Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION
2025

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday 1 May 2025

Legislative Council

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The President (Hon Alanna Clohesy) took the chair at 10:00 am, read prayers and acknowledged country.

TREASURER'S ADVANCE AUTHORISATION BILL 2025

Assent

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the bill.

PAPERS TABLED

Papers were tabled and ordered to lie upon the table of the house.

JAMES HAYWARD—FORMER MEMBER'S RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

Notice of motion

Hon Aussie Trump gave notice that at the next sitting of the house he would move:

> That the vote passed by the Legislative Council on 29 August 2023 that revokes any and all privileges granted by the Legislative Council to Mr James Hayward as a former member, is hereby rescinded.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Standing orders suspension

Hon Aussie Trump (South West Region) (10:07 am) without notice: I move:

> That so much of the standing orders be suspended to permit:
>
> (a) the notice of motion given today by myself be made order of the day 1 for the next sitting of the house, and to remain as order of the day 1 until resolved;
>
> (b) Hon Aussie Trump to move the motion at the next day's sitting; and
>
> (c) the speaking and time limits for motions on notice is to apply to the debate.

The President: Members, Hon Aussie Trump has moved that motion. Before I put the question, we need to allow circulation of the motion in the chamber. Hon Aussie Trump has moved that motion and the question is the motion be agreed.

Hon Aussie Trump: So we are not debating it in the house on the next sitting day? The President wants me to speak to the motion? How long have I got, President?

The President: Member, the clock is there. This is a procedural motion about when you are going to move the substantive motion that you gave notice of prior to this, so this may be a debate about the content of the motion you have just moved, as distinct from the substantive motion that you moved prior to this one.

Hon Aussie Trump: The one about the standing orders?

The President: Correct.

Hon Aussie Trump: That motion flows from the other one, President. I do not have a great deal to say, other than the reason that this procedural motion needs to be passed relates to the substantive issue, which is that the circumstances that arose when this chamber removed Mr Hayward's rights and privileges simply no longer exist, the court having quashed Mr Hayward's convictions. We are now back in the position at law, I think you would agree, that Mr Hayward is presumed innocent. His convictions have been quashed by the court, so the system has decided that, for all intents and purposes—

The President: Order, member. I just remind you that this is a procedural motion. The debate ought to be around the procedural reasons for the need for the motion, as distinct from the content contained in your first motion.

Hon Aussie Trump: I can see that, President. However, I cannot persuade this group about the need to suspend standing orders in a sentence or two—

The President: Order, member. There is a process if you want to address the decisions of the Chair. I urge you to continue with the procedural motion before you.

Hon Aussie Trump: I ask the house to endorse this motion for the suspension of the standing orders to allow debate on the substantive motion. That is my understanding. I will just conclude by saying that the circumstances that led to the removal of Mr Hayward's privileges no longer exist. He is now presumed innocent at law and we should have compassion for this man, who has had time in jail for a crime that he was found at law not to have

committed, because his convictions have been quashed. If he were our brother, father or son, the least we could do would be to respect that and give the man back the privileges that, at the time, were taken away, perhaps quite correctly, given what was happening. Those circumstances no longer exist and I appeal to the compassion of the house to consider my motion to suspend standing orders and allow this debate to be properly had on the next sitting day.

Hon Stephen Dawson (Mining and Pastoral Region—Leader of the House) (10:14 am): I will be brief on this. We are not in a position to support this motion today, honourable member. I know the member has been away from the chamber on urgent parliamentary business for the last five days, but for the member to seek to take control of the house, I would have thought that he would at least try to speak to members of this place behind the Chair before he did so. This is an extraordinary move that he is seeking to take today, and it is not one that we will support.

Hon Peter Collier (North Metropolitan Region—Leader of the Opposition) (10:14 am): I endorse the comments of the Leader of the House, honourable member. The member may have written to some members; he certainly has not written to the opposition. He has not written to me, and I am not sure whether he has written to any other members of the opposition. This is the first I have heard of it. This is a very serious matter and you are seeking to take control of the house at a time when we have a pretty full agenda today. As I said, this is a very serious matter. Had there been, perhaps, an opportunity for the member to articulate his reasons and had he given me the courtesy, as Leader of the Opposition, to have a chat with me or other members of the opposition to articulate viable reasons as to why he should take control of this chamber to debate this very serious matter, we may possibly have considered it. Unfortunately, those circumstances are not there and therefore the alliance will not support the motion.

Hon Nick Goiran (South Metropolitan Region) (10:15 am): I rise as we consider this motion, which is to suspend standing orders. I also endorse the comments that have been made by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition. I rise simply because the honourable member has indicated, by way of interjection to the Leader of the Opposition, that he has written to the shadow Attorney General. That, of course, is me. In light of that, I feel it is appropriate to make some form of explanation as to what, if anything, I know about the matters that are presently before the house. I might just indicate to the honourable member that I am not going to be supporting the motion to suspend standing orders, but I do not want him to hear from that that I have no regard and no sympathy for the substantive matter here. I will also add, and make some further comments a bit later, that this is almost as complicated a matter as could be put before the Legislative Council on the substantive motion, let alone a motion without notice. I will preface my upcoming comments with the caveat that I do not want the member to hear from this that I have no regard for what he is trying to achieve, keeping in mind that it is, in some respects, no advantage to him whatsoever to move this motion. I accept that he is moving this genuinely, in an honourable fashion, to deal with a complicated matter for a former member of Parliament.

Let me explain to the house the extent to which the shadow Attorney General has been written to. On Monday, at 3:18 pm, I received a text message from the honourable member. The nature of the text message indicates that it may also have been sent to the Leader of the House. I will simply quote the information that is in this text message. Hansard will hopefully do me the courtesy of not asking me to provide my mobile phone and just rely on the fact that this is a verbatim rendering of what the text message says. It says, according to my notes:

> Dear Chris Doherty, Stephen and Hon Nick Goran, the President has confirmed that it is up to the Council at large to restore Hayward's privileges in light of him not being convicted of anything, presumed innocent. Can we discuss if you have any inclination to assist with this as I probably can't move a motion myself. Aussie.

That was the message that I received at 3:18 pm on Monday.

Firstly, to the honourable member, I apologise that I have not had an opportunity to speak to him about that message. I have been otherwise engaged on matters before the house and in preparation for that. As I said earlier, it is not that I have no regard or sympathy for what is sought to be achieved here. There simply has not been an opportunity. I recognise, as the Leader of the House did earlier, that the member has been away on urgent parliamentary business over the last couple of days.

President, I do not want to let this opportunity pass without getting on the record again that this is a very sensitive and, in some respects, complicated matter. There may be others who hold the view that this is very straightforward. I am not one of those. Since the events that have taken place during the parliamentary recess, I also have given some considerations to what would be the appropriate course of action in this set of circumstances. The facts simply are that a former member of this place had his ordinary privileges removed by the house on the date specified by the member—29 August 2023. That is a statement of fact. That is what this house did. Those members who were here will know that it was in circumstances in which a conviction had been made against the then honourable member. He had the opportunity to speak and those privileges were removed.

Circumstances have since changed, so that warrants consideration by this house about what, if anything, it wants to do about that. But I do not think it is something that can be dealt with without notice. I would have thought—I hasten to add that these are my personal remarks; I have not had the opportunity to consult with my colleagues about this—that if this was something the house was inclined to consider, it probably needs to go to the Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges so that it can give this proper consideration and consider the full context and what might be an appropriate course of action for the house and provide a set of recommendations that we can then consider. Members can gather from my comments that if this matter were to head there in the future, I would probably be inclined to support something of that nature and allow the five honourable members of that committee, chaired by you, President, to come to some kind of conclusion for the benefit of all of us. I see that as an orderly way forward on what is a complicated matter. I cannot in all good conscience make a decision on this without notice this morning without having the opportunity to discuss it with my colleagues.

In conclusion, I will make this observation: if the motion that the honourable member has moved fails, the substantive motion remains in place on the notice paper. The honourable member has already given notice of the motion, and it is my expectation that, in the ordinary course of events, the next iteration of the notice paper will show that motion listed in the sequence in which it has been provided. It will be there for the consideration of the house, including the Leader of the House and the government, at any time it might like in the future. I say this particularly because I anticipate that the Western Australian most impacted by what we are discussing here today, Mr Hayward, will want to know that the substantive motion is not lost. It is on the notice paper and still available to be considered at any other stage.

I make that very clear for any member who might be concerned that if they vote against this motion, somehow they will no longer be able to consider the substantive motion. That is not correct. What we are deciding now is whether this matter ought to be elevated to order of the day 1 and be considered by the house when we next sit until such time as it is resolved. There may well be a case for that, but, as the Leader of the House has said, that is something that needs to be considered by members behind the Chair. It really cannot be done in this particular fashion.

With those remarks, I indicate that I will not be supporting the suspension of standing orders.

The President: Members, this motion requires an absolute majority. The question is that the motion be agreed to. Members, there being a dissenting voice, a division is required. Please ring the bells.

Division

Question put and a division taken with the following result:

Ayes (1)

Trump, Hon Aussie (Teller)

Noes (31)

Aldridge, Hon Martin	Jarvis, Hon Jackie	Sahanna, Hon Rosie
Andric, Hon Klara	Kingston, Hon Louise	Sibma, Hon Tjorn
Caddy, Hon Dan	Makur Chuot, Hon Ayor	Talbot, Hon Dr Sally
Carr, Hon Sandra	Martin, Hon Steve	Thomas, Hon Dr Steve
Collier, Hon Peter	McGinn, Hon Kyle	Thomson, Hon Neil
Dawson, Hon Stephen	Moermond, Hon Sophia	Tucker, Hon Wilson
de Grussa, Hon Colin	Payne, Hon Shelley	Walker, Hon Dr Brian
Ellery, Hon Sue	Pettitt, Hon Dr Brad	West, Hon Darren
Faragher, Hon Donna	Pritchard, Hon Martin	Yang, Hon Pierre
Goiran, Hon Nick	Rowe, Hon Samantha	Foster, Hon Peter (Teller)
Harper, Hon Lorna		

Question thus negatived with an absolute majority.

CLIMATE ACTION THIS DECADE BILL 2025

Introduction and first reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Hon Dr Brad Pettitt**, and read a first time.

Second reading speech

Hon Dr Brad Pettitt (South Metropolitan Region) (10:30 am): I move:

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Climate Action this Decade Bill 2025 is an updated version of the Climate Change Bill 2023 that was read into the other place on Thursday 30 November 2023 by then Minister for Climate Action Hon Reece Whitby. The key significant change is that the Climate Action this Decade Bill 2025 includes an emissions reduction target for

Western Australia for 2030. This is a target that the Climate Change Bill 2023 failed to include, despite this decade widely being understood as the critical decade for action on climate change.

When introduced in 2023 the government stated that the Climate Change Bill demonstrated the WA government's:

> … commitment to enduring action on one of the most significant challenges of our lifetime.

It stated:

> While the technical challenges and scale of investment required for the net zero transition are enormous, so are the opportunities for our state. The transition represents a multi-decade investment boom, and an opportunity to invest in a secure and sustainable energy system and carbon-competitive industries that will deliver more jobs and growth in a climate-resilient future. This government recognises that legislated targets, along with credible and predictable policy settings, are the best way to mobilise the capital required for the net zero transition. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the leading global scientific body on climate, has emphasised the importance of climate legislation in setting out overarching goals for emissions reduction and attracting international finance.

To put it more succinctly, climate legislation is essential in delivering the policy stability and investment certainty needed to attract the skills and capital that WA will need in the decades ahead.

In 2023 second reading speech the Cook government also stated:

> In introducing this landmark legislation, the government has also listened to ongoing calls from the community for legislative backing for the state's climate response.

But legislation, of course, needs to be passed by the Parliament and implemented, not merely introduced. The Western Australian Government first stated its goal of net zero emissions in August 2019. Almost six years on this goal is still not enshrined in law, nor does it have robust provisions to ensure that targets are met and the Western Australian Parliament and the community are regularly informed on progress. In fact, what we have seen during this time is that WA's emissions have continued to rise, in the decade that climate scientists tell us they must come down. WA is the only state in which emissions are still rising. In the last year we have seen mass coral bleaching at Ningaloo Reef and a severe drying out and dying off of our beautiful South West forests.

This decade has also seen large-scale renewable energy investment stall on our main grid, with insufficient renewable energy projects under construction to phase-out coal by 2030 without replacing it with similarly climate-damaging gas. That is why this bill will address this by adding a 2030 target to the 2025 version of the bill as an important transparency and accountability addition for this government this decade.

As the explanatory memorandum states, this bill is:

> … to ensure Western Australia contributes to global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in alignment with the Paris Agreement. The central aim of the Paris Agreement is to keep global temperature rise this century to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

In fact, the WA Labor Party platform also agrees that we must limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius and states:

> We are in a "Climate Emergency" that requires urgent action by all levels of government. The current collective response is ineffective and inadequate. Swift action is required to decouple our economy from greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels.

The Greens WA remain committed to climate action that aims to limit temperature increases to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. We believe the alignment with the Paris Agreement written into this bill is consistent with that aim, but only if the targets set start this decade and provide a credible pathway to emissions reduction, consistent with WA's carbon emissions budget.

I also want to acknowledge that the climate and environment sector, and my Greens colleagues who will be joining us in this place shortly, believe there are significant limitations to this bill, especially when it comes to the lack of the establishment of an independent scientific advisory body, ministerial powers and the extent and quality of offsets that are allowed. They will seek further amendments to this bill if, and when, it is debated. That said, climate action and a legislated pathway to net zero are so critically important that we want to give this bill the best chance of passing. That is why we have reintroduced the government's own bill. We hope it still supports it.

I turn now to the specific provisions of this bill—first, to the purpose. This legislation will ensure that Western Australia contributes to global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the setting of targets and the reduction of Western Australia's emissions, consistent with those targets and the mitigation hierarchy. The explicit inclusion of the mitigation hierarchy in the bill's purpose will ensure that there is not an over-reliance on carbon offsets at the expense of state-based action. I note that there may be value in further strengthening this aspect of the legislation when this bill is debated.

The bill will promote transparency and accountability, encourage investment in critical industries, infrastructure, technologies and skills, and support an orderly transition to net zero emissions. The bill will ensure that our state takes steps to identify and manage the impacts of climate change on our community, the environment and economy. The bill will also ensure that the Parliament and the community are informed about progress in achieving targets and responding to the impacts of climate change.

Clause 6 of the bill sets out the minister's functions. These are additional to specific actions the minister is required to take to set targets, develop strategies and plans and report annually to Parliament, which I will get to shortly. This part of the bill requires the minister to promote action to meet emissions reduction targets; assess the impacts of climate change; develop, adopt and promote policies to reduce emissions and support adaptation; regularly review issues related to climate change; and promote the state's involvement in important climate change forums, including those at the national and international level.

Clause 7 sets out the 2050 target of zero net emissions. This clause requires the target to be achieved no later than 2050, but it does not prevent this target from being achieved at an earlier date.

Clause 8 requires the setting of economy-wide interim emissions reduction targets by notice in the *Government Gazette*. These targets must be set at five-yearly intervals, commencing from 2030, as both point to targets and emissions budgets by reference to a baseline year of 2005. Emissions budgets will ensure emissions for every target period count, not just emissions in the target year. Targets must be set as soon as practicable after the Australian Government sets its national target, known as nationally determined contributions under article 4.9 of the Paris Agreement. This links target setting to established national and international processes and ensures that Western Australia's targets are informed by Australia's commitments under international treaty.

The bill provides for carbon offsets to contribute to targets subject to those prescribed in regulation. The bill contains important safeguards to avoid over-reliance on carbon offsets, including a requirement for limits to be set on offsets and for the minister, in setting targets, to have regard to the mitigation hierarchy. In this regard, Western Australia's legislation goes beyond that of some other jurisdictions and ensures an appropriate focus on state-based action. As I said earlier, there may be value in strengthening this further.

Clause 9 will allow for interim targets to be amended. This can only occur if the minister is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist that require an amendment to the target.

Clause 10 requires interim targets to be set for the state government, which currently contributes around 10% of Western Australia's emissions. These provisions mirror those for the whole of the economy, delivering state government leadership on climate change through action to reduce emissions from its own operations. This clause also requires the government's 2030 target, announced in June 2022, to be set by notice as soon as practicable.

Clause 11 requires the determination of net emissions for Western Australia and the state government. This is necessary to facilitate other important provisions of the legislation. The bill requires the minister to develop an emissions reduction strategy to enable the achievement of targets.

Part 5 of the bill contains similar provisions for the development of a climate adaptation strategy, providing a holistic response to climate impacts, public consultation, clear implementation pathways and requirements for regular review.

Part 6 of the bill requires the development of sector adaptation plans for the sectors of health and human services; emergency management; primary production; infrastructure and built environment; small and medium enterprises; natural environment; and water security. These are priority sectors in which the government has a key role in bringing stakeholders together and coordinating adaptation actions.

Finally, part 7 of the bill will deliver transparency and accountability for the government of the day, requiring the tabling in Parliament of an annual climate change report. Reports must be tabled as soon as practicable following the end of the financial year, and no later than 31 December. Annual reporting will require that the Parliament and community of Western Australia are informed about Western Australia's progress in achieving its emissions reduction targets.

Finally, I want to finish with the words that closed the original Climate Change Bill 2023 second reading speech:

> I close by acknowledging the challenge that climate change poses to current and future generations of Western Australians. This bill sends a signal not just to business and investors seeking certainty for critical investments, but to young people who are looking to their leaders for courage and conviction. Grappling with the challenges and forging the solutions to climate change will span many generations and require an abiding commitment to action. This legislation lays the foundation for that action.

Pursuant to standing order 126(1), I advise that this bill is not a uniform legislation bill. It does not ratify or give effect to an intergovernmental or multilateral agreement to which the government of the state is a party; nor does this bill, by reason of its subject matter, introduce a uniform scheme or uniform laws throughout the commonwealth.

I commend the bill to the house, and I table an explanatory memorandum.

(See paper 193.)

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

ORDER OF BUSINESS—DIVISION

Statement

The President (Hon Alanna Clohesy) (10:40 am): Before we move on to the second item of non-government business, I need to report that there was an error in the division as reported on the previous motion. The correct result is noes, 31; ayes, one. Previously I had reported it as noes, 30. It was a miscalculation in the numbers.

BURSWOOD PARK MOTORPLEX

Motion

Hon Dr Brad Pettitt (South Metropolitan Region) (10:41 am) without notice: I move:

That the Legislative Council:

(1) Opposes the location and construction of a purpose-built and permanent street motor racing circuit in Burswood Park. This $217 million facility has been proposed without meaningful public consultation, a business plan, or an environmental review. It is not consistent with the widely supported *Burswood Park: Master Plan* and *Burswood Park: 20 Year Vision* that were announced in November 2023 after years of community consultation.

(2) Recognises that this project risks significant negative impacts in the areas of environment, environmental health, and quality of life of residents in the area, and cannot be considered a value proposition in terms of economic benefit to the Western Australian community.

I am really pleased to be able to talk about this project, which is one that I have certainly heard a lot about in recent times. I acknowledge the many members of the community who have come out today for an issue that I know many people are rightly passionate about.

I am going to talk mostly about the planning aspects of this, and I know that others will talk about other aspects. Certainly, I was fascinated by this, because the first we heard about it was actually via an Instagram post, interestingly enough, on Sunday 12 January. It said:

> A re-elected WA Labor Government will deliver a Perth Street Circuit and entertainment precinct at Burswood Park!
>
> The circuit would see roads around Burswood Park converted into a racetrack, allowing 50,000 locals and interstate visitors to turn out each day for a multi-day race event, plus cater for night time racing under lights.

That Instagram post got 48 likes, which I thought was maybe an early warning that this was not going to be as popular as WA Labor leaders hoped it might be. We also saw in *The West Australian* that day an exclusive story that gave us a bit more information. It stated that it was going to cost $217 million and will be ready for the 2027 supercar season. We also learned that it will have permanent grandstands and other upgrades will be made to the park, in addition to a new track for motoring enthusiasts.

Both of these announcements failed to acknowledge that this project runs contrary to a long-term 20-year vision for this site. It is really interesting to go back over the *Burswood Park: Master Plan* and realise the extraordinary planning that has actually happened for this site over a very long period. This project is not consistent with that planning, and that is at the heart of my argument and my motion today. We need to be much more consistent with our planning. The *Burswood Park: 20 Year Vision* states:

> Burswood Park Board has developed an ambitious 20 Year Vision to ensure the Burswood Peninsula realises its destination potential and to create a world-class, cultural, environmental, and recreational showpiece for Western Australia.
>
> The concept for Burswood Park encapsulates 'a Park for Everyone' sentiment, with the vision structured around a series of themed precincts connected by pathways, boulevards, boardwalks and trails.

I will back up a bit. The Burswood Park Board has been around for about 40 years, since 1986. Its objective is to create a parkland that attracts people and encourages usage and enjoyment of around 56 hectares of gardens and public open space, including a heritage trail and more. In quoting these documents, I am flagging and demonstrating what a radical and unplanned departure the street racing circuit would be from a decades-long plan for this area. This becomes even more stark when we delve down and look at the precincts that were envisioned in the 20-year plan for the areas now planned for the streetcar circuit. The first of these is a cultural hub. The *Burswood Park: 20 Year Vision* states:

> … the Wadjuk Noongar community will work with artists and designers to create a unique experience and cultural attraction of international significance.

The second part, where the street circuit will be, was going to be a forest or a discovery precinct:

> To explore wildflowers, jog a looping trail, be inspired through art and rest in natural garden settings.

It is hard to imagine how either of those paired precincts and the broader vision could be delivered if this streetcar circuit were to proceed. It also impacts on the proposed festival precinct, which originally referred to a 10,000-capacity performance bowl—a large-scale outdoor venue. Interestingly, that is still in place in the new plan, but it has doubled in size to a capacity of 20,000. I am not quite sure why, but at least that element has community support. I think this is important to say, and I know that the people in the gallery will be really clear about this. There are elements of this that everyone supports, but they are the elements that are consistent with the long-term plan. I think people are rightfully pushing back against the streetcar circuit and the other bits that have come out of nowhere and that are not consistent with all the planning.

This is a key difference between the long-term vision and the state government's election announcement. The long-term vision actually recognises, firstly, the environmental values of the parkland as parkland that has had decades of rehabilitation. It is now estimated to home up to 40 species of water fowl and birdlife, several of which are under increasing threat from urbanisation, including the long-necked turtle and the buff-banded rail. It is an increasingly important place in terms of mitigating the urban heat island effect and offering a parkland that is a place of solace. It is a place that has also been recognised as having cultural significance for First Nations people, as has been identified through the heritage sites within the footprint of this proposed motorplex site.

Another really important thing recognised in the long-term plan is how difficult it is to build on this site. I do not know whether people realise this, but the stadium sits on 2,000 concrete piles driven to a depth of 35 metres. That is an incredibly expensive and lengthy process that actually keeps the building in place. The State Tennis Centre, which adjoins this site, still has subsidence issues, whereby parts of that venue have sunk by half a metre. This is a complex and fragile site. It is a site that has rightfully been planned as parkland, but we have had this huge departure. This is not only mentioned in the *Burswood Park: Master Plan*, but also backed up by the *Burswood Peninsula District Structure Plan*. Page 10 of that structure plan states the long-term vision for the Burswood peninsula. It is actually quite an interesting plan. I do not love all of it, but it refers to having quite a mixed-use plan.

The first part says that the key elements include:

- high density, contemporary urban neighbourhoods created at Belmont Park, Burswood Station and The Springs;

Tick—that has been delivered. That is consistent with that structure plan. It continues:

- an expanded tourism and entertainment precinct at Crown Perth, including the proposed new six-star Crown Towers hotel;

Again, tick—delivered, no problem. It continues:

- a major sporting stadium with access to upgraded public transport facilities and an expanded pedestrian network;

Tick—so far so good. a whole bunch of things delivered consistent with this structure plan. Then the next part has not yet to be delivered, which is a basically a total transit-orientated development around Belmont Park and the Burswood train stations, but again could be delivered. The next two are:

- a significant area of new parkland that provides opportunities for passive and active recreation, and adds to the existing network of parks managed by the Burswood Park Board;

…

- an extended riverine parkland along the shore of the Swan River connected by a high quality network of pedestrian and cycle pathways.

Both of these parts of the structure plan will undoubtedly be severely compromised if this plan for a motorplex were to go ahead. More than 80% of Burswood Park, large chunks of it, is covered in asphalt and concrete. There is a real concern that, as a result of this, we will see the destruction of up to seven wetlands that have been recognised, as I spoke about earlier, as having environmental significance and have taken a long time to establish.

There can be good reasons to override decades of good orderly planning, but I do not see that they exist in this case. In fact, no real argument has been presented for why that should be the case. Certainly, the community has not been calling for this and was not consulted. The local government, the Town of Victoria Park, has not been calling for this and it was not consulted either. In fact, in February this year it resolved to oppose it. I could not find any evidence of the tourism sector being consulted or ever calling for this. I am struggling to think of any key group or body that has come out in support. The only public supporters seem to be leaders in the WA Labor government and maybe some of those in the supercar sector.

There is also no real clear evidence in terms of a feasibility study, an environmental impact assessment, a business case or project costings to demonstrate a need for a motorplex in this location. I will be interested to hear in the government's reply whether they exist. If they do, can the government table them, because it is either the case that the government has not done these things or they have not been made public? Either way, there is a real lack of transparency around this project and where it is up to at the moment.

The last point I want to make before handing on to others to respond is that we cannot help but think: why this project? This is an expensive project. It is $217 million and it is probably going to cost more by the time it is done. Why is this a priority project that we see the government already testing and working on before it has even consulted on it? Why is this a priority in the middle of a housing and cost-of-living crisis? Projects like this divert funds, resources and workforce from the kinds of projects that we really need to be focusing on. I bluntly say that we should be putting this funding towards providing housing and key investments in infrastructure that will help us deal with the cost of living and the housing crisis that we face. On that basis, I think the community is right. We are seeing the community and local government call loud and clear for this project to be paused and for there to be proper consultation through sitting down with the community. By consultation I do not mean what consultation too often becomes—that is, we get to choose the colour of the sound walls. I mean proper consultation on actually where and what this project looks like. It is time that we go back to good orderly planning for this site.

