

Legislative Assembly

Friday, 23 May 1997

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B

The meeting commenced at 9.07 am.

The CHAIRMAN (Ms McHale): The Estimates Committee will be reported by Hansard and a proof document will be made available to the committee clerk progressively throughout the day. The daily *Hansard* will be available the following morning. I caution members that if a Minister asks that a matter be put on notice it is up to members to lodge the question on notice with the Clerk's office. Only supplementary information which the Minister agrees to provide will be sought within one week. It will also greatly assist Hansard if when referring to the Budget Statements volumes or the Consolidated Fund Estimates, members give the page number, item, program, and amount in preface to their question.

As has been the practice of previous Estimates Committees, members should not raise questions about matters of general concern which do not have an item of expenditure in the consolidated fund. The Estimates Committee's consideration of the Consolidated Fund's Estimates of Expenditure will be restricted to discussion of those items for which a vote of money is proposed. We are dealing with estimates of expenditure and that should be the prime focus of this Committee. While there is scope for members to examine many matters, they need to be clearly related to matters of expenditure. For example, members are free to pursue performance indicators which are included in the Budget Statements while there remains a clear link between the questions and the estimates. It would assist in the Committee's examination if questions and answers can be kept brief, without unnecessarily omitting material information. It is the intention of the Chairman to ensure that as many questions as possible can be asked and answered and that questions and answers are short and to the point.

The Minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the Committee, rather than asking that the question be put on notice for the next sitting week. For the purpose of following up the provision of this information, would the Minister clearly indicate to the Committee which supplementary information he or she agrees to provide. Details in relation to supplementary information has been provided to members and advisers and, accordingly, I ask the Minister to cooperate with those requirements.

Division 65: Land Administration, \$67 795 000 -

[Ms McHale, Chairman.]

[Mr Shave, Minister for Lands.]

[Mr A.A. Skinner, Chief Executive Officer, Department of Land Administration.]

[Mr C.J. Williams, Director, Land Operations Division.]

[Mr W.H. Walker, Director, Corporate Services.]

[Mr M.P. Smith, Manager, Financial Services.]

[9.10 am]

Dr GALLOP: I raise the issue of the commonwealth Native Title Act and its impact on state land administration. A number of matters are referred to in the budget papers, including the resource implications for the State Government in managing the issues, the supply of land for residential, commercial and other purposes throughout the State, and the administrative issues. It is a big issue and I would like to know more about the matters to which I have referred and how they are working in this State. At page 551 of the Budget Statements it is stated that the requirements of the commonwealth Native Title Act are having a major impact on the administration and disposition of crown land. What are those issues within Western Australia?

Mr SHAVE: Native title is a very big issue in Western Australia where 93 per cent of the land is crown land, of which more than 70 per cent at the moment is under native title claims. The problem is that the current system of settling claims and the financial matters relating to native title are not working effectively. Mr Skinner will elaborate on the number of claims lodged and settled since the legislation was passed.

It is having a significant effect in many areas of Western Australia and Australia at large, mining being one of them. Putting aside the problems it is causing for pastoral leases and farming land, it also presents a problem in the availability of land surrounding regional centres. For example, Kalgoorlie and Port Hedland are running into

considerable difficulty. In some areas it is causing a significant increase in the price of land for residential purposes and also the rents in places such as Port Hedland. Because of the lack of availability of land, the rents for accommodation have increased considerably.

One of the biggest problems - apart from the native title issue not being settled in the mining industry and inhibiting access to mines and deposits - is the ancillary factors with the availability of land. This concern will apply over the next few years. Obviously some significant minerals will be discovered in some areas and it will be necessary to promote housing infrastructure in regional areas. Also, it will be necessary to resolve problems quickly so companies and people working in association with companies have availability of land for residential purposes. Both sides of Parliament are concerned about the degree of fly in, fly out operations on mining sites, but that situation will not change unless we resolve these problems.

The Leader of the Opposition commented on the administrative factors, and Mr Skinner will outline the problems at a departmental level. Without being dramatic, at a national level native title is equal or second to tax reform and budgetary problems as being the issue most in need of urgent attention. I hope it will be resolved.

[9.20 am]

Mr SKINNER: The Minister indicated that this is a major issue in the context of our budget. For us, this issue has an administrative base. In Australia, 406 claims have been accepted, 209 of which are in Western Australia, which represents 51 per cent of claims across Australia. Nationally, as at 16 May, only one claim has been determined. Therefore, the implications of that issue to our organisation relate to the length of time taken by the processes required under the federal legislation. Entering into negotiations in good faith requires certain obligations on my officers.

Dr GALLOP: Given the complexity of this issue, could we go back one step: When the claim is made through the commonwealth process, when does your department come into play on a matter?

Mr SKINNER: We are caught at both ends. Mapping for the National Native Title Tribunal is done by my organisation. This has large resource implications. We are notified immediately any claim is lodged and we must prepare mapping information to cover the claim and all the land with interests covered by the claim. Therefore, this is an up-front cost.

We also experience an impact with our obligations to crown land. With development proposals in country towns, it is necessary to undertake negotiations with registered claims - but that is not the end of this matter. On the other side, even if a claim is not made, we are required to give a future notification and to go through the process of the federal legislation, and this will often bring forward a claim by Aboriginal interests. A period of negotiation is involved. The statutory periods and negotiations are a lengthy process often involving multiple interest holders - in some cases, up to five or six claims are made on the same piece of land - with whom negotiations are made in an endeavour to reach agreement.

Chris Williams is the Director of Land Administration; we send officers into the field. Negotiations are conducted in good faith, and this involves travel costs and on-costs. We need to undertake considerable surveys in assessing heritage and Aboriginal interests in land. It is very relevant to give to the committee the range involved: Often we focus on large towns or mining developments, which are very important, in towns like Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Kununurra, Broome and Port Hedland. They all suffer from a dearth of residential and industrial land in the townsites. However, problems also arise in towns in the south west of the State, such as Hester where five lots are required for light industrial purposes. The department has similar overheads to deal with agreements. This issue is as important to a town like Hester as are the issues applying to a place like Karratha.

The process at the moment is that 80 per cent of Western Australia is currently claimed; that represents 76 per cent of the State's area or 2 011 000 square kilometres of Western Australia. We have carried this process internally for some two years. We were unable to continue to carry that weight on our productivity gains, so we needed to go to the Government in the budgetary formation process to ask for special assistance funds for native title. My negotiations on non-recoverable expenditure were in the order of \$1.38m additional expenditure being required to cover native title.

Mr BRADSHAW: That might have answered my question. Page 549 outlines recurrent expenditure and indicates that the department will probably go over budget by about \$1.2m. Why is that the case? Your estimate was \$11.117m and your actual will be \$12.331m.

Mr SKINNER: This is an issue which comes up annually in estimates. The estimates from 1996-97 are very old. Since then work was done in January to give what we believe to be estimated actuals. Often they are significantly

different from the estimates printed in the previous year's budget. Normally in the course of government, issues need to be dealt with during the year and variations are negotiated.

To put this matter into context, and responding to the essential differences this year from last year, and why other expenditure is required, I return to the issues which required supplementary funding in 1996-97. Some of these are international programs; for example the Bangladesh and Vietnam activities which required additional funding of \$600 000. This was fully offset by revenue from aid agencies. As a result of the nature of our recurrent accounting system as a consolidated fund organisation, we do not have the revenue retention scheme so we need extra expenditure to cover revenue. We needed additional money through the year for the Acts Amendment (Land Administration) Bill's preparation and implementation; it is currently before the Legislative Council.

[9.30 am]

The resourcing of that is a huge task, and we have allocated a project team to work on it, and to work on consultation with the community and the education process. We also had an all up cost of \$635 000 for strata titles impacts in 1996-97. We had to provide a help line to service the community concerns that resulted from the introduction of the strata titles legislation last year. We also had to prepare the legislation, which involved legal resources. I am concentrating on the major ones rather than going into anything less than those quantum figures.

Dr GALLOP: Page 552 refers to your international program and states -

Ongoing project tracking and subsequent bidding for project opportunities in the International Programs' focus regions of South East Asia, India and Africa and continuing awareness of the growing economies and opportunities of the Indian Ocean Rim.

What resources are devoted to that program, what projects are subject to bids from the Department of Land Administration, and what have been the results so far?

Mr SKINNER: Our international activities have been ongoing for some years to meet a commitment by both the previous Government and this Government. That requires us to monitor opportunities through aid agencies of projects which are relevant to the skills which DOLA has developed. We track those projects for opportunities for this State and private sector joint partnerships, wherever possible. The total resource level is four full time equivalents. That fluctuates on occasions. We sometimes contract people from other state agencies, on a fee for service basis using our contracts funding. Our success rate in bidding for overseas jobs is in the order of 80 per cent, which according to aid agencies is one of the highest success rates of Australian organisations at least.

We are currently working in Vietnam on a land information system and agricultural taxation study, an \$800 000 three year project which commenced in 1995 and is Asian Development Bank funded. Also in Vietnam we are working on a modernisation of cadastral mapping and land recording project, a \$375 000 one year project which commenced in February 1997 and is World Bank funded.

We are also working in Bangladesh - a senior Bangladeshi delegation is in Perth today - on phase 2 of a modernisation of land administration project. That is an \$800 000 one year project which commenced in March 1997 and is Asian Development Bank funded. We have also an ongoing project in China, in a partnership support role, in a land resources fundamental information system project, a \$4.9m three year project which commenced in 1995 and is Australian Agency for International Development funded.

Recently we were successful in a feasibility design study in Sri Lanka for AusAID, a small \$70 000 six week study which commenced in April 1997. We also submitted, with government support, a bid for a land titles project in Laos for AusAID, and we learnt this week that we were unsuccessful and BHP had won that \$7.5m project.

Dr GALLOP: What are the issues for your organisation in developing this commercial arm? Do you have the structures to do that? Have any problems emerged?

Mr SKINNER: One of the issues is balancing the resource demands in Western Australia against the requirement to provide key people for these projects. We certainly do not put second-rate people on these projects, because that might cause us to be bought out by other people and Western Australia might lose those projects totally, which would be of great concern to me. It is a matter of managing. I believe that every person whom we put on a project has, without exception, developed to be a far better person with regard to that person's area of responsibility and broader management potential.

In 1996, State Cabinet re-endorsed that project for another three years, with a review in 1999 of the target of working towards full sustainability. Under both the previous Government and this Government, the view had been that we were working towards seeding opportunities for flow on effect, but we are now working towards being fully commercial.

The implications for the organisation are that we are developing firmer guidelines with regard to containing the business unit of DOLA International, and we are working with advice from the Office of Auditor General. The indications are that we will achieve sustainability by 1999, but we need to reflect and have full accountability for some aspects of the accounting practices of aid agencies vis a vis the accounting practices of the WA Government.

Mr BRADSHAW: Are you saying that in the past there was some subsidisation of those overseas programs?

Mr SKINNER: Yes, in the sense that the resources were provided from our main budget. We are now seeking to make the expenditure fully recoverable out of the operations.

Dr GALLOP: What moneys have been expended and recouped?

Mr SKINNER: It is in the appropriations at page 549. That is only expenditure.

Dr GALLOP: I am interested in the balance sheet.

Mr SHAVE: We will provide that as supplementary information. Do you want the figures for the past four years?

Dr GALLOP: For how long has it been going?

Mr SKINNER: The first activities commenced in 1992.

Mr SHAVE: We will give the figures for four years.

Dr GALLOP: There is a lot of interest in this, because the State is doing well in this area, and it is important that we get some balance sheet about where the money has gone and what revenues have come in so that we can get some idea of the overall performance.

Mr SHAVE: I am quite comfortable with the way it is going. It enables us to achieve two things: Earn income, and make a lot of contacts with these developing countries. Many of these developing countries are very keen to develop projects with the Government at a government level. A Vietnamese delegation led by the Vietnamese Director General for Lands was here last month, and that delegation was very keen to get assurances from us that we would continue to assist Vietnam with its land administration program, which is very antiquated. It is not a matter of just doling out money. That is why the Government is moving to make the unit self-sufficient by 1999.

[9.40 am]

Mr BRADSHAW: Reference is made on page 554 to major insurance claims and incidents on crown land which have led to a reassessment of the approach to risk management. Why is DOLA involved in risk management? I thought that would be a government analysis.

Mr SKINNER: All state organisations have been required in recent times to undertake risk assessment. DOLA pre-empted that two years ago by engaging a consultant, a leading firm in Australia on risk assessment and management - the New South Wales firm of Alexander and Alexander. Subsequently the Western Australian Government has required all agencies to do that, and work has continued. Alexander and Alexander indicated that there were emerging risks in the area of crown land administration about which we needed to consider and develop strategies. One major insurance claim that directly involved our agency concerned an unfortunate situation near Collie, where a person dived into a former open cut mine which was filled with water and had become the town swimming hole. DOLA was not aware of the existence of the area or that it was being used. That person became a quadriplegic and sued the State Government and the local authority. Without going into detail, DOLA was liable for \$1.8m. Another legal precedent, which is a particular focus, is where a Rottnest Island employee dived in near the Basin and injured himself, and sued for a considerable amount. The concern is not only the legal action, but also the extent of vacant crown land in Western Australia, whether that be coastal areas - similar to the Gracetown tragedy; inland areas, where there are former mining shafts and other mining activities; or natural features like loose rocks or mountain slopes. We are developing a strategy to address that issue.

Another recent case occurred in the Weebubbe Caves on the Nullarbor Plain. It is an internationally recognised caving area. People come from all over the world to cave there. We had no direct involvement; however, it was discovered that the caves were on crown land. We had to enter into management arrangements with warning signs, closing and padlocking the caves, and notifying all tour bus operators and international and Australian caving organisations. It is a major risk issue that we are trying to address responsibly.

Mr BRADSHAW: I can envisage Western Australia having so many signs warning of the dangers that we will not be able to move. Is there some other way?

Mr SHAVE: The Rottnest Island award amounted to \$1.5m. I was Tourism Minister at the time. I was assured that we would not lose the case; we did. One of the deciding factors was the lack of signs at the Basin saying there were

shallow water and rocks. In those circumstances we would have to put signs in every bay around Rottnest. Sometimes the practicalities of the propositions that courts put forward are not feasible.

Mr SKINNER: The land administration legislation that is currently before the Legislative Council contains a provision to limit the State's liability in areas where it had no knowledge of a danger. Clearly where the State has been notified of a problem there is an issue of acceptance of that liability. However, where there is no knowledge of a problem and it is simply not reasonable or feasible to do anything the Bill makes a provision for a limited liability; it is not a total exemption.

Dr GALLOP: On page 555 reference is made to the Southgate dunes residential development, which is outside Geraldton. It states that negotiations are under way to progress the stabilisation of the Southgate dunes in Greenough and a land exchange is central to the success of this proposal. What is the problem and who is involved in the negotiations to progress the stabilisation of the dunes?

Mr WILLIAMS: We have been in fairly lengthy negotiations with the private company that owns land adjoining the dunes. The Southgate dunes adjoin a large blowout heading north at an alarming rate. It is swallowing up everything in front of it. They are south of an adjoining new residential development south of Geraldton. It is a major problem. The objective is to stabilise the dunes and swap some of that land for land that the private landholder owns south of the dunes, and to bring that into public ownership and reserve it. They will undertake a quid pro quo and stabilisation of some of that land, and then develop it. The exercise has been valued by the Valuer General and we are satisfied that the valuations are of equal value in terms of a swap.

Dr GALLOP: Who carries responsibility for the decision to have a residential development with a sand dune approaching it?

Mr WILLIAMS: The aim is to stabilise the dunes, so they do not advance any further.

Mr SHAVE: The Department of Environmental Protection would have input into that. It would not be one department making the decision. We would seek advice from the various participants.

The CHAIRMAN (Ms McHale): On page 550 the number of FTEs will increase by 22 or 23 but the vote for wages will be reduced by nearly \$1m. How will the department pay the bill?

Mr SKINNER: It comes back to my comments in last year's Estimates Committee about predicted actual outcomes for this year. The figure of 715 FTEs for 1997-98 is the same as for 1996-97. The estimated actual FTEs in the Program Statements is 692. We anticipated that we would run the end of the year at that level. We believe we will be running 688 FTEs for 1997-98. To allow for printing those estimated actuals were calculated in January 1997. Since that time we have included an outsourcing contract for the applications development area, and 19 of our staff were transitioned to Ferntree Computer Corporation Ltd. The FTE levels in our budget will be adjusted next year. The money involved will go across to recurrent costs for contract administration. Similarly, it provides increased flexibility and opportunity to take advantage of some of the technology changes. The figure is a provision for management recording purposes; however, within that we always use the flexibility of managing business needs.

[9.50 am]

Mr MCGOWAN: I am not sure whether we have dealt with this matter, because I was not here earlier. Page 569 deals with asset sales within the governmental capital item. An estimate is given for Westrail of \$56m for 1997-98 compared with \$7.3m for 1996-97. I seek an explanation of the large increase in that figure.

Mr WILLIAMS: The sale of any crown land is credited to the lands territorial account. While it might be land in the control of another agency, such as Westrail, a credit for the sale of the Westrail land goes through the DOLA account. Westrail manages its assets disposal program, with advice from DOLA on the mechanics of tenure and what Westrail must do in the process of sale. The revenue is being credited through the DOLA account.

Mr SHAVE: I wonder whether Mr Williams can give the member some indication of the increase from \$7m to \$56m for these larger sales.

Mr WILLIAMS: We do not have the details.

Dr GALLOP: This came up within the Estimates Committee either yesterday or the day before. Westrail has identified a lot more land that it did not know it had. Its sales this year will be greater.

Mr WILLIAMS: On behalf of the Government Property Office, DOLA administers a register of government land; namely, the Government Property Register. The object of this exercise is to have a balance sheet of all land owned by Government. That is a mechanism all agencies use in managing their surplus property. The difference would be

accounted for by the fact that the Westrail program is increasing. It can now identify more property that it will dispose of.

Mr McGOWAN: May I obtain details of the parcels of land that are being sold?

Mr SHAVE: As this is not within my portfolio responsibility, I suggest the member place a question on notice to the Minister for Transport. I do not think he would have any problem providing that information. He has responsibility for it.

Mr McGOWAN: Page 555 deals with the Port Kennedy development. I am not sure whether these officers can answer this question. It relates to the Port Kennedy development and Port Kennedy scientific park. When is it expected that the Port Kennedy development will get under way in any substantial fashion and what time frame is involved? Is this matter outside the Minister's area of responsibility?

Mr SHAVE: Mr Williams can provide a projected time frame.

Mr WILLIAMS: DOLA's involvement in that project is marginal. A board has been set up to manage that project under an agreement Act. DOLA is represented on that board, but it is not the main player. It is under the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Planning. We have given effect to some subdivision and development that is occurring, as we usually do where land is coming out of crown ownership. I do not have the time lines, although some of the subdivisions of crown grants have been issued just recently. Land will shortly be available for marketing at that site. That is the extent of my knowledge.

Mr SHAVE: I am quite happy to obtain the information and by way of supplementary information I will have Mr Williams inform the member of the situation.

Dr GALLOP: I refer to the Waterbanks station land acquisition, to allow for land use within that vicinity of Broome. I assume DOLA was involved in the acquisition of that land.

Mr SHAVE: Yes. The department was involved before I came into this job.

Dr GALLOP: What was the ultimate legal basis of the acquisition? I presume a pastoral lease can be resumed for public purposes. Is that right? Were any legal complications involved in that application or was it just a straight-out purchase under the public purpose section of the Act? What was the total value of the acquisition? I ask this because the Premier has indicated that administration of the Prime Minister's 10 point plan on the Wik decision may very well involve the State Government compulsorily purchasing pastoral leases. I pursued this issue with the Premier, particularly the basis on which he would be doing that. The public purpose provision seems to be the only one that is available and it seems to have limits.

Mr SHAVE: We realise the desire by the people of Broome to relocate the airport. The decision that has recently been made about Perth airport has been an integral part of what we have been doing in Broome. I have had discussions with the people who are currently leasing the airport at Broome. We were up there about two or three weeks ago looking at the possibility of where a runway would go. There are a few problems with some of the lands on the station in that they are a little undulating. We are optimistic that we can achieve what we want. I will get Mr Skinner to elaborate on the figures.

Mr SKINNER: The first part of the question was in the context of Waterbanks station and the relevant provisions. The Government sought to acquire the land by negotiation. In the end we could not reach agreement on the figure and we came to the joint appointment of an independent arbiter. The State was a little surprised with the extent of the amount that was agreed, but we were bound by the terms of the agreement. We paid \$2.2m to acquire Waterbanks station. That is a very good acquisition for the purposes for which it is to be used, including the airport, Aboriginal requirements, tourism requirements, water management requirements and some aspect of township and horticultural development. In that total context, we are prepared to manage the land.

Future opportunities for acquiring pastoral leases are a mixture of resumption, basically as a last resort, and negotiated acquisition. We would consider cases on their merits and the degree to which the State wished to acquire the land and the purpose to which the land would be put. It must be understood with regard to Waterbanks station that pastoral leases at the moment convey only right to graze lands. The State is not acquiring the land; it is acquiring only the improvements upon it, which is the right to graze.

Mr McGOWAN: The new Land Administration Bill is mentioned on page 551. I understand the Bill will come in within the next session of Parliament. It says that significant resources will be required to develop policies and procedures in support of the Bill. What are those resources; how much is it expected to cost; and have those figures been included in this area of the budget? If so, in what section do they appear?

Mr SHAVE: The Bill is in the upper House at the moment and will come to the Legislative Assembly in the next session. One of the significant areas of the Bill is to have titles issued for all crown grants land so that we will have a register of land similar to that for freehold property. At present a considerable amount of land is in crown tenure all over the place. The procedure to grant land is very cumbersome, requiring the signature of the Minister and the Governor in Executive Council before any land is granted. That procedure is impractical and inefficient. Changes to that procedure will be one of the benefits of the Land Administration Bill. When acquiring a title system and structure for crown land - 93 per cent of the State's land mass is crown land, albeit in some rather large holdings of pastoral leases - a lot of administration is involved. That will probably involve the greatest cost.

[10.00 am]

Mr SKINNER: In the 1997-98 budget \$1.37m is provided for the agency to undertake education, printing and seminars. The project team, currently resourced to eight but likely to grow by three or four more, is reassessing and redesigning as far as possible in anticipation of parliamentary approval. We need to run that quickly to redesign forms and layout processes and produce manuals for in-house operation and for the industry that normally does business with us. As I have indicated, those costs are considerable. We will gain additional benefit from the sale of some of the crown lands which carry some restrictions. We estimate that over five years we will get a return of \$12m, which would not occur if the Land Administration Bill were not passed. Indirect costs are being borne by both our agencies and customers as a result of the very outdated 1933 legislation under which we must operate.

Mr SHAVE: Present grants must come to the Minister for approval. Under the Land Administration Bill that will be done by delegation to the department and the department's officers. Major crown actions will continue to come to the Minister for approval and the Governor in Executive Council. It is not necessary for the Minister to have to approve every single grant as happens now. When people have a problem with a lease the Minister will become involved.

Mrs van de KLASHORST: At page 552 reference is made under the third dot point to emergency services' needs. I have been lobbying for some time on behalf of local volunteer fire brigades for a standardised map for the whole of Western Australia, particularly the hills area, to match maps in Victoria available for their fire fighters. They are significant and detailed maps of all the lanes and roads in each area. Is this trend an indication that that is occurring? Has it been started or even gone as far as DOLA? If not, what is DOLA doing for the emergency needs for these services?

Mr SHAVE: All members, particularly country members, should visit the Leeuwin Centre and see what DOLA is doing. A system is in place which enables DOLA to track fires and hot spots via satellite. Within about four hours, DOLA can advise the people in the field where a fire is moving and where problems will arise. Aerodata, a firm operating in the same business, works with DOLA. I do not deal in that data as a rule but the briefing I was given was impressive. The equipment charts maps which show the potential problem areas. In the light of insufficient government resources generally the system allows the Government to provide to people in the area the ability to see where fires occurred previously, where they will occur, where rain has occurred, where are potential hot spots and where it has not rained.

Mr SKINNER: In the Kimberley the satellite application won a national technology award, a gold level award. It is very innovative and is a joint Bush Fires Board and DOLA venture. Many other States are trying to find out how they can learn it. We are providing that service to the Northern Territory.

The member asked about mapping for fire and emergency services. John Day, Minister for Emergency Services, has appointed a task force, reporting directly to him, to advise on the mapping and information needs to support a computer aided despatch system for emergency services.

The other hat I wear under this budget has to do with the WA land information system providing coordinated management advice on the consolidated integration of all information such as overlays indicating the location of hydrants. It is in addition to just DOLA information which describes where boundaries and roads are. We are working closely with both the Bush Fires Board and the WA Fire Brigades Board, both members of the WA Land Information System Executive Policy Committee.

Mr BRADSHAW: I can remember about 10 or 12 years ago a statement by the Government indicating that a system would be developed based on overlays identifying Telstra cables, sewerage pipes, electricity cables, etc. Was that ever developed? I have not heard of it since.

Mr SKINNER: I invite the member to contact me and I will happily give a demonstration of the WA land information system. It integrates data from the private sector, but principally within state and local government. Telstra and the federal organisations are accessing and integrating some of that data. It is real time integration so that

customers can select which elements of information or data they wish to layer in to assist with their business. It is very effective and it is operating very well.

[10.10 am]

Dr GALLOP: I refer to program 6.0, Western Australian Land Information System, at page 562. It is stated that non-confidential information is readily accessible to industry and the community at an appropriate but affordable cost. How is that cost calculated? Is there an intention to increase or decrease the costs involved in accessing that information?

Mr SKINNER: This is a concern. Considerable costs are incurred in gathering and maintaining the data. However, we want people to have access to it. Our aim is to provide the information at the most affordable cost. The WALIS consortium does not have a corporate structure. It has no direction over government agencies, particularly government trading enterprises that are free to determine their charges for data they provide. We believe that the information is being provided at an affordable cost. At some agencies if fees are not set they can be negotiated in response to particular needs. Within government, the full commercial costs are not charged. It is purely the cost of extraction and distribution. Therefore there are no recovery costs on the investment. The cost is for a program being run off to produce data; it is the cost of a disk. Most agencies forgo that cost, because it is not appropriate to raise the administrative overheads.

Dr GALLOP: Is there any intention to change the price?

Mr SKINNER: Not within the agency over which I have control or by the WALIS consortium. Individual agencies determine their own price costs. I do not know of any government program which is considering increasing the cost in that area. If anything, the aim is to make the information more accessible to industry so that they can capitalise and get a competitive edge.

Mr BRADSHAW: At page 551 it is stated that a strata titles advisory service to assist strata lot owners seeking strata advice will improve customer service to unit owners. Reference is also made to the telephone "Helpline". Is the helpline still operating, or have most problems been addressed? People buying into the strata title market for the first time may need some assistance. Do you advertise the advisory service?

Mr SHAVE: Demand for assistance has died down to a degree, although there is still significant interest in the whole issue. The issues relating to strata title have not been fully resolved. Therefore the advisory service will continue. A task force was set up late last year when the problem arose. The advisory committee will continue to work with the people involved in the task force. I expect other changes will be made in this term of government. With those changes, it will be necessary to keep people fully advised and the service available.

Mr SKINNER: The helpline was established to respond to community concerns in April last year. Initially, about 700 calls a day were received. That number has gradually decreased, and the current figure is around 80 calls a day. It fluctuates a little from time to time, but the Government has undertaken an extensive education and community information program including the preparation of brochures on strata titles. The Department of Land Administration home page provides electronic information on strata titles and other matters. Under the legislation, real estate agents or others handling strata title properties are required to inform any purchaser about the nature of the property and the implications of buying a strata title. We have established an ongoing advisory service. The funding for that this year is \$350 000. The Government has recognised the importance of the service to the community. It involves a mix of experienced, specialist people from within the organisation, from management advice on strata titles to survey advice, and flowing to the actual titles. The service will overcome many community concerns. The task force referred to by the Minister is looking aggressively at an opportunity to introduce a green title. A conventional title will cover the two to five lot strata title developments, which was the main area of concern. The larger strata title developments generally have experienced strata title managers on site. It was mainly people who bought into duplexes or triplexes who did not understand fully the implications of that tenure.

Dr GALLOP: Were any special strategies developed to explain these changes to non-English speaking people?

Mr SKINNER: I am not aware of any. DOLA has published through the home page and its customer counters the fact that an interpreter and translation service is available if required. I will take that as a supplementary question and provide an answer.

Mr SHAVE: The original Act was designed for multistorey strata situations. Over the past 15 or 20 years, a larger number of single residential strata title properties have been built.

Mr THOMAS: It is a fact of subdivision.

Mr SHAVE: And urban infill. An accident occurred on such a property. The lawyers acting for the injured tradesman discovered that another unit holder was responsible. The accident occurred on a neighbour's roof. The owner of the unit did not have sufficient funds to compensate the injured worker, so the lawyer sued. The elderly lady in the other unit lost her home. The incident caused considerable concern last year and that is why the Government moved quickly to resolve the issue. However, it was an interim measure. It has been suggested that we should have two pieces of legislation. I am not sure that is the way to go, and I am receiving advice. The suggestion is that one Act would service single storey dwellings and the other would service multistorey strata title properties. The task force will consider the situation, make an evaluation and submit recommendations. We will seek changes to the current legislation which, I hope, will assist people who have problems.

[10.20 am]

Mr McGOWAN: Page 555 of the Budget Statements states that other, higher priorities prevented the completion of subdivisional design for the future development of areas including Lancelin. About 20 kilometres north of Lancelin is a naval gunfire support range and an Army training area. The majority of the land the Navy and Army use is leased from the State and the lease expires at the end of this century, although there may be an option for an extension of that lease. Will any subdivision design at Lancelin have an impact on the defence forces' use of this land? Is the intention to grant freehold title to the Commonwealth for the land the Navy and Army use? What are the plans for a road through the area?

