusive licence to manufacture pump parts in hyperchrome technology. It was a new product and I am not fully au fait with it, but it was developed by the State Engineering Works as a part of its move into new technology fields in the foundry business. The telex went further referring to what is described as a formal memorandum of agreement on 13 February, four days before the date set for the joint venturers' submission to

reach the Government. The Government had already reached an agreement on a part of the technology which it was trying to sell off or encourage a joint venture with elsewhere. In the telex Warman warned that if the assets and the technology of the State Engineering Works were sold to another party it would probably have to take legal action to protect its rights. That telex raised concern about confidential drawings it had supplied under its agreement and it pointed out that the information was strictly confidential and it did not want it to become available to Bradford Kendall, a competitor, because if it were made available it would have to take legal action to protect itself.

The member for Clontarf asked question 1908 on 24 September which was in 10 parts. I will not read out all of those parts because it would take some time. It is interesting that the answers which were given have turned out to be incorrect and the then Minister for Works and Services was, in actual fact, misleading the Parliament. Question (1) was as follows -

Is it a fact that on 13 February this year the Government was involved in some form of memorandum of agreement with a company called Warman International in relation to the sale of the State Engineering Works technology called hyperchrome?

The answer was no, but in fact there was an agreement, as I have already pointed out. On 31 July *The West Australian* published an article under the heading, "\$1 million option for plant technology". The story said that the then Minister for Labour, Productivity and Employment, Mr Dowding, was due to announce a decision on the sale of the plant "today". The article went on to say that Mr Dowding was expected to opt for a submission from the Bradford Kendall foundry in South Fremantle to buy the hyperchrome technology. That announcement was never made and I believe that it was as a result of the telex from Warman threatening legal action if the Government proceeded down the track with Bradford Kendall. That makes one wonder what sort of Government we are dealing with when it makes an agreement with one company and five months later there are indications that another agreement with another company has taken place on precisely the same matter and in relation to the same assets.

I am giving this summary in chronological order so that the House has a better understanding of what took place in the circus of disposing of the State Engineering Works and its assets. It was on 17 July that the WADC indicated that the State Engineering Works would have to close in six months to be relocated. At the time it was explained that the State Engineering Works could have been relocated without any need for closure. We can believe only that the WADC was keen to do its part of the deal, which was to get hold of the land and sell it off as part of one of its real estate developments.

Other people were putting proposals as to what could take place with the State Engineering Works and on 30 July Wigmore made an official submission to the State Government for a joint venture, as the Government was asking for joint venturers, on the basis of a 51 per cent Wigmore and 49 per cent Government equity. I said previously that the Government was seeking a joint venture proposal and that proposal involved Wigmore purchasing the Chamberlain John Deere foundry for \$3.8 million. This deal guaranteed the continued employment of all existing staff at the State Engineering Works and all the staff of Chamberlain John Deere, the retention of the name of the State Engineering Works, honouring all existing contracts and no closure, even temporarily, of the operation. That proposal did not get very far either. One would have thought that the joint venture agreement as required by the Government was a good offer, but it did not get off the ground.

The company followed up its offer on 31 July and made an unconditional offer to buy up everything except the works laboratory equipment and the hyperchrome asset about which I was talking earlier. In short, Wigmore had offered a deal to relocate the foundry, to employ all the staff and continue with the name of the State Engineering Works, which seemed an attractive proposition. On 31 July there was a lot of action due to a media statement announcing the likely decision to sell assets and technology of the State Engineering Works to Bradford Kendall. The Minister had already copped a stiff telex from Warman International which had threatened legal action if he went ahead. He had also received the Wigmore's offer to buy everything except the research and the hyperchrome technology. Also, the Minister had to contend with the media release from the Metal Trades Federation saying that it strongly condemned the Burke Labor Government on the handling of the State Engineering Works and its possible sale to the Bradken group. There was a telex which the

media never received because the Government put the screws on the union to hush up the matter. The Metal Trades Federation was coming on strongly against the Government about the way in which it was handling the different proposals. So the saga continued.

On 6 August 1987 the firm of Arthur Young, Chartered Accountants, published the details of the Government's decision offering the State Engineering Works for sale by tender. They had an accompanying schedule which listed all the equipment and certain conditions relating both to the equipment and the continuity of employment for all the existing work force at the State Engineering Works. The date for the closure of tenders was fixed as Thursday, 13 August. Four tenders were submitted, one from Wigmores Tractors Pty Ltd, one from Bradken Consolidated Pty Ltd - that was the Bradford Kendall company to which I referred earlier - one from Warman International and one from Associated Resources Management Limited.

There was a lot of uncertainty and confusion in the Government ranks as it tried to decide who would take on the State Engineering Works. It seemed that the WADC and the Government were keen to sell it to Bradken. Bearing in mind the events of late July, when there were threats of legal action which would have caused problems with the sale, the whole exercise seemed to be nothing more than a charade because a deal appeared to have been struck with the Bradken group to buy the assets of the State Engineering Works. We are talking about the correspondence on 11 August covering this matter, and if the House wishes I can table the relevant correspondence.

We must remember that 11 August was two days before the tenders were going to close - the tenders that were put out by Arthur Young, where those four people had put in their notice. At about this time we had also the situation where we were coming up to a by-election in the South West Province. There was a move afoot for the State Engineering Works to be sold into the south west region, and the Minister for The South West became involved in this exercise. The question of who was going to buy the State Engineering Works became a bit of a political football, and while this game was taking place, the employees were still very uncertain about what was happening.

Mr Marlborough interjected.

Mr COURT: I think the member had better be careful about what he is saying about this because I am outlining what has taken place. We had at this stage the ludicrous situation where the Government had made two separate deals, about six months apart, with two rival companies for the sale of the same technology from the State Engineering Works. At the conclusion of the so-called evaluation of tenders, the decision went in favour of Bradford Kendall, but a document acknowledged the legal problems with Warman by recommending a royalty agreement with that company to resolve potential legal problems. The taxpayers should have known, as these negotiations were taking place, who was going to pay the royalty and how much it would be.

By 21 August 1987 the employees of the State Engineering Works had been waiting for some years to find out what the Government was going to do. They were aware of all the crazy negotiations that had taken place as the Government attempted to sell off the State Engineering Works. They thought they would conduct a survey among themselves to find out what they wanted to occur and what they saw as the best solution to the problem. Of the 46 people surveyed, 32 said the foundry and the technology should be sold separately, and 2 said no on that question; 26 people did not care which company got the technology, and 3 did care; 34 people opposed the sale of the foundry to Bradford Kendall, and no-one supported it; 34 people opposed the sale of the foundry to Associated Resources Management, and no-one supported it; 34 people said to sell the foundry to Wigmores, and no-one opposed it. That is just a small indication of what the feeling was among the work force at the time.

So we had the situation where the Government had a number of purchasers interested in buying the State Engineering Works. The Government had managed to deal with two different companies for the sale of the same technology. It had managed to enter into some of the deals before the expiry date for the receipt of submissions or tenders. The whole exercise was turning out to be an absolute debacle. It was a bungle, and it was typical of what we have come to expect of this Government in handling financial administration and these sorts of commercial decisions.

I said at the beginning of my comments that the Opposition believed the time was right for the State Engineering Works to be sold in an orderly manner. We wanted it sold with the guarantee that the skilled work force involved would be given positions with the companies that were going to take over the assets and the business which had been established. We did not support the way this Government strung it out for three years. The Government decided just before the last election to not do anything, and in a hypocritical and cynical way attacked the Liberal Party over its policy of privatisation. After the election, during 1986 and 1987, the Government went through this bungling exercise of trying to sell off the assets.

Mr Troy: Are you saying that during that period when it was under consideration, the foundry industry in Western Australia was not very fluid, with dramatic changes being undertaken right across the whole spectrum? You chose to ignore that, quite conveniently.

Mr COURT: That is irrelevant because one company, as I mentioned, put in a firm offer to the Government - which was unconditional - that it would buy it all and it would guarantee the jobs.

Mr Troy: But not on the conditions the Government wanted in order to ensure the State would be protected.

Mr COURT: As it turned out, the Government ended up accepting that proposal.

Mr Troy: Are you saying we should not have tried for a better deal in the first place?

Mr COURT: The Government ended up accepting that proposal, which the Minister just said was not good for the State. What a Minister!

Mr Troy: Do you not believe we should try for something better? You would have given it away to your mates. We know how you people operate.

Mr Cash: Do not talk about mates in Government, whatever you do. Your record is not too good.

Mr COURT: That is right. If the Minister would just listen, what I was trying to get across was that he tried to sell it off cheaply to some people, which was not going to help the employees involved. It was only because of the persistence of the Opposition and the metal trades people, who were absolutely appalled about the way the Government was handling this procedure -

Mr Troy: That is rubbish.

Mr COURT: Does the Minister want me to read out some of the telexes that have been sent, which are critical of what this Government has been doing? The Minister said that the industry was going through difficult times. That is right, but that did not stop someone putting in an offer for that business to be purchased. I will read out shortly some of the telexes and the correspondence, if the Minister wants to hear that, in relation to this matter.

The point I wanted to make is that the Government ended up accepting the proposition put to it by Wigmore. The Government finally saw reason and that a pretty good proposition had been put forward, where the employees were going to be guaranteed employment. That proposal was quite forward looking. They came up with a scheme to use the foundry facilities out at Chamberlain John Deere, and they were going to get contracts to actually manufacture parts for Caterpillar for sale both within Australia and for export purposes. It was the type of initiative that we needed so that instead of the whole exercise being a problem, it could be turned into an opportunity to develop that company into a more modern foundry operation, particularly through its close connections with Caterpillar - through Wigmore - and the fact that they themselves manufactured a lot of one-off equipment.

I will read from one of the telexes from the metal trades unions, which was addressed to "Hon P Dowding MLA, Minister for Industrial Relations and Works" -

Dear Mr Dowding

The Metal Trades Federation of Unions requests you give your utmost attention to allowing the SEW foundry workforce to be retained in the West Australian foundry industry by supporting the only application for the SEW operations that offers a total commitment to support the retention of the workforce.

This telex was written on 12 August 1987. It continues -

The Wigmore application offers to employ all SEW foundry employees pattern shop employees and machine shop employees together with all remaining Chamberlain John Deere foundry employees.

Unless the Wigmore/Chamberlain John Deere application is successful the State foundry industry stands to lose not only the SEW foundry but the very modern CJD foundry a loss the industry cannot afford to have inflicted upon it.

The Bradford Kendall involvement would only include about 50 per cent of the SEW workforce at best, and then only for as long as the SEW workload lasts.

We believe you should allow the hyper-chrome issue to be divorced from the main foundry equipment tender thus allowing an arrangement to be arrived at with the Wigmore company.

During this period the Opposition was very concerned about what was taking place. It had been two years since the election. The employees were becoming very concerned about their future job opportunities, and for some reason the Government was keen to accept the tender which was not going to be in the best interests of the State or the work force. At the end of the day the Government saw its way clear to supporting that proposition. It put the employees under tremendous pressure for at least three years because of the uncertainty, and as I said at the beginning of my speech, it was a classic example of how not to privatise an industry, and how not to dispose of Government assets.

The person behind the scenes doing a lot of the work and calling the shots was our Mr Kevin Edwards, and we had the current Premier involved as a key player. The Minister who should have had a key role to play, the then Deputy Premier, the Minister for Industry and Technology, was silent on the matter. He was not allowed to make any Press statements and he would not debate the matter in this Parliament. We all knew what was taking place in the Government; we knew who were the key decision makers.

My last point concerns the land on which the State Engineering Works was built. I think about 8 hectares of land is involved. Is that right, Mr Minister?

Mr Troy: Do you not know much about the subject?

Mr Cash: It is about that.

Mr COURT: If the Minister wants to be a smart Alec -

Mr Cash: He did it in Transport and he was sacked.

Mr Troy: It is on public record; that shows how much you know about it.

Mr COURT: We will put as much as the Minister likes about the State Engineering Works on the public record. I want to be accurate about the area of land, but the Minister has decided not to be too helpful. The Government decided to allow the land to be sold by the WADC. That land is extremely valuable; at the time there was talk of putting a value of about \$3 million on it, but that land was far more valuable than that. Concerns were expressed that the WADC itself was going to be the property developer, and then it decided to sell the land by tender. A number of people approached us saying that the tender for the sale of the land would be a closed tender and only certain people would be invited to tender for that land. I would like the Minister to explain how the WADC is proposing to sell that land, and what sort of developments will take place on it. The land is adjacent to another very controversial area of land, Buckland Hill. As we know, there is a large area of land at Buckland Hill, and the State Engineering Works, together with some other property, is sitting in a prime position overlooking the river and the ocean. The location of that land makes it some of the most valuable in the metropolitan area. Some years back I had a factory in McCabe Street, just across the road from the State Engineering Works, where we were building boats. There was a view in both directions along the river and out to sea. It was zoned as an industrial area, but it would not have been possible to obtain a better block of land on which to build a residential development. I want an assurance from the Minister about the procedures being followed, what stage has been reached with that land, how the WADC intends to go about selling it, and just what it expects to build on that area of land.

The Bill provides that when the legislation is proclaimed we will receive an annual report to conclude the affairs of the State Engineering Works. I would appreciate an indication of just

what is the financial situation of the works so that we can get an idea of the total cost of winding down the works. What price was received for the assets that were sold, and what assets and liabilities remain? What is the position with plant and equipment on lease? Is the land in the name of the State Engineering Works, or under a separate Government entity? We have known of the losses of the State Engineering Works in recent years since an accounting system was introduced which made the works properly accountable. I would appreciate an indication of the final costs involved.

The Government has handled this whole exercise in a totally incompetent manner, which is typical of the way these people opposite go about the financial administration of this State. The main concern about the way the State Engineering Works has been handled is that a number of employees have been left dangling on a string for about three years, not knowing what their future would be, and that is not acceptable.

MR TROY (Mundaring - Minister for Works and Services) [12.08 pm]: Apart from the foundry, the State Engineering Works had a fabrication shop. I am not sure, after hearing part of the honourable member's speech, whether that fabrication shop has been brought into this area, because he carefully put up an argument and selectively covered a whole range of matters concerning the disposal of the State Engineering Works to avoid presenting the full story. I will touch on a number of those matters.

Quite clearly, the Government's intention throughout the disposal of the State Engineering Works has been to maximise the benefit to this State. When one looks at the annual accounts of the State Engineering Works from the 1966-67 financial year to 1984-85, we can see a very small operating surplus. That immediately leads to the question, why did we dispose of the State Engineering Works if there was a surplus? The bottom line is that that surplus came about only because the State Engineering Works enjoyed a clientele amongst other Government departments which was denied from the moment this Government took the initiative and forced those other agencies to be more economic and efficient in their performance.

That meant that a flow of work, which for years had gone to the State Engineering Works, was redirected to other parts of the industry in the State - that is, the private sector - and very significant economies flowed to those client departments. A short time after the Financial Administration and Audit Act came into being in this State it was clearly evident that the State Engineering Works was in a fair degree of trouble. However, we as a Government recognised that situation from 1985 and undertook a functional review of the State Engineering Works. That review identified a number of key areas that needed addressing. The fact was, there was no longer a need for the Government to be involved in engineering in this way. At that time there was a significant under utilisation of the foundry industry in Western Australia and quite clearly the State Engineering Works was not in a position to compete effectively in that area. It had a relatively high technology plant that was part of the Court Government's injection of capital into Western Australia, but it made only a very exotic product. Special things were made, keels for 12 metre yachts being one example, which come up once in a blue moon, and there was no volume of work with simple castings to make the works competitive against the private sector. In addition, the Financial Administration and Audit Act had brought to notice the fact that the State Engineering Works was in fact being cross subsidised by a whole range of other Government departments, which purchased items from the works when they were readily available from alternative suppliers. I restate that at that time there was a substantial idle capacity in the foundry industry in this State. The State Engineering Works itself was in financial difficulty and the works were run down in the production areas that could be profitable. Some \$8 million would have been required to rehabilitate the works, and that expenditure was not considered justified in the existing market situation. In addition to that, as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition acknowledged, the State Engineering Works was occupying a prime riverfront site and there was scope for redevelopment of the land.

At the time we examined this matter the State Engineering Works was operating at an annual net cost of in the order of \$2 million, so we made the decision to dispose of the works. However, before doing so we considered a number of options: One was for the works to continue operating as before, in its run down condition and as part of a very competitive market with limited specialised lines being produced; the second was to rehabilitate the works at a cost of \$8 million and continue operating; and the third was to dispose of the

works and redevelop the site. It was the third recommendation that the Government pursued, but with only one object in mind; that is, to maximise the benefit to the State - in terms of the skills we had here, the research and development component, and every other aspect.

Between 1985 and the time of the disposal members must acknowledge that the position of the foundry industry was quite unstable - it was changing dramatically - and we needed to make decisions almost week by week to stay with those rapidly changing times. That quite clearly influenced a number of the decisions outlined by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition; there is no question about that. We offer no apology and say that it was quite appropriate for the Government to make those adjustments as it went about its task. Our first intention was to retain and ensure a high technology foundry operation in this State, and to that end we sought a joint venture operation which could take advantage of the skills to be found in the State Engineering Works and amalgamate them with the foundry component of the Midland Workshops to ensure that an advanced technology foundry was possible in this State. To that end the State Engineering Works Board, through advertisements in the national Press in December 1986, called for expressions of interest in a joint venture partnership. A very substantial response resulted, and we were reasonably satisfied with that. However, out of the 18 companies which showed some interest and made inquiries the Government was left with three of significance: Johns Parry, the Wundowie group, and Steel Castings. We were not confident that Steel Castings could satisfactorily continue the operations of the works; it looked too risky. That meant that out of the 18 interested parties, two groups emerged as potential joint venturers in that operation: Wundowie Bradken Consolidated and Caterpillar Wigmores.

There was some delay because, again, we tried to pursue the very maximum position. A resurvey was done by the then Deputy Premier of the market potential for foundry operations. A survey had been undertaken earlier but it was retuned and followed up to make sure that the market position had not changed. The market potential that emerged certainly did not give us great confidence that those operations would be successful. Finally, in July 1987, after an exhaustive process of trying to maximise the benefit to the State, Cabinet decided that the State Engineering Works would be closed with redeployment being offered to all employees. Incidentally, I must compliment the union movement. It was a very difficult and uncertain time for the workers, and the union movement certainly worked with the Government in making arrangements for the workers.

Mr Court: There were three years of uncertainty.

Mr TROY: It was a significant period, but the Opposition would have closed it down and thrown the workers into the street. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is on record in similar circumstances - he should remember the timber industry and the State brickworks. There is a whole lot the Deputy Leader of the Opposition must live with. Quite clearly this Government was continually pushing to maximise the advantage to this State, considering the employees who were involved, and the ongoing industry we wanted to maintain if at all possible, as well as the enhanced technology.

As a result of that Cabinet decision the Minister for Works and Services was given authority to negotiate an agreement to arrange the transfer of the State Engineering Works. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition forgets that Cabinet makes those decisions to give prime responsibility to certain Ministers, and quite clearly that decision transferred the prime responsibility from the then Deputy Premier, who had handled the matter up to that stage, to the Minister for Works and Services of the day, a Minister more directly associated with the matter. Also as a result of that Cabinet decision in July 1987 a consultant group, Young and Associates, was appointed, and was nominated in an advertisement placed in national newspapers to provide further information about that process.

Through that there emerged three fundamental areas of the State Engineering Works' disposal, which were quite crucial. First there was the foundry and fabrication component of the enterprise; secondly, the intellectual property, which was referred to in the hypo technology process to which the member referred; and there are the physical assets of the foundry buildings and equipment. The Government was keen to see the foundry and the fabrication shops retained in this State, and that the work force involved would be offered employment in any adjustment that occurred. All the opportunities in regard to the research and development aspects of the works were examined in some detail; certainly the interest

shown from the Bunbury area was pursued. The Government was conscious of the need to maximise its position. Arising from the work by Arthur Young & Associates, four substantial offers were made, as mentioned by the previous speaker. The offers came from Wigmores Tractors, Bradken Consolidated, the Warman International Group and Associated Resources Management Ltd. The Warman International Group made certain claims about having a substantial position in the technology process, but its position was not tested in a court of law. Warman would have needed to go to a court of law to establish whether it had the sole rights to the hypo process. That would have been very expensive and quite clearly the Government was mindful of that in its deliberations.

