

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

First Session of the Twenty-fourth Parliament

The Legislative Assembly was dissolved on the 31st January, 1962.

The Twenty-fourth Parliament was convened for the despatch of business on the 26th July, 1962, and the first session, which was opened by His Excellency the Governor, was commenced on that date.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 26th July, 1962

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MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The Legislative Council met at noon.

PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Parliaments (Mr. J. B. Roberts) read the Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor summoning the first session of the Twenty-fourth Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION

His Excellency's Commissioners (His Honour Mr. Justice Hale and His Honour Mr. Justice Negus) having entered the Chamber at 12.3 p.m., a message was sent to the Legislative Assembly requesting the presence of members in the Council Chamber.

Members of the Legislative Assembly having arrived accordingly, the Senior Commissioner (His Honour Mr. Justice Hale) requested the Clerk to read His Excellency's Commission to do all things necessary in the name and on the part of Her Majesty the Queen, or in the name and on the part of His Excellency for the opening and holding of the first session of the Twenty-fourth Parliament.

The Commission was read.

SENIOR COMMISSIONER'S STATEMENT

The Senior Commissioner (His Honour Mr. Justice Hale) read the following statement:—

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly—

I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor to inform you that, at three o'clock this afternoon, His Excellency will declare to you the causes of the calling together of this Session of Parliament; and it being necessary that a President of the Legislative Council and a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly be first chosen, it is His Excellency's pleasure that you, honourable members of the Legislative Council after those who have been newly elected have been duly sworn

by me in the terms of a Commission granted to me by His Excellency the Governor, do elect your President and notify the same to his Excellency; and you members of the Legislative Assembly, repair to the place where you are to sit, and having been duly sworn by the Honourable Mr. Justice Negus in the terms of the Commission granted to him by His Excellency, you do elect your Speaker, and likewise notify the same to His Excellency.

The Junior Commissioner (His Honour Mr. Justice Negus) and members of the Legislative Assembly retired from the Chamber.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS

The Clerk announced the return of writs for the election of members at the biennial elections showing that the following had been duly elected:— The Hon. H. K. Watson (Metropolitan), The Hon. E. M. Davies (West), The Hon. A. R. Jones (Midland), The Hon. L. C. Diver (Central), The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (South-West), The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs (South-East), The Hon. E. M. Heenan (North-East), The Hon. H. R. Robinson (Suburban), The Hon. J. M. Thomson (South).

These members, with the exception of The Hon. H. C. Strickland (North)—who was absent, and who had been sworn in earlier in the year—took and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance, and signed the roll.

The Senior Commissioner then retired from the Chamber.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

The Clerk reported that the office of President was vacant.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [12.25 p.m.]: I move—

That The Hon. Leslie Charles Diver do take the Chair in the Council as President.

THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North—Leader of the Opposition) [12.26 p.m.]: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

No other member having been proposed The Hon. L. C. Diver was conducted to the Chair.

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver—Central) [12.27 p.m.]: Honourable members, the choice you have made makes me feel deeply conscious of my responsibility, and I pray that God give me health and strength so that I may with due deliberation judge every plea and every request by members with the greatest impartiality at my command. I thank you sincerely.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [12.30 p.m.]: It was on the 28th July, 1960, that the members of this Chamber first did you, Sir, the honour of making you President of the Legislative Council. After two years in that office it has been determined by the members of the Legislative Council that you should be nominated to the position for a further term.

On the occasion of my moving this motion in 1960 I pointed out, Sir, that you followed some very prominent men in the State of Western Australia. I told you at the time that you were the eleventh President to be elected to that position in the Legislative Council; and now I say that your colleagues have seen fit to re-elect you for a further term. I think this has been done because of the confidence we have in you as a result of the ability you showed in conducting the affairs of this House during the previous period you occupied the position.

I wish you well during your term as President, and I congratulate you heartily on the high office you have had bestowed on you. As Leader of the Legislative Council, I offer you my continued co-operation, and I trust that during your period of office you will continue to enjoy good health.

THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North—Leader of the Opposition) [12.32 p.m.]: May I add to the words of the Leader of the Government in this House, and extend my personal congratulations to you. May I say humbly that I wish you have the best of health and the greatest of interest in this high office which you have shown yourself so capable of filling. We as humble units in this Legislative Council are not likely to cause you any greater worries in the future than we have in the past.

I am fully conscious, as one who sometimes errs, that we can rely on your sense of justice and fair play. I extend to you, Sir, my heartiest congratulations.

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) [12.33 p.m.]: I would like to thank Mr. Griffith and Mr. Wise very much for their remarks. I would only add that the two years during which I occupied the Presidency were most enjoyable ones; they were made enjoyable by the tolerance and co-operation of the Leaders of the respective parties, and of members in this Chamber. I have no doubt we will have a very well-conducted session henceforth, and I thank you for the sentiments you have expressed.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [12.34 p.m.]: I wish to advise the House that His Excellency the Governor will receive the President forthwith.

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): I will leave the Chair until the ringing of the bells.

Sitting suspended from 12.35 to 2.55 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) [2.55 p.m.]: I desire to inform the House that I have submitted myself to His Excellency the Governor, and His Excellency has been pleased to express satisfaction at the choice of the Council in the following terms:—

Mr. President:

It is with much pleasure that I learn that you have been elected by the members of the Legislative Council to the high and honourable office of President of that House. I have every confidence that you will fill the office in a worthy and dignified manner.

(Signed) Charles Gairdner,
Governor.

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH

Delivery

His Excellency the Governor entered the Council Chamber at 3.2 p.m.; and, the members of the Legislative Assembly having also attended in the Chamber obediently to summons, His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following speech:—

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

You are gathered for the first session of the twenty-fourth Parliament.

It is with profound regret that I refer to the passing of Mr. G. F. Roberts who rendered valuable service to the State as a member of the Legislative Assembly, of which he was Chairman of Committees during the last Parliament.

All Western Australians are delighted with the news that Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh will come to Australia next year and an enthusiastic welcome awaits our Royal Visitors.

Plans are in course of preparation for the visit of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh to open the VIIth British Empire and Commonwealth Games. Preparations for the Games have reached an advanced stage. Citizens in all walks of life are unsparing in their voluntary efforts to ensure they will be conducted in a spectacular and efficient manner befitting such an important occasion.

The State has embarked on an era of the most dramatic progress in its history. Primary industry continues its prosperous

expansion and production records continue to be broken. Major industrial projects under way will not only add to the State's wealth and population, but will in themselves attract further industries. Utilisation of our rich mineral resources will enable development projects to be undertaken in remote parts of the State, with imported capital.

The standardisation of the railway gauge from Kalgoorlie to Fremantle is at last to be achieved.

The problem of unemployment is being vigorously tackled and the percentage of the work force unemployed in Western Australia is the second lowest of the Australian States. As additional labour is recruited for approved major works and industries, the employment position should substantially improve.

The many vast industrial projects already commenced or in the planning stage have created a serious shortage of skilled tradesmen in a number of categories. A special Migration Mission has left for Britain and Europe to recruit migrants to meet these deficiencies.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Revenue for 1961/62 totalled £74,925,785 and Expenditure £75,889,798, leaving a deficit of £964,013.

This result is considered very satisfactory in view of the down-turn in economic activity experienced during the last eighteen months.

Higher expenditure of £21,531,209 was made from the Loan Fund. Additional funds for housing were made available by the Rural and Industries Bank.

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The keen demand for Crown land continues and the release of agricultural and pastoral country for development is proceeding to the fullest extent of the State's resources. In the past three years over three and a half million acres in the South-West Land Division and the Esperance district have been released by the Government for agricultural development. Elsewhere over twenty-nine million acres have been made available for pastoral pursuits.

An area of approximately fifty million acres of land north of the East-West railway is to be investigated to ascertain its pastoral potential.

The development phase of War Service Land Settlement is now completed and final valuations and transfers of lessees' accounts to the Rural and Industries Bank are proceeding.