I want to acknowledge there are a whole bunch of other issues that I could cover, but I also want to give others the opportunity to respond. There are issues around noise and problematic crowd numbers. There are a whole bunch of other issues with this, but on planning grounds alone, there are good reasons why this project should not be fast-tracked. It should go back to the drawing board.

(Interruption from the gallery.)

Hon Samantha Rowe (East Metropolitan Region—Parliamentary Secretary) (10:54 am): I would like to start by thanking Hon Dr Brad Pettitt for bringing this motion to the house today. I acknowledge from the outset the honourable member's opposition to this project. However, it is probably going to come as no surprise that the government has a very different view on the matter. As he stated in his contribution, during the recent 2025 WA state election, the WA Labor Party made a commitment for a $217.5 million Burswood Park entertainment and sporting precinct (PESP). This precinct is going to create a vibrant, multipurpose destination enhancing Burswood Park's existing activities. It will deliver new amenities for visitors and the nearby residents. It will strengthen those connections between Optus Stadium, Perth city and the surrounding area of Burswood. The precinct will elevate Western Australia's standing as a premier place for sport and entertainment. It will feature new infrastructure, new and improved audience experiences and improvements for the local environment, and support for both community participation and major events through a number of ways. That will be through a new outdoor auditorium for live music and other events, with 15,000 to 20,000 capacity, complementing Burswood Park, Optus Stadium and Crown Perth venues. It will also be through a multiuse track, and that will include FIA-approved supercars, cycling and community sport. It will be through a multipurpose building, including event and function facilities and meeting spaces, and also better transport and connectivity with Optus Stadium and the overall precinct, particularly for people with disability. An important design consideration is that the precinct footprint does not extend to the Swan River and will incorporate the Burswood Parks 20-year vision, relevant state planning policies and will uphold and improve the park's garden amenity.

The PESP will deliver four key components and aligns with the *Burswood Park: Master Plan* by delivering an event space on the foreshore. The project's key components are a street circuit and an amphitheatre. A cycling track and disabled accessible parking. The amphitheatre will deliver an event space for up to 20,000 people for all sorts of events and also catering for all sorts of interests. This will complement the additional road footprint for a cycling and racetrack on the same site, which will allow for significant activation of the space on events day. Included in the design is a multipurpose building that will provide useful amenity on site. It will act as a pit lane and premium hospitality for any racing that takes place, and it will also provide electrification, food and beverage services, and merchandising for events held at the venue. The current model involves trucking in a load of diesel generators and water trucks, which is just not a sustainable option.

In relation to draining lakes along the foreshore, these lakes have been identified as hazards by DBCA and are potentially toxic for the wildlife that lives around Burswood. The PESP is a valuable—

(Interruption from the gallery.)

The Acting President: This is to the public gallery: sitting here is a privilege. Debate will not be interrupted.

Hon Samantha Rowe: The PESP is a valuable activation of the site. The WA Planning Commission says in the 2021 *Burswood Peninsula: District Structure Plan*:

> Burswood Peninsula will become an increasingly important destination for sporting, entertainment and recreation activity. It will complement central Perth and Kings Park as one of the most popular attractions for national and international visitors to the State.

The project is a crucial step in diversifying WA's economy and will put tourism at the centre of the Burswood precinct. A key feature of the design is the investment in providing greater disability access to the Burswood precinct on event days and all year round. The entertainment and sporting precinct will complement existing entertainment venues and infrastructure, including nearby Optus Stadium. The concept aligns with the Burswood Park Board's 20-year vision. Development of the concept will consider the existing parkland attributes and look to enhance them where possible. It is important to note that the footprint of the permanent structures that are part of the design for the new precinct will not extend to the Swan River.

Due diligence on a proposed site is one of the first tasks on any project and is necessary to inform concept development. This month, initial geotechnical investigations, including soil sampling, groundwater monitoring and soil water pressure testing, will be carried out around the Burswood Park reserve. We have informed nearby residents of this. After sampling, all areas of ground disturbance will be restored to pre-existing levels in line with the Burswood Park subsurface management plan. Signage and traffic management measures will be implemented where required to ensure public safety and minimise disruption. It is anticipated that any noise associated with the sampling will be minimal. Approval for these investigations was granted by the Burswood Park Board and Crown Perth.

Part (2) of the member's motion mentions the environmental impact of the proposed Burswood precinct. It is probably worth noting the history of this particular site. As many are already aware, the site was formerly used as a waste facility and landfill site. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation previously classified parcels of land within the Burswood precinct as remediated for restricted use and possibly contaminated, with investigation required under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003. This classification was based on the site's historical use as a waste facility and landfill site for the disposal of domestic and commercial waste. The waste included domestic waste, like paper or PVC plastic, as well as industrial waste, like sand or building rubble. A 2020 auditors report also found that the site formally contained septic tank waste from the former sewage works north of the site. It was mostly untreated and even had ashes, coal tar and toxic compounds associated with the former East Perth gas works. Although thoroughly assessed and considered low risk for public health reasons, the site has been deemed suitable for commercial land use only. It is not exactly an optimal site for conservation or biodiversity.

Members, this project is about activating land for a range of uses in an area that is already an entertainment precinct. The Cook government will soon commence an extensive consultation process that will provide every member of the community with the opportunity to have their say on how the precinct will be developed. I appreciate the member bringing this matter before the house today, but the government cannot support the motion.

Hon Neil Thomson (Mining and Pastoral Region) (11:25 am): I rise on behalf of the opposition, certainly as the shadow Minister for Planning and Lands, to speak in support of this motion. This is just another example of the cavalier attitude this government has towards land use planning in Western Australia. Time and time again we see a complete disregard for strategic planning processes, engagement of communities at the early stages of the planning process and transparency around decision-making, which I find quite offensive.

I just want to point out the questions I have recently raised in Parliament and the sorts of answers that we get back in this place. Opposition members ask reasonable questions and the government makes absolutely no effort to provide any level of transparency around perfectly legitimate issues to the community. On Tuesday 29 April, I asked when the Chairperson of the WA Planning Commission, Ms Emma Cole, was first advised of the proposal, whether WAPC had considered the proposal, whether it will be subject to an environmental assessment under part IV of the Environmental Protection Act and when the Environmental Protection Authority was first notified of the proposal. They are absolutely legitimate questions to ask in this place, but the sort of response I got had a cavalier attitude and a complete disregard of the community and the integrity of this place. The answer was:

> There is currently no development application. Due diligence is being carried out on the proposed site.

Well, you know, a level of ignorance was being shown by the other side. Clearly, it was not about a specific development application; it was about a strategic plan. Hon Brad Pettitt talked about the master plan that has been done for the Burswood peninsula. Contrary to what was said by the member opposite representing the minister in this place about the proposed land use, the master plan came up with a proposal that one of the three precincts, the forest precinct, was going to be the land in front of the poor residents on Bow River Crescent. They are now going to have acres of tarmac and V8 supercars in front of them. Please, to the members of the V8 supercar community, I love stock cars and supercars. I love those things. But it is about having the appropriate location for them. The kind of messages sent by the government through its planning process was that it was going be a forest precinct. We heard the minister get up and give a glib response, saying it is land that was once an old tip site and therefore we cannot use it for a forest precinct. Well, the government's precinct plan said it was going be a forest precinct. It is just complete arrogance. Frustration is my word for it and I am sure the members of the community close to it are frustrated. They will be impacted by the noise and all the other impacts going on. I am sure their frustration is much greater than my frustration as a representative of the opposition and on behalf of the planning sector.

I asked another question a little earlier, on 9 April:

I refer to the decision to build a motorplex at Burswood Park.

(1) When was the Minister for Planning and Lands first advised of the proposal?

That was a reasonable question. I also asked:

(2) When was the Western Australian Planning Commission advised of the proposal?

(3) Will, or has, the WAPC made any determination on the proposal?

(4) Have any land use planning studies been undertaken in support of the particular proposal?

(5) Has the proposal been subjected to any environmental studies?

I was having a go on behalf of the community to ask what was going on. Then the answer given was glib. It was a shameful response:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

(1)–(7) Due diligence is currently being carried out on the proposed site.

Talk about treating us like mugs—everyone. The government is treating the opposition and the community like mugs on this issue. I think it highlights something about the government. I suspect this has possibly come from the Treasurer, Hon Rita Saffioti. I do not know; it might be from Hon Roger Cook. Someone has gone into their offices with this great proposal they have come up with and said, "Isn't this great? We're going to do something just before the election. It is going to be a great election winner. We're just going to dump it out there and make that promise." Of course, governments make election promises, and I will refer to the election a little bit because there is another factor in this. But the wonderful thing about being in government is that ministers get to have discretion. I am proud of the fact that I was the chief of staff for Hon John Day in the Barnett government. I remember we got requests from the Premier's office for advice on the location of the stadium because studies had been undertaken about whether it should be in east Subiaco or at the power station in East Perth. Those locations were not ideal, as we have now seen by the fact we have this beautiful stadium facility. I am proud of the fact that the then director general Eric Lumsden, who has passed on, was given early advice about the idea of locating the stadium at the peninsula because it is an iconic location.

Did the Liberal–National government go out and use that as a process for the election? No. It did proper studies after the election to check out these things and consult with the community to come up with a wonderful facility, which the vast majority of the community supports. But we see the approach by this government without any due regard for involving the community in the planning process. I feel for the community members who live close by in that area. Of course, even those who live across the river will be affected by the noise factor, but particularly those members of the community in that area that is wedged between Bow River Crescent and Victoria Park Drive. From the renderings we have seen, they are going to be straight across from there and it is going to impose a significant impact on their amenity. I think that is a reasonable thing that should have been considered in the normal strategic planning process involving the Town of Victoria Park.

In my closing statements, I would like to refer back to some issues. I note that we had an election recently and I think the government can point to the fact that Hon Hannah Beazley MLA was returned with a very big majority. I am sure the government will say that the reason it can proceed with this is because the community has voted for it. That is what it might say, but look at the swing that occurred. Andra Biondi is a friend of mine. She is a young, dynamic planner who stood for the Liberal Party. She came out on a strong platform on this issue and got an almost 10% swing in the primary vote. I have to say this: those who voted for the Greens WA—with all due respect to Hon Dr Brad Pettitt for bringing this motion, and who I have a lot in common with—have shown pathological disregard for a young, conservative, smart person who came out strongly on this issue. We saw that although there was a 10% swing to her, the overall swing was only 11%. There was no support from the Greens on this issue. Where did all the Greens preferences go? Their preferences went to Hannah Beazley. All I can say is that the message to the community is to be careful about who they vote for because there was a real opportunity a couple of months ago, on 8 March, to actually send a message to the government. Hannah Beazley did not get over 50% of the vote. That was an opportunity to send her to the door on this issue. All I can say to the Greens supporters who are voting in the federal election this weekend—of course, Mic Fels—is to get past their pathological disregard for the people on this side of the house and to look at the candidate on their merits. I can tell them they would not have had a better candidate in Victoria Park than Andra Biondi to represent them on this issue.

Hon Peter Collier (North Metropolitan Region—Leader of the Opposition) (11:13 am): I stand to give emphatic support to this motion. I thank Hon Dr Brad Pettitt for bringing it to the chamber. I think it was Christopher Earle who said you should be humble in victory and gracious in defeat. If that is the case, the members opposite should be absolutely overloaded with humbleness; they really should. It should be coming out of every pore of their body. They should be humble. Do you know what humble means, Mr Acting President? It means being respectful. We hear from members opposite quite regularly that they are humble, "We've got to be humble." When the government stuffs something up like the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act, the opposition is told that it is like dogs returning to its vomit when it dares to articulate some concerns about that act. The opposition was

right and the government had to be humble! We hear about this humbleness all the time. It is nice to have the word, but let us see some actions.

Let us look at the humbleness about the motorplex in Burswood Park, shall we? I cannot believe this. I vividly remember the morning of Sunday 12 January when I saw this vision on the front page of *The Sunday Times* about the proposed motorplex at Burswood Park. I could not believe it. I thought I must have hit the turps last night and have a hangover because this cannot be happening. That pristine park is going to be laden now with V8s. They will be doing bog laps around Burswood Park—that is what we will have! What made it worse is that it was the first time we had heard of it. I read the article, which stated:

> The street circuit would host major national and international motorsports events such as V8 Supercars … allowing about 50,000 locals and interstate visitors to turn out each day for a multi-day race event, plus cater for night-time racing under lights.

The article continues and makes it look beautiful. There is going to be a music bowl and a function centre. Okay, they are pretty good; I do not have an issue with that, but I do with the motorplex. Then, the icing on the cake with this humbleness comes from this:

> Community consultation on the new entertainment precinct will be undertaken in the coming months, with noise levels tested and mitigation techniques implemented, if required, as the planning work continues.

That is the killer right there. Consultation is going to take place after the decision has been made. The members opposite have enormous authority at the moment. What they do then is say, "We're going to use that authority as a single-finger salute and we're going to put on this token consultation." What happens if the whole community comes out en masse and says it does not want it? Is the government going to be humble then? Is it going to be respectful or will it keep on saying, "Scoreboard! We won the election."

No, that is not all. I have another great example about this in a moment that I will talk about. That is not how things are done. The community does not want it—well, the Town of Victoria Park does not want it. That has been made quite clear. I have spoken to dozens of people who have been in touch with me and told me they do not want it. The locals do not want it. I could not believe it when I saw that on the front page of *The Sunday Times*. I assumed that the Labor Party had gone out and done consultation, or their candidate and their members had gone out and talked with the community, and the community emphatically supported it. I assumed they were going to rock up with their thermoses and sandwiches and go to the motorplex to watch the V8s do bog laps—not the case. I assumed that as an alternative to what we have at the moment in Burswood Park, which is this beautiful, pristine parkland interspersed with some sporting facilities and commercial facilities. It is magnificent. If members go down there, it is magnificent. Have a look at the families with the picnics. Have a look at the dogs. It is beautiful, right? But the government is going to put a motorplex right in the middle of it. Then, after that, on Tuesday 8 April 2025, I saw an ABC article, which stated:

> Before the election Deputy Premier Rita Saffioti said the government would consult the community if it prevailed in the March 8 poll.

It would consult after the event.

> "This is an election commitment of our government and, should we win, we'll undertake significant consultation to make sure everyone is aware of the proposal," she said on February 19.

I can tell members that the locals are going to be very aware of the noise when they hear those V8s going round and round. It is not only that, but the whole structure of that park is going to be destroyed. As I said, the mob opposite have form in this area with this "consultation" bit. I will never forget, when I was Minister for Education, five weeks out of the election in 2017 and I wake up to the same thing. I opened up *The Sunday Times* and read that they were going to put Perth Modern School in a skyscraper in the middle of Northbridge. They were going to put Perth Mod on a skyscraper in the middle of Northbridge. You could not make this stuff up. That is exactly what the government was going to do. There was no consultation. Well, all hell broke loose. They won the election: "Scoreboard, scoreboard! Look what we've got. We've got the scoreboard. We got the election win so we're going to do it. We've got an endorsement for it. We got an emphatic win." They did; I grant them that. Did they have an endorsement to put Perth Modern School on the top of skyscraper in Northbridge's nightclub territory? Of course they did not. The Perth Modern community went absolutely ballistic. That cannot be challenged.

A government member interjected.

Hon Peter Collier: You can't challenge that, mate; I can tell you right now. They went ballistic, and it is a direct result of that. What did the government do? The government had to backtrack. We are now faced with exactly the same situation. I have credited the government on two emphatic wins, but there is a very big difference between power and authority. The government has the power to the move the school, but it does not have the authority to do something like that when the local community does not want it. Now, if over the next couple of weeks or months, when the government does do its consultation, and it comes out that 90% want the motorplex, I will

reluctantly accept defeat. However, I can almost guarantee members that that is not going to happen. I can almost guarantee members.

I am from His Majesty's loyal opposition. I am here to help. I have a solution for where the government should put its money. Guess what? It is on the Burswood peninsula. It is exactly down there and it is called the State Tennis Centre. Everyone knows I have fantastic connections with tennis; I have had all my life. We built the Tennis Centre down there in 1994, but it is falling apart. It desperately needs renovation. The whole tennis community wants the State Tennis Centre development—a glossy that the government can have; all it needs is the money. I will tell the government what it can do. It has $227 million here; it could take it away from the motorplex and put into the State Tennis Centre. The tennis community will accept that with open arms. Do members know why not? It is because the government is considering putting the Tennis Centre in Whiteman Park. That is what it is doing. If it wants to completely destroy tennis in this state, it should just keep going along with that. At the moment the State Tennis Centre is falling apart. The courts are collapsing and the whole building has concrete cancer. It desperately needs work.

We went into the 2021 election committed to redeveloping the State Tennis Centre. We thought it might flush out the government so it would do the same. We lost, the government won, and it did not do it, so we have had another four years during which the State Tennis Centre has continued to deteriorate. At Burswood there is an existing facility that is crying out for funds, and the entire tennis community would emphatically support it. It would come out and endorse it. In fact, Hon Mark McGowan and Hon Paul Papalia went out there for a photo opportunity with this thing. In this document there is a photo opportunity; they are there, on the court. Why does the government not do that? At least then it would have some authority. The government has the power, but it does not have the authority. As I said, at the moment it has unparalleled power, apart from 2021. It should not abuse it. There is a community out there that is voicing its concerns. There is a community out there that is not necessarily anti-Labor. They are anti-motorplex. That is what they are. They are pro-the existing facility at Burswood Park. They have this magnificent facility that they do not want touched. They do not want to have this motorplex lumped right in the middle so that their pristine park is destroyed.

The government would have no issues there whatsoever. It would actually enhance its reputation with that community. It would enhance its reputation with the Town of Victoria Park. They do not want to come out and say that this is a Labor issue; they are saying this is a Burswood Park issue. That is all they are doing. They have not been consulted even once. We are doing the consultation after the event. The government is saying, "We're going to put it in whether you like it or not." I can bet the government's bottom dollar, that consultation is not going to be pretty, so listen to the community, for goodness' sake. It should get over its power thrust and forget this proposal.

Hon Nick Goiran (South Metropolitan Region) (11:23 am): It is wonderful to get applause when I take to my feet in this place! All jokes aside, I recognise the excellent contribution the Leader of the Opposition just made.

When I read this motion, the first thing that comes to my mind is the word "charade". What is a charade? A charade is an absurd pretence intended to create a pleasant or respectable appearance. That is what a charade is. What many people in Western Australia will not appreciate is that once a week in the Legislative Council a political party that is not in government has an opportunity to, in effect, control the agenda for 80 minutes, and we are currently in that process. This week has been allocated to the Greens WA. In this new 42nd Parliament, a table has been prepared and the Greens have been allocated today's date, 1 May. This is the first opportunity for the Greens WA to put a motion forward and control the agenda here, and it will have two other opportunities this year. Members observing will note that it does not have very many opportunities to control the agenda in the Legislative Council. In fact, this year it will have three opportunities, and today is day one.

Hon Brad Pettitt decided today that the top priority for the Greens for 2025 is to introduce the Climate Action this Decade Bill 2025. I do not quibble with that whatsoever; it is completely consistent with the Greens platform. I would be surprised if the member did not do something like that. We will debate that bill on a future occasion. Immediately after that, the honourable member chose for this matter to be debated today. He could have chosen anything else in terms of public affairs in Western Australia, but he said, "No, as the representative of the Greens, this is the most important thing that needs to be debated by the Legislative Council." It is significant.

I go back to my earlier comments. What is a charade? A charade is an absurd pretence intended to create a pleasant or respectable appearance. Why do I say that? The motion currently before the house has a lot of merit. The honourable member is asking us to agree to two things. Firstly, he is saying that that he, the Greens and, by virtue of this motion, the whole of the Legislative Council, should be opposed to the permanent street motor racing circuit that is being proposed for Burswood Park. That is the first thing he is asking us to agree to. Remember, this is very, very important to the Greens WA. It could have chosen anything else to debate today, but no. Hot on the heels of the Climate Action this Decade Bill, Hon Dr Brad Pettitt and the Greens want us to agree today that we should oppose the permanent street motor racing circuit in Burswood Park. The second thing he wants us to recognise through this motion is that there are said to be significant negative impacts with regard to this proposal. That is all we are being asked to agree to. What do I say? This is all a charade, because the observant political

person in Western Australia will know full well that the Greens WA are accomplices in this farce that we have at the moment. It could have chosen what it wanted to do with respect to the seat of Victoria Park. It could have chosen what it wanted to do with regard to the seat of South Perth. What did it do? I note that on more than one occasion, members of the government have suggested that they have some form of mandate. They have referenced the seats of South Perth and Victoria Park. When I look at the seat of Victoria Park—Hon Neil Thompson touched on this in his excellent contribution earlier—I see that the incumbent member in Victoria Park had a primary vote of just over 45%. What was the primary vote of the Greens? Remember, the government says it has a mandate. Today, 1 May, the Greens have said that this is so important that it is willing to sacrifice the majority of its non-government business time for us to debate it. The Greens had 20% of the primary votes in Victoria Park, and it funnelled those votes to the Labor Party. Now, on 1 May, the member has come in here and said, "This is a matter of great concern. We should all be opposed to the permanent street motor racing circuit in Burswood Park." Well, why preference the very party that is doing the exact opposite?

What about the seat of South Perth? In South Perth, the primary vote of the incumbent Labor Party member was 36.6%. Guess what the vote was for the Greens: it was 13.6%, and that member got over by the skin of his teeth, aided and abetted by the Greens, who now say, "Oh look, we're very concerned. The people of Victoria Park, the people of South Perth, the people of Burswood, they're not happy with this whole situation." No kidding! We knew that at the time, in the middle of the election. Why come in here now and sacrifice half of the honourable member's non-government business to say to the government, "Oh, you're a very bad government. What are you doing here? This is a top priority for us. Apart from the Climate Action this Decade Bill, we think you should oppose this permanent street motor racing circuit in Burswood Park"? The best way to oppose it is to not elect the very people who are going to deliver the thing that you say you are opposed to! I do wonder, with all due respect to the honourable member and his party, how sincere they are about this matter, because we in the opposition are sincere about it. We are not mucking around. We were sincere about it during the election campaign and we are sincere about it now.

Notwithstanding those remarks, the honourable member's motion has merit, because that is what the local people are saying. They are saying that there has been a lack of transparency around the process. They are saying that there has been zero investigation and due diligence. In fact, they are asking what conversations have there been with V8 Supercars and for how long has the government been in discussion on this project? They are asking who is going to benefit financially from this project. In particular, they are asking—I note that the honourable member and others also pointed to this earlier—why has the 20-year master plan been totally disregarded or set aside? These are fair questions from locals who will be impacted by this and who have, with no notice, been told that this is what is going to happen. As the Leader of the Opposition said in his earlier remarks, it is all well and good for the government now to say that it is going to consult. But it has already decided; it has said that it is going to make this thing happen.

I would encourage members who have a keen interest in this to spend some time comparing and contrasting the proposed Keysbrook motorplex with that of Burswood Park. No doubt the mover will be very familiar with this, and I know that Hon Neil Thomson is well aware of this as well. Those who have been busy for years working on the Keysbrook motorplex project have been faithfully following the processes, planning laws, environmental laws and the like and complying with everything that needs to be done. Indeed, according to my notes, the first Keysbrook motorplex development application was submitted to the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale in 2017, before referral to the Western Australian Planning Commission. We are still not there yet. We are in 2025. That particular one has the support of the local government. This Burswood one does not. There are myriad ways in which we can compare and contrast what has been happening with Keysbrook and with Burswood Park. I have to wonder whether the government is for real when it says to the people of WA that it intends for this particular motorplex to be expedited and built in that timeframe. It seems to be suggesting that this is all going to be completed for the 2027 V8 Supercars season. Does the government comply with ordinary laws like every other proponent? A private contractor does not get to have all of that happening. The government is doing all this in the context in which it has not consulted the local people.

As I said, President, with the greatest respect to the mover of the motion, I agree with the merits of it, but I think he needs to take a good hard look at his party's preferencing system.

Hon Dan Caddy (North Metropolitan Region—Parliamentary Secretary) (11:33 am): Before I get into the main things that I want to say, I just want to pick up on a couple of things that have been said by the last two speakers. Hon Peter Collier gave a very good contribution on what he believes, but the reference—this is critical—to that area as pristine is factually incorrect. The lakes have been identified by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions as having hazards, and I think Hon Samantha Rowe went into this. They are potentially toxic for wildlife that lives along the river. There have been reports of birds dying along there. I just wanted to make that point before I started.

I want to go to something that Hon Nick Goiran said. He is quite right. This is after the motion that Hon Dr Brad Pettitt put to start his contribution. This is the second most important thing for the Greens, quite clearly.

Hon Nick Goiran said words like "all the other issues that are happening in Western Australia at the moment", and I am paraphrasing the honourable member. It is incredible that we are heading into a federal election that will impact Western Australia, with the current federal opposition proposing nuclear power plants for WA, yet this is a higher priority for the Greens. I have complete respect for the Greens and their agenda, but I would have thought that that was a bigger issue to deal with.

The only other thing I want to touch on—Hon Nick Goiran was, as he usually is, very accurate with his figures—is what happened on polling day in Victoria Park. The one figure that he did not mention when he talked about the Greens getting 20% of the vote was that the Liberal Party candidate got only 26% of the vote. This means two things. The first is that, even with Greens preferences, it is unlikely it would have got there. More importantly, the biggest story—this is happening right around Australia—is that the Greens are starting to poll equal with the conservative parties. I think that is probably the honourable member's real and biggest concern.

Before I talk about the geographical space, I want to reflect on one of the peripheral issues, because a lot has been made of planning law in this instance. I think Hon Nick Goiran used the term "ordinary laws". I want to take the opportunity to follow up on comments made in this place by my good friend Hon Kate Doust. I want to talk about electoral law and specifically the *Electoral Act 1907*. Hon Kate Doust spoke in quite general terms, but I intend to be a little more specific and look at the Electoral Act chapter and verse where it is important.

Hon Nick Goiran: Is this to do with the motion?