Mr SHAVE: A task force was established by the Premier in, I think, the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet. Mr Williams is on that task force to evaluate the issue the member raises.

Mr WILLIAMS: The Department of Land Administration is represented on that committee which is run by the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet and which is a joint committee with the Australian Defence Force. Periodically the brass from Canberra fly in to hold joint meetings with us. Some months ago we flew over the area; we did not go on-site. There are two leases. One is for a relatively small area immediately adjacent to the coast, which is known as the impact area. That is used for naval shellfire training and target practice. A larger area that surrounds that is under a different form of lease. One is under commonwealth legislation and one is under state legislation. The two lease terms are slightly different and one runs out in a couple of years' time, before the turn of the century.

The object of the current discussions is that the defence forces find that area inadequate for their current purposes. They have made inquiries of the State to see whether it can provide a larger sized area on which they can conduct training. The State has views about that. Those discussions about alternative sites are being examined. The preference of the defence forces would be to retain the existing site and expand it.

The possibility of a coastal road through the middle of the area has been raised and three alternative routes have been examined. Close discussions have been held with local governments in the area and all relevant state agencies to get their views. That matter is still up in the air. No decisions have been made about the most desirable route. That in a way begs the earlier question about the future use of that land. It is very much in a state of flux at this time.

Mr McGOWAN: What is the State's view about giving the defence forces an alternative site as opposed to giving them better title to their current site?

Mr WILLIAMS: Strict parameters about an alternative site's proximity to Perth were given by the defence forces. The likelihood of finding within their parameters an area of that size, much less a larger area, is remote. That is what I meant by there being a view by the State.

Mr McGOWAN: You say it is unlikely they would be moved. Therefore, is it your intention to give them better title on the current site?

Mr WILLIAMS: No decision has been made by the Government on that.

Mr SHAVE: If the existing site is going to impede regional development, the obvious alternative is to shift the defence forces. However, if that is done the location must be satisfactory to the Commonwealth. It would not be the State Government's intention to say it wanted the land and that the forces no longer had a site. That would be the Government's last position. The most sensible alternative is to find a site. If a site is not available, we must look at retaining the existing site. In issues such as that in defence and other areas the Government would be strongly influenced by the view of the Commonwealth Government. If the Commonwealth felt it was paramount that the facility remain there, that would weigh heavily on any decision this Government made.

Mrs van de KLASHORST: If land is in a noisy area, is there any plan to include on titles a note so that future buyers of that land are not caught out? I cite, for example, areas such as Lancelin, where there is noise from the gunfire range, and places surrounding the Pearce air base.

Mr SKINNER: It is primarily a planning issue. DOLA simply carries out a supplementary role in the administration of titles. I am advised the current procedure would apply only if the current owner agreed to that notice going on the title. If someone was subdividing and going through the State Planning Commission process and the commission required the current owner of the subdivision to convey those notices on titles, the owner would have to agree, otherwise the subdivision would not be approved. It is often applied as a condition of subdivision. It can be done, but it requires the agreement of the subdivider or current owner.

Mr BRADSHAW: What are the guidelines for DOLA to undertake residential developments in Western Australia?

[10.30 am]

Mr SHAVE: Where residential developments can be done by the private sector, that would be the Government's preferred position. I have previously indicated to the chief executive officer that the Department of Land Administration's involvement should be in the areas the member has just identified - where private developers will not go. It is essential that the Government provide the capacity for those small areas and small towns to have adequate housing land. If we can encourage people to support those areas that is good.

Mr SKINNER: The Minister expanded the terms of reference of the statutory review of LandCorp to include the consideration of land development activity by LandCorp, DOLA and Homeswest. Mr Gerry Gauntlet has undertaken that review on behalf of the Minister, and he will be advising on that to enable the Government to make a determination.

DOLA's role has been one of developer of last resort in country areas. Even in areas such as Broome developers are hesitant to take on the risk of bringing crown land into production. The department has therefore designed a strategy for the State and that has been accelerated to look at broadacre releases; that is, large areas of land subdivided with clearances given for native title. The developer is then able to take on the development risk but not the pre-clearance risk. Land is currently available on a broadacre basis in some small towns where the department believes there is an opportunity for the private sector to take part. However, very often developers are not prepared to take on that role. Surprisingly, even some of the large developers are not prepared to participate. In that case, it falls back to DOLA to take the responsibility to ensure, as far as it can with native title, the provision of appropriate residential, industrial and commercial land.

[10.40 am]

Division 67: Western Australian Electoral Commission , \$3 533 000 -

[Ms McHale, Chairman.]

[Mr Shave, Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs.]

[Ms L.M. Auld, Acting Electoral Commissioner.]

[Mr G. Harrington, Manager, Corporate Services.]

[Mr W.J. Richardson, Manager, Information Systems.]

Dr GALLOP: I refer to the role that the Electoral Commission plays in administering the Electoral Act. One of the issues in Western Australia in the last few weeks has been the replacement of a Senator in Canberra. That was complicated by the fact that the Liberal Party chose a member of the Legislative Council. There has been some discussion in the Press about the implications of our Electoral Act for the replacement of the Legislative Councillor. When this particular provision of the Act first went through under a Labor Government, some effort was made to have a Senate-type system introduced into Western Australia, but it was not agreed. It means that we have a system where a count back of the results of the previous election is taken as the basis for the selection of the new Legislative Councillor. I am somewhat puzzled as to why there is assumed to be a problem with the effect of the current Act on the replacement of a Legislative Councillor. What is it about the Act that caused concern with the replacement of the former Legislative Councillor, Hon Ross Lightfoot?

Mr SHAVE: Apparently the Premier made some comments today on the radio about some problems associated with the Electoral Act or some of its deficiencies. He has not discussed those issues with me or with the acting commissioner. Until we can ascertain the exact area he is referring to, I am not really in a position to comment.

Dr GALLOP: The claim is being made that there was some confusion about who would be replacing Hon Ross Lightfoot when he went to Canberra. As the Minister will know, he was elected in 1993 and his term ended in 1997. We had an election in 1996 and the Legislative Councillors following that election will come into the Council today. I think the problem had something to do with what particular election would be used for the count back. I would find

it a very eccentric interpretation of the Act, if one were to use the 1990 election for the replacement of Hon Ross Lightfoot when he was in the Council for the 1993 to 1997 term.

Mr SHAVE: Obviously I would be more inclined to support the Premier on any of these issues.

Ms AULD: There could have been an issue had the resignation occurred sooner. The provision requires the recount required for the filling of a Legislative Council vacancy to take into account the result from the most recent election. Had the vacancy occurred between the 1996 election and, for argument's sake, April, consideration would have had to be given to what that meant in the context of an election held in 1996, but the vacancy having been for an election in 1993. As it transpired, the resignation occurred last Friday. It had to pass from the President to the Governor; the Governor had to be advised by Executive Council; and I was then informed, which did not occur until yesterday. Advertisements will be placed in Saturday's Press to advise of the vacancy for 1997 and beyond. Nominations will close on 3 June at noon. There will be a short process. If there is more than one consenting candidate, there will be a recount by computer that afternoon and the new member will be declared elected that day.

Dr GALLOP: I do not think that any court of law would interpret the relevant section to imply anything other than the 1993 election being the relevant election for dealing with the situation. It is a confusion of the situation. Whether it is based upon a genuine fear that some court somewhere may interpret that clause differently or whether it is made deliberately to justify the fairly unjustifiable maintenance of the councillor in that Chamber to vote on the labour relations legislation, we do not know. Either way it is certainly no basis upon which to justify the position. Is it the Minister's intention to move to change to the Electoral Act so that the terms of the replacement of Legislative Councillors will be different?

Mr SHAVE: I will certainly seek advice on that from the acting commissioner. Obviously she is the person initially dealing with the problem. If there is a deficiency which needs to be rectified, we will rectify it.

Dr GALLOP: Is the Government in a policy sense interested in looking at a change to the way in which we select councillors following resignation or death?

[10.50 am]

Mr SHAVE: Once again, I would like to know all the pluses and minuses before we amend the existing Act. If we move in a particular direction we may create a problem in another area. If there is a problem, and the Premier has indicated he has concerns in that area, and we can amend the Act to make it more clear-cut, we will.

Dr GALLOP: I thought we might use this opportunity to seek an overview of the 1996 election from the point of view of administration. Perhaps the acting commissioner will indicate whether any issues emerged from the election that were important from an administration point of view and whether there were any unforeseen consequences of certain provisions of the Act?

Ms AULD: From the commission's perspective it was very pleased with the conduct of the election. There were a number of challenges. The different election time, which was after the schools had closed for the year, caused some administrative challenges. There were last minute changes to the Electoral Act which allowed, for example, certain kinds of votes to be counted. Previously, they would have been informal. These changes were implemented very smoothly and electors seemed to fully understand the options open to them. I have raised some small issues with the Minister. Essentially there is a need to fine tune some of the legislative provisions and that will be considered in due course.

Dr GALLOP: Did the level of informal voting change relative to the 1993 election?

Ms AULD: No, it was very much the same. The one statistic that did change to some degree was for turnout, as we had a drop in turnout. That in part could be explained by the election being held at a different time of the year and in media terms we were competing with the pre-Christmas flurry. It made advertising more difficult. The fact that schools had closed for the year meant that many people who normally live in the country were not where they would normally be. The drop in turnout was quite noticeable in the Mining and Pastoral Region.

Dr GALLOP: How many complaints did the commission receive about various practices and acts throughout the course of the election campaign?

Ms AULD: Many issues were raised with the commission. What I consider as serious complaints were complaints from candidates and others about offences or possible offences under the Act. There were 10 of those. By and large they concerned issues candidates had about the campaigning practices of other candidates. One or two of the complaints were about the conduct of the election. Most of the matters have been concluded and I have received legal advice on most of them. A decision has been made not to take them further. There are still two matters which are proceeding through to full consideration.

Dr GALLOP: What is the general issue involved with those two matters?

Ms AULD: The requirements for electoral advertisements. Another issue relates to the style of campaigning of a particular group.

Dr GALLOP: What further work has been done on the electoral political finance legislation and the Legislation Amendment Bill 1996?

Ms AULD: The first returns under the electoral political finance legislation are emerging. They are required by early April. The commission is going through the process of making sure that returns are complete. We have yet to make decisions on what sort of checking or auditing of those returns will be carried out. That decision will be brought together in the next few weeks. There is a learning curve in terms of the returns and many candidates were unaware of them. That is a difficulty which arises from legislation that is proclaimed late in the day. My observation is that where people's returns were late or deficient in detail it was because they were unaware of what was required of them and it was not through any intent to avoid submitting the returns.

Mr SHAVE: Usually a question is asked on multiple voting. I think there were between 15 and 20 instances at the last election. It was restricted to, at most, approximately two occurrences in each district. Eighty per cent of the cases involved an elderly person of approximately 75 or 80 years who had voted at a mobile voting booth and their son or daughter had taken them to a polling place on election day.

Dr GALLOP: Obviously the work of the Electoral Commission in the future would be affected by any government decision to change the Electoral Act. Does the Government have any intention to amend that Act? If so, when does the Minister expect to be in a position to tell us about those changes?

Mr SHAVE: The Act is always under review. We are looking at any proposed changes on an ongoing basis. At this stage we have made no decision to bring forward any amendments, but we will review the Act on a regular basis. In terms of what the guidelines might be for any changes, the next election will predictably be in January 2001.

Mr THOMAS: Or December the year before.

Mr SHAVE: Possibly, but if we take when previous elections have been held as a yardstick - Governments are not necessarily bound to hold an election in February - most Governments have found that to be a suitable time. The prospect of any changes will have to take place in mid-1998 and certainly no later than mid-1999. We would need an 18 month lead time prior to the election to make any changes so that boundaries could be redrawn and people advised of what electorate they were in. Any changes that will take place will more likely be towards the middle of 1998 or 1999 if we made those decisions.

Dr GALLOP: In terms of the considerations by the Minister's office regarding electoral reform, given that the Minister said it is an ongoing consideration, has any consideration been given to changing the nature of the form of representation in the Legislative Council?

Mr SHAVE: It is an issue which has been looked at and will interest the Labor Party.

Dr GALLOP: It depends on which way the Government goes.

Mr SHAVE: That is right. Before the Government makes any changes it will certainly discuss its proposals with the Labor Party. That would be a normal process. In view of the seats held by the Labor Party in the Legislative Council it would probably be an area of considerable interest to it.

Dr GALLOP: There are three ways the Government can go in the Legislative Council. It could get rid of proportional representation, and I take it the Government is not considering that.

Mr SHAVE: The Government is considering all options.

Dr GALLOP: Let us talk within the framework of the existing system of proportional representation. The Government could broaden the nature of the individual regions so that ultimately the State could be one big region, as with the Senate. Depending on the number of councillors elected that would have a very significant impact on the size of a quota. It would push the quota down. Alternatively, the Government could significantly increase the number of regions and reduce the number elected from each region and that would increase the quota. Is it the former or the latter which is highest among the Government's considerations?

[11.00 am]

Mr BRADSHAW: Or you could eliminate the Council altogether.

Mr SHAVE: Staggered terms is another issue. All of those issues are on the table. We have made no particular decision on any one of the options available.

Dr GALLOP: So President Staley's comments on the Senate would have some relevance to your planning for the WA situation?.

Mr SHAVE: His comments could have some influence on decisions we make, yes.

Mr BRADSHAW: Does the commission review polling booths to see whether their numbers are viable? For example, in the electorate of Murray-Wellington, the polling booth at Benger has about 96 voters in each election. Considering that is 10 kilometres from Brunswick or Harvey, I wonder whether that polling booth is viable. Is there a general policy of reviewing polling booths from election to election?

Ms AULD: Before any election we do a substantial review of expected voter turnout at each polling place. This time around we had the advantage of having had the federal election in March last year. We acquired statistics from the Australian Electoral Commission on the turnouts at most polling booths that both commissions use. We look at population, the expected turnout of voters, and the proximity to other polling places. In the country we are more generous. We might keep smaller polling booths if electors have to travel a shade too far to get to a polling place. I will take the member's comments on board about Benger and we will have a look at it.

Mr BRADSHAW: The only good thing about Benger is that I get 92 of the votes.

Dr GALLOP: I have asked the Minister some questions about proposals he might be considering for the Legislative Council. I would like to move to the Legislative Assembly, which is the House in which the Government is formed. Before the election the Government committed itself to a system of one-vote-one-value with a degree of variation of 20 per cent to allow for local factors and the inclusion of a fairness clause in the legislation. We have had some debate about this issue in the Parliament. Is the Minister continuing to pursue the one-vote-one-value option? If he is, what will determine whether the Government goes down that track?

Mr SHAVE: As with the Legislative Council, the Legislative Assembly situation is constantly under review. The determination of whether the Government proceeds along those lines in this term will depend upon further consultation with the community. I have had particularly strong opposition from country people and country shires. I do not know whether the Labor Party or the National Party has been lobbying them. However, I have been inundated. It has not just come out of the coalition's area; it has come out of Labor seats. In fact, there have been very strong representations from shires in the Kalgoorlie and Pilbara electorates. All of the shires in those areas have been very vocal and very determined in their concerns for a reduction in representation of country people. When you ask me what is their interest, there has been very strong representation from those areas. That is of some concern to me because if we move for change in this term of government I would like to think there is overall community support for it. There does not seem to be that level of support in the country at the moment.

Dr GALLOP: Therefore, the Minister is ignoring the work of the royal commission and the Commission on Government, which engaged in systematic consultation with the community on these issues and reached the conclusion of one-vote-one-value?

Mr SHAVE: I said all these issues are under review. All the decisions we make will take into account the comments of the Commission on Government. You asked me to elaborate on what our position is. I do not have the details about with whom the Commission on Government spoke in country areas -

Dr GALLOP: It travelled all around the country.

Mr SHAVE: - to make its determination. If it was of the opinion that it had a consensus for change from country people, the evidence before me from the shires throughout country areas of Western Australia is to the contrary. I do not have details of the composition of the Commission on Government. I am not sure how strong country representation was on that commission. I think it did a very good job in the circumstances. However, at this point, there is strident opposition from country people to implementing changes which will reduce their representation. They believe that country Western Australia suffers from the same problems that Western Australia suffers from when dealing with the Federal Government. If we are prepared to accept that the majority of the wealth of Western Australia -

Mr MCGOWAN: Is produced on the Kwinana strip.

Mr SHAVE: The member mentioned the Kwinana strip before.

Dr GALLOP: What about Victoria Park? It produces more wealth than some of these places you are talking about.

Mr SHAVE: It produces some.

Dr GALLOP: Curtin University, Technology Park and the Burswood Resort are within its boundaries. I assure the Minister that it produces more wealth -

Mr SHAVE: Cut it out! Do not use the casino as an example.

Mr THOMAS: Don't you consider tourism to be a real industry?

Mr SHAVE: Absolutely. There are pluses and minuses. If the Leader of the Opposition is prepared to accept that a significant contribution to the Western Australian economy comes from country areas - such things as gas, oil and gold - he must, when decisions such as this are made, respect the rights of people to a view and the view of country people is that, in the main, sometimes people in the city forget where they are. As Minister, I have a responsibility to see that those people are properly represented and any decision we make will take into account their views.

Dr GALLOP: On the basis of what you have said, the prospects for lower quotas in the Legislative Council look pretty grim and the prospects for one-vote-one-value in the Legislative Assembly look pretty grim.

Mr SHAVE: I would not necessarily conclude that. The Government is very open-minded on this issue. It will consider everything and analyse it in a proper and fair manner. I am sure the people of Western Australia will be happy with any of the changes we make if we make them in this term.

Dr GALLOP: Are you concerned that, as a Government, you have lost the majority in the Legislative Council and, like Mr Staley, you have the view that it is not a good thing to have minor parties hold the balance of power?

Mr SHAVE: I am not in close contact with Mr Staley. However, I was interested to read the comments of the Leader of the Democrats, who was somewhat concerned that, in her view, a large number of Labor members of Parliament found Mr Staley's comments quite attractive. I would have thought that, with the Labor Party holding 12 seats in our Legislative Council, some form of change in that area might be beneficial to the Labor Party. All of these things are negotiable.

Dr GALLOP: The issue that we will bring to this negotiation, Minister, will be principle and the principles were laid down by the Commission on Government: Minority interests in our society should be able to be represented in the Legislative Council through proportional representation. I can tell the Minister now that the Opposition is not interested in negotiations that would result in a reduction in that representation. Our position is very clear.

[11.10 am]

Mr SHAVE: I am prepared to accept that position.

Mr MCGOWAN: The line drawn for country electorates as opposed to city electorates is somewhat arbitrary. I represent the seat of Rockingham, which is 15 minutes' drive from Mandurah. Mandurah has half the number of electors that Rockingham has. The Mandurah area is covered by two electorates, each of which is represented by a member of Parliament. Those two members together represent the same number of people as I do. That results in a skewing of the allocation of resources to members arguing for resources in their electorates. Does the Minister acknowledge that the cut-off point for country seats versus city seats is arbitrary and results in a skewing of resources? The Minister said he would consult with people in the process of determining what he would do. What is his personal view on this matter?

Point of Order

Mr BRADSHAW: That is more a policy matter than a budget matter.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr Baker): To which item of expenditure is it related?

Mr MCGOWAN: The mission statement at page 319.

Committee Resumed

Mr SHAVE: I understand the concerns of the member for Rockingham in that he represents a large number of electors compared with the electorates of other members in close proximity to his electorate. I do not have a personal view on this matter. As a Minister of the Crown I represent the Government. It would be unfair to other members of the Government if I expressed a personal view, given my position as a Minister.

Mr MASTERS: There are six or seven small country polling booths in my electorate and clearly that involves a maintenance cost. Does the Electoral Commission have general guidelines about the number of votes or the distance people must travel to a polling booth, or is it a subjective issue that changes from election to election?

Ms AULD: We have a policy as a guideline only which deals with the anticipated number of electors and the distance from other polling places. A range of other factors are taken into account, not the least of which is the suitability of the polling place. Often the country premises fall into disrepair and close anyway because there are no suitable facilities. We take into account previous voting statistics and elector population turnover in the area. In the most recent election we took into account the federal election figures for localities. It is a range and balance of figures. There is a cost in running small country polling booths, but it is not specifically taken into account. The issue is more one of providing a reasonable service to electors in reasonably close proximity to their homes.

Mr MASTERS: Will you give some indication of the number of kilometres beyond which you believe it is unreasonable for people to travel to a polling place, or the number of likely voters that you believe to be the minimum for the maintenance of a polling booth?

Ms AULD: Not in specific terms. When dealing with closure of polling booths, the Electoral Commission tends to take a more lenient line. It is less likely to open polling places in areas of low turnout, but with closures it would wait for a pattern to develop over a couple of elections before polling booths were closed.

Mr MASTERS: I should offer some praise to the commission. At the last election in December a new polling booth was opened at Churchill Park in Busselton. It worked very well because it took pressure from the other polling booths in Busselton at the Busselton Central Primary School and the West Busselton Primary School. Having three major booths in Busselton has reduced the load on the staff of the Electoral Commission significantly. In past years there have been queues of more than 200 people waiting to cast their vote but last year the biggest queue comprised 30 or 40 people, which is far more manageable.

Mr THOMAS: What is the progress in the appointment of the Electoral Commissioner and when is it expected to finalise the appointment?

Mr SHAVE: An advertisement was placed about four weeks ago, and 31 applications were received. I understand the panel appointed is in the process of reviewing the applicants and will make recommendations to the Government, I think within the next month. The Government will make a decision on the appointment of the commissioner when it receives those recommendations. Obviously, those who have applied for the job would like some certainty about their applications and as soon as practicable the Government will make a decision.

Mr THOMAS: Who is on the panel?

Mr SHAVE: I understand it includes Mr Langoulant from Treasury, Ricky Burges from the Perth Zoo and Barry Young from the AEC in Perth.

Dr GALLOP: I know that the Western Australian Electoral Commission is involved in enrolment issues. For some time, we have been concerned about Aboriginal enrolments and, more particularly, the apparent ease with which Aboriginal people fall off the rolls. In our view that is because the process used by the Electoral Commission to follow up on returned mail is such that presumption is made that a person is off the roll if the mail is not returned rather than a presumption to keep a person on the roll. Have the procedures in this area changed recently, and is there evidence that they have improved the enrolment of Aboriginal people?

[11.20 am]

Mr SHAVE: I know that prior to the 1993 election there was considerable concern about the removal of certain people from the roll, and that concern was expressed from 1993 through to the 1996 election. The commissioner might comment specifically on what transpired, what decision the commission made, and the area of Aboriginal enrolment.

Ms AULD: That is not the only procedure in the objection process as we are obliged to follow commonwealth Electoral Act procedures. Two or three notices are to be sent to an elector where it is alleged that person no longer lives at the address of enrolment. It is a mail-driven process, although the Australian Electoral Commission has of late been more willing to adopt other methods, such as telephone contact, especially in the federal division of Kalgoorlie. A statutory process is followed. The issue resides more with the commonwealth Act than with provisions we follow.

A number of objections arose from non-voter action from the federal election for a variety of reasons. Although the federal electoral commission had taken names off the federal roll in October 1996, an administrative slip up occurred and we did not receive the information until late in the day. A decision was made not to take those people off the state roll for the election. We knew about 10 000 people 10 days short of the election date being announced, so those names remained on the state roll. We took action to take them off after the rolls closed but they were on the rolls at the time of the election. Given the lateness of the notice, it was the only practical thing to do.

Dr GALLOP: What was the source of the objections?

Ms AULD: A variety of information relating to polling places was involved, such as information that people did not live at certain residences, and the AEC's own non-voter action.

Dr GALLOP: Did any objections come from a third party to people being on the roll?

Ms AULD: I could not be specific, but even if some of them resulted from third party information, they are rigorously checked under an agreed national policy. The source does not matter as everything is rigorously checked.

Mr SHAVE: The voter turnout in the Kimberley was 68 per cent, which could have been related largely to the fact that people on the roll, due to their transient nature, no longer resided in the area. Other factors were involved. If the 10 000 people had come off the roll, it is likely that the 68 per cent turnout would have increased significantly in the general figure.

Mr THOMAS: How does that compare with the previous election?

Mr SHAVE: Ms Auld has the figures for the Kimberley in 1993; I expect it was about 85 per cent.

Mr THOMAS: It could have been due to no Labor candidate standing.

Ms AULD: It was a particularly hard fought election in the Kimberley with four candidates and a lot of vigour. Weather might be an issue as a cyclone hovered around Broome on election day. The figure dropped from 76 per cent in 1993 to 68 per cent this time around, and some degree of influence resulted through action not being taken on the objections.

Ms MacTIERNAN: The Aboriginal voter problem does not apply only in remote areas as I anticipate that about half of the Aborigines in my electorate are not on the roll. Information from various sources, when checked against the AEC, indicates that many people are not on the roll. Some dedicated awareness program is needed to encourage Aboriginal people to enrol. Will you comment?

Also, I visited minimum security prisons at Woorloo, Karnet and Canning Vale during state and federal election campaigns and found that many prisoners are unaware that they have an entitlement to vote. This is a restricted entitlement, but in the minimum and low security prisons a substantial percentage of people are entitled to vote. Some meaningful advice is needed for prisoners before elections to give them time to enrol.

Mr SHAVE: My experience when door knocking is that some people, including friends of mine, are registered in the area of their parents' home. If people are in prison for six months and normally reside in Rockingham, they will not change their place of residence because they have been unfortunate enough to be incarcerated for six or nine months; they will retain their normal residential address. Some people keep their mother's address for 20 years - they should not do so - just because it is convenient. I would be surprised if a large number of such prisoners were not enrolled at an address somewhere in the metropolitan area.

Ms MacTIERNAN: That does happen but, with respect, many of the people in those situations formerly lived in rental accommodation. When they go inside for six months they do not maintain those rental addresses. We had difficulty finding where a substantial percentage of those people were on the roll, and they had no idea that they were entitled to vote.

Mr SHAVE: This is a very difficult situation. Do you recommend that a person who is in gaol for six months, with a three month minimum term, should enrol at Canning Vale? I would suggest not; it is more practical to maintain the address which they have always utilised.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I do not care where they vote, as long as they are given an opportunity to vote if they are entitled to vote. We need to ensure that they are aware of that entitlement.

Ms AULD: Some candidates suggested that we should run mobile polling at places like Roebourne and Broome prisons. We did a substantial amount of work with the Ministry of Justice to look at options, and prison security was discussed among a range of other issues. I take the member's point; that is, it is not only the issue of voting, but also correct enrolment before the election.

In the end we ran out of time. For the future, we will look seriously at conducting, like the Australian Electoral Commission, mobile polls in major prisons. If we take that action, it must go hand in hand with some enrolment drives. We allowed prison authorities to take an active role, particularly with education staff, in promoting postal voting, and we noted an upswing in postal voting applications from people addressed in prisons. A provision in the enrolment sections of the Electoral Act deals with temporary departure from residence because of incarceration. People can maintain their previous residence for voting purposes for the period of incarceration.

When considering whether to conduct mobile polling in prisons, we took into account that under the state Act, if one has a sentence of more than one year's imprisonment, one is struck from the roll. Under the commonwealth Electoral Act provisions, that time limit is five years' imprisonment. Therefore, the commonwealth has more of an obligation to poll in prisons than we do because its potential catchment is somewhat larger. The issue was brought to light in the north as the AEC polled at major prisons for both federal and ATSIC elections. We have made some inroads into this major issue this time around, but we will do more for the next election.

Mr MASTERS: Page 321 of the budget papers, in subprogram 1.4, indicates that management of non-parliamentary elections in the coming year will cost about \$329 000 for 45 elections. That is about \$7 500 per election. What was the nature of those elections, and were the costs incurred for staff, postage, etc?

[11.30 am]

Ms AULD: It is for elections that we run under other legislation, such as the Industrial Relations Act, and the costs are for time, postage, mail handling, etc. All the costs associated with running principally postal voting elections come under that funding.

Mr MASTERS: How many votes are dealt with per election, on average?

Ms AULD: It is a fair range. Many of the elections are very small and involve perhaps only 100 members, but some are quite large. The voter turnout is usually pretty modest - 25 to 30 per cent.

Mr MASTERS: Do you budget for a set number of dollars per vote, such as \$1.50 per vote?

Ms AULD: No. We have a fairly regular pattern of what we expect to spend as a global sum. Many of the vacancies in the elections that we run in this area are uncontested, and many times when we call for nominations we have only as many nominees as there are vacancies, and on some occasions positions are left unfilled.

Mr McGOWAN: Are you involved in local government elections?

Ms AULD: Yes, we are.

Mr McGOWAN: Local government elections were held a couple of weeks ago, and a number of concerns have been expressed to me by various individuals involved in those elections. Ticks were used as a technique for voting in all the areas around the State at that election, and there is concern that may create confusion at the next state and federal elections, where the technique used is numbering. Do you acknowledge that there is capacity for confusion, and what do you intend to do about it? Do you intend to maintain the system of ticks at the next election?

The second concern is that the intention of the first-past-the-post voting system at those elections was to prevent the formation of factions. However, in many of those local government polls, two positions were available, so people ran as teams in order to get at least one person across the line. That defeated the purpose of what was intended by the first-past-the-post system. What do you intend to do about the formation of factions to subvert the intention of the Act?