What emerged from these negotiations was the sale of the State Engineering Works on the following grounds, which I think will address one of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's questions: The equipment was finally sold in the best interests of the State to Wigmores, which subsequently transferred the equipment and the foundry to Welshpool while at the same time buying the Chamberlain John Deere facilities and amalgamating the two. It is with pleasure that I say that the foundry is now progressing well and is making a strong impact on markets both within and outside the State. I think we have achieved a satisfactory conclusion as far as the utilisation of the equipment is concerned. The research and development technology was sold to Warman's parent group, Peko Wallsend. Clearly, part of its consideration was the unsatisfied legal question as to the rights to the process in dispute. The matter was resolved amicably whereby any rights possessed by the State Engineering Works, and through it the State, were sold to Peko Wallsend. That leaves me with the third area, the site, to resolve. I advise the House that there have been public expressions through LandCorp, which is acting in the capacity of an agent of the Crown, and the site will be sold by public tender on 30 September 1988. The outcome of that public tender process will go a long way towards satisfying the member's other request in respect of the final wind up of the facility. I am not yet in a position to give that detail. That is why we are going to produce a financial report, as the Bill requires.

This Government has always been very conscious of the position of staff at the State Engineering Works and has endeavoured in every possible way to facilitate the opportunities of those people. Part of the discussions included the Government's calling for expressions of interest in a joint venture operation to make sure that people in that industry and the industry itself had the maximum possible chance to remain in operation in Western Australia. I think that one will find that those people have been well placed; they are productive and the State is being significantly advantaged by those operations. I emphasise again for the benefit of members the fact that the Government's intention throughout the winding-up of the State Engineering Works certainly was not to string out the process; the Government wanted to maximise the State's position at all times, and I think it has done that very effectively. If that has caused some anguish to individuals, I apologise; but when one understands the motive behind the Government's position, one realises that some uncertainty was inevitable.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Troy (Minister for Works and Services), and transmitted to the Council.

RESERVES AND LAND REVESTMENT BILL

Second Reading

MRS HENDERSON (Gosnells - Minister for Lands) [12.26 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is similar in intent to many other measures brought before the House each year to obtain the approval of Parliament to vary A class reserves for whatever reason and, in this case, to cancel a 999 year lease as well as to close certain pedestrian access ways and rights

of way situated in various suburbs and locations. Apart from the final clause, the balance of provisions of the Bill relate to A class reserves.

I foreshadow I shall move amendments to the schedule to finalise certain clauses in the Committee stage of the Bill. However, I am particularly pleased to tell the House that a substantial number of the amendments contained in this Bill will result in the expansion of A class reserves and other significant conservation areas. Some of these reserves have been the subject of Environmental Protection Authority Red Book recommendations and these are included in this Bill as representing the final stage of setting aside these areas for conservation purposes. In particular I commend the Minister for Conservation and Land Management for the extensive work done to bring the conservation of these reserves to fruition. I am extremely pleased to advise the House that the Bill contains measures to finalise the establishment of the Shannon River Basin National Park. The Government considers this to be one of its major achievements in the area of conservation. There is no doubt that the Shannon River basin is a great conservation asset for this State, and its final proclamation will make it secure for future generations. This reserves Bill will lead to the proclamation of a 53 500 hectare park, which will effectively double the area of reserved native karri forest. This area has been managed as a national park since 1983.

I am disappointed that the creation of that national park did not gain the support deserved from the Opposition. Nevertheless, the final stages to the proclamation of this national park are before us and I shall be introducing amendments at the Committee stage to incorporate the Shannon River basin into the schedule attached to the Bill. I repudiate any claims that this Government is not anxious to see the process of proclaiming the Shannon River Basin National Park completed. This Bill also sees the addition of significant areas of land to the Fitzgerald River National Park, the Torndirrup National Park near Albany, the national park which includes Canal Rocks at Yallingup, and into the Hidden Valley National Park at Kununurra. It also includes significant increases in the area of a number of other A class reserves.

Class A Reserve 31737 at Bremer Bay in the Shires of Ravensthorpe and Gnowangerup, electoral district of Katanning-Roe and electoral province of South, is set apart for the purpose of "national park", being the Fitzgerald River National Park, and is vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority. Pursuant to the Environmental Protection Authority's Red Book recommendation 3.2 and the Department of Conservation and Land Management's recommendation it is proposed to add all vacant Crown land to the west of the Phillips River goldfield boundary into the national park.

Class A Reserve 39962 at Waterman in the City of Stirling, electoral district of Karrinyup and electoral province of North Metropolitan, is set aside for the purpose of "conservation of flora and fauna and passive recreation" and is vested in the City of Stirling. The area encompasses Star Swamp and, as part of the initial proposal, several road reserves were closed for inclusion into the final nature reserve. A portion of closed road, now identified as Waterman Lot 6 was, however, omitted from this reservation. It is now proposed to include Waterman Lot 6 in Reserve 39962.

Class A Reserve 25113 at Lake Magenta in the Shire of Lake Grace, electoral district of Katanning-Roe and electoral province of South, is set aside for the purpose of "conservation of fauna", being the Lake Magenta Nature Reserve and is vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority. The Department of Conservation and Land Management has requested that an area of vacant Crown foreshore land adjacent to the existing reserve be included. It is proposed to amend Reserve 25113 to include the vacant Crown foreshore land and to describe the reserve as comprising the area shown on Lands Reserve Plan 280.

Class A Reserve 38924 at Morangup Hill in the Shire of Toodyay, electoral district of Moore and electoral province of Upper West, is set aside for the purpose of "conservation of flora and fauna", being the Morangup Nature Reserve and is vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority. Due to a realignment of the Toodyay Road, a portion of the original road was closed. The Department of Conservation and Land Management has requested that this closed road, now identified as Avon Location 28937, be included into the adjoining Reserve 38924.

Class A Reserve 27322 at Sunset Beach in the Town of Geraldton, electoral district of Geraldton and electoral province of Upper West, is set aside for the purpose of "park and

recreation" but is not vested in any authority. As part of its soil stabilisation plans for foreshore land, the Town of Geraldton has closed portion of Swan Drive and Bosley Street, and has requested that these closed portions of road, together with adjacent vacant Crown foreshore land, be added to Reserve 27322. The Geraldton coastal management plan also provides for the change of purpose of Reserve 27322 to "recreation and foreshore management".

In closing Swan Drive it is necessary to provide an alternative access road to the caravan park on Geraldton Lot 1925. Baler Road is to be accordingly extended through "use and benefit of Aborigines" Reserve 27321. An equal area of land is to be excised from Class A Reserve 27322 and added to Reserve 27321 to compensate for the road resumption. The Aboriginal Lands Trust is in agreement with this proposal and is arranging tabling in Parliament of papers referring to this amendment pursuant to section 25 of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act. It is proposed to amend Reserve 27322 to include the former Swan Drive land and exclude the area to be included in Reserve 27321, and to redescribe Reserve 27322 to comprise Geraldton Lot 2873, and to change the reserve's purpose to "recreation and foreshore management".

Class A Reserve 25555 in the Shire of Pingelly, electoral district of Avon and electoral province of Central, is set apart for the purpose of "conservation of flora and fauna", being the Tutanning Nature Reserve, and is currently vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority. The Department of Conservation and Land Management has negotiated the purchase of suitable portions of adjacent freehold land, identified as Avon Locations 28800, 28801, 28802 and 28803 for inclusion into the conservation reserve. It is now proposed to amend Reserve 25555 by the inclusion of these Locations.

Class A Reserve 37883 at Kununurra in the Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley, electoral district of Kimberley and electoral province of North, is set aside for the purpose of "national park", being the Hidden Valley National Park, and is vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority. The Department of Conservation and Land Management has requested clarification on the precise boundaries of the reserve and inclusion of a small portion of vacant Crown land into the reserve. The reserve has been resurveyed and it is now proposed to redescribe Class A Reserve 37883 to comprise the area as delineated on original plan 16842.

Class A Reserve 24258 at King George Sound in the Shire of Albany, electoral district of Stirling and electoral province of South, is set aside for the purpose of "national park and recreation", being the Tomdirrup National Park, and is vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority. Agreement has been reached between the Shire of Albany and the Department of Conservation and Land Management on the cancellation of "rubbish disposal site" Reserve 28504, and reinclusion of the subject land, identified as Plantagenet Location 7640, into Reserve 24258. Reserve 28504 has been cancelled and it is now proposed to include Location 7640 into Reserve 24258.

Class A Reserve 10922 at Canal Rocks in the Shire of Busselton, electoral district of Vasse and electoral province of South West, is set aside as "national park" with vesting in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority. In accordance with the Leeuwin-Naturaliste working group's 1982 report, the Department of Conservation and Land Management has requested that the vacant Crown land comprising the offshore islands and rocks be vested in the National Parks Authority. The reserve has consequently been resurveyed and it is now proposed to redescribe the reserve to comprise Sussex Locations 4834 and 4783.

Class A Reserve 15556 at Yangebup in the City of Cockburn, electoral district of Cockburn and electoral province of South Metropolitan, is set apart for "fauna conservation and research and drainage", being the Thomsons Lake Nature Reserve, and is vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority. Following a request from the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the City of Cockburn has agreed to relinquish its vesting over "recreation" Reserve 31882 to allow inclusion of the contained land, being Cockburn Sound Location 2256, into Reserve 15556. Reserve 31882 has now been cancelled and it is now proposed to include Location 2256 in Reserve 15556.

Class A Reserve 32590 at Stokes Inlet in the Shire of Esperance, electoral district of Esperance-Dundas and electoral province of South-East, is set aside as "national park",

being the Stokes National Park, and is vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority. As a result of a land exchange involving freehold and Crown land, an area of vacant Crown land identified as Oldfield Location 1464 has become available for inclusion into Reserve 32590.

Class A Reserve 32376 at Augusta in the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, electoral district of Vasse and electoral province of South West, is set aside as "national park", being part of the Leeuwin National Park, and is vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority. As a consequence of the realignment of Leeuwin Road, a severed portion of vacant Crown land identified as Sussex Location 4815 has become available for inclusion into the adjoining Reserve 32376.

Class A Reserve 38333 at Millstream in the Shire of West Pilbara, electoral district of Pilbara and electoral province of North, is set aside as "national park", being the Millstream Chichester National Park, and is vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority. When this reserve was created, inclusion of De Witt Location 181 was intended but overlooked. It is now proposed to include location 181 in Reserve 38333.

Class A Reserve 8731 at Lake Monger in the City of Perth, electoral district of Subiaco and electoral province of Metropolitan, is set aside for the purpose of "public park and recreation" and is held under a Crown grant in trust by the City of Perth. The City of Perth has agreed to the excision of portion of Reserve 8731 to allow for expansion of the speech and hearing centre located on the adjoining Reserve 34689. It is now proposed to excise the land identified as Swan Location 11017 and associated road from Reserve 8731.

Class A Reserve 9286 at Kalgoorlie in the Shire of Boulder, electoral district of Kalgoorlie and electoral province of South East, is set aside for the purpose of "water supply" and is vested in the Minister for Water Resources. The Water Authority of Western Australia and the Shire of Boulder have agreed on the relinquishment of portion of this reserve for "drainage" purposes, and the area required has been identified as Kalgoorlie Lot 4346. It is now proposed to exclude Kalgoorlie Lot 4346 from Reserve 9286 for subsequent vesting in the Shire of Boulder as a "drainage" reserve.

Class A Reserve 17375 at Crawley, in the City of Nedlands, electoral district of Nedlands and electoral province of Metropolitan, is set aside for the purpose of "recreation" and is vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority. The Environment Protection Authority's Red Book System 6 Recommendation M62.2 calls for portion of this reserve to be excised and set apart as a separate reserve for the purpose of "conservation of flora and fauna and recreation", with appropriate vesting. The area concerned has now been surveyed as Swan Location 11012 and it is now proposed to excise this land from Reserve 17375.

Class A Reserve 36915, comprising the Dampier Archipelago and adjacent to the Shire of Roebourne, electoral district of Pilbara and electoral province of North, is set aside for "conservation of flora and fauna" and is vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority. A lighthouse established on portion of this reserve, being part of Rosemary Island, is leased by the Commonwealth from the Department of Land Administration. The helipad adjacent to this lighthouse has been found to be outside the leasehold area and the Commonwealth has requested that this additional area be included in its lease. The area concerned has been surveyed as De Witt Location 219, and it is now proposed to excise this land from Reserve 36915.

Class A Reserve 23580 in the Shire of Merredin, electoral district of Merredin and electoral province of Central, is set aside for "recreation and parkland" and is vested in the Shire of Merredin. The shire and Westrail have reached agreement for the excision of that area now surveyed as Avon Location 28896 from Reserve 23580 for quarry purposes.

Class A Reserve 8103 in the Shire of Boulder, electoral district of Esperance-Dundas and electoral province of South East, is set aside for "recreation" and is vested in the Shire of Boulder. The shire proposes to move the Boulder Golf Club further southward to allow residential development, and a number of existing reserves therefore require cancellation. This will allow amalgamation of several areas into one lot which will then be reserved and vested in the Shire of Boulder with power to lease. Reserve 7103 is one of those reserves requiring cancellation.

Class A Reserve 17826 in the City of Perth, electoral district of Perth and electoral province

of Metropolitan, is set aside for "parks and gardens" and is vested in the City of Perth. The city council has advised that this reserve is used for vehicle parking on special occasions when major events are held at the Western Australian Cricket Association ground. Due to redevelopment of the WACA, enabling more night use and greater crowd capacity, the city expects that greater use of Reserve 17826 for vehicle parking will be necessary, due to the limited existing parking facilities in the vicinity. Council wishes to be able to charge parking fees on Reserve 17826 and, to do this, has requested that the reserve purpose be changed to "park, gardens and parking".

Class A Reserve 4561 at Bedforddale in the City of Armadale, electoral district of Dale and electoral province of Lower West, is set aside for the purpose of "parklands", is known as Bungendore Park, and is vested in the City of Armadale. Environmental Protection Authority Red Book System 6 Study Report Recommendation M80.6 calls for the area of vacant Crown land to the east of the park, within the Bedforddale townsite, to be included into the reserve. Protection of two geodetic trig stations within the reserve by separate reservation is also considered necessary. All parties have agreed to the proposed changes and it is now proposed to redescribe class A Reserve 4561 to comprise Canning Location 3597, to accommodate the changes.

Class A Reserves 1624 and 1668 at Point Resolution in the City of Nedlands, electoral district of Nedlands and electoral province of Metropolitan, are both set aside for the purpose of "recreation", and vested in the City of Nedlands. Reserve 1624 has been named Point Resolution Reserve. Environmental Protection Authority Red Book System 6 Recommendation M59 calls for the excision of that portion of Reserve 1668 west of Victoria Avenue and the inclusion of this area into the adjoining Reserve 1624. The recommendation also provided for the change of purpose of Reserve 1624 to "parkland and recreation". It is now proposed that both reserves be redescribed to accommodate these changes and variation to the area of Reserve 1624 caused by movement in its high watermark boundary.

Class A Reserve 12397 near Lake Mears in the Shire of Brookton, electoral district of Avon and electoral province of Central, is set aside for the purpose of "water" and is vested in the Minister for Water Resources. At the request of the former Department of Fisheries and Wildlife agreement has been reached for the purpose of this reserve to be changed to "conservation of flora and fauna", and for portion of the reserve which has been fenced into the adjoining property and cleared, making it of no benefit as a conservation reserve, to be excised. It is now proposed to redescribe the reserve to comprise Avon Location 28942, and change its purpose to "conservation of flora and fauna".

Reserve 18149 (Broome Lot 627) is held by the Trustees of the Mahomedan Church under a 99 year lease for the purpose of "Church Site (Mohomedan)". As the lease was issued in 1926 and the trustees listed on the lease document have passed on, any legal dealings on the property can only be accomplished through cancellation of the existing lease and trusteeship. The Per Satuan Muslim Broome Western Australian Association has requested legal tenure over Broome Lot 627 for the rebuilding of a mosque. Cancellation of the 99 year lease and trusteeship requires the approval of Parliament. This Bill seeks such approval.

The latter part of this Bill seeks approval of the closure and revestment of 12 pedestrian accessways and three rights of way situated in various locations. These accessways and rights of way as described on the table to the clause were created from private freehold subdivisions under section 20A of the Town Planning and Development Act and, as a condition of subdivision, are vested in Her Majesty. Passage of time has indicated that, in these instances, the accessways are no longer required or are causing problems through misuse, vandalism, intrusion into family privacy and antisocial behaviour. In all cases the closure applications have been submitted by the relevant local government authority after adequate publicity and provision of time for submission of objections.

The need for this legislative measure arises from the lack of existing legislation to close these types of accessways. While amendments to existing legislation are being prepared to establish permanent powers to deal with these accessways, this revestment clause is intended, as a short term solution, to provide the legislative authority necessary to resolve these particular cases, where closure is considered to be an immediate requirement. Existing machinery established under part VIIA of the Land Act will be used to enable disposal of the land to adjoining landowners, with reasonable time being allowed for payment for the land.

I commend this Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Lewis.

Sitting suspended from 12.50 to 2.15 pm

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) BILL

Second Reading - Budget Debate

Debate resumed from 30 August.

MR MacKINNON (Murdoch - Leader of the Opposition) [2.15 pm]: The Budget brought down by the Treasurer on Tuesday has been recognised by most commentators as a pre-election Budget. As such, it gives me the opportunity to highlight to the Parliament how our approach in Government will differ quite considerably from the approach taken by the Treasurer on Tuesday. In fact, we may be given the opportunity to take that approach sooner rather than later if the rumours around this place can be believed.

The differences fall into three categories. First, under a Liberal Government, financial management will again be in the open. The facts will not be disguised or hidden. People will be able to make decisions and ensure that those facts are presented in a way that can be read and understood. Secondly, under a Liberal Administration, the people will no longer be subjected to the sort of pork barrelling that we have seen on an unprecedented scale in this pre-election Budget. A Liberal Government will not tolerate the sort of irresponsible decision making that we have seen in this Budget. Thirdly, the people - especially young people - not Ministers of the Crown and not big business, will become the first priority under a Liberal Government. Financial management will be brought into the open - the title of the policy that we intend releasing today.

Mr Peter Dowding: At last, a policy.

Mr MacKINNON: This is about the twenty-eighth or thirtieth document announcing Liberal policies that we have produced since 11 May. The Treasurer knows that we have most of the good ideas, if not all of them. Testimony to that, imitation being the truest form of flattery, is that the Government has pinched many of our good ideas.

The "financial management in the open" policy is an eight point commitment to accountability. I will run through a few of those commitments to allow members to appreciate the different approaches that will be taken by a Liberal, and I hope, coalition Government. The plan will bring government into the twenty-first century and will implement reforms that will impose real disciplines on government. In my view, these reforms are well overdue and will save taxpayers many millions of dollars. The first of those commitments in the "financial management in the open" policy is that Budget papers will be detailed, readable and comparable year by year instead of being obscure and incomprehensible as they are now.

Mr Hodge: Is that your excuse?

Mr MacKINNON: Members opposite can scoff, but there are countless examples in the papers presented by the Treasurer on Tuesday of how they are not readable when one wishes to compare figures year by year. Perhaps the former Minister for Health will explain to me why, on page 100 of last year's Budget papers, the amount allocated to salaries, wages and allowances was \$6 million and no figure appears under that item this year. There is no explanation in the accounts of why it is different. Why can we not compare this year's figure with last year's figure? The Treasurer said in his speech that there had been changed Commonwealth-State arrangements, but he has given no explanation of the accounts to allow us to compare the figures for, I think, the second highest departmental allocation of taxpayers' money in this Budget. In fact, education and health account for 50 per cent of the State Budget, yet there is not an iota of explanation on page 100. Will the Minister give me an explanation?

Mr Hodge: I am not the Minister for Health.

Mr MacKINNON: The Minister was. Clearly, neither he, the incumbent Minister, nor the Treasurer can explain. What is the explanation? Why is there no information in the Budget papers? Why not present the facts to allow a detailed comparison and examination to be

made? It is a typical example of what I mean and it is an example of what will not be repeated under a Government I lead.

The second example is on page 19 of the Budget papers. Under the heading "Treasury" there is an item for business undertakings, profits and surpluses and the estimated revenue in that area for this financial year is \$154 518 000. That is all the information that is given. I asked a question of the Treasurer and I received an answer, but it should not be necessary to ask questions when the relevant detail should be in the Budget for all to see to enable a comparison to be made.

Mr Peter Dowding: That would make the Budget papers hundreds of pages long.

Mr MacKINNON: That is a lame duck excuse. In the Budget there are only about seven or eight items and for a \$159 million income some detail should be available. I am not saying that all of them should be detailed.

Mr Peter Dowding: Which ones would you like detailed?

Mr MacKINNON: We should at least have the details of the major figures; \$159 million is a huge amount of money that has not been detailed. For the information of the parrots opposite I must say that the answer to the question I asked was illuminating. The Treasurer has gone on television saying that taxes and charges will not be increased, but the Water Authority's statutory levy receipts will go up \$1.4 million next year.

Mr Peter Dowding: Because the State is growing.

Mr MacKINNON: Perhaps the Treasurer should read the answer given by the Minister for Water Resources to a question asked by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. He asked whether charges had increased and the one word answer he was given was yes - domestic charges have increased. Perhaps that is the reason that the information was not included in the Budget papers because it would give the lie to the Treasurer's statements in those advertisements.