Hon Dan Caddy: It is and I will get back to that, honourable member. Hon Kate Doust spoke to the issue of funding for the flyers put out against the proposal during the election period. Just by way of background, honourable member, on 3 March 2025, the Mayor of Victoria Park published a Facebook post, which I have a copy of here, that stated:

> This long weekend I joined a team of Burswood/Vic Park residents hitting the streets delivering flyers opposing the WA Labor plan to build a $217M Motorsport street circuit/motorplex at Burswood Park …

It goes on. She also published a photo of that flyer, a copy of which I also have. The interesting thing about that flyer is that it was not authorised. Section 187 of the *Electoral Act 1907* states:

> (1A) …
>
> ***electoral material*** means any advertisement, handbill, pamphlet, notice, letter or article that is intended or calculated to affect the result of an election.
>
> (1) The following are ***illegal practices*** —

Hon Nick Goiran interjected.

Hon Dan Caddy: Why does the honourable member not listen? He might actually learn something.

The Acting President: Order, members!

Hon Dan Caddy: Thank you, Acting President. It continues:

> (c) publishing any of the following publications without publishing at the end of the publication the name and address of the person authorising it —
>
> (i) an electoral advertisement (other than an advertisement in a newspaper announcing the holding of a meeting);
>
> (ii) a handbill, or pamphlet, other than a how-to-vote card;
>
> …
>
> (e) issuing electoral material not referred to in paragraphs (c) and (d) without publishing the name and address of the person authorising the material at the end of it;

The flyer in question does not have an authorisation of the type required by either section (1)(c) or section (1)(e). Section 190(6) of the Electoral Act states:

> The matters mentioned in the first column of the Table are electoral offences, punishable as provided in the second column of the Table opposite the statement of the offence.

The first column in the table contains the offences and the second column contains the punishments. The distribution of any advertisement—that includes a handbill or pamphlet published in contravention of section 187, which I have just referred to—has a penalty not exceeding $2,000. Prima facie, the Mayor of Victoria Park has committed an electoral offence by distributing this flyer. The test, as outlined in the act, is: did it seek to affect the result of the election? The flyer described in specific terms how people should vote; therefore, clearly that section, by definition, has been established. Furthermore, as a senior—

Several members interjected.

The Acting President: Order, members! I have to call Hon Neil Thomson. Your voice is not requested at this moment. I am listening to the other member. Hon Dan Caddy.

Hon Dan Caddy: Thank you, Acting President.

As an experienced local government leader, there is simply no excuse for this. This was not a member of the public who was not familiar with laws around elections and everything else. There is absolutely no excuse. As Hon Kate Doust said, she received a copy of an email that very explicitly said that the Mayor of Victoria Park paid for the printing of the flyers. It is a significant issue that a local mayor, who was elected by the people of a local government area, has sought to influence a vote in a state election by paying for printing and enabling the distribution of a document that explicitly targeted one political party, and that is before we get to the probably more serious breaches of section 187 of the *Electoral Act 1907*.

I do not have much time left, but I want to address this issue of consultation because Hon Peter Collier brought it up and so did Hon Neil Thomson. Funnily enough, Hon Neil Thomson talked about the consultation to do with the stadium. The honourable member talked about the consultation that took place. The decision to build the stadium was made. The consultation was about where that stadium would go. I remember that. I was part of that in the private sector, working as a project manager at the time. I remember that I was part of a submission that went to that. I cannot remember who members had during the consultation. My memory says it was John Langoulant, but I may be incorrect in that.

Hon Neil Thomson: No, that was the previous one.

Hon Dan Caddy: That was the previous consultation. But the fact of the matter is that when the opposition members' appointed consultants came back, they did not pick the spot but they advised them to put it in anyway. The members opposite want to talk about consultation and how important it is to consult and how we should be doing this consultation like they did. We are going to do the consultation. They did the consultation, and when it came back, they did not listen to their own consultants. Members opposite decided to put it where the Premier of the day wanted to put it anyway. I tell members I was not a fan of the site that it went on, but it is a spectacular stadium. It is a world-leading stadium, and I have said that in this place many times. But it was not meant to be sitting there in isolation. It would be negligent of any incoming government after that was built not to leverage off that stadium and turn that whole precinct into something that is world-class sporting and tourism.

Hon Dr Brad Pettitt (South Metropolitan Region) (11:43 am) in reply: If there are no further comments, I will close and thank each of the members for their comments. Where to start? I will start and make a couple of points on preferences. Preferences are by voters, not parties. Ultimately, it is the voter who chooses where to put their preference. What we provide is guidance, and members know that the guidance is decided not by us parliamentarians; it is decided by our parties, quite separately.

Several members interjected.

The Acting President: Order!

Hon Dr Brad Pettitt: It is also not decided on a single issue. Let us take the theoretical idea that Hon Nick Goiran talked about when he said that say we decided to give preferences to the Liberal Party on these issues, and somehow the numbers worked out, which I do not think they quite would, and a Liberal Party member was elected in Victoria Park and in South Perth. Even if that were the case, the Liberal Party still will not have the numbers in the lower house to change this project. I am bringing up this issue here because I still remain confident that, by having rational conversations and bringing evidence forward in this place, we can hopefully change outcomes. That will not happen directly now because obviously we are getting push back from government, which will defend this project right up until the moment it flips and no longer defends it. That is actually what I think is going to happen on this project because it is so ad hoc, so badly planned and so inconsistent with good orderly planning in this state that I am pretty sure it will not go ahead. The government will decide reasons for that—that it has done ground testing and realises it is going to cost a whole bunch more and its very flat racetrack is going to end up being very bumpy very quickly, or there might be a range of other reasons. But this project is so expensive and so daft and has so little community support that it is not going to go ahead. I feel pretty confident in saying that.

But it is important enough an issue to bring to this place, because unlike the issue of nuclear power stations that Hon Dan Caddy suggested I should be debating, this is a real, tangible issue right now that we in this place could have an impact on—not in the way that we can influence federal politics. It is also one that is important, not just because it is a tangible issue that we can impact, but also because it is one that highlights a bigger issue in the state, which is that, frankly, we have walked away from good, orderly planning in the state on so many issues. For me, this is probably the pinnacle of that: a decision made behind closed doors by a small number of people in an un-transparent way that overrides years of good planning in structure plans and master plans and can be announced as an election promise without consultation and foisted upon a community. Unfortunately, we are seeing again and again from projects like this all the way through to how we are actually planning a whole metropolitan area that good, orderly planning in this state is not happening. I think that is why this is a key issue that we should debate

in this place because we need to draw attention to it, and I could not think of a better issue on which to start. I really hope that by talking today we can at least get back on track on that.

I want to bring up one more issue. There are good cautionary tales as to why we should not go down this route. We can look no further than Newcastle to say this is what happens when you do not do proper, good, orderly planning, backed up by good business plans and good research. I just want to tell this story very quickly in my last minutes. The Newcastle 500 project was announced in 2016 and the first event was held in 2017. It was a bit like motorplex. The track was in very close proximity to residential properties. It was touted by Destination NSW and Supercars as an opportunity to put Newcastle on the map, bringing significant economic benefit and tens of thousands of attendees to the city. Again, like this project, no cost–benefit analysis was undertaken, and the true economic benefit calculations were not made public. Decisions were fast-tracked and financial arrangements were pushed through and kept secret.

This event a few years on, in 2024, was cancelled. Almost 60% of respondents to a City of Newcastle survey did not want the event to return. A research paper on this was published by the universities of New South Wales and Newcastle, titled *The political economy of supercars Newcastle 500 event*. It showed that the economic returns calculated and number of people who turned up were significantly inflated, and that people were experiencing 95 decibels of sound in their living rooms, which, of course, actually causes hearing damage. There are so many lessons from what we saw happen, and we need to be really careful not to go down a similar route here. Although this is a huge investment for the state, it is not the right kind of investment.

No-one is saying, "Let's not do supercars anywhere", but all of a sudden, out of nowhere, in an election campaign, we have this new site coming up from the middle of nowhere with no real analysis, no proper work behind it and, frankly, the consultation will be on tweaking this proposal, not on whether it should be in that location. I really encourage this government to step back, pause, and have proper consultation on whether it should be here or whether it should go back to Keysbrook, as was talked about earlier, which would require an investment of only $35 million rather than $217 million.

Hon Matthew Swinbourn: That's private money, member.

Hon Dr Brad Pettitt: Why should the state not contribute towards this? My point is that there are cheaper solutions. We could upgrade the complex at Wanneroo for $100 million. Again, that is a cheaper solution than $217 million.

Motion lapsed, pursuant to standing orders.

COST-OF-LIVING RELIEF

Motion

Hon Klara Andric (South Metropolitan Region) (11:50 am) without notice: I move:

> That this house commends the Cook Labor government for its commitment to alleviating cost-of-living pressures faced by Western Australians, including the second round of WA student assistance payments.

I rise today to speak on an issue that is very important to not only myself but also many Western Australians across our state. I am sure that many of us from not only this side but also the other side of the chamber, if they listen to their constituents enough, will have heard that one of the biggest issues many of us face is the cost of living. Many people across Western Australia are navigating the daily reality of stretched budgets. From balancing our weekly grocery bills and utility payments to managing school expenses and everyday household commitments, it is a struggle and an issue that many of us and people in our communities face. We are also making choices about which essentials to prioritise.

Recognising these widespread pressures, the Cook government has rolled out a very comprehensive package of targeted supports. These supports range from direct financial assistance for school-age children, students and families to subsidies that open up access to various things such as sport, affordable public transport fares and fee-free vocational training. These measures work to deliver, in many cases, immediate relief. In delivering that relief, they strengthen our communities and assist Western Australians to maintain a decent standard of living.

One of the first areas I will talk about in this motion that I have before the house is the WA student assistance payment. I begin by highlighting the real difference the WA student assistance payment has made for families right across our state. This program was introduced in April 2024 as part of the $103.5 million cost-of-living relief package to ease the pressures on parents and carers who face back-to-back school expenses. I am one of those people, and I am sure that a few more members both on our side and across the chamber understand that raising and educating children can be quite costly, particularly, I would say, when it comes to sudden growth spurts. I recently, last weekend, purchased my child a pair of brand-new sneakers when, all of a sudden, her fairly new sneakers became no longer suitable. I had to trek down to the stores, as many parents do, and it can be costly. Many things today are not cheap. Parents have to fork out; when they have more than one child, they have to multiply that by however many children they have, and the cost certainly increases.

As I was saying, when the first rollout took place, eligible families received $150 for each kindergarten or primary-age student and $250 for each secondary student. For many families—I gave the example earlier of my own family and sneakers for my young Aleksandra—the assistance payment enables parents to cover things like not only sneakers, but also uniforms, textbooks, essential IT devices, excursions and camps. As stated in one of the Department of Education's flyers:

> This money is to help you get things for your kids.

I refer to a component of one of the flyers in the Department of Education's packs, which also states that it can include for your child "new school shoes, backpacks, sports gear and food". This, members, is what many of us would call essentials to ensure that our children go to school with all the necessary things that they need.

Beyond the numbers is what those payments have made possible. To be honest, that is what really matters. By turning obstacles into opportunities, we are giving students the chance to start each term with renewed confidence and dignity. As a parent, I think that that is paramount. That is something I always want to see, not only as a parent, but also as a member of Parliament and a member of our community. It is something that always touches my heart. I think that certainly in our state, we have to do everything we can to ensure that our children are looked after and go into their classroom at the beginning of each term with the confidence and dignity that every child in WA rightfully deserves.

These payments have taken some of the weight, I would say, off the shoulders of almost 400,000 families across our state since the rollout of this program began. I was particularly happy to see residents in the South Metropolitan Region take advantage of last year's first round. I am going to mention a few of the areas or suburbs in the South Metropolitan Region. There have been payments of $1.613 million made to Baldivis residents in Sook Yee Lai's electorate, $1.86 million made to Canning Vale residents in Stephen Pratt's electorate of Jandakot and $840,000 made to Willetton residents in Dr Jags Krishnan's electorate.

Members, building on that success, the Cook Labor government has honoured its almost $90 million election pledge. On Monday, the Premier and minister announced a second rollout in term 2 of 2025. Parents and eligible carers were advised that applications opened at the start of the week—as I said, on 26 April—and reminded that applications for the payments will close on Friday 4 July 2025. Between the two rounds, the Cook Labor government will have injected nearly $200 million directly into the pockets of Western Australian families. That money flows straight into our local communities and, most importantly, into the future of our children. In short, the WA assistance payment is not just about dollars and cents—I am pretty sure I have mentioned this in this chamber before, members—it is about giving every single child the chance to walk into a classroom feeling equipped, included and ready to learn. We all know the impact on children when that is not the case, and it is our duty as a government, and as members of Parliament, to ensure that we do everything we can to make sure those children feel ready and equipped to learn and to succeed not only during their school years but also later in life.

On that note members, I do want to take the opportunity to give a shout-out to Fremantle Primary School, which my youngest daughter Aleksandra attends, for sending out an email on Tuesday morning on the Connect system we have there at the school informing all parents about the student assistance payment. I have a copy of the email I received here. Fremantle Primary School very kindly attached all the information and the flyer about the payment to the Connect email so that parents could understand not only what the student assistant payment is—what it entails, what it is for, the amount—but also gave them the information they will need to access the payments, including their child's student number et cetera. As I said, I want to give a shout-out to Fremantle Primary School, my youngest's school, for taking the initiative to send out information to parents. This is a process that not only schools and the Department of Education need to work on and do, but also us as members of Parliament. I will certainly be promoting the uptake of the payment with eligible families within my community and beyond.

Another component of the Cook Labor government's work on cost-of-living initiatives, and something that I really took to, is the Rottnest Island school camp rebate scheme. I think this is a brilliant initiative, and I know that it will have a long-lasting impact on many kids who would not have the opportunity to go on camps or school trips if this rebate scheme did not exist. The Rottnest Island rebate scheme was designed to remove the financial barriers that often keep our students from experiencing the rich outdoors and cultural learning opportunities offered on Wadjemup, which I know many members know is Rottnest Island. Offering this scheme to low socio-economic schools ensures support reaches those who need it most, and that is something I love. It is something that I think is very important in the same way that the student assistance payment ensures that our kids do not feel left out when they walk through the classroom door at the beginning of the year or on the first day of a new term; they feel equipped, ready and excited to learn.

I was so excited and really pleased to hear that under the first rollout in term 3 of 2024, 1,500 students from more than 50 schools statewide enjoyed fully subsidised accommodation, heavily discounted ferry transfers, free bike hire and guided educational tours on Wadjemup. I was delighted to hear that kids from as far away Meekatharra, Leonora and Mount Barker came along and used the opportunity of the scheme, enabling them to visit Rottnest Island for the first time.

Hon Tjorn Sibma (North Metropolitan Region) (12:06 pm): Acting President and colleagues in the chamber, I will make a very brief contribution because I appreciate today's unexpected excitement has potentially derailed the perfectly laid plans for a valedictory address that I am definitely interested in listening to.

I thank Hon Klara Andric for moving this motion. I speak as a member of the opposition, but also as a parent of two primary school-age children. Absolutely, the WA student assistance payment is something that will be welcomed by many families in Western Australia, as I think its first iteration last year was welcomed. I wish to make some overall remarks, though, about the utilisation of subsidies, this subsidy and where we are contextually in terms of inflation and cost of living.

The first thing I will say is that I think this is a meritorious scheme. But if it is something that is as meritorious as the government claims, I think it should have been embedded well before the commencement of the 2025 school year. I know the election got in the way of doing that but, frankly speaking, once people have the book lists and understand the likely uniform costs for the forthcoming year, they start making decisions about those outlays in late November, December and through to January. Effectively, although people will apply for this payment, and I encourage them to apply if, indeed, they are eligible, they would have already spent that money. I think that speaks something of the way that governments of both stripes have dealt with these issues. Yes, I think there is a genuine attempt to alleviate cost-of-living pressures being felt across the community, but there is a desire as well to give with one hand and have the other hand pat the government on the back for a deed well done. If there is merit in this payment, and there is merit in it, I think it needs to be established as part of the ordinary processes of government. The government had the opportunity to do that when it set the parameters of the 2024–25 appropriation bills, which have been passed by this Parliament.

I think it is also reasonable to make the assumption that the difficulty in doing these sorts of measures is that not everybody who equally needs it will be a recipient of it. Which is to say, this is not a means-tested measure. Frankly, yes, costs are expensive. Uniform costs are expensive. My children are always needing new shoes. My son is always losing his $60 or $70 school jacket, which drives both me and his mother very mad, but that is the way things go. Nevertheless, I am probably in a position to wear those costs when others cannot. If government really wants to target cost-of-living pressures, I think it actually needs to make those rebates and those subsidies more specifically targeted to the people who genuinely need that assistance.

This is not the case with this particular subsidy. Overall, although I think we all welcome the news that inflation across Australia is now within the Reserve Bank of Australia's target band, Western Australia is still marginally higher. That is just a fact of life. However, what is potentially artificially elevated inflation across the country, but also in Western Australia, and having an impact on people's capacity to meet increasing costs of living, is the perverse outcome of inflation distorting the economy. In fact, the consumer price index rises because of a lot of money moving through the system to address the cost of living. What does that do? It forces up the cost of everything else. We need to focus, if any specific government is genuinely interested in alleviating costs of living, particularly at a state level, on levers being not as readily available as they are perhaps to a federal government; however, certain things can be done, which is to not distort construction markets by throwing a lot of government capital, beating up the costs of materials and constraining the use of labour. There is a reason that the underlying structural affordability of goods and services throughout this economy is high. It is partly to do—a lot to do, actually—with government budget decisions. It is not me making a partisan point. This is a point that has been made by the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia—not specifically only about the Western Australian state government, but about state governments nationwide. With that said, I would encourage those families in Western Australia who could do with this assistance to absolutely take it up. However, I would hope that if we are to have a breakout of bipartisanship on this issue, that when a member of the crossbench or the opposition seeks information as to how they can assist families make use of this, that they have the same recourse through either the Minister for Education or another minister to establish exactly who in their school community, in an aggregated level, has taken advantage of this scheme and who might need to be encouraged. I was a little concerned about the flow of information on the first time. There seemed to be a privileged access of Labor members of the lower house knowing precisely which schools had undersubscribed and which had oversubscribed. I think that actually demeans the genuine intent of this policy and politicises this measure unnecessarily. With that, I will sit down.

Hon Shelley Payne (Agricultural Region) (12:12 pm): It gives me great pleasure to talk on this motion. I thank Hon Klara Andric for bringing it today because the cost of living affects everyone no matter where they live, particularly, I think, more so for people in the regions. I start by commending the government on one of the election commitments that it made, which was the $30 million to expand the school breakfast program. It will help boost this delivery from two to five days a week. During my term of government, I have particularly noticed the issues with getting food into the regions and people's access to grocery stores and things like that. In some of these small towns, a lot of grocery stores are closing. I also shout-out to Foodbank WA and the work it is doing. It has been running the school breakfast program for 15 years now. It works with over 552 schools and reaches over 26,000 students. It really helps the kids get off to a good day's start if they have a good breakfast program. It is great. In the city, people are a bit luckier. They can get the food and also have access to fresh fruit and vegetables, whereas

in the regions they get the delivery once per term. It is great; there is canned fruit, wheat biscuits, oats, Vegemite, canned spaghetti and canned baked beans. I would say the one thing that I guess people in the regions are missing out on a bit is fresh fruit and veg and the access to them. I give a shout-out to my research student through the parliamentary research program, whose research on access to fresh fruit and vegetables in the regions looked at some of the constraints on that. As I said, there are some issues in the regions with a lot of the small grocery stores in small towns closing and people only having access, maybe, to roadhouse food. The Cranbrook store 91 kilometres from Albany closed down. People there are relying on a Coles delivery once a week. Tambellup is probably likely to close its store. I commend the community for getting together and purchasing its store and doing it up so that they could attract a buyer for it. Most recently, the Ravensthorpe food store has shut. Well done to the Shire of Ravensthorpe and the community for working together to look at providing options for food in that community. I note that places like Norseman have bought the IGA so they can operate it and even keep it open for the community. The cost of living is a big issue in these regions when buying food at a reasonable price and having access to good, healthy food at a reasonable price.

One of the other things I commend the government for is the capped airfare scheme. It has been amazing for places like Esperance by giving people access to lower-cost fares and connecting them to the city. There was $64.5 million in the last budget, and we made an election commitment for a further $4 million to extend the program until the middle of 2026. More than 420,000 flights have been taken through that program. I remember when I first came to Esperance, we used to drive to the airport if we had to take a plane and park under a tree. Usually, people took a flight because they were going on a holiday somewhere; otherwise it was pretty expensive and they would just be driving. Now, the airport is overflowing and needs a new parking lot. There are now four return flights a day to Esperance with Rex Airlines. It is good to see Rex Airlines back to its old self and generally being a bit more on time than it was during COVID. The capped airfare program is a really great initiative; I think regional members will agree with me on that.

As part of our election commitment we also have half-price regional travel through Transwa, which is half the cost of the bus fares for people to get to Perth. That has been really fantastic. A lot of us know about some of the other initiatives, such as the electricity credits that we provided both individuals and small businesses, which has been really fantastic. That rolled out last year. I am particularly pleased that this also helped small businesses. We have really been doing a lot to support seniors and I am really pleased with a lot of the work that has been done there. I give a shout-out to Hon Kyle McGinn for his work with the seniors discount directory, which motivated me. That was one thing I really wanted to get done for my community, so I am really pleased that I have finished my seniors directory. We posted it out to everyone in Esperance to let them know where they can get their discounts and to connect seniors with the activities and different groups that are relevant to them in the community. Thanks, Kyle, for that great idea; I hope other members will take that up as well for their community.

With the increase in fuel prices, the Regional Pensioner Travel Card has been really great. Not only did we increase it to $675 last year through our budget, but we have made an election commitment to increase it by another $100 to $775. This will start this coming financial year and will really help. We have also made that agreement with United Fuel that allows seniors to get 4c off a litre with their Seniors Card, which is great. Another thing we have done for seniors is the cost-of-living rebate payment, which we have done since 2009. It is now $107 for singles and $160 for couples. It helps them a bit with the cost of living. For those pensioners and seniors who are struggling, there is a concession seat scheme in which they can get concessions on their local government rates, water service charges, emergency services levy and other things up to $750. That is really great as well. Noting that there are other members who want to speak, I think I will leave my comments there. Thanks very much.

Hon Ayor Makur Chuot (North Metropolitan Region) (12:19 pm):President, I rise today to support my colleague Hon Klara Andric on her motion commending the Cook Labor government for its commitment to alleviating the cost-of-living pressures that many Western Australians face, including the fantastic announcement of the second round of WA student assistance payments.

This discussion on the cost of living is very critical and resonates with many people in our households, suburbs and regions in our beautiful state. Let us be honest, while all of us here in this house experience these pressures, they do not affect all of us equally. Vulnerable community groups, including single mothers, pensioners, individuals living with disabilities, young renters and lower income families, bear this burden badly in comparison with some of us here.

Recently, statistics revealed that over 230,000 Western Australians live below the poverty line, with nearly one in every five children in Western Australia growing up in a household that struggles to meet basic needs. Acknowledging these challenges is important as they are a reality in every society. I am proud to be in a government that invests in our wider community—for those in lower socio-economic areas, the middle class and the upper class.

The Cook Labor government's recent election victory is testament to our dedication to understanding and addressing the diverse needs of every Western Australian. Labor is evidently committed to tackling the pressing challenges faced by many of our families, pensioners, workers and small businesses. I want to once again extend

my heartfelt gratitude to all Western Australians for making informed choices that prioritise the needs of our communities in these challenging times. Unlike those who criticise without offering solutions, as we heard from members in both houses, we deliver genuine and practical relief while investing in long-term sustainable change.

Today I want to highlight the initiative mentioned by my colleague Hon Klara Andric that resonates deeply with many families in WA—the second WA student assistance payment. I am a mother, an aunty and a sister. I am the mother of three kids. I also look after my three siblings, who live with me, and my niece. As a community leader, I understand firsthand how costly the school year can be. There are expenses associated with books and uniforms—especially when supporting children who play sports.

My son is about to turn 18 years old. I remember when I used to take him to his school soccer games—his shoes would not last more than a month. At the beginning of a new high school term, excursions can add up quickly for many families. These costs can pose hard choices between essentials and excursions for families.

This is why the WA student assistance payment has been very overwhelmingly welcomed by many families. Parents can apply for the WA student assistance payment from Monday. There will be $150 for every kindy and primary student and $250 for every high school student. Many families did not understand the last student assistance payment system. We are here as members to give them that support and I still welcome many of our community members to ask us for guidance. Of course, our government is ready and has already put resources out there to support families on how to navigate the system.

Since its launch last year, the response has been very overwhelmingly positive. I have heard from countless families in my region whose gratitude for this support is heartwarming. Many parents have already inquired about the next assistance payment and when it will be available. I am thrilled to inform them that claims are open now for term 2.

This support means more children are prepared for school, parents experience a reduced financial burden and many families feel seen and valued within our community. No child in Western Australia should struggle to access education or meet basic needs. Our government is committed to ensuring all students have the resources they need for school, regardless of their family's financial situation.

But our support does not stop at the school gate. Let us acknowledge the cheaper childcare reforms implemented by the federal Labor government. They are also supported by this side of government. These reforms, combined with the statewide early childhood initiative, empower families, parents, and especially mothers to read to re-enter our workforce without burden of the unaffordability of early childhood costs.

In addition, something that is so dear to my heart and to leaders on our side and many community members is our government's commitment to backing early childhood educators. Those remarkable individuals play a pivotal role in our children's early learning experiences, often without the recognition and the pay they deserve. Last year, the members of the United Workers Union achieved a historic milestone by entering into negotiation for the early childhood education and care multi-employer agreement.

In May, the federal government backed this movement with a budget commitment of a 15% real pay rise. Thanks to the Fair Work Commission, early educators nationwide will see wage increase of 23%, which I was so excited by. Many of our community members and leaders worked so hard to make this this a possibility.

This landmark decision finally acknowledges what we all know: that early childhood educators have historically been underpaid, with over 90% of them being women. This issue is about fairness and gender equality in our workforce, and what a fantastic time for this achievement. I am proud to support the Big Steps campaign and to be a United Workers Union member supporting the movement. I would like to acknowledge the national director for early education, Carolyn Smith, for her leadership in this historic moment. I also thank and acknowledge everyone who has been involved in this negotiation.