Mr SHAVE: I would like to give the member an answer to all those questions, but these matters fall under the Local Government Act, and the person who will determine them is the Minister for Local Government. It would be more appropriate to ask that Minister a question on notice. I do not expect him to have formed a view in this short time after the election, and I am sure he will take into account recommendations made by the commissioner or the commissioner's office. At the end of the day, the Minister is the person who must respond to those questions.

Mr McGOWAN: Recently, Parliament passed some amendments to the Industrial Relations Act with regard to donations. I tie this in to page 318, which outlines expenditure under the Industrial Relations Act. Those amendments provide that unions must meet certain requirements if they want to make donations to political parties or for political purposes. Do you intend to impose the same requirements upon other organisations that want to make donations to political parties or for political purposes?

Mr SHAVE: It will depend, firstly, upon whether there are any changes to the Electoral Act in this term of government. That is the first thing we are pursuing. If we took the position that there should be changes, then all those issues would be considered and we would make a decision about those issues, and people such as you would have ample opportunity to make submissions along those lines.

Mr McGOWAN: Are you saying you are contemplating it?

Mr SHAVE: We will consider it, yes, as we will consider all the other issues.

Dr GALLOP: You are considering everything!

Mr SHAVE: We are a very thoughtful and responsible Government.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Not necessarily activist, though!

Mr SHAVE: There is a saying that the wheels of government often move slowly.

Dr GALLOP: Is there anything that you are not considering?

Mr SHAVE: I made the point in my opening statement that everything is under consideration all the time.

Mr McGOWAN: As you know, donations to political parties of over \$1 500 are declared in a public report that comes out, but there is a loophole in the case of donations under \$1 500 in that organisations can make a number of donations of \$1 499 and not have to declare them. Do you intend to close that loophole so that donations of under \$1 500 must be declared?

Mr SHAVE: I said in a speech in Parliament six or 12 months ago when the Bill went through, when I was the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister, that if we were shown that people were openly abusing the system, we would do whatever was appropriate to change the system so that did not occur. I said also that whatever we do with these sorts of things, people have a habit of getting around the rules. If we were to reduce the figure from \$1 500 to \$500, should the donations be aggregated if the director of one company made a donation but he also made a donation as the director of another company, or if companies that were associated or had common shareholders each made a donation? We need to look at those issues, but it is very difficult to legislate to effectively eliminate the capacity of people to get around the Act if they want to get around the Act. If there were abuses and if we could legislate to enforce the spirit of the current Act, we would make those changes without hesitation.

[11.40 am]

Mr McGOWAN: Are you saying you are inquiring into it?

Mr SHAVE: No. There is no inquiry. I have not received any direct complaints that abuses have taken place. I do not know whether the commissioner has received any complaints. The commissioner advises me that she is required to report to Parliament on the specific issues to which the member has referred. I am sure the commissioner will take these discussions into account when she is compiling the annual report.

Sitting suspended from 11.41 to 11.49 am

Division 66 : Fair Trading, \$10 029 000 -

[Mr Baker, Chairman.]

[Mr Shave, Minister for Fair Trading.]

[Mr M.I. Bodycoat, Acting Executive Director, Ministry of Fair Trading.]

[Mr M.K. Eaton, Manager, Finance and Assets.]

Ms MacTIERNAN: On page 349 the ministry's role is described as providing access where necessary to advice on dispute resolution, to undertake inquiries to address serious marketplace situations, and as a last resort to initiate prosecution procedures. Are there occasions on which the ministry will fund individuals to take action in the local court against a trader? If so, where has this occurred?

[11.50 am]

Mr BODYCOAT: The Commissioner for Consumer Affairs has power under the Act to take action, with the Minister's consent, on behalf of the consumer to initiate or defend proceedings. A limit is set under the Act for the value of the amount in dispute for any proceedings being commenced or defended. At present no proceedings are under way in which the commissioner is involved as the representative of a consumer.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Has the commissioner at any time provided assistance to a person to either take proceedings or defend proceedings involving Subiaco Computer Warehouse?

Mr BODYCOAT: My recollection is that some assistance may have been granted. I will have to provide that answer by way of supplementary information.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Is this financial assistance to take or defend legal action?

Mr BODYCOAT: It is not direct financial assistance. Typically in the past the assistance has been provided by way of representation by a ministry legal officer.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Would that person act as the advocate in the legal proceedings?

Mr BODYCOAT: That is correct.

Ms MacTIERNAN: A major achievement for 1996-97 on page 350 deals with finalising the implementation of nationally consistent consumer credit laws. I agree that has been quite an achievement by the ministry. How complex has that been? Does the ministry provide funding for the Consumer Credit Legal Service or is the ministry aware of the government agency that provides that funding? The Consumer Credit Legal Service is very important in ensuring implementation of the consumer credit laws.

The CHAIRMAN: Is it the Minister's view that that question should be directed to the Attorney General or the Minister for Justice?

Mr SHAVE: That is possible, but that matter is covered within our area and I am not uncomfortable with Mr Bodycoat answering the question.

Mr BODYCOAT: The ministry provided funding for the CCLS from its budget in 1993. Since then the CCLS funding has been a mixture from civil penalty funds which have been established by virtue of proceedings in the commercial tribunal. Some large sums have been involved in those proceedings and the CCLS has had the benefit of some of those. There is no current funding for CCLS from the Ministry of Fair Trading budget. Currently the ministry is in discussion with the CCLS to try to find funding from some source.

Ms MacTIERNAN: An application was made to the ministry for funding?

Mr BODYCOAT: Yes.

Ms MacTIERNAN: When was that application made and what sum of money are we looking at?

Mr BODYCOAT: I do not know when the application was made, but the sum involved is approximately \$346 000.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Given that its current supply of funds from the Westpac settlement is about to run out, the organisation is already operating at a reduced level and not been able to take on many cases. Do we have any idea of when a decision will be made about whether funding will be forthcoming?

Mr SHAVE: There has not been an allocation in the Budget. I have made it very clear to Mr Bodycoat that my preferred position is that the service must continue. I anticipate he will make recommendations to me over the next three or four weeks which will allow me to make a submission to Cabinet on the basis that we might achieve what we want with regard to the funding.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I appreciate that. There has been considerable delay in this matter. There is a risk that the organisation will lose its experienced staff unless we act quickly.

Mr SHAVE: I appreciate the comments made by the member.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Mention is made on page 351 of the home buyers assistance scheme. In the estimates I cannot find any sum of money mentioned that is made available under these grants. Where in the budget is that figure shown? What are the eligibility criteria for these grants?

Mr BODYCOAT: The funding for the home buyers assistance scheme historically has been by way of the trust funds maintained by real estate agents and the deposits trust maintained by the Real Estate and Business Agents Supervisory Board. In the past the fund was established by interest being paid into it. It is not incorporated under this budget. The eligibility criteria I will provide by way of supplementary information.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I recall we had legislation to change those a couple of years ago.

Mr BODYCOAT: That is right. Originally eligibility required that borrowing be from a bank or a building society. With the advent of other types of lenders it was noted as being unnecessarily restrictive. There are other criteria about values of housing and the like, which I cannot provide.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Can I be advised by way of supplementary information how many grants have been made and the sums of money that were involved?

Mr BODYCOAT: I will provide that by supplementary information.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I understand the Builders Registration Board is a separate agency. Last year the board ran into financial difficulty and made application to the ministry, and a big lump of money was paid to it. That was off budget, I understand. Where in the actuals is that lump of money shown? How much was it? Can it be confirmed that the board has made further representation to the Minister or the ministry for another bailout?

Mr BODYCOAT: The amount of money which the board received as an off-budget item was \$700 000. It was a one-off payment. The board maintains it is unable to guarantee its funding beyond October 1998. As a result of the board's financial position, its administration and the costs it faces in the operation of the building disputes committee are under examination. I expect to report to the Minister very shortly.

[12 noon]

Ms MacTIERNAN: Will fees for builders be increased or will home buyers be hit with an application fee to make a complaint?

Mr BODYCOAT: They are issues under discussion but no firm decision has been made about any of them.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Where does one find \$700 000 off budget?

Mr BODYCOAT: That was an item made available to the Builders Registration Board outside the ministry's budget. I am unable to provide the source of it at present. I will provide it by way of supplementary information.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I understand that the board is the primary agency in hearing disputes of home buyers against builders. Does the Ministry of Fair Trading's staff still play a role in that?

Mr BODYCOAT: The ministry's staff has some role. However, since the Building Disputes Committee was established, the role is significantly smaller than in the past. Where unsatisfactory building work is evident or is alleged by a complainant the complaint will be dealt with by the Builders Registration Board. If it is not possible to settle that after the intervention of one of the board's inspectors it can go before the Building Disputes Committee, subject to being within jurisdiction.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Under what circumstances does the Ministry of Fair Trading get involved in that?

Mr BODYCOAT: Some disputes do not necessarily involve workmanship issues, which is the primary province of the Builders Registration Board. Disputes of that nature, such as the terms of a contract between a home owner and a builder, can be investigated by the ministry. Those disputes which generally do not relate specifically to the standards of building work are more likely to be taken on by the ministry.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Is there a need for some expansion of the terms of reference of the Home Building Contracts Act to enable the Building Disputes Committee to consider those matters?

Mr BODYCOAT: I prefer not to give an opinion because it might pre-empt the advice I will give to my Minister. It is a possibility that could be considered.

Ms MacTIERNAN: In subparagraph 1.1 at page 350 the line reads "Fair Trading services to influence transport and service industries". What do you include in transport and services? Why is that a discrete item?

Mr BODYCOAT: Included in transport and service industries are such things as motor vehicles. That area focuses on the administration of the Motor Vehicle Dealers Act and complaints relating to unsatisfactory or unserviceable motor vehicles; the administration of the legislation relating to travel agents; the administration of the credit and finance brokers legislation; and general service delivery in relation to complaints affecting the delivery of services pursuant to contracts between purchasers and suppliers.

Mr MASTERS: Does the Painters Registration Board come under this ministry?

Mr SHAVE: Yes.

Mr MASTERS: Is there an allowance in the budget for next year relating to the review that I understand is earmarked? An issue down south has shown deficiencies in the Act. If there is an allowance, how much is it? If not, can I assume a review will be carried out using existing staff?

Mr SHAVE: I do not have the specific allocation. There is a requirement under the Act that these various areas be reviewed.

Mr BODYCOAT: The Painters Registration Act is one for which the portfolio responsibility rests with the Minister for Fair Trading. Using existing resources, the review will be carried out by the Ministry of Fair Trading. The Acting Director of Legal and Competition Policy will supervise the review. We cannot be certain, but it may be necessary to find external assistance. It has begun.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Of late, various reviews have been conducted into the Builders Registration Board. When will we see action arising out of them? I gather a review was recently published.

Mr SHAVE: Under the national competition policy just about all these areas are required to be reviewed over the next 12 months or two years. That forms one area. The issue of when we will see changes will depend on our capacity to get them into the legislative system. I will be guided by Mr Bodycoat and his officers on the priority of any changes. As with the Lands portfolio, Fair Trading has a large number of areas it would like the ministry to address. With pressure on every other ministry to get its legislation through we have only certain allocations depending on the urgency of each portfolio.

[12.10 pm]

Mr BODYCOAT: The Builders Registration Board and its Act need to be addressed at two levels. If any changes are proposed which require legislative amendment they must be regarded as long term changes. Changes may be made in the shorter term which will not require legislative changes, which would assist with the alleviation of some of the perceived problems relating to the Building Disputes Committee, such as the alleged delays, and the general administration of the board. They can be regarded as a separate and much shorter term issue. At this stage recommendations from the ministry are yet to be made.

Ms MacTIERNAN: In late 1994 or early 1995 one of the Minister's predecessors, Hon Peter Foss MLC, was under some pressure, from cases that the Opposition was bringing forward, to deal with phoenix builders - those companies going into liquidation, starting up again and getting registration under a new company entity. He promised that he would legislate in that regard. That was two years ago and nothing has emerged since his ministerial statement.

Mr BODYCOAT: I cannot answer for ministerial decisions in the past. The current situation requires a mixture of short and long term solutions. The ministry's view is that we need to give some priority to short term measures to alleviate the problem. The difficulty imposed on some of those is the restrictive nature of the board's legislation and, in part, that restricts its financial ability to manage what it needs to do to address some of the situations about which the Opposition has concern.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I understand that the commercial tenancies legislation is under review. What is the time frame for that review?

Mr SHAVE: That legislation has not been introduced this term because I wanted to be sure that as a result of the Green Paper everyone had an opportunity to make submissions before we proceeded. The property council had indicated publicly that it had not had sufficient time to make an input to the legislation. That was disputed by various groups including the Retail Traders Association. Mr Nick Catania, the former member of Parliament, works for that group. I have some reservations about a few matters which have been raised, such as management fees and the apportionment of outgoings. The legislation as prepared in the Green Paper touched on the apportionment of outgoings on the basis of floor area. In that regard, I do not have a problem with large shopping centres. It appears to be fair.

A problem arose with multilevel shopping centres where, say, in the Hay Street Mall a business has access to the street and people move up and down the arcade. Another business, say, a bootmaker, could have a large area in the basement. There could also be a bookshop on the third level. If we were to apportion rates and outgoings - as was recommended - very often the outgoings are as significant as the rent, so to proceed with the legislation on that basis could cause some difficulty. About 10 days ago I had a meeting with Nick Catania and other people, and pointed out my concerns. I asked them to provide some recommendations whereby we might overcome the problem. I did not want a basement sports shop proprietor standing in the middle of Hay Street declaring that his business had been destroyed because the legislation had taken away his livelihood, and that he could not exist because his outgoings used to be \$5 000 but had been increased to \$35 000.

The member for Armadale asked in Parliament recently why I did not get on with the commercial tenancies legislation. It has been delayed because I want to make sure that as far as possible I do not make a decision which might impact severely on a sector of the community for which the legislation was designed; I do not want to restrict, penalise or impede the running of a business. Under the general provisions in the Green Paper there has been a four or five year consultation period. The general legislation introduced by the former Minister for Fair Trading is similar to this proposed legislation. There will be no major changes.

Another area for consideration is land tax. If management fees are transferred from the tenants to the owner, as has been requested by the small retailer groups, inevitably there will be a problem. If the owners of a shopping centre are charging certain rents and have geared themselves for a certain income and outgoings and are then required to pay a further \$50 000, they will argue that part of that amount should be the tenants' liability. Each side has a different view. However, if that cost is transferred to the owner of the centre, inevitably rent reviews will take that into account. The small retailers accept that gross rentals will increase in certain circumstances within those shopping centres. That leads to other areas such as the Valuer General working out the land tax based on the rental factor.

If he does not include the management fee in that assessment, that policy will move us into areas such as local council rates and other matters based on the Valuer General's figures. Gross rental value is an important issue.

The ministry will meet with the Valuer General. My second reading speech on this legislation will refer to that issue. If gross rental values are determined, the Government will not expect increases in rates and taxes as a result of that change - if it occurs. It may not pass through Parliament, but if it happens I do not want the Government to think that as a result of the change - which is aimed at assisting small retailers - it will have a detrimental effect at the other end on gross rentals. If the Valuer General's figures go up when the gross rentals increase, it is the small retailer who will pay. That is what I am concerned about. They are just a couple of areas of concern.

I came into this portfolio only three months ago. I have treated the matter with particular care because having rented small businesses myself, to and from people, I know what happens when the Valuer General comes in and the council rates jump by 30 or 40 per cent in one year. That will not happen in this case. However, I want the Valuer General's Office to understand that the Government does not countenance that and does not expect it.

[12.20 pm]

Ms MacTIERNAN: There is concern about the ratcheting up clauses in many of these leases. It is felt the protections in, I think, section 11(2) of the Act are not providing any real protection for tenants. Even the concept of market rent is becoming difficult for the valuers to determine. Shopping centre managements are doing all sorts of deals with individual tenants in which the rents are a lot lower than the publicised rent. However, it is not possible for the valuers to get hold of that information because it is considered to be commercially confidential. It is difficult to get to even first base and establish the notion of what is a market rent under those circumstances.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr Baker): Is there not a trend to get around that problem by redefining fair market rental by including a definition that modifies the common law definition?

Ms MacTIERNAN: I am not sure about that; I would be interested to see it. They still require people to price like properties. However, they cannot get the information.

Mr SHAVE: The member raises an interesting area. The first issue is ratcheting. A friend of mine who is a butcher has been involved in one of those leases and he had some difficulty with it. The property managers have always hit him with the consumer price index increases. Over the past two years those increases have been ordinary, and they took the other option: They thought they were not getting enough and they went the other way. That is unfair. It is not the Government's intention to have retrospective legislation. If leases are in place, those leases will stand because many problems are associated with retrospective legislation. Owners have commitments on existing leases and everyone enters into leases in good faith. It is not something I would countenance if it could be avoided in any way. I am sure it can.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Is the Government revising its view about the degree of regulation in that area?

Mr SHAVE: The Government is looking at every area. I tried to get together the two retailers associations and the property council. I asked them to show me what they agreed on in the Green Bill and where they did not agree. I said if they came up with additional information the Government would make a decision on whether it would change anything in the Green Bill or on what it thought was appropriate. One group said there were 19 points of common agreement and the other said there were 14. If the member for Armadale has received expressions of concern about a specific section of the legislation, I would welcome advice from her so that if there is a target area in the Green Bill, we can look specifically at that area.

A valuer who has been in property for a long time is looking at all the sections. We are scrutinising the legislation again and we will do it until Parliament sits. If concerns are raised about certain sections, we will look at them. I deal on a regular basis with Nick Catania, along with others. I will not please everyone with my decisions on some of the issues that are involved. The position of property owners is that the management fee is a variable that is associated with outgoings and it is as much the responsibility of the tenants as it is of the owner of the shopping centre. The lessees in small shopping centres have a view that the management fee is applicable to the owner.

On Tuesday I had lunch with people from the Real Estate Institute of WA. Westfield and other big operators have changed management fees as part of their leases - and legally so - but have not employed outside managers. They are employing in-house salaried people from the industry, and still charging the management fee. Fifty per cent of the larger shopping centres in Perth charge a management fee while their management is done in-house. That only strengthens the argument that management fees should be paid by the owner of the shopping centre. If he then wants to make an adjustment in the rent for that cost - a fair adjustment - he should have the capability to do that.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Does the Government have a time frame for that legislation?

Mr SHAVE: Yes, it will be the first cab off the rank in the spring session of Parliament. I could have first read it this session; however, we made the decision not to.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Do you have a revised Bill already drafted?

Mr SHAVE: We have the Green Paper and we have gone through the Act. We have not drafted the Bill I want to introduce because I am working to a time frame of the next session.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I am concerned about the deregulation of real estate fees.

Mr SHAVE: Are you referring to letting fees or selling fees?

Ms MacTIERNAN: I refer to the commissions.

Mr SHAVE: I met with real estate brokers and the real estate industry over the past week. I expect a report back in the next two weeks with a recommendation from the board on when that deregulation might take place. I expect to announce the date in the next two to three weeks.

[12.30 pm]

Ms MacTIERNAN: Will the department go ahead with the deregulation of the domestic residential market as well?

Mr SHAVE: Yes. The reason it has been delayed is that when I took over the job I had some concerns that there should be adequate safeguards. I have in mind, particularly, elderly people selling a home who have an agent set a price. I want a mechanism to ensure that elderly people and people inexperienced in real estate, perhaps young people, are adequately protected. I have told the ministry and the real estate industry that that is what I want before we introduce a time frame for deregulation, and that is what is happening at the moment. I was told at a meeting three days ago that both sides were comfortable with what had been developed and they would come forward in the next few weeks with the proposal.

Ms MacTIERNAN: So, the Minister is not concerned that those safeguards might include a substantial conflict of interest?

Mr SHAVE: No. If the industry does not behave in a proper manner, that will reflect on the industry itself. The majority of people involved in the industry who hold senior positions in the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia are responsible and do not want sharks giving the industry a bad name. If that should happen, I want the supervisory board, which does not comprise only people from the real estate industry -

Ms MacTIERNAN: But largely they are.

Mr BODYCOAT: There are five members at present; two are lawyers and one is an accountant.

Mr SHAVE: And two are from the industry.

Ms MacTIERNAN: For which firms do the lawyers work?

Mr BODYCOAT: If that is the information the member wants, I can provide it.

Ms MacTIERNAN: The fact that they are lawyers and accountants does not mean they are not intimately involved in the industry. I have this problem with a number of boards that include lawyers.

Mr SHAVE: I have concerns about lawyers all the time.

Ms MacTIERNAN: For example, this ministry previously appointed a lawyer to investigate the fretting mortar problem. That lawyer worked for the firm that acted for the companies involved. It was extraordinary. The fact that a person is a lawyer does not mean that he or she is not involved in the industry or that the board is a broadly representative body.

Mr SHAVE: Most of the appointments to the real estate board come up at the end of 1997 and I will keep in mind the concerns the member has raised.

Ms MacTIERNAN: The Minister is going down the wrong track in relation to the deregulation of fees in the residential sector. What price increases does he anticipate? Will there be significant increases?

Mr SHAVE: In some circumstances there will be reductions.

Ms MacTIERNAN: In the residential sector?

Mr SHAVE: In all sectors.

Ms MacTIERNAN: That strikes me as odd. We now set a maximum fee and there are virtually no instances of agents charging less than that. Why would agents suddenly charge less once the maximum is lifted?

Mr SHAVE: An estate agent sold a property in Mundijong for me about six months ago. It sold for \$215 000 and the agent charged the standard fee of \$5 000 or \$6 000, and I did not worry too much about that. However, if the fees had been deregulated, I am sure I would have taken the opportunity to negotiate because the legislation would have allowed me to do that. The member will respond that I can do that now. However, I did not because I am not one of those people who does that. I have always taken the attitude that if the fee is set and the person involved does an honest day's work, that is what I will pay. A deregulated market will increase competition and, as a result, the fees will be forced down. We do not have enough competition.

Ms MacTIERNAN: There is probably no industry in which there is more competition than this industry. It is churning in representatives and spitting them out.

Mr SHAVE: I am not saying that the number of agents is not healthy; it is in terms of the competition. However, the industry has traditionally said that 5 per cent or 10 per cent is the regulated or approved fee and that is what is charged. The proposals being introduced will increase the competition in relation to fees.

Ms MacTIERNAN: The Eastern States experience is that fees have gone up. REIWA is selling this to agents and representatives at seminars. It has said that this will be great because they will be able to charge a lot more. Fundamentally, they can expect higher returns once the deregulation is implemented.

Mr SHAVE: That has not been conveyed to me until now.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I have been told that by representatives. If the Minister is wrong -

Mr SHAVE: You want me to resign.

Ms MacTIERNAN: No. The arguments about competition do not wash. The industry is enormously competitive. If agents were prepared to cut fees, they would be doing so now. The reality is that the fees will go up. If they do go up substantially, will the Minister look at reregulating?

Mr SHAVE: It would be inappropriate of me, after the advice and recommendations I have had both from within the industry and from the ministry, to suggest that the Government will deregulate fees but will reregulate if it does not work. If I were to say that, the implication is that we are not sure about what we are proposing and have no confidence in it. I am confident that this is the right move. However, everything that any Government ever does in any area is always open to review. I do not want it to be thought that I have any concerns about what is happening. I simply want proper safeguards so that if people try to exploit the public there is recourse. I am satisfied that, when I receive the proposal in the next week or two, that will be the position.

[12.40 pm]

Ms MacTIERNAN: I flag the point for the Minister that unless he reviews his supposed protections the move will be misguided. The protections appear to be completely inadequate.

Mr SHAVE: The member is better informed than I. The recommendations of the board have not come to me, so I do not know what are the recommendations. The member obviously knows someone there.

Ms MacTIERNAN: The departmental officers came to see me.

Mr SHAVE: They have not given me any advice or recommendation.

Ms MacTIERNAN: On the board that we were discussing before are two real estate agents, both of whom are very senior members of the Real Estate Institute of WA. One is a direct nominee of REIWA and the other has been elected generally from agents but is a prominent member of REIWA. The industry is not made up only of agents. There is also a large group of licensed sales representatives. Why do we not give them an opportunity to be represented, so that rather than getting the views only of agents, we include a representative of the representatives?

Mr SHAVE: The people on the board are agents, one or both of whom are actively involved in selling property. They may be principals of their companies. The fact that they are senior people in REIWA gives me comfort. I like to think that REIWA is a body which takes pride in its functions. Those senior people have experience and commitment. They have been in the industry for a long time. They are not Johnny-come-latelies but have worked their way up in the organisation. It may be that we will put another person on the board from, say, the representatives' side of the industry. I cannot see that if REIWA represents all those firms which employ all those people, it would nominate anyone other than a person of good standing who was conscious of his responsibility. I would much rather

have an experienced person nominated by REIWA than someone who has been in the industry for five minutes. That is in everyone's interest.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I do not know the percentage of agents who belong to REIWA. However, it is not necessarily in the interests of the industry to have it totally represented by agents and not representatives. In many ways their interests are very different. REIWA is running a training school for representatives. The school is churning people out into the industry, and making substantial amounts of money, it would appear. People are not lasting in the industry, because the sorts of returns and the conditions under which they are working are quite appalling in many circumstances. It is no skin off the nose of REIWA, because plenty of people are queueing up to pay their \$1 000 to attend the course. We are not getting a proper overview of the industry by having its representatives drawn from such a narrow base.

Mr SHAVE: I take the point and cannot dispute what the member is saying, other than to say that I support the principle of someone having adequate training.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I support training too.

Mr SHAVE: I do not know what REIWA charges for its courses. I said at a luncheon the other day that I am comfortable with having qualifications for people going into the industry, just as I am for lawyers, hotel brokers or anyone else. The biggest danger in any of these areas is having people come in who think they know it all. I used to sell insurance at one stage. The turnover in real estate agents and insurance agents, for as long as I have been in business, since I was 20 years of age, has always been high. People leave a government job, take their superannuation and want something to do. My father did it when he was 55 and retired from Caltex Oil. They get involved in the insurance industry or real estate. It is dog eat dog out there. We have far more real estate agents than we need. The conditions are not necessarily the cause of the high turnover; it is the size of the market. People find the industry attractive to work in and they think they will be successful. One in 20 lasts probably five years; one in 40 or 50 lasts 20 years. I understand the member's concern for the people entering the industry with starry eyes and who want to stay there. They may look to all the reasons that they are not lasting in the industry. At the end of the day it is supply and demand. Too many people want to get into the industry when there are not enough houses to sell. During the last four or five years the residential market has not been buoyant, and so there has been shedding. When we have another boom, people on the fringe will make a living. There will be another boom because that is the cycle of the housing market and other areas of business. It will not last. When things get tough people will stay in there and their businesses will contract. Sadly, some people who have gone in, paid \$1 000 and made a commitment to buy a new car, have brochures printed and all the other things, will lose money.

Ms MacTIERNAN: It is not just some people. The figures are pretty enormous. I believe there is some gross exploitation going on, but we will take that up at another time. I asked some questions some time ago about the activity of the ministry concerning the Chan matter. I understand ministry staff are still considering the case and whether there should be charges. I understand also that they are considering the issue of compensation for the victims of Chan.

Mr BODYCOAT: The fund the member referred to is the fidelity guarantee fund, which is maintained under the Real Estate and Business Agents Act. Each complainant must have his or her entitlement to claim against the fund assessed individually. A number of criteria apply to the fund. At this stage three such claims are being considered. It is not always clear when an application is made that the fund will apply to the application. As to what the ministry is considering doing about it, the member may recall that one agreement was that an independent consultant be engaged to examine the operations of the compliance section of the real estate industry business unit. That report is largely complete and a draft has been provided to me. I am in the process of preparing advice for the Minister on the matter.

Ms MacTIERNAN: There is a report into your reporting procedures and an independent investigation into the three claims for compensation?

Mr BODYCOAT: Yes.

Ms MacTIERNAN: How long have those claims been under consideration?

[12.50 pm]

Mr BODYCOAT: I cannot give that information.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Are you talking months?

Mr BODYCOAT: It will be months but I cannot give the member the specific detail.

Ms MacTIERNAN: When will a determination be made and why is it taking so long?

Mr BODYCOAT: I am happy to provide a report by way of supplementary information.

The CHAIRMAN: That has been noted.

Ms MacTIERNAN: The old adage, "Justice delayed is justice denied" comes to mind. This issue has been dragging on for a very long time. The facts are all there, but it is difficult to see how we can justify the delay in resolving the compensation claims either way.

Mr SHAVE: We will take note of the member's concerns and do what we can to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Following on from that is the conflict of interest with the settlement agents. Part of the whole Chan problem arises out of parties acting for both sides in a real estate and settlement sense. Various working parties have made a number of recommendations. One recommendation is that settlement agents should not work for both parties in a transaction. The notion that a cost saving is involved is a nonsense. Another recommendation is that real estate agents should not have an interest in settlement agencies because a very clear conflict of interest arises when a real estate agent has a vested interest in ensuring settlement and his company is conducting the settlement.

Mr SHAVE: My advice is that in 99 per cent of cases settlement agents behave in a proper manner. The argument has been put that we would be better served if there was that division. The solicitors may take on more of the work which is currently done by settlement agents. It is not something I support.

Ms MacTIERNAN: They charge the same.

Mr SHAVE: There are as many solicitors running into trouble in areas similar to this as there are settlement agents. I have a view that providing the Government is satisfied that the vast majority of settlement agents are behaving in a proper manner, any decision it makes to restrict their practices must be weighed up on two issues. Firstly, the issue of a conflict of interest, which is the one the member raised and, secondly, the issue of providing the public with a service at the best competitive price. My evaluation of the situation up to now is that, in the main, settlement agents behave in a very responsible manner and the public is getting a first class service from them at a very reasonable fee.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I agree the fees settlement agents charge are reasonable. In 99 per cent of cases where a settlement agent acts for both the vendor and the purchaser, there is no cost saving. The settlement agents charge the vendor and purchaser the same money they would if they were acting for either party individually. It is a cost saving for the settlement agent, but it is not a cost saving for the consumer.