The commitment from the Opposition's point of view is clear. Regardless of whether the Budget would comprise 100 or 200 pages, the evidence will be presented to allow all and sundry to make their own judgment which they are entitled to do. Nothing will be hidden. The Opposition also gives a commitment that when in Government, no longer will the secret reserves that the Government has hidden for years remain hidden. This year the reserves have been included in the Budget in an unprecedented way. Members opposite guffawed and cackled when I said that this is a pre election Budget. I ask them to give me evidence that this is not a pre election gamble, especially when the Government has included in this Budget \$190 million, almost the total amount of its savings - \$159 million in the CRF Budget and the balance in the Capital Works Budget. It has been brought together in one fell swoop.

Mr Peter Dowding: For a very good reason.

Mr MacKINNON: It is for a very good reason; that is, the Government is in trouble. It is trying to buy its way out of election difficulty. I will indicate to the House the gamble this Treasurer has taken with the State's finances. The Treasurer came into this Parliament last week indicating that the loss by the Teachers Credit Society was now in the order of \$119 million. We have a commitment this year of \$25 million. The Treasurer said that it will not hurt our taxes and taxpayers would not have to fund that amount because the Government would dip into its reserves. What reserves? Those reserves have been blown in a desperate attempt by this Treasurer to save his hide; a desperate attempt that will fail. The public is not that silly.

Let us look at what will occur next year. No savings will be brought forward because they will have been spent. Who will fund the TCS loss? It will be the taxpayers of Western Australia. Who will fund the huge increase in the cost of additional teachers and policemen and women? The Government has committed its reserves to this Budget. Of course, the taxpayers will pay for it. What the Treasurer is doing in his desperate election gamble is ensuring that next year the taxpayers of this State will fund the commitments made this year. All the items I have mentioned - and I could mention many more - require explanation because they have received little or no relevant comment in the Budget papers.

I repeat the Opposition's commitment: In Government, it will produce Budget papers that

are detailed, readable, and comparable year by year. I cannot recall a year under a Labor Government in which we have been able to compare yearly figures. Payroll tax changes, accounting changes and revenue changes have been made and it is not possible to compare them year by year. I give a commitment that under a Liberal Government it will be possible to compare them.

The second commitment the Opposition makes is that full accounting for all Government agencies and detailed information about all taxes and charges will be included in the accounts. I raised the question last year, and I raise it again now: What is the biggest consumer tax in this State? It is fuel tax. I challenge any member in this House to find in the Budget papers tabled in this House on Tuesday how much revenue was received in fuel taxes last year. I do not hear one comment from members opposite because they know they will not be able to find it. The largest consumer tax this State receives - one of the Government's biggest revenue sources - is not included in the Budget papers. Part of it is included in the Main Roads Department section, and other parts are included elsewhere. But, what is the total, what is the balance in the trust, and what amount was received? The ultimate insult - and I can assure the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Transport that the Opposition will make this quite clear to the people of Western Australia, particularly country people - is that not one comment is made in this Budget about roads, other than a passing comment about the Kwinana Freeway busway. How can anybody make a proper judgment on the Budget of this State when one of the biggest taxes is not properly identified and no comment is made about it?

Secondly, I repeat the comments I made publicly the other day about the petrochemical project: That was included in the Treasurer's speech, but we still do not know how much this State will invest in that project. We do not know what form it will take, when it will be made, or what percentage of the project will be involved. There is even confusion about who will manage the project. I ask the Treasurer who will be the project managers.

Mr Peter Dowding: You have heard what the Deputy Premier has said - negotiations are going on -

Mr MacKINNON: The Treasurer's Press statement stated that it would be Bond Corporation.

Mr Hassell: Bond Corporation said it would be Bond Corporation as late as last Friday.

Mr MacKINNON: The Deputy Premier said yesterday that it would be a reputable firm of international petrochemical construction people.

Mr Parker: It shows that you don't understand the first thing about petrochemical projects.

Mr MacKINNON: Who is to be the project manager?

Mr Parker: I will give the answer to that later.

Mr Peter Dowding: You were wrong about the \$300 million; you were wrong about the Superannuation Board; and you are wrong about this.

Mr MacKINNON: I was dead right about the Superannuation Board. I ask again: Who will manage the project?

It is apparent from those two examples that the Budget lacks credibility. It does not include some significant items that will impact on the State's finances this year. How many businesses would be allowed to get away with reporting in this manner to the Stock Exchange or to their shareholders?

The third commitment in the Opposition's financial management in the open package indicates program budgeting, accrual accounting, a leap into the 80s, and four year forward estimates which will show where the money is spent and what trends are expected. The people of this State and I am sick to death of Government that spends big in June of every year, lashing out in the last month to make sure that it spends to its Budget estimate. At the end of my speech I will seek to incorporate in *Hansard* a table which shows the Government's performance in 1986-87 and 1987-88. During each of those months amounts are spent averaging seven or eight per cent of the total figure; yet in one month in 1987, 11 per cent was spent - a jump of 50 per cent over other months; and in 1988 twelve and a half per cent of the total Budget outlay was spent in one month. If that is not wasteful spending and bad management practice, what is?

Mr Bertram: What did the Public Accounts Committee say?

Mr MacKINNON: It had a lot to say on the matter but its comments have no impact on the State Government which has ignored them. We must put a stop to it by establishing four year Budget Estimates so that people will know where they are going and they will not be penalised for spending money in a rush at the end of the day on often meaningless, rather than meaningful, projects to justify their budget in terms of the ongoing Budget expenditure. It is a scandal that that has been allowed to continue for so long, and the problem could be solved by implementing simple management practices; a commitment that the Opposition will ensure is complied with. All of our approaches are designed to bring financial management into the open. The Treasurer says that it will take too many pages of paper and the Government cannot possibly disclose the facts. Under a Liberal Government a new approach will be made which will stretch from all the items I have outlined to asset management and management of the public sector - a very different approach from that occurring under this Administration. A second area that will be different under a Liberal Administration will be the question of pork barrelling; that can easily be identified in this year's Budget and it will be even easier to identify in Budgets which disclose all the facts.

I demonstrated quite clearly in my earlier comments how the use of secret reserves - slush funds - will mean that if this Government is re-elected, next year all Western Australians will pay higher taxes. That is the inevitable conclusion of committing this year's funds and not having them financed next year out of funds that are not recurring. Interest in the short term money market this year amounted to \$159 million. The Treasurer has indicated that the best we can receive next year is \$40 million; therefore, the shortfall will be \$110 million in next year's Budget to be met from somewhere.

Mr Peter Dowding: That is just nonsense.

Mr MacKINNON: That is absolute fact. That \$110 million shortfall has been admitted by the Treasurer and he cannot deny it - nor can anybody else because \$159 million will not be received from the short term money market slush fund. Only \$10 million is left. The cupboard is bare. Where will the Government obtain the money to continue its programs next year? It will dip into the taxpayers' pockets if it wants to maintain the programs to which it is committed. That is a clear demonstration of pork barrelling and the financially irresponsible practices of this Government. To go a little further, this Government's irresponsibility, and in many respects its incompetence, have cost the people of Western Australia dearly. For instance, the \$9 million in relation to the silicon smelter project at Kemerton. That money should never have been paid out.

Mr Peter Dowding: What would you have done, where would you have put the plant?

Mr MacKINNON: The Kemerton plant was to be built by the company without any Government involvement, until the Government tried to win a by-election. The Swan Brewery is another \$7 million mistake; a \$7 million investment trying to prop up the ego of the Minister for Planning. That was the sole reason.

Mr Peter Dowding: You would have built an office tower on that site, would you?

Mr MacKINNON: I would have demolished the development on the site.

Mr Peter Dowding: Would you have bought it or not?

Mr MacKINNON: I would not have been a vandal and knocked over the only building which had any significant value - a value of which the Government was not aware. An amount of \$25 million will be paid in the Teachers Credit Society case, because of this Government's incompetence. I turn now to the Government's so-called commitment to education; mismanagement and deception on the grandest of scales.

Mr Peter Dowding: What rubbish.

Mr MacKINNON: I will explain using the Treasurer's documents for 1987-88, I am not using documents I have manufactured. We see in the 1987-88 Budget a provision for 14 748 teachers. That was 467 teachers down on the 1986-87 year. However, the actual numbers employed are only 14 525. So if we go back to 1986-87 and look at the numbers being employed at the current time, we are 690 worse off than we were two years ago.

Dr Lawrence: Those figures are absolutely wrong.

Mr MacKINNON: They come out of the Minister's Budget. If that is the case, it proves what I said earlier. It is time the Government made the Budget documents meaningful.

Mr Peter Dowding: You cannot get out of your mistakes like that.

Mr MacKINNON: I am not making mistakes. The figures I have used come directly out of the Minister's department - 690 teachers. So even with the 500 new teachers, we are not back to the level of two years ago. Worse than that, I challenge the Minister to answer this: Is it true that administration staff will drop by 230 this year?

Dr Lawrence: In the central office there has been a steady cut back.

Mr MacKINNON: There will be 230 - all out of "silver city"?

Dr Lawrence: Not all of them.

Mr MacKINNON: No; many of them will come out of the schools. So we see a Government of deception; a Government claiming to employ new teachers when all it is doing is making up ground that it has lost, in a desperate attempt to paper over the cracks just before the next election. The Premier said yesterday at a Press conference that the Minister for Education could be a future Labor Premier; she has the qualifications for it. I agree; she is a deceiver of the highest order, following in the footsteps of some proud people with great records in deception.

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr PEARCE: Point of order.

Mr MacKinnon: That is not objectionable to you.

Mr PEARCE: It is objectionable to me. The Leader of the Opposition referred to the Minister for Education as a deceiver of the first order. I ask that that term be withdrawn.

The SPEAKER: There are two points to be made in respect of this point of order. Standing Orders state clearly that if a member takes exception to words used in that manner, he or she can ask for their withdrawal. I was going to say that this would be the first time I have heard that asked to be withdrawn, but I see that there is a precedent for it. I want to say this before stating what my ruling will be on the point of order. Those words are hardly the worst thing I have heard people being called in this Chamber this week from both sides of the House, and if we are to take exception to that sort of thing then it follows that we will take exception to even worse names that members have been called this week, and we will then have constant points of order. I have a recommendation, which members may or may not take. I can solve this in one fell swoop if we all agree that we will not call anyone any names.

Several members: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: I think that is the best course of action we should take.

Mr PEARCE: Point of order. I was seeking a ruling on the term "deceiver". I sought a withdrawal of that term on the basis that I believed it was unparliamentary. If we are talking about words which are used, a couple of days ago I was asked to withdraw the term "rag tag" used of the Legislative Council.

Mr Hassell: It is a different Standing Order.

Mr PEARCE: Yes, but Standing Orders say one cannot reflect on a member of this House. Members of the Opposition are so indifferent in their views of these things that they are prepared to protect the integrity of members of the Legislative Council by not having their coats ruffled by the term "rag tag", but are prepared to see a member of this House called a deceiver. My view is that is an unparliamentary term. I have sought a withdrawal, and I seek one again.

The SPEAKER: The member does not need to seek one again. I really feel that what I sought to do, if I had achieved it, would have been the best course of action; but nonetheless, the Standing Orders dictate that if a member asks for a withdrawal, it should be given, so I ask for that to happen.

Mr MacKINNON: I withdraw.

Debate Resumed

Mr MacKINNON: It is interesting to note how sensitive the Government is about that

comment. It happens to be true. Irresponsible management and deception by this Government have been highlighted, and by whatever name, the Government's mismanagement will ensure that next year taxpayers will be asked, should this Government remain in power, to make a much larger contribution to the Consolidated Revenue Fund out of their own pockets.

Mr Peter Dowding: That is just not correct.

Mr MacKINNON: That is crystal clear from the figures as presented. The third point I want to put forward is that in a Liberal Budget, people will take priority; not big business; not the big friends of this Government; not big unions; not big Ministers. In fact, the attitude of this Government to the people of this State can best be summed up by examining its attitude to both taxation and employment. The Treasurer said on Wednesday, when speaking on the program, *The Sattler File*, that the level of taxation in this State was not high and that people were not hurting as a consequence.

Mr Peter Dowding: I did not say that.

Mr MacKINNON: That is exactly what the Treasurer said, because I was listening, as were a lot of other Western Australians. Those comments showed clearly how out of touch this Treasurer is because the level of taxation imposed by this Government is unprecedented in our State's history. I turn for my authority to the Treasurer's own documents. I refer to the supplementary Budget information for both 1987-88 and 1988-89. That document has at the back the total net collections of State taxation for the year ending 30 June - in this instance 1987 - taken to the CRF trust accounts and special accounts. It gives the taxation break up per head of population. The tax break up in 1987 per head of population was \$718. The Treasurer's own document shows that this year the amount will be \$849 per head of population, or an 18 per cent increase. In fact, in real terms that is a 28.5 per cent increase.

I have clearly shown previously that what is claimed by the Government is only partly true; that is, that the increase in revenue is due to the increase in the level of economic activity. It is mostly due to the level of taxation - to the rate of stamp duty which was increased savagely under this Government, to the introduction of the financial institutions duty, which did not previously exist; to the increase in the liquor tax which is now the highest in Australia; to the increase in the fuel tax which is now the highest in Australia. Is any of that denied? Of course it cannot be. The increased revenue is due to the rate of tax, not the level of economic activity. In each of those cases the tax is either a new tax imposed by this Government or an increase. That is why this chart, which I intend to seek leave to incorporate in *Hansard*, indicates how rapidly taxation has roared ahead of the rate of inflation during the years of this Government's administration. The only years in which it comes down anywhere near the rate of inflation are - surprise, surprise - election years. That is proof positive, if it were needed, that this Budget is a pre-election pork barrelling Budget.

Mr Peter Dowding: You are talking about the totals of taxes and not economic activity.

Mr MacKINNON: I am talking about all taxes, even those which the Treasurer increased, including the liquor tax which was increased last year, and the tobacco taxes that were increased.

Mr Peter Dowding: I have never increased any.

Mr MacKINNON: Does the Treasurer not agree with the increases?

Mr Peter Dowding: In this Budget there were no increases.

Mr MacKINNON: The Treasurer did not bring them down, either. All these taxes have come home to roost. The level of the Treasurer's financial naivety was also demonstrated publicly - I am not sure if it was in the Press; I cannot recall seeing that article, although it was reported to me by someone else - on the *Sattler* show when he said that it is no good giving people tax relief when times are good, you must give them tax relief when times are tough. He said that is when he would give tax cuts - when times were tough.

Mr Peter Dowding: That is not what I said.

Mr MacKINNON: I will ask the Treasurer a question. How can he give people tax relief when he has spent all the savings? The cupboard is bare - there is nothing left. It has all gone. How will he deliver it? He cannot.

Mr Peter Dowding: What a load of rubbish.

Mr MacKINNON: I will ask the Treasurer another question. When times are tough, if he says the level of economic activity is the reason taxes are high, by definition the level of taxation will be down when times are tough; but how can he finance tax cuts when the levels have fallen? He cannot. So when should he be giving tax cuts? The time to deliver tax cuts is when there is the opportunity to do so - when the Government has a windfall, as the Government has had this year. There has been a 28.5 per cent increase in tax revenue this year. For whatever reason, the Government has had an almost 30 per cent windfall. But did the Government give back any of that?

Mr Peter Dowding: Yes, all of it. Every single cent.

Mr MacKINNON: The Government gave it back to the Teachers Credit Society losses. That money went out the window to things like the Kemerton site, which was an ill fated decision by a Government trying to win a by-election. It went to a \$7 million brewery investment site which only the Minister for Planning wants. The Treasurer has indicated in his Budget that in 1988-89 he will continue to commit the people of Western Australia to more of the same - more of too much tax, of tax at too high a level and with no relief in sight. This Budget commits this Government to a situation where it has no room to move in the future. It has burnt all its bridges behind it. Not even the former Treasurer, Brian Burke, would have done that; but then again, Brian Burke was a little more sure of himself than is the present incumbent.

Let us look at the employment situation. I would have thought the question of youth unemployment would be of concern to this Government, but let us look at some of the facts about the young unemployed in our community today. In July this year 23 500 persons under 24 years were unemployed, out of a total of 49 000. That represents 47 per cent of the total, or almost half. That is despite the fact that those young people under 24 years represent 25 per cent of the potential work force. Still, 47 per cent of the total are unemployed. Members can see that despite some progress we have a long way to go if we are to give the young people of this State a real future. Yet what did the Government do to provide some relief in the area of youth unemployment?

Mr Peter Dowding: Supplied 2 000 new TAFE places.

Mr MacKINNON: The Government increased payroll tax at a rate greater than the rate of inflation. Collections of about \$61 million are coming in, with no relief. The Government gave back a paltry \$4.5 million. Payroll tax is nothing more nor less than a tax on employment. The Government is taxing those young people out of a job. The Government also abolished the workers' compensation rebate applicable to apprentices. The Treasurer may not have noticed, but there is a shortage of tradesmen in this State. One of the major inhibitions to the employment of apprentices in this State is the cost of their employment; that has been well documented by the studies.

Dr Gallop: Which studies?

Mr MacKINNON: I would have thought that on account of the member for Victoria Park's intellect he would have studied some of those at university.

Those rebates have gone, but perhaps the worst insult of all and the worst cut of all is in the Department of Employment and Training itself. We know that the Minister for Employment and Training, and Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs was dumped from the Police and Emergency Services portfolio because of his total incompetence, and it is easy to see why when we examine closely the department's figures for this year. Members should keep in mind that 47 per cent of our young people are out of a job; yet the allocation for the Department of Employment and Training has actually declined in real dollar terms by \$174 878. That represents a seven or eight per cent cutback. The Minister for Employment and Training is doing a great job! But let us examine the figures more closely. One area of that Budget has surged forward and that is the allocation for the Minister's own staff. Last year he employed 14 people, this year it is 21.

Mr Gordon Hill: Not true.

Mr MacKINNON: The Minister is calling his own Budget presentation a lie. The number of staff has risen from 14 last year to 21 this year. The sum of \$273 000 can be found to help

that Minister. Obviously he needs the help. There is only one other person in the Government with more people to help him, and that is the Treasurer. In the Budget papers as presented 21 staff are allowed for, as against 14 last year. So the department's total budget allocation has dropped, but who gets looked after? The Minister. Last year the former Deputy Premier's department employed a staff of 13, costing \$331 000; this year that department employs 12 people at a cost of \$428 000. I have indicated clearly that the Minister in this department takes much more priority than the young unemployed people in this State. That priority will be reversed on our return to Government.

Several members interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: I would remind you, Mr Speaker, that the Treasurer was heard in comparative silence; I do not intend to respond to inane interjections.

The SPEAKER: Order! Perhaps I should put my point of view in respect of interjections. It is not true to say that the Treasurer was heard in comparative silence; he was heard in complete silence; but there is a small difference between the delivery made by the Treasurer and the delivery being made by the Leader of the Opposition. From time to time the Leader of the Opposition is encouraging, in fact, asking for interjections. On other occasions he is being, as is his right, somewhat provocative. On those occasions I find difficulty in saying that members should not interject. I will protect the Leader of the Opposition when I am able, but on those two occasions it is somewhat difficult.

Mr MacKINNON: Our objectives in Government include the very important area of payroll tax. This tax is nothing more nor less than a tax on employment. Despite the huge windfalls that this Government has received in taxation last year and this year, no real benefits have been delivered. I give a commitment to the people of this State that in Government we will, as a first step towards the total abolition of payroll tax, abolish that tax for all people under the age of 21 in this State. The young unemployed people have priority and such an initiative would be a major boost not only to their employment prospects but also to the incentive for small businesses to grow and for industrial prospects in this State to increase.

Mr Peter Dowding: What will that cost?

Mr MacKINNON: Bearing in mind that we are not in Government, our estimate is \$25 million. Undoubtedly the Treasurer will come up with a much higher figure, but I can assure this House that we have used the best people available outside Government to calculate the cost.

The Budget brought down by the Treasurer was nothing more than a pre-election Budget; all the Government's eggs have been put in one basket but the holes are bigger than the eggs. This is an attempt by the Treasurer to buy the electorate of Western Australia, an attempt which will meet the same fate as befell Barry Unsworth in New South Wales and Malcolm Fraser when Prime Minister of Australia. They both followed the same route and they were both soundly rejected by the electorate at large. The people of Australia are not that silly; they know when they are hurting and they are being hurt now by taxation. They know when they have a Government which looks after them and which does not look after its big friends. The public wants a Government that brings accountability and integrity back into the system of government. The people of Western Australia want a Government different from that which we have now. They want a Government which will present the facts, ensure that the content of the Budget is obvious for all to see, and take initiatives which will place the people first. I can assure the people of Western Australia that the commitments I have given will be delivered next year when I have the opportunity to bring down the first Liberal-National Party Budget.