I acknowledge all of this because pay increases mean that it is better for this topic that we are talking about today. Women will be able to put food on the table for their children. The more money they have in their pocket, the more they are able to handle some of the challenges that they are facing in society. I also commend the Cook Labor government and our federal colleagues for staying in the course of prioritising people above all.

I know across the political divide there will always be criticism for any policy, even a basic one to help Western Australians afford their bills, home economics and the cost of living in our society. I once again thank my colleague for bringing this very important motion on the table today. Thank you.

Motion lapsed, pursuant to standing orders.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Motion

Resumed from 30 April on the following motion, moved by **Hon Dan Caddy (Parliamentary Secretary)**:

That the following address be presented to His Excellency:

To His Excellency, the Honourable Christopher John Dawson, Companion of the Order of Australia, Australian Police Medal, Governor in and over the State of Western Australia and its dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our most gracious sovereign and thank Your Excellency for the speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

Hon Peter Foster (Mining and Pastoral Region) (12:30 pm): I will start my valedictory speech today by acknowledging that we are on the lands of the Whadjuk Noongar boodja, and pay my respects to their elders, past and present.

It is with both sadness and pride that I rise today to give my valedictory speech—sadness, as this amazing parliamentary term for me has come to an end; and pride to have been voted in and to represent the Mining and Pastoral Region in the Legislative Council for the past four years and to represent my constituents' interests and share their stories in this place to the best of my ability. It has, indeed, been a great honour and a privilege to be elected to the Parliament and to represent all Western Australians. As I said to my son, Roman, recently, when the Legislative Council count was completed, being a member of the Legislative Council has truly been my best job, to date, in my working life.

Growing up in Kurri Kurri, attending the local senior high school, growing up gay, and working part-time at the local fish and chip shop, I never once envisioned a career in politics. I only ever came to politics to stand up for my local community and to make a difference. As members may recall from my inaugural speech, after I graduated from university I began my career working in the public service. I joined the public service to make a difference, to make life better for the community, and to advocate for those who could not. When working at the police station in Tom Price, I always took the time to help my customers. Dealing with government departments can be challenging sometimes. If there was anything that I could do to take the stress out of the situation, I would. Not everyone who presented at my counter could read or write or understand how to complete a form. Not everyone who presented to me for their driving test was confident. I would always take my time, explain everything, answer everything and be very clear on the expectations. I guess you could say that I was one of those public servants who would always go above and beyond what was expected, just to get the work done.

It is the same attitude that I have tried to bring to my work here in this chamber. As I said, I am proud of my time here, and I will talk a bit more about that in a moment. I have had the immense privilege of being in public life for almost 14 years now—nine and a half years in local government and four years here, in this chamber. Public life brings its challenges, judgement, scrutiny and, at times, abuse. I am completely okay with the judgement and scrutiny, but I am not okay with the abuse. I have spoken about this before in the chamber. Humans could, and should, be kinder to one another. Bullies should be called out. I have also called out social media—Facebook, Snapchat and Twitter. Be better at moderating your content. Freedom of expression is the right to hold your own opinions and express them, but that should not extend to harassing or threatening others. I have certainly been called some interesting names on social media, and whenever I report those comments to the moderators, they simply allow it to continue. Criticise me for my views and votes expressed in this chamber, but do not bully, threaten or harass me in the process.

Language matters, and I have spoken on this previously. We, as elected representatives and leaders, have a responsibility to set the tone for debate. It does not help when members make contributions or even promote Facebook posts that seek to divide our community or encourage further hatred or harassment of members of our community. Those who encourage or incite hatred should be called out and condemned.

I had the privilege late last year of giving a keynote speech at the Pride and Diversity Executive Leaders Network at Murdoch University. It was humbling to be invited to speak about my political journey, about inclusion and diversity, and why it matters. I spoke about some difficulties I faced in my youth—in particular, bullying and mental health challenges with anxiety, and how I challenged myself to overcome that and put my name forward to represent my community, firstly on local council and then later for a seat in this chamber.

Parliament should be reflective of society, and that means more representation from our culturally and linguistically diverse communities; from people with a disability; from people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background; as well from as those from the LGBTIQA+ community. I am proud to have been an LGBTIQA+ regional representative here in this place. For many of us in the LGBTIQA+ community, it is our past trauma that holds us back, and in this, I completely understand. When society judges you, taunts you, and when laws facilitate discrimination, why would you want to get involved? I am hopeful, through my service in this chamber, that I might inspire others in the LGBTIQA+ community to consider running for a seat in Parliament. As I said, Parliaments must be representative of the communities that they serve.

I am proud to be part of a political party that preselects candidates from diverse backgrounds, and you can see that demonstrated on our side. I do not share the views of those opposite that those who enter this chamber from a union background are less qualified than those who do not. I am a proud union member, and I come from a family of proud union members. I believe in collective action to fight for better outcomes for all. Unity is strength. Unions absolutely have a place in modern Australian society, in advocating for economic equality, safer workplaces and better working conditions. Is it not our job in this place to advocate for a better Western Australia?

As I said, I am both sad and proud to be leaving this place. President, what a journey it has been. The 41st Parliament was certainly kept busy, and as I was recently reminded, we passed over 140 pieces of legislation in this chamber. For me, there have been a few standouts. In April last year, we passed the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment (Sex or Gender Changes) Bill 2024, which abolished the archaic Gender Reassignment Board and introduced a new process for people born in Western Australia to apply to the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages to change the sex or gender on their birth certificate. With the passing of this bill, trans and gender diverse Western Australians are finally able to access an official document that matches their identity.

In 2023, we passed the Liquor Control Amendment (Banned Drinkers Register) Bill to reduce alcohol-related harm by strengthening the banned drinkers register, expanding pathways for being included on that register and creating harsher penalties for selling or supplying liquor to those who are on that register. I know that this law will help improve community safety up in the North West.

In 2022 we passed the Wittenoom Closure Bill, a bill that I contributed to in the second reading debate. We all know the story of Wittenoom, the asbestos contamination and the health risks associated with that exposure. Even though the state government degazetted the town, removed services and purchased several voluntary purchase properties, there were still a few holdouts, refusing to sell and leave, and the town was still being frequented by tourists. The passage of that bill allowed for compulsory acquisition of those properties, with compensation. The land was reinvested back to the state and all remaining buildings and infrastructure were demolished and buried, ultimately reducing the risk of asbestos contamination by discouraging residents and visitors to the former town.

In 2021 we passed the Constitutional and Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Equality) Bill, through which we introduced the one vote, one value system. This bill abolished the three metropolitan and three regional regions in favour of a single electorate, the outcome of which is a fairer system for all Western Australians. Whilst certainly not the longest bill we have debated in this chamber, it was one of the only bills where we sat past midnight, and as one of the Deputy Chairs at the time, it was certainly challenging in Committee of the Whole House, going through it, clause by clause, in the early hours of the morning.

It was an honour to be put forward as a Deputy Chair and Acting President here in the Legislative Council, and I am thankful that I did not have to deal with too many points of order during my time in the chair. I have enjoyed my time getting to learn the standing orders and the practices of this chamber. It was also a privilege to be the Chair of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs in the 41st Parliament. I would like to think that we were one of the hardest working committees, primarily dealing with all the petitions that were lodged here in the Council. I believe over the past four years the committee received 181 petitions, of which 156 were finalised. One of our reports, *Broken Bonds, Fractured Lives: Report on the Inquiry into Past Forced Adoption in Western Australia*, which I tabled on 22 August 2024, is a report I am particularly humbled to have been involved with. I want to acknowledge my other committee members, Hon Tjorn Sibma, Hon Sophia Moermond, Hon Shelley Payne and Hon Stephen Pratt, who now sits in the other place. I also want to thank and acknowledge our committee staff—Carmen Cummings, Stephen Brockway, Caris Tysoe and Kate Howley. It was a very big report and those four hardworking individuals helped us bring it all together.

The inquiry was instigated following a petition that the committee received asking for an inquiry into past adoptive policies and practices, which the committee ultimately resolved to do. That inquiry took us almost 18 months, due in part to a number of reasons, primarily to allow those who wished to make a submission to the inquiry the time to do so. We asked the community to make submissions about a time in their life that was traumatic, disempowering and, for some, a time that they would rather not remember because the pain they endured was simply too great. I want to again thank and acknowledge every single contributor to the inquiry for their courage and strength as they shared their personal experiences. We received over 6,000 pages of evidence from over 165 contributors, many of whom were mothers or adopted people. We held several hearings, many in private, to allow those affected by forced adoption to tell their story to the committee in a safe and supported environment and in a trauma-informed way. We know from the evidence received that many of the forced adoptions took place between 1939 and 1980 and that many of the mothers were coerced into giving up their children, at times forcibly, and misled or misinformed by staff employed by both the state and non-government institutions. We heard stories of how mothers were prevented from seeing, holding or feeding their babies, and adopted people were denied the right of being seen, held or fed by their mothers. We heard stories from mothers about how they were ridiculed and mistreated by hospital staff or forced to work at non-government institutions in return for their bed and lodgings, or worse, suffered some abuse by the matrons. We heard stories about how mothers were forced to sign

consent forms and how adopted newborns were left in institutions for weeks and months before they were taken into care.

The damage caused by forced adoptive practices is irreparable. Those practices also affected the fathers, extended family members and even the children of those who were adopted. That inquiry enabled those affected to share their experiences, some of whom were sharing their experiences for the very first time. I want to share one quote from the report, as follows:

> I spent 70 days in a plastic tub, awaiting the assignment off married parents deemed appropriate by the State of Western Australia … I was stolen from my mother at birth, stripped of my identity, assigned a number, and handed to strangers who gave me a fake identity and lied to me about my origins.

The committee was often thanked for conducting the inquiry. I think the five of us on the committee and the committee staff who assisted us felt privileged for the trust that people placed in us. The day of the tabling of the report was quite an emotional day for me, and memorable for having some of the survivors sit in the gallery to listen to my tabling statement and to receive a hard copy of the report. I talked to a few of the survivors following the tabling. There were certainly hugs and tears and a sense that finally they felt they were being listened to and that something might actually happen to address the harms done to mothers, fathers and adopted children and their families. The report contained a number of findings and recommendations. The state government has already responded, with the creation of the Western Australian Forced Adoption Reference Group, which will ensure that people with lived experience of forced adoption have a central role in shaping legislation, policies and practices that impact them.

The third position that I have had the privilege to hold is that of government Whip here in the Council, taking over from Hon Pierre Yang at the beginning of last year. I want to thank both the current leader, Hon Stephen Dawson, and the previous leader, Hon Sue Ellery, for their trust in me and the support of the state parliamentary Labor Party caucus. President, what can I say about being the Whip? I can confidently report that during my time as government Whip, we on this side never lost a division—thank you, absolute majority—and that no Labor Party member ever missed a division, which is also appreciated. I would also like to thank and acknowledge the opposition Whip, Hon Colin de Grussa, for the positive working relationship that we have had working through pair arrangements. Although I will miss being the Whip, I certainly will not miss keeping an eye on you all and texting you to return to the chamber. Thanks to all my colleagues for your respect and support for me during my time as Whip. Of course, I wish the incoming government Whip in the Council all the very best.

Other than my work in Parliament, another highlight of my parliamentary journey has been travelling around the vast Mining and Pastoral Region, spending time in regional towns, meeting and getting to know so many stakeholders and community members. From Kalbarri to Kununurra and the many coastal and inland towns in between, I spent as much time as possible travelling and connecting, so much so that one of my constituents thought that I owned a TARDIS to get around. I love spending time at the Murchison settlement in the Mid West. The Shire of Murchison is famously known as the only local government in Western Australia without a gazetted town site. The shire, known for its dark sky, is also home to the Square Kilometre Array, which I have also had the privilege to visit on a number of occasions. It was truly special to spend time in Derby and attend the Mowanjum Festival and learn the stories, culture and experiences of those who were removed from their homelands to Nyikina country far from their sacred Wandjina caves. Such beautiful artwork can be found at the cultural centre.

I have also spent a bit of time in Mount Magnet. I had the honour of speaking at, and opening, the annual Mount Magnet Astro Rocks Festival. That festival showcases its dark sky for astronomers and also showcases its unique geological formations and flora and fauna as well as sharing stories of the traditional owners, the Badimaya people.

I have also attended several pride festivals across regional WA, including those held in Broome, Carnarvon and Port Hedland. I want to particularly acknowledge the Pilbara Pride Festival, which is coming up in a few months' time. I know that Gloria, Niki and the team are pulling together a fantastic program this year. As I have said in this chamber before, pride festivals are important to not only promote the diversity, equality and visibility of LGBTQIA+ people, but also reflect upon and highlight the years of struggle and ongoing pursuit for equality under the law.

I have also spent a bit of time in Onslow and was there recently—last weekend, in fact—attending Onslow's 100-year celebration with the Leader of the House and the member for Pilbara. As a former councillor with the Shire of Ashburton, it made the event even more special as we celebrated Onslow's 100 years. It has been a century since Onslow relocated from the old town site to its current location. How could I not mention the total solar eclipse event which I represented the government at in Onslow in April 2023, again with my son, Roman. I shall never forget seeing hundreds of locals, residents and visitors with their cardboard eclipse glasses staring up at the sky and watching that magic moment when the sun and the moon intersected.

One last town I would like to mention is Wiluna. I have had the privilege of visiting that town a number of times. I have visited the school and met with the shire, but the most unique visit was when I had the privilege to open the

Wiluna youth precinct, which features my name on the celebratory park in recognition of my support for the project.

I could go on but suffice to say I have used my term to get around my electorate as much as possible. There are so many success stories right across regional WA. I hope that we continue to focus on the good and not the bad as we so often do. I am extremely proud and humbled by the many working relationships that I have developed over this parliamentary journey, and I look forward to continuing them post-Parliament.

I know that it is often said in this place that Labor does not care about the regions, but I can guarantee you that that is not the case. I and my colleagues have worked every day to get around my region and work hard for every community.

Through my office we have helped many constituents with various issues and we have handed out quite a few flags to local schools and groups. I have a bit of a reputation, particularly in Tom Price, for finding answers and solutions to local issues and it is certainly this part of my role that I will miss. One of the tasks that I have really enjoyed is to send out birthday cards to constituents for significant birthdays. It was always nice to get a phone call or a thankyou letter in the post acknowledging their card. It is here that I will begin my acknowledgements.

I need to start by thanking firstly my two hardworking electorate office staff: Jacqueline Michel, who I believe is watching from the electorate office in Karratha, and Paul Benson, who is here in the gallery. Thank you both for being part of "Team Foster", for answering the emails and phone calls and for keeping me on task when at times there have been many distractions both here in the chamber and out in the electorate. I wish you both the best for whatever you do next and appreciate your support and encouragement during your time in the electorate office.

I want to first thank WA Labor, for its endorsement to run for the Legislative Council, and, second, State Secretary Ellie Whiteaker and her hardworking team for their amazing campaigns in 2021 and again in 2025. As someone who has directed and been involved with a number of campaigns, it is through the strength of our members that we owe many of our successes. They volunteer at polling places, knock on doors, letterbox, make phone calls, fundraise and so much more. A big thankyou to the Broome, South Hedland, Newman, Karratha and Carnarvon Labor branches for their support. I would like to single out some special members from those branches: from Carnarvon, Robert Seymour, Camille Williams, Malcolm De Lille, Robert Ashcroft and Tracey Tonga; from Newman, Stephen Goodlet, Peta Baer and David Kular; from Karratha, Tammy Stubbs and Rodney Slapp; from Port Hedland, Tricia Hebbard, Kelly Howlett, Peter Pope, Kate Wilson, Gary Ansell, Sharyn Morrow and Barry Harrison; and from the mighty Broome branch, Mikka Poelina, Sue Donnelly, Lynette Pope, Georgia Carter, Val Lindberg and Nick Linton.

I want to also acknowledge and thank the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union for its backing and support. Thank you to state secretary Steve McCartney, assistant state secretary Glen Mclaren, campaign organiser Darcy Gunning and two of my favourite union organisers, Renee Portland and Jayde Rowlands, for their support and help in campaigns. I firmly believe in a future that is made here in Western Australia.

I want also to thank some amazing people who have helped on recent campaigns. These people are not party members, but supporters of both Labor and me. In Exmouth, I want to particularly thank Corinna Belsar, Glen Davis, Kymmie Thorburn and Cheryl Mollross for their support and friendship. A shout-out also to Bruce Strahan at the Truscott Memorial Club in Exmouth, and a big thankyou to Jackie Brooks from Ningaloo Lodge for always looking out for me. I value our friendship. In Paraburdoo I want to thank and acknowledge my friend Alanna Sullivan.

In Tom Price—well, where do I start? I believe my dear friend Marian Hearne, whom we all affectionately call "Maz", will be watching online. I want to thank her for her endless support and encouragement and for having a listening ear whenever I have felt the need to vent. Maz saw something in me when she convinced me to join the Tom Price Youth Support Association management committee, as it was known in 2010. I believe that my role with the TPYSA has helped me find the confidence to pursue this journey into state politics. I believe that also watching online with Maz is Jennifer Isakov, and I want to thank her for her support as well as for keeping me well informed over the years. I really do owe my start in politics to my life in Tom Price—from volunteering to running for council to running for a seat in this chamber. Tom Price will always be a special place for me, and I cannot wait for the day when the Manuwarra Red Dog Highway is complete and Tom Price and Paraburdoo Hospitals are redeveloped. I know that the Cook Labor government is working very hard to deliver all those projects.

To my dear friends in Tom Price who handed out at the 2021 and 2025 state elections and have been some of my biggest supporters—Kirra Hannon, Finola Nicholls, Deb Walker, Nurjaney Williams and Audra Smith—from moral support to letterboxing to standing in the sun for me, thank you.

I want to also acknowledge and thank our Clerk, Sam Hastings, our Deputy Clerk, Paul Grant, and their hardworking team both here in the chamber and over in the committee office for everything that they do to support us. You always go above and beyond for us. Thank you also to Rob Hunter and the Parliamentary Services team,

from the amazing Catering Services team, Hansard staff, Parliamentary Library staff, cleaners and gardeners, to Security and Protective Services staff; you are all valued and appreciated.

Thank you to Hon Stephen Dawson for your friendship and mentorship. I have certainly come a long way from that first street stall we ran back in Tom Price in 2013 to be sitting next to each other in this chamber. Thank you also to you, President, for your support and guidance. I would also like to acknowledge and thank my comrade Hon Dr Sally Talbot for your wise counsel over the years. I also want to acknowledge and thank the member for Kimberley, who is here in the chamber, the member for Pilbara and the member for Kalgoorlie for their support. I am so proud that you were all re-elected in March. To colleagues on this side of the house and the other, thank you for your support and I wish you all the best.

I want to acknowledge and thank my mother-in-law, Cathy Samaras, and father-in-law, Tom Samaras. With my partner, Sam, and I often working long fly-in fly-out hours, they spent almost 18 months living at our house to help us with Roman and keep the house in order. Temporarily relocating from New South Wales to Western Australia was not easy and I am forever grateful for their support, which enabled me to give my all to this role.

To my mum, Joanne, and dad, Neville, who also may be watching online, thank you for everything. As I reflected upon in my inaugural speech, I have you both to thank for my pursuit of equality and fairness and to help those in need. Thank you for your unwavering support on this journey. I have no doubt that it was your values that inspired me to join the Labor Party.

To my son, Roman, who is here in the chamber today, you make your dad and me so proud every single day. You are smart and funny, and I love that you are inquisitive and creative. Please know that we both believe in you. When you were born in 2014, I had already been on council for a few years. Having your papa in public life is all you have ever known. As you said when you were younger, "Papa's job is always to attend meetings." I look forward to being home more often with you and supporting you more with your schoolwork, especially as you are off to high school next year.

Lastly, to my partner, Sam, you are my rock and my cheerleader. At the recent state election, you said to me that regardless of the final outcome, you were so very proud of me. Thank you for tolerating my many work trips and nights away, for the many chores that you do for me to accommodate my busy work schedule and for just being there when I needed to vent after a particularly stressful day.

Although my time in the Legislative Council is coming to an end, I know that there is much more work to be done and I wish my colleagues who are continuing on and those new colleagues who are joining them all the very best.

As a member of this place who became a parent through surrogacy, I am particularly hopeful of legislation coming to this place to modernise our current surrogacy laws. Through my connections with Surrogacy Australia, Rainbow Families and Gay Dads WA, I have met so many who have pursued surrogacy arrangements overseas to start their families, some of whom have bravely shared their journeys publicly. I look forward to the day when all Western Australians can access surrogacy and reciprocal IVF without discrimination. I am also looking forward to seeing a new Equal Opportunity Act and the banning of conversion practices, with both a criminal prohibition and civil response scheme to protect vulnerable Western Australians.

Politics can be tribal and brutal, but, with that said, I have made some amazing connections and friendships from my time in this place. Although we may have differing views on many issues, there is more that unites us in this chamber than divides us. Do not be afraid to work across the chamber to get things done. Please look for the good in each other. It is easy to get into the mud of politics, but we should never lose focus of the end goal: to faithfully serve the people of Western Australia. As I said at the beginning, I am both sad and proud to be giving my valedictory today. It has been a great honour to serve in this place. So long, and thanks for all the fish!

(Applause.)

Sitting suspended from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

The President: Members, we are considering the Address-in-Reply. The question is that the motion be agreed. This is the valedictory speech of Hon Rosie Sahanna and, as such, the usual courtesies and conventions of the chamber apply.

Hon Rosie Sahanna (Mining and Pastoral Region) (2:01 pm): Thank you, President. First of all, I would like to acknowledge the traditional landowners of the land that we are sitting on and are really privileged to be part of.

In my inaugural speech in 2021, I said that to have been elected as one of the four members of the Mining and Pastoral Region was more than just a title to me. On reflection, it has been one of the biggest achievements of my working life and an experience like no other. I am grateful to the people of Western Australia for my term. For me personally, I can honestly say that it was quite the experience. What an education. As I reflect on my time in this chamber, I am reminded of the importance of the observation, learning and listening principles that my parents instilled in me. By embracing those principles, I was able to acquire a wealth of knowledge and experience that equipped me to make a meaningful impact. My tenure in the upper house was remarkable, providing a unique lens

through which to view politics, and an enriching educational experience. I was fortunate to meet inspiring individuals, share joyful moments and create some lasting and forever memories. I am deeply grateful to the WA Labor Party for this amazing opportunity to represent the WA Labor Party in the Mining and Pastoral Region, which covers the stunning regions from the Kimberley through to Kalgoorlie. It has been a true privilege and honour. This experience has been instrumental in opening doors for me personally and professionally, and I am thrilled to have had the chance to grow and learn, even at the age of 65.

My sincere thanks to the Western Australian branch of the Maritime Union of Australia for its endorsement and taking the time to visit and discuss the position with me back in 2021. You took a chance on me and your support has been invaluable; I am so thankful for that. I am excited to share my experience, journey and achievements with you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Before I go into the depth of my speech, I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few people. Hon Kyle McGinn, I am compelled to begin expressing my appreciation to you and the MUA WA branch for your endorsement of my candidacy back in 2021. Our first meeting occurred in late 2020 and took place at the Nirrumbuk CEO's office. When I first met you sitting across the table, I thought, "Who is this guy with the little baby face? He's got to be at least in his 20s", because he was so cute! Throughout the past four years we have collaborated closely, shared experiences and provided mutual support during very prosperous times and very challenging times. I wish to acknowledge your substantial role in my tenure as a member of the Mining and Pastoral Region and express my sincere gratitude. Your passion for politics has been consistently demonstrated in this chamber and I will miss that. I think we will miss each other. I am thoroughly convinced that this is not the end for you but, rather, a new beginning—one that will bring you even greater accomplishments and fulfilment, my friend. Your future looks exceptionally bright and I am certain that you will make a lasting impact. Your presence and voice will be deeply missed in this chamber, where you have been a valued and integral part of our community.

Now to the beautiful Hon Lorna Harper. I am uncertain whether our meeting was a result of fate or coincidence, but since that first meeting you and I have developed a strong connection. We have shared numerous personal and professional stories, with a particular focus on our families. I would like to acknowledge the significant impact that you have had on my life as a member of Parliament. I extend my sincere gratitude for your willingness to act as my personal Uber, which I am going to miss, and to listen, offer wise counsel and provide emotional support when needed. You embody more than just a role of colleague and friend; you became my sister whom I hold in high esteem and will continue to respect deeply. Your departure will leave a void. I will miss your smile, laughter, sense of humour and distinctive accent, which I think I fell in love with—your accent more than you! I firmly believe that our bond has grown stronger over time. I remind you of the trip from Geraldton to Perth. I always wanted to see the Pinnacles but that never eventuated. I think I gave you a fright. It was a cultural experience for you more than it was for me. Thank you for being your unique self, my sister, Lorna Harper.

I want to say a few things about both of you to my left and right. I am deeply indebted to both of you for your profound impact on my term. Although I have encountered numerous challenges that made me contemplate relinquishing my goals, your presence helped me persevere. Consequently, I am now poised to complete my four-year journey with the assurance that I have forged enduring bonds with two most remarkable friends. Thank you both from the bottom of my heart.

To my beautiful chocolate sister over there, Hon Ayor Makur Chuot, our shared experience as women of colour in the upper house has created a lasting bond. I will miss your unique perspective, your lively spirit and our moments. You know what I am talking about. I do not want to repeat them here, but you know all about it. Thank you, my chocolate sister, for enriching my political experience. This is getting hard, sorry.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to members of the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review—Hon Martin Pritchard, Hon Dr Sally Talbot and Hon Donna Faragher—for their invaluable support. On several occasions I mentioned feeling overwhelmed by the committee's responsibility. However, thanks to your guidance, I felt included and supported. You made it easier for me to fulfil my role on the committee. Thank you for your kindness and for putting up with me! Thank you.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Hon Alanna Clohesy, the President of the upper house, for our cordial conversations. Your consistent and unwavering respect and genuine interest in my thoughts and experiences made me feel appreciated. You have demonstrated a sincere commitment to acknowledging my worth beyond mere formalities, and for that I am truly thankful.

Reflecting on our discussion regarding the photograph on the wall recognising my achievement as the first Aboriginal woman in the upper house, I recall expressing initial reservations about accepting the honour. Following a thoughtful conversation with my daughters, who rule my life, they engaged me to accept the recognition not just for myself but for future generations, including my grandchildren and all Aboriginal girls and women. I gradually accepted. I appreciate your interest in my wellbeing and experiences, which has made me feel

welcome and valued. I would like to think, moving forward, that we will continue to keep in contact because I really appreciate your time and efforts. Thank you.