In the past season record production of grain and wool was again achieved. The area to be sown to cereals is expected to reach 7,250,000 acres this year, representing an increase of 60 per cent. in ten years. By the end of the 1962/63 season it is estimated that sheep numbers will have risen by over a further million to 20,500,000 and this trend will continue as farmers stock new land and make use of new developments to increase stocking on older land.

Substantial areas of new pasture have resulted in an increase in the number of dairy cattle and the increased average yield per cow is encouraging.

In spite of the attention given by tobacco growers to the production of higher grade leaf, the industry suffered another bad year. Last season, as an alternative, growers were encouraged to produce limited acreages of certain food crops suitable for processing. In an effort to expand production of this type the Government has set up a special committee to determine what other crops may be satisfactorily produced on land previously used for tobacco growing.

The report of the Royal Commission on the Apple Industry has been received and is being studied.

Cadet training and recruitment is increasing the number of veterinarians available to the Department of Agriculture and it should soon be possible to have veterinary officers stationed in the main country centres.

The Animal Health Laboratory is now providing greater research and diagnostic services to farmers.

Forest operations are being maintained in hardwood areas and an additional acreage will be planted to pines this season.

The value of fish caught rose by nearly £450,000 to £3,900,000. Crayfish export earnings continued to increase. The pearl culture at Kuri Bay is expanding. The prawn fishery at Shark Bay appears to be firmly established.

As a result of the Government's planned approach to the industrial development of the State, a number of key industries, the subject of agreements negotiated during the past three years, are now taking shape. Factory employment is the highest it has ever been and is rising. It is the intention of the Government to take advantage of the stimulus that has been given to the State's economy and to encourage the establishment of more diversified industries. Efforts will continue to be made to channel in investment funds not only for financing new enterprises but also to help existing manufacturers to expand.

Western Australian manufacturers will be encouraged to develop export markets in Asia and elsewhere. Suitable office

facilities are to be made available in Malaya for businessmen from this State to assist them in trade promotion work.

To assist local manufacturers sell their goods, a special section has been created at the Department of Industrial Development to encourage trade contacts between manufacturers and distributors.

The value of mineral production for the year 1961 was £22,376,840. Gold production was higher at 871,845 fine ounces. The value of minerals other than gold and coal was again a record.

The relaxation of the ban on the export of iron ore has led to world wide interest in Western Australian iron ore deposits. A large number of temporary reserves to explore have been granted by the Government and this has proved fruitful as the subsequent geological and drilling operations have revealed the existence of large quantities of iron ore of good grade. Japanese steel interests have recently examined some of the deposits and are now negotiating for the purchase of the iron ore.

The Government is endeavouring to provide that in addition to the direct shipping of iron ore, processing plants will be established for beneficiation of lower grade ore.

Agreements have been entered into for the mining and export of iron ore with the Western Mining Corporation, No Liability, and Mount Goldsworthy Associates, and both companies are now carrying out extensive surveys and tests of the deposits leased to them. It will be necessary for the companies to provide railway lines to transport the ore from the deposits to the port of shipment. In the case of Mount Goldsworthy Associates, the company plans to construct a deep water harbour at Depuch Island.

Following the agreement signed last year between the State Government and Western Aluminium, No Liability, for the development of an alumina industry based on bauxite from the Darling Ranges, the construction of the alumina plant at Kwinana is well advanced. It is anticipated that the plant, which is to cost about £10 million, with a capacity of 210,000 tons per annum, will be in production before the end of 1963. The Aluminium Company of America holds a large interest in the company and brings with it a vast technical knowledge and the necessary entry into the alumina and aluminium markets of the world.

A large and experienced company is at present examining the Greenbushes tin deposits to establish whether they can be worked economically as a large scale project.

The search for oil is still proceeding and is to be intensified this year both in the North-West and in the Perth Basin.

The Mines Department is now undertaking the search for water on behalf of the Government and a hydrographic section has been added to the Geological Surveys.

The coal contracts signed last year have provided coal at a cheaper price to the Government. Development of the mines is keeping pace with the demand for coal.