Recommendations indicating that this is a problem have been made by the ministry on several occasions. Obviously the independent real estate agencies and law societies believe this is a real problem. I agree that the rule which applies to solicitors should apply also to settlement agents. Settlement agents should be prohibited from acting for both sides in a transaction. There are many instances where the parties' respective rights have not been fully prosecuted because it has been in the interests of the settlement agent to get the settlement finalised. He is not looking at protecting the rights of the party for whom he is acting. No other State allows the sorts of things that are permitted in this State.

Mr SHAVE: I take the member's point. I have employed both solicitors and settlement agents to do the same sort of work on different property transactions I have been involved in and in nearly all cases I have found that the fee I have paid has been substantially less in the case of settlement agents than in the case of solicitors. The member said that people are getting charged the same price by having the settlement agent undertake both functions. I suggest that is not the case in all circumstances. I am sure, because it is such a competitive marketplace, that when it is not necessary to have a lawyer working for one party and a settlement agent for the other party - both of them will seek the same information - the fee that is charged will reflect the fact that some of the functions have been duplicated. Does the member agree with me?

Ms MacTIERNAN: It does not happen. It might happen commercially. People do not shop around for a settlement agent.

Mr SHAVE: The reality of the marketplace is that it is competitive and if two groups of people go to the Titles Office to get the same information the person they are representing will ultimately pay double the price for that part of the service.

Ms MacTIERNAN: That is not how it happens. I am not trying to prosecute a case for solicitors taking over the work of settlement agents. I am merely concerned that we have independent settlement agents who do not have vested interests which conflict with discharging their duties.

Mr SHAVE: I take the member's point.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I note on page 354 of the Budget Statements that there is a revenue item "Proceeds from the sale of Business Names Data". What is that?

Mr BODYCOAT: It is not the sale of mailing lists, if that is a concern. The sale of business names data allows independent brokers to search the ministry's database online for the existence of registered business names. It is a means of accessing information beyond what the ministry provides.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Is there any reason that the Parliamentary Library cannot access the business names register in that way? It is ironic that it has immediate access to the Commonwealth's companies database, but not to the State's business names database.

Mr BODYCOAT: I was not aware that it is a problem.

Ms MacTIERNAN: It is.

Mr BODYCOAT: I am willing to examine that with my staff.

Committee adjourned at 1.00 pm

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

NOTE: Information which is publicly available is not included in the Supplementary Information.

Division 2: Parliament -

Question: The member for Belmont asked what was the cost of an extra week's sitting.

Answer: The cost of an extra sitting week is estimated to be \$41 000. This amount is mainly comprised of salary and wages overtime; casual staffing; printing costs of *Hansard*, Notice Papers and Votes and Proceedings; staff meals and taxis for the Legislative Assembly and the three service departments, but excludes Legislative Council costs. For the purposes of this estimate, the cost is based on a "normal" sitting week for the Legislative Assembly, with sitting hours of 2.00 pm until 11.00 pm on Tuesdays; 11.00 am to 11.00 pm on Wednesdays and 10.00 am to 6.00 pm on Thursdays.

Division 3: Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations -

Question: The member for Midland inquired as to the number of allegations against police received by the Parliamentary Commissioner so far this year.

Answer: The number of allegations against police received between 1 July 1996 and 30 April 1997 is 1 310. The number for this period last year was 1 405 and the number for the whole of 1995-96 was 1 682.

Division 4: Premier and Cabinet -

Question: The Leader of the Opposition asked whether any attitude monitoring polling surveys had been done.

Answer: Forum groups for the qualitative phase have been held. Briefings for the first quantitative surveys were being conducted on 23 May 1997, with the first survey scheduled for the weekend starting Saturday, 24 May. No reports have yet been received.

Question: The member for Greenough asked whether the Minister would provide a list of all our overseas offices.

Answer: The following is a list of Western Australian overseas offices -

Hong Kong

Ms Elsa Ting
Manager, Education Office
Western Australian Education Office
Suite 702 Ocean Centre
5 Canton Road
Tsimshatsui KOWLOON
HONG KONG
Tel: 0011 852 2735 7557
Fax: 0015 852 2736 3397

India

Mr Monish Paul
Regional Director
Western Australian Trade Office
Acrow Business Centre
5th Floor Sterling Centre
16/2, Dr A B Rd, Worli MUMBAI
400 018
INDIA
Tel: 0011 91 22 497 4081/2
Fax: 0015 91 22 493 8445

Indonesia

Mr Simon Johnson
Regional Director
Western Australian/East Java Office
JL Pemuda
27-31
SURABAYA 60275 EAST JAVA
INDONESIA
Tel: 0011 62 31 531 9123
Fax: 0015 62 31 531 9118

United Kingdom

Hon Clive Griffiths (from 2/6/97)
Agent General
Western Australia House
115 The Strand
LONDON WC2R OAJ
UNITED KINGDOM
Tel: 0011 44 171 240 2881
Fax: 0015 44 171 240 6637

Korea

Mr YW Park
Official Representative
Government Office of Western Australia
1st Floor Hill Court Building
648-9 Yoksam-Dong
KANGNAM-KU SEOUL
KOREA
Tel: 0011 82 2 563 8333 or 8335
Fax: 0015 82 2 563 8334

Malaysia

Ms Mei Chan
Education Manager
Western Australian Education Centre
4th Floor UBN Tower
10 Jalan P Ramlee
KUALA LUMPUR 50250
MALAYSIA
Tel: 0011 60 3 232 1248/9
Fax: 0015 60 3 232 1268

Singapore

Mr Alex Lee
Manager, Education Services
Government of Western Australia
1 Coleman Street
05-13 The Adelphi
SINGAPORE 0617
Tel: 0011 65 338 3667
Fax: 0015 65 383 4373

People's Republic of China

Ms Hongjun (Stella) BU
Marketing Officer
Western Australian Trade and
Investment Promotion
Rm 7016 Second Light Industry Building
404 Yan An Road
HANGZHOU 310006
ZHEJIANG PROVINCE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
Tel: 0011 86 571 702 8975
Fax 0015 86 571 708 6005

Mr B J Zhuang

Regional Director
WA Trade & Investment Promotion
Room 2201-2202, Shanghai
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129 Yan An Road West
SHANGHAI 200040
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
Tel: 0011 8621 6249 8145
Fax: 0015 8621 6249 9053

Japan

Mr Michael Walker
Official Representative
Western Australian Government Office
28th Floor New Otani Garden Court
4-1 Kioicho, CHIYODA-KU
TOKYO 102 JAPAN
Tel: 0011 81 3 5214 0791
Fax: 0015 81 3 5214 0796

Mr Shojiro Kitamura
General Manager
Western Australian Government Office
6th Floor Golden Sun Building
4-3-6 Nakayamate
CHUO-KU KOBE 650
JAPAN
Tel: 0011 81 78 242 7705
Fax: 0015 81 78 242 7707

Question: The Leader of the Opposition asked whether the Minister could provide details on the current status and future proposals for the Hillview site in Victoria Park.

Answer: The Hillview site is under the control of the Health Department which is yet to determine its future. It is currently occupied by the Bentley Health Service which provides a child and adolescent psychiatric service, and the Disability Services Commission which runs a clinic and residential service from the site. The Health Department expects to relocate the Bentley Health Service component from Hillview to the Bentley Hospital by September 1998.

The Disability Services Commission is currently evaluating its ongoing requirements at Hillview. The northern half of the property fronting Albany Highway has been maintained by the Town of Victoria Park as parkland for a number of years. There is no formal lease arrangement with the town but it is interested in future uses for the site and its possible acquisition. Hillview is a heritage property. A draft conservation plan has recently been completed which recommends -

- retention of the open space fronting Albany Highway;
- retention of the historic buildings including Edward Millen House;
- demolition of intrusive elements;
- the opportunity for unobtrusive development to the rear of the site; and
- that a variety of uses be considered for the site, including commercial and other options.

Once the conservation plan is finalised the Health Department will discuss future uses with the Town of Victoria Park and other interest groups.

Question: The member for Mitchell sought background on the contribution to Rockingham City for landscaping and engineering services.

Answer: Following the Government's earlier \$3m support program during 1993-94 - 1996-97, a task force was established, including representation from the City of Rockingham, to consider further support for the development of the city centre. The city's own draft development implementation strategy was examined in detail and a submission prepared for consideration by government when formulating the 1997-98 Budget. The Government was particularly pleased to be able to commit \$2m over the next four years, given the constraints on the Budget.

The proposed projects include a range of roadworks and associated infrastructure in the city centre to be jointly funded with the City of Rockingham. Discussions will take place with the city to agree which are of the highest priority to proceed in 1997-98 and which will be scheduled for the out-years.

Question: The member for Rockingham referred to the segment on transport and asked for comment on the \$17m increase in the estimated costs for the Northbridge tunnel project.

Answer: The original estimate was \$335m in 1994 dollars and included \$35m for land. The revised estimate is \$352m, an increase of \$17m or 5 per cent. When this project was announced it was stated that the original estimate did not include allowances for inflation which between 1995 and 1997 account for \$4.8m of the estimated total increase. \$8.5m of the estimated total increase results from changes to the scope of the project and overheads. Scope changes include an underpass at East Parade, the Riversdale Road bridge, Belmont Park footbridge and other changes to enhance the overall level of service to the community.

Further scope changes are likely before the project is completed. Overhead costs included in the increased estimate result from changes in accounting practices in Main Roads which occurred after the original estimate was made and are aimed at achieving fully attributed costs to projects. Land costs are expected to increase by \$3.7m which result from higher valuations than anticipated and some additional requirements.

Question: The Leader of the Opposition asked whether the Minister could provide details on what real property assets were proposed to be sold by agencies during the 1997-98 financial year.

Answer: Details of property identified by agencies in their disposal programs for 1997-98 are set out below -

Total Estimated Sales by Consolidated Fund Agencies 1997-98

Agency	Estimated Gross Revenue \$
Conservation and Land Management	6 000 000
Contract and Management Services	6 050 000
Agriculture Western Australia	3 510 000
Department of Transport	2 770 000
Disability Services Commission	2 974 000
Education Department of WA	10 254 000
Fire Brigades Board	1 170 000
Health Department of WA	1 880 000
MetroBus	1 050 000
Police Service	<u>7 465 000</u>
Total	43 123 000

Note: The total estimate of \$43 123 000 from the sale of over 70 properties is derived from disposal programs prepared by agencies which may vary from actual printed estimates.

Question: The Leader of the Opposition sought a list of all projects undertaken under the capital city development program.

Answer:

Item 1:

Central Perth Historical Precinct (State Government funding only)

Project	Details	FY 1994-95 \$	FY 1995-96 \$	FY 1996-97 (Estimated)
Demolition of BankWest building	The removal of the old BankWest building and landscaping site.	992 000	3 721 000	1 416 000
Documentation	The preparation of contract documentation.	0	0	0
Refurbishment	The refurbishment and restoration of Central Government Buildings to ensure public safety.	0	151 000	106 000

Item 2:

St George's Hall Heritage Project (State Government funding only)

St George's Hall	Refurbishment of St George's Hall portico, provision of cafe, landscaping and public art.	358 000	326 000	0
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Item 3:

Special Project Funding (State Government funding only)

Special projects and administration	Salary and administration costs for Capital City Development unit, special project investigations.	286 000	245 000	300 000
King Street Arts Centre	Approved by Capital City Committee, this is a contribution to the Centre's construction.	0	0	175 000
Great Eastern Highway Enhancement Project	Street scape enhancement and public art to Great Eastern Highway from Causeway to Orrong Road.	0	306 000	2 692 000

Item 4:

Street scape enhancements and related improvements coordinated by the City of Perth (with 50 per cent funding provided by State Government)

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[ASSEMBLY - Estimates Committee B]

Project	Details	FY 1994-95 State Funding \$	FY 1995-96 50% State Funding \$	FY 1996-97 50% State Funding (to 9.4.97) \$
The Terraces - Works	Design, documentation and construction of Stage 1 works. Major expenditure items included: Art works Design & Documentation Concept plan Drainage	51 342 \$61 000 \$63 000 \$72 500 \$27 000	192 418	54 319
The Terraces - Causeway	Causeway Interim Works	0	0	250
Adelaide Terrace	Lighting - Hill Street to Causeway section	48 732	125 301	142
Stirling Gardens	Stirling Gardens Entrance - sculpture and landscape	0	0	31 617
Hay Street West Perth	Thomas Street to freeway - concept plan and street improvements. Major expenditure items included: Design & documentation Street improvements & trees Drainage Lighting Furniture Art work	0 \$ 3 500 \$243 000 \$ 60 000 \$ 45 000 \$ 12 000 \$ 12 500	56 266	319 860
Mount Street East	Design and construction of street improvement works. Major expenditure items included: Roadworks Landscaping Drainage upgrade Design fees Consultant project manager Administration	0 \$174 000 \$ 75 500 \$ 76 500 \$ 35 500 \$ 9 000 \$ 6 038	11 348	365 690
Mount Street Precinct	Including Bellevue Tce and Cliff Street design and construction of street works	0	10 943	8 556
King Street	Completion of street works	237 347	201 545	17 192
Murray Street	Completion of street works	526 674	515 172	42 489
Security cameras	Security cameras	0	6 197	0
Hay Street West End	William Street to freeway - concept plan and street works	0	432	465
Queen Street	Murray Street to Wellington Street Concept plan and street works	0	0	1 463
Russell Square	Completion of works, toilet relocation, lighting, sewerage etc. Major expenditure items included: Art works Paving and landscaping Lighting	0 \$ 9 000 \$37 000 \$20 000	49 633	38 620
St James Estate	Completion of street improvements. Major expenditure items included: Drainage Landscaping Roadworks Footpaths Undergrounding of power Furniture	0 \$ 92 000 \$ 53 092 \$ 95 000 \$140 000 \$ 97 000 \$ 4 000	388 240	92 852

Security cameras and works	Works determined for Northbridge area	0	21 317	0
Hay Street Mall	Concept plan, development guidelines improvement works. Major expenditure items included: Relocation of trees Art works Concept plan Camera relocation	0 \$96 720 \$62 000 \$46 000 \$ 7 300	123 247	88 773
City Station	Tiling and new artworks on concourse	0	1 862	27 417
Forrest Place and environs	Concept plan and improvements. Major expenditure items included: Concept plan Security camera upgrade Street lighting	0 \$55 000 \$52 000 \$73 000	75 178	106 676
Hill Street	Terrace Road to Adelaide Terrace - completion of street works	0	23 515	250
Goderich Street	Victoria Square to Hill Street - completion of underground power works. Major expenditure items included: Undergrounding of power Roadworks Paving Landscaping Drainage	0 \$201 000 \$ 25 000 \$ 36 000 \$ 25 000 \$ 10 000	307 787	12 943
Goderich Precinct	Precinct concept plan	0	12 165	0
Hay Street East Perth	Hill to Causeway and Trinity Ave - Concept plan	0	1 000	0
Eastern Gateway	Completion of concept plan	43 500	54 075	0
Western Gateway	Completion of concept plan	0	46 082	153
Western Gateway	Enhancements for freeway to Cliff Street	0	3 617	0
Barrack Street North	Barrack Sq to Wellington Street - conservation plan and main street project	0	10 201	8 969
Barrack Square	Street improvement works	0	0	1 082
Civic Domain and Foreshore	Concept plan	0	1 000	1 468
Central Govt Buildings	Artworks to scaffolding	0	0	20 670
Victoria Avenue	Terrace Road to Adelaide Terrace lighting	0	5 615	81 701
Gloucester Precinct	Precinct concept plan	0	432	0
Hale Street	Hay Street to Waterloo Crescent - Concept plan and improvements	0	2 545	11 714
Nelson Crescent	Hale Street to EPRA work - concept plan	0	0	572
Murray Street East	Barrack Street to Victoria Avenue - concept plan and street works	0	2 014	10 671
Raine Square Bridge	Refurbishment of overpass	0	5 457	15 523
Pier Street	St Georges Terrace to Wellington Street - concept plan and street works	0	0	3 938

Vacant Site	Wildflower planting - site enhancement	0	0	4 308
Public Arts Strategy	Strategy for public art in city	10 000	8 660	2 991
Signage Strategy	Strategy for signage in public domain	0	8 364	10 783
Services Strategy	A database providing details of public utility services location and coordinate future works	0	923	9 891
Children's Strategy	A strategy to make the city more attractive to children	0	12 796	12 594
Access Strategy	Access for people with disabilities	0	7 741	2 724
PACFP Administration	Administrative assistance for projects	0	17 423	31 792
Public Places Enhancement Strategy	A strategy to integrate completed strategies for implementation	0	0	12 970
Youth strategy	A strategy to make the city more attractive for youth	0	0	465
Bells of St Martin	Concept plan and preliminary works	0	0	465
PACFP Marketing Strategy	A strategy to increase community awareness of PACFP	0	0	14 002
Landscape Strategy	A strategy to improve urban landscape	0	15 291	0
Lighting Strategy	A strategy to enhance lighting in the city	0	11 678	0
Furniture Strategy	A strategy to coordinate street furniture	0	13 984	0
Paving Strategy	A strategy to improve paved surfaces in the city	0	1 996	0
Urban Dev Strategy	A strategy to coordinate urban design and development in the city	0	8 429	0

Question: The member for Bassendean sought a list of the assets that have been sold, the moneys received and the moneys used for debt reduction.

Answer:

(1)	Asset Sales 1995-96	Asset Sales (including land) \$m
	Agency	
	Homeswest	105.0
	State Services	45.4
	GEHA	18.4
	Main Roads	13.0
	Westrail	12.7
	State Planning	12.2
	Water Authority	16.7
	Electricity Corporation	10.0
	CALM	9.7
	Other	36.4
		<u>279.5</u>

The figure of \$279m is published on page 20 of the State's consolidated financial statements 1995-96 under "proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets".

(2) Unscheduled Capital Repayments

Apart from the reduction in net debt resulting from the sale of BankWest, the following unscheduled repayments were made in 1995-96:

(i) WATC	\$m
Dampier Port Authority	0.6
CALM	*9.6
GEHA	*5.0
Homeswest	*5.0
Health Department	1.8
Metro Cemeteries Board	1.6
Waters & Rivers	0.1
	<u>23.7</u>

*These were funded from asset sales according to advice from the individual agencies.

(ii) Treasury	
Albany Port Authority	0.6
Water Authority	75.0
Fremantle Port Authority	0.5
	<u>76.1</u>

Generally the proceeds of asset sales have been used to meet additional capital requirements.

As a share of gross state product, net debt in this State has fallen over the past three years from 19.9 per cent to 12.3 per cent. This is an unprecedented achievement in the management of this State's net debt position.

Total public sector net debt has fallen by more than \$1.9b between 30 June 1993 and the end of the last financial year. A significant proportion of this reduction has been achieved through a major asset sale, that of BankWest, which saw almost the whole of the sale proceeds of \$900m, together with related commonwealth tax compensation of \$200m, directed to this purpose. The balance of the reduction has been achieved by a fiscally responsible approach to debt management.

Question: The member for Murray-Wellington asked if the initiative to offer people a subsidy to fit immobilisers to their vehicles had been successful, and if so, had enough money been budgeted to cope with the demand for people applying for the subsidy.

Answer: Yes, the initiative has been successful. So far the Insurance Council of Australia has processed more than 20 500 applications for vehicles to be fitted with vehicle immobilisers since the government rebate scheme began on March 1.

It is estimated that there are 600 000 family registered vehicles in WA without an immobiliser fitted. The State Government has committed \$18m (\$30 per vehicle) over three years to encourage car owners to help protect their vehicles and reduce crime in the community.

Question: The member for Rockingham sought details as to why the costs for the Minister for Primary Industry's office were so much higher than any other Minister's costs.

Answer: The expenditure differential reflects, in large part, the additional costs of travel arising because of the nature of the portfolio responsibilities. Both Agriculture and Fisheries require extensive travel throughout the State, Australia and overseas, both in response to the rural and remote client base and in support of marketplace development.

Question: The member for Geraldton expressed concern that private bus operators in receipt of government subsidies, for example, for the provision of regular public transport services and school bus services, are at an advantage when competing with other private operators for other work such as charter services.

Answer: To place restrictions on bus operations in undertaking charter trips, on the grounds that they have other work which allows them to price their services competitively, would be discriminatory and would not be in the public interest as it would increase the cost of transport services. Instead of placing restrictions on the activities of subsidised operators, where feasible, account is taken of other income in determining the level of government subsidy. However, in Geraldton, which is the service specifically mentioned, the amount of charter work currently secured by the public transport operator is minimal. In respect of school bus contracts, there are some 800 contracts around the State and it would not be feasible nor practical to require all these operators to submit regular returns in order to discount their contract rate to take account of any charter work undertaken.

Question: The member for Mitchell asked whether the Minister could provide details on the current rate per square metre per FTE in the Bunbury Tower.

Answer: Bunbury Tower has a total area under lease of 8 874 square metres occupied by 232 FTEs, resulting in a rate of 38 square metres per FTE.

Question: The Leader of the Opposition asked how many people does the Government expect to take on through the standard entrance exam?

Answer: Based on recruitment so far this calendar year it is estimated that approximately 1 100 people will be employed in the public sector during 1997. Employment will be to both permanent positions and to fixed term positions.

Question: The Leader of the Opposition questioned the delay being experienced by applicants who sat the public sector recruitment test in receiving their test results.

Answer: This year a joint recruitment test was conducted by the Commonwealth Government for people interested in being registered for potential employment opportunities in the state and commonwealth public sectors. The newly developed test was conducted for the first time in February 1997. As it was the inaugural test it was necessary for the scores to be standardised across Australia. To do this other tests had to be conducted. It was also necessary because the Western Australian test group tended to score better results than the national average. The Commonwealth Government has indicated test results will be received in the week commencing 26 May 1997. The Public Sector Management Office will have test results for individuals who passed the test and who indicated that they were interested in state government employment sent to the applicants within one week of receiving the results from the Commonwealth.

Youth Coordination and Consultation -

Question: The member for Kalgoorlie asked for a breakdown of proposed expenditure of \$5.3m for the key outputs titled Youth Promotion and Youth Development.

Answer: Funds have been provided in 1997-98 for the key outputs as follows -

	\$
Youth promotion	2 220 000
Youth development	3 118 000

Details of proposed expenditure are -

Youth Promotion

Administration of Office of Youth Affairs; policy development and coordination of youth matters; provision of policy advice; and analysis of performance and strategic issues (including salaries and contingencies)	525
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Administration and development of -

- Youth Advisory Councils and Regional Youth Network	250
- Youth information dissemination	45
- Expanded cadets in high schools program	250
- Youth facilities in regional centres	1 150

Youth development

Administration of youth development, programs and strategies (including salaries and contingencies)	256
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Administration and development of -

Community service grants	640
Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme	60
Youth training scheme - Cadets WA (incl. salaries and contingencies)	575
Expansion of cadet program	1 187
Young community leaders program	100
Young entrepreneur scheme	50
Parliamentary internships for young people	100
Carer cadets pilot program	50
Leadership training school	100

Question: The member for Kalgoorlie asked for details of the \$700 000 to be spent on a wide range of community based organisations.

Answer: The funding for the community based organisations was transferred from Family and Children's Services in the 1996-97 financial year. Under this funding, grants are being provided to the following recipient organisations -

	\$
Anglican Youth Ministries	12 722
Boys Brigade	12 722
Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme	60 000
Eastern Goldfields YMCA	12 722
Girls Brigade	12 722
Girl Guides	156 000
Joint Commonwealth Societies	3 640
Perth YMCA	12 722
Salvation Army HQ	12 722
Scouts Association	156 000
Scripture Union	12 722
Uniting Church	12 722
WA Federation of Rural Youth	20 800
YMCA Perth	12 722
Youth Affairs Council of WA	70 000
Young Christian Students	12 722
Youth Focus	104 999

Question: The member for Nollamara, in referring to page 785 of the Budget Statements, sought clarification as to whether there is a reduction in youth programs in 1997-98.

Answer: The figure shown on page 785 under Youth Co-ordination and Consultation for 1996-97 is \$2.717m, not \$5.475m as the member suggests. Therefore, the estimated expenditure for 1997-98 of \$5.338m represents an increase in funding in youth programs from 1996-97.

Question: The member for Nollamara asked for details of major planned achievements for 1997-98 of the output group "Youth Co-ordination and Consultation".

Answer: Major planned achievements for 1997-98 are -

Expansion of the cadets in high school programs up to 50 cadet units.

Establishment of a Young Entrepreneur Scheme to encourage and provide practical advice, training and support for young people to establish their own business enterprises.

Implementation of a carer cadets pilot program for volunteer young people.

Establishment of youth councils and provide youth facilities within regional centres.

Development of a system of parliamentary internships for young people.

Establishment of the young community leaders program to provide young people from the city - and larger regional centres - an opportunity to experience a country lifestyle which will enable them to understand and appreciate the impact of issues relative to country people.

Division 11: Commerce and Trade -

Question: The member for Bassendean asked how much was allocated to each of the financial assistance schemes offered by the department and where in the printed estimates was it included; also information on which of these amounts was provided as direct financial assistance; that is, funds provided to individual companies to attract them to the State.

Answer: The Department of Commerce and Trade has revised its policy on eligibility for financial assistance in a general sense, as distinct from the specific criteria which apply to each scheme. This new policy needed to be agreed with AusIndustry (in relation to the commonwealth funds administered by the department) and will not come into effect until that agreement has been reached.

The objective of the change is to limit access to financial assistance to those organisations which would otherwise be unlikely to proceed with the activity in question. For example, larger organisations could be expected to self-finance the travel costs involved in visiting a new market and will be excluded from that type of assistance under the new policy. The policy says - notwithstanding any other criteria associated with individual financial assistance

to industry schemes through the department, an enterprise, to be eligible, must have an active work force of less than 100 people; that is, staff, consultants and contractors.

In calculating this work force figure, the complete structure - from the parent holding company down - is to be considered for eligibility regardless of which subsidiary - or division - of the parent company makes the application; that is, if one of the subsidiaries applies for financial assistance it will be considered as part of the parent company total work force and not as a separate entity.

The table provides (a) a list of the individual scheme names, (b) whether the work force policy applies to that scheme, (c) information on the estimated internal budget allocation for 1997-98 where this is available, (d) an indication as to where the scheme allocation is included in the various parts of the budget estimates papers, and (e) which of the schemes are available for access by individual companies and could be said to provide "direct" assistance.

If the member's question is taken literally, only the industry investment incentives program could be said to target "individual companies to attract them to the State", although other programs are accessible to individual companies and these are indicated in the table provided.

Key to (d) above

A Program/Subprogram (page 147 in the printed estimates)

Program 1	Economic development
Subprogram 1.1	Investment attraction
Subprogram 1.2	Trade enhancement
Subprogram 1.3	Regional economic growth
Subprogram 1.4	Aboriginal economic development

B Expenditure Category (page 148 in the printed estimates)

Grants, subsidies and transfer payments

1	Industry incentives
2	National industry extension service/AusIndustry
3	Cooperative research centres and centres of excellence
4	Exmouth Development Trust Fund
5	Regional headworks development scheme
6	Other

C Output Groups/Key Outputs

1	Investment attraction
1.1	Investment services
1.2	Infrastructure development
1.3	Science and technology promotion and support
2	Trade development support
2.1	Trade services
2.2	Business improvement services
3	Regional development support
3.1	Regional and community development services
3.2	Regional development support
4	Aboriginal Economic Development
4.1	Aboriginal Economic Development Council Services
4.2	Aboriginal Enterprise Improvement Services

ELIGIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEMES

SCHEME NAME YES indicates that the work force limit policy applies *Indicates that the scheme is accessible by individual firms	Location in printed estimates			Internal Budget Estimates \$'000
	Sub- Program (page 147)	Expenditure Category (page 148)	Output Group (Pages 152/3)	
Aboriginal Business Funding Scheme (BFS) *	1.4	6	4.2	Note 1
Aboriginal Community Economic Initiatives Scheme (CEIS) *	1.4	6	4.2	
Aboriginal Enterprise Employment Grants (EEG)*	1.4	6	4.2	
Aboriginal Enterprise Mentoring Program (YES except for Aboriginal Corporations)*	1.4	6	4.2	125
Aboriginal Enterprise Planning and Improvement Program (YES except for Aboriginal Corporations)*	1.4	6	4.2	150
Aboriginal Enterprise Small Capital Grants Program (YES except for Aboriginal Corporations)*	1.4	6	4.2	200
Aboriginal Product and Services Development Program (YES except for Aboriginal Corporations)*	1.4	6	4.2	150
AusIndustry - Business Improvement Programs* (YES)	1.2	2	2.2	5 224
Business Visit Program	1.2	6	2.1/1.1	105
Centres of Excellence in Industry Focused R&D (Strategic Plan Support)	1.1	3	1.3	4072
Centres of Excellence in Industry Focused R&D (Federal Funding Support)	1.1	3	1.3	
Centres of Excellence in Industry Focused R&D (Major Funding Support)	1.1	3	1.3	
Exmouth Development Trust Fund	1.3	4	3.1	4 742
Export Graduate Scheme *	1.2	6	2.1	90
Export market Support Scheme (EMSS) (YES)*	1.2	6	2.1	500

Industry Investment Incentives Program *	1.1	1	1.1	4 343
International Projects Market Support Scheme (IPMSS) (YES) *	1.2	6	2.1	60
Neville Stanley Bursary	1.1	6	1.3	75
Neville Stanley Studentships	1.1	6	1.3	
Prefeasibility Study Funding (YES)*	1.1	1	1.1	150
Project Mainstreet	1.3	6	3.1	200
Regional Headworks Development Scheme *	1.1	5	1.2	5 000
Regional Initiatives Fund (RIF)	1.3	6	3.1	720
Regional Interstate/Overseas Assistance Programs (YES)*	1.2	6	2.1	60
Regional Intrastate Travel Assistance Program (YES)*	1.2	6	2.1/1.1	6
Regional Sample Assistance Program (YES)*	1.2	6	2.1	10
Regional Trade Promotion Program (YES)*	1.2	6	2.1	60
Rural Enterprise Network Program (RENPN) (YES)*	1.3	6	3.1	20
Rural Show Display Grants	1.3	6	3.1	80
Sister State Program - East Java Business Exchange Program*	1.2	6	2.1/1.1	90
Sister State Program - East Java Exchange Program	1.2	6	2.1/1.1	
Sister State Program - Hyogo New Leader Exchange Program	1.2	6	2.1/1.1	17
Sister State Program - Zhejiang Agreement *	1.2	6	2.1/1.1	40
Small Town Economic Planning (STEP) Program	1.3	6	3.1	40
Sponsorship and Industry Promotion (SPIN)	ALL	6	ALL	Note 2
Western Australian Innovation Support Scheme (WAISS) (YES)*	1.1	6	1.3	1820

Note 1: Final Figures for ATSIC funds for these schemes have not yet been agreed. No budget is included in the printed estimates for 1997-98.