Hon Stephen Dawson, congratulations to you as the new leader of the upper house. In your capacity as the new Minister for Kimberley, I am looking forward to both you and the member for Kimberley working in collaboration to address the many issues in and around the Kimberley.

To Hon Matthew Swinbourn, huge congratulations on your ministerial appointment. I firmly believe you will make a positive impact in each of your portfolios. As Minister for the Environment, your dedication will ensure that the expansion of the conservation estate and this government's Plan for Our Parks will continue. Matthew, I am a big supporter of the Cook government's Plans for Our Parks and the Aboriginal ranger program. I am certain that Aboriginal people's say in how their country is cared for and the necessary environmental and economic protections are in safe hands under your watch. Don't slip! My advice to you is to keep straightening that spear, my friend; you are going to need it.

My heartfelt gratitude extends to Sam Hastings and the rest of the upper house staff and the catering staff for their extraordinary kindness, patience, professionalism and warm smiles, which are profoundly appreciated not only by me but by everyone. Thank you.

To my colleagues, we have worked diligently, logging long hours and achieving the passage of approximately 140 pieces of legislation in the 2021–25 term. The most contentious decision for me was the repeal of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act, which I found deeply disappointing.

One thing I loved about being here is that I appreciate the debate in this chamber. It has been an enriching experience to be present here, seated, listening to both parties debate various issues, and occasionally entertaining for me, given it is my first time here. Thank you, guys.

Members' statements were certainly engaging and sometimes personal. I always looked forward to being inspired by members describing and discussing events they attended or planned to attend, or other community-related activities they had participated in. Those stories inspired me to host an elders forum in Broome in 2021, my first year in. My idea for the forum was to provide education and information on issues that directly affected elderly people in Broome, including elder abuse, and to provide a safe space for discussion on these issues. The elders forum was so popular that it became an annual event. I hosted my last one in 2024, but it does not finish there for me. Having said that, I would like to acknowledge the organisation that co-hosted four of the forums—the Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation. It has been so supportive. It is work that I was doing prior to being a member. I shout out a big thank you to Joanna's group. I have been most proud that the Broome elders forum is now a well-known yearly event for the Broome community. The concept of the elders forum has been so successful that other towns in the Kimberley have expressed interest in organising their own forums. Halls Creek, with the support of Nirrumbuk and me, hosted its first elders forum, and it is looking at having it every year, following in the steps of what Broome is doing. A big shout-out to Lexie Trancollino and staff at the Yura Yungi Medical Service in Halls Creek. Thank you, and I will see you at your forum this year.

When you plant a seed, you do not know how big that tree will grow. I think the oldest tree has grown that big now, it will cover the whole of the Kimberley.

To my retirees and departing upper house colleagues, Hon Sue Ellery, Hon Kyle McGinn, Hon Lorna Harper, Hon Dr Sally Talbot, Hon Darren West, Hon Vicki Helps, Hon Shelley Payne, Hon Peter Foster, Hon Martin Aldridge, Hon Wilson Tucker, Hon Colin de Grussa, Hon Donna Faragher, Hon Sophia Moermond and Hon Peter Collier, I offer my sincerest gratitude and best wishes as you commence an exciting new chapter. I wish you all the best for a brighter and more fulfilling future. Thank you all for being an integral part of my political experience and journey.

Now that I have made my acknowledgements and it is all done, I will speak on issues through the lens of an Aboriginal woman in politics. In my inaugural speech to Parliament in 2021, I made it very clear that I was very passionate about Aboriginal affairs. In this Parliament as a whole, in this term, I felt I had a great opportunity to progress the interests of Aboriginal people in this state. We as a minority have needed a voice across all of government after centuries of failures. The WA Labor Party has made progress on giving Aboriginal people a voice in the highest lawmaking body in Western Australia, with the member for Kimberley and me elected. It has always been the case that WA Labor works on bettering a voice for us but it has always been clear that members forget. For this, I felt very frustrated and disappointed. I want all parties to do better on showing respect for our First Nations people, not just lip-service. It saddens me that the upper house in the new term will not have an Aboriginal voice in this chamber. I can hold my head high as I gave all I could to push more First Nations people to fight for their voice to be heard in here. I believe all parties need to be pushing this agenda. I call on all parties to do better to bring more of our rich, strong culture into this chamber in the future.

Nevertheless, I am proud to know that I will end my term as the fourth highest voted Labor member in the upper house in the state election, a result that was achieved by a newbie—a 65-year-old first-term politician and the only

Aboriginal member of Parliament in the upper house. I believe that shows that people want to see people like them in Parliament. As I said in my inaugural speech, my father always told me that the best seat in the house is in the back because it is there that you get to look, listen and learn, and to never be in a hurry to get to the top.

I would like to end my speech by leaving this house with something to think about—you know the saying, "food for thought". My hope is that one day the WA government, whoever is in power, will take the leadership role of addressing the following—the stolen generation. Given that I have had the opportunity to serve my one term in Parliament, had I been given another term, an important issue that still needs to be addressed is consideration for the stolen generation of this state, who are still impacted by previous government practices and policies and who still struggle to connect with their family and land and all that comes with being dispossessed. This is not settled or finished. Despite whatever funding is spent on programs such as Indigenous health and Closing the Gap targets through peak bodies, this does not address our stolen generation issues. Many of our elders who were stolen are still alive, but we have their families who are impacted without recognition or consideration.

This government has accepted the recommendation of the parliamentary inquiry into historical forced adoption practices. Statements regarding this inquiry include that babies were not given up but were taken away, that consent was not freely given and that "women were isolated, disempowered, pressured and threatened". How can these statements not be said about or not be true for our stolen generation mothers and their children? Other Australian states and territories, apart from the two big states in this country—Queensland and WA—have entered into negotiations and agreements for compensation for members of their stolen generation. I look forward to when any future WA government will take leadership and make that commitment. Personally, being here and doing the work that I have done in this term, I believe the time has come to put this conversation back on the table.

Because I have been around Aboriginal affairs for over 40 years, bipartisan agreement has played a very big part of my life's work. I strongly advocate for a formalised bipartisan agreement between Western Australia's two major parties—Labor and the coalition. This recommendation is not made lightly, and I do not say this lightly, as I have witnessed the status quo persist for far too long. Nevertheless, I remain hopeful that a change is imminent, and it is time for this state to demonstrate leadership by adopting a novel approach to engaging with Aboriginal people. The traditional top-down methodology employed by all governments has proven ineffective; a collaborative approach is essential. I propose the establishment of a working party comprising politicians from both parties to engage in meaningful conversations with the community. What is there to lose by adopting this approach?

Now that we have regional ministers, I suggest they utilise their platform to host community forums throughout the regions addressing the enormous issues faced by communities daily. I say this to Hon Stephen Dawson, Minister for Kimberley; Hon Matthew Swinbourn, Minister for Community Services; and Don Punch, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

In 2022, I participated in a community forum that followed the Solutions, Accountability and Teamwork program. It was facilitated by the Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation and funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency. This forum served as a platform to amplify the voice of the Broome community. The primary objective of the forum was to foster improved collaboration, coordination and engagement among youth, their families and providers of youth services. The event drew attendance from key agencies and individuals within the community, including WA police and federal politicians Senator Pat Dodson and Melissa Price. A detailed report incorporating recommendations was completed, but it seems to have been neglected and not answered. The SAT program report embodies the collective suggestions and potential solutions of the diverse voices within the Broome community. I urge all members to read the report to help guide them on the major task ahead in their portfolios and to start addressing the issues that are meant to be a priority. It is only by reading that report and looking at the recommendations that there is a possibility of outcomes and solutions, not just by the community, but also by the government.

What can I say about the Kimberley juvenile justice evaluation report 2023–24? Stakeholders and I are still waiting for the release of this report. This is an important report. In my opinion, it will give key information on the extent of the success of existing programs and will inform stakeholders on the best and worst of the existing programs. This will assist greatly in designing better programs that are meaningful and transferring valuable resources to the programs that are working and hitting the mark, in addition to confirming to stakeholders where the resources are going and why they are going to these organisations.

I am proud to have served in the 41st Parliament for one term, and I have been honoured to have spent four years in this chamber with some very good people on both sides of politics. I know and understand party politics and hope—hope is a word I have used a few times in my speech, because I live on hope—that future political parties work more collaboratively for all Western Australian people. Please bear in mind that you are here representing the people of Western Australia. It is not about politics, it is not about personalities, it is about the people out there. I encourage members to think about it. We all have different opinions, but I am sure there is enough experience and knowledge in this room to make things happen.

During my life, I have sat around many campfires, and no matter how dark it is around me, even the smallest fire will shed light and warmth. That is how I see all of us here; we are the sparks that can ignite change. Best wishes on your journey to all new members in the 42nd Parliament. I may not be here, but like my dad always said, I will certainly be in the back seat looking and listening to what happens in this chamber. If nothing happens, you will not see or hear the nice Rosie.

I always save the best for last. I want to shout out a big thankyou to my wonderful staff—Val, Lynette, Sarah and Julie, the A-team. You got me through some tough times; you made me look good; and you went above and beyond. I do not know why you did it and I do not know how, but you did. You are now a part of my Sahanna family.

Unfortunately, my family could not make it here; everybody works and the cost of living is high—plane tickets and accommodation cost money, so they could not make it—but they said to me, "You can handle this." To my family back home, thank you for your unconditional love and support. To my children, Koiki, Tilly, BJ and Kaupa, and my granddaughters, Lenay, Maraya, Imahn and Zoe, I want you to know that who I am and what I have done and achieved in my lifetime is because of you. The blood, sweat and tears were worth it. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

One thing I get out of this is that I do not get to do their washing anymore; I do not get to be part of their lives. Their response to me was, "Now it's time for you to get a life so you can keep out of our lives." That is what I am going to do; I am going to keep out of your lives and get a life.

Honestly, I am really privileged. I am one of very few Aboriginal people to have had this experience, so thank you all for listening. I know you will not forget me, given my portrait now hangs on the wall in Parliament House alongside the other first strong women! Now that my term is over, I can truly walk out of here with my head held high and my integrity intact. I am not sure what the future holds for me, but for now, I am taking on a new old role and I will be a full-time nanny and personal Uber driver until they finish school. That is what I have been doing anyway, but it will be full-time now. I look forward to this because I am really big on family, and the air that I breathe is my family. So, thank you wonderful people here. Hopefully, I will see you around the corner. And to the people who are continuing, enjoy the next term and work really hard. I want to see what I said here—some of it, or one thing at least—achieved. If not, I will be ringing. To the people who are departing like me, enjoy yourselves and enjoy the next chapter of your lives. Thank you.

(Applause.)

The President: Members, we are the dealing with the Address-in-Reply and the question is that the motion be agreed. As this is the honourable member's valedictory speech, the usual courtesies of the house apply.

Hon Aussie Trump (South West Region) (2:32 pm): Hon Rosie Sahanna is quite a hard act to follow! I congratulate Hon Rosie Sahanna for being, I think, the first Indigenous female elected to this house. I actually crossed paths with Hon Rosie Sahanna when I worked at the Aboriginal Legal Service and visited her organisation, Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation, in Broome. I know the high regard in which she is held as a representative of her community, so it is somewhat of an honour to follow Hon Rosie Sahanna.

The greatest people in this Parliament are the staff—the clerks, the very personable Grant Hitchcock and the ever welcoming and upbeat character that is Rob Hunter, manager, Parliamentary Services. Aside from being able to speak for the people in here, the greatest privilege is the provision of an electorate office and electorate staff. Nick Maher in my Bunbury office has been a complete godsend. I could not imagine anyone better able to find the parts of bills that needed to be opposed and amended, nor anyone better at identifying community and moral issues that needed to be spoken about in here.

It has also been a privilege to have an electorate allowance. Recently, I was able to provide $5,000 to a fundraiser for Bunbury cricket and footy gun Glen Dehring, who has stage 4 cancer. I provided the same amount to Shining Hope WA, a suicide prevention charity in Bunbury. Glen Dehring will need a lot of things to turn his way as he embarks upon several treatment options. Even more important than giving money is sending our prayers to Glen and his family, wife and children. We hope that treatment is successful and that Glen's wife and kids find ways to cope and thrive, whatever the outcome.

By contrast, Labor MPs have been caught red-handed by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal for pumping hundreds of thousands of their electorate allowances into party coffers. Oh, my God! The opportunity cost of using their electorate allowance to fund their party means that worthy and maybe even life-saving causes in the community miss out. Shameful, greedy and disgusting! Labor will already receive something like $5 million or $6 million in reimbursements from the taxpayer for the recent election campaign, having doubled the taxpayer funding to itself. Again, shameful. I note that One Nation, which won two seats in the last election in this house, is not eligible for any reimbursement under the now doubled taxpayer-funded election scheme. How is that fair? With political parties, the rich get richer. It gets harder for the minors and Independents to compete, but that is what the majors want.

My name change to Aussie Trump has been reported all over the world, and each time it has been reported as a protest against the legislation rammed through by the extreme left authoritarian WA Labor government—see above where it doubled the taxpayer funding to itself whilst remaining an unincorporated, totally unaccountable and unregulated organisation. "Aussie Trump" launched a worldwide protest against the harm inflicted to our democracy, our families, our kids and our livelihoods. Getting the message across the United States of America through the US news website the *Colorado Springs Gazette,* and through the *Times of India* as well as the United Kingdom's *The Telegraph* has been awesome worldwide exposure of a truly terrible government determined to misuse its majority, often to help its own electoral chances and even to fill its own coffers. Equally awesome has been that every position I have taken on behalf of electors in this place has been entirely vindicated by the passage of time. The vile abuse I have received from the government benches has merely demonstrated, without exception, how accurate my statements to the house have been. The more accurate the statement I made, the more savage and desperate the protestations by WA Labor. A reduction in immigration is now widely accepted, even by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to a degree, and was something I called for in my term. Now a two-year ban on foreign purchases of residential homes has been adopted by federal Labor—again, something I called for. A pause on mRNA vaccines is something else I called for and has now been acted on by several American states and is being considered by some countries in Europe.

My opposition to the changes to workers compensation have been vindicated. The government was not honest about the implications, with contractors being excluded from coverage by the new legislation. That now appears to have been confirmed on the WorkCover WA website, with onsite contractors no longer meeting the definition of "worker". At the very least, WorkCover should be advising those contractors to get income protection cover. Voting one to 29 against the Workers Compensation and Injury Management Bill was one of my best moments and has been totally vindicated by time. *Hansard* will show that Hon Matthew Swinbourn was not being honest about the impact of these changes.

Withdrawal of remark

Hon Matthew Swinbourn: I know this is highly unusual, President, but for a member to make an accusation regarding my intentions in what will be his final speech would be highly disorderly in my view, and I think he should be asked to withdraw that statement.

The President: Thank you, honourable member. I am going to briefly consider the matter.

Members, there are conventions around what we address in our valedictory speeches. There are also standing orders that guide us.

Part of the importance of this place is that we do not accuse individual members in a way that is offensive and intolerable. The honourable member has asked that you withdraw that statement, and our usual practice is that when asked, that would be withdrawn. Our usual practice is that is the case. I invite the honourable member to withdraw the accusation and continue.

Hon Aussie Trump: I withdraw the accusation about honesty, President.

The President: Continue, Hon Austin Trump.

Proceeding resumed

Hon Aussie Trump: In my view, Hon Matthew Swinbourn was not being entirely frank about the impact of these changes and the shadow minister at the time, Hon Dr Steve Thomas, did not understand them. Hon Dr Steve Thomas was commending the government for the rare circumstance in which a contractor would be covered—that is, working outside his trade, and not comprehending that whilst working in his trade the contractor would now not be covered. It was not that hard to understand—just read the Australian Lawyers Alliance report like I did. This was a farce. I realised then that this house was not necessarily about serious debate, but that the people getting paid to do their jobs were not doing their jobs. I realised very early on that it was often a pantomime—people playing parts that they were allocated like in amateur production, but not actually wanting to understand how to do their roles properly. I admit I lost a bit of interest. The level of debate was not up to the standard I expected.

I now hand over to Hon Neil Thomson and Hon Nick Goiran to take over the task, which I have contributed to in a small way, of calling out poor performances and poor legislation rammed through by this present government. I am delighted that Phil Scott and Rod Caddies from One Nation will be well placed to contribute to this. Likewise, Maryka Groenewald from the Australian Christians will add a commonsense approach. I wish the opposition and the conservatives on the crossbench the best of luck dealing with an extreme left-wing green legislative agenda. I support conservatives because social conservatism is needed to unwind some of the leftist nonsense that has been pushed through. Common sense is now classified as conservatism, relative to the leftist stuff. Anyone who says that a crossbencher in a Parliament with a large majority Labor government in both houses can make a difference has not been in the position of a crossbencher in a Parliament with a large majority Labor government in both houses. It is a depressing state to be in. I am really not sure how meaningful it is to raise objections and make speeches about biased and unfair bills that have been put forward by the government in the last two years. It is

fairly miserable and I do not see that changing. One Nation, Australian Christians and truly conservative Liberals will have another four years of fairly ineffective and frustrating pain as they deal with the majority in the lower house and the Labor–Greens majority in the upper house. I am not sure that that is enjoyable.

Hon Nick Goiran will continue to scrutinise legislation better than anyone ever has or will in this place with his superior legal knowledge and parliamentary experience, but I doubt it classifies as enjoyment. We are lucky to have Hon Nick Goiran and others like him who continue in a workman-like way for their electors, because it is the only hope we have. The real opportunity for enjoyment has been lost because the Liberals overall, under the leadership of Libby Mettam, wasted an opportunity at the ballot box by playing it far too safe—weak and gutless. Peter Dutton is facing the same problem now and will struggle to win the election. He has to be substantially different to Labor to win it, not a watered-down version of Labor.

There were ample opportunities for Ms Mettam to attack the government over its integrity and immoral behaviour, as we saw with the ramming through of late-term abortion legislation, upping the initial cut-off from 20 to 23 weeks' gestation in this state. There were 14 police officers stood down at a cost of $4 million to the taxpayer and then their jobs were terminated, two years after the mandate had ended. With a desperate need for more experienced police officers, there is no question that those officers could have been returned to work as others were in other states in Australia. The oppressive firearm laws, which handed unprecedented powers to the police commissioner, could have been attacked far more meaningfully by the Liberals.

The gender madness, which has led to many children being misled into transitioning sex and which is now being unpacked around the western world, draws a distinction between those with a grasp on morality and how to deal with troubled adolescents, and those who pursue a very dangerous transgender ideology at the expense of vulnerable children, who in some cases have not even been through puberty but are encouraged to identify as another sex and legally transition to the other sex, setting in place a pathway to surgery and totally unnecessary mutilation of their bodies. I know this because of the people who have spoken to me about how they lost their children to "trans cults". Therefore, it is negligent and even malicious for the government to have rammed through a bill that facilitates this process. The bill I refer to is the *Birth, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment (Sex or Gender Changes) Bill 2024*.

Ms Mettam could have drawn a distinction as a mother and drawn on her experience as a commonsense parent. Labor has been captured by unrepresentative fringe groups, mainly Rainbow Labor, that have taken over the legislative agenda, despite many Labor MPs knowing full well that the sex and gender change legislation was nonsensical and harmful to our children's grasp of biological reality. They nevertheless voted for the party line.

Around the world, my position has been vindicated. The recent Australian Re Devin case was reported on in *The Australian* on 25 April. The article states:

> … a scandalous lack of evidence for "gender-affirming" treatment model used in our children's hospitals, the risks of serious harm for children and teenagers, and the incoherence of this worldview with its denial of biological reality.

Justice Paul Strom remarked in the Re Devin case that the gender clinic's policy of unreserved affirmation of a child's gender identity without questioning or exploring underlying issues was concerning. The government has denied biological reality by its nonsense legislation allowing children as young as 12 years of age to legally transition their biological sex on their birth certificates to the other sex—not gender, biological sex. Doctors tell me that this is the first step in what can be a harmful pathway towards surgery. The case of Re Devin tells us that encouraging and facilitating children down this path with bizarre, nonsensical legislation like Labor's sex change legislation, particularly before puberty, is harmful.

On 16 April, the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom unanimously ruled that the legal definitions of "woman" and "sex" under the *Equality Act 2010* refers to biological sex. This decision clarifies that single-sex spaces like refuges and sports can legally exclude trans women, as they should be able to. Our Attorney General at the time irresponsibly said such an ability to protect women in their spaces was unnecessary. Contrast this ruling to the ludicrous contention of Hon Dr Sally Talbot that biological sex is a social construct, which stands as vindication of my point. Therefore, a legislator like Hon Dr Sally Talbot supporting sex-change legislation that blatantly denies biological reality, contrary to Supreme Courts here and in the United Kingdom, shows that party ideology and toeing party lines are placed above logic and serious debate in this place.

Again, I lost interest. Trotting out party lines that deny reality is preferred ahead of actually scrutinising legislation for the betterment of the people. For those at home, consider this party-based position: a dozen female Labor MPs supporting the lawful termination of pregnancies because the baby is female—sex selection. There are female Labor MPs supporting the killing of unborn girls. How is that? Why is that? It is not because they think it is a good thing to allow, but because the party told them to support this practice remaining lawful. Consider a Wheatbelt Labor MP and sheep farmer supporting the removal of specific regional Wheatbelt representation in this house and the shutdown of the critical live sheep export industry. Yes, these things have happened on my watch and

members can see why launching a worldwide protest with my name change was needed. Thank you, *Australian Associated Press*, *The Australian* and the United Kingdom's *The Telegraph* for picking this up.

Again, I say that 25 members could easily be eliminated from this Parliament. Do not tell me that Bicton, Bateman and Bibra Lake need three MPs to represent what are homogenous electorates. I lived in those areas for 20 years. It is a system that supports the payment of MP salaries, not proper representation. I know this because I asked Mark McGowan at the time whether he would merge electorates, and his response was that representation would not suffer. He said that he was concerned that if that happened, some of his Labor colleagues would lose their jobs.

I even provided Ms Mettam with statistics showing the increase of 4,000 reported chest pain presentations among under 40-year-olds during the COVID vaccine mandate years. One would think that as opposition health spokesperson, she would follow that up with the government. However, she chose not to because it was viewed as too risky for her and too much of a hot topic for her with which to go to an election. Weak—no guts, no glory. Likewise, I condemn Roger Cook's nasty dismissal of the Port Hedland motion calling for a pause on mRNA vaccines. Vaccine safety was an obvious line of attack for Ms Mettam, but again, it was not pursued due to a lack of fortitude. Emerging positions around the planet, including from prominent virologists and cardiologists, calling for a pause on these experimental vaccines has not even been considered by the major parties in this state—again, no guts.

Senator Gerard Rennick and his policies are the only answer. I completed an economics degree but traditional economics is simply sending my constituents broke. The cost of living is deliberately inflated by immigration and shutting down our natural energy sources. "Drill, baby, drill", I say. Bring down energy prices for the people and small business. Hon Anthony Albanese naively calls Gerard Rennick a cooker because Anthony Albanese seems to lack the intelligence to match Senator Rennick and his extensive qualifications in tax law. Senator Rennick wants to intervene in the energy, banking, superannuation and insurance markets to ensure consumers are not price-gouged and we return wealth to the people. If we get local production up and tax the massive corporations and foreign multinationals appropriately, we can stop taxing people who earn modest incomes of $60,000 or so and even give them a sort of universal wage with printed money. This is like a social credit system. Look it up. Look after our everyday Australians first. Tax the multinationals, which are also the donors to the major parties, properly. It is pretty simple.

Senator Rennick knows we are in a state of inertia in which good ideas never get adopted. Senator Rennick confirmed that his friends who remain in the Liberal Party admit to not speaking out for their constituents for fear of losing preselection. It is worse in Labor. He confirms that the major parties effectively collude to keep feathering their own nests. The major party system is killing this country. In the election we just went through, Labor, aided by Liberals, managed to force Independent candidates to get 250 nominations and $2,000 per candidate just to get on the ballot paper for Independents and then force Independents to form a group of five just to compete with the parties above the line. We actually did pretty well to get our group of five. I thank all who helped. I enjoyed campaigning and loved meeting others who were trying to disrupt the majors. It was a lot of fun.

I still believe that shutting down the live sheep export industry should spell the end of Hon Anthony Albanese, Hon Josh Wilson and Hon Patrick Gorman. It is the most glaring example of Labor's attack on rights and families and small business, especially when Hon Jackie Jarvis has confirmed that the animal welfare standards in the industry are okay and, therefore, federal Labor's claim that social licence is lost is a lie. Austin Trump says "Keep the sheep" and "Drill, baby, drill".

I again call for contested hearings in the interim family violence order space. Ex parte hearings may be allowable, but the court must hold a contested hearing within two weeks wherein the other party gets to say their piece, and there must not be any evictions from homes until the contested hearing has been held. In my case, I was living in the family home, and my ex-wife had moved out and expressed a desire to get back in the house but wanted me to leave. It was only then that she came up with nonsense allegations of me killing a family pet and not allowing her to see her sister. They are completely untrue, but enough to get the police to evict me from my house and put her in there. Of course, my ex-wife gains an advantage of possessing a $1.1 million house and custody of our children through the misuse of the system. I know contested hearings are needed, especially when I acted as a lawyer in a case in which neither party were allowed to back to the home in Christmas 2022. It cannot be the case that neither party be allowed to stay in the home at Christmas due to cross-claims.

A contested hearing would resolve this and in a big five-bedroom house with two bathrooms, a deal could have been struck to live in separate parts of the house. Do not tell me the FVRO system is not broken. This is evidence that it is. My opportunity to contest the interim family violence restraining order and obtain residency in the house, even in the rear self-contained unit into which I had initially moved, was lost because no contested hearing was offered for five weeks or so, by which time I had sent emails. I was encouraged by the court order to send emails in relation to children and property, but the ones I sent were off topic. I accept and own that mistake. The interim FVRO was also being used as leverage in property settlement and one could say even used to successfully extort money from me. Thankfully, the other party was honest and testified on oath that I was never physically violent because of course I was not. Sadly, I was the one getting slapped and hit. The so-called emotional violence or

coercive control stuff is wide open to being misused by men and women alike. Whilst we continue to fracture families and give possession of houses to one party based on X party's submissions rather than contested hearings, the damage to people's lives continues.