Work has commenced on the new electric power station at Muja. Tenders have been accepted for the major items of plant and it is expected that the first unit of the station will be commissioned in 1965.

In the North-West, work on the Ord River diversion dam, an essential phase in the Greater Ord Scheme, is proceeding satisfactorily and the dam should be completed towards the end of this year.

Applications have been called for the first five irrigable farms on the Ord River and these will be allocated shortly, the successful applicants having to be in occupation by April, 1963.

Large scale planting of rice, cotton, safflower and linseed at the Kimberley Research Station and at the pilot farm at Kununurra have shown that satisfactory crops of these types can be grown in the Ord River area. Emphasis will be placed on cotton and oil seed crops.

Regeneration of the eroded sections of the Ord River catchment area is proceeding and the first two season's operations in this programme have given satisfactory results. Four paddocks, each of about one hundred square miles, have been enclosed and approximately half of this area has been contour furrowed and sown with special grasses.

Special Commonwealth assistance with money for "beef roads" to supplement the State Government's programme, is playing a major part in assisting the pastoralists to improve their off-turn of cattle. On present indications, the development of these roads will have a substantial effect in stimulating beef exports.

To improve the system of administration in the northern part of the State, it is proposed to appoint an Administrator and to set up a Planning Authority. It is felt that the appointment of the Administrator will ensure closer liaison between the Government and the local people and provide a greater degree of local co-ordination than has existed in the past.

Discussions with the Commonwealth Government are proceeding regarding future northern development plans. The indications are favourable.

Government Departments are extending the fullest co-operation to the United States Government in the vast communications project to be built at Exmouth Gulf by the United States Navy.

Steps are being taken to pump additional irrigation water for Gascoyne River planters from upstream river sand beds.

The report of the Chairman of the Australian National Shipping Commission on the State Shipping Service has been received and is being examined by the Government.

The commissioning of the passenger vessel M.V. "Kangaroo" later this year will enable a much needed streamlining of sailing programmes and assist in stimulating the trade in the Northern Territory for Western Australian produced goods.

The Wyndham Meatworks expect to treat 34,000 head of cattle this season. Road transport of cattle to the Works will be greatly increased this year.

Satisfactory progress is being maintained on the laying of the 54-inch pipeline from Serpentine Dam to the city. The construction of a 50 million gallon service reservoir at Bold Park is well advanced.

The planning of the South of the River sewerage scheme is well in hand and early commencement of the work is anticipated.

Main drainage of low lying areas is continuing.

Consideration is being given to legislation to provide for the creation of a Board to control water supply, sewerage and drainage in the metropolitan area.

The modified Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme has been completed. As the Commonwealth Government has so far declined requests to share with the State the cost of further extensions, the State is continuing to extend the scheme within the limits of its financial resources. The town of Dalwallinu will be supplied with scheme water before June next year.

The construction of a major irrigation dam on Logue Brook is proceeding satisfactorily.

A decision has been reached to construct a new port at Esperance and a contract has been let for the building of a break-water as the first phase of the port's development. At the port of Bunbury work on the provision of a land backed berth has commenced. Additional facilities for handling bulk grain and bulk phosphate are being provided at Fremantle Harbour.

Railway finances again showed a marked improvement continuing the trend that has been evident in the previous two years. Record freight tonnages have been handled.

Planning under the agreement between the State and Commonwealth Governments for the conversion of the Kalgoorlie to Fremantle railway to 4 ft. 8½ in. gauge is at an advanced stage and the first tenders have been called in respect of the Avon Valley sector.

The Commissioner of Railways is at present visiting the United States of America, Canada and Great Britain examining matters that will have a vital bearing on future railway developments.

This year the State will receive an amount of £9,500,000 from Commonwealth Aid Road Funds. In the State-wide programme of road works, attention is being given to improvement of the more heavily trafficked roads in the metropolitan area and the South-West of the State. Expenditure on road construction in the North-West and Kimberley areas is expected to exceed £2 million. The upgrading and sealing of Eyre Highway is continuing.