[The material in appendix A was incorporated by leave of the House.]

[See p No 2583.]

DR ALEXANDER (Perth) [3.05 pm]: Unlike the Leader of the Opposition, I believe the Government is to be congratulated on the Budget before this House. If that is the best the Opposition can do I think that the Government has little to fear. The response from the Leader of the Opposition seemed to be a mixture of accounting pedantry and wild accusations based on very little other than a scant regard for the truth. The Budget demonstrates fiscal responsibility and good economic management. It is a balanced Budget which gives high priority to matters of social policy, such as education, housing and law and

order. If that can be called pork barrelling the Opposition needs to take another look at the definition of that phrase.

I will focus specifically on an area in my own electorate which has been the subject of a recent report called "New Directions for Central Perth" put together by a group of more than 20 architects and planners under the banner "City Vision". Copies of that report have been circulated among members, the public and the Press over the last few weeks. The group was convened late last year primarily by Bill Warnock, a Perth resident, raconteur and writer, who drew attention to some problems that central Perth has experienced over the last 10 to 20 years. Following a meeting between Mr Warnock, me and a few others, we decided a need existed to produce ideas for the future benefit of central Perth. These ideas would then be put to the public for reaction; we hope that the public reaction will be favourable.

In many respects the central business district of Perth seems to be withering on the vine. The situation has worsened over the 20 years during which I have observed and studied the central city area. The report was produced by a group of people who drew together and shared the perception that while Perth is a spectacular and beautiful city in appearance from a distance, it lacks vibrancy, life and vitality. The City Vision group has the shared perception that behind the glamorous skyline and the shining water of the Swan River, a city which houses 100 000 workers during the day is virtually empty and lifeless at night. People who have no business to transact in the city are increasingly reluctant to visit the city after hours or at weekends because little exists in the way of an attractive environment once they arrive. In other words, many leisure spots around the metropolitan region are far more attractive for people to visit than central Perth. That appears to apply to urban leisure spots as well. For example, the crowds which gather in central Fremantle at the weekend are much larger and livelier than those attracted to central Perth.

Central Perth has lost its urbanity. It no longer has a lively mix of activities which attract people out of hours and on weekends. The only part of central Perth which has anywhere near that same attraction as Fremantle is Northbridge, an area which, over the last few years, has started to regenerate and to which the council and the Government are paying due attention. Unlike other parts of central Perth, Northbridge has a wide variety and mixture of activities - restaurants, coffee shops, alfresco dining, entertainment - and it has a cosmopolitan and ethnic atmosphere which attracts a wide range of people. These values are missing from other parts of the central city for reasons which I will come to later.

In any event it has been an immensely stimulating exercise to be part of a group which has tried to come up with some answers to these problems. It has tried to come up with some ideas that would make Perth a more attractive city to visit, more attractive to live in and a more vibrant and exciting place. I should emphasise, though, that the City Vision group encompasses all political views as is clearly demonstrated by the names in the back of the document. There is certainly no suggestion that this is some left wing, radical group convened for the purposes of simply stirring where stirring is not required - it is a pity the member for Karrinyup is not here. This group has a desire to improve our central city environment and that desire cuts across party political lines.

The report's new direction for central Perth puts forward ideas for improvement. The ideas were arrived at over six to eight months, largely by consensus, and copies were recently printed with the help of a small grant from the Ministry of Planning. The Minister deserves thanks for his support in attempting to bring these ideas out into the open for further consideration. In his foreword to the document he says that, although he does not necessarily endorse the views in it, they will be seriously considered and he commends them to the Parliament and to the general public. I think that in itself is commendable.

What were some of the recommendations made by the group? I know some members have already read this document and others have received it. For the benefit of those who have not and for the wider audience, I will run through some of the recommendations and discuss related points in greater detail.

The document spells out nine objectives: First, to restore the diversity and vitality to the city that it appears to have lost over recent years; secondly, to bring back residents to the city - the residential population has fallen drastically over the last 20 to 30 years; thirdly, to make the city an enjoyable place, both day and night; fourthly, to make the city a pleasant and stimulating place to be; fifthly, to make the city accessible to all people in terms of transport,

and particularly public transport; sixthly, to seek excellence in urban design and to preserve our heritage. Members will agree that over the last 20 or 30 years, many historical buildings have disappeared to the detriment of the central city area and I think it is time that stopped. The Government has legislation on the Notice Paper in relation to that issue. However, more should be done. The seventh objective is to bring the city and the river together because there is ample evidence from everybody who uses the city that, while the city's setting on the river makes it spectacular and, if one can get a glimpse of the river, a beautiful city, it is apparent from the central city proper that there is very little contact with the river. It is separated by acres of parkland, roads and parking areas. There is a need to integrate the city with the river.

Mr Hassell: How do you do that? You may want to get rid of the roads, but I presume you don't want to get rid of the parks.

Dr ALEXANDER: I will come to that later. Maybe we should not get rid of them, but change them a bit.

The eighth objective is to involve people in the future of the city. I think it is apparent that the general public deserves a greater say in the type, style and pace of development that goes on in the city. The last objective is to establish a more appropriate planning and development system for the city.

These objectives may be implemented by, first, bringing back diversity and vitality to the city by breaking down the rigid separation between activities which has been reinforced by zoning by-laws and ordinances. Zoning, a planning mechanism widely adopted throughout the world, has gradually been discredited in the central city because it seeks to separate activities, rather than bring them together. Initially, zoning was introduced in the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century as a way of separating undesirable industrial activities from residential areas, a laudable objective. However, when that mechanism is applied to the central city, if it is applied rigidly as it has been in many instances in Perth, it ends up killing off the city we want to foster.

Critics have drawn attention to this over the years as did Jane Jacobs, in a book written as long ago as the early 1960s, and which was entitled, "The death and life of great American cities." Locally for example, on St Georges Terrace, as a rule only offices have been allowed to develop. Other activities are confined to other areas of the city. Apart from a few hotels and previously established uses such as the major churches, both St Georges Terrace and Adelaide Terrace are now dominated by large scale, faceless office towers which compete with one another for the badge of the tallest building in the city. This completely separates the Terrace area from the rest of the city.

George Seddon in a recently published book "A city and its setting" - it is well worth reading if members have not read it - said -

The Terrace itself rears up like a great Wall of China, with the barbarian encampments of Hay Street to North Perth huddled outside it, shut off for ever from the Promised Land, the shining world of river and parkland to the south. The Sheraton and Parmelia and the stunning reception areas at the top of these watchtowers are reserved for the mandarins of the new city who serve the interests of the multi-national corporations.

Mr Wiese: What a heap of nonsense!

Dr ALEXANDER: I do not think that is a heap of nonsense; I think that is a very lyrical description of St Georges Terrace.

Such has been the rigidity of the zoning that even shops at ground level have been banned. Exceptions have been allowed only on appeal to the Planning Appeals Tribunal or to the Minister. The fact is that offices completely dominate both St Georges Terrace and Adelaide Terrace. They virtually obliterate all other activity and cut off the rest of the city from the river and price out, as they climb higher, any competing uses, particularly residential uses, which, up until a few years ago, were relatively common.

Office workers on the top floors of these buildings may have spectacular views of the city and the river, but many more have views of other workers looking back at them from another office building which obliterates their view of the city and the river and which does little to

soothe their working day, even if they may have slightly improved working conditions from the older buildings which they previously occupied.

At lunchtime, workers located in Adelaide Terrace are too far away from the shops in Hay and Murray Streets or from Northbridge to use them. They can wait for a Clipper bus, but by the time they have reached their destination, it is time for them to return to their workplaces. The area has become too spread out to allow people to adequately access other activities in the city. Journeys from one end of the Terrace to the other are no longer the gentle, sunbaked stroll they used to be between three to four storey buildings dominating the Terrace. They are more likely to be a wind blasted tussle in a canyon which obliterates the sun for many hours of the day.

Attention was drawn to this fact in a recent article by Geoffrey London who is an academic in architecture at the University of Western Australia. In that article in *The West Australian* on 6 August called "Healing wounded Perth" he says -

It has become commonplace to lament the almost complete loss of the handsome, well-crafted commercial pallazzis that once lined St Georges Terrace . . .

Public space was the well-defined and sun-dappled footpath, whilst up a few steps, you were in the world of commerce, and down a few steps there were coffee shops, restaurants and a mix of fascinating small shops.

This is not simply nostalgia.

Mr Wiese: What do you reckon there is now under all the Terrace in the city?

Dr ALEXANDER: There is certainly not that mixture of activities that was present 30 years ago. The member should just try walking down the Terrace. I find it fascinating that people become upset when the city is criticised. I will come to that point later. People are somehow regarded as unpatriotic if they draw attention to inefficiencies.

Mr Wiese: There is nothing wrong with it.

Dr ALEXANDER: The member for Narrogin may think that, but others do not agree.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! If the member commenting wishes to continue to do so, I would prefer that he sit in his own seat.

Dr ALEXANDER: I think I have studied and walked more in the city than the member for Narrogin has had hot dinners.

The city's office areas need to be compacted more as they are in other cities such as Adelaide, to be more interspersed with other uses and, above all, to be designed to a human scale and less to a scale purely dictated by commercial advantage. One way in which this could be done would be by breaking down the rigid zoning which applies in the city and to restrain the market forces that clearly dominate development in St Georges Terrace. That is one area which could be addressed to make the city a livelier, more interesting place, particularly out of hours.

Secondly, there is a desperate need to bring back housing to the city, right into the central business district, as has been achieved successfully in Fremantle. Certain areas could be targeted for such development and the City Vision report outlines a number of them. One fairly controversial suggestion worth mentioning is Langley Park, right on the river. The purists would perhaps be outraged to see the broad green spaces which to my mind are dull, uninspiring and sterile used for that purpose. We could have a much more interesting environment if some of that space were taken up by low scale housing interspersed along a resculptured river front.

Mr Trenorden: You could build a freeway there!

Dr ALEXANDER: The member knows that I am not a supporter of freeways. Such a housing development would be a way of bringing back the river to the city. The member for Cottesloe previously asked how that could be done. After all, that land was all claimed from swamps and river to begin with. Why not now start to reverse the process by bringing the river closer to the city and placing some low scale housing in that area? Housing in these locations should be for all income groups. It could range from high rent apartments to housing subsidised for those unable to afford such a location.

Mr Wiese: First decent flood and there'd be water going through people's bottom storeys.

Dr ALEXANDER: That is an absolutely trivial point. It depends entirely on how it is constructed and how flood control is approached. I do not think the member for Narrogin knows much about city planning. The few remaining city residents are unlikely to be able to afford such locations. Even if the member for Narrogin does not agree with that specific suggestion, he may agree with the general point I am making that there is a need for more housing in the city centre.

Mr Trenorden: Where were you 15 years ago when people were getting thrown out of the city?

Dr ALEXANDER: What is the member talking about? I first wrote on these topics over 20 years ago, so that point is not relevant here.

Mr Trenorden: It is interesting that you are speaking about it now.

Dr ALEXANDER: I did not have the opportunity to speak about it before. I was not in Parliament then.

Mr Trenorden: You were on the council in those days.

Dr ALEXANDER: I will ignore such trivial interjections.

Similar opportunities for housing exist in East Perth, as the Government's East Perth plan foreshadows, in Northbridge and in areas around Queen and King Streets. In other cities warehouses have been converted to residential premises and there are many such structures both north and south of the railway line. This idea could also be taken up, therefore, in Perth.

Thirdly, one idea well worth consideration is to open up Government house gardens to the public. It is an anachronism to have such marvellous gardens right in the city shut up to the public for 95 to 100 per cent of the time.

Mr Parker: Sir David Brand actually agreed with that. It was his idea when the Concert Hall was designed that the steps should be turned around to face into Government House gardens. He always had it in mind that Government House gardens should be open to the public.

Dr ALEXANDER: That idea is well due for revival. In the long term the Governor's residence could be relocated elsewhere and that space could be much more profitably used for public access rather than very restricted public access which applies at present.

Mr Thomas: Hear, hear!

Dr ALEXANDER: I thank the member for Welshpool.

Fourthly, as has been suggested by others, including the Minister for Planning, an underground rail system could be established in central Perth to link the city together so that the dispersal which I referred to earlier would be much less of a problem. It would also encourage people to take public transport from the suburbs to the city and discourage car use. The central city station could be used as a focus for this system and it could extend both north and south of the existing railway line, perhaps in a figure 8 configuration or as a star shaped system. Clearly, that would be an expensive project and not one that could be undertaken lightly. The fact is that it was first considered some 20 years ago and last studied for economic feasibility in the 1970s. Clearly, a lot of similar work would have to be done if the idea were to be revived, but now is the appropriate time to reconsider it. The city work force is starting to expand rapidly and car usage in the city is becoming a real problem.

Fifthly, the public should be far more involved in debate about, and decision making on, city development matters. In City Vision's view this requires a total restructuring of the city planning system to allow for a tripartite input into city planning. The Perth City Council, the State Government and the wider community would make up the three parties. City Vision suggests a nine member commission with an independent chairman. All of these people would be appointed on the basis of their interest in and knowledge of the city. The Perth City Council could appoint its own representatives as it saw fit; likewise, representatives of the Government and the wider community could either be directly elected or, perhaps more appropriately, be appointed through relevant interest groups. Those with large scale property ownership interests in the city should be excluded from membership. That would prevent a continuation of the conflict of interest situation which I previously outlined to the House.

Mr Trenorden: And have done little about.

Dr ALEXANDER: That is totally untrue. It is not my part to do something about that, and the Government is addressing the problem, as the member should know. Such an organisation would not guarantee better city planning, but would lay the groundwork for it. After all, the city belongs to the people of metropolitan Perth, as does the whole State, even the rural areas. Its destiny should not be decided by a group of 27 councillors, often representing narrow or sectional interests.

Mr Trenorden: Don't they represent the ratepayers?

Dr ALEXANDER: Maybe they do, but they do not represent the wider interests of the residents of metropolitan Perth and the rural areas of the State. All of those people have an interest in the future of our city centre.

Mr Wiese: I thought we were having a referendum to stop Government taking over local government.

Dr ALEXANDER: This is not a takeover suggestion; it is saying that in a particular area - planning of the central city - local government should be a party and not be solely responsible for its planning. That is not a takeover.

Mr Trenorden: Do you think this body should give direction to the council?

Dr ALEXANDER: This body would be responsible for central city planning.

Mr Trenorden: That is disgraceful.

Dr ALEXANDER: That is the member's view, but not the view of many people.

Mr Trenorden: That is the member's attitude to local government.

Dr ALEXANDER: That remark shows the member does not understand the problem. These are some of the things flowing from the City Vision group which includes many people from the conservative side of politics. There are many others recommendations in this document and it would be well for the member for Avon to read it.

Mr Trenorden: Give me a copy and I will.

Dr ALEXANDER: Certainly, there are copies readily available. There are many others which add up to a bold blueprint for the future of the city and which would represent a major step forward in its development and thinking. It has already been suggested that the authors of the City Vision report - and I referred to this a few moments ago - are somehow unpatriotic or un-Western Australian to draw attention to what they see as some of the city's ills and problems. They are not denying that the city has some attractions and some desirable developments. We are saying, however, that it could do with a good deal of improvement and could be far more lively, interesting and productive, both economically and socially. Criticism which suggests that we are being unpatriotic is in itself myopic, parochial and absurd; after all, many of the dramatic changes which have been wrought on central Perth over the past 20 years and which have worsened the central city environment were a direct result of investment decisions controlled from interstate and overseas. A large measure of foreign and interstate investment is tied up in the procession of office towers that line the terrace and help to squeeze life from the city. What I ask would be more patriotic than to call for more local control and input in this context. Why criticise people like Mant as wise men from the east and then comply almost unilaterally with demands from developers from the east? After all, the city is meant for people and not simply for profit. I commend the ideas in the City Vision report to the House, as indeed I commend the Budget to the House.

MR CRANE (Moore) [3.34 pm]: This is probably the last Budget to which I will be privileged to make comments in this place. I am not sure whether I should address the Budget or sing members a song because I think that at this time, in view of the way in which the Budget was brought in, Jingle Bells would be appropriate, because it was a Father Christmas Budget. There is no doubt that the Treasurer in framing this Budget had in mind not only that there was an election in the offing but also that the people of Western Australia have been duped for so long that a little more would not hurt them. However, I have sufficient confidence in the people of Western Australia to feel that they will not be fooled by what was presented to them earlier this week. I have never in my experience in this place seen so many lollies handed out in the presentation of a Budget. Things can be overdone and

I am quite sure that there will be a reaction throughout the State to this Budget, which is really a monetary farce. It is not all bad, of course, and we must remember that. Among all those lollies were a few important matters, particularly in regard to rural industry.

As I said earlier, I will not be here for much longer and am almost pleased in one way that I am going because I am sick and tired of being proved to be correct 10 years later. I refer particularly to the fact that there will be an animal checkpoint installed at Kununurra for stock diseases. When I was chairman of an Honorary Royal Commission into the meat industry one of the points raised before that commission was the need for such a checkpoint, yet although we were the Government of the day we did nothing about it. Subsequently, nothing was done, so I give this Government credit for having taken the necessary steps to introduce that checkpoint at Kununurra.

Mr Trenorden: Checkpoint Charlie.

Mr CRANE: Checkpoint Peter, I think.

Mr Blaikie: Checkpoint Bert.

Mr CRANE: Yes, because we came up with it in the Honorary Royal Commission. I turn now to the \$1.3 million of loan funds to be used to expand the farm water supplies loan scheme. This is a good scheme. There is no doubt that any incentive given to producers to find water on their land or the area in which it falls must be encouraged. Home or farm supplies of water are very important and we need to conserve as much of it as we can because Australia is the driest continent in the world and we are the driest State on that continent. Therefore, I think this is a good move and congratulate the Government on making it.

It is also appropriate for me once more to thank the Minister for Water Resources, although he is not here at the moment, for his refreshing attitude to country water supplies. This is an area about which we could have taken positive steps when in Government, because it was not as if we did not know about it. I, for one, have spoken almost every time I have got to my feet in this place about the need to give more consideration to country water supplies. This move, of course, will help in that area. In thanking the Minister, I must mention that the decision to proceed with the Bindi Bindi scheme which will run from Miling to Bindi Bindi was agreed on by the Minister and me in the corridor one night when he said that if the people up there were prepared to make a contribution by working towards the laying of the pipeline the Government would make a contribution with regard to its costs.

The scheme went ahead, and it should be the forerunner of many other schemes in rural areas where people would be prepared, given the opportunity, to make that contribution with their labour. I cannot remember how long it took to lay that pipeline ten and a half miles, but it was not long. The shire provided the grading equipment, the local people provided the muscle, as it were, and the department provided the expertise for joining the pipes. I understand it was not too long before the farmers showed them a better way to do it, and that is the way it was done. It was a successful operation and one which needs every encouragement. I hope the Government will look to other areas in the State where such a contribution could be made and where the benefits would be tremendous.

I noticed in this week's *Farmers Weekly* something which is rather important - "Britain vows to end subsidies". It would be a great thing for agriculture if we could persuade the people of the United Kingdom and the economic communities to stop their subsidies which have created tremendous stockpiles of food in those areas, making it difficult for us, the producers of Australia, to compete against those subsidised markets. This should be good news for our farmers, and I hope that this Government will talk further with the British Government and encourage it to carry out those reductions in subsidies.

It would be wrong of me not to take this opportunity to remind the Minister for Education, who is not present, of something. As a matter of fact, if I were to call your attention to the state of the House I would have to sit down so I will not do so. I suppose afternoon tea is on, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Thomas). I am sorry the Minister for Education is not here, because I am particularly concerned about the question I asked her last Thursday in this place regarding the holidays which used to be granted for school children in country areas to attend rural shows. Many representations were made to me, particularly with regard to the Moora Show and the central midland areas. I made representations to the department, and I wrote

eventually to the Minister because all else had failed, only to find out, sadly, that those actions also failed. I am particularly disappointed that the Minister for Education did not see the need to support her colleague, the Minister for Agriculture, who himself had written to the Moora Shire Council expressing concern that the rural areas were not supporting agricultural shows. There is no doubt that these shows are of great significance in the country.

Mr Schell: They are of great significance to the family, too.

Mr CRANE: Without the family, what do we have left? This is only a continuation of the attack on the family - the family outing. I am disappointed that the Minister would not agree to my request, or even consider it, but I am also disappointed that I asked a question in Parliament last week and it has not yet been answered.

Mr Peter Dowding: Are you talking about this business of getting kids to shows?

Mr CRANE: In holidays, yes.

Mr Peter Dowding: I have had a letter - was it your letter?

Mr CRANE: I do not think I wrote to you, Mr Treasurer; I think I wrote to the Minister.

Mr Schell: I wrote to you.