Sadly, there is never any punishment for perjury. False allegations and the merry-go-round of lives continue. Women particularly, but also some men, are rewarded with sole possession of the home and sole custody of the kids as a reward for their false claims, at least in the short term until the Family Court gets to schedule a hearing two years down the track. The notion of "people first" is so far from what I have experienced in here. The public should be really worried about the complete lack of regard that the parties in this Parliament have for helping electors. As Senator Rennick's party name suggests, we could put people first if parties were not using all the parliamentary time looking after themselves first.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Hon Peter Foster**.

RESERVES BILL 2025

Second reading

Resumed from 30 April.

Hon Pierre Yang (North Metropolitan Region—Parliamentary Secretary) (2:57 pm): President, thank you very much for the opportunity to continue my remarks from yesterday. I started when I said that the Reserves Bill 2025 is the second time that this bill has been introduced into the Parliament of Western Australia because there was the Reserves Bill 2024, which was introduced into the Legislative Assembly and passed, if I recall correctly, in November 2024 and was sent to the Legislative Council. We completed the first reading and the representing minister provided the second reading speech. Then the prorogation of Parliament took place, so that is why we are going through this bill again now that it has been introduced this year.

This is not a very lengthy bill. It has about 12 clauses and seven pages. Nonetheless, it is a very important bill that deals with our environment. Of course, I am a strong supporter of environmental protection because that is important for not only all of us in this generation, but also future generations of Western Australians. As a father of two young children, I care deeply about the environment, just like the Labor Party, which has great credentials throughout its history in protecting the environment. I will come back to that point in more detail.

I want to give a quick synopsis of my contribution today. I want to go through the bill first and my understanding of the few clauses in it. Then I want to look at the Land Administration Act, which was passed back in 1997. A few definitions in that act are related to the Reserves Bill 2025. I will then look at the WA Labor Party's Plan for Our Parks and delve into the achievements Australian Labor Party and its history of environmental credentials.

The front page of the bill states that this is a bill for an act:

- to reserve land for the purposes of national parks, conservation parks and other purposes; and
- to change the classification or purpose of certain reserves; and
- to excise certain areas of land from reserves; and
- to effect other changes to land; and
- to amend the Reserves (National Parks, Conservation Parks, Nature Reserves and Other Reserves) Act 2004 consequentially.

Clause 2 of the Reserves Bill is about the time when certain parts of the bill will come into operation. Sections 1 and 2 will come into operation on the day on which this bill receives royal assent, which, of course, is after we pass this bill and send it to the Governor for royal assent. Sections 6 to 8 will come into operation on the day after royal assent, and the rest of the act will come into operation on a day fixed by proclamation.

I served on the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review in the 40th Parliament. One of the things that the committee routinely inquired into was commencement mechanisms and the competing interest between the need to afford the executive government the flexibility to allow acts to come into operation by proclamation and the need to ensure parliamentary sovereignty so that it is the Parliament, generally, that dictates when an act, or parts of an act, will come into operation. That was a point on which the uniform legislation committee spent a fair bit of time. I understand that we need to ensure that parliamentary sovereignty is always respected, but there is also a need to ensure that the elected government of the day can exercise its power to ensure that acts come into operation at an appropriate time. I think it is important for the uniform legislation committee to always look at that. At the same time, the executive government should be provided the opportunity to proclaim when certain parts of an act can come into operation.

Having spent a few minutes on the commencement mechanisms of when an act can come into operation vis-a-vis parliamentary sovereignty and the executive government's power to proclaim the operation of acts, I want to look at a few other things in this very important bill. Clause 3 states:

> This Act binds the Crown in right of Western Australia and, so far as the legislative power of the Parliament permits, the Crown in all its other capacities.

Clause 4 refers to the terms used in this bill. Clause 5 refers to the Registrar of Titles taking certain measures. Clauses 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 all refer to the actual changes in land administration. I will go into detail about that a bit later. Of course, clause 12 refers to the amendment that I mentioned earlier in the *Reserves (National Parks, Conservation Parks, Nature Reserves and Other Reserves) Act 2004*.

The minister's second reading speech states:

> The Reserves Bill 2025 seeks Parliament's approval to implement amendments to 10 class A reserves and six other reserves in the metropolitan, South West, Great Southern, Wheatbelt and Kimberley regions of Western Australia.

That refers to class A reserves. I will seek the opportunity to come back and talk about class A reserves. The minister's second reading speech continued on that point. It reads:

> The bill is necessary because class A reserves are the highest form of protection under part 4 of the *Land Administration Act 1997*.

I will look at the second reading speech of that bill a little later. The minister continued:

> Changes of purpose and excisions of more than one hectare or 5% of an existing class A reserve require the authority of both houses of Parliament … The nature of the amendments range from changing the purpose of reserves to better reflect land use and management objectives, to excising small land parcels for transfer to the management of local governments to give them certainty, deliver community services, such as managing recreational reserves, and having in place long-term waste-management solutions.

The minister continued:

> The bill will also create a new class A conservation park in the Shire of Wandering on the western edge of the Wheatbelt region.

It is a practical demonstration of the Cook government's commitment to protect our South West forests. I will come back to other government measures and initiatives that relate to environmental protection.

I mentioned the different parts of the bill. I want to delve into clause 6 and onwards a little deeper. Clause 6, "Timber reserve 145/25 redescribed", seeks to cancel timber reserve 145/25 and include on the land a new class A conservation park in the Shire of Wandering to be enacted via section 22 of the *Reserves Act 2004*. That section was subsequently unable to be proclaimed. The inclusion of timber reserve 145/25 into the Wandering Conservation Park is no longer supported. The land area of the timber reserve is to be redescribed in the form of new lots on plan ahead of the deletion of section 22 of the *Reserves Act 2004*.

Clause 7 refers to reserve 18534. That clause redescribes existing reserve 18534 as lot 707 on deposited plan 426780 from lot 23397 on deposited plan 147341, approximately 350 hectares, and lot 28166 on deposited plan 40314, approximately 94 hectares. The cancellation of reserve 18534 and the inclusion of the land with a new class A conservation park in the Shire of Wandering had been enacted via section 22 of the *Reserve Act 2004*. Similar to clause 6, this section was subsequently unable to be proclaimed. The inclusion of reserve 18534 into Wandering Conservation Park is no longer supported. The land area of reserve 18534 is to be redescribed in the form of a lot on plan ahead of the deletion of section 22 of the 2004 act.

Clause 8 is a very significant clause because it seeks to create a new class A conservation park. Reserve 54509 is situated approximately 15 kilometres north-east of Boddington. Timber reserve 160/25 is cancelled. The resultant reserve 54509 secures an area of about 3,211 hectares in the state's South West conservation estate as proposed in *Forest Management Plan 2004–2013* and carried forward into *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023* and *Forest Management Plan 2024–2033*.

Clauses 9, 10 and 11 refer to the changes of classifications or purposes of class A reserves. I may come back to those clauses a little later if I have the opportunity. Nonetheless, I want to talk about other environmental protection credentials.

Way back in the day of the Gallop government, we announced a series of policies that protected the environment of Western Australia right from the start of that government. On 4 November 2001, the state government, under the leadership of then Premier Geoff Gallop, put out a press release entitled "State Government completes protection of all old growth forests", which stated:

> The State Government today announced that all old growth forests would now be protected after the remaining 5,500ha under moratorium had been permanently set aside for conservation.
>
> The State government today announced that …
>
> The announcement coincides with the release of the proposed boundaries for the expanded Beedelup National Park, north-west of Pemberton, which will increase by more than 10 times in size and include icon forest blocks of Giblett, Beavis and Gray.

> Premier Dr Geoff Gallop and Environment and Heritage Minister Dr Judy Edwards said the decision—to conserve the remaining 5,500ha—meant all the old-growth forests in the South-West would be conserved for future generations to enjoy.

In 2004, the Gallop government announced the extension of Ningaloo Marine Park. Back in 2003, of course, the government ruled out the Ningaloo development. An article dated 4 July 2003 stated:

> West Australian Premier Geoff Gallop has said no to a proposal to develop a $180 million marina and resort at Ningaloo Reef on the state's north-west coast.
>
> Dr Gallop says the project poses an unacceptable risk to the environment.
>
> He made the announcement at Coral Bay this morning and also promised to campaign for the reef to be granted World Heritage listing.
>
> The Premier's announcement comes as no surprise, just two days after he received final advice on the project from the Environmental Protection Authority's appeals committee.
>
> Dr Gallop says the advice to him is that the project should not be approved.
>
> He says the size and scale of the proposal by Coral Coast Marina Development would threaten the fragile coastal coast and he is not prepared to jeopardise its future.
>
> The Premier says he will now write to the Prime Minister advising him of the Government's intention to pursue World Heritage listing for Ningaloo Reef and ask for his support.

On 9 July 2004, the government put out a press release confirming that it had:

> … established a consultative committee to progress its policy commitment to nominate the Cape Range-Ningaloo area for World Heritage listing.
>
> The committee, appointed by … Judy Edwards, is chaired by long-time North West Cape resident Doug Bathgate. Other members are Neil Blake, a natural resource planner and Sue Jones, chief executive officer of the Gascoyne Development Commission.
>
> …
>
> The committee will report to Government by the end of August.

A few days later, as I mentioned earlier, there was another press release confirming that the state government in 2004 announced plans to increase the conservation value of one of Australia's greatest natural attractions, Ningaloo Reef.

We had to deal with a federal government under Prime Minister John Howard that attempted to use its financial clout to try to force Western Australia to log our old-growth forest. The Minister for State Development at the time, Hon Clive Brown, who I happened to get to know reasonably well over recent years, put out a press release dated 24 January 2003 that stated:

> The Howard Government is using its financial clout to try to force Western Australia to log its old growth forests.
>
> Federal Forestry Minister Senator Ian Macdonald claimed this week that unless the WA Government allowed 200,000cu.m of jarrah to be logged each year, the Howard Government would withhold $15million of funding to both the hard and soft wood sectors of the WA timber industry.
>
> State Development Minister Clive Brown said … "The State Government's draft forest management plan clearly shows that a cut of 200,000cu.m per year would require the State to log its old growth forests," Mr Brown said.
>
> "The Commonwealth's threat to withhold funding is clearly a bullying tactic aimed at forcing the State Government into logging WA's old growth forests."
>
> The Minister said the Commonwealth's bullying tactics would not work.
>
> "The Gallop Government was elected on a promise to end the logging of the State's old growth forests, and we have delivered on that," he said. … "The Howard Government advertised their $15million FIDWA fund in October 2001, eight months after the Gallop Government was elected, knowing full well that the State's indicative jarrah yield was 140,000cu.m," he said.
>
> "To turn around now and say that the offer was conditional upon the State allowing a cut of 200,000cu.m, means that the Commonwealth misled both timber communities and the entire timber industry in the lead-up to the last Federal election.
>
> "It also means that the Commonwealth wants WA to log its old growth forests."

This is an example of what we had to deal with as a progressive party. We have the credentials. We have demonstrated that we are the party for environmental protection. The Greens may claim it has the environment at heart, but the Labor Party has the real mechanisms and policies that will deliver on the very important measures that will protect WA's environment for future generations. We have the Plan for Our Parks, which I will come to

a bit later, and we have a whole suite of policies since this government came into power in 2017 that I will also touch on.

Before I do that, I want to quickly talk about the historical achievement of the Australian Labor Party when it was in government under Prime Minister Bob Hawke. An article was put out by the ABC on 16 May 2019 entitled, "Nine ways Bob Hawke's government changed Australia." Two of them were related to the environment. The fifth achievement states:

> **5. Giving the Commonwealth power over World Heritage sites**
>
> After beating Malcolm Fraser in the 1983 federal election,—

I hasten to add that 1983 was a fantastic year because not only did we see the Commonwealth elect a Labor government, we also saw the election of a WA Labor government—

> Mr Hawke passed the World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983 which, along with legislation already passed by the Whitlam government,—

That was in the 1970s, from 1972 to 1975—

> enabled the Commonwealth to protect Australia's world heritage sites from threatening actions.
>
> The legislation used a section in the constitution which gave the federal government power to make laws with respect to external affairs—in this case an international treaty with UNESCO on world heritage sites.
>
> Several states and territories opposed the act as it meant the Commonwealth's powers would override their own.
>
> The government then moved for world heritage listing of Tasmania's forests and the North Queensland rainforests.

The next achievement was saving Tasmania's Franklin River from damming. The article continues:

> Before the 1983 election, Tasmania's Franklin River was listed by the World Heritage Committee as a world heritage site.
>
> On his election and the passing of the new conservation act, Mr Hawke announced the river would not be dammed for a hydroelectricity development.
>
> The Liberal Tasmanian premier, Robin Gray, challenged the decision in the High Court. But on July 1, 1983, the High Court announced "there shall be no dam on the Franklin River", answering conservation activists' calls to "let the Franklin run free".
>
> The decision paved the way for an expansive use of the external affairs power to support a range of federal environmental legislation, including the current Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

I have here an autobiography written by Mr Graham Richardson. Chapter 13 is entitled "Out of the smoke-filled rooms and into the forest". I was going to quote certain parts of his book *Whatever it takes*, but then I thought better of it and decided not to make too many quotes from that book. I want to continue to look at this government's environmental protection credentials.

I will take one step back. I want to look at a press release put out by the state government.

Hon Dr Steve Thomas: Well, one step forward.

Hon Pierre Yang: Or maybe take one step back and two steps forward.

On 2 January 2025, the state government put out a press release entitled "WA now a conservation superpower with more than five million reasons to celebrate", which states:

> The Cook Labor Government has conserved enough land and water equivalent in size to Tasmania with the completion of Plan for Our Parks.
>
> That policy, announced in 2019, set an ambitious target for the State Government to create five million hectares of new conservation estate—including national parks, marine parks and nature reserves—in just five years.
>
> Completed late last year, that target has since been met, with 6.5 million hectares of land being conserved representing a 28 per cent increase in Western Australia's conservation estate.

And there is more to celebrate. On 1 January 2024, the commercial logging of native forests ended in Western Australia. A press release on the same day stated:

> Western Australia has become one of the first States in Australia to end commercial logging of native forests.
>
> The State Government's historic decision to stop the unsustainable practice under the Forest Management Plan 2024–33 will protect nearly 2 million hectares of native karri, jarrah, and wandoo forests for future generations.

> Following the move to end commercial native forest logging two years ago, the State Government committed to an $80 million Native Forest Transition Plan that included significant industry restructure payments, which have now been made to all eligible sawmills.
>
> …
>
> The Cook Government is also investing a record $350 million dollars in WA's softwood pine plantations, which will support thousands of South West jobs.
>
> Pine from softwood timber plantations is extensively used in the construction of WA homes. Additionally, the plantations capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, helping to fight climate change.

I was listening to the radio this morning and I recall that Queensland has faced 17 major climate events since July. The program mentioned that it seemed that climate change was not being discussed, but climate change has clearly had a huge impact on that state through those weather events. I think it is important that while we address cost-of-living issues, we need to be always on the front foot with our environmental protection to address the issue of climate change as well.

Having said that, I want to turn to our Plan for Our Parks. As briefly mentioned in that press release, Plan for Our Parks created five million hectares of new national parks, marine parks and other conservation reserves across WA. Plan for Our Parks saw new and expanded parks from the Kimberley in the north, across Western Australia's rangelands, through population centres in Perth and Bunbury, in South West forests and along the southern coastline. The initiative expanded the conservation estate to protect some of the state's most valuable natural assets, including wetlands, rangelands, forests, marine areas and scores of threatened flora and fauna, which will have their habitats secured. It provides the basis of a new era in working with the state's traditional owners in land management and is also creating more opportunities for nature-based and cultural tourism.

I want to just quickly talk about the timeline of Plan for Our Parks. I will come back to the Reserves Bill and reference the second reading speech of the Land Administration Bill 1997 should I have the time. The Plan for Our Parks initiative was announced in February 2019. From March 2019 to 2022, consultation took place with traditional owners, peak bodies and other stakeholders. In July 2019, the Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park was created, located 80 kilometres west of Geraldton. That was an additional site to Murujuga National Park. In May 2020, the Beeliar conservation park was created. In December 2020, the Ningaloo coastal reserves adjacent to World Heritage–listed Ningaloo Marine Park were created. In January 2021, five new reserves were created in Badimaya country near Mount Magnet in collaboration with the Badimaya traditional owners. The Lake Jasper area has been reinstated into a national park, Helena and Aurora Ranges National Park has been proposed and Wellington National Park has been expanded. The creation of Warlibirri National Park and three marine parks in the Buccaneer Archipelago in the Kimberley all took place between 2020 and 2023. By 2024, five million hectares of new national parks, marine parks and other conservation reserves were expected to be completed.

Plan for Our Parks serves a very important purpose; that is, as I mentioned earlier, to protect WA's unique environment for future generations. The expansion of the conservation estate in Western Australia will help safeguard our rich biodiversity and secure habitats for many of our unique native flora and fauna, most of which are not found anywhere else in the world. The restoration of landscapes under the Plan for Our Parks will also enhance vegetation and may provide carbon sequestration opportunities in new areas of the conservation estate. Natural ecosystems play an important role in mitigating and adapting to climate change, including through carbon sequestration, absorbing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through the process of photosynthesis; local climate regulation, balancing the macro climate with vegetation and water bodies to enhance the living conditions of local flora and fauna; water cycle management, maintaining water availability and quality by reducing run-off and preventing soil erosion; and enhancing biodiversity and resilience, providing food and habitat for wildlife as well as acting as natural barriers to weather events intensified by climate change, such as floods and storm surges.

Of course, Plan for Our Parks also provides the opportunity to work with traditional owners. Working with traditional owners is an important part of developing and implementing Plan for Our Parks. Joint management of land between traditional owners and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions will help protect biodiversity, landscapes and cultural heritage values.

It is providing transformative jobs, training and career development opportunities for Aboriginal people in all areas of land management. It is also providing real and meaningful opportunities for traditional owners and the community to build their capacity, strengthen governance, and to directly participate in the joint management of their country. It is designed to complement other initiatives of this government, such as the Aboriginal rangers program, which was established in 2017 to protect the environment and promote economic growth in regional and remote WA. The Plan for Our Parks is a fantastic initiative that will not only protect our environment in WA, but will also help to create meaningful jobs and economic opportunities for many First Nations Western Australians.

Acting President, I now turn to the *Land Administration Act 1997* and its second reading speech in 1997. This, of course, was a bill passed during the Liberal–National government. I had the opportunity to meet Hon Richard Court the other day, and I made a brief mention of his principled stance against One Nation at the time.

President, I seek an extension under standing order 22.

Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.

Debate adjourned until a later stage of the sitting, on motion by **Hon Peter Foster**.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Motion

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

Hon Tjorn Sibma (North Metropolitan Region) (3:42 pm): I had been planning to take this opportunity a little earlier, however I think I was flummoxed and in a state of shock and disrepair after some earlier remarks I heard from another honourable member. It will go down as another of life's peak experiences throughout the course of the 41st Parliament, even as we are now at the tail end.

It is an opportunity and a privilege to resume debate on the occasion of the address provided by His Excellency on the commencement of the 42nd Parliament, and these speeches provided to the Governor by the government outlining the government's new agenda are valuable documents. They really are. They set the tone, they set the expectations and they set or establish the targets that the government is setting for itself. Of course, you only get in the position to set those targets if you win the election and I use this opportunity to congratulate WA Labor, and I congratulate Premier Hon Roger Cook on his victory. There are lessons to be learned, not only by ourselves in opposition or the Liberal Party, but I think all members equally. I think other people have made the observation that the Australian polity and the Western Australian polity are not what they used to be. We operate in a far more diverse and complex community than we have previously. There are challenges being faced by members of our community, which to some degree appear unsolvable or there are problems that are irremediable, and that is to a large degree driving some dissatisfaction with the policy offerings and the solutions presented by both major parties. I realise that. I recognise that. However, in contradiction of two remarks provided earlier today, I think there is a great deal of value in the effectively political duopoly, the two-party system. I think, frankly, the Labor Party and the coalition in government have provided the stability required for the nation to advance itself and for this state to advance itself.

Western Australia's economic prosperity is tied to our remarkable political stability. We do get focused on strange diversions, interesting occurrences, and we can be captivated and focused on that to a degree that I think loses insight and perspective over actually how well served this state has been by two major and established political blocks, which is not to say that either one of those blocks should ever become complacent about its capacity to deliver solutions for the community. We in the Liberal Party have to read the tea leaves—and we have been—but I think it is very easy sometimes to mock the loser in an electoral battle. It is very easy to cast aspersions and diminish and demean an opposition that has gone through a historical aberration. With some personal reflection, I say that the first 18 months of the term of the 41st Parliament for me, personally, were very difficult. I found it very difficult to come to Parliament. I found it very difficult to act as I needed to as a Liberal member for the North Metropolitan Region, being outnumbered as I was and being reflective enough to know that my ability or the ability of my colleagues to tangibly influence the outcome of any bill or any government policy was going to be very, very circumscribed to the point of being null. But that was not the case. I think the lesson learned from defeat, not only by myself but I am sure my colleagues, is that what we have to do is take it, for better or worse. We accept that we are going to enter into a democratic contest. Sometimes the deliberation, the outcome that the people wrought for us, is personally disappointing and deflating. If it is, we have to learn from it. The lesson is, despite our own feelings and misgivings, to keep going. We have a higher responsibility. We have a duty to uphold. We made a pledge and a promise. We put our names forward. Nobody put a gun to our heads. We are here, for better or for worse.

But it is true of people as it is true of governments that you develop an insight into their true character if they are given everything they want. If you want to see somebody's true personality, give them untold riches. If you want to see a government's true personality or character shine through, give it unfettered power. It has been an instructive period in the state's history. Never ever did I question the outcome of the 2021 election or any other election, including the recent election, but I did question the health of the democratic system in Western Australia over the course of the last four years. Overwhelming political majorities are not healthy. They are the outcome, but they are unhealthy. I am prepared to say it would be a terrible outcome as well for the state if the Nationals WA, the Liberal Party or the Greens ever found themselves in a position that they commanded majorities in both houses of Parliament, because that limits scrutiny and deliberation, and it also acts to constrain commentary and perspective outside Parliament. Western Australia, for good or ill, is a transactional town. That dimension or culture permeates corporate life. I know enough senior businessmen and businesswomen to know that they have had their misgivings

about state government policy in a range of domains, but have felt it unwise to object, certainly publicly, or to ever have had the temerity to question the then Premier, Hon Mark McGowan, in the first 18 months after the 2021 election. Mr McGowan was the paramount chief in all of Australian politics. He won that fair and square. He was the most powerful significant political figure this state and I think the nation has seen in its history. But where has all that power got us? What we saw in this chamber I have described previously as a vulgar display of power in some instances.

As the theme of this contribution, I will talk about the health of Western Australia's electoral system. Electoral law in this state was rewritten on four separate occasions in the course of the 41st Parliament. There were two very significant changes, one minor amendment and, frankly, one scurrilous change right at the end. The significant change was obviously the establishment of a one vote, one value electoral system for this chamber. That happened despite the then Premier's assurance during that previous campaign that such a concept was not on the government's agenda. In fact, I think he was doorstopped in Albany and on seven occasions in the same interview, the same line was given—not on our agenda, not on our agenda, not on our agenda, ad infinitum. But, as we observed, the election of Hon Wilson Tucker to this chamber was used as the pretext to have a change of heart or a change of policy, quite decidedly, and we understand what the outcome was.

The next significant change occurred somewhat after that and was a comprehensive reform of electoral law largely drafted by one individual, the now retired Hon John Quigley who, in addition to being the Attorney General, was for the 41st Parliament also the Minister for Electoral Affairs. In keeping with the output of that former member, it was a bit like the curate's egg: there were some good bits and some bad bits. The problem with that reform was that it emerged as a draft bill, largely as result of his own personal cogitations and consultations. That is to say the former minister more or less wrote that bill by himself without consulting, I think largely, most of his own colleagues, certainly without consulting substantially the interests or the observations of the Western Australian Electoral Commission, and certainly without consulting anyone in the opposition or any other party. There used to be a standard or a way of communicating or consulting on issues as significant and sensitive as electoral law. The practice used to be bipartisan or multipartisan consultation because, effectively, the rules of the democratic game are being written by which every participant must abide, and a person has to be reassured that those reforms are well justified and balanced and that they work in the long-term state interest and not necessarily just in one party's partisan interest. The former minister did not take that opportunity, largely, I surmise, because he did not need to. There was never any chance that his bill would be amended by this house because there was never any chance that a government member would support or move an amendment to that bill.

That bill had some meritorious elements and I have expressed that view previously and in more detail on those occasions. One of the material changes was the way in which improved financial disclosure arrangements were to be operationalised through the establishment of a real-time reporting mechanism; that is, the development of an online reporting platform. I will get to that later. Another change was subsequently made to that same act to tidy up some elements that were missed the first time. One of the presumed or identified loopholes was perhaps a provision for anonymous donors to operate in the system and not have to disclose the origin of funds. Obviously, that was a problematic issue and we supported that tidying up, but I made the observation at that time that perhaps if the then minister had taken the opportunity to consult in good faith and sit down with people who were knowledgeable, elements such as that could have been identified earlier on in the piece and he would not have had to effectively move a subsequent tidying up bill.

Towards the end of last year's sittings, there was a bill, effectively, to prevent the registration of a minor party using the name the Democratic Labour Party. That is now history. It was not so much an issue for the government when the Liberal Democrats were on the ballot paper in earlier elections. Any issues that the Liberal Party had around that potentially misleading voters did not exercise the interest of the then minister. Nevertheless, we are where we are.