The attendance at Government primary and secondary schools increased by 4,500 this year and has now reached 129,000. In the past decade the teaching staff has been increased from 2,770 to over 5,000. A record number of 329 classrooms were completed last financial year.

In the metropolitan area new high schools are being constructed at Churchlands and Hamilton Hill and work will commence shortly on a high school at Ashfield. The Albany Technical School and the Harvey High School will be completed this year.

The Country High School Hostels Authority has provided a hostel at Merredin and a further hostel is to be commenced shortly at Narrogin.

The Government is proceeding with its plan to centralise the Government Offices on the Observatory area and designing of the first building is proceeding. A contract for this work will be let during the current financial year.

Tenders will be called this financial year for the construction of regional hospitals at Bunbury and Geraldton and for new hospitals at Bentley and Armadale.

A mobile dental service to serve country districts is now operating.

It is expected that Parliament will proceed with the Mental Health legislation submitted during the last session.

Expenditure during 1961-62 under the State Housing Act, the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement Act and the War Service Homes Act amounted to £9,700,000. Of this amount, £1,186,000 was allocated to Building Societies which also benefited by having £156,000 of funds obtained from private sources guaranteed under the Housing Loan Guarantee Act. The housing position in Western Australia has substantially improved in recent years, the number of outstanding applications at the State Housing Commission having been reduced from 9,200 at June, 1959, to the present figure of 5,200. The Rural and Industries Bank has participated with the Government in a home building plan under which over 300 homes have been financed. The State Housing Commission

will commence soon the building of a block of flats for widows and elderly single women.

Amendments to the Child Welfare Act are proposed so that better protection can be given to particular groups of deprived and neglected children.

Plans are being prepared for the erection of a new Children's Court.

A Bill to give natives voting rights in State Elections will be introduced.

The Karnet Rehabilitation Centre which will be opened early in 1963, will mark a new phase in prison development in this State.

The Police Force has been increased by twenty-five men, which will allow for increased traffic patrols and additional police requirements which have become necessary in country centres through State development.

Additional funds are being made available to permit an extension of road safety education.

The new Department of Transport and the Transport Advisory Board, as provided for in last year's legislation, are now operating.

The administration of local government under the new Act is proving generally satisfactory. However, it is proposed to introduce legislation to make a number of desirable amendments to the Local Government Act. Valuation Appeal Courts set up under the Act have dealt with many appeals.

The Metropolitan Region Town Planning scheme and the supporting report are now receiving consideration by the Government. The Metropolitan Region Town Planning Authority is instituting a loan programme to accelerate the developmental projects embodied in the scheme.

The State Government Insurance Office is continuing to assist private concerns, local authorities and semi-government bodies with loans. Further moneys will be advanced to private persons seeking housing finance.

The appointment of an additional Judge of the Supreme Court will enable Judges to preside regularly in civil and criminal matters at the principal country centres.

Tourist traffic to Western Australia, particularly from the Eastern States, continues to show a remarkable increase. Energetic measures are being taken to attract even greater numbers of visitors and to improve the standard of our tourist facilities.

The newly acquired "Western Australia House" at Darwin will afford better opportunities for the State to develop trade and tourism in that important centre.

Following the decision of the Commonwealth Government to provide the State with equipment, an expanded programme

of civil defence training and planning has been initiated. The State Emergency Service is being extended and integrated with the civil defence organisation.

Legislation to be placed before you, other than already mentioned, will include—

Bills to amend—

- Companies Act;
- Licensing Act;
- Judges' Salaries and Pensions Act;
- Legal Practitioners' Act;
- Associations Incorporation Act;

A Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Business Names;

A Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Trustees.

I now declare this session of Parliament open and trust that Providence may bless your labours.

His Excellency and members of the Legislative Assembly then withdrew from the Chamber, and the President resumed the Chair.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) [3.40 p.m.]: I wish to inform the House that on the 23rd May, 1962, I administered the Oath of Allegiance to The Hon. Harry Charles Strickland who had been re-elected as a member for the North Province and who was then leaving for overseas.

ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Leave to Introduce

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [3.41 p.m.]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of the House to initiate legislation I move, without notice—

That leave be given to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Associations Incorporation Act, 1895-1957.