Note 2: No specific budget allocation is identified for sponsorship and industry promotion.

Question: The member for Cockburn asked whether strategy 4.1 in the science and technology policy with an allocation of \$100 000 was included in the Department of Commerce and Trade budget under item 1.3.

Answer: No. These funds are not included in the Department of Commerce and Trade budget for 1997-98. It is an across government initiative which will be developed over 1997-98 with input from industry and the community.

Question: The member for Cockburn asked: In relation to strategy No 21.1 in the science and technology policy to establish a steering committee to investigate the mechanisms to provide non-endowed universities with a land endowment - when will the steering committee be established?

Answer: This will be considered in the implementation plan currently under development.

Question: The member for Cockburn asked for the names of the members of the Medical and Health Infrastructure Council.

Answer: The Council membership is as follows -

Mr Campbell Ansell	Chair
Professor Ian Constable	
Professor Laurie Beilin	
Professor Miranda Grounds	
Professor Colin Sanderson	
Professor Bruce Robinson	
Commissioner for Health	
Chief Executive Officer, Department of Commerce and Trade	
Chief Executive officer, Lotteries Commission	
Professor Lou Landau - Representative Vice Chancellor, University of Western Australia	
Professor Alan Billes - Representative from other universities	
Professor Andrew Thompson - Representative from other universities	

Division 23: Resources Development -

Question: The member for Eyre queried the major recipients of the \$7 100 000 referred to on page 830 of the consolidated fund estimates. The Minister for Resources Development agreed to provide a summary of the details of the major contracts let by the department over the past 12 months.

Answer: Expenditure in this area covers a wide range of activities. These activities include vehicle hire, legal fees, rates and taxes, printing, building rental, building security and maintenance, information technology support, temporary staff, advertising, insurance, auditing services and consultancies. Expenditure for the year on project consultancies totalled \$3 000 000. The following list details the major projects -

- West Kimberley land and water project
- Ord River stage 11 project
- Burrup Peninsula planning
- Northern goldfields mineral province study
- Kemerton industrial estate waste disposal study
- Oakajee port studies
- Financial management system installation
- Karratha storm surge study
- Basic raw materials survey
- Cost benefit model development

Question: The member for Eyre asked that further information be made available regarding the \$1.88m for "Grants Subsidies and Transfer Payments" on page 837 of the consolidated fund estimates.

Answer: The proposed expenditure comprises -

- Western Australian Government China/Economic and Technical Research Trust Fund \$1 010 000
- Forest Residue Utilisation Levy Trust Fund \$400 000
- Interest Payment on Loan to the Bunbury Port Authority \$130 000
- Grant to the Industrial Supplies Office \$340 000

Division 25: Education -

Question: The member for Armadale asked about the duties of the presidents of the Primary and Secondary Principals' Associations seconded into the central office.

Answer: Key aspects of the service agreement between the Education Department and the Presidents of WAPPA and WASPA are as follows -

Western Australian Primary Principals' Association

Key aspects of the service agreement between the Education Department and the President of the Western Australian Primary Principals' Association are -

1. Management Improvement

Promoting improvement in principals' performance through professional development by -

 - working with principals to implement the professional development policy;
 - provision and promotion of professional development programs that further the Education Department's key objectives and initiatives;
 - trialing of a mentoring program for newly appointed principals;
 - providing principals with support materials to enhance management of poor performance, managing the implementation of the professional development and performance management policies in schools; and
 - working with Edith Cowan University to identify the professional development needs of principals.
2. Promotion of equity groups within leadership positions in government schools. This has included -
 - programs and mentoring to support women who wish to enter the profession; and
 - a service agreement to address attitudes towards and support for Aboriginal students to improve their attendance and learning outcomes through the development of a better understanding of culture and environments that encourage participation.
3. Supporting the use of technology in schools, by working with principals to enhance their knowledge and use of technology
4. Promote Western Australian Government Education in national and international forums.

Support to the Association

Under current arrangements the Education Department will contribute in excess of \$100 000 towards the work of WAPPA for the 1997 school year. This amount consists of -

- conference support of \$34 000;
- travel support to attend international conferences \$1 000; and
- the release of WAPPA president from school responsibilities \$76 000 (approximately).

Through contractual arrangements with the student services branch of the Education Department, an additional \$10 000 has been made available to pursue work in the area of Aboriginal education with principals.

Western Australian Secondary Principals' Association

Key aspects of this service agreement are -

1. The promotion of Western Australian Government Education in national and international forums.
2. The promotion of better understanding of Aboriginal culture in secondary schools, specifically to address attendance and learning outcomes of Aboriginal students.
3. The identification and promotion of national best practice in adolescent literacy programs in middle schools through the coordination of the Australian Secondary Principals' Association literacy project funded by DEETYA.
4. The promotion and planning for the provision of the national agenda in vocational education and training in government secondary schools.
5. The provision of support, advice, information and communication to secondary principals on policy and operational matters.

Support to the Association

Under current arrangements the Education Department will contribute in excess of \$137 000 towards the work of WASPA for the 1997 school year. This amount consists of -

conference support of \$8 000;
 travel support to attend international conferences \$2 000;
 the release of WASPA president from school responsibilities \$76 000 (approximately);
 secretarial support \$32 000; and
 contingency budget of \$9 000.

Through contractual arrangements with the student services branch of the Education Department, an additional \$10 000 has been made available to pursue work in the area of Aboriginal education with principals. A similar agreement exists with WAPPA.

Question: The member for Belmont asked if the 1996-97 facilities management budget was overspent and, if so, by how much and why?

Answer: There is no facilities management budget as such. If the member is referring to the capital works budget, there is no overspending from 1996-97.

Question: The member for Churchlands asked for a detailed breakdown of revenue and expenditure for the First Steps consultancy unit.

Answer:

First Steps Consultancy Unit
 Estimates
 Cash Analysis

	1996-97 \$	1997-98 \$	1998-99 \$
Expenditure			
Salaries and Allowances	928 100	901 200	956 000
Contingencies	680 000	650 000	650 000
Total Expenditure	1 608 100	1 551 200	1 606 000
Revenue			
Australian PD Fees	860 000	900 000	900 000
Overseas Consultancies	98 000	100 000	100 000
PD Royalties	221 000	567 500	737 500
Australian Book Royalties	380 200	231 700	231 700
Overseas Book Royalties	248 300	2 435 800	3 085 500
Copyright Fees (Cal)	11 100	10 000	10 000
USA Per Diem Fees	124 600	330 000	330 000
Salary Recoups	51 600	0	0
Sale of Publications	8 600	0	0
Export Market Devel Grant	80 000	90 000	90 000
Total Revenue	2 083 400	4 665 000	5 484 700
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	475 300	3 113 800	3 878 700

First Steps Consultancy Unit Expenditure		Estimated Expenditure 1996-97 \$
Salaries and Allowances		928 100
Contingencies		
Taxi Fares	8 000	
Accommodation	115 000	
Kilometrage	500	
Hire Other Vehicles - Staff Travel	5 500	
Air Fares	103 000	
Staff Transfer Costs	45 000	
Catering and Hospitality	4 500	
Course Reg/Attend Fees	3 200	
Insurance - Travel	15 000	
Superannuation	3 000	
Meal Allowance/Overtime	100	
Telephone	26 000	
Postage	900	
Courier Service	2 000	
Equipment - Lease	28 000	
Motor Vehicle Lease	3 000	
Rental Premises (Office Accommodation)	34 500	
Venue Hire	3 000	
Contract Staff	15 000	
Contracts - Building Services	30 000	
Legal Costs	1 000	
Consultant Fees	38 000	
Membership Expenses - Organisations	3 000	
Advertising	1 200	
Video Production Costs	1 000	
Freight and Cartage - General	4 800	
Printing (Not Publications)	20 000	
Stationery	6 200	
School Stocks and Resource Materials	72 000	
Consumables - General	300	
Petrol, Oil and Diesel (Motor Vehicle)	800	
Miscellaneous	4 500	
Equipment - Purchase	75 000	
Computer Software - Purchase	2 000	
Repairs and Maintenance	5 000	
TOTAL CONTINGENCIES	680 000	
SALARIES AND CONTINGENCIES	1 608 100	

Question: The member for Midland asked how much would be expended on computing in schools in 1996-97.

Answer: The Education Department of Western Australia provides for computing through the following programs -

	Expenditure 1996-97 \$000	Estimated 1997-98 \$000
Current Programs (Note: \$20m initiative announced in 1996-97, provided for initially in the capital program but transferred as it is a recurrent expenditure)		
Technology focus schools	1 000	1 000
Internet in the curriculum	2 500	2 500
Innovation in the classroom	450	0
Electronic network in schools	2 457	1 550
Satellites in schools	50	400
T2000 secretariat	143	150
Other	0	0
TOTAL	6 600	5 600
Repair and replacement	2 350	2 850

New programs

Graphics calculators	150
Computers in classrooms (Note: \$17.8m technology in schools program over four years to commence 1997-98)	
Capital purchases	1 000
Repairs	120

Question: The member for Belmont asked for details on the expansion of the four and five year old early childhood programs.

Answer: The Education Department of Western Australia will provide for the following expansion of the programs in 1997-98.

Four year old program -	
Capital works	\$2 400 000
Teachers and support staff	\$2 290 000
School running costs and school grants	\$ 376 000
Increase	\$5 066 000
Five year old program -	
Capital works (reduction)	-\$7 934 000
Teachers and support staff	\$5 517 000
School running costs and school grants	\$ 977 000
Reduction	-\$1 440 000

Question: The member for Churchlands asked if the department could put a dollar figure on how much it was putting into teacher development in this area.

Answer: The Education Department is contributing \$185 000 towards teacher development in this area.

Question: The member for Willagee asked to what level in the school system had there been an increase in Aboriginal students' enrolment and attendance.

Answer: Figures are for 1996 and 1997. Total full time Aboriginal enrolments in government schools and community preschools are as follows -

	Semester One Enrolments		Increase/(decrease)	
	1996	1997	1996	to 1997
Community Pre	610	552	(58)	(9.51%)
Preprimary	1 409	1 515	106	7.52%
Primary	8 782	9 242	460	5.24%
Secondary	3 445	3 661	216	6.27%
Total	14 246	14 970	724	5.08%

Question: The member for Belmont asked how many staff were working in the department on curriculum matters and what was the budget allocation to that area.

Answer: There are currently the equivalent of 82 full time staff working in the Education Department on curriculum matters with a budget totalling \$10.28m. The figure includes 13 support staff and 22.5 staff employed in the curriculum materials information service to evaluate curriculum materials used by schools and provide library catalogue support. The major work of the curriculum directorate in recent years has been the development of the student outcome statements which have been undertaken in collaboration with schools.

Question: The member for Belmont asked for a breakdown of the decrease of 126 FTEs for 1997-98 over 1996-97 estimated staffing levels.

Answer: The variation reflects a higher number of swimming teachers (12 FTEs); relief teachers in schools (63 FTEs) and the allocation of an additional 41 FTE school assistants in 1996-97. The 1997-98 FTE budget was not adjusted to reflect these changes; therefore it appears as a reduction at this time and will need to be adjusted during 1997-98.

Question: The member for Belmont asked about the additional teachers for 1998 by category.

Answer: The following table identifies the new teaching staff for 1998 -

	1997-98 Part Year FTEs	Full Year Effect FTEs
1998 New Schools and Enrolments:		
Primary	(11.2)	(29.3)
Secondary	41.3	101.0
Early Childhood Program:		
Five year old education	34.1	81.8
Four year old education	23.8	57.1
Indian Ocean Territories	2.0	2.0

Question: The member for Churchlands asked about the organisations that offer education programs and receive funding for staffing.

Answer: The Education Department provides staff and funding assistance to the following organisations to assist with their educational programs -

Organisation	FTEs	Funding Per Annum \$
Port Community School	1	21 817.43
WA Football Development Trust	1	10 853.28
Gould League	2.8 + 60 days Teacher Relief	128 193.83
Francis Burt Law Centre	2	23 232.50
Ribbons of Blue	1	48 906.00
		<u>\$233 003.04</u>

Question: The member for Armadale asked what moneys were provided to the Principals' Federation in 1996-97 or the 1996 calendar year.

Answer: The Education Department has not provided any further financial assistance other than the grant in 1995.

Question: The member for Rockingham asked what was the date on which air conditioning will be provided at Malibu School.

Answer: All special schools - there are 13 - are to be provided with a grant from the 1997-98 capital works program in order to undertake air cooling of some classrooms. The grant has been structured to ensure that at least two rooms at each school will be air cooled under this program. The number that will be done at each school this year will vary, depending upon the cost, the complexity of the work and the need for switchboard upgrading. The funds will be provided very early in the new financial year so that the works will be completed before summer starts.

Question: The member for Belmont asked for supplementary information about the number of school administrators on workplace agreements and the nature of the salary packaging they can access.

Answer: Approximately 2 300 school administrators have elected to join the workplace agreement. The Education Department has acquired the services of the McMillan Shakespeare Group to facilitate the salary packaging process. As at February this year approximately 900 school administrators had accessed salary packaging. The following items are options available to employees for inclusion in the remuneration package. The optional benefits must not exceed 50 per cent in value of an employee's agreed remuneration package salary -

- Membership fees and subscriptions to professional associations
- Home office expenses
- Financial counselling fees
- Disability/income protection insurance
- Self-education expenses
- Child care fees - in house (employer provided)
- Work related travel expenses
- Mobile phones for predominantly business use
- Contributions to a private superannuation fund
- Employee contributions to GoldState Superannuation Scheme
- Lease of motor vehicle

Question: The member for Belmont asked about the review consultancy for the cleaning services.

Answer: An amount of \$5 000 was paid to Precision Information Pty Ltd to undertake the 1996 review of cleaning services. The project did not run over budget and drafts were submitted to the department for verification of the

information supplied by the department. Some minor changes were made. The Government will make a decision about the future of cleaning once it has given due consideration to the public submissions.

Question: The member for Belmont asked about monitoring contract cleaning standards.

Answer:

Monitoring Contract Cleaning Standards

1. 5.0 FTEs are currently allocated to monitor cleaning standards in day labour and contract cleaned schools. In the implementation of the trial of contract cleaning, most of their time was spent in monitoring contract cleaned schools. At that time 6.0 FTEs were also monitoring day labour cleaned schools.
2. 2.0 FTEs have been appointed for a short term to monitor occupational health and safety criteria in contract cleaned schools. This task will be concluded early in June 1997.

Division 29: Agriculture -

Question: The member for Burrup queried the budget documents which stated that a new program has been introduced at Perth domestic airport.

Answer:

Interstate Quarantine Inspections - Perth Domestic Terminal

Competitive Tender for Barrier Quarantine Services: Following the recommendations of the Review of Interstate Quarantine (1993) that the delivery of quarantine services at the barrier be opened to competitive tendering, the Government called for tenders in 1994. In February 1995 the Minister for Primary Industry announced that the in-house bid by the Western Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service had been successful. The contract commenced on 1 March 1995. There are four major components in the contract, the WA/SA border road checkpoint, the Kalgoorlie rail and airport, the Kununurra road checkpoint and airport and the Perth Domestic Terminal.

Perth Domestic Terminal: Under the terms of the agreement the requirements at the Perth Domestic Airport are -

(1) At the commencement of the tender -

- Inspectors are required to meet 75 per cent of the flights in the airbridge and question 5 per cent of the passengers.
- For the remaining 25 per cent of flights the inspectors are to pre-inspect the baggage on transfer to the conveyor belts followed by baggage inspection at the carousel and inspection of two to three passengers' bags per flight.
- For the first year of the tender Agriculture Western Australia would provide one detector dog team shared between the international and domestic terminals. Flights met by a detector dog team at the baggage carousel would not be met by an additional inspector.

(2) By the end of the second year -

- Four detector dog teams would be operational by the end of the second year - February 1997 - with a concomitant reduction in the number of flights met by an inspector alone until only 75 per cent of all flights would be met by detector dog teams alone. The reduction in total number of flights met was based on the increased effectiveness of the detector dog teams over inspectors alone and the improved public awareness of quarantine restrictions.

Since the commencement of the contract, WAQIS has met or exceeded the minimum requirements of the tender as evidenced by internal and independent audits. A second detector dog team was operational by 18 September 1995 and four detector dog teams were fully operational by 1 November 1996. With only four detector dog teams it is not possible - or a requirement of the tender - to meet all flights given that flights can arrive between 7.00 am and 1.00 am, seven days a week and many simultaneous arrivals take place. Rosters have been designed to provide maximum coverage and to target the high risk flights, that is, predominantly tourist flights rather than those favoured by commuter businessmen. All interstate flights which touch down at Kununurra or Kalgoorlie en route to Perth are met by an inspector at these points in addition to Perth. However, flights originating within Western Australia are not met.

Public Awareness: In addition to meeting flights, WAQIS has re-enforced the barrier with targeted public awareness at air travellers. Quarantine information is now included in tourist brochures, on the electronic information system accessed by most travel agents, permanent displays of restricted items are placed in the departure lounges at the Perth

terminal, in-flight announcements are made before all stopovers in Western Australia, quarantine announcements are made in the airbridges on disembarkation and prominent amnesty bins are placed in the terminals.

Further Barrier Protection: Under the new initiatives introduced in the 1997-98 budget by the coalition Government, two additional passive detector dog teams will be provided over the next three years. These will increase the proportion of flights met at the Perth terminal and will also be used at regional airports. A Rapiscan X-ray machine is soon to be trialed at the domestic terminal and if successful will be used to screen baggage in addition to detector dogs or when dogs are unavailable. The former dingo research kennels at the Agriculture Protection Board's Forrestfield centre are being renovated to house the quarantine detector dogs. This will reduce travel time thus increasing the time the dogs are available to work at the terminal.

Seizures and Interceptions: Items seized in 1996-97 range from fruit, particularly tropical fruit and cherries when in season, cut flowers, honey, plants and budwood to tortoises. There has been a dramatic decline in the total amount seized compared to 1995-96 - see table. This is attributed to the success of the public awareness campaign and the deterrent effect of the detector dogs. Despite the overall decline the detector dog teams are 40 per cent more effective at detecting prohibited items than inspectors alone.

	1995-96		1996-97	
	Seizures Kg	No Passengers	Seizures Kg	No Passengers
Inspectors	6 357	1 010 954	2 452	1 123 322
Dog Teams	1 025	158 081	1 573	506 384
Total	7 382	1 169 035	4 025	1 629 706

There were 20 significant pest interceptions during the year which included two European red mite and 10 mango seed weevil.

Question: The member for Dawesville queried the term "agri-industry" and asked how important that industry is to Western Australia and what involvement does the Government have in it.

Answer: The term "agri-industry" is used to describe the concept of agriculture beginning in the paddock and ending when the consumer acquires the final product. Agri-industry embraces all aspects of the industry including on farm production, value adding, distribution, marketing and agricultural related services. The contribution of Western Australian agri-industry to the state economy is \$5.2b; that is, farm value added plus post farm value added. Agriculture Western Australia's programs provide services across the value chain beginning on farm and ending with the consumer.

Question: The member for Burrup queried Output Group 7.4 on page 103 which indicates an increase of \$12.8m.

Answer: The gross increase for 1996-97 estimated actuals to 1997-98 estimate of \$12.8m is due mainly to the new net appropriation arrangement in the delivery of RAFCOR outputs. All of RAFCOR's budgets including loan management fits within this output group. The SRD program has commissioned a major project for \$3.25m to assist farmers engaged in planning for the future. The property management planning process seeks to develop the skills of farm and station family members and will operate throughout the agricultural and pastoral areas of Western Australia.

Question: The member for Dawesville asked if the Minister could advise the level of commonwealth funding support to the farm forestry development group.

Answer: The farm forestry development group, which has been operating since August 1996, is funded jointly by the state agencies of Agriculture Western Australia and Conservation and Land Management, in partnership with the commonwealth Department of Primary Industries and Energy's farm forestry program. CALM and AGWA have embarked on a joint "south west farm forestry project", endorsed by the FFDG and funded to the extent of \$970 000 over three years by DPIE (FFP).

The Commonwealth has already advanced \$400 000 towards the joint agency project. This project encompasses a range of activities, one of which is the employment of a consultant to act as executive officer of the FFDG and also as coordinator of a farm forestry advisory service. AGWA and CALM each fund 25 per cent of the cost of this consultant. In 1996-97, AGWA allocated \$50 000 towards the costs of the consultant's fee, for sitting fees and other expenses of members, and any related minor consultancies.

Question: The member for Burrup identified on page 105 of the Budget Statements that price risk management will be achieved by initiating a commodity marketing study tour of the Eastern States early in 1996 and asked what was the cost of the tour and who went.

Answer: Attendees on 1996 commodity marketing study tour -

Kim Morison, Office of the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries.

Bona fide Farmers

Mr Angus Woithe, Broomehill
 Mr Rod Birch, Coorow
 Mr Joe Young, Kojonup
 Mr Chris Henderson, Varley
 Mr Garry Hyde, Esperance
 Mr Robert Sawyer, Dalwallinu
 Mr Don Thomson, Tincurrin

Non-Farmers

Mr Mark Metternick-Jones, Westpac Bank, Perth
 Mr Ron Myers, Wesfarmers Dalgety, Bassendean
 Ms Roslyn Hanna, Kondinin Group, Belmont
 Mr Steve Vlahos, Agriculture Western Australia, Katanning
 Mr Keith Gordon, Grain Pool of WA, Perth
 Mr David Falconer, Falconer Hackett, Nedlands

Direct sponsorship of \$12 000 from state funds in 1996-97. Contributions also from the rural adjustment scheme and various industry sponsors.

Question: The member for Kalgoorlie requested clarification of capital works expenditure of the WA-SA quarantine checkpoint.

Answer: Agriculture Protection Board - Capital Works Program: Relocation of Norseman checkpoint - the figure of \$0.806m shown as expenditure to 30 June 1997 is an estimate of the total cost of the relocation project and includes the amount of \$0.505m expended in the 1995-96 financial year. The figure of \$0.301m shown as expenditure in 1996-97 represents the estimate of funds that will be expended in 1996-97. This is the required method of reporting by Treasury as it shows the total costing of the capital works projects.

Question: The member for Peel asked how the "fire blight" disease was transmitted and identified.

Answer: Fire Blight - report as at 26 May 1997

The Disease: Fire blight - *Erwinia amylovora* is a bacterial disease which attacks apples, pears and a number of related ornamental hosts. The disease is highly infectious and there is no single effective treatment. It causes severe blight of blossoms, twigs and leaves, giving the tree a scorched appearance, hence its name. The disease results in production losses in the order of 30 to 40 per cent and in favourable areas for the disease, production of susceptible hosts is uneconomic. The disease is present in America, Europe, Middle East, New Zealand and Japan. Australia has been free of the disease and has maintained strict quarantine controls on the entry of host material which could introduce the disease. Plants, cuttings or fruit of hosts represent the main threats. It is spread by insects, particularly bees and birds as well as through the trade in ornamental plants. Once established, eradication would be unlikely.

Detection in Victoria and South Australia: On 5 May 1997 notification was received of a possible fire blight outbreak in Victoria. A visiting New Zealand scientist had noticed fire blight like symptoms on Cotoneaster plants in the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and taken samples for testing back to New Zealand. Australian authorities were informed of positive findings on 2 May. Two tests by Victorian scientists on samples collected from the same gardens proved negative. Additional testing including repeat tests in New Zealand, Victoria and in an independent laboratory in New South Wales were conducted but gave varying results. However, on 14 May 1997 the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy, John Anderson, confirmed the detection of fire blight. On 22 May, South Australia advised that fire blight had been detected on three plants in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

Response in Western Australia: Restrictions have been imposed on host material from Victoria and South Australia by all States. However, Western Australia already prohibits the importation of apple fruit and plants and pear fruit because of other pests and diseases. There is very little trade in most of the other hosts. The restrictions will be lifted as areas are surveyed and found free. To support the bans and substantiate their freedom from the disease, all States are required to conduct surveys.

A laboratory has been equipped at Agriculture Western Australia at South Perth to do initial testing of suspect material. A training course in recognising the disease symptoms, host plants and how to take samples was held on 21 May for 25 Agriculture Western Australia staff from Perth, Bunbury, Manjimup and Albany. Surveys commenced on 22 May. The survey will concentrate in three areas - urban areas, public parks, gardens, tourist attractions and commercial orchards.

Three groups within Agriculture Western Australia will conduct the surveys. The fruit fly surveillance team will check for hosts and symptoms when they check fruit fly traps. There are roughly 2 000 traps on a 400 metre grid over the metropolitan area. This will take about three weeks to complete. Protection officers from Swan, Midland and Rockingham - metropolitan area - Bunbury and Albany, will target public gardens, tourist attractions and nurseries. It is expected that this will only take a few days. Officers conducting the apple scab surveys in commercial areas will simultaneously do surveys for fire blight. The commercial orchard survey will concentrate on pears and susceptible apple varieties. The bulk of the sampling should be complete by the end of next week. It must be remembered that apple scab surveys have already been carried out and if fire blight was present it would certainly have attracted attention.

Is It Really Fire Blight: On 23 May Victoria announced that their latest results from a series of diagnostic tests on plant material from the Royal Botanic Gardens had still not positively confirmed the presence of fire blight. Further tests will be conducted in Germany and within three weeks it is hoped that the Australian, New Zealand and German results can be brought together to finalise the matter.

Question: The member for Kalgoorlie asked what will the \$6.8m allocated to Output Group 8, Rural Community Development be used for?

Answer: This output group covers a large number of agency projects which contribute to the development and sustainability of rural communities. This includes activities such as Rural Leadership training, projects aimed at increasing the value of agriculture in rural communities, the development of sustainable industries, farm tourism and farm forestry development. See below projects which contribute to this Output Group.

Division 32: Fisheries -

Question: The member for Burrup asked whether the Minister could provide a briefing note in relation to the management of tropical rock lobster in the Dampier Archipelago outlining commercial and recreational issues.

Answer: Commercial Tropical Rock Lobster Fisheries Management: An authorisation to fish for tropical rock lobster was recently cancelled as a result of a licence transfer. This leaves four active fishermen in the fishery. Unused authorisations are attached to five boat licences and seven commercial fishing licences. The department has initiated action to cancel these unused authorisations in accordance with the provisions of section 143(d) of the Fish Resource Management Act 1994. Fishermen who hold authorisations to catch tropical rock lobster but who have not engaged in this fishery for more than two years have been notified of the executive director's proposal to cancel the authorisations and have been given 21 days in which to lodge an objection. The objection period expires Thursday, 29 May 1997. The outcome of this approach is dependent upon an independent tribunal's decision in relation to any formal objection received under the Act.

In relation to the active fishermen, a specific management plan to control fishing effort is being considered. In particular specific measures to exclude commercial tropical rock lobster fishing from the Dampier Archipelago are being explored. In addition consideration is being given to the application of funds to buy out commercial fishing effort through the Government's new \$8m resource sharing initiative. This option is now being actively explored although time delays inherent in the process mean that there is no outcome as yet.

Recreational Fisheries Management: The Pilbara Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee has been asked to provide advice to the Minister for Fisheries on a proposed new strategy for recreational fishing in the Dampier Archipelago. Consideration of the issues involved in recreational fishing for tropical rock lobster in the archipelago will be an important component in the strategy. The program manager for recreational fishing has approached the chairman of the Pilbara Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee to commence this process. A meeting was held in Karratha on 6 May to develop the outline of a management strategy for the Minister's consideration. The department is now establishing the process to determine those new management arrangements. Given an appropriate consultation process, it is expected that progress will be made towards new management arrangements for recreational fishing in the Dampier Archipelago and that arrangements will be finalised in the second half of 1997.

Question: The member for Burrup sought an explanation with regard to the apparent decrease in FTEs in relation to the recreational fishing program of 82 to 78 between 1996-97 and 1997-98.

Answer: The apparent shift in the full time equivalent (FTE) staffing levels can be explained by examining the changed formats under which information is reported in the budget papers. In the 1995-96 financial year FTEs were reported in the budget papers on a functional basis. This means that the FTEs in each functional area were tallied and reported against the funding allocated to that functional area.