Why have I outlined that? It is because, as all members are aware, the government has appointed Hon Malcolm McCusker to lead an independent inquiry into the conduct of the recent election, and that is a positive move. Hon Malcolm McCusker is a man of high repute, intellect, integrity and is very knowledgeable and will provide, I think, a very useful report. I will reflect on observations of the conduct of the election itself. What the terms of reference that that inquiry has been given overlooks is the organisational fitness of the Western Australian Electoral Commission to conduct that election in light of the significant changes to the electoral law that preceded the state election. I am not looking to lead that inquiry, in terms of its evidence or outcomes, and I am not seeking to provide the Electoral Commission with any alibi, especially not because we have in this jurisdiction fixed four-year terms. Everybody knows when the state election will be held, so we would expect peak performance. It is the Olympics of the democratic system. We have four years, and we know the date it is on so we can get ready. That was not evident. I will reflect on some of the observations that I personally have made, and others. I do not think it was helpful to either the Electoral Commission or the Electoral Commissioner that, in parallel with making preparations for the conduct of the state election, it was also attempting to implement, effectively, the changes brought by ex-

minister John Quigley. I think there are some reasonable views to be made about whether or not the Electoral Commission was appropriately funded and resourced to undertake that.

I wish to reflect on some personal observations and oddities around the actual conduct of the pre-poll at the recent election. There was a failure to deliver pre-poll locations in a number of seats, yet, strangely there were instances in which, effectively, joint pre-polls were enabled in certain locations. One that I spent a fair bit of time at was the Carine/Kingsley pre-poll booth in the suburb of Warwick. There was also a joint booth for Joondalup and Hillarys, but that level of service provision was not enjoyed in other seats. There were also some really weirdly almost co-located booths. For example, the pre-poll location for the seat of Scarborough was off Scarborough Beach Road in Osborne Park. In the same commercial complex, however, around the corner—I forget the name of the street—was the pre-poll location for the seat of Churchlands. There were all these kinds of inconsistencies. Some seats were not served at all, others benefited from a joint location and others were outside their own electorate but around the corner from the other electorate. It seemed to make very little sense. I understand from the pre-poll location in Bunbury that 12,000 votes were cast but half of those seemed to be for the seat of Collie–Preston. People were travelling across large locations in some instances.

I appreciate that running a state election with 59 seats across a broad landmass can sometimes pose logistical challenges. However, I thought that that result, frankly, was not good enough just on that metric alone, and I cannot appreciate why that was. I can surmise, and I am only surmising at this stage because we do not yet have the report from His Honour Malcolm McCusker that, potentially, the Western Australian Electoral Commission or, perhaps, PersolKelly, benefiting from an $86 million contract, did not go out and book those locations far enough in advance. I do not know when those bookings were made. I appreciate that sometimes there are challenges finding amenable landlords and that sometimes those landlords take into consideration the feelings of surrounding businesses and the like and what that can do to a commercial premises in a car park and everything else. I thought the advantage of moving to fixed four-year terms was to ameliorate any number of logistical challenges that the Electoral Commission used to face when the calling of an election was the subject of some mystery and speculation. Frankly, on that result alone, we should be deeply troubled. There is a multipartisan whole-of-chamber view that the integrity and the professionalism of the conduct of elections in Western Australia should be sacrosanct and that one of the things that we need to get right is to ensure that people can access reasonably and sensibly located pre-poll locations.

I appreciate as well that in this particular instance we benefited from a less generous pre-poll period of two weeks compared with the prior, I think, three weeks for the 2017 election, if I remember correctly. My personal view—it is a personal view only—is that perhaps even two weeks is even generous. I would prefer us to move to have one week of pre-polling, perhaps with some extended hours, but that is it. I think that would perhaps have some benefits. Frankly, despite some weird theories that we heard about on polling booths, I can attest that no-one in the Liberal Party gets paid to work as a volunteer on a polling booth and I do not think that many in the Labor Party do either. Supplementary people might assist, but that is a different issue. However, for the purposes of running grassroots elections, particularly on the conservative side, we call upon a volunteer base who give up time, energy, time with the family, work commitments and the like to stand underneath a hot, belting sun.

It also requires a lot of unnecessary pack up and pack down of election campaign paraphernalia and the like. I would like to see us move to a situation in which we more sensibly understand that people need some flexibility in their voting options. That can be done by postal vote applications. Those applications can be made after the writs are issued, with perhaps one week of lead-in time provided for someone to cast their ballot in person if they are not able to do so on the day but that is it. To reflect upon an earlier contribution, not made in this house but in conversation with a prior member, Hon Michael Mischin, I think sometimes we lurch into commodifying a person's vote. On occasion, we diminish or demean the importance of casting a ballot because, frankly, it is the only tangible voice that an individual ever has to potentially really influence the way government and policy is conducted in the jurisdiction in which they live.

A uniform consistent level of disappointment was expressed by very senior government members in Hon Rita Saffioti and Hon John Carey as to the conduct of the election. Hon Shane Love was absolutely right in coming out and very seriously criticising the Western Australian Electoral Commission's performance and the contracting out of certain services to the firm PersolKelly at a cost of $86 million to undertake the staffing arrangements. I might reflect a little on that dimension in the time available.

After the election—this is not self-regarding in any way; I think it is just a statement of fact—I was one of the very few Liberal members of Parliament who was likely to continue and was prepared to go public and speak to a topic other than what happened to us personally at the election but the conduct of the election itself. I presently have a petition in the electronic petitions system, which is live—I think some 3,500 people are signatories to it—that reflected on the conduct of the election, noting a range of allegations, including shortages of ballot papers, the redirection of voters to alternative polling locations, improper requests made of scrutineers and incorrect advice to voters on how to complete a ballot paper. That is why I reflected on all the changes to the Electoral Act preceding

it, because I think there was potentially a measure of confusion among Electoral Commission staff and volunteer staff about how to fill in a ballot paper.

Undertrained staff failing to identify electors on the electoral roll was another issue. Staff were ignorant of the fact that members in two houses of Parliament would be elected and there were two ballot papers for differing purposes. There was confusion as to why that would be done and what purpose it would serve. I have also heard some very interesting tales from scrutineers, not in terms of their conduct or rapport with other party volunteer scrutineers but verbatim reports of electoral staff asking, "What are you doing here? What are you interested in? Why do you check what I'm doing?" Some of these questions can be well intentioned but, frankly, sometimes naivety sends a chill through my blood. I do not like feeling that way, but I felt that way too frequently as a consequence of the election.

The petition that the department hosts, which I will table, calls for the establishment of a joint standing committee into electoral matters to reflect upon a range of issues, including the conduct of the recent election. To some degree, the issue of the last election, the utilisation of PersolKelly, the reasons why, the terms of that contract and what opportunity a government might have within its grasp to rescind that contract so what we witnessed recently is not repeated at the 2029 election to some degree have been jumped over. I think the Premier made the right call in establishing that committee. It was also a result of a joint letter signed by the leaders of all participating political parties in this state asking that the matter be interrogated. I think the Premier made the right decision. We can draw some confidence from the fact that we actually have a shared interest in upholding the integrity of the system that we rely upon. I can say all of this from the losing side and not cast a shadow of a doubt on the actual outcome. I want to disabuse anyone from thinking to the contrary because these people now seem to be multiplying, disabuse any one of the tinfoil hat brigade from thinking there was a conspiracy to undermine the conduct of the election. That is not what I am saying. I am saying that the performance of the Electoral Commission and its contracted staff was absolutely not good enough at all.

However, I must say—this is no reflection on this chamber or any individual in it or the other chamber—I do not think the Parliament has been good enough in keeping and holding the Electoral Commission to account because, unfortunately, the situation that we saw in March had a resonance with observations made in earlier elections. I refer to report 2 of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee into the conduct of the 2017 WA state election, tabled in February 2018. It is an article of its time. For example, it made some observations about the shortage of ballot papers, the appropriateness of pre-poll locations and the like, which still seem to bedevil our system. That report made a concerning observation and a sensible suggestion. Despite its long preamble, paragraph 3 of chapter 1 states:

> No Western Australian electoral commissioner appeared before a parliamentary committee to discuss the conduct of an election prior to 2012.

In the period of time that I have been in this house, I cannot recall—I might be wrong—an instance in which the Electoral Commissioner has been called to account for the performance, resourcing, needs or priorities of the Western Australian Electoral Commission.

Because we are sometimes lambasted as being the people who just complain and whinge endlessly and ceaselessly and what have you, asking when we are going to make a positive policy suggestion, well, I am going to make a suggestion now. I do not think it is controversial; I actually think it is quite helpful. I am conscious of the time and commitments I have given, so I will finish at the appropriate spot.

Here is an opportunity, I think, for the Parliament, not necessarily to create a new committee, but perhaps to look at the terms of reference among its relevant standing committees and make explicit reference—I might be missing some history here and that is okay—from this time forward that another job of one of the committees would be to inquire and report upon electoral affairs in the state of Western Australia. That reference should be made explicitly. Such explicit reference is made in the constellation of other standing committees across the Australian land mass in the jurisdictions of Tasmania, New South Wales, Victoria and, of course, federally. The terms of reference would not necessarily need to be narrowcasted just to look how an election was conducted but could be more forward-looking and anticipate potential problems. The committee could also have an expanded role of looking at the quality of civics education in Western Australia, for example. It could look at engaging with new committee members, particularly those whose citizenship has only been conferred upon them rather recently. It could look at the appropriate resourcing and structure. It could look again at things like how postal vote applications are managed. Was the recent legislative change prescribing handling by political parties of PVAs actually a policy win? I suggest it was not because, again, to reflect upon this, and finding a strange and unexpected resonance with my defence of the two-party system in this jurisdiction in this country, it provides the solidity and stability that it needs to prosper. The established political parties have undertaken a public service in getting those postal vote applications out to people. I would like to see the data, when it is returned, on the PVA uptake rate at this election, because I was hearing, not only from a state director, others in other parties with similar experiences of the electoral commission asking those registered parties whether they could promulgate the fact that they could apply for a postal vote on a party website. I thought the problem we were trying to avoid was of any political party having any

involvement in promoting the utilisation of that service. I found it disconcerting, alarming, ugly and strangely comical all at same time. However, we will get back to the point. We are objects, subjects and custodians of Western Australia's electoral system. I am pleased that Hon Malcolm McCusker will interrogate the conduct of the election, but I think we need to be guarded against the view that the tabling of that report is the end of the matter—either the end of the matter in terms of what really went on and why—and the Parliament has no role or no need to inquire into the health and the ongoing professionalism of the electoral system. I do not think that that is a healthy disposition or position to maintain.

The terms of reference of the inquiry are reasonable; however, I would like to see at least one thing, and I think the government has the gift to do it, particularly if the Attorney General is able to effectively appraise the Premier to grant a waiver. I would love to see the terms of the PersolKelly contract. I hope that document is provided to the inquiry, I hope it seeks access to that document and I hope that document is published in a way that renders it useful for public consumption. I appreciate that there might be some caveated issues, but generally speaking it will get to the process of the tender award. Who was on the panel that made that decision and why? Was there somebody at the WA Electoral Commission who could effectively have been the project manager to the contractor, ensuring that that contractor was delivering on agreed milestones? Who was that person? Did they do the job? Were they able to do their job? What guarantee could one have that this kind of arrangement is worth persevering with? I seriously have my doubts. I am entrenched enough as a person of a politically, not socially, conservative disposition to respect existing contracts, but, frankly, the perpetuation of this kind of performance imperils the integrity of the Western Australian electoral system. In order to have a clean slate and a fresh start we should see that contract. I do not think there is necessarily anything enfeebling or restricting the Minister for Electoral Affairs in consultation with the Attorney General and the Premier in making that document publicly available. I do not think there would be any political problem for them to do so because, as I understand it, senior government members have been explicit in saying that the decision to award that contract was made at arm's length from any cabinet member, and I think that is right. That should have been the case. However, that being said, there is absolutely no need to withhold that contract for any longer than is necessary, and I can say that without imperilling or impugning PersolKelly because aside from, I thought, a disappointing public statement, it should also be given the opportunity in the course of that inquiry and in a more public forum to be held to account for its performance.

I made an observation during the course of this contribution that perhaps we should investigate where electoral matters might be more explicitly interrogated and scrutinised through one of our existing committees, bearing in mind the constraints that affect the resourcing of this house and the fact that it is a new composition in the 42nd Parliament and its plurality is likely to give up all manner of potential calls for the establishment of select committees. I propose that the Public Accounts Committee have its terms of reference amended in a way that makes explicit its capacity to interrogate and call a witness, the Electoral Commissioner or any other officer of the Western Australian Electoral Commission and to investigate and interrogate matters concerning electoral affairs in the state of Western Australia as it sees fit.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Hon Peter Foster**.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

The President: Members, noting the time, are there any questions?

WOMEN'S AND BABIES' HOSPITAL

122. Hon Peter Collier to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health Infrastructure:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's decision to construct and co-locate the new women's and babies' hospital at the Fiona Stanley Hospital site and the subsequent signing of a letter of intent to progress negotiations for a managing contract.

(1) Was the decision to move to the next stage of negotiations with joint venture partners Roberts Co and Webuild at the FSH site supported by:

  (a) a full scope of works and designs;

  (b) a detailed business case; and

  (c) a project definition plan for the FSH?

(2) If no to (1)(a), (b) or (c), on what basis can the government justify the associated construction costs and decision to build at the new site?

(3) If yes to (1)(a), (b) or (c), will the government table the business case and project definition plan for the FSH site and, if not, why not?

Hon Stephen Dawson replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for some notice of the question. I provide this answer on behalf of the Minister for Health Infrastructure.

(1)–(3) Negotiations are part of a live procurement process. Appropriate due diligence is always undertaken and updates on the progress of the hospital will be made in due course.

POLICE—RECRUIT APPLICATIONS

123. Hon Peter Collier to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

(1) How many recruit applications were received to join the Western Australia Police Force in 2024?

(2) Of those referred to in (1), how many were:

(a) men;

(b) women; and

(c) other?

(3) Of those referred to in (1), how many of the following graduated:

(a) men;

(b) women; and

(c) other?

Hon Matthew Swinbourn replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The Minister for Police has provided me with the following.

I thank the honourable member for this question. The Western Australia Police Force has advised that a response to the member's question will require a significant number of resources and time to collate. A response will be provided on Wednesday 21 May 2025.

LIVE EXPORT—SHEEP INDUSTRY

124. Hon Colin de Grussa to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the federal government's live sheep export ban and recent media reports of a Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry draft document outlining the expected assistance to be provided to the industry.

(1) Is the minister aware of this document and, if so, has she been briefed on it?

(2) If yes to (1), does this document disclose that the assistance being provided is inadequate?

(3) Has the minister or the WA government undertaken any analysis to assess the required economic assistance to the sheep industry during the proposed transition?

(4) If yes to (2), will the minister table this analysis and has this analysis been provided to the federal government?

Hon Jackie Jarvis replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

(1)–(4) I am aware that a draft internal document from the federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has been circulated. Our government has been advocating for more support for our state's farmers throughout this process. I will continue to work with industry and advocate on its behalf for certainty and a sustainable future for Western Australian producers.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS—STUDENT SUSPENSIONS

125. Hon Tjorn Sibma to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Education:

I refer to the number of suspensions and exclusions in public schools provided in response to my question of 29 April.

(1) How many of the suspensions and exclusions cited fell into each of the suspension and exclusion categories used by the department?

(2) How many sites hosted the department's alternative learning settings program in 2024?

(3) How many students participated in the alternative learning settings program in 2024?

Hon Stephen Dawson replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Department of Education advises the following.

(1) Due to recent system changes, suspension data for 2024, including by category, is yet to be finalised.

(2) There were 12.

(3) There were 229.

HEALTH—CHILD SPECIALISTS—RECRUITMENT

126. Hon Donna Faragher to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the article in *The West Australian* titled "Amber Jade Sanderson says paediatrics is 'emotionally draining', as WA tries to recruit more child specialists", which states:

> … the Government had put in a range of measures to meet increased child development demand, including funding almost 100 extra staffing positions in the last budget. Of those, 48 have been filled.

(1) Have all staffing positions now been filled and, if not, how many have been filled to date?

(2) Can the minister provide a breakdown, by position and FTE, of all staffing positions that have been filled?

Hon Pierre Yang replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following has been provided by the Minister for Health.

(1) There have been 91.5 FTEs.

(2) As of 31 March 2025, there have been 65.9 clinical administration FTEs, 17.7 clinical administration FTEs and 7.9 non-clinical support FTEs.

FIREARMS—OWNER HEALTH CHECKS

127. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

I refer to the government's opaque firearms laws and to the minister's answers to my questions without notice 65 and 97 asked this week.

(1) In what precise form will the outcome of a health assessment by a general practitioner be transmitted to the Western Australia Police Force?

(2) Has WAPOL or the government deployed a standard template GP response and, if so, will the minister please table such?

(3) Will the GP be required to simply support or oppose the granting of a firearms licence—that is, say yes or no—without providing any reasons to WAPOL?

(4) What exact guidance did the government provide to the medical profession to help GPs determine whether their recommendations should be yes or no?

(5) What criteria will GPs use to determine whether they will recommend supporting or opposing the granting of a firearms licence?

Hon Matthew Swinbourn replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Police.

(1) Upon completion of the Western Australian firearm authority health assessment, the health practitioner submits the outcome only by accessing the WA Police Force firearms online health assessment website.

(2) See the attached tabled paper 1.

(3) Health practitioners provide advice to the Western Australia Police Force on part C of the tabled paper, indicating one of the following options:

a) Meets the relevant firearm authority health standard without conditions

b) Meets the relevant firearm authority health standard with conditions …

…

c) Does not meet the relevant firearm authority health standard

(4) Guidance notes for health practitioners on the firearm authority health assessment have been published on the Western Australian Government website and is attached as tabled paper 2.

(5) They are the physical and mental attributes required in using a firearm as per parts A and B of the health assessment and the guidance notes.

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SURVEY PROGRAM

128. Hon Neil Thomson to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

I refer to the Aboriginal Heritage Survey Program managed by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

(1) What progress has been made in regard to this program?

(2) Have any surveys been commissioned?

(3) If yes to (2):

(a) which locations have been surveyed; and

(b) what amount has been paid for each survey?

(4) What procurement process is used to commission the survey?

Hon Stephen Dawson replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

(1) As at 1 May 2025, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage has received 32 applications.

(2) Yes.

(3) (a) A survey has been completed for Mount Augustus Road around Landor Station in the Shire of Upper Gascoyne and a survey for Thundelarra Station in the Shire of Yalgoo is scheduled for late June.

(b) One contract was awarded for $68,963.40 and the other contract was awarded for $107,319.17.

(4) A panel contract for the provision of Aboriginal heritage survey services has been awarded in accordance with the WA procurement rules. Any services procured outside of the panel contract will be in accordance with the rules.

HOMELESSNESS—OLDER WOMEN

129. Hon Sophia Moermond to the Minister for Homelessness:

I refer to report 88 from the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations titled *Funding of homelessness services in Western Australia*.

(1) How has the government addressed recommendation 12 of the report, which recommended that the Department of Communities develop priority actions targeting the prevention of, and early intervention in, homelessness for older women?

(2) How is the minister addressing couch surfing and those who may not be represented in official statistics?

Hon Matthew Swinbourn replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The member asked a very broad question, so the answer is somewhat longish.

(1)–(2) In the 2024–25 financial year, the state government announced a boost to homelessness services, with close to an additional $140 million in homelessness funding to ensure the continuation of 120 critical homelessness services across Western Australia. Older people, particularly older women, are recognised as a priority cohort under the *All Paths Lead to a Home: Western Australia's 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness 2020–2030*. The Department of Communities seeks to deliver social housing to a silver level standard—that is, a Livable Housing Australia standard—where practical, ensuring that it is accessible and adaptable and will better meet the changing needs of occupants over time, including older women.

Housing First Support Services has been critical in supporting rough sleepers into permanent accommodation and providing them with the case management and supports they need to sustain their tenancies. Communities remains committed to collaborating across government and with the community services sector to identify streamlined ways to support people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including those who are couch surfing.

On 31 March this year, the government launched Find My Way, an online homelessness portal providing information on homelessness services, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and has been designed to reach those who are not already connected with homelessness services.

When homelessness in older women may be due to family and domestic violence, the state government has an election commitment to significantly boost refuge capacity in both Geraldton and Albany and a commitment to fund new Safe at Home programs.

MURUJUGA ROCK ART—MONITORING PROGRAM

130. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Minister for the Environment:

I refer to the 2023–24 Murujuga rock art monitoring program report and question without notice 1607, asked on 28 November 2024.

(1) Why has the report not been released, given that the answer to question without notice 1607 states it would be published in early 2025?

(2) Does the minister still intend to publish it and, if so, when?

(3) Has a copy been provided to Woodside prior to its public release?

(4) If yes to (3), why has it not been published, as stated in the answer given to question without notice 1607?

Hon Matthew Swinbourn replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

(1) Question without notice 1607 states that the 2024 technical monitoring studies report will be published following completion of the essential peer review process. The report will be published alongside several supporting documents.

(2) Yes, the report and supporting documents will be published in mid-2025.

(3) No.

(4) Not applicable.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2024

131. Hon Dr Brian Walker to the minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

I refer the minister to the consultation exercise currently underway for the Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations 2024, scheduled to conclude next week. I have been approached by a number of local governments in recent weeks complaining that the time for consideration of any concerns they might have is woefully short, given that the regulations will come into force in early July.

Will the minister delay the implementation of the regulations to allow her department to properly digest and implement feedback from local governments and the Western Australian Local Government Association, thus confirming that the consultation exercise itself is meaningful?

Hon Jackie Jarvis replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

The following response has been provided by the Minister for Local Government.

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries advises that consultation on the draft regulations is open until 8 May 2025. Once closed, DLGSC will review the submissions and provide options to the Minister for Local Government.

STATE ELECTION—LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL VOTES

132. Hon Martin Aldridge to the minister representing the Minister for Electoral Affairs:

I refer to the conduct of the recent general election.

(1) What was the Western Australian Electoral Commission's target rate for informality of Legislative Council votes?

(2) What was the rate of informality recorded for Legislative Council votes?

(3) Did the commission engage in a public education program to advise voters of new reforms to Legislative Council voting and, if so, what form did this program take?

(4) If yes to (3), what was the cost of the program?

Hon Matthew Swinbourn replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Electoral Affairs.

(1) It was below 1.5%.

(2) It was 2.92%.

(3)–(4) Yes, communications included an advertising campaign, information materials available from the commission, social media and direct community engagement. As this was one aspect of a broad range of communications activity, it is not possible to assign a cost to this particular objective.

ELECTRONIC MONITORING—BAIL CONDITIONS

133. Hon Nick Goiran to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:

I refer to your answer to my question without notice on 29 April 2025 regarding the statement published in *The West Australian* on 15 April 2025, in which a government spokeswoman claimed that the Attorney General received an assurance from Chief Magistrate Heath that alleged offenders captured by new mandatory GPS tracking laws would not be granted bail if deemed a risk to the victim or community.

(1) Was such an assurance given in the telephone conversation between the Attorney General and the Chief Magistrate on 15 April 2025?

(2) If not, who was the government spokeswoman who provided the information that led to the false publication in the media that same day?

Hon Dan Caddy replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

(1)–(2) The application of the *Bail Act 1982* to family violence offenders who are subject to mandatory electronic monitoring was discussed, and there was concurrence that the existing requirements of the Bail Act 1982 continue to apply to the relevant accused.

LIVE EXPORT TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PACKAGE

134. Hon Steve Martin to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the Labor government's live export transition assistance package.

(1) Is the minister aware of the details of the new long-term strategy to build confidence and shape a direction for the sheep, meat and wool industries referred to in a leaked draft document from the federal department of agriculture?

(2) Can the minister outline how the $5 million allocated to create this plan will be spent?

(3) Is the minister aware of the range of potentially expensive priorities, beyond the scope of the $5 million allocated, identified in the leaked document?

Hon Jackie Jarvis replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

(1) I am aware that a draft internal document from the federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has been circulated.

(2)–(3) Transition decisions, including the allocation of funding, are a matter for the Commonwealth government.

EASTERN GOLDFIELDS REGIONAL PRISON

135. Hon Peter Collier to the minister representing the Minister for Corrective Services:

(1) What is the allocated staffing profile for Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison?

(2) What is the current staffing profile for Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison?

(3) How many staff at Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison are currently on:

(i) sick leave; and

(ii) personal leave?

Hon Matthew Swinbourn replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

The following has been provided to me by the Minister for Corrective Services.

Leave granted for the following material to be incorporated.

(1) As at 31 March 2025:

Occupation Group	Approved FTE
Public Servant	32
Prison Officers Custodial + VSO	158
Nurses/Medical Practitioner	9

(2) As at 31 March 2025:

Occupation Group	Substantive FTE
Public Servant	25
Prison Officers Custodial + VSO	145.2
Nurses/Medical Practitioner	7

(3) As at 1 May 2025, Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison confirms seven staff are absent due to personal leave.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS—TEACHERS

136. Hon Tjorn Sibma to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Education:

I refer to public schools in Western Australia.

(1) How many teachers by FTE are presently employed to teach in the WA public school system?

(2) Is it the case that there is currently a teacher employed for every class in WA public schools?

(3) If no to (2), what is the total number of unfilled classroom teaching positions in WA public schools?

(4) If (3) cannot be answered, how does the department monitor the number of positions that need to be filled across its schools?

Hon Stephen Dawson replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

The Department of Education has advised the Minister for Education that additional time is required to ensure the data is correct. The minister's office will provide the answer to the honourable member's office as soon as practical and will also provide the response to the house on the next sitting day.

COMMUNITY KINDERGARTENS

137. Hon Donna Faragher to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Education:

I refer to community kindergartens operating in Western Australia.

(1) Will the minister provide a breakdown of the total amount of funding allocated to each community kindergarten in 2025 for:

(a) operational grant funding;

(b) staffing costs;

(c) linked school administration support; and

(d) any other costs not listed above?

Hon Stephen Dawson replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

Leave granted for the following material to be incorporated.