Question put and passed; leave granted.

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **The Hon. A. F. Griffith** (Minister for Mines), and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Distribution of Copies

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) [3.42 p.m.]: For the sake of greater accuracy, I have obtained from His Excellency the Governor copies of the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament. These will be distributed amongst members.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIRST DAY

Motion

THE HON. H. R. ROBINSON (Suburban) [3.44 p.m.]: I move—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver:—

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 to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

I will preface my remarks by congratulating you, Sir, on being elected as President of this Council. It was the unanimous decision of the members of this Council that you be elected to the position, and I feel sure that it is because of your good judgment and the manner in which you have filled the position in the past that you have again been elected. I congratulate you on your elevation to that office once again.

All those who listened to the Speech delivered by His Excellency today must have been impressed by the spirit of optimism shown by His Excellency. The Speech is a story of Western Australia on the march; it shows progress within our State and indicates an exciting new era when industry and all the associated functionings of the State are marching ahead. The standard gauge railway, too, will play an important part.

This morning I was reading through the remarks made last year by The Hon. H. K. Watson when he formally moved the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. He said that he felt the opening of Parliament should be televised throughout the length and breadth of the State so that the message contained in His Excellency's Speech could be conveyed to everybody. This year we have a direct telecast from the Chamber, and I believe it is a good thing to keep the people informed of the happenings of Parliament.

There are several points about which I would like to speak and which are covered in His Excellency's Speech. Reference was made to the east-west road. In my view the Premier should be given every possible encouragement to obtain additional funds for the completion of this road. Quite a considerable sum has already been spent on the Eyre Highway, and I believe that the time is now opportune to press the Commonwealth for additional funds—something like £12,000,000 is required to complete the highway. Other States are linked by highways and it is only logical that Western Australia, too,

should be linked with the Eastern States by a properly constructed highway. Not only will this road be of national importance but it will also be a great aid to tourism in this State. Already five motels are either under construction or have been built.

A brief reference was made in the Speech to town planning and the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme, the supporting report of which is now in the hands of the Government. It is gratifying to know that such progress has been made. Town planning is of great importance to the progress of a State, and I believe that every effort should be made and encouragement given to those experts who are planning our State. We now stand where Sydney stood 80 years ago, and our experts should be able to obviate the mistakes that were made there and in other places.

In reality town planning as envisaged in the Stephenson-Hepburn report of 1955 is now being implemented under the interim development order, and steps are being taken under that order to proceed with the provision of a road system throughout the metropolitan area. I refer in particular to the western switch road, for which work land is now being acquired. The same applies to open spaces, and I feel sure that the sooner the whole matter is placed before Parliament the better it will be for the progress of town planning. We should do nothing to hamper the progress made by our experts in this field.

The Swan River Conservation Board has done a good job with the limited finance at its disposal. The Swan River—and I refer particularly to its upper reaches—is a great heritage of the people and, in my view, some consideration should be given to the plans that have been made for foreshore development. Those plans should be developed in conjunction with the construction of the Swan River drive, which is recommended for high priority under the Stephenson Plan.

The Local Government Act, which came into operation on the 1st July of last year, is a great step forward in local government in Western Australia. Previously local governing authorities operated under either the Road Districts Act or the Municipal Corporations Act, and there were many anomalies. There are still anomalies under the new Act, as I have found from personal experience; and, as His Excellency said today, some amendments are necessary. However, generally speaking, the new Local Government Act will make history in local government circles in Western Australia.

To get back to the first part of His Excellency's Speech, I believe I express the feelings of all Western Australians when I say how pleased we are at the proposed visit to Australia of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke

of Edinburgh next year, and also at the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh to open the British Empire and Commonwealth Games in our State this year. We are indeed honoured, and we pledge our complete loyalty and assure them of a warm welcome in this State of ours.

THE HON. J. M. THOMSON (South) [3.54 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **The Hon. F. J. S. Wise** (Leader of the Opposition).

House adjourned at 3.55 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 26th July, 1962

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