The 1996-97 budget was prepared subsequent to the proclamation of the Fish Resources Management Act in October 1995 and after a review of the structure of the Fisheries Department which resulted in the department being structured on a programs basis. Rather than reporting FTEs on a functional basis, the FTEs and funding was reported on a subprograms basis using information collected as a result of activity analysis at the department during 1995-96. In the absence of better historical data or any other comprehensive data system to allocate departmental activities to subprogram activities, the 1996-97 budget - and FTEs - were allocated across the department's four subprograms on the best estimates available from the earlier activity analysis modified by departmental management as appropriate.

A comprehensive system was not in place to measure all actual activity - FTE input - in 1996-97 across the four subprograms and as a consequence the estimated actual figure reported in the 1997-98 budget papers was equal to the original budget estimates, adjusted for the externally funded FTEs, which were excluded in the 1996-97 budget allocation across subprograms. The budget data collection system used for the 1997-98 financial year required all areas of the department to allocate both funding and FTEs to subprograms. The figures reported in the 1997-98 budget estimates are based upon this allocation.

The difference in the data reported each year would result from the more scientific approach used to allocate financial data to subprograms in the 1997-98 budget preparation process. The department is also in the process of putting in place a system to measure actual activity across each of the four subprograms. The combination of these two initiatives should allow for greater clarity in the information reported in the budget papers.

Question: The member for Eyre and the member for Peel asked for an explanation for the difference in FTEs between 1996-97 and 1997-98 of 56 to 38 with regard to the pearling and aquaculture subprogram associated with a corresponding increase in funding of approximately \$1.1m.

Answer: The apparent shift in the full time equivalent staffing levels can be explained by examining the changed formats under which information is reported in the budget papers. In the 1995-96 financial year FTEs were reported in the budget papers on a functional basis. This means that the FTEs in each functional area were tallied and reported against the funding allocated to that functional area. The 1997-98 budget was prepared subsequent to the proclamation of the Fish Resources Management Act in October 1995 and after a review of the structure of the Fisheries Department which resulted in the department being structured on a programs basis.

Rather than reporting FTEs on a functional basis, the FTEs and funding was reported on a subprograms basis using information collected as a result of activity analysis at the department during 1995-96. In the absence of better historical data or any other comprehensive data system to allocate departmental activities to subprogram activities, the 1996-97 budget - and FTEs - were allocated across the department's four subprograms on the best estimates available from the earlier activity analysis modified by departmental management as appropriate.

A comprehensive system was not in place to measure all actual activity (FTE input) in 1996-97 across the four subprograms, and as a consequence the estimated actual figure reported in the 1997-98 budget papers was equal to the original budget estimates, adjusted for the externally funded FTEs, which were excluded in the 1996-97 budget allocation across subprograms. The budget data collection system used for the 1997-98 financial year required all areas of the department to allocate both funding and FTEs to subprograms. The figures reported in the 1997-98 budget estimates are based upon this allocation.

The difference in the data reported each year would result from the more scientific approach used to allocate financial data to subprograms in the 1997-98 budget preparation process. The department is also in the process of putting in place a comprehensive system to measure actual activity across each of the four subprograms for 1997-98. The combination of these two initiatives should allow for greater clarity in the information reported in the budget papers. Notwithstanding the above potential causes of variances from year to year, funding for the Pearling and Aquaculture subprogram has increased by approximately \$1.1m as a result of the Government committing additional funding to this subprogram.

Division 36: Western Australian Tourism Commission -

Question: The member for Burrup requested on notice details of how much the industry is contributing to support marketing campaigns in the National Division.

Answer: In 1996-97 it is estimated that the industry contributions for National Marketing campaigns will be \$470 000.

Question: The member for Burrup requested on notice a schedule of the "Best on Earth in Perth" events.

Answer: The "Best on Earth in Perth" event schedule is as follows -

28 May - 22 June	Aerobica FIG Sport Aerobics World Championships
27-31 August 1997	1997 UCI World Track Cycling Championships
1-4 October	World Cup Darts
30 Oct - 2 Nov	Rally Australia - FIA World Rally Championship
9 Nov - 16 Nov	International Triathlon Super Teams Relay and ITU Triathlon World Championship
24 Nov - 13 Dec	Whitbread Round The World Race - Yacht Race
8-23 December	ISAF Windsurfing World Championships
4-19 January 1998	Hopman Cup - International Mixed Teams Tennis Tournament
8-18 January	FINA World Swimming Championships
29 Jan - 1 Feb	Heineken Classic - International Golf Tournament
13 Feb - 8 Mar	46th Festival of Perth - Annual International Multi Arts Festival
30 Mar - 5 Apr	Coca Cola/Rusty Masters - Surfing Contest

Question: The member for Bassendean requested a schedule of "amounts that will be provided for each event."

Answer: For events to be held in 1997-98 the following is a list of the funding provided by the Commission in 1997-98.

EVENT	DATE SCHEDULED	1997-98 FUNDING \$000
World Track Cycling Championships	27-31 Aug 1997	410
World Cup Darts	1-4 Oct 1997	40
Rally Australia 97 and 98 - World Rally Championship Round	30 Oct - 2 Nov 1997	2 000
Triathlon - Super Teams Relay	9 Nov 1997	
- ITU World Championships	16 Nov 1997	715
Whitbread Round The World Yacht Race	24 Nov - 13 Dec 1997	600
ISAF Windsurfing World Championships	8-23 Dec 1997	165
Hopman Cup - International mixed Teams Tennis Tournament	4-10 Jan 1998	250
FINA World Championships	8-18 Jan 1998	(Not funded via EventsCorp)
Heineken Classic - International Golf Tournament	29 Jan - 1 Feb 1998	300
Festival of Perth - Annual International Multi Arts Festival	13 Feb - 8 Mar 1998	(Not funded via EventsCorp)
Coca Cola/Rusty Masters - Surfing Contest	30 Mar - 5 Apr 1998	15

Question: The member for Bassendean requested on notice a breakdown of the allocation of funds for marketing subprograms (page 937) as supplementary information.

Answer: The following list dissects the Commission's 1997-98 marketing subprograms by key output -

Sub Program	Key Output	Amount	
National Sales	1.1 Market Intelligence	63	
	1.2 Marketing Strategies Aimed At Raising Consumer Awareness	2 323	
	1.3 Strategic Alliances	3 396	
	1.4 Product & Destinalional Information Distribution	392	
	1.5 Brand Development	348	
	1.6 Cooperative Industry & Other Support	8	
	1.7 Policy Advice	16	
	Performance Measurements	54	
		<hr/>	6 600
Retail	2.1 Provide Information	94	
	2.2 Make Bookings	1 474	
		<hr/>	1 568

International	3.1 Identification of Priority Markets and Market Intelligence for those Markets	138	
	3.2 Product Development	199	
	3.3 Industry Education on International Markets	157	
	3.4 Product and Destinalional Information Distribution	1 976	
	3.5 Strategic Industry Alliances	250	
	3.6 Marketing Strategies aimed at Raising Awareness	4 473	
	3.7 Cooperative Industry and Other Support	108	
	3.8 Policy Advice	9	
	Performance Measurements	40	
		<hr/>	7 350
Event Tourism	4.1 Attraction of Events to WA	254	
	4.2 Promotional Opportunities for WA through Events Hosted	153	
	4.3 Cooperative Industry and Other Support	143	
	4.4 Event Management	6 380	
	4.5 Event Product Development	96	
	4.6 Policy Advice	7	
	Performance Measurements	50	
		<hr/>	7 083
Convention & Incentive Travel	5.1 Attraction of Conventions to WA	475	
	5.2 Attraction of Incentive Travel Groups to WA	518	
	5.3 Convention & Incentive Market Intelligence	97	
	5.4 Cooperative Industry & Other Support	70	
	5.5 Policy Advice	4	
	Performance Measurements	4	
		<hr/>	1 168
TOTAL PROGRAM 1			<hr/> <u>23 769</u>

Question: The member for Bassendean asked in round terms what are the costs of the staff for the Rally Australia project?

Answer: The staff costs for the Rally Australia 1996 event are estimated to be \$308 500.

Question: The member for Bassendean requested information on the frameworks for the feasibility studies and standard contract policy paper(s). The member requested on notice details of the methodology for undertaking feasibility studies.

Answer:

EVENT FEASIBILITY REPORT

Event Name:

Event Date:

1. Background and Event Description
2. The Event
 - 2.1 Event Objectives
 - 2.2 Proposer: National/International Controlling Body and/or Sanctioning Body
 - 2.3 Venue and Date
 - 2.4 Comparable Events within WA: Australia: Worldwide
 - 2.5 Conflicting Events

EVENT FEASIBILITY SUMMARY

Current as at 30/05/97

Event Name :

Event Date :

1. BACKGROUND AND EVENT DESCRIPTION

2. The Event

- 2.1 Event Objectives
- 2.2 Proposer: National/International Controlling Body and/or Sanctioning Body
- 2.3 Venue and Date
- 2.4 Comparable Events within WA: Australia: Worldwide
- 2.5 Conflicting Events

3. EVENT BENEFITS COMPARED TO CRITERIA

- 3.1 Economic Impact
- 3.2 Media Impact
- 3.3 Event Frequency
- 3.4 Private/Govt Funding
- 3.5 Tourism Activity
- 3.6 Development Potential
- 3.7 Table
- 3.8 Other criteria
- 3.9 General Comments

4. FUNDING OUTLINE

- 4.1 Preliminary Budget
- 4.2 Private Investment/Sponsorship
- 4.3 Government Funding - Local, State and Federal
- 4.4 Event Revenue Analysis
- 4.5 Previous Funding (if applicable)
- 4.6 General Comments

5. PROPOSER

- 5.1 Structure
- 5.2 Executives and Contact Persons
- 5.3 Copy of last Audited Financial Statements and/or Credit Rating
- 5.4 Duties, responsibilities and obligations of Proposer to EventsCorp
- 5.5 Ability of Proposer to meet any financial loss from the event
- 5.6 Licensee/Operator
- 5.7 General Comments

6. EVENT MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Structure
- 6.2 Executives and Contact Persons
- 6.3 Duties and Responsibilities
- 6.4 General Comments

7. EVENTSCORP'S ROLE

- 7.1 Duties and Responsibilities of EventsCorp
- 7.2 Financial Commitment and Timing
- 7.3 Financial Exposure
- 7.4 EventsCorp Budget
- 7.5 General Comments

8. CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

9. OTHER PARTIES CONSULTED

10. PERFORMANCE MEASURES - RESEARCH/REPORTS

- 10.1 Proposed Areas of Research
- 10.2 Proposed Method of Research
- 10.3 Funding Available for Research

11. EVENT OPERATIONS PLAN - OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

12. ADD ON EVENT OPPORTUNITIES

13. DESIGNATED DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE

14. DESIGNATED SUPPORT MANAGER

15. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 Event Development Manager/Director
- 15.2 Risk Manager
- 15.3 General Manager

3. EVENT BENEFITS COMPARED TO CRITERIA

3.1 Economic Impact

- (a) Visitor and participant numbers
- (b) Period of stay
- (c) Daily spend
- (d) Other expenditure

3.2 Media Impact

3.3 Event Frequency

3.4 Private/Government Funding

3.5 Tourism Activity

3.6 Development Potential

3.7 Table - see below -

EVENTSCORP CRITERIA
Event Title

Table 1:

	Max. points	
Economic Impact Rating - 10 pts:1 see note 1		
Media Impact	50	
Event Frequency see note 2	30	
Private/Govt Funding see note 3	40	
Tourism Activity see note 4	10	
TOTAL		

Notes:

Note 1:	EventsCorp Investment =	
	Economic impact =	
	Economic impact ratio =	
	Rating:x 10 points =	
	Threshold = \$1mn.	
	Discount factor = /1 000 000 % of pts Discounted Economic Impact Rating =	
Note 2:	Annual - 30; Biennial - 15; Triennial - 10; Quadrennial - 5.	
Note 3:	Tourism Activity: Low - 10; Shoulder - 5; Peak - 0.	
Note 4:	If the private sector takes responsibility for the entire funding of the event (ie. 100%) then the event receives a 40 point allocation. Otherwise a pro-rata allocation is made.	
	As the event does exceed the qualifying mark of 100 points, the EventsCorp criteria has been achieved. It is recommended that the analysis proceeds.	

3.8 Other criteria

3.9 General Comments

4. FUNDING OUTLINE
 - 4.1 Preliminary Budget
 - 4.2 Private Investment/Sponsorship
 - 4.3 Government Funding - Local, State and Federal
 - 4.4 Event Revenue Analysis
 - 4.5 Previous Funding - if applicable
 - 4.6 General Comments

5. PROPOSER
 - 5.1 Structure
 - 5.2 Executives and Contact Persons
 - 5.3 Copy of last Audited Financial Statements and/or Credit Rating
 - 5.4 Duties, responsibilities and obligations of Proposer to EventsCorp
 - 5.5 Ability of Proposer to meet any financial loss from Event
 - 5.6 Licensee/Operator
 - (i) Structure
 - (ii) Management
 - 5.7 General Comments

6. EVENT MANAGEMENT
 - 6.1 Structure
 - 6.2 Executives and Contact Persons
 - 6.3 Duties and Responsibilities
 - 6.4 General Comments

7. EVENTSCORP'S ROLE
 - 7.1 Duties and Responsibilities of EventsCorp
 - 7.2 Financial Commitment and Timing
 - 7.3 Financial Exposure
 - 7.4 EventsCorp Budget
Budget item or new commitment
 - 7.5 General Comments

8. CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

9. OTHER PARTIES CONSULTED

10. PERFORMANCE MEASURES - RESEARCH/REPORTS
 - 10.1 Proposed Areas of Research
 - 10.2 Proposed Method of Research
 - 10.3 Funding Available for Research

11. EVENT OPERATIONS PLAN - OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

13. DESIGNATED DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE

14. DESIGNATED SUPPORT MANAGER

15. RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 Event Development Manager/Director

It is recommended:

(i) "That

(ii) "That

.....
EVENT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER DATE

.....
EVENT DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR DATE

15.2 Risk Manager

I agree/do not agree with the above recommendations.

.....
RISK MANAGER DATE

15.3 General Manager

I agree/do not agree with the above recommendations.

.....
GENERAL MANAGER DATE

Division 38: Sport and Recreation -

Question: The member for Willagee asked for information on those organisations that made applications for funding facilities, the recommendations that were made and the Minister's decision on which recommendations were accepted.

Answer: Information held by committee office.

Division 39: Western Australian Sports Centre Trust -

Question: The member for Willagee asked whether there was access for disabled athletes to the Challenge Stadium gym.

Answer: There is no disabled access to the WA Institute of Sport gym. Logistical constraints made it impossible to incorporate disabled access into the new gym. There is, however, disabled access to the other gym at Challenge Stadium and WAIS is of the opinion that this will be satisfactory for disabled athlete training.

Division 40: Transport -

Question: The member for Kalgoorlie asked for details of the accountability framework for ports referred to on page 985, second dot point, item 3. The member also requested advice on how the Government's labour relations reforms were to be reflected in the accountability framework.

Answer: The "Port Planning and Accountability Framework" is a statement from the Minister for Transport to the port authorities detailing his requirements for them to prepare for his approval short and long term plans. [Held by Committee office.]

The Annual Performance Plan is prepared for the Minister's consideration and approval and the Strategic Development Plan provides the five to 10 year forward plans for the port. As planning documents they are expected to describe the major strategic directions and objectives of the port authorities as well as the means of achieving them. Increasing the reliability and efficiency of ports is a key objective of the Government. To the extent that the Government's labour relations reforms complement the port authorities' objectives, they may be reflected in the various planning documents.

Question: The member for Armadale requested information about a change in the maximum permitted age of taxis, which had been introduced after some operators had obtained taxi plates. The department's views were sought on requests from part time drivers to increase the maximum vehicle age to 12 years.

Answer: There had been considerable industry discussion about the need to reintroduce vehicle age limits on taxi cars prior to the decision being made. The industry's peak representative body, the Taxi Industry Board, conducted an industry survey on this matter and recommended age limits be reintroduced. The new age limits require a vehicle that operates as a conventional taxi to be no more than eight years old, with no vehicle to be first registered as a taxi that is more than five years old. A special concession has been given to the wheelchair accessible Maxi Plus Taxis fleet and the peak period taxis allowing these vehicles to remain as taxis up to 10 years. In addition, all taxi owners have been allowed until 30 June 1998 before the maximum age limit takes effect.

The setting of age limits is considered to be necessary to ensure a high standard of vehicle for Perth's taxi fleet. Some of the peak period restricted taxi owners have lodged an appeal with the Local Court in relation to the age limit. Extending the age limit to 12 years is not supported by the Department of Transport for safety and comfort reasons.

Question: The member for Willagee advised that he had been informed of a dispute regarding a departmental contract for aviation training. Details of the dispute were requested.

Answer: The Department of Transport has appointed BSD Consultants, Airplan and Midland College of TAFE to develop an aviation training strategy. The appointment of the BSD group was made following an open tender process. One of the groups bidding for the consultancy, Response Management, has lodged a complaint with the Director General of Transport regarding a possible conflict of interest. The Director General of Transport is investigating the claim.

Question: The member for Willagee asked for details of the total cost of the study referred to in item 8, page 994. Information about the financial contributions from each party was requested.

Answer: The total cost of the aviation industry training strategy is \$177 000. Half the cost will be borne by the Federal Government and half by the State Government.

Question: The member for Armadale asked for statistics which show the incidence of motor vehicle accidents involving heavy vehicles as a percentage of total vehicle accidents.

Answer: In 1996 heavy vehicles, being prime movers, semi-trailers, truck and trailer combinations and road trains were involved in 585 or 1.56 per cent of total vehicle crashes on Western Australian roads. In comparison the following table below shows the number of other vehicles involved in motor vehicle accidents on Western Australian roads.

Vehicle Type	No of Crashes	% of Crashes
Heavy vehicles	585	1.56
Trucks	1 434	3.83
Cars	36 357	97.04
Buses	537	1.43
M/C	1 087	2.90
Other Motorised	78	0.21
Cyclists	666	1.78
Pedestrians	760	2.03
Total Number of Crashes	37 467	

Crashes may involve vehicle types other than the type itself; for example, a truck and a car. Therefore, the sum of percentage is greater than 100 per cent. In 1995, the number of trucks - rigid trucks and articulated trucks - involved in crashes was 2 069 or 2.9 per cent of all vehicles involved in reported crashes.

Question: The member for Armadale asked why \$2.8m for the transport enhancement program is recorded under "Bus Services Subsidy" if it is for the preparation of a plan.

Answer: The make up of the \$2.8m expenditure on the public transport enhancement program is as follows -

Operating cost for the commencement of the 'Circle Route' cross suburban bus service	\$2.3m
The cost associated with the development of the master plan for the implementation of the 'System 21' bus service	\$0.45m
The master plan will provide a detailed blueprint for the introduction of this new concept in service delivery.	

The 'Circle Route' and 'System 21' bus services are new operations and the costs reflect the subsidising of the new services.

Question: The member for Armadale asked for bus patronage figures for the year prior to private companies operating components of the system, for the first year of operation involving private companies and for the subsequent year.

Answer: Private operators commenced in the Transperth system at the end of January 1996.

Year	Bus Boardings	Operator Details
1994-95	47.9 million	No private operators.
1995-96	45.5 million	Two areas under contract to MetroBus and one area under contract to a private operator in the Transperth bus system.
1996-97	Not yet available	Around 50 per cent of bus services under contract, all private operators except for two areas under contract to MetroBus.

Note: There was a general decline in bus patronage in 1995-96 for reasons which cannot clearly be identified. One reason was that during 1995-96 bus patronage was affected by a 24 hour strike by MetroBus drivers and their subsequent decision not to collect fares - and not record boardings - over a 24 hour period. The contracting out of services would have had no noteworthy impact on patronage as the operator commenced at the end of January 1996 and accounted for less than 5 per cent of the Transperth bus operation.

Question: The member for Armadale asked -

- (a) How many Transperth buses have been subject to mechanical checks, by operators, since the Department of Transport assumed responsibility;*
- (b) how many of these vehicles did not pass a mechanical check on the first occasion; and*
- (c) what type of fault was detected for each bus?*

Answer:

- (a) The Transperth bus fleet numbers 868 units in total. All 400 buses operated by private operators have been inspected. Inspections of MetroBus buses will commence on the first anniversary of the acquisition of the Transperth bus fleet - 1 July 1996 - by Transport. In future these annual inspections will be spread over the course of the year.*
- (b) At this time, as the process of inspection is not complete, there is no complete report of the outcome. Path, South and Swan Transit inspections are due to be completed by 30 June 1997. A report will be available on 31 July 1997 at the earliest. MetroBus will be inspected throughout the year and progress reports will be available. At all depots, with the exception of Path Transit and MetroBus, 60 per cent of vehicles have passed at first inspection.*
- (c) The annual inspections are routine and the majority of the defects disclosed have related to the age of the fleet. Corrosion of panels and minor structural components are the most common defect highlighted during these inspections. There has been no case where a bus has been unable to continue in normal use due to a defect.*

Question: The member for Rockingham asked why the station attendant had been removed from the Rockingham Bus Station when there was a government undertaking that services would not be reduced.

Answer: The purpose of the MetroBus employee, based at the Rockingham Bus Station, was to assist with the coordination of MetroBus' vehicles through that facility. The role was not customer oriented, but operational. When MetroBus lost the Rockingham contract that operational role was no longer necessary. The placement of attendants at bus stations is dependent upon the operator's assessment of the need for this function, with the exception of the

City Busport and Wellington Street Bus Station which are both staffed under contract with Transport by Serco Australia Pty Ltd personnel.

Question: The member for Joondalup asked for the number of Transperth passengers according to the following categories - tertiary students, school students, aged pensioners, others. If this information is not available the member asked for information about eligibility for concession travel. Members of the committee also expressed particular interest in the impact of recent changes to concessional fares on, for example, school children travelling from Armadale.

Answer: Transperth fares only distinguish between two categories of passenger - standard and concession. Ticket sales indicate that the overall split between standard and concession fares is in the ratio of 33:67. School students travelling over four zones and more would be affected by the recent changes to Transperth fares in not being able to use the DayRider ticket between 7.15 am and 9.00 am. Current concessional fares from Armadale to Perth - four zones - are as follows -

Cash all day ticket	4 Zone MultiRider Plus	4 Zone MultiRider.
Before 7.15 am or after 9.00 am	Any time of day (40 trip ticket)	Any time of day (10 trip ticket)
\$2.50 all day	\$2.25 return	\$2.55 return

The cheapest available travel for children travelling to Perth from Armadale is to purchase a four zone MultiRider Plus ticket. With this option, the daily cost of travel will be 25¢ less than the current cost of an all day cash ticket.

Question: The member for Armadale asked what level of funding is proposed in 1997-98 for the Armadale bike education facility. Details of funding in 1996-97 were also sought.

Answer: \$25 800 has been budgeted for 1997-98. \$27 900 was budget and expended in 1996-97.

Question: The member for Kalgoorlie asked for details of -

- (a) *the types of offences for which taxi drivers' licences have been withdrawn; and*
- (b) *the procedure used by the department to check the bona fides of immigrant taxi driver applicants.*

Answer:

- (a) The types of offences for which taxi drivers' licences have been withdrawn are -

- Assault
- Burglary
- Deprivation of liberty
- Drug offences
- Fraud
- Insulting behaviour and words
- Robbery
- Sex offences
- Stealing
- Threatening and breaching restraining orders
- Threats to kill
- Traffic offences
 - Dangerous driving
 - Driving while under suspension
 - Demerit point suspensions
 - Reckless driving

- (b) Taxi licences issued by overseas countries are not transferable. The Department of Immigration has advised that prior to allowing a person to enter Australia with the view to permanent residency they are required to produce a good conduct certificate from all countries that they have lived in during the last 10 years. A person must make formal application for a class T licence (taxi) and is required to declare any criminal or traffic convictions they may have incurred. If a conviction of a serious nature is declared the person's application is not proceeded with until details of that offence have been received from either the police or from the applicant obtaining details from the country where the offences occurred. Where no offences are declared, an Australia-wide search is conducted and if no record is identified, the application is processed.

Question: The member for Armadale asked how much peak period taxi drivers pay for their plates. Information was also sought about proposals for an awareness campaign on peak period taxis.

Answer: Fifty peak period restricted taxi licences were publicly tendered in 1995. The tender prices for these licences ranged from \$4 600 to \$22 533.35, with the average price being \$8 535.73. A public awareness campaign

is currently being developed to inform the community on a range of taxi related issues. The content of this campaign has not as yet been finalised.

Question: The member for Armadale requested details of the Department of Transport's financial contribution to the Oakajee project to date.

Answer: The only financial contribution by Transport has been the salary for one level 9 officer. This amounts to \$42 445 to date.

Question: The member for Rockingham asked what government agency was committed to spending \$4.5m on infrastructure projects at Jervoise Bay.

Answer: The Department of Commerce and Trade.

Question: The member for Armadale referred to the Minister for Transport's answer to a parliamentary question on 24 May 1997. The member asked when the report on proposed approaches to driver testing would be referred to the Minister for Transport.

Answer: The Driver Training and Licensing Taskforce reported to the Road Safety Council/Ministerial Council on Road Safety on 23 April 1997. The council has endorsed in principle the implementation of a graduated driver training and licensing system for Western Australia, which requires a three part system of testing and supervised training. The accreditation of instructors will be considered as part of this system. The Office of Road Safety is currently pursuing on behalf of the task force, the development of the core driver competencies and assessment methodologies as well as determining the attitudinal and motivational components of novice driver behaviour and the means to address these in the new system.

A report will be submitted to the Minister for Transport prior to the launch of the new system in October 1997. Due to the many policy considerations required, a full consultation process will be undertaken with the industry, key stakeholders and the community for implementation over the following two years.

Question: The member for Armadale asked whether the department considered the matter of the standard of practical skills of drivers with licences from overseas to be an area for investigation.

Answer: Yes. The Licensing Division is reviewing the policy relating to the transfer of overseas driver's licences without the need to undertake a driving test.

Question: The member for Kalgoorlie asked whether the breakdown between country and metropolitan expenditure on the school bus services was available.

Answer: The breakdown between metropolitan and rural services is approximately as follows -

Metropolitan	\$10.82m
Rural	\$43.20m

The metropolitan boundary includes Mandurah to Yanchep and Kalamunda to the east. The balance comprises workers' compensation payments and other corporate costs.

Division 41: Main Roads Western Australia -

Question: The member for Armadale asked for information in regard to the consultation that took place with industry in preparation for the proposed changes to the escort requirements for overwidth vehicles and details of any difficulties that may arise particularly in regard to the national standards.

Answer: In May 1995 a working group was formed to investigate and propose new arrangements for the piloting of oversize loads which consisted of representatives from the Police Department, Department of Transport, Main Roads, Wesfarmers Transport, Road Transport Training Council and pilot drivers. Meetings were held at the Road Transport Training Council offices in Carlisle. Also, a public forum was held with industry in April 1996 and submissions from the industry were sought. These submissions were fully considered.

The proposed scheme was then presented to the Traffic Board of Western Australia, which endorsed the proposals. It is considered by the parties involved that the introduction of accreditation will increase both the professionalism and performance of pilots and the introduction of mandatory training will see the safer movement of loads as well as providing greater flexibility for the heavy haulage industry because of the greater number of pilots available.

Industry's issues centred around the removal of police escorts for the 5.5 to 6.0 metres category. Under the proposed scheme escort drivers will be accredited and carry the full backing of the law to enable the directing of traffic for safety purposes. The National Standards for loads between 5.5 and 6.0 metres wide specifies the need for two pilots

and one escort. The definition of an "escort vehicle" is one that is driven by police or accredited pilot who is qualified to direct traffic. The proposed changes in this State will mean that Western Australia is aligning its requirements with the existing national standards.

Question: The member for Willagee asked for a copy of the diagram from the Workforce Resource and Skills that demonstrates how employee numbers are expected to change and for details of how the employment levels have changed since the process began.

Answer: See information supplied in answer to the query from the member for Armadale relating to Main Roads' work force.

Question: The member for Carine asked for an explanation of the Reid Highway line item on page 608 of the budget papers.

Answer: Stage 1 from Mirrabooka Avenue to Beechboro Road and stage 2 from Erindale Road to Mirrabooka Avenue were completed in 1992 and 1996 respectively. Construction of the northern carriageway from Beechboro Road to Middle Swan Road was brought forward five years to provide access to the new Ellenbrook development via Lord Street and Gngara Road.

This work also completed the inner ring road between the Mitchell Freeway and the Great Northern and Roe Highways. Ellenbrook contributed \$2m towards the cost. Finishing off works for the northern carriageway and construction of the second carriageway over the section between Beechboro Road and Roe Highway will cost a further \$28m and is scheduled for completion in 2005.

Question: The Chairman asked for details of the reasons for the delay in constructing the Ranford Road bridge and an indication of when the works will be undertaken.

Answer: Late in December 1996 it became evident that the Mandurah railway may be routed under the proposed bridge. This required changes to the rail track configuration and resulted in the need to redesign the road bridge as a two span bridge. The revised completion date for this project is now April 1998.

Question: The member for Armadale asked for information in relation to the configuration of Ranford Road and its movement in and out of one and two lanes.

Answer: North of Bannister Road and south of the rubbish tip entrance, Ranford Road consists of four lanes. The Ranford Road bridge duplication will eliminate the two lane section over the bridge. South of Nicholson Road it is a two lane road under the care, control and management of the City of Canning.

Question: The member for Willagee asked for an explanation of the Nanutarra-Munjina Road and Tom Price North Road line item on page 607 of the budget papers.