Mr Peter Dowding: Do you mind my interrupting you for a moment?

Mr CRANE: Not at all.

Mr Peter Dowding: Somebody wrote to me and I received this departmental response which said, "Three bags full," it was not possible, so I sent it to education. Education sent me a response saying it is sort of possible, but there is no reason a school which has a project cannot go to the show, and there were some solutions. I have also sent it to Gavan Troy's people to get it clear on the issue of the Queen's Birthday holiday. Back in 1983 it was I who organised the opportunity for local areas to declare that holiday whenever they wanted it for races, a show day or whatever. You may well be getting a response which I think will give a number of options. We will send you a copy.

Mr CRANE: I would appreciate that. Members may think it is possibly too late - but it is not too late; it is never too late.

Mr Blaikie: In a number of country areas show days occur during the week, so it is important for those country towns that it does not necessarily fall at a weekend.

Mr Dowding: They can do it now by changing the Queen's Birthday. If the shire wants to move that to the local fair day, that is fine, and that will be a holiday for the purposes of that shire, which will include the schools. But there are some other opportunities for the school if there is some reason why you want it on another day.

Mr CRANE: Perhaps in the meantime the Treasurer could decide tomorrow to send a telegram to the school to tell them they can have their holiday. That would be well received.

Mr Peter Dowding: If people agree they can take the kids to the show.

Mr Schell: As part of the school activities?

Mr Peter Dowding: Yes. I will get a copy of that letter for you.

Mr CRANE: I have raised that point because it is of tremendous importance to country people and their families and they should be given every consideration.

I would like to take this opportunity of asking the Government to give more support to the pleas being made, particularly to the Minister for Transport, regarding funds for country roads. There is no doubt that the country shire councils are facing a crisis, and more money must come from Canberra to provide for repairs, and in some instances the construction of new roads. In a State as large as Western Australia, transport and adequate roads are some of the most important factors. Country people cannot go anywhere without travelling, usually fairly long distances, and therefore transport, including the cost of fuel and the roads they travel on, is very important. It was disappointing to hear the other day that the price of beer was to drop, but not the price of fuel. There is no doubt that fuel is the most important commodity as far as all Australians are concerned, because wherever one lives a transport cost component is involved, whether it is transport or freight.

Mr Schell: We only get 18 per cent back; the Government takes a big tax bite.

Mr CRANE: That is right, yet at the same time it cuts the price of beer.

Mr Trenorden: Do you think there might be an election in the air?

Mr CRANE: Possibly there is. The reduction in the price of fuel would have been of far more benefit for a lot more people than the reduction in the price of beer. At the same time as reducing the price of beer, the Government had the audacity to come out with programs trying to persuade people not to drink so much of it. I would have thought, if one wanted to stop people drinking so much of it, it might not be a bad idea to put the price up.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to a member of the Opposition, not in this Parliament but in the Federal Parliament, the member for Kalgoorlie, Graeme Campbell, who had the courage to come out the other day and give a different point of view from that of his party and of his Minister.

A member: It would be interesting to see if he votes that way.

Mrs Beggs: Did you congratulate your people in the other House when they voted the other way?

Mr CRANE: I heard only this afternoon that they did it. I have not seen them yet.

Mrs Beggs: But you will congratulate them?

Mr CRANE: I will find out who they were. I never mind anybody walking across the floor and voting that way, but I do not think Mr Campbell actually crossed the floor. I can remember many times in this place - and the member for Warren will remember this - being invited to come across the floor and my comment always was, "I do not take very kindly to people inviting me to do things they will not do themselves."

Mr Trenorden: Have you ever seen anyone come across this side?

Mr CRANE: Yes, I have. I saw Mr Tom Hartrey cross the floor.

Mr Gordon Hill: Getting back to Mr Campbell, do you agree with his comments?

Mr CRANE: Getting back to Mr Campbell, I do agree with his comments, and so would the majority of people in Australia. Now members opposite will call me a racist, which I am not. I agree entirely with Mr Campbell's comments. I wrote to him today to congratulate him because I believe that anybody who has the courage to stand up and be counted should be congratulated.

Mr Gordon Hill: Is that the Western Australian Liberal Party's position?

Mr CRANE: That is my position.

Mr Gordon Hill: What about your leader's position?

Mr CRANE: I have not discussed this with my leader - he can answer for himself. I have no doubt that he will. I have never known the Leader of the Opposition not to have the courage to state his position on any matter. Even though at times his position has been rather a lonely one, he has always stood by it. But I was talking about the Federal member for Kalgoorlie. I believe he deserved congratulation. He has only reiterated what the majority of people in Australia are saying anyway.

Mr Read: Does that make it correct?

Mr CRANE: It may not make it correct in the view of the member for Mandurah but it makes it correct in the minds of the majority of people in Australia and that is all that worries me. There is no doubt that there is concern in Australia about our immigration policy. It does need rewriting and reconsidering - and this is not an affront to people of ethnic communities at all, it is stating the fact that Australia needs to be Australia and people who come here must be encouraged to be a part of this great country of ours. While they will continue to recognise their own birthright they will, as the very Oath of Allegiance dictates they should, respect the laws and the sovereignty of this country. I have recited the oath in this Parliament before, so there is no need for me to do it again. I support Mr Campbell. It is a pity a few more people in the ALP do not have his courage. I believe he needs our full support.

One other matter of concern to me is the fact that there has been so much false advertising on television over the last few weeks regarding the referendum questions. I understand that there is a law in this country against false advertising, yet the advertisements on television asking people to vote yes are so blatantly misleading that I must bring them to the attention of the House. They are asking us whether we want democratic and fair elections. Well, we have them. The advertisements state that we need one-vote-one-value, and we know what that would do to country people. In this Parliament I represent about 10 500 people. To travel from one end of my electorate to the other without getting out of my motorcar takes me three and a half hours and I believe the people who live in Eneabba, whom I represent, are just as entitled to see their local member of Parliament as are those who live in the pocket handkerchief electorates in the metropolitan area.

Mr Schell: That point has been sorely overlooked.

Mr CRANE: I know it has been overlooked, and anyone who says my constituents are not entitled to see me or it is possible that I can go and serve their needs is not being fair to themselves. One-vote-one-value would completely destroy the country electorates, it would completely destroy the voice of rural people, and while the rural people continue to provide the greater part of the wealth of this country surely to God they are entitled to some of the say. If we take it a step further, one-vote-one-value would mean that Australia would be governed by Sydney and Melbourne - and this is precisely what they want.

Another of the television advertisements asks whether we want four year terms in Parliament and whether we are sick of elections. Of course we are sick of elections. I have stated in this House, and I will state again - and I doubt whether our side of the House would agree with me but I hope one day it will because, as I said before, I am usually proved right after 10 years - I believe that all Parliaments should be for a given term. Whether they are for three or four years, they should be for that term, give or take six weeks, as are the presidential elections in the United States. A Government should be elected for three years - or four years - and serve that time, to within six weeks of a certain date, unless the Queen or her representative dissolves the Parliament for reasons which we all understand. I do not object to the four year term of Parliament at all - as a matter of fact, I endorse it - but it must be a fixed four year term and not an opportunity for the Government to run for four years if that is what it wants to do, or for only four weeks. That is where the people are being duped by the television advertisements. They ask whether we want fewer elections. Of course we do, but that question in the referendum has absolutely nothing to do with whether we will get them. Therefore it is false advertising and, as I said earlier, I thought there was a law against it.

Mr Trenorden: It also reduces the terms of senators from six to four years.

Mr CRANE: I was coming to that point. If that happens and if the Senate has to go out at the same time as the House of Representatives we will do away completely with the power of the Senate. Of course, this is what Mr Hawke wants. He actually wants to castrate the Senate and take away its power, and a yes vote would effectively achieve that aim. I do not believe the people of Australia will agree to that and I hope they do not because our forefathers put the powers of the Senate there for a very good reason. It was for the protection not only of the people's rights but also of the rights of the States. Regardless of the populations of the States, we are all entitled to the same number of senators and there is a very good reason for that. Therefore, I believe those television advertisements are completely out of order.

As for trial by jury, I am sure we have it now. I cannot recall anyone telling me we do not have trial by jury, so what is all the nonsense about trial by jury? And it is a nonsense - it is absolutely a nonsense. The people trying to dupe the public on an issue such as this must believe that the people's intelligence is down at the same level as their own. We have trial by jury; and as for the question of whether we recognise local government, members can ask anybody who has just received his rates notice if he recognises local government. He will say, "I can tell you they are there - I have just received my rates." Incidentally, I received a rate notice the other day for just over \$1 000 from the City of Stirling, which you, Mr Deputy Speaker, would know about, if I may say so. That referendum question is just a nonsense and it is about time we got rid of these nonsenses because they are not doing us any good at all.

I would have liked to speak on a number of other issues today but time does run away from

us. I give my support to the Leader of the Opposition for criticising the Budget and pointing out its weaknesses. As I said at the beginning of my remarks, it is a Santa Claus Budget - it is full of lollies to be handed out to people; but I do not believe the people will be duped as easily as some people believe they will be. As the Leader of the Opposition said, if we give it all away today we will not have anything for tomorrow, and next year somebody will have to bring down another Budget. That will be a worrying time for the Leader of the Opposition, who will be the Treasurer at that time and have the responsibility for the Budget. He will handle the situation, difficult though it may be. He will do so with the support of many good and solid members who reside on this side of the House at present. Unfortunately, I will not be present to prod them along and keep them moving.

Mr Trenorden: You will be in the Mediterranean.

Mr CRANE: No, I will not. For a long time I have been concerned about the proposal by the City of Wanneroo to establish a rubbish tip at Mindarie. I raised this matter with the Wanneroo Shire Council some time ago stating that a mistake was being made on this issue. The rubbish tip at Mindarie is to be established to dispose of rubbish from the Cities of Wanneroo, Stirling and Perth. Rubbish should be disposed of in a proper and modern manner for the whole of the metropolitan area. I have written numerous letters on this matter to the Government and commented on the contribution made by the City of Stirling towards Marmion Avenue which will lead to the rubbish tip. The contribution by the City of Wanneroo will assist with the construction of that road. This is very short sighted thinking on the part of the City of Wanneroo. The State Government should be assisting the City of Wanneroo to provide a modern recycling unit which should cost in the area of \$10 million.

Mrs Watkins: If the land was sold this could be done.

Mr CRANE: They are determined not to do that. In the future it will happen but unfortunately a great deal of damage will be done at Mindarie before then. The people at Quinns Rocks and the people at Burns Beach, whom I used to represent, do not want the rubbish tip. Many people in Western Australia do not want the rubbish tip and yet the Cities of Wanneroo, Stirling and Perth and the State Government do not have the courage to bite the bullet and put in a decent recycling plant to service the whole metropolitan area.

Mrs Watkins: If that land was sold an enormous profit would be made.

Mr CRANE: I know, but they are determined not to do that.

Mrs Watkins: They will not listen to the Premier.

Mr CRANE: If I had had more time I would have moved a motion requesting a proper investigation, not just a few people shooting off overseas on a junket. People return from those trips convinced that we ought to do something but the reports do not show that. I have been promised a report from the City of Stirling by a group which travelled last Christmas, but I have not seen that report yet. I am speaking about my own electorates, and my people, and I guard them jealously. I have criticised the City of Wanneroo very severely for its short sightedness; I criticise it again for not having the courage to open its eyes and see what is on the end of its nose. I am disappointed to receive so little support, but I am happy to hear the member for Joondalup supporting me on this matter. I certainly give her every encouragement I can to keep up with her arguments.

Mrs Watkins: It is a pity the Liberal candidate does not support it.

Mr CRANE: I do not know that. I cannot comment. If he is not supporting it, I will have to sort him out.

I was disappointed the other night that I did not have the opportunity to address certain legislation then before the House. Although people on my left are having a very good conversation, I suggest they desist for a moment and listen. For once in my life, as a rural producer and one who has always had a close affinity with animals, I believe it was unfortunate that when recent legislation went through on artificial insemination, no-one was present to put the case for the poor old cow. We have had women's libbers, what about cows' libbers? It is incumbent upon me as a farmer to put the case when this legislation is being considered giving authority for trained laymen to perform the necessary acts with regard to artificial insemination. The cow's point of view was put to me some time ago and I believe I should now put that to this Parliament. Nobody ever considers the poor old animal, and with your permission, Mr Speaker, I will put the point of view of the cow -

The Cow's Lament on Artificial Insemination

Though I've just given birth to a heifer and of milk and of pride I am full,
 I am sad to relate that my lacteal state was not brought about by a bull.
 I have never been naughty, I swear it, in spite of this calf I have borne;
 like Farmer Brown's tractor, I am virgo intacto 'cause I've never had a
 bull by the horn.

How dreary the fields and the meadow; the sheep yards are gloomy and grey,
 and the one bit of fun in the year's long run has by science been taken away.
 I know that the farm is a business in which we must all pull our weight,
 but I'd pull and I'd pull for a strongly built bull, for this phoney
 arrangement I hate.

You must not think that I'm jealous; there are things that a cow should not say,
 but these land army tarts who handle our parts still get theirs the
 old fashioned way.

Mr Speaker, I thought it only reasonable in a House such as this where everyone's point of view is entitled to be put that someone should consider the poor old cow. We milk them with cold milking machines; not with warm hands. I put that point of view to you, Mr Speaker, because I thought it appropriate. I was not able to do so the other evening and now, at last, the cow's case has been put. It was my privilege to do so. No doubt I will have a few more poems for members before I leave this place, but I felt that was appropriate.

The legislation was really to support the fact that lay persons can be trained in carrying out the necessary operation, if it can be called an operation. People who have lived on farms have done it for years. My friend, the member for Greenough, will remember the things we used to have to do in treating animals. We had to carry out castration and all those sorts of things. As a matter of fact only last year, when I went to Long Beach and spent the night on the *Queen Mary* which is now a hotel, I was reminded of a chap who came to Australia from England many years ago. I spent a lovely evening at the Winston Churchill restaurant. On the menu was capon; I do not know whether members have eaten it, but it is delicious. We never seem to get it in Australia. However, a few years ago we were able to buy the female hormone pellets which we injected into the neck of the cockerels. It took the sting out of the cockerels and it certainly took the crow out of them. They grew into fat birds and they were beautiful eating. As there was supposedly some link to cancer from the hormone which we used to inject into the birds it was withdrawn from the market. I am sure all members know how to make a hormone. Do not pay her. In regard to the caponising of roosters the chap whom I was reminded of last year showed me the surgical procedure. I have actually done it. It is a little operation that is done on the side of the rooster. The feathers are plucked away and the rooster is cut open and the testes are removed. I do not know whether members have seen it done or have actually done it, but I have - not that that is much claim to fame. It proves that one does not have to be a veterinary surgeon to do these things with animals and that was the reason for the legislation that passed through this House the other day. I supported it for that reason. I will admit that I did get off the track a little, but I gave members some background, and history, and told them about hormones and how to caponise roosters.

Mr Blaikie: It is still part of the experience that you have had as a member. You have been on a number of Select Committees and your experience in agricultural matters has been useful.

Mr CRANE: Yes, it has. As a matter of fact it will be with a great deal of sadness that I leave this House later this year or when there is an election, but that is another matter. I do not consider that I have been of great value to this House. As I said, nobody takes any notice of me until 10 years later when they find that I was right. However, it has been quite a bit of fun. When my farmer friend on my left and I leave this Parliament we will take with us years of experience - things we have done, things we have seen done and things of which we have been a part. That is a great shame because the Parliament does need the other point of view. It needs the experience that can come only from having lived. A person cannot be born with experience, he has to achieve it over the years, and we have been able to do that. We have been very fortunate to have lived through an era which started from the aeroplane. I remember as a young lad of four or five going to a party and the topic of discussion was the aeroplane which had flown over the area that afternoon. It was something most unusual in

those days. I left school 50 years ago to drive a team of horses and that was an experience. There would not be many members in this House who would know how to put together an eight horse whipple. They probably do not know what a whipple is. It can come only from experience and that experience will be lost from this Parliament. However, before I leave this Parliament I thought it was incumbent upon me to put the case for the cow and it was my privilege to do that today.

[Applause.]

DR WATSON (Canning) [4.15 pm]: I endorse the sentiments of the member for Perth in relation to the Budget and want to record that I am proud to be a member of a Government that is able to bring down a Budget in which people in this State can share because the benefits from judicious budgeting can be redistributed to them. I also want to congratulate those members in another place who crossed the floor last night to allow the introduction of random breath testing in Western Australia and contribute to saving lives and preventing hideous and long term injuries. I heard an interview on the radio this morning which reminded me of some research with which I am familiar; that is, the single most important effect of random breath testing in New South Wales was an immediate reduction in domestic violence which came about, as this man said, because people knew that they could no longer go to the pub and get sloshed - or whatever the vernacular - and risk driving home without being caught and risk causing accidents that might cause bodily injury or death and, in turn, beat their wives and children.

Members in the House will be aware that I am the chair of a committee which is coordinating the implementation of recommendations made by the Task Force on Domestic Violence which reported in late 1986. Those recommendations had a tremendous impact on various departments with related responsibilities, such as community services, housing and health. The recommendations go a long way towards challenging attitudes and prejudices as well as vested interests of people who do not like to admit that this crime occurs. Included in the issues that are being challenged is the history of the problem. Members may not know that until the nineteenth century it was legal for husbands to beat their wives. There are many theories of causes and many myths that relate to domestic violence which I hope to touch on this afternoon. Since 1985 every State in Australia, as well as the Northern Territory and the ACT, has investigated the incidence of domestic violence and have set up facilities or some sort of capacity to deal with the issue. As the chair of the Western Australian committee I represent our State at a national level. The national Government is concerned that we should have an Australia wide program to make people more knowledgeable and informed about the incidence of this crime.

Today I would like to describe some of the research that was commissioned late last year by the Office of Status of Women and by the Department of Prime Minister and describe some of the findings of that study. The study was carried out Australia wide, through a technique using group discussions with a broad cross section of men and women from both urban and rural areas. The groups were chosen at random and as far as I can remember there were over 30 groups. In every single group chosen at random there was a victim and a perpetrator, and nearly everyone in the group knew a victim of domestic violence. Complementary to those group discussions were in-depth interviews with both perpetrators and victims, and 180 extensive interviews with professionals who deal with this problem. The objective was to seek information on how much community members and professionals knew about domestic violence and the reasons for their beliefs and attitudes towards it, because this has always been considered to be a private, family matter, and not a crime.

It was interesting that at the Press conference we held on Monday in Canberra, Paul Wilson, from the Institute of Criminology, stated that domestic violence constitutes the biggest crime in Australia - maybe at a higher rate than in the United States; and certainly the rate of domestic murder in Australia is higher than it is in the United States. We estimate domestic violence happens in one in every three relationships between men and women.

Domestic violence is commonly recognised as being physical violence between spouses, and in about 93 per cent of cases it is perpetrated by men on women. Most of it is physical, but we should not ignore the effects that abuse, social isolation and economic dependence have on a woman's self esteem. The other thing people who deal professionally in this area have observed is the emotional abuse. The name calling, the references to a woman's body image

and the fact that she might be obese, the fact that she is called hopeless, useless or a slut, can be accepted by her as her view of herself. Professionals say such abuse is the necessary precursor to the bashing, kicking, shoving and bruising, the ultimate violence, of course, being murder.

Women who are abused are isolated. They are isolated because they are ashamed of the fact that they are a victim of this man on whom they are dependent, who they frequently say they love, and to whom they want to remain married. They may also live in geographically isolated regions. They are isolated from services and, particularly, any kind of assistance if they are non-English speakers. Members will have read in various newspapers of the vulnerability of women who come to Australia from South East Asia to marry men who do not live up to their high expectations of marriage to someone whom they perceived to be rich and fun loving. On a Federal level there are problems in this area which have to be tackled by the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, particularly with regard to the control of agencies.

We should recognise that this crime is perpetrated across all income groups. Perpetrators look like any of the men in this Chamber, and those who work in the kitchen or in the House itself. So do victims. We have to remember that while we are trying to establish a national campaign in every State to prevent domestic violence, the ultimate aim is the prevention of homicide.

It should also be remembered that people frequently ask why women do not leave these relationships. That question can be turned around to ask why men do not leave the relationship. Why should a woman have to pack up herself and her children and flee to heaven knows where? Perhaps there is a refuge available, but she may just have to leave. In country areas women need safe exit routes. We have to start asking why men are not made to leave. Some of the causes of domestic violence are still shrouded in mythology. People will blame alcohol, financial stresses and unemployment. Men who perpetrate such violence are very reluctant to acknowledge that it is their responsibility. Men say, "She provoked me", or, "I couldn't control myself because I had been drinking, and I am really very sorry." They may very well be provoked, as they see it, but they may be equally provoked in their employment, or any other situation, and they do not lash out and bash their boss or workmates. The other thing we have to acknowledge is that men do this behind closed doors. We are now opening the doors and allowing women to say, "This is my experience." We are also allowing the community to react against it. As the report said, we are breaking the silence.