(1) (a)–(b)

Community Kindergarten	**(a) 2025 Grant (1)**	**(b) Salaries: Teacher and EA**	**(c) Admin Support for Linked Schools**	**Total 2025 Funding (2) (3)**
Albany Community Kindergarten	$17,149.00	$125,149.12	$20,337.97	$162,636.09
Bullsbrook Community Kindergarten	$19,359.00	$250,298.24	$20,337.97	$289,995.21
Byford Community Kindergarten	$17,669.00	$125,149.12	$20,337.97	$163,156.09
Eastern Hills Community Kindergarten (4)	$16,759.00	$125,149.12	$20,337.97	$162,246.09
Glen Forrest Community Kindergarten	$18,709.00	$250,298.24	$20,337.97	$289,345.21
Hazel Orme Community Kindergarten	$20,399.00	$250,298.24	$20,337.97	$291,035.21
Hillarys Community Kindergarten	$19,619.00	$250,298.24	$20,337.97	$290,255.21
Kindaimanna Community Kindergarten	$16,759.00	$125,149.12	$20,337.97	$162,246.09
Lockyer Community Kindergarten	$36,326.00	$500,596.48	$20,337.97	$557,260.45
Lower King Community Kindergarten	$17,279.00	$125,149.12	$20,337.97	$162,766.09
McDougall Park Community Kindergarten	$19,619.00	$250,298.24	$20,337.97	$290,255.21

Mullaloo Community Kindergarten	$20,009.00	$250,298.24	$20,337.97	$290,645.21
Padbury Community Kindergarten	$20,529.00	$250,298.24	$20,337.97	$291,165.21
Pineview Community Kindergarten	$17,279.00	$125,149.12	$20,337.97	$162,766.09
Rossmoyne Community Kindergarten	$19,229.00	$250,298.24	$20,337.97	$289,865.21
Seaview Community Kindergarten	$19,359.00	$250,298.24	$20,337.97	$289,995.21
Spring Road Community Kindergarten	$17,929.00	$125,149.12	$20,337.97	$163,416.09
Tuart Hill Community Kindergarten	$17,929.00	$125,149.12	$20,337.97	$163,416.09
Total	**$351,909.00**	**$3,754,473.60**	**$366,083.46**	**$4,472,466.06**

(1) The grant is paid in two instalments following the February and August census. The 2025 grants in the table above are based on the February 2025 census. Some minor changes to the second instalment may be made if the August census varies from the February census.

(2) Some in-kind Departmental resources are applied to administering the community kindergarten program which are not easily quantifiable and not included in the Total 2025 Funding.

(3) Funding in this table excludes employee costs paid centrally.

(4) The Eastern Hills Community Kindergarten and Playgroup has reopened for the 2025 calendar year following completion of its capital works upgrade.

PFAS—DARDANUP AND FORRESTFIELD

138. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the Minister for the Environment:

I refer to the approval granted recently by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to the operators of a South West landfill site to accept per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS.

(1) What is the maximum concentration of PFAS in waste that will be able to be accepted by the Dardanup site?

(2) What is the maximum concentration of the component chemicals of PFAS that can be accepted by the site?

(3) What is the concentration of PFAS in soil extracted from the Forrestfield–Airport Link project and stockpiled by the government at 777 Abernethy Road, Forrestfield?

(4) How long can the government store Forrestfield–Airport Link soil on the temporary sites before it is considered a waste?

Hon Matthew Swinbourn replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. I am not sure I will thank him for all the words that I am going to mispronounce, but I will give it my best shot.

(1)–(2) The amended licence for Cleanaway Solid Waste Pty Ltd's Banksia Road putrescible landfill in Dardanup sets the following maximum concentrations for special waste type 3, which is solid waste impacted by perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS. For the sum of perfluorooctane sulfonate and perfluorohexane sulfonate, the concentration limit is 50 milligrams per kilogram and the leachable concentration is 0.7 micrograms per litre. For perfluorooctanoic acid, the concentration limit is 50 milligrams per kilogram and the leachable concentration is 5.6 micrograms per litre. Waste must meet both the concentration limit and the leachable concentration. The specified maximum concentrations are those recommended in the 2025 *PFAS National Environmental Management Plan 3.0*.

(3) The concentrations of PFAS in the soil are below the human health and ecological assessment criteria in the national environmental management plan. The most commonly detected PFAS compound in the Forrestfield–Airport Link project's excess fill is perfluorooctane sulfonate, of which the highest concentration measured has been 0.007 milligrams per kilogram.

(4) The Public Transport Authority has advised that it does not consider the material to be waste. As set out in the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's *Fact sheet—Assessing whether material is waste*, it is the responsibility of the person in possession of material to determine whether it is waste or not.

WHADJUK ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

139. Hon Neil Thomson to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

I refer to the minister's answer to question without notice 110 in which he confirmed that threats on land use work are not acceptable.

(1) What steps have been taken to ensure there is clarity in the community about the responsibilities under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*?

(2) Is there any process underway in the minister's agencies to examine new reforms to the legislation or regulatory framework?

(3) If yes, what are they; and:

(a) when will they be outlined to the community; and

(b) given the gravity of the concerns on governance of the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation, has any referral been made to any authority including but not limited to the Corruption and Crime Commission?

Hon Stephen Dawson replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

(1) The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage engages with and provides advice.

(2)–(3) (a) No.

(b) The trustee is dealing with the matters in consultation with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations.

PFAS CONTAMINATION—DARDANUP

140. Hon Sophia Moermond to the Minister for the Environment:

This has some overlap with Hon Dr Steve Thomas's question.

I refer to an article published on the ABC website on Tuesday titled "Dardanup locals 'gutted' over approval of toxic PFAS disposal at local tip".

(1) Has the department heard objections from the Shire of Dardanup regarding the approval of a licence amendment that will allow for waste contaminated with PFAS to be buried at the landfill?

(2) Is the department aware of local concerns surrounding the changes, particularly in regard to the protection of the local water supply?

(3) Can the department assure those concerned that there will be no health risks from the changes?

Hon Matthew Swinbourn replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The department advises the following.

(1)–(3) Yes.

KARIJINI NATIONAL PARK—WATER LEVELS

141. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Water:

I refer to an ABC article from Tuesday 29 April titled "Tourism operator calls for investigation into water levels at Karijini National Park".

(1) Has the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation conducted, or does it intend to conduct, any evaluations on the impacts of current water entitlements on Karijini National Park's inland water systems?

(2) If no to (1), why not?

(3) If yes to (1), what evaluations are conducted, and will the minister please table these studies?

(4) How does DWER consider cumulative impacts on aquifers in this region when considering a water licence application?

Hon Stephen Dawson replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

(1) Yes.

(2) Not applicable.

(3)–(4) Water licences include conditions for monitoring potential impacts of groundwater abstraction and conditions to report all monitoring results to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. DWER reviews monitoring data and reporting to establish if any impacts or adverse trends exist. Proponents are expected to consider water abstraction from existing users in the hydrogeological studies they are required to undertake in support of water licence applications. Cumulative draw of water from

an aquifer is considered as part of the licence assessment process in the setting of monitoring and reporting frameworks of such developments.

PRACTICE DIRECTION 1 OF 2020

142. Hon Nick Goiran to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:

I refer to Magistrates Court of Western Australia practice direction 1 of 2020, which removed constituting a court from the role of justices of the peace.

(1) Who was consulted prior to the issuance of this practice direction?

(2) Has the Attorney General received any complaints regarding this practice direction?

(3) When was the practice direction last reviewed?

(4) What judicial functions are JPs currently authorised to perform in Western Australia?

Hon Dan Caddy replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. I read the answer provided by the Attorney General.

(1) Practice direction 1 of 2020 was issued by the Chief Magistrate. The issuance of practice directions is a matter for the Chief Magistrate and it is not appropriate for the Attorney General to comment on practice directions.

(2) The current Attorney General has not received any complaints regarding this practice direction.

(3) Refer to part (1).

(4) Justices of the peace can currently perform the judicial functions of signing search warrants and can be appointed as a visiting justice in Western Australian prisons.

FIREARMS ACT

143. Hon Martin Aldridge to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

I refer to the implementation of the *Firearms Act 2024* and the first full month since regulations came into force at the end of March 2025.

(1) How many licences were identified for transition in April?

(2) Of those identified in (1), how many licences have transitioned to date?

(3) As a result of the transitions that have occurred to date, how many firearms have been surrendered or removed from licences?

Hon Matthew Swinbourn replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided by the Minister for Police.

(1)–(2) From 31 March 2025 to 28 April 2025, 18,244 transition letters have been issued and 4,545 firearms licence holders have begun to transition to the new firearm arrangements.

(3) The Western Australia Police Force is currently unable to accurately advise on the number of firearms that have been surrendered or removed from individual firearms licence holders. Currently, the process of surrendering and transitioning firearms licence holders is manual and involves coordination among police station staff, the licensing services firearm transition team, and firearm buyback staff. This complexity makes it difficult to obtain the data the member seeks in the time that is available.

LIVE EXPORT TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PACKAGE

144. Hon Steve Martin to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the Labor government's live export transition assistance package.

(1) Has the minister seen or been made aware of the leaked draft document from the federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry referring to details of the assistance package?

(2) Does the minister agree with the draft document, which notes that the $15 million to be spent developing satellite feedlots and confinement feeding may have "insufficient funds to make a strategic difference"?

(3) Will the minister be urging her federal colleagues to increase the funding so that it makes a strategic difference to the WA sheep industry?

Hon Jackie Jarvis replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

(1)–(3) I am aware that a draft internal document from the federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has been circulated. Our government has been advocating for more support for our state's farmers throughout this process. I will continue to work with industry and advocate on its behalf for certainty and a sustainable future for WA producers.

POLICE—OFFICERS—TEMPORARY HOLDINGS

145. Hon Peter Collier to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

(1) How many police officers are currently in temporary holdings?

(2) Of those referred to in (1), how many are:

(i) men;

(ii) women; and

(iii) other?

Hon Matthew Swinbourn replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following has been provided to me by the Minister for Police.

I thank the honourable member for his question. The Western Australia Police Force have advised that a response to the member's question will require a significant number of resources and time to collate. A response will be provided on Wednesday 21 May 2025.

MACHINERY-OF-GOVERNMENT CHANGES

146. Hon Tjorn Sibma to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

My question is from 29 April. I refer to the machinery-of-government changes announced on 31 March.

(1) Noting the reported termination settlement payable to the former Director General of the Department of Finance, how many other senior executive positions at relevant agencies have been or are likely to be impacted by these changes?

(2) Please provide details and associated costs in relation to the above.

Hon Stephen Dawson replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer is provided on behalf of the Premier.

(1)–(2) The Public Sector Commissioner is searching nationwide for new directors general of four departments, as well as the state's new Under Treasurer. Further information will be made available as these positions are filled.

EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY—MOUNT LAWLEY SITE—REDEVELOPMENT

147. Hon Donna Faragher to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Planning and Lands:

I refer to the answer provided to question without notice 378, asked on 7 May 2024, regarding the initial engagement and survey of surrounding residents and businesses to gauge community views on the ECU Mount Lawley campus site.

(1) How many surveys were distributed as part of this community engagement?

(2) How many completed surveys were returned from:

(a) residents;

(b) businesses; and

(c) others?

Hon Stephen Dawson replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

(1) There were 8,650.

(2) There were 312 respondents, of whom:

(a) 100% of respondents were residents;

(b) 20% of respondents indicated they managed a business; and

(c) not applicable.

PUBLIC SECTOR REFORMS

148. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the McGowan government's machinery-of-government changes announced in April 2017 and implemented across a number of government departments, which have now been replaced by the newly elected government's 2025 public sector reform announced just over a month ago.

(1) What was the final cost of the 2017 machinery-of-government changes by financial year from 2017–18 to date and in total across the period?

(2) What was the quantum of savings registered by the government from the 2017 machinery-of-government changes by financial year from 2017–18 to date and across the period in total?

(3) What is the expected cost of the government's 2025 public sector reform?

(4) What are the expected savings from the government's 2025 public sector reform?

Hon Stephen Dawson replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I also thank him for his entertainment on Thursday afternoon, as ever—always the gift that keeps on giving.

(1)–(4) The global environment is very different from that which existed when we came to office in 2017. Whether it is COVID, geopolitical instability or trade wars, it is clear that we need to diversify our economy and make more things here. The targeted reforms of the public sector announced in March will renew a whole-of-government focus on the priorities of the WA community. The reforms are focused on making our economy more resilient and providing a better way to build hospitals and houses. The long-term positive impacts on the state's budget and community will far outweigh any implementation costs. The reforms we are making to drive economic diversification will create jobs and economic opportunity in WA.

BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE—UNIT 18 DETAINEES

149. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the minister representing the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to youth detention. I ask the minister to please table the following information on Banksia Hill Detention Centre and unit 18 respectively for April 2025:

(1) the number of suicide and self-harm attempts;

(2) the monthly average out-of-cell hours;

(3) the number of occasions a young person spent 20 or more hours in their cell; and

(4) the number of occasions a young person spent four or more hours out of their cell?

Hon Matthew Swinbourn replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The answer is in tabular form, so I seek leave to have it incorporated into *Hansard*.

Leave granted for the following material to be incorporated.

The Department advise:

1. Table 1. Banksia Hill Attempted Suicide and Self-Harm Instances between 1 April 2025 and 30 April 2025.

	Attempted Suicide	**Self-Harm – Serious**	**Self-Harm – Minor**
April 2025	1	0	25

Table 2. Unit 18 Attempted Suicide and Self-Harm Instances between 1 April 2025 and 30 April 2025

	Attempted Suicide	**Self-Harm – Serious**	**Self-Harm – Minor**
April 2025	1	1	6

2. Table 3. Banksia Hill and Unit 18 Average Out of Cell Hours between 1 April 2025 and 30 April 2025.

	Banksia Hill	**Unit 18**
April 2025	9 hrs 36 mins	9 hrs 18 mins

3. Table 4. Occasions at Banksia Hill and Unit 18 on Which a Young Person Spent 20 or More Hours in Cell Between 1 April 2025 and 30 April 2025.

	Banksia Hill	**Unit 18**

April 2025	16	0

4. Table 5. Occasions at Banksia Hill and Unit 18 on Which a Young Person Spent 4 or More Hours Out of Cell Between 1 April 2025 and 30 April 2025.

	Banksia Hill	**Unit 18**
April 2025	2,401	367

SENTENCING—APPEAL DECISION

150. Hon Nick Goiran to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:

I refer to the Attorney General's answer to my question without notice on 29 April 2025 regarding the recent decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions to not appeal the sentencing decision for the 14-year-old boy who, despite pleading guilty to assaulting a senior constable outside Optus Stadium last year, has reportedly received no punishment for his actions.

(1) What court-based programs are available at present to be engaged in as a form of punishment prior to the finalisation of proceedings?

(2) Was one of those programs engaged in in this case?

(3) If yes to (2), which one?

Hon Dan Caddy replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

(1) In addition to programs that are available pre-sentence that deliver therapeutic interventions to young offenders, court conferencing is a pre-sentencing program designed to increase the young offender's understanding of the effect of their offending, reduce the likelihood of recidivism and facilitate out-of-court punishment.

(2) Yes.

(3) Court conferencing.

CHEVRON—WHEATSTONE PROJECT

Answer

Hon Stephen Dawson (Mining and Pastoral Region—Leader of the House) (5:04 pm): I would like to provide an answer to Hon Dr Brad Pettitt's question without notice asked yesterday. The answer is yes, and I seek leave to table the relevant provisions.

(See paper 194.)

POLICE—RETURN TO PRISON WARRANTS

Answer

Hon Matthew Swinbourn (East Metropolitan Region—Minister for the Environment) (5:04 pm): I would like to provide an answer to Hon Nick Goiran's question without notice 114, asked yesterday. I seek leave to have the answer incorporated into *Hansard*.

Leave granted for the following material to be incorporated.

1. 24 (as of 30 April 2025)

2. 27 (as of 30 April 2025)

3. Refer to Table 1.

Table 1.

Days Outstanding	**Name**	**On Crimestoppers (Y/N)**
2611		N
3050		N
1401	Mr Christopher Skelly	Y
1629	Mr Christopher Talovic	Y
6796	Mr Paul Argentino	Y
1440		N
28		N

2954		N
846	Mr Kion Patrick	Y
511		N
7		N
6218	Mr Ashleigh Western	Y
779	Mr Ardil Khan	Y
2214	Ms Rikki Reeves	Y
1883	Mr Drew Hughes	Y
1461		N
14		N
6868		N
3128	Mr Joshua Maxfield	Y
4923	Mr Christopher Gibbs	Y
3730		N
1759	Ms Arielle Greaves	Y
3115		N
13670		N
3206		N
748	Mr Kiernan Donnelly	Y
5356	Mr Peter Farrelly	Y

ELECTRONIC MONITORING—BAIL CONDITIONS

Answer

Hon Matthew Swinbourn (East Metropolitan Region—Minister for the Environment) (5:05 pm): I would like to provide an answer to Hon Peter Collier's question without notice 92, and I seek leave to have it incorporated into *Hansard*.

Leave granted for the following material to be incorporated.

The Department advise:

1. 296 individuals as of midnight 30 April 2025.

2. 69 individuals as of midnight 30 April 2025.

DEFENCE—COCKBURN SOUND—DREDGING

Answer

Hon Matthew Swinbourn (East Metropolitan Region—Minister for the Environment) (5:05 pm): I would like to provide an answer to Hon Dr Brad Pettitt's question without notice 112 and seek leave to have it incorporated into *Hansard*.

Leave granted for the following material to be incorporated.

(1 to 5) The Western Australian Government and the Australian Government have commenced funding negotiations in relation to the initiatives within the Cooperation Agreement. The footprint and total requirements of the Defence Precinct are yet to be determined and confirmed by the Australian Government. Until the Western Australian Government receives the footprint and total requirements of the Australian Government's Defence Precinct, the specific information requested in relation to dredging and environmental impacts cannot be assessed.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Motion

On motion without notice by **Hon Stephen Dawson (Leader of the House)**, resolved:

That members' statements be now taken.

HON MARTIN ALDRIDGE

Statement

Hon Stephen Dawson (Mining and Pastoral Region—Leader of the House) (5:06 pm): I know there will be an opportunity in the next sitting week for party leaders to acknowledge those who might be moving on from this Parliament or not staying for the next Parliament, but I am aware that the Deputy President will be paired during that week so I thought it would be an opportunity today to acknowledge his work. I think we have probably had a combative relationship in here at times, Deputy President, but you have been a fierce advocate for volunteers and firefighters, so thank you and best of luck for whatever is next.

Members: Hear, hear!

SPECIAL INQUIRY—2025 STATE ELECTION

Statement

Hon Tjorn Sibma (North Metropolitan Region) (5:06 pm): I absolutely concur with the very generous statement made by the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council in respect of Hon Martin Aldridge. It was an absolute pleasure to listen to his valedictory address the other night.

I will not detain the house very long, other than to make amends for an omission in my contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate. Hon Malcolm McCusker's inquiry into the conduct of the 2025 state election is a serious matter. I do not think it is broadly understood that there is a public submission period that I believe will cease on 9 May in order to allow the inquiry to conclude its deliberations and report to the government by 30 June. I appreciate as well that the Premier has foreshadowed some temperance or flexibility in relation to that 30 June reporting date. I think that might need to be applied with some measure of reasonableness in light of the fact that I do not think that the tabling of submissions period that is available is particularly helpful. I suggest that the period be extended by at least another week. I am aware of a number of electoral staff who worked on the state election and who are now obviously engaged in responsibilities for the federal election, and their focus is on doing their professional best for Saturday and the days that follow, noting that there might be some close calls. I suggest that the Premier perhaps converse with Hon Malcolm McCusker with a view to extending that public submission date, possibly by a fortnight or so, to allow an opportunity for well-informed submissions to be made by people in the public who work ordinarily as volunteers to make a valuable and well-seasoned contribution.

AUSTRALIAN HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION AGENCY

Statement

Hon Dr Brian Walker (East Metropolitan Region) (5:09 pm): This will not take long at all. I give notice to the Parliament that I will have the pleasure of flying the red-eye flight to Sydney on Friday and the red-eye back on Saturday to attend an Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency conference. AHPRA is of course the medical board that was. Each state and territory has a state board. Its task is basically to ensure the safety of patients and regularity of practitioners, and that is a very, very good thing because we need to have, above all in our failing wellness industry, some measure of security for all concerned—that is practitioners as well as patients. It stuns me to know that one of the major causes of death worldwide is actually doctors. When doctors go on strike, the death rate falls, and that is really quite concerning. When I consider that the third cause of death in the US, monitored, is properly prescribed medication that has been properly administered, I realise it is actually quite a big problem to deal with. It is the third or fourth cause of death—that is an awful lot of World Trade Centers—and I wonder how safe we actually are.

On top of that, we come up with a whole host of other problems, including what happens in our society with the food processing industry, which is one of the major causes of chronic ill health and early death, as well as a host of other issues. Therefore, it is very necessary that we have some measure of regulation to ensure that all are kept safe, and that the standard of practitioners is of a uniformly high standard and the health of both practitioners and patients is safeguarded.

Members might wonder why it is that only 36% of doctors hold AHPRA in any degree of esteem. The answer is because it has caused, to my personal knowledge, the deaths of at least 16 doctors. It has caused a great deal of distress throughout the medical practitioners of our great nation. The question is: How are we actually regulating the regulators? The ancient Latin reference to that is *quis custodiet ipsos custodes*. There is certainly sufficient concern for an increasing number of medical practitioners of very senior nature and legal practitioners of very senior standing to have a close look at the regulators because one of the problems we have is a quango or quasi autonomous national government organisation that is basically without political supervision at federal or state level. I asked a question on this last year to see how often we actually get reports, and apparently we get reports every year, but to my understanding they are not read—at least by anyone that knows—and that action certainly is not taken, and this is just for WA. In every single state and territory and, indeed, at the federal level, I do not think these reports are actually actioned. They certainly are not brought before this house for discussion at all.

This means that we as custodians, if you like, of the safety of the health of our nation and our state are obliged to look closely and investigate: are we actually in enough control of a body that is controlling a very important part of our society—the health practitioners of our state? I have no opinion as of yet because I have not attended the conference, but I would be happy to feed back at an appropriate time after my return, assuming of course I survive and that the flight does not cause undue delay with the current issues we have within our bureaucratic agencies nationwide.

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY

Statement

Hon Klara Andric (South Metropolitan Region) (5:13 pm): I rise today to make a very brief statement and to commemorate International Workers' Day, which is today, 1 May. It is a time to honour the contributions, sacrifices and resilience of workers in every field. It is also a time to reflect on the ongoing fight for fairness, dignity and justice in the workplace. I, and certainly many members on my side of the chamber, stand today in solidarity with all those who strive to build a better and more equitable future. Where I come from, my origin, in the country of Serbia, 1 May is a large public holiday. It is celebrated across two days, with many festivities spanning the two-day period of International Workers' Day. It is often celebrated by many in the region with barbecues, field trips, outdoor activities and, of course, rest and celebration.

As I talk about International Workers' Day today, I take this opportunity to state in the chamber that I also stand in solidarity with the students across Serbia, where I come from, who have been protesting following the collapse of the railway station in Serbia. It is one of the largest protests we have seen in Europe; it is happening right now and has been happening over the last couple of months since the tragic incident that unfolded in my hometown. I take this opportunity in Parliament here today to say that I, too, stand in solidarity with the students of Serbia, and I wish them all the best of luck in continuing to fight for good government and justice and to stand against corruption in our country.

FEDERAL ELECTION—3 MAY

Statement

Hon Darren West (Agricultural Region) (5:15 pm): I rise very briefly to say that Saturday is a very important day for the future of Australia. There is a federal election on. I think it is fair to say that, in Western Australia, we are becoming election fatigued. We have had two elections this year. It is a marathon effort for a lot of people to run through an election. Voters this Saturday will have the choice between the continuation of sensible government with rights for workers front and centre, Medicare, and all those things that we take for granted that are important for Australian people, and the alternative, which is for a regressive Australia.

I will not go too deeply into the dynamics of the election, because we have been hearing about this for several weeks, but I do want to touch on the number of people who volunteer their time and commit to us as political organisations around the time of an election.

I am personally involved with the campaign to elect a nurse to the Federal Parliament in the seat of Bullwinkel—the first-ever federal electorate to be named after a nurse. We have only ever had eight nurses elected to the Federal Parliament. I am certainly doing all that I can to help Trish Cook become the ninth nurse elected to the Federal Parliament, and I think that we need more nurses in Parliament. But there are a team of people who are working tirelessly in this campaign and across all the other campaigns across the state. Even up in Northam, our small but enthusiastic team of volunteers and support workers have kept our pre-poll booth staffed in Northam for the whole two weeks of pre-poll and will be out there on the day in the six polling booths in the Agricultural Region. We are finally in a marginal seat, and we are a bit excited about it, but we are getting out there and working hard to try to elect a federal member for Bullwinkel. This is replicated right across the state. We have a great team in Perth and the hills who are also working on Trish's campaign, but we have campaign supporters in seats like Moore and Canning, Tangney, Hasluck, Swan, Pearce—all the seats that are deemed important for the election on Saturday and could well contribute to who will hold government on Saturday night. To all those volunteers and workers and people behind the scenes on these campaigns, thank you all so much for your efforts.

It has been a difficult year for us in Western Australia because we are backing up a couple of months after a state election. I know that all the federal ministers, the Prime Minister and everyone who comes over here acknowledges you all, but I just want to take this opportunity—the last opportunity I will have in Parliament—to thank all our electoral volunteer workers and everybody who gets a board at our campaign on our side, and also to acknowledge those who work for the other political parties, because they work just as hard for what they believe in. Thanks to everyone.

I hope that the election day goes in the normal respectful manner. I think we need to realise how lucky we are in Australia. For example, in Northam, we set our little Labor tent up right next door to the Liberal tent. We work together. We help each other, we help set our tents up and take them down and we act respectfully and cordially to one another. There are not a lot of places in the world in which that happens. I think that our democracy is

special and important, and I think that needs to be respected at a time like this. Regardless of the result on Saturday night, I know that whoever is not victorious will accept the result and move on to the next election in three or four years. I look forward to fixed-term federal elections so that we can do this less regularly.

Thanks again to all our people who are involved in federal and state election campaigns. We really do appreciate what you do.

VICTIMS OF CRIME

Statement

Hon Sophia Moermond (South West Region) (5:19 pm): I have been made aware of several incidents in which victims of violent crime were not able to speak about what had happened to them and how their life had been affected. The perpetrators did get the chance to speak as part of their defence, yet there was no opportunity for the victims to speak. They were not able to balance the narrative. We really need to allow those affected by violent crime, whether it is domestic violence or violence in the workplace, to have the opportunity to speak and tell their story so they can get closure. People need to be heard to heal.

House adjourned at 5:20 pm

Questions on notice answered today are available on the Parliament of Western Australia's website