Answer: This \$39.9m project involves works over four discrete sections of three roads and works have been staged in order to address those sections that are in the poorest condition first. Expenditure to date has been on the Fortescue Valley crossing section and the works are now complete. The remaining three sections will be done progressively and the order and expected year of completion are as follows -

Nanutarra-Munjina Road (Rio Tinto Gorge section)	2001
Tom Price North Road	2001
Nanutarra-Munjina Road (Rio Tinto South section)	2004

Question: The member for Armadale referred to the second line item in the capital works statements and requested information in regard to a proposed underpass for Albany Highway as part of the Bedforddale Hill project.

Answer: A pedestrian crossing facility has been justified on Albany Highway at Bedforddale and three options are being considered. The options are either a pelican crossing, an overpass or an underpass. The location of the facility depends on the option chosen but all are within 100 metres of each other near the Armadale Primary School. The options were presented to the local community during a week long display at the school and submissions were invited.

Once submissions have been received all criteria will be considered and an option selected, which is expected to be complete in June 1997. This will be followed by the design of the preferred option with the construction of that option being undertaken as part of the road works in the 1997-98 financial year.

Question: The member for Rockingham referred to the Mitchell Freeway project and asked what is the time frame for this project, the distance of the extension and does it involve overpasses or traffic lights.

Answer: This project provides for the extension of the Mitchell Freeway from Ocean Reef Road to Hodges Drive, a distance of approximately 2.6 km. Design and land acquisition activities are under way and construction is expected to commence in 1998 and take approximately 18 months to complete. The main features of the work over this section of the freeway are as follows -

Two lanes of traffic in each direction
 Completion of the interchange at Ocean Reef Road
 Bridging of the northern suburbs railway north of Ocean Reef Road
 Access at Hodges Drive via on/off ramps and traffic lights

Question: The member for Armadale asked if the forward estimates contain no plans for the westward extension of Reid Highway and how far forward are those forward estimates.

Answer: The planning and investigation activities for the remaining stage of Reid Highway between Marmion Avenue and Erindale Road are complete and the design and documentation work is about 75 per cent complete. If additional funds became available this section would be funded.

Question: The member for Armadale asked for information in regard to the contracting out of works and the resulting effects on the staffing levels and skills of the work force.

Answer: Main Roads is working to a plan that is described in the document "Best Roads Blueprint" which indicates the direction and changes being implemented over the next few years. Attached is a document prepared in January 1997 that summarises the key elements of the objectives for works and services controlled by Main Roads and the work force resources and skills. [Held by Committee Office.]

Also the following table indicates the changes that have occurred in the numbers of employees by classification over the period 1990 to 1996.

Employee Numbers	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Senior Executive	10	10	10	10	10	6	6
Professional	356	355	360	357	348	346	341
Administrative and Clerical	367	383	397	411	411	395	371
Technical and General	193	204	206	210	229	191	180
Cadets and Trainees	27	29	32	32	21	16	25
Forepersons	91	82	83	97	74	243	235
Trades People	222	218	160	158	152	126	110
Construction and Maintenance	834	795	862	797	708	455	392
Apprentices	42	45	43	40	35	32	25
Other Categories	45	37	28	29	28	23	24
Total	2 187	2 158	2 181	2 141	2 016	1 833	1 709

Source: Main Roads Western Australia, 1995-96 Annual Report

Division 42: Conservation and Land Management -

Question: The member for Fremantle asked for information on assets to be sold to retire debt and finance the salinity action plan.

Answer: CALM is undertaking a review of all assets in its asset register, to identify assets that should be sold. Freehold land is the main asset, particularly in the Blackwood Valley. CALM's financial interest in some bluegum plantations is also being considered for sale.

Question: The member for Churchlands asked for figures for proposed expenditure in 1997-98 by the agencies responsible for actions under the Salinity Action Plan.

Answer: New funding from the consolidated fund totalling \$1m was provided to agencies in 1996-97. This increases to \$5m in 1997-98. The allocation of this \$5m across four agencies in 1997-98, together with new funding in 1997-98 by way of redistribution of existing agency resources, is shown in the table below -

	Share of \$5m from consolidated fund (\$m)	Redistribution of existing agency resources (\$m)
Department of Conservation and Land Management	2.435	3.3
Agriculture WA	1.065	1.0 (approx.)
Water and Rivers Commission	1.400	0.2
Department of Environmental Protection	0.100	(a)

(a) The Salinity Action Plan does not identify any redistribution of existing DEP resources.

Question: The member for Fremantle asked for information on the implementation of tenure proposals in the Forest Management Plan, 1994-2003.

Answer: The following table shows the number of recommendations implemented and the number completed, both as a total and for each of the CALM regions covered in the above plan.

Region	No of recommendations	No (and %) initiated	No (and %) implemented
Swan	132	124 (94%)	54 (41%)
Central Forest	116	96 (83%)	17 (15%)
Southern Forest	219	205 (94%)	124 (57%)
Totals	467	425 (91%)	195 (42%)

For the vast majority of the recommendations (over 90%) steps have been taken towards their implementation. The exceptions are mostly those recommendations that propose what might be interpreted as a downgrading of an area; for example, Lesmurdie Falls National Park (proposed as conservation park) and Moore River National Park (proposed as nature reserve). Some await the preparation of a suitable map to show their boundaries. Some of the more notable recommendations implemented so far are listed in the following table -

Region	Name	Type of Reserve	Area (ha) (approx)
Swan	Lane Poole	5 (g)	12 000
	Lupton	Conservation Park	9 000
	Yeal	Nature Reserve	11 000
	Wandoo	Conservation Park	30 000
Central Forest	Tuart Forest (addition)	National Park	250
Southern Forest	D'Entrecasteaux (additions)	National Park	80 000
	Shannon	National Park	50 000
	Mt Frankland	National Park	30 000

Approximately half the recommendations for which action has been initiated have been completed and implemented. Of those to be completed, most are awaiting clearance from the Department of Minerals and Energy. Several recommendations have been objected to by the relevant local authority or the Water and Rivers Commission.

Question: The member for Roleystone asked for information regarding Gooralong camping area.

Answer: As indicated the land in question is vested with the Water and Rivers Commission. As such CALM regulations do not apply to the land and this makes management ineffective. CALM is negotiating with the Water and Rivers Commission to reach a management agreement using section 16 of the CALM Act which will enable CALM to manage using the regulatory powers under the CALM Act. An agreement has been drafted. As soon as that document is agreed to by both agencies, and the section 16 agreement put in place, management will be implemented to allow for overnight camping on weekends as well as weekdays.

Question: The member for Maylands asked how much forest was burned in 1995-96 and how much will be burnt in this financial year.

Answer:

1995-96	233 758 hectares
1996-97	181 080 hectares

Question: The member for Wanneroo asked that given the Gngangara pine plantation will be removed progressively over the next 20 years, why is some of the area being replanted.

Answer: The last major planting of pines on the Gngangara mound took place in 1994 when 300 ha was established. In each year since, between 15 ha and 20 ha has been planted to grow and maintain the supply of Christmas trees to the Perth metropolitan area.

Question: The member for Wagin asked how much of the Wellington catchment area is envisaged will be planted under agreement. How much of the Wellington catchment area will be replanted both by CALM for its own usage and to assist Japanese and Korean investors in that area.

Answer: On the Wellington catchment, CALM, as the landowner, has established 55 ha of commercial plantations. CALM, acting for Hansol has established 1 548 ha of commercial plantations. Bunbury treefarm project will be establishing 201 ha in 1997. The total program managed by CALM's sharefarm business unit based in Collie to date is 9 443 ha.

- (1) Accurate areas of plantations in the catchment are not known as data base lists plantations in shires not catchments.
- (2) Exact location and size of purchased properties is not known by CALM until the areas are planted. Exact information is confidential to Bunbury treefarm project.

Project sizes are 20 000 ha of plantation to be established between the years 1993 and 2003 for Hansol Australia Pty Ltd and between 16 000 and 20 000 ha between 1996 and 2005 for Bunbury treefarm project. The proportion of plantations to be established in the Collie River catchment in future years as compared to elsewhere in the project areas depends on the willingness of landowners to offer their land and therefore cannot be accurately predicted.

Question: The member for Wanneroo asked what restrictions are placed on the use of pesticides and fertilisers on the Gngangara mound and what soil samples have been taken on the mound.

Answer: Under the existing environmental protection policy for the Gngangara mound, there are unspecified restrictions on the use of fertilisers. CALM's interpretation has been to restrict fertilisers to phosphorus only. With reference to pesticides, under Public Service circular 88 issued by the Health Department, CALM was required to apply for permission to use pesticides in designated water catchments. On advice from the Advisory Committee for the Purity of Water, in August 1995 CALM carried out a herbicide trial at Ellenbrook adjacent to the Gngangara mound. Samples from different depths were analysed for the presence of hexazinone 8 and 15 months later. 42 samples of soil were analysed by the Chemistry Centre which advised that hexazinone was only detected in the surface layers at levels between 0.05 and 0.22 mg/kg. Detailed results could be made available to the member on request.

Division 43: Environmental Protection -

Question: The member for Wanneroo and the member for Maylands asked about waste disposal and licensing of a piggery over the Gngangara ground water protection area, and near Lake Pinjar.

Answer: Pinjar Piggery's licence expired on 30 September 1996. Following concerns raised regarding the nature of the piggery's operations in August 1996, the Department of Environmental Protection has been involved in negotiations with the Ministry for Planning and Water and Rivers Commission regarding ongoing licensing of the piggery, with each contributing to the drafting of new licence conditions for the premises. The proposed licence conditions have been sent to the piggery owners for comment and the Department of Environmental Protection is currently considering the objections raised by their solicitors on 4 June 1997. It is likely that a licence will be issued in the near future, pending the outcome of the department's consideration of the owners' objections.

Question: The member for Roleystone asked about Department of Environmental Protection assessments of a piggery in the Jarrahdale area.

Answer: From the information in the transcript, the piggery being referred to is likely to be Redstone Stud Piggery. The Department of Environmental Protection has received a number of complaints regarding this piggery from primarily one complainant, who believes nobody is doing enough to resolve the complaints regarding the piggery. The primary complaint is related to the impact of odour from the piggery on the complainant. Due to the subjective nature of odour complaints and also the inevitable delay in inspector response time due to the location of the piggery, we have been unable to substantiate these complaints. However, the department has continued to regularly inspect the piggery in response to complaints to ensure all that is possible is being done at the piggery to minimise odour

generation. The department is currently considering establishing a continuous monitoring program at both the piggery and the complainant's residence - as appropriate - to better substantiate complaints and also identify the likely source of the complaints to enable resolution of the problem.

Question: The member for Wanneroo asked about health and environmental advice on mosquitoes and midge control.

Answer: There is an issue in relation to development at Port Geographe where ministerial conditions exclude the use of larcicides. The Health Department considers that larcicides should be used in this area. The ministerial conditions for the Port Geographe development require that to explain and inform future residents and owners of the purpose and extent of limitations placed on midge and mosquito control, the proponent shall provide to residents a suitable public education package concerning the midge and mosquito control program to the requirements of the Department of Environmental Protection on advice of the Department of Conservation and Land Management. The DEP understands that the proponent has prepared an education package and is awaiting advice from CALM. The package will then be submitted to the DEP for the condition to be cleared.

The Health Department of WA has been investigating runnelling as an alternative form of mosquito control. Runnels are very shallow spoon-shaped channels which connect pans in saltmarshes to estuaries. The width is three times greater than the depth, and they follow natural drainage lines along a very low gradient. The aim of runnelling is to drain surface water accumulating from tidal action and rainfall. The depth of runnels and pans is adjusted such that water is drained from the lowest pan on an ebb tide.

Results of the study which has been undertaken in the Peel-Harvey and other areas indicate that runnelling has been largely effective in reduction of mosquito breeding in some seasons with no significant environmental impact. A report detailing the major findings of the study is expected to be submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection for review. Residents have complained of midges in the vicinity of wetlands in some of Perth's southern suburbs. Midges are a nuisance rather than a health problem. This is addressed through the incorporation of buffer zones around the wetlands as part of the planning process.

Question: The member for Maylands asked whether the guidelines for the proposed development of a uranium project in Western Australia could be tabled.

Answer: The (draft) guidelines for an environmental review and management program/environmental impact assessment on the proposed development of the Kintyre uranium project, WA are as follows -

APPENDIX A

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986

MATTERS TO BE DEALT WITH BY Environmental Review Documents*

7.3 Content

The environmental review document shall present the environmental aspects of the proposal and should respond to the issues raised in the guidelines. It should be presented in a form and style that is readily understandable, and present conclusions fairly-based upon sound principles.

The environmental review document should concentrate on the key issues associated with the proposal and these should be set in a proper context.

The setting of the context and discussion of the key issues should be based upon elements of the following -

- a description of the proposal and its objectives, its broad benefits and disbenefits and where they are borne within the community, and justification for the proposal;
- a description of the existing environment;
- a description of relevant policies, plans and programs;
- alternatives and associated potential environmental impacts including the 'no-development' option;
- predictions of environmental impacts (in terms of their nature, magnitude, extent, duration, reversibility, uncertainty and significance) and their consequences; and
- a program for minimising, ameliorating, managing and monitoring impacts, and a commitment to implement the program.

During the preparation of the environmental review document, the proponent is encouraged to liaise with the authority to facilitate the authority's role in ensuring an environmentally sound development is proposed.

*Extract from the Administrative Procedures 1993 under the Environmental Protection Act 1986.

COMMONWEAL OF AUSTRALIA
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (IMPACT OF PROPOSALS) ACT 1974
MATTERS TO BE DEALT WITH BY
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS*
Contents of environmental impact statement

- 4.1 To the extent appropriate in the circumstances of the case, an environmental impact statement shall -
- (a) state the objective of the proposed action;
 - (b) analyse the need for the proposed action;
 - (c) indicate the consequences of not taking the proposed action;
 - (d) contain a description of the proposed action;
 - (e) include information and technical data adequate to permit a careful assessment of the impact on the environment of the proposed action;
 - (f) examine any feasible and prudent alternative to the proposed action;
 - (g) describe the environment that is likely to be affected by the proposed action and by any feasible alternative to the proposed action;
 - (h) assess the potential impact on the environment of the proposed action and of any feasible and prudent alternative to the proposed action, including, in particular, the primary, secondary, short term, long term, adverse and beneficial effects on the environment of the proposed action and of any feasible and prudent alternative to the proposed action;
 - (i) outline the reasons for the choice of the proposed action;
 - (j) describe, and assess the effectiveness of, any safeguards or standard for the protection of the environment intended to be adopted or applied in respect of the proposed action, including the means of implementing, and the monitoring arrangements to be adopted in respect of, such safeguards or standards; and
 - (k) cite any sources of information relied upon in, and outline any consultations during, the preparation of the environmental impact statement.

*Extract from the Administrative Procedures under the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974.

Question: The member for Maylands asked whether any newspaper ended up in rubbish dumps when the newsprint price was dreadful for the industry.

Answer: No paper collected for recycling was dumped in landfill. The Department of Environmental Protection, in one instance, provided a short term transport subsidy to enable paper collected in the south west to be transported to markets in Perth. The price for newsprint has since recovered and it is economic to be collected.

Question: The member for Maylands and the member for Fremantle asked about units or measures for the Department of Environmental Protection.

Answer: A copy of the Department of Environmental Protection's output statements held by committee office.

Division 46: Western Australian Department of Training -

Question: The member for Nollamara asked for a full list of grants relating to the purchase of training places from training providers.

Answer: Grants, subsidies and transfer payments estimated for 1997-98 are as follows -

- Industry Specific Tendered Program
- Enterprise Specific Tendered Program

- Priority Skills Enhancement
- Painting and Decorating
- Training Markets - User Choice
- Aboriginal Services - IESIP
- Miscellaneous Aboriginal Services Programs

Question: The member for Wagin referred to the Government's commitment to VET in schools and asked how many students are now receiving that vocational education and training in schools and how many schools are offering it, or is it available in all high schools.

Answer: The total number of students in years 11 and 12 in Western Australian schools is 38 389. Of these, 21 110 are in year 11 and 17 279 in year 12. Students participating in any form of VET in schools initiatives during 1996 was estimated to be 15 per cent of the total cohort - 5 802.

VET in school initiatives are those which integrate school-based general education with vocationally oriented programs of study delivered in conjunction with structured work-based learning within industry. Most structured work-based learning occurs through INSTEP which will involve 40 schools in 1997. In 1996, student participation in INSTEP was 1 209 -

• Metropolitan schools	485 students
• Country schools	394 students
• Non-government schools	330 students

Available data estimates 15 per cent of the post-compulsory population is participating in one of a wide range of vocational education initiatives. At this stage 40 students in Western Australia are engaged in formal, recognised school-based traineeship/apprenticeship initiatives.

Question: The member for Nollamara referred to the reduction in commonwealth funding and asked for details of all the programs that have been reduced, and by how much that reduction has been due to the reduction in commonwealth funding.

Answer: The Federal Government's August 1996 Budget contained several changes to the provision of employment services in Australia. Major changes will include -

- DEETYA will take on a policy and purchaser role and be downsized in the State.
- CES will no longer exist in 15 months time. It will be replaced by -

Service Delivery Agencies which will operate as one-stop shops for income support matters, self-help employment services and referral to other agencies, especially Employment Placement Enterprises.

Employment Placement Enterprises which will undertake the job placement counselling and assistance services currently provided by Employment Assistance Australia, CES and contracted case managers. EPE services will be provided under three headings - labour exchange services, job search assistance and intensive employment assistance.

There will be a corporatised Public Employment Placement Enterprise which will be formed from residual parts of the CES and Employment Assistance Australia.

Intensive Employment Assistance will in essence be a pool of money made available to each EPE to directly assist job seekers find employment.

The impact in this State will be a continuing pressure on Joblink projects to meet the shortfall in services with no increase in resources. Many CES offices are already significantly understaffed and this will be a continuing trend during 1997. Kalgoorlie office only has one permanent officer left and is supported by three temporary officers. The other major impact will be the continuing effect of reduced spending on labour market initiatives.

Since the 1996-97 federal Budget decision to cash out all labour market programs there has been no mechanism to expend the cashed out funds on the new services. With a further delay in the establishment of EPEs and the other mechanisms, there will be a delay in the release of funding for new services. The impact of these delays has already been felt in the smaller rural economies where payments for labour market services can have a significant impact on economic activity and consequently, confidence.

Question: The member for Nollamara sought further information relating specifically to grants for the purchase of training places from training providers and the impact of reductions in commonwealth funding across a range of employment and labour market programs.

Answer:

Western Australian Department of Training
Grants, Subsidies and Transfer Payments

1996-97 Est. Actual \$'000		1997-98 Estimate \$'000	Notes
16 300	Grants relating to the purchase of training places for training providers	14 398	
Breakdown by Project			
8 100	Industry Specific Tendered Program	10 900	
180	Enterprise Specific Tendered Program	150	
270	Priority Skills Enhancement	850	
813	Painting and Decorating	850	
484	Training Markets - User Choice	500	
2 994	Prevocational	0	1
1 567	Aboriginal Services (IESIP)	776	2
650	Misc. Aboriginal Services Programs	372	2
142	Adult Migrant Education Services (AMES)	0	2
1 100	Australian Traineeship Subsidy Grants	0	3
<u>16 300</u>		<u>14 398</u>	

Notes:

- 1 Funding for the Prevocational Training Programs has been discontinued in 1997-98 by the Commonwealth. Initial Commonwealth funding has now been received for a replacement program, namely the Access Program for Apprenticeships and Traineeships
- 2 The 1997-98 allocation reflects the movement of training delivery functions to colleges with subsequent expenditure classified as Services and Contracts
- 3 Budget allocation reflective of a change in program for funding related to Traineeship Subsidy Grants. Such funding now included under Traineeship Grants.

Western Australian Department of Training
Revenue Projections for 1997-98

	Budget 1996-97 \$'000	1997-98 Estimated Revenue \$'000	Notes
Employment Related Programs:			
National Transition Program - Professional Devt Prog (Year 1)	380	200	
National Transition Program - Professional Devt Prog (Year 2)	215	300	
Land Environment Action Plan (LEAP)	700	350}	1
Land Environment Action Plan (LEAP) - Training Allowances	400	150}	
Regional Employment Action Plan	200	70	2
Employment Services Regulatory Authority Program	156	150	
Inwork Traineeships (formerly ATSIC)	1 550	1 000	3
Other Employment Related Programs:			
Accredited Training for Youth	66	66	
AVTS - Pilot Programs	213	150	
National Transition Program (formerly AVTS Implementation)	2 435	500	4
Traineeship Subsidy Grants (formerly AVTS T'ship Subsidy Grants)	3 722	4 000	
Build a Job	31	31	
ANTARAC	36	20	
New Work Opportunities Program	28	20	
New Work Opportunities Program (Program 2)	90	90	
Traineeship Development Grant	54	50	
Contracted Entry Level Training Assistance Scheme (CELTAS)	0	280	
Sub Total Other Employment Related Programs	6 675	5 207	
Total Employment Related Programs	10 276	7 427	

Notes:

- 1 Reflects flow on of reduction in 1996-97 Commonwealth Budget when there was an across the board reduction in funding for labour market programs. This decision indicated a shift from the traditional labour market programs to structured work-based vocational education and training (eg apprenticeships and traineeships.)

- 2 As with 1 above
- 3 The WA Program in this area was successfully undertaken but due to a 1996-97 Commonwealth Budget decision to reduce the level of funds available to ATSIC, further funding for the Program was unavailable.
- 4 Funding was made available to nationalise training standards, a project which will be completed within available Commonwealth resources. The reduction identified in the Budget Papers reflects the finalisation of payments for training modules to be used for the standardisation of training delivery in Australia.

Question: The member for Nollamara referred to the delivery processes through Westlink and the Golden West Television Network. He asked what number of hours is committed to in the forthcoming financial year, and will any factors impinge on the fulfilment of such goals.

Answer: Westlink - 360 hours contingent upon the availability of time slots which are in demand. GWN - 100 hours contingent upon the future availability of continued access at no charge.

Question: The member for Nollamara asked what major initiatives are to be undertaken from the funding in the 1997-98 budget.

Answer:

Program 1: Vocational Education and Training Strategic Development

- Implement a coordinated, integrated approach to planning which provides a framework for strategic directions for the growth and development of the VET sector.
- Through the comprehensive analysis of economic, labour market, demographic trends and industry training needs, continue to improve processes for the identification and articulation of the State's training priorities through the development of the State Training Strategy.
- The introduction of the new VET Act has provided the opportunity to develop streamlined processes for accreditation and recognition. These will develop and should be fully operational as part of the new policies and processes of the Training Accreditation Council.
- The assessment framework for the VET sector will be distributed and promoted and an assessment made of its impact towards the end of the year. The framework addresses assessment issues across the vocational education and training sector, including RPL, industry and institution-based assessment and graded and non-graded assessment. Given moves at a national level to increase the emphasis on the achievement of competencies and linkages to competency standards the issue of appropriate assessment will be pivotal to ensuring quality outcomes in the training system.
- Continue to encourage and support training providers to obtain quality endorsement through the Department's VET Quality System.
- Implement risk management strategies to ensure appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of services.

Program 2: Vocational Education and Training

- The total number of Student Curriculum Hours (SCH) that are to be delivered in the Western Australian VET system in the 1997 academic year is approximately 22.5 million (figures are based on planned 1997 delivery) compared to approximately 21.5 million in 1996;
- To increase the percentage of Student Curriculum Hours (SCH) competitively tendered out in the 1997 academic year over the 6.1 per cent achieved in 1996; and
- The introduction of a three year rolling planning process with the colleges. This will result in the Department being able to further enhance the management of the VET sector by addressing, in conjunction with colleges, any shifts in delivery strategy. It will also enable individual colleges to refine their planning process on an extended timeframe and thus optimise the allocation of resources.

Capital Works

- North Metropolitan College: Joondalup Stage 2.2
This involves completion of the Flexible Learning Centre and Student facilities. This development will complement the existing course delivery facilities at Joondalup and service the student demand in the rapidly expanding northern corridor of Perth.

- Western Australian School of Art & Design
This project will provide extensive refurbishment and expansion of the existing Alexander Gallery building in Aberdeen Street and modifications to the existing Graphic Art & Design building.
- South West Regional College: Bunbury Campus
Commencement of extensive modifications to the Bunbury Regional College valued at \$8m. This will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of servicing the integrated vocational training needs of science, engineering and trade areas which is in response to industry training demand in the South West region.
- Kimberley Regional College: Broome
The \$3m new campus at Broome will enable the relocation from the existing campus to a more appropriately located site. The project will cater for increasing demand and more suitable purpose built facilities. A joint venture will be commenced with the Fisheries Department to build a new aquaculture park in Broome.

Program 3: Employment and Work Based Training Initiatives

- Development and implementation of the new Land Management Traineeship which will provide opportunities for employment across a range of land management skills. Trainees will be drawn from young people who have a commitment to land conservation and will be offered a real job for 12 months implementing projects linked to regional landcare initiatives. It is anticipated that the Land Management Traineeship will be ready to be launched in mid 1997.
- Development of a pilot one-stop service for traineeship and apprenticeship information within the State in line with the Commonwealth Government's move to the Contracted Entry Level Training Agencies (CELTA) initiative.
- Further promotion of the successful Inwork Traineeship Program as a best practice model of assistance to young Aboriginal people. Western Australia has been the most successful State to administer this program.
- Maintenance of the effectiveness of State Employment Assistance Strategy projects through the Job Link and Aboriginal Economic and Employment Development Officer program to ensure efficient matching of job-seekers with employment or training opportunities.

Further development of policy and strategies to address the State's Aboriginal employment issues through the Aboriginal Economic and Employment Development Officer Training Program.
- Implement the expansion of VET in schools. In December 1996, WADT sought information on current and planned activity relating to VET in schools initiatives from:
 - Training organisations
 - Secondary Education Authority
 - Schools sectors (EDWA; CEO: AISWA)

Whilst there is rapid growth in schools in the expansion of vocational education and training opportunities, currently most activity is curriculum related through course delivery and TAFE Selection Criteria.

In 1997, with the additional \$2.1m of ANTA funds for the expansion of VET in schools, secondary schools are currently in the process of planning for expanded delivery of VET for students in Years 11 and 12 in 1998.

- Strong focus on strategies to address youth employment issues through the development of a State Employment Strategy.
- Growth in group training initiatives through the network of Group Training Companies to further increase the numbers of apprenticeships and traineeships.

Question: The Chairman asked, in reference to Stage 2.2 of the Joondalup flexible learning centre, is the \$9.6m figure a state contribution or is there a commonwealth contribution?

Answer: It is a totally ANTA commonwealth sourced contribution.

Question: The member for Nollamara referred to the section "Other projects - Equipment" in the Program Statements and a \$10m allocation with only \$1m to be spent this financial year, and asked is it expected to accelerate in 1998-99? Similarly, in relation to minor works, there is a \$4m requirement but only \$1.4m has been allocated in this budget.

Answer:

Equipment: The \$10.235m figure identified on page 970 of the Budget Papers refers to the total estimated cost for the state funded equipment allocation for a five year period 1997-98 to 2001-02. While \$1.082m is allocated in 1997-98 it is planned that \$2.51m will be expended in 1998-99.

On page 968 of the Budget Papers ANTA Plant and Equipment funding in calendar year 1997 comprises \$4.851m with \$3.540m to be expended from 1 January 1997 to 30 June 1997 and \$1.311m to be expended from 1 July 1997 to 31 December 1997. On page 970 of the Budget Papers ANTA Plant and Equipment funding in calendar year 1998 comprises \$5.990m with \$2.309m to be expended from 1 January 1998 to 30 June 1998 and \$3.681m from 1 July 1998 to 31 December 1998. Therefore in the 1997-98 financial year the overall equipment allocation is \$4.702m comprising an ANTA Plant and Equipment funding total of \$3.620m (\$1.311m plus \$2.309m) and the state funding total of \$1.082m.

Minor Works: The \$8.4m figure identified refers to the total estimated cost for the state funded Minor Works allocation for a five year period 1997-98 to 2001-02 on page 970 of the Budget Papers. While \$1.4m is allocated in 1997-98 it is planned that \$1.8m will be expended in 1998-99.

Division 47: Productivity and Labour Relations -

Question: The member for Nollamara asked the Minister to provide information on the length of time that people must wait before they get through to an officer in the Wageline.

Answer: The current telephone system only provides information on calls waiting in 10 second intervals up to 30 seconds and then calls waiting after 30 seconds. To obtain information on length of time callers wait, each month a sample of 100 callers is surveyed by the Wageline staff. One question asked is "How long did you wait before being attended to?" Surveys this year have shown that on average 83 per cent of callers waited less than 5 minutes.

The survey also shows that on average this calendar year 80 per cent of callers were satisfied with the time they had to wait. The new telephone system being introduced will provide detailed statistics on call waiting time and calls lost before being connected to the Wageline telephone system.

Question: The member for Nollamara asked the Minister how much was allocated to the workplace liaison service in 1996-97; what is the allocation for 1997-98 and what will be the FTEs in 1997-98 for that service.

Answer: The budget allocation for 1996-97 was \$140 000 for salaries and \$30 000 for contingencies. The salary budget for 1997-98 is estimated at \$250 000 with an estimated contingencies budget of \$60 000. The FTE allocation for workplace liaison officers is five level 5 officers.

Question: The member for Bassendean asked the Minister for figures on the number of inspections in the targeted industries, the number of breaches found and the amount of money that has been collected for the last 12 months.

Answer:

Targeted Visits	
Total number	350
Number of breaches	147 (Retail)
	261 (Hospitality)
Amount recovered	\$ 6 281 (Retail)
	\$22 394 (Hospitality)
Total	\$28 675
Formal Inquiries	
Total number of inspections	291
Number of breaches	59 (Retail)
	90 (Hospitality)
Amount recovered	\$ 72 658 (Retail)
	\$203 339 (Hospitality)
Total	\$275 997

It should be noted that the hospitality industry includes the fast food sector.