I touched briefly on the isolation of victims of domestic violence. Some groups of people are more vulnerable than others. We have to know that the experiences of all women are very similar with respect to their difficulty of being able to get away; their fear of being pursued and harassed, particularly after separation; and their lack of support, appropriate safe housing, financial resources and, very often, personal resources. Those problems may be exacerbated by cultural problems. Aboriginal women are particularly vulnerable, and more so if they are married to white men rather than Aboriginal men. Young women are vulnerable, and domestic violence is one of the main reasons why many are homeless.

In Western Australia, Queensland and New South Wales representatives have expressed tremendous concern for women who live in geographically isolated areas because very often the presence of a gun in a homestead makes a violent situation potentially fatal. Research done by the Police Department in New South Wales found that a disproportionate number of domestic murders are committed in rural areas.

I touched on women of non-English speaking background, particularly those who come here to marry Australian residents. Those people have problems because they often live in geographically and socially isolated areas such as mining towns.

I emphasise that the experience of all women seems to be the same, but it is exacerbated in those who are particularly vulnerable. I would like to talk for some time about perpetrators - the men who bash. As I said earlier, they take no responsibility for their behaviour; they say that they do it because they are provoked, but they are provoked in other situations and never bash in public - always in private.

The researchers who conducted this piece of work for the Office of Status for Women paint a

gloomy picture of this very difficult problem. They say that very little will be achieved in changing the behaviour of men for a long time and it will be very dependent on strong support and clear, unequivocal rules with support services. The men, as I have said before, look like any men you might see in any workplace or street in town. They do apparently suffer low self-esteem and have some kinds of problems in the way in which they communicate at a verbal level.

One of the interesting findings is that they are very dependent on their relationship with their wife and it often takes the crisis of her leaving, which means that she herself is in crisis, for him to be remorseful enough to want to do something about it. The other critical factor is that they fail to take any responsibility for their violence; they seem to embrace it as something that is normal. Of course, not surprisingly, they do not talk about it with their mates, either. One of the things that might make them change, besides the crisis of the wife leaving, is recognition of the fear or terror of their children because, of course, this affects everybody in the family and Patrick Shanahan has pointed out that in many families it affects the dogs, cats and the birds as well.

We need to look at some of the things that may, while they are barriers to change, barriers that we have to break down in breaking the silence, be related to causes, and are associated with the stereotyped roles and behaviour of men and women so that men are dominant and women are powerless against them. This is reinforced in socialisation processes. The Ministry of Education is most interested to endorse content for its curricula in which children will be taught how to resolve conflicts in non-violent ways. The media, of course, reinforces this kind of behaviour and people who have been socialised, perhaps in families that are violent, perhaps by the way in which the media shapes this, resort to violence to resolve any kind of anger and argument.

The men who were interviewed fell into two main categories. Most, by the time they admitted to being violent, felt remorseful about their behaviour and had some inclination to change. But there were a large number who were unrepentant and unrepenting. They saw that they owned their spouse and that she was victimising them and being violent to them by moving away. This is a very difficult set of circumstances that causes what might be irreparable damage to their children and certainly to their marriage. They found that the way to change men's behaviour revolved around some kind of intervention. That might be, as I said before, the crisis of their wife and the children leaving, or might be that someone had called in the police, but it certainly shifted their behaviour out of the private and into the public sector.

This kind of extreme behaviour will take extreme measures to change and will take years and years to change. The police will have to come to terms with the fact that domestic violence is a crime, but the perpetrators cannot acknowledge just now that the behaviour that they have normalised, perhaps seen in their own family, and have seen time after time on television, is anything less than normal.

So far as any public awareness campaign goes, the fact that domestic violence is a crime that should be punished by appropriate penalties will make very little difference to those who perpetrate it. Another very interesting finding of this research was that besides other victims of domestic violence those most sympathetic to women victims were men who were non-perpetrators. Women who are not victims are, along with the rest of the community, often unsympathetic to women victims and, as members know from earlier reports, one in five people would do nothing about intervening if their neighbours were being beaten. Therefore, we must think of more appropriate means of dealing with domestic violence which prevent recurrences and which may, ultimately, prevent homicides.

We have to look at what penalties might be compatible with a counselling service for these men in groups, or as individuals. I would like to read a poem that was presented to the researchers by a woman called Sarah. She called it "Too Many" and it says -

Too many "IFS",
Too many "WHENS",
Too many "SORRYS"
and "NEVER AGAINS".
Too many PROMISES,
Too many LIES,

Far too many "ONE MORE TRIES".
How many were there
Before I knew
That "ACTIONS" speak "LOUDER"
than "PROMISES" do?

In that poem the woman has encapsulated the experiences of women who might live in such situations for years and years before eventually having to perhaps flee for their lives from these men they love.

They will say time and again that the relationship is very important to them and that they would rather stay, but of course they cannot stay if they are in fear of their lives, as we know that they are. It is really for the information of the House, because in our work as constituency politicians we have to be sensitised to the fact that many women who come to see us with a range of problems are really presenting with those problems because they come from such a background.

Not until we shift this crime from the private to the public sphere, not unless it is recognised and treated in the police, legal and judicial system as a crime, are we ever going to make any impact on minimising it. The lack of action, in fact, reinforces the perpetrators' belief that what they do is not criminal.

I am speaking today in the Budget debate. The costs of domestic violence impact on many portfolios - police and emergency services, housing, education, health, community services, multicultural and ethnic affairs, and Aboriginal affairs. The Queensland task force is attempting now to do some costings on victims, and it is studying retrospective case histories to establish the costs of this crime in relation to 20 particular women. This is part of the public policy on families, and it should be regarded as such. I look forward to the continuing privilege of chairing this committee that is trying to make a dent, if not some significant reform, in this area in the health and safety of women whose families should be secure, and particularly their children, who will be the next generation.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Taylor (Minister for Police and Emergency Services).

ROAD TRAFFIC AMENDMENT (RANDOM BREATH TESTS) BILL

Standing Orders Suspension

On motion without notice by Mr Taylor (Minister for Police and Emergency Services), resolved with an absolute majority -

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable a Message from the Legislative Council concerning the Road Traffic Amendment (Random Breath Tests) Bill to be taken into consideration on the day it is received.

Returned

Bill returned from the Council with amendments.

Council's Amendments - Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Burkett) in the Chair; Mr Taylor (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) in charge of the Bill.

The amendments made by the Council were as follows.-

No 1

Clause 2

Page 1, line 6 - To add after "2." the expression "(1)".

No 2

Clause 2

Page 1, after line 7 - To add the following -

(2) Subsection (1) and (1aa) of the principal Act as enacted by section 4 of this Act, shall cease to operate at the expiration of 18 months from the commencement of this Act.

Mr TAYLOR: I would like first of all to thank the two Opposition parties for their cooperation in allowing this amendment to be dealt with immediately; it is greatly appreciated. It contrasts with the nature of the debate we have had up to now. It is pleasing that the legislation is now about to go through this Chamber, and at the same time, in relation to the amendment, it is not without some sense in that it ties in very neatly with the proposal for a review of the legislation after 12 months. If that review is such that the legislation is not having the desired effect, there is no doubt that the legislation will be done away with. I appreciate the fact that members in the other place and members here today have seen fit to allow the Parliament to deal with the Bill in this way.

I move -

That the amendments made by the Council be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

Report

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

BILLS (2) - RECEIPT AND FIRST READING

1. Offenders Probation and Parole Amendment Bill
2. Parole Orders (Transfer) Amendment Bill

Bills received from the Council; and, on motions by Mr Pearce (Leader of the House), read a first time.

OFFENDERS PROBATION AND PAROLE AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR PEARCE (Armadale - Leader of the House) [4.52 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

[Leave granted for the following text to be incorporated.]

The Bill seeks to provide for the appointment of a deputy for each member appointed by the Governor to the Parole Board. Section 21 of the Offenders Probation and Parole Act provides that the Parole Board consists of seven members. Four of these are specified by the Act and are able to have deputies participate in their absence. This Bill proposes to make similar provision for the three members of the Parole Board appointed by the Governor. Each of these members would have nominated deputies who could attend meetings and act in place of the members in their absence. The Bill also provides for minor amendments to section 50V of the Act. These are "tidying up" amendments identified by Parliamentary Counsel.

Section 50V refers to both division 1 and division 2 of part IIIA of the Act. Division 2, which is related to parole, was repealed on proclamation of the major amendments to the parole system this year. The proposed amendments delete references to parole which are no longer applicable because of the repeal of the corresponding division. These amendments are consistent with previous amendments to the Act and have no consequential effects.

I commend the Bill to the House.

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

PAROLE ORDERS (TRANSFER) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR PEARCE (Armadale - Leader of the House) [4.53 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

[Leave granted for the following text to be incorporated.]

This Bill amends the Parole Orders (Transfer) Act 1984, which relates to reciprocal enforcement of parole orders between the various States.

Currently, Western Australian parole orders may be registered in another State to enable a parolee to reside in a State other than Western Australia while ensuring that the parolee is supervised by the other State authorities, and that appropriate breach action can be taken against the parolee for unsatisfactory performance while on parole. When registering a parole order in another State, that State, under section 6 of the Parole Orders (Transfer) Act 1984, must be provided with a copy of the "judgment or order" by virtue of which that person is liable to undergo the imprisonment to which the parole order relates. The Act currently provides no definition of "judgment or order" and some States have interpreted this phrase to mean a copy of the sentencing transcript which, in turn, has been certified by the magistrate or judge who imposed the sentence. On some occasions, either the transcript is not available or it is unable to be certified by the presiding court, thus preventing the registration of a parole order in some other States.

The Bill amends the Parole Orders (Transfer) Act 1984 to include a definition of "judgment or order", which includes more readily available documentation, such as a certificate of Clerk of Arraignment, or warrant of commitment. New South Wales has already amended its reciprocal legislation to make similar provision and it is anticipated that remaining States will also amend their reciprocal legislation.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Mensaros.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) BILL

Second Reading - Budget Debate

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MIR MASLEN (Gascoyne) [4.54 pm]: I endorse the remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition in his reply to the Budget, and I endorse his pledge that financial dealings of a future Liberal Government will be out in the open and accounted for; and the people involved in this State's institutions, or who are handing money for the people of this State, will be held accountable.

I believe the Budget certainly was, as the member for Moore said, a Father Christmas Budget. It has the overtones of a pre election Budget. Other than the general application of the Budget and increases in funds to things such as law and order and schools, I, as the member for the Gascoyne region and the endorsed Liberal candidate for the proposed seat of Northern Rivers, was somewhat disappointed that in all these luxurious reams of paper there is no mention of any specific expenditure on roads or assistance to shire councils, schools, police stations, or anything whatsoever.

Mr Greig: They obviously think you are going to win.

Mr MASLEN: The member might be right. It is obvious to me, having taken over my electorate from a Liberal Party member who held Gascoyne for 14 years, that under the State Labor Government that region has been very shoddily treated. There has been no extension of the water scheme into the plantation area; we are curtailed as far as our small boat harbour, which supports our fishing industry, is concerned; and areas like Denham have been neglected. Exmouth cannot even get an access road from the Great Northern Highway to support its tourist industry, which I believe will, once it is opened up, rival places like Broome or Cairns. The Leader of the Opposition pointed out that taxation under this Government has outstripped inflation significantly every year; he made the point that this year the two are a little closer, but that is because we are coming up to an election. I am pleased that my leader pledged that payroll tax will be abolished by degrees and it will firstly be removed from people employing people under the age of 20 years. The Leader of the Opposition undertook to cut funding; I know that if one is going to run a State in a businesslike manner, one must avoid duplication. The Leader of the Opposition pointed out that the downfall of the Fraser Liberal Government and the Barry Unsworth Labor Government in New South Wales came about despite the fact that both Governments tried to buy people's votes prior to elections, so I do not believe this Budget should be of any great comfort to members opposite.

I am still investigating the ramifications of this Budget for rural Western Australia.

Unfortunately because of circumstances, I have not been able to complete my perusal of the Budget. However, I believe that in an area as diverse as the electorate of Gascoyne, it is disappointing to note the lack of specific expenditure. Having travelled through that area extensively in the last 12 months, and having been born and lived my life there, I know that people in that area have every right to feel somewhat neglected. We have heard the harpings of our enlightened friends across the House regarding one-vote-one-value. That is an admirable situation in its right context, but I think that if they are going to go that far, they should also apply one contribution. Western Australia, for example, produces something like 25 per cent of Australia's export income with only 7 per cent of the nation's population, yet if one-vote-one-value were applied, people in cities like Melbourne and Sydney would have three times the vote of Western Australians. They would be able to tell us what to do with our money. I realise that this State is not a federation, but nonetheless in an area as vast as Western Australia, it is the remote agricultural, mining, and pastoral regions which produce almost the total export income of this State. It is totally unreasonable and untenable to have those areas represented by only one or two people. Three members in this place represent electorates covering over 250 000 square miles; two of them belong to the Government side, and I am sure they would endorse the fact that this is an untenable situation if we are to represent those areas properly. Consequently, I do not believe that the argument for one-vote-one-value should hold any sway in a country such as Australia or, indeed, in Western Australia.

I have not noticed any specific items relating to schools, police stations, or roads for my area. I think that most people who live in the metropolitan area would appreciate the extremes of climate in those areas. If they multiplied by 10 the extremes that they believe the people in remote areas experience, they would come somewhere near to understanding the heat. These people live in climates that go from blazing heat to subtropical rainstorms within a few hours. Children are expected to go to school when the average temperature is between 45 and 50 degrees and are expected to play on asphalt in that heat or hang around under verandas like a bunch of budgies under a karri tree near a trough. I think it is unreasonable to expect kids to put up with that and unreasonable to expect teachers to maintain discipline and order in those circumstances. I am disappointed that schools such as those at Newman and Meekatharra have not been experienced. Covered areas in which children can escape the blazing heat of the day could be constructed one by one in the schools of the north west.

There is also a need for the rationalisation of the infrastructure of education. I am not referring to the academic development of education because academics give that angle a fairly good airing. However, I am amazed that staff furniture at many primary schools is different from furniture for staff in secondary schools. Indeed, the principal of a primary school has a different desk and chair from the principal of a high school. I do not know how this ridiculous situation came about and I do not believe it is all the fault of this Government, either. However, I believe it should be brought to the notice of the clowns who thought it up.

Even primary school buildings are different from secondary school buildings. The Newman Primary School was built along the lines of a secondary school and works very well. Maybe the mining company which has a lot of influence in that area had something to say about the sort of school that would be built. Buildings should be suited to the areas in which they are built and not constructed as primary and secondary schools. The bureaucratic nonsense relating to different furniture for different schools should be eliminated. The kids might be different sizes, but the teachers are the same size, more or less.

My leader has given an undertaking to investigate the duplication of services when we are returned to Government. This duplication is more evident in country areas than it is in the city. One can walk down the main street of a country town and note that every second office is a Commonwealth or State Government office. Having been in agriculture all my life and having done my useless best to get some sense out of the former Department of Lands and Surveys and the present Department of Lands Administration, I have found that, instead of being able to kill the snake by chopping off its head, it has grown. We now have such departmental spin-offs as the State Planning Commission, the Environmental Protection Authority, and three or four others. Yet, the old Department of Lands Administration is still wobbling along on Adelaide Terrace. Somehow, it has managed to refine obstructionist policies and inefficiency to a real art form.

We have to investigate departments that are supposed to handle different facets of

governmental administration and ensure that they are not duplicating work or passing the buck to another department. They are frustrating the people they are supposed to be serving.

I hope also that something will be done about the permit system. People in this country have to obtain a permit to do everything. A farmer needs a permit to get feed from another farmer to feed his stock during a drought. He needs a permit to feed his stud stock or to carry things in a truck that is made to cart stock. Just recently a constituent told me that he had been given a bluey for carting an unsecured load of hay. The hay was in a stock crate and was unsecured because it did not have a tarpaulin on it. That is the sort of ridiculous thing that happens. Again, I am not blaming this Government only. I hope, though, that now that I have drawn attention to this ridiculous situation, the Government will do something about it. It should relocate the people who sit in offices and use taxpayers' money and time to more useful positions.

The next concern I wish to raise relates to the storm damage that occurred throughout the Gascoyne earlier this year as a result of cyclone Herbie. That phenomenon raises many questions about the efficiency and usefulness of the Bureau of Meteorology. It is nice to be able to sit down at night and watch the weather forecasts on television and be told what the weather will be like the next day. However, the forecasts are wrong 50 per cent of the time. I know it is easy for me and other members to chuck mud at people who are trying to do their jobs. But what kind of degree do the people in the Bureau of Meteorology have to be able to forecast the weather? I obtained a private pilot's licence which included a certificate in commercial meteorology. I am now aware of the signs indicating weather phenomena which somehow escape those who are paid to forecast the weather. I do not know whether they cannot read a barometer or the signs that tell them where the wind is coming from. However, cyclone Herbie highlighted the need for better equipment or education to disseminate weather information to be passed on to the public.

Ministers came to the Gascoyne after the cyclone, inspected the banana plantations and other damage, made all sorts of promises, and returned to Perth and promptly forgot about us. When Herbie hit, a fishing fleet was caught at sea with its nets down. They were in touch with the emergency centre in Canberra at the time and told the centre that the winds had come up and their nets were down. The clown at the centre told them that there was nothing on his screens and that he knew nothing about it.

These people either have to be better educated or when told about a dangerous situation they should listen to what they are being told and take some notice before there is a tragedy. I do not know why there was no tragedy in this instance. This particular boat had its nets around its prop and was out there in that storm for 12 hours. It was just lucky that the boat was far enough out. Had it not been, the person would have gone ashore with the two people who went ashore at Dirk Hartog Island. Again, it was lucky they came ashore on the right side of the island or they would have hit the cliff and lost their lives. Then there would have been hell to pay. Members should note, however, that the buck would still be being passed around. I am not looking to pass the buck. I am pointing out that these people should be properly educated, properly serviced with respect to equipment and made accountable if they muck up, like the rest of us.

Still in connection with the storm, the banana growers in Camarvon had to wait two months for the release of their protection fund, a fund to which they contributed and which is underwritten by the Government. It has been operating since 1980, and stands at something like \$2 million. The cyclone occurred on the 20th of the month. All the assessments with respect to yields and everything else were carried out quickly. The Department of Agriculture in Camarvon deserves the highest praise for the way in which its officers went about their assessments. All the data required was collated and sent down to Perth. Lo and behold, we still have not received any money because somebody down here is too busy. I know that time is not of the essence to most people in the bureaucracy, but to someone hanging by his neck, three minutes is a long time and for a banana grower battling for a living and trying to get by, two and a half months is also a long time. The process ought to be smartened up. It certainly will be under a Liberal Government.

Mr Peter Dowding: I wouldn't bet on it.

Mr MASLEN: If I am part of it, I would bet on it, and I am a betting man. Since the Treasurer is sitting there listening with all ears, I make a constructive suggestion to him:

There could perhaps be some form of insurance against natural phenomena underwritten by the Government.

Mr Thomas: Are you are socialist?

Mr MASLEN: Is the member silly, or something?

Mr Thomas: No, I am asking you a question.

Mr MASLEN: The member should not ask stupid questions. If I might continue without the interjections of the member for clowns, I will offer this constructive suggestion to the Treasurer. I suggest a form of insurance against uninsurable things. Third party insurance, for example, comes close to what I have in mind. I suggest a system whereby people in an industry can be levied a certain amount so that when things such as cyclones, floods, fires or earthquakes strike their industry, that industry through its own resources can help itself out instead of having to delve into the pockets of people involved in secondary industry or ship building down at Rockingham or somewhere else. Each group of people, through a levying of their industry, would be able to assist themselves in time of need. This happens, for example, in an oblique way with the Australian Wool Corporation. Growers are levied eight per cent on their gross earnings; five per cent of that goes to a support scheme and three per cent goes to promotions. I am not suggesting that the levy would need to be that high, but that some form of insurance based along those lines might be a way to go.

Another way might be to have a series of packages set up on a pro rata basis available when a natural disaster has been declared. Claims would not take six months and five or six committees to work out. Funds would be made available immediately upon the declaration of a natural disaster so that the industries could get back into production immediately for the good of the State and the country. The taxes to be paid from moneys earned as a result of going back into production as quickly as possible would offset the cost of the packages. I know that the packages would not come cheaply. Interest rates for such packages should be set at a rate high enough to pay for the administration of the fund. Perhaps an additional one per cent could be added on for incidentals. In this way, the cost would not be a direct out of pocket one to the community and the community would benefit in the short and long term.

I have not perused the Budget papers as closely as I would have liked because of a lack of time, but I have seen no mention made of allocations for roads or communications in the Gascoyne or northern rivers areas. At the moment, a road goes from Carnarvon to Meekatharra via the world's biggest rock, Mt Augustus, which is a huge tourist attraction. The roads in that area are nothing less than a nightmare. I mentioned earlier the need for a proper access road from the Great Northern Highway through the stations of Giralda and Bullara, cutting across onto the Exmouth road. The road would enable people coming from the north to have quicker access to Exmouth. It would also enhance the viability of the tourist enterprises in Exmouth. Roads such as this and the Meekatharra-Carnarvon road via Mt Augustus should be given a higher priority if the Government is dinkum about the tourist industry. After all, after a couple of days around Perth and the south west people look further afield. Most of the great attractions are in the inland of the State and in the north west. I did not note any specific mention in the Budget speech of assistance to local government with its road works and road funding. Having spent some 10 of the last 15 years involved in local government, I have witnessed the gradual decline in real funding for local government, thus reducing local government's ability to service the areas for which it has responsibility.

I congratulate the Government for setting up soil conservation districts. As an agricultural person, I originally viewed the scheme with some scepticism because I believed it was setting up another bureaucracy. I do not believe that has happened yet, but it could happen if the situation is not closely monitored. I am pleased that the Minister for Agriculture has given me an undertaking that the situation will be watched and that it will not get out of hand.

I am somewhat surprised that the State Government has not backed up the Minister for Environment and his undertaking to the people of Shark Bay with regard to World Heritage listing of the area. I have noticed the raspberries that the member for Cottesloe gets from time to time when he presents petitions from that area.

Mr Peter Dowding: We are interested in why you do not get those petitions to hand in. Why do the people of Shark Bay not have faith in you?

Mr MASLEN: Perhaps because I am silly, or something. Seriously, we have worked out that it is better to have one person handling the matter than having it all over the place. We support having someone in charge so that people know where they can go. We support having the buck stop somewhere.

Mr Pearce: You could do it better than he could.

Mr MASLEN: Perhaps I could. Perhaps I will give it a go. He is certainly getting results. It seems that World Heritage listing is a payoff to the green rump by the Federal Government. Some of us have lived in that area, and our predecessors have lived in the area for something like 100 years. It was not until the advent of bitumen roads and four wheel drives, about which I am pleased, and all and sundry could afford them, that they began to come to the area saying what a wonderful area it was and they had to protect it from the people who had been there for 100 years. I wonder why they want to do that, because they come and go a bit like seagulls - and they leave a mess.

Senator Richardson, the Federal Minister, came over. Unfortunately, he did not offer the support that the State Minister for Environment has offered. The State, with foresight, has arranged for the Shark Bay Regional Plan, which has been endorsed by the Shires of Shark Bay and Carnarvon as a workable one. It included input from every industry and group of people involved in the area. It is not totally satisfactory to everybody, but it is certainly accepted by everybody as workable and a locally controlled plan concerned with the environment and not with power or the perception of power, as is coming from the Federal Government. I congratulate the Minister and the Government for the Shark Bay plan, but hope they make it quite clear to their counterparts from the East that we do not want them meddling in our State affairs and that I, in particular, do not want them interfering in my electorate; nor do the people in that electorate.

I turn now to a matter that has arisen in the wake of cyclone Herbie; that is, the inadequacies of the Rural Assistance and Finance Corporation. Although it was set up to assist people by means of a letter of last resort its terms of reference make it unable to fulfil its agenda. I say this because a person has to prove that they are viable but broke and I do not know how they can do that. I am not an accountant, but I found that to be an impossibility. Consequently one has to compromise oneself or tell lies. I ask the Government to look closely at the terms of reference of RAFCOR. I know that this matter was raised by a member of the National Party. Hopefully, its terms of reference will be looked into and it will be made a realistically usable assistance scheme for people with financial difficulties brought upon them by things like cyclone Herbie. People had paid out on their properties and put \$30 000 or \$40 000 up front for that season and then that out of season cyclone came in and wiped out that money in four hours. The terms of reference of RAFCOR should be loosened so that those people can go along and get short term, low interest loans to get back into production as soon as possible.

I have already mentioned the lands department, which I suppose I have bucketed enough, but it is my pet area of Government. In the industry in which I have been involved all my life I have had considerable dealings with that department and we do not like each other, and that is quite plain. Different pastoralists have come to see me saying, "Isn't it great that the Government is going to carry on with the pasture and tenure Bill? It will be back on the next Notice Paper." In the two weeks that we have been back I have not seen hide nor hair of it on the Notice Paper. I suppose that we can blame the previous Premier and Treasurer, so we cannot carry on, but I can assure the present Treasurer that the backlash from the inland will not help this Government in its quest for seats in the metropolitan area.

The fact that that Bill has not reappeared on the Notice Paper shows that this Government has little or no integrity so far as keeping its word to people is concerned. I have already mentioned the lack of extension to the water supply and consideration of extended water supplies to the horticultural areas in Carnarvon along the Gascoyne river. It was made clear to a group of growers at a meeting at which they met the previous Treasurer, Mr Burke, that if these people really wanted an extension of the water supply, they had better reconsider for whom they voted at the next election; it was that blatant.

I appreciate the fact that the previous Treasurer did that because it certainly enhanced my political future. I have already mentioned that the reason for the neglect of the Gascoyne is that it has been represented by conservative members, and the likes of Hon Norman Moore and Hon Phil Lockyer, during the term of office of a Labor Government.

Mr Peter Dowding: For how long has that neglect been evident?

Mr MASLEN: Five years.

Mr Peter Dowding: Do you think it is a bit structured, extending over the nine years before that?

Mr MASLEN: No, Mr Treasurer, because about six years ago there was an extension of the water supply costing something like \$400 000, which was done by the State Government under the auspices of a Minister who happened to represent that area.

Mr Peter Dowding: Pork barrelled up there, were you?

Mr MASLEN: It is catching, is it not? Talking about pork barrelling, people should have been in the Gascoyne electorate at the by-election. We were like the Germans when the Poms and Yanks got stuck into them towards the end of the war with a thousand bomber raids; we had ministerial planes in for 28 days in succession.

Mr MacKinnon: How many have you had since?

Mr MASLEN: I do not know - perhaps only one. The Minister for Education is the only Minister of the Government who has had the courtesy to notify me, as the sitting member, that she was coming into the electorate, and I appreciated that very much. I turn again to the situations that effect the State as I see them. The first is teacher moral in the education system. As I pointed out earlier, education is not my strong point. My father paid a huge sum for my education and the little I learned was thrashed in through my backside, and that was not much. There is certainly an apparent lack of support for teachers throughout the whole of the State and I think the new Minister for Education is doing her best to remedy that situation. I hope she is successful.

[Leave granted for speech to be continued.]

Debate thus adjourned.

[Questions taken.]

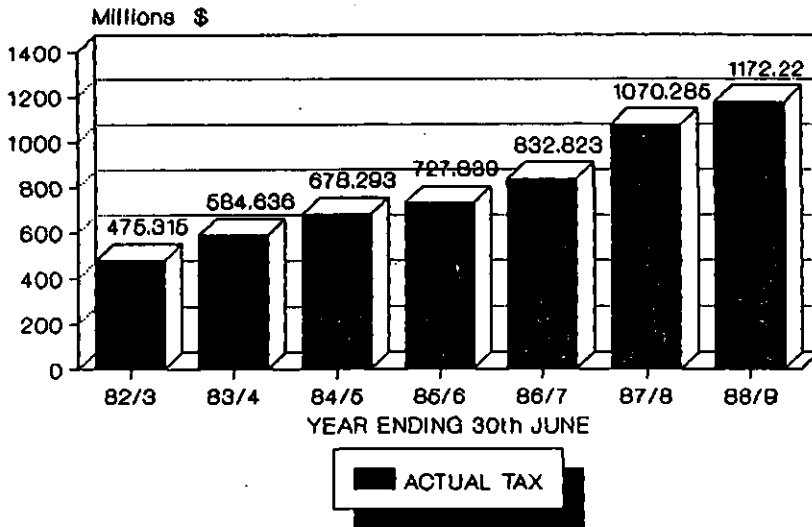
ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE - SPECIAL

On motion by Mr Pearce (Leader of the House), resolved -

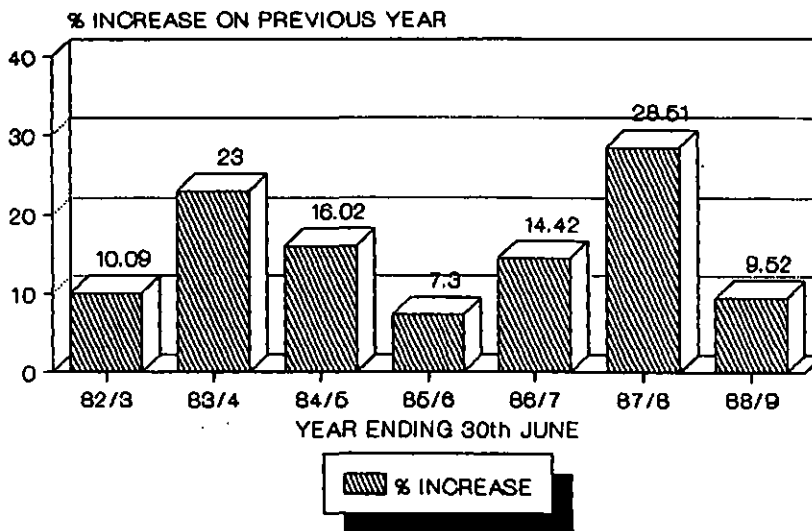
That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 13 September at 2.15 pm.

House adjourned at 6.03 pm

W.A. TAXATION **1983 - 89**



W.A. TAXATION **1983 - 89**



TOTAL EXPENDITURE EACH MONTH
AS PERCENTAGE OF YEAR

<u>Month:</u>	<u>1986/87</u>		<u>1987/88</u>	
	<u>Actual</u> <u>\$</u>	<u>% of</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>\$</u>	<u>% of</u> <u>Year</u>
July	293,163,539	8.94	287,785,893	7.56
August	274,007,647	8.36	261,957,532	6.88
Sept	234,172,561	7.14	256,403,854	6.73
Oct	286,290,254	8.73	330,445,044	8.68
Nov	249,043,105	7.60	277,958,222	7.30
Dec	291,896,356	8.91	335,392,968	8.81
Jan	258,221,152	7.88	293,983,224	7.72
Feb	235,733,574	7.19	332,287,448	8.73
March	224,742,794	6.86	340,736,274	8.95
April	306,584,457	9.35	301,239,081	7.91
May	255,909,111	7.81	314,292,852	8.26
June	367,761,597	11.22	474,889,175	12.47

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

POLICE DETECTIVES - CRIME

Headquarters

880. Mr CASH to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) How many operational detectives have been actively handling general crime matters at headquarters during the past fortnight?
- (2) What is the police establishment figure for detectives handling general crime at headquarters?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

- (1) It is not in the public interest to disclose details of the deployment of police personnel, particularly members of the Criminal Investigation Branch. During this period detectives from General Crime Squad and the Duty Sergeant's Office were on duty each day at police headquarters. In addition, operational detectives from 79 Division and Criminal Investigation Branch patrols were on mobile duties operating out of police headquarters.
- (2) There is an establishment of operational detectives attached to the General Crime Squad. From this number country and suburban reliefs are supplied and escorts and supplementary guard duties for the current prisoner riot control are supplied.

FREMANTLE PORT - WATERSIDE WORKERS

Pay Systems - Time Not Worked

1059. Mr CASH to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) In respect of shoreside labour at the Port of Fremantle, does the Government agree with the policy of refusing to pay labour for time not worked?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr PEARCE replied:

(1)-(2)

The Government supports in principle the policy that payment should not be made for time not worked due to the withdrawal of labour in industrial disputes, subject of course to the consideration of any special or exceptional circumstances which may occur in specific cases such as safety disputes arising from proven unsafe working conditions.

FREMANTLE PORT AUTHORITY

Sydney Express - "Many Port Users" Claim

1060. Mr CASH to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware of a claim by the Fremantle Port Authority that "many port users" had shown specific concern over the stoppage involving the *Sydney Express* at Fremantle on the 18 - 21 July 1988?
- (2) Will he identify the "many port users" referred to in the Fremantle Port Authority's claim involving the *Sydney Express*.

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) At a time when the Government and the Fremantle Port Authority are using their best endeavours to improve the commercial competitiveness of the Port of Fremantle and to promote and market its facilities and services, any dispute or stoppage which causes delays and reduces the reliability of the port must be of concern to port users. Concern was expressed to the Fremantle Port Authority over the dispute and over the unduly long delay in referring it for conciliation, and the Fremantle Port Authority wrote to the three parties involved in the dispute to relay that concern.
- (2) No.

FREMANTLE PORT AUTHORITY
Special Projects Division - Employment Level

1061. Mr CASH to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many persons were employed by the special projects division of the Fremantle Port Authority during the financial years ended -
 - (a) 30 June 1985;
 - (b) 30 June 1986;
 - (c) 30 June 1987; and
 - (d) 30 June 1988?
- (2) What are the objectives and goals of the special projects unit?

Mr PEARCE replied:

(1)-(2)

The Fremantle Port Authority has not had, and does not have a special projects division as such. There are, however, a series of special major and wide ranging projects which need to be addressed, all with the objective of improving the efficiency and commercial viability of the Port of Fremantle. The Fremantle Port Authority has engaged, and will continue to engage or second staff on a needs basis so that these matters are effectively addressed, while at the same time ensuring the continued effective management and operation of the port. The authority has recently established a number of "project" positions for the above purpose, and also with the intention of enhancing the management skills within the authority and improving its commercialisation.

FREMANTLE PORT - SHIPS
Berthing and Sailing - Restrictive Practices

1062. Mr CASH to the Minister for Transport:

What restrictive practices prevent the Fremantle Port berthing and sailing vessels on a 24 hour per day basis?

Mr PEARCE replied:

I have been advised that there are no restrictive practices which prevent the berthing and sailing of vessels in the Port of Fremantle on a 24 hour per day basis. A 24 hour service is available on request to vessels berthing/unberthing in both the inner and outer harbours, but the service is based on the user pays principle. The Fremantle Port Authority is fully aware of the desirability of supplying a 24 hour service provided it can be achieved without imposing an unacceptable cost burden on users, and the authority is currently investigating ways in which it can improve the service provided.

**FREMANTLE PORT AUTHORITY - WATERSIDE WORKERS
 FEDERATION**
Award Wages

1063. Mr CASH to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Did the Fremantle Port Authority write to the Waterside Workers Federation requesting an explanation on why the award provisions were not followed on Monday, 18 July 1988 in respect of the dispute involving the delivering of monazite to the *Sydney Express*?
- (2) If no, why not?
- (3) What was the WWF response?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The Fremantle Port Authority wrote to the three parties involved in the dispute, including the Waterside Workers Federation, expressing concern over

the dispute and seeking reasons for the lengthy delay in resolving the issue.

- (3) The Waterside Workers Federation responded to the Fremantle Port Authority's letter in some detail, expressing its concern that, while at all times it had actively sought to resolve the dispute, this was in sharp contrast to the position taken by the employer.

WATERSIDE WORKERS FEDERATION - PORTS

Joint Venture - Proposals

1064. Mr CASH to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he or his department considering a proposal which could see a joint venture arrangement between the Waterside Workers Federation and some port authorities in Western Australia?
- (2) If so, will he advise of which ports are currently being considered for such a joint venture arrangement?
- (3) What will the financial impact be on current private stevedoring companies operating in these respective ports?
- (4) What are the financial arrangements in respect of the joint venture and will the Waterside Workers Federation be responsible for any losses incurred and, if not, why?
- (5) What financial contribution will be required to be provided by the Waterside Workers Federation and when will it be payable?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) A number of port authorities are considering such a possibility.
- (2) The proposal is being investigated in concept only at this stage.
- (3)-(5) No firm proposal is in place for implementation at this stage.

FREMANTLE PORT

No 1 Portainer Crane - Maintenance Work

1081. Mr CASH to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Did the No 1 portainer crane at the Port of Fremantle recently undergo a maintenance overhaul?
- (2) What was the original scheduled date for commencement of the maintenance and completion of this maintenance work?
- (3) What was the actual commencement date and actual completion date?
- (4) Why was the No 1 portainer crane out of action for a period far in excess of the original schedule?
- (5) Was the extension to the maintenance schedule partly the result of an industrial dispute involving Fremantle Port Authority personnel and, if so, will he advise of the circumstances surrounding this dispute?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1)-(3) No 1 portainer crane is approximately 20 years old and is the oldest of five container handling cranes within the Port of Fremantle. It was withdrawn from service on 9 May 1988 for major maintenance work which was expected to take approximately one month. The crane was returned to service on 29 June 1988.
- (4) The additional time required was primarily due to extra work being required because of the age and condition of the crane and significant time losses due to inclement weather.
- (5) There was no significant time lost due to industrial disputation and no major industrial dispute which directly affected the project.

LAND TITLES OFFICE
Personnel - Employment Level

1086. Mr LIGHTFOOT to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) What has been the reduction in staff during 1988 and 1987 at the Lands Titles office?
- (2) Is she aware that the staff morale is at an all time low?
- (3) Has the Lands Titles office requested money to upgrade the efficiency of the office?
- (4) Has she refused that application for funds?
- (5) What plans, if any, are imminent to upgrade the office?
- (6) Is she aware that, because of Government policy in reducing staff levels, there is a long lead time by the public wanting access to title searches, etc.?

Mrs HENDERSON replied:

- (1) Twenty three.
- (2) No. In fact, the staff have responded to the very high volume of business activity with a level of dedication and initiative which reflects great credit on themselves and on the service as a whole.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No.
- (5) Work is shortly to commence on improving the standard of accommodation in the Land Titles Office. Renovations which will begin next month at a cost of about \$350 000 will upgrade the physical environment of the office while enabling better access for customers to land title services. In addition the capacity of the Land Titles Office computer is being upgraded, at a cost of about \$120 000, and provision has been made for additional facsimile machines to extend the title search faxing service currently only available to rural clients.
- (6) Although the level of requests for titles searches has reached unprecedented levels, nevertheless waiting time for a title search has been reduced from three hours to an average of 40 minutes. In the last two months the adoption of new procedures in processing land dealings, together with the creation of an additional examination team utilising existing departmental resources, has halved the average number of land dealings awaiting processing.

EDUCATIONAL FINANCE - PRIMARY EDUCATION
Primary Reading Books - Consolidated Revenue

1100. Mr FRED TUBBY to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that approximately \$335 000 allocated in the 1987-88 Budget for expenditure on primary reading books was returned, unspent, to Consolidated Revenue?
- (2) If yes, why?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1) Approximately \$288 000 of the 1987-88 Budget allocation for the primary reading guide was not expended at 30 June 1988.
- (2) There were delays in the ordering process during 1988.

WATER SUPPLY
Domestic Water - Aluminium Sulphate

1104. Mr FRED TUBBY to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is aluminium sulphate being used to clean domestic water supplies in the south west and the metropolitan area?

- (2) Has research in Britain linked aluminium sulphate with Alzheimer's disease?
- (3) Does this research indicate that acceptable levels of aluminium sulphate in domestic water supplies is now under question?
- (4) Is the Government going to take any action on the use of aluminium sulphate as a water purifying agent?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) Yes. Aluminium sulphate is used as a flocculating agent in the treatment of domestic water supplies. This chemical is approved as a water treatment agent by the National Health and Medical Research Council, and is widely used for this purpose both in Australia and overseas.
- (2) The putative relationship between Alzheimer's disease and aluminium is an unproven and controversial theory based mainly on the observation of aluminium being present in "neurofibrillary tangles", which are microscopic physical abnormalities present in the brain tissue of patients with Alzheimer's disease.
- (3) While we cannot afford complacency about the theoretical possibility of a harmful effect, and further scientific developments in the area will have to be monitored closely, the present fact is that the relationship is unproven. It is also relevant that aluminium itself is ubiquitous in nature and is a constituent of soils, plants and animal tissues. Aluminium present in drinking water contributes only a small proportion of the total daily intake of aluminium in humans.
- (4) The only action indicated is to monitor closely any further scientific developments that might either substantiate or refute a relationship between Alzheimer's disease and aluminium.

STATE GOVERNMENT BUDGETS - HEATHCOTE HOSPITAL
Replacement Facilities

1110. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister for Health:

With respect to the 1988-89 Budget, what replacement facilities are planned for Heathcote Hospital?

Mr WILSON replied:

Final details of plans for the replacement of facilities at Heathcote Hospital are currently under consideration. An announcement indicating final decisions will be made in due course.

STATE GOVERNMENT BUDGETS - HARVEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
Improvements

1111. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister for Education:

What additions and improvements are planned for the Harvey Primary School as expressed in the 1988-89 State Budget?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

A library/resource centre, a covered assembly area and improvements to the administration and staff facilities are proposed.

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY - URANIUM MINING
Exports - Revised Policy

1121. Mr COURT to the Minister for Economic Development and Trade:

- (1) When will the Government be announcing the ALP's revised policy on uranium mining and exporting?
- (2) Will the policy process enable a decision to be made before the next State election?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) The mining and export of uranium is a matter which lies within the Federal Government's jurisdiction.
- (2) The timetable is a matter for the Federal Government.

STATE GOVERNMENT - MOTOR VEHICLES

Markham, Mr - Sale

1130. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for The Arts:

- (1) Is it correct that the Government is considering selling vehicles acquired some years ago from a Mr Markham and currently being maintained and housed at the Western Australian Museum?
- (2) If so, which vehicles are being considered for sale?
- (3) Why are they being considered for sale?
- (4) What prices are being sought for these vehicles?

Mrs HENDERSON replied:

- (1) The Western Australian Museum trustees have been reviewing their collections, in particular their relevance to the museum's functions under the Museum Act. The trustees have in principle decided to dispose of some purchased vintage and veteran cars by sale.
- (2) Only vehicles with no Western Australian historical associations.
- (3) As a result of recommendations of the State's Functional Review Committee. As a matter of policy, no items donated by the public are to be sold. Any funds generated will be used to acquire items of more direct relevance to the museum's collection.
- (4) No decisions have yet been made but any items sold will be expected to fetch the full market price.

STUDENTS - DEGREES

Educational Admission, 1988 - Contracting Arrangements

1133. Mr WATT to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many students have been enrolled during 1988 for tertiary degree courses under contracting arrangements at -
 - (a) Great Southern Regional College of TAFE;
 - (b) Geraldton TAFE College;
 - (c) Bunbury TAFE College; and
 - (d) Bunbury Institute of Advanced Education?
- (2) How many different courses are involved at each centre and what are they?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1)
 - (a) 110 EFTS - includes nine at Albany DipAppSC Nursing;
 - (b) 13 EFTS; and
 - (c)-(d) nil.
- (2) Great Southern Regional College of TAFE: 11 courses -
 - Bachelor of Business
 - Bachelor of Arts (Social Science)
 - Diploma of Applied Science (Nursing)
 - Bachelor of Applied Science (Nursing)
 - Bachelor of Business (Agriculture)
 - Associate Diploma in Agriculture
 - Bachelor of Arts (Fine Arts)

Bachelor of Science (Computer Science)
 Graduate Diploma in Computer Studies)
 Bachelor of Education (Computer Studies)
 Associate Diploma in Arts (Childrens Studies)

Geraldton TAFE College: 3 courses -

Bachelor of Business
 Bachelor of Applied Science - Nursing
 Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science

EDUCATIONAL FINANCE - BUNBURY INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
Capital Investment

1134. Mr WATT to the Minister for Education:

What is the total capital investment in the Bunbury Institute of Education?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

	Expenditure to 30 June 1987	Proposed 87-88	Est Total Cost
Stage 1	\$7.802m	\$0.120m	\$7.922m
Computing equipment	<u>\$0.220m</u>	—	<u>\$0.220m</u>
Total	\$8.022m	\$0.120m	\$8.142m

Source: General Loan and Capital Works Fund Estimates of Expenditure for year ending 30 June 1988.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

FILM - "THE LAST TEMPTATION"
Controversy

173. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for The Arts:

- (1) Is she aware of the controversy surrounding the film *The Last Temptation*?
- (2) Is she aware that to many Christians the film is an affront to their beliefs and is seen by many as a blasphemy?
- (3) In view of this will she exercise her rights under State censorship laws to ban the screening of the film in Western Australia on the grounds that it has no socially redeeming value and is offensive to many?

Mrs HENDERSON replied:

(1)-(3)

I am aware that the film referred to by the Leader of the Opposition has created some controversy. I am aware that the film is to be assessed by the Commonwealth film censorship authority. It is my intention to await the outcome of that body's normal classification of the film in the same way that it classifies all films that come into Australia. At this stage I am not seeking to pre-empt any decision that the Commonwealth authority - which is charged with the responsibility for censoring films - might make. I would not seek to venture an opinion on the film, not having viewed it myself, and when the Commonwealth has viewed the film and made a decision about its classification, that might be an appropriate time for the Leader of the Opposition to rephrase his question.

REFERENDUM

Pamphlets - "There's More to it Than Meets the Eye"

174. Mr BURKETT to the Premier:

Is the Premier aware of pamphlets being circulated in Perth entitled "There's more to it than meets the eye", which argue the no case for the Saturday referendum?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

I am aware of this, and it has been drawn to my attention that this matter has been referred to also in the Federal Parliament. I am very disappointed about the way in which the Opposition has prepared its response on the referendum issue. Over recent times I have grown to accept a certain inability on the part of the Opposition to address important issues in a real way and in a way that makes a genuine contribution to a debate. We have seen this in many areas, and the most recent one was the Leader of the Opposition's awful gaffe in simply kidding the community that he had some evidence to suggest that the Teachers Credit Society losses would be \$300 million. We have seen in that sort of response an inability to sensibly debate the real issues.

To read an Opposition document which says the reason why we ought to say no in the four referendum questions is because "There's more to it than meets the eye" is the height of political irresponsibility and a definite inadequacy on the Opposition's part in being able to formulate a reasoned argument against change. Not only am I disappointed that the Opposition has that view; I think it is the height of irresponsibility for the Opposition to have changed its view so rapidly - without any justification - about support for local government and its recognition in the Federal Constitution, which is a view it has expressed repeatedly in various forms over recent years; it is frankly pathetic for the Opposition to change its position on four year terms, and no self respecting politician ever considers the argument against a four year term as a sensible argument. Even when we were in Opposition we were prepared to recognise the desirability of four year terms, and for the Opposition to take a stance against that is to lose credibility.

In relation to one-vote-one-value, I can understand the Opposition's reluctance to agree to it because it is not addressing the real issue; it is simply trying to gain some short term political kudos. If the Opposition was addressing the real issue, one would expect it to be in one voice with its Queensland brothers and sisters, who are arguing passionately and resoundingly for a yes vote because they see it may be the only way in which they will emerge from the political wilderness.

There is another more sinister element which was brought to my attention about the way the Opposition is now distributing its material. It seems to me the Opposition has debased its own political stance by seeing its literature distributed inside a publication known as *Wake Up Australia*. This publication is a forum for the League of Rights. It is a publication from which all self respecting politicians should dissociate themselves. There is no place in our community for the sort of thinking held by those people of extreme views. For the Leader of the Opposition to permit his party in this State to associate with an organisation like the League of Rights is to demean the Liberal Party beyond where it currently is.

Incidentally, I understand the Liberal Party is changing its logo and is going to paint it green. I gather that is because it is green with envy at the performance of the Government, or is it really trying to give the Leader of the Opposition a new image?

HOSPITALS - MANDURAH HOSPITAL *Beds - Accident and Emergency Centre*

175. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many beds will the new Mandurah Hospital contain?
- (2) Will all these beds be used from the start?
- (3) If no to (2), how many beds will be used or available for use?
- (4) Will the new hospital have an accident and emergency centre?
- (5) If yes to (4), will the accident and emergency centre operate at the same time and hours as the accident and emergency centre at the Mandurah health centre?

(6) Will major surgery be undertaken at the Mandurah Hospital?

Mr WILSON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the questions and am pleased to provide the following answers.

- (1) Thirty two.
- (2) No. There is a phased plan, and in keeping with normal practice the first phase allows for occupancy of 12 to 15 beds, with the second phase allowing for full occupancy by local decision.
- (3) Twelve to 15.
- (4) Yes. The existing service at the Mandurah Community Health and Development Centre will transfer to the hospital from day one.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) No. Local decision was made to retain major surgery services at Pinjarra Hospital. This decision involved the Peel Medical Society, which comprises the local doctors and the Murray District Hospital Board.

RANDOM BREATH-TESTS

Legislation - Opposition's Stance

176. Mr READ to the Premier:

Is the Premier aware of the Opposition's latest stance on the Government's random breath test legislation?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

I am, and I must say that when I drive home at night time I go up Beaufort Street, and there on a hoarding is a sort of tired, faded, tatty, torn picture of the Leader of the Opposition, peering out from among the pigeon poo, and occasionally someone throws something at it or writes a bit of graffiti on it. I have forgotten what it says, but it is something like, "Our tough new Liberal Premier", or "The next Liberal Premier". It really is indicative of the performance of the Leader of the Opposition and his party - I was going to say his team, but I am referring to the people around him.

Fair dinkum, this random breath testing legislation has been debated in this House and elsewhere publicly for months and the Opposition thought that it could get away with opposing it. It gave all sorts of reasons in this House, and the Leader of the Opposition even said on television on Tuesday night, I think, that random breath testing would actually increase the number of deaths on our roads, not decrease them. That was a tortuous bit of logic. But all of a sudden the weight of public opinion hit the Opposition. Whether it did an opinion poll, or whether the proper anger of the medical fraternity swayed it - whatever it was - instead of coming out and saying, "We will review our position and change our minds", the Leader of the Opposition had to skulk around and try to find a couple of members who would cross the floor in another place in order to save the position. The Leader of the Opposition scuttled around Parliament House trying to find some backbenchers to get him off the hook. How hypocritical!

I urge the Leader of the Opposition to do what he should have done in the first place; that is, to join with the Government in its efforts to deal with the road toll. The Leader of the Opposition should join the Government instead of sitting there sniping and carping and, when he is proved wrong, scuttling around the back doors to try to get himself off the hook.

URANIUM MINING - EXPORTS

Australian Labor Party - Federal State Policy

177. Mr COURT to the Deputy Premier:

- (1) Is it necessary for both the State and Federal ALP policies on uranium mining

and exporting to be changed before any Western Australian uranium projects can proceed?

- (2) If yes, will the Minister support the State ALP policy on uranium being changed so that projects such as the CRA Kintyre mine can proceed?

Mr PARKER replied:

(1)-(2)

I agree with one thing that Mr Phillip Toyne, the Director of the Australian Conservation Foundation, said in his comments, I think yesterday, at a Press conference in Canberra. That is, as he pointed out, it does not matter one whit what the State Conference of the Labor Party or the State branch of the Labor Party does about uranium mining policy because it is a matter of Federal policy and, as he put it, he would be campaigning to have it remain as it is and, as is very well known, I have been campaigning to have it changed. I agree with Mr Toyne in that regard; that is, that the decision in relation to the party's and the Government's position on uranium mining and export will be made by the National Conference through the mechanism -

Mr Hassell interjected.

Mr PARKER: We will see who overrules whom, but it happens to be the case that the export powers lie with the Commonwealth Government and that policy decision will be made there. I anticipate being involved in that policy decision, as I was in the decision made by the National Conference to review it, which was widely hailed at the time as a very strong move in the direction of change to the policy; and the State Conference of the ALP is not involved in the final determination of party policy on this matter.

PARLIAMENT PROROGATION

State Government Elections

178. Mr COWAN to the Premier:

Can he give the House an undertaking or an assurance that the Parliament will not be prorogued before the Budget Bills are passed?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

The Leader of the National Party been listening to the gossip. Does he know what he will do? He will just fuel this rumour.

Mr Cowan: You can say either yes or no.

Mr Peter Dowding: My view is that February is an appropriate time for an election and I have not changed my view.

STATESHIPS

Deficit - State Government Assistance

179. Mr D.L. SMITH to the Minister for Transport:

Has the Government acted to reduce the Stateships deficit?

Mr PEARCE replied:

The Government has taken action to reduce the Stateships deficit. In fact the deficit has been falling over for the last couple of years. Basically we have been doing it by having a more efficient fleet and expanding the operations of the fleet, as I have pointed out in the House before. It is my expectation that over five years the deficit will be brought down to zero and thus not be a draw on the people of Western Australia.

However, I have pointed out to the House previously the attitude of the member for Mt Lawley, the shadow Minister for Transport, on this issue. The last time I raised this matter I asked him to desist in his efforts to destabilise and undermine the Stateships operation by being supportive of shipping agents for overseas companies. The member for Mt Lawley has conspicuously failed to support Stateships in this matter; indeed, since the last

time I answered a question on this matter I understand he has yet again come out in support of agents for foreign shipping companies and denigrated the performance of the State's own Stateships. I ask the Leader of the Opposition this time, rather than the member for Mt Lawley, to pull his shadow Ministry into line.

Mr Cash: Perhaps if you answered the questions I would not have to keep asking them week after week.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Pearce: I ask the Opposition to demonstrate that it does support Western Australia's own shipping company and does support the effort being made to reduce the burden on the taxpayer which is currently \$10 million per year. I am astounded at the continual, carping criticism of the member for Mt Lawley who seeks to establish the interests of foreign shipping companies against those of this State.

DOWDING, HON P. - PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT
Project Manager - Press Statement

180. Mr HASSELL to the Premier:

I remind the Premier when asking him this question that in *Alice In Wonderland* someone referred to words meaning what they say they mean. We will see what the Premier says they mean.

- (1) Does the Premier recall having said in his Press statement - does the Premier have the answer to the dorothy dixer question ready there?

Mr Peter Dowding: Sorry, what?

Mr HASSELL: Does the Premier have the answer to the dorothy dixer there? The one that the Deputy Premier is organising?

Mr Peter Dowding: Have you given me notice of it?

Mr HASSELL: No, I have not given notice of it but the Premier has one there from the member for Cockburn, does he not?

Mr Burkett: It must be a good question because the member for Cottesloe is smiling and that is the first time he has smiled since his mates dumped him.

Mr HASSELL: The member for Scarborough is given to exaggeration. Perhaps I should ask the Premier the question.

The SPEAKER: Order! I think you should ask somebody a question.

Mr HASSELL: Does the Premier want to answer my question or someone else's question?

Mr Peter Dowding: I do not know what your question is.

Mr HASSELL: The Premier is not listening.

The SPEAKER: Order! It really is time the member asked the question.

Mr HASSELL: I ask the Premier -

- (1) Does he recall having said in his own Press statement on 28 July when he announced that the Government would participate in the petrochemical project, "Bond would take over project management"?
- (2) Is the Premier also aware that in a statement to the Stock Exchange last Friday, as quoted in the *Sunday Times*, Bond Corporation said, "Bond will act as project manager for the project . . .", referring to the petrochemical project, of course?
- (3) Is the Premier further aware that his deputy said in answer to question 1046 yesterday, "The project manager has yet to be appointed and will be selected from reputable international petrochemical project managers"?
- (4) How does the Premier reconcile these conflicting statements?

- (5) In view of the selection criteria for a project manager - and that has been the word used all the way through - enunciated by the Deputy Premier, is it not necessarily correct that Bond Corporation will not be eligible to be project manager as, despite its many achievements, it is not, using the Deputy Premier's words, a "respectable international petrochemical project manager"?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

(1)-(5)

This question reminds me of *Alice in Wonderland* because it wanders all over the place and ends up going nowhere. I announced at the beginning that the Government decided to hold talks with Bond Corporation about the shape of the project. I said that we would be spending a great deal of time negotiating the final position, and that the final position would be announced. Those negotiations are on foot and will continue; when completed they will be announced. I said that we would not be managing the project. Bond Corporation will have that role and will appoint a specific firm to carry out the specific project management.

Mr Court: Tell us about Gofair Investments Ltd.

Mr Parker: They have not been paid a cent.

Mr PETER DOWDING: The Opposition has been proved absolutely wrong about the \$300 million and about the problems with the supposed fix up of the State Superannuation Board. As I said at the outset, we are not managing the project. When that project is finalised, identified, and ready to go, Bond Corporation as the manager will employ someone who is actually a professional operator in the engineering area to oversee and manage it.

Mr Hassell: The Premier is twisting things and not telling the public the truth.

Mr PETER DOWDING: What is the truth?

Mr Hassell: That is what we want to find out. The story is different every day of the week.

Mr PETER DOWDING: I was involved, as of course was the Deputy Premier, in negotiations. That was announced publicly at the beginning because in my view the public should be told.

Mr Court: Two days before the balance day.

Mr PETER DOWDING: Baloney. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition sits there sabotaging our own R & I Bank which is trying to operate commercially. We made an announcement to the public and I have said ever since then that if the Opposition wants to ask questions and wants the details, as opposed to the broad brush, it should ask the Deputy Premier. The Deputy Premier has quite rightly said that Bond Corporation -

Mr Hassell: That is a different story from the Bond Corporation story.

Mr PETER DOWDING: It is not.

Mr Hassell: You are not telling the truth!

The SPEAKER: Order! I wish to hear the Premier.

Mr PETER DOWDING: I do not know what Opposition members think they are turning up. I honestly have no idea.

Mr Hassell: We are turning up a crooked deal.

Mr PETER DOWDING: Why is it?

Mr Hassell: Because you are floating around with taxpayers' money to help your mates. That has happened all the way through.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Cottesloe is being most unfair. A set amount of time is allowed in this place for questions. I endeavour to ensure

that as many members as possible have the opportunity to ask as many questions as possible. Because of the member's incessant interjections - and I admit those of some of his colleagues - some answers go on for an inordinately long time. I ask that the member cease interjecting and give other people in this place a fair go.

Mr PETER DOWDING: To conclude the question I will answer the point that the member for Cottesloe in all his biliousness has just thrown out across the Chamber. I assure the House that we will not proceed in this project unless clearly it is in the interests of the community at large. The Deputy Premier is involved much more closely than I am but with every day that proceeds the information that comes to the Government is that this project has more value than we ever suspected. In fact, not only is this project a good project in terms of its employment creation opportunities, very efficient gas usage and high consumption of electricity producing a very substantial amount of material which has a direct benefit to the economy of Western Australia, helping our foreign exchange position, complementing our bauxite industry, and giving us a place in the twenty-first century's manufacturing opportunities, but also it is a project which, if the State retains its equity, will return a very substantial cash flow to the State.

Mr Hassell interjected.

Mr PETER DOWDING: Shush up, for goodness sake. Get your political mind above your political navel.

The SPEAKER: Order! I have given a commitment to another member to allow him to ask a question. The time is now three minutes to six o'clock. Everyone knows that if we continue after six o'clock in this place we may well be returning after dinner. I also have a number of messages to read. I intend to do all those things. Furthermore, if members on the Opposition benches persist in totally ignoring my reasonable pleas, I will not make them again; I will name somebody. Just be fair.

Mr PETER DOWDING: The project will return a substantial revenue benefit to the State, and I remind the Opposition that in all its years of Government it could not attract one significant gas industry to complement the North West Shelf gas project. It could not attract one petrochemical plant for Western Australia.

Mr Court: We built the North West Shelf, you goose. Sit down!

Mr PETER DOWDING: The Opposition could not do anything useful for Western Australia and that is why the people of Western Australia chucked the Opposition out.

Mr Court: No-one believes a word you say.

The SPEAKER: Order! This will be the last question. I would appreciate it if both the question and the answer are as brief as possible.

HASSELL, MR W. - PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT
Misleading Statements

181. **Mr MARLBOROUGH** to the Deputy Premier:

Is the Deputy Premier aware of further misleading and incorrect statements by the former Leader of the Opposition and member for Cottesloe about the proposed petrochemical plant?

Mr PARKER replied:

The former Leader of the Opposition would be regarded by many people as indeed the de facto Leader of the Opposition and maybe some would suggest that he may soon be the Leader of the Opposition again or at least the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. That person of course persists with his attempts to ensure that as much denigration as possible is placed on this project.

The Premier has just explained the arrangements in relation to the project management for this project. When a copy of a statement made on radio station 6PR today by the former Leader of the Opposition was sent down to the Department of Resources Development the officers there could not understand it. They said, "How could this man have misunderstood this so totally?"

What has been agreed to is very clear and the way in which the Premier has outlined it is precisely the situation. The member for Cottesloe persists in saying that there is some State involvement with Gofair Investments Ltd when it is quite clear, and has been stated unequivocally on numerous occasions by both the Premier and me, that there is no relationship with Gofair. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition keeps making the comment that Gofair had a contractual relationship with Petrochemical Industries Company Ltd, which is untrue. He keeps saying that it has been paid out and that is untrue.

I do not know what one has to do. People sometimes say that the Government does not always say things unequivocally and tries to hide behind clever words and statements. In this case we have been absolutely unequivocal about the project management, the nature of any fees and arrangements that are to be made and about the fact that Gofair is not involved, and never has been involved so far as the State is concerned, in this project.

The member for Cottesloe is trying to cast a slur in saying that there is something underhanded about the project management with regard to this project. That is simply not the case. As the Premier said it is a straightforward arrangement and it is a conventional one. The senior partner - the majority equity partner - has the management of the project and in turn has the right to appoint the specific firm which will actually undertake the management role to ensure that this valuable project for the State is built. I am confident that it will be built, on schedule, as we build all our heavy engineering plants in Western Australia, and in a way which redounds to the credit of this State in the same way as the other projects which this Government has attracted to this State have already done.