Question: The member for Nollamara asked the Minister whether the Department of Productivity and Labour Relations met the cost of the DOPLAR officer seconded to the Building and Construction Industry Task Force.

Answer: The Minister advised that the costs were not met by DOPLAR; however DOPLAR pays the officer's salary and recoups a portion from Contract and Management Services.

Division 49: Registrar, Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission -

Question: The member for Nollamara asked what was the cost of undertaking the review of all awards in the 1995 amendments.

Answer: The additional cost of \$17 409 was incurred for advertising which was a requirement under the changes in the Act. There were no additional cost in relation to FTEs.

Division 51: Planning -

Question: The member for Nollamara asked the Minister what was the estimated total development cost of the Subiaco redevelopment and what would be the total contribution made by government to the overall project.

Answer: It is estimated the total development cost, including debt servicing costs, will amount to \$149.282m. Estimated total contribution made by government to the overall project is \$16.8m.

Division 52: Western Australian Planning Commission -

Question: The member for Maylands asked the Minister to provide details on caveats on land titles where refunds must be made of compensation previously paid. When that money flows in, will it go to the Planning Commission or the consolidated fund? What revenue is expected to flow from those caveats? How many more do you anticipate will be lodged?

Answer: A refund of compensation previously paid is not payable until the land on which the caveat is registered is subdivided or transferred following the date of reduction or revocation a reservation or unless agreed by the owner and the commission. It is therefore dependent upon the owners to initiate the calculation and payment of the refund. The revenue received from the refund of compensation is based upon the value of the property at the time of repayment. Refunds received to date in 1996-97 is \$195 077.

Lodgment of caveats to protect the commission's entitlement to a refund of compensation previously paid are reliant upon amendments to the metropolitan region scheme which reduce or revoke reservations on properties for which compensation has been paid. All caveats have been lodged and no further caveats will be lodged until amendments to the metropolitan region scheme which may affect such properties. The number of caveats lodged to date to protect the commission entitlement to a refund is 56.

Division 53: Heritage Council of Western Australia -

Question: The member for Southern River stated that she had six local authorities in her electorate and wished to know what local authorities had compiled municipal inventories.

Answer: Of the seven shires in the member's electorate, the following have completed their municipal inventories -

Armadale
Serpentine-Jarrahdale
Canning
Melville

with the following still to complete theirs -

Gosnells
Kwinana
Cockburn

Division 54: National Trust of Australia (Western Australia) -

Question: The member for Thornlie asked how many of the 50 heritage places referred to on page 656 as being identified, were put on the State Register.

Answer: A list of places which are classified (or recommended for classification in the 1996-97 financial year) by the National Trust is set out below. Places marked with an asterisk have not yet been considered by the National Trust but will be considered at its 9 June 1997 council meeting.

Places which have been placed on the State Register of Heritage places are so noted in column 1 and places that are included on the Heritage Council's 1996-97-98 assessment program are so noted in column 2.

Place Number	Place Name	On State Register	Status On HCWA Assessment Program	Not Currently Being Considered
3285	Clifton Residence	✓		
3266	St Joseph's Church & Presbytery		✓	
0598	Wanslea	✓		
4636	Tramway Bridge, Denmark			✓
0683	St Leonard's Anglican Church			✓
3352	Glanville's Building	✓		
1080	Old Junction Hotel			✓
1329	St Andrew's Church and Hall	✓		
1362	St Peter's Church, Badgebup	✓		
3268	Walebing	✓		
3103	Marrinup POW Camp	✓		
1181	Mardoc Building	✓		
3271	Oakabella	✓		
1927	St Columba's Church and Hall	✓		
1943	St John's Lutheran Church			✓
3318	East Perth Power Station	✓		
3299	Aston Clinic Stables	✓		
3517	Old Hay River Bridge			✓
2269	Old Bush Inn			✓
3261	*Cape Inscription Lightkeepers Quarters		✓	
2430	Chapel of St Michael and All Angels			✓
3464	Herdsman Lake Settler Cottage	✓		
-	Norman and Beard Pipe Organ, St Patricks Anglican Church			✓
4533	Original Scarborough Primary School			✓
3320	Windsor Hall	✓		
3519	Hackett Memorial Buildings	✓		
2457	*Shenton House		✓	
3548	Toodyay Redhill Convict Road Station		✓	
4660	Hoddy Well and Cottage			✓
-	Glenorchy Primary School Library			✓
4565	Arnold Park House			✓
4638	Onslow Goods Shed and Beadon Point Goods Shed			✓
4566	Carnarvon Tramway Jetty	✓		
3501	The Fascine			✓
4639	Boulder Railway Station and Yard			✓
4637	Pemberton Tramway			✓
1185	Harvey Town Hall		✓	
3789	*Yarloop Town Hall			✓
1192	*Memorial and Brunswick Hall			✓
-	*Masonic Hall, Harvey			✓
-	*Challenge Bank Building, Harvey			✓
-	*Whiterocks Homestead and Dairy Farm			✓
4651	32 Genesta Crescent, Dalkeith		✓	
2132	St John Ambulance Building			✓
2131	Dental School			✓
2230	181 Coode Street, South Perth			✓
-	Kalumburu Airfield			✓
-	*C-53 Wreck and Site			✓
-	*Shady Lady Site			✓
-	*Loran Sites, Sir Graham Moore Island			✓
-	*No 317 Radar Station Sites, Sir Graham Moore Island			✓
-	*No 317 Radar Station, Pago			✓

* Places to be considered for classification by the National Trust on 9 June 1997.

Division 55: Justice -

Question: The member for Burrup referred to point 2.3 on page 504 of the Budget Statements and asked if it was true that many matters had been taken out of the courts as a result of the installation of an automated enforcement system.

Answer: The following table shows the relevant figures for enforcement matters -

YEARS	ARRESTS MATTERS STATEWIDE (Includes Police and Non-Police Prosecutions)	SUMMONS MATTERS STATEMENT (Includes Police and Non-Police Prosecutions)	INFRINGEMENT NOTICES <u>POLICE ONLY</u>	UNPAID INFRINGEMENT NOTICES REGISTERED AT FER <u>POLICE ONLY</u>
1993-94	76 229	49 539	283 578	35 986
1994-95	83 295	48 892	319 739	35 949
1995-96	93 656	57 901	348 598	33 051

Question: The member for Burrup asked about the future of the Busselton Courthouse facilities.

Answer: The capital works program forward estimates indicate \$2.5m in 1998-99 for "Asset Replacement/Upgrade - Court and Tribunal Services - Justice Centre - Other". Subject to all necessary approvals the Ministry of Justice proposes to allocate this \$2.5m for the construction of a Busselton Courthouse commencing July 1998.

Question: The member for Burrup asked whether the three allocations for the Judges' Salaries and Pensions Act, the District Court of Western Australia Act and the Salaries and Allowances Act relate to superannuation schemes.

Answer: The Judges' Salaries and Pensions Act allocation of \$5.171m includes provision of \$1.54m for pensions for retired Supreme and District Court judges. The District Court of Western Australia Act and Salaries and Allowances Act do not have provision for superannuation schemes. Request for further detail should be raised with the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.

Question: The member for Burrup asked whether approximately \$40m was raised through the Public Trustee's operations and was it a contribution to state revenue.

Answer: The source of the \$40m figure quoted can not be established. The Public Trust Office generates \$5.736m in fees through trustee services. An additional \$3m - page 526 Budget Statements - is paid to the consolidated fund revenue from surplus common fund interest. In total the Public Trust is estimated to generate \$8.736m for the consolidated fund during 1997-98.

Question: The member for Burrup referred to 29 000 hours lost in Corrective Services through sick leave and asked what were the actual number of hours lost.

Answer: The 29 000 hours refers to Casuarina Prison. The actual hours lost due to sick leave from those covered by the gaol officers' award was 103 676.63 hours in 1996.

Question: The member for Burrup asked whether there had been an increase in the seriousness of juvenile offences which go to court, and whether the number of violent offences ending up in court had increased.

Answer: The number of juveniles appearing before the Children's Court or a panel charged with violent offences declined from 721 in 1993 to 685 in 1995, the most recent full year for which statistics are available. The number of separate charges faced by these juveniles also declined from 1 524 to 1 180 in the same period.

Question: The member for Bassendean asked when an assessment would be made of the Sentencing Act.

Answer: The Sentencing Act took effect on 4 November 1995 and the Ministry of Justice will conduct a review of its operations after it has been in force for two years.

Question: The member for Armadale asked for information regarding the steering committee's reporting on blood borne clinical diseases, statistics on prisoners' homosexual activity, intravenous drug use and the level of HIV-AIDS within the prison system.

Answer: The blood borne clinical diseases steering committee comprises -

Dr Gerard Hodgkinson	Director, Health Services MOJ (Convenor)
Mr Bob Wilson	Manager, Health Services MOJ
Mr Lewis Marshall	Health Department WA
Mr Chris Carter	Executive Director, AIDS Council of WA (Inc)
Ms Linda Leske	Senior Officer, Communicable Diseases Training Unit MOJ
Ms Kathryn Kerry	Senior Project Officer, Communicable Disease Control Program, HDWA
Mr Ian Vaughan	Manager, Projects MOJ
Mr Bill Milroy	Manager, Aboriginal Policy & Services Branch MOJ

Ms Ruth Bath	Director, Nursing, MOJ
Mr Steve Whittred	Nurse Casuarina Prison (A/Project Officer) MOJ
Mr Jim Dunstan	Superintendent Wooroloo Prison Farm MOJ
Ms Jan Shuard	Project Manager, Banksia Hill Detention Centre MOJ
Ms Susan Carruthers	Hepatitis C Council WA
Ms Diane Lambert	(Minutes Secretary) MOJ

This steering group meets on a monthly basis. Minutes of each meeting are recorded. The group is accountable to the Executive Director, Offender Management, Mr Kevin Payne.

1. **Incidence of Prisoners Engaging in Homosexual Activity:** No figures as such are available as no records are kept and it is difficult to obtain information of this nature from serving prisoners. According to the literature from other jurisdictions there is a level of between 5 per cent and 22 per cent of unprotected and anal intercourse and homosexual activity amongst prisoners [Wodak, 1992 (Based on NSW prisons): Brewer & Derrickson, 1992 (Based on United States prisons)]. A most recent article quotes a figure of 12 per cent of prisoners entering the Victorian prison system as having participated in anal intercourse at least once, while in prison [Crofts, et al 1995]. A study by Dolan et al (1995) reported approximately 10 per cent of prisoners engaging in homosexual activity.
2. **The Level of IV Drug Use:** Prison inmates are drawn heavily from the drug using population outside prison with up to 50 per cent of prisoners having a history of IV drug use [Crofts, et al 1995 (Australian article - based on Victorian prison system)]. According to a recent study by Dolan, et al (1995) (Australian article and author - based on a review of nine studies of IV drug using ex prisoners) approximately 42 per cent of IV drug using prisoners report injecting drugs while in prison. Another report by Brewer and Derrickson (1992) (based on United States prisons) reports up to 25 per cent of prisoners report IV drug use while in prison. The Tenth Report of the Social Development Committee (1997) prepared for the South Australian Parliament quotes a figure of about 20 to 30 per cent of prisoners injecting while in prison.
3. **The Level of HIV/AIDS Within the Prison System to Date in Western Australia:** The level of HIV/AIDS within prisons in Victoria is 0.47 per cent [Crofts, et al 1995]. In the New South Wales prison system it is 0.5 per cent [Butler, 1996]. In Western Australia our rate at the end of March 1997 was 0.09 per cent (2/2057) (Whittred, 1997).

As at the end of March 1997, 25 per cent (500/2057) of WA prisoners were untested for HIV. Until 6 February 1997, the policy was to offer a blood test for HIV, to those prisoners who admitted to risk factors on arrival to prison. The current policy is for all prisoners to be encouraged to consent to blood testing for HIV/AIDS and hepatitis, and the numbers untested should reduce substantially as a consequence.

Our number of prisoners positive to HIV/AIDS as of today, 27 May 1997, is three or 0.13 per cent (3/2268) of today's prison muster of 2 268 prisoners.

Question: The member for Burrup asked what is the formula for the ratio of prison officers to prisoners.

Answer: There is no mathematical formula that identifies the number of prison officers to the number of prisoners. A number of criteria are used for such an assessment. For example - number of prisoners; type of prison - whether industrial or a farm, etc; the security rating of the prison; the prisoners' needs; structure of the prison; and whether it is a detainee or unit management prison

Question: The member for Burrup asked for the number of people who have been incarcerated for non-payment of fines.

Answer: 407.

Question: The Chairman asked what is the current monthly across the board figure for the cost of maintaining an adult prisoner, compared with a juvenile prisoner or detainee.

Answer: The current monthly across the board figure for maintaining an adult prisoner is \$3 532 compared to \$6 142 to maintain a juvenile in a detention centre.

Question: The member for Bassendean asked how many people in this financial year have been imprisoned for driving under suspension, in breach or without a driver's licence.

Answer: The number of distinct persons imprisoned for 'Failing to Hold a Valid Motor Driver's Licence' or 'Driving Under Suspension' where Warrants of Imprisonment were executed between 1 November 1996 and 30 April 1997 is 235. It is not possible to give a break down of the exact offence descriptions as that information cannot be reliably extracted from the offender management system.

Question: The member for Burrup would like to know the amount of money spent on education equipment.

Answer: The computer teaching facilities in the education centres were upgraded to industry standards in 1996-97 at a total cost of \$286 565.50.

Question: The Chairman asked what was the average cost per month of supervising an adult and a juvenile offender in the non-custodial sentencing area.

Answer: Recent figures from the Industries Commission identify the average cost of supervision of an adult under a community based supervision order in Western Australia as \$7.10 per day, or \$213 for a 30 day month. The average case management cost per juvenile offender was \$83.60 per week in 1995. This compared to an average daily cost of \$391.56 for each juvenile in custody in 1995-96.

Question: The member for Bassendean asked about the incidence of various orders imposed under the Young Offenders Act.

Answer: Indicative current figures can be provided only for computerised court locations, which account for more than 90 per cent of the total volume of orders imposed. In April 1997, the following aggregate orders were imposed at those courts for which figures are available -

Youth Community Based Orders	72
Intensive Youth Supervision Orders	31
Juvenile Conditional Release Orders	30

Seven juveniles were sentenced to an intensive supervision order and one was sentenced to a community based order under the Sentencing Act in the same period. Courts have the discretion to deal with 17 year old offenders under the adult legislation where they deem it appropriate.

Question: The member for Bassendean asked about prisoner daily costs and whether it was anticipated that in the 1997-98 financial year the daily cost rate would increase.

Answer: The latest cost per prisoner per day available is that provided for 1995-96 which is \$117.74. The 1996-97 cost per prisoner will be calculated at the end of the financial year in the process of calculating annual performance indicators. At this stage it is difficult to determine whether the cost per prisoner will increase in 1997-98. The provision of new beds and programs will impact on the cost depending on the configuration of the prison beds and programs. At this stage there has been an increase in the funding for programs which is likely to add to the cost per prisoner.

Question: The member for Burrup asked if it was still the case that Western Australia had the cheapest prison system per head of population in Australia.

Answer: This information will be available at the end of the financial year.

Division 56: Commissioner for Equal Opportunity -

Question: The member for Fremantle asked whether the Minister could provide information on the percentage increase in inquiries and complaints on the grounds of sexual harassment, race and racial harassment.

Answer: Figures for the year 1996-97 are only available for the 11 months from 1 July 1996 to 31 May 1997. In comparing this 11 month period with the full 12 months of 1995-96 the following applies -

Inquiries regarding sexual harassment decreased by 5.5 per cent from 581 to 549.
Complaints regarding sexual harassment increased by 36.7 per cent from 85 to 117.
Inquiries regarding race discrimination increased by 4.9 per cent from 717 to 752.
Complaints regarding race discrimination increased by 1.4 per cent from 148 to 150.
Inquiries regarding racial harassment increased by 84.8 per cent from 33 to 61.
Complaints regarding racial harassment increased by 88.9 per cent from 9 to 17.

Question: The member for Swan Hills asked the Minister to provide a breakdown by race of people who have made complaints on race related grounds.

Answer: Statistical information on the demographic profile of complainants for 1996-97 has yet to be collated. This information will be published in the commissioner's 1996-97 annual report. Alternatively, it can be provided to the Parliament as soon as it is available.

Question: The member for Eyre asked the Minister for information on the success rate of complaints declined by the commissioner and subsequently referred to the Equal Opportunity Tribunal by the complainant.

Answer: Since 1985 a total of 242 complaints have been referred to the Equal Opportunity Tribunal. Of these, 69 were referred by complainants after the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity had declined their complaints. Of these 69 complaints, three have been upheld by the tribunal.

Division 60: Culture and the Arts -

Question: The member for Fremantle asked when the submarine would become available.

Answer: Although the Royal Australian Navy has initially indicated 1 July 1997 as the date for the submarine to become available, the Navy has reconsidered this date. It is our understanding that a continuing requirement exists for the submarine for training purposes at least for calendar year 1997 and possibly longer. This issue is a matter of active discussion with the Navy. The Museum, together with its submarine task force, is also examining options for providing public access to the submarine prior to its permanent relocation at a new maritime museum site.

Question: The member for Fremantle asked about Victoria Quay, west of the existing port authority building, and the impact on the existing lessees.

Answer: The Government has received a number of recommendations for possible museum sites in the general area of Victoria Quay. Evaluation of these sites and their relationship to other heritage, tourism and site use issues are being considered and an announcement will be made when government has made a final decision. The importance of the interests of existing lessees is recognised by the Museum and these are not being neglected.

Question: The member for Swan Hills asked about the consolidation of art and urban renewal strategies by facilitating the contracting of 30 new public art programs and whether the Minister could assure her that these would not all be located in Perth, but also in the outer metropolitan and country areas.

Answer: Per cent for art projects under way:

CLIENT	SITE
EDWA	Australind Senior High School - stage 3 * O'Connor Primary School, Kalgoorlie * Ballajura Community School Port Hedland Cooke Point Primary School * East Busselton Primary School *
Training	Alexander Galleries - Cultural Centre New TAFE Centre in Broome (Kimberley College) *
Justice	Banksia Hills Juvenile Detention Centre
Police	Cannington Regional Complex Mirrabooka Regional Complex Morley Police Station Hillarys Police Station Gosnells Police Station Kununurra Regional Complex * Halls Creek Police Station * Roebourne Regional Complex * Dunsborough Police Station *
Health	Bunbury Co-located Health Campus * Armadale Health Campus Broome - Derby Regional Hospital *
Family and Children's Services	Wungong Community Centre Ellenbrook Community Centre Ballajura Community Centre
ArtsWA	King Street Arts Centre * country projects

PROPOSED PROJECTS

Justice	Co-located Supreme and District Courts	undefined
	Fremantle Court and Justice Complex	undefined
	Rockingham Court and Justice Complex	undefined
	Halls Creek Courthouse	5 000

The largest of these projects is the Bunbury Co-located Health campus.

Further information for the member in relation to Geraldton -

An option to consider is that the Mid West Development Commission in Geraldton has received \$1.76m in 1997-98 to supplement funding received this current financial year for feasibility study and project development. The Mid West Development Commission, together with the Western Australian Museum, having taken advice from Treasury, has proceeded to interview project architects and an appointment will be made in due course.

A similar process is anticipated with exhibition and public program fitout. It is anticipated that the balance of the funding required for the construction of the museum will be provided in succeeding financial years.

Portico at Geraldton -

The museum is currently acting upon the recommendations of a bipartisan select committee of the upper House that unanimously recommended that the Portico be returned to Geraldton when a building of sufficient quality to guarantee the security of the Portico was constructed. The museum believes that the Geraldton project currently being initiated will provide such a building and, in accordance with existing policy, is proceeding on the premise of transferring the Portico.

Issues relating to possible replicas, together with the rotation of additional shipwreck materials, are currently being negotiated within the Western Australian Museum primarily between the Maritime Museum and the Geraldton Museum.

Question: The member for Thornlie asked whether the Liberal Party issued an Arts policy prior to the state election of December 1996.

Answer: No.

Question: The member for Thornlie asked whether the WA musical industry had been accounted for in the Budget.

Answer: The original allocation was for over two years, 1996-97 and 1997-98.

Question: The member for Thornlie referred to the public records about which Dr Allen answered a question earlier. She asked if the Minister could be more specific about how the ultimate recommendations would align with the royal commission's recommendations; that is, to ensure independence and to have a separate chief executive officer reporting to the Parliament.

Answer: The Royal Commission into Commercial Activities of Government and Other Matters recommended the establishment of an independent public records authority but did not specify the detail of how this might occur. The Government Records Bill currently being drafted concurs with the need for an independent body whose purpose would be to establish standards for the management of public records in state and local government. This body will be called the Government Records Commission. The commissioners will be totally independent and provide their reports and recommendations for change directly to the Parliament.

The commission will conduct audits against its standards. In keeping with principles of separation of policy and service delivery, the commission will not be responsible for assisting agencies to improve operational practices. This will be the task of the Government Records Office, part of the Library and Information Service of Western Australia within the new Ministry for Culture and the Arts.

This separation will mean that the commission will be able to advise Parliament on the performance of the Government Records Office as well as other agencies. Were the Government Records Office and the Government Records Commission combined, then the commission would audit itself. The model is consistent with government policy and provides both protection of and accountability for all stages of the records management process from creation to archive. It is expected that the Government Records Bill will be introduced in the 1997 spring session.

Division 61: State Revenue -

Question: The Leader of the Opposition asked the Premier: "Under major achievements for 1996-97 reference is made to the two Bills that went through during the year to provide a stamp duty exemption for corporate restructures; to close a loophole whereby a takeover of a company could be effected by way of a capital reduction without the payment of stamp duty; to introduce regulatory controls on the sale of tobacco; and to provide a land tax concession for certain primary producers. Do we have estimates of the revenue implications of these two pieces of legislation? What do they represent in annual payments to the State?"

Answer: In respect of stamp duty corporate reconstructions, exemptions of \$8 282 564 were granted in 1996-97. However, given that the majority of these transactions would not have occurred in the absence of the facilitating legislation, the cost to the revenue is negligible.

The cost to revenue of land tax concessions for certain primary producers was \$169 969. There were no revenue implications for the introduction of regulatory controls on the sale of tobacco, but had these measures not been taken, the revenue would have been put at risk. The saving to revenue of the measure to prevent the avoidance of stamp duty revenue when a company takeover is effected by way of a capital reduction has to date been \$1 970 000.

Question: The member for Belmont asked whether any work had been done on the cost of extending the pensioner rates concession to people who may be in their mid-fifties and who were facing the prospect of no work for the rest of their lives.

Answer: The extension of the pensioner rates concession and deferment scheme to include other categories of ratepayers has not been considered by the Government. There have been no approaches made to government for the extension of the scheme to include the unemployed or others on low incomes.

Question: The member for Bassendean asked the commissioner what was the degree of the problem of tobacco retailers trading in illicit tobacco products and what sort of revenue was the State missing out on as a consequence of illegal activities to evade paying tax?

Answer: Revenue losses as a result of evasion and avoidance under the above scheme have been contained to a minimum as a result of the following strategies -

Strict control and reduction of wholesale licences

By controlling the number of wholesale licences issued, Western Australia has to a certain extent avoided the loss of tobacco licence fees which occurs on retirement of a licence. This has been a serious problem in a number of the other jurisdictions. Recent changes to the legislation have also provided the commissioner with a greater power to determine whether additional licences should be issued.

Removal of duty free exemption for sales of tobacco products into Western Australia.

Unlike other jurisdictions Western Australia has moved to enforce that tobacco licence fees are paid on tobacco products being purchased by international travellers entering Western Australia. This has generated in excess of \$1m per year in tobacco licence fees.

National Tobacco Conference

Western Australia was a founding member of the National Tobacco Conference, the objectives of which are to deal with tobacco avoidance and evasion throughout Australia in a planned and methodical way. Outcomes of the conference have been -

a structured, intelligence regime which provides immediate communication of evasion or avoidance schemes the moment they surface; and

adoption of more uniform and effective legislation Australia-wide.

Retailer Audits

The State Revenue Department is currently undertaking a project which involves auditing tobacco retailers' records to ensure that purchasers of tobacco products have been made through licensed persons.

Assessment and Prosecutions

Over the last few years assessments of approximately \$3.5m have been issued and prosecutions have been undertaken on six wholesalers/retailers.

Question: The Chairman asked the Premier if statistics relating to appeals heard by the Land Valuation Tribunal could be made available.

Answer: Details of appeals lodged with the Land Valuation Tribunal are as follows -

	July '95-June '96	July '96- Jan'97
Upheld	4	1
Dismissed	35	24
Heard	39	25
Withdrawn	18	27
Total Appeals	<u>57</u>	<u>52</u>

Division 64: Health -

Question: The member for Fremantle asked whether Whatley House was still open.

Answer: The service known as Whatley House was operating in premises owned by St Vincent de Paul on a peppercorn lease arrangement. When the owners of the building wished to use the property for another purpose it was necessary to relocate the service from Whatley Crescent.

The Inner City Health Service has secured a property in East Perth for the continuation of the service to clients of the Whatley House service. Whatley House site has closed; however, the service will continue through the premises in East Perth. Negotiations are currently under way to determine the best outcome for the former clients of the Whatley House service who continue to require a rehabilitative service.

The department is committed to involving consumers in the resolution of this issue. Hence, Professor George Lipton, General Manager, Mental Health Division, will be meeting with representatives from the consumer group on Wednesday 28 May to discuss any remaining issues for these clients. The division wishes to give the consumers the opportunity to highlight their needs and to be involved in the decision making process.

Question: The member for Fremantle asked for details of 1996-97 budget changes relative to Health divisions.

Answer: Details relative to divisional budget changes are as follows -

(a)	Operational Budget Movements for 1996-97 -	
	\$'000	
	Mental Health	- 900 Agreed verbally with COH. Timing difference. Funding reallocated to 1997-98.
	Aboriginal Health	-1 900 Agreed verbally with COH. Timing difference. See below.
	Public Health	-2 100 See below.
(b)	Divisional Budget Movements for 1996-97 -	
	Operations Management	+ 561
	Commissioner of Health	+ 291
	Executive Services	+ 224
	Strategic Planning	- 300
	Commercial Services	- 200
	Finance & Resource Management	- 60
	Health Workforce Reform	- 225
	Health Information Centre	- 61
	Mental Health	- <u>200</u>
		<u>0</u>

Review of Public Health Services Budget

As you are aware the COH has requested Corporate Finance to review the expenditure budgets for the Public Health branches with a view to diverting all non-essential expenditure to other critical areas as part of the budget shortfall strategies. Currently the budget has not been finalised with negotiations continuing with Health Promotions. In the interim the following is a synopsis of the interviews with information on budget adjustments that can be carried out now, with a further adjustment required in the near future for Health Promotions.

Environmental Health: Michael Jackson's proposal to reduce funding by \$500.0k was accepted by the commissioner. This funding relates to a prepayment of \$270.0k to UWA for mosquito borne disease work in 1997-98 and \$230.0k to the Shires of Halls Creek and Derby/West Kimberley for Aboriginal environmental health in 1997-98.

The commissioner allowed the part payment for the purchase of a centrifuge relating to the UWA project with the balance to be paid in the 1997-98 financial year. In addition Environmental Health undertook to ensure that all creditors are paid and would avoid any non-essential expenditure. A further budget adjustment is required to increase the budget by \$500.0k in relation to the Drug Abuse Task Force, Premier's Office - methadone program. This adjustment is pending.

Disease Control: The majority of Dr Jag Gill's recommendations were approved by the commissioner. A summary is as follows -

Program	Amount	Deferral/reduction
	\$'000s	
Immunisation	50.0	defer
Directorate	35.00	reduction
Aids Matched	186.65	reduction 41.25 defer 145.4
Sexual Health	65.0	reduction
Unmatched	97.0	defer
Hereditary Disease	17.0	defer
Case Management	00.0	defer
Injury Control	207.5	defer
Total Budget Adjustment	<u>758.15</u>	

General Manager's Fund: As discussed with Dr Paul Psaila-Savona in meetings with the commissioner and Corporate Finance, it was agreed to reduce the current year budget by \$900 000. This expenditure related to specific projects of which \$778 000 will be requested as a first call on 1997-98 funding.

Women's Cancer Screening Service: After a recent budget adjustment of \$516.5 the Cancer Screening Service is forecasting to run almost to budget for this current financial year. Wayne Lefler agreed that \$88 400 of matched commonwealth funding would not be required and a request for carryover be made.

Summary: The budget adjustment to Public Health is as follows -

Environmental Health	450 000
Disease Control	758 150
General Manager's Fund	900 000
Women's Cancer Screening Service	<u>88 400</u>
Total Adjustment	<u>2 196 550</u>

1996-97 Budget Adjustments

As you are aware the 1996-97 and 1997-98 health budget is significantly less than the funds sought to maintain current activity.

This serious shortfall has required a raft of measures to ensure that the department stays within budget, the most urgent relating to the remainder of the 1996-97 financial year.

The review of expenditure against budget for Special Projects, Disease Control, Environmental Health, Health Promotion and Women's Cancer Screening Services indicates that there is potential for a budget reduction both in 1996-97 and 1997-98.

Consequently, I intend to revise the Public Health Budget in a manner which will maintain expenditure at the same rate as for the first eight months of the year and have reduced the General Manager's (Special Projects) budget by \$900 000 as previously agreed. The overall budget reduction is \$4.1m.

Aboriginal Health Budget Review - December 1996

In discussions between the COH and Shane Houston, General Manager, Office of Aboriginal Health, it was agreed that Aboriginal Health would not be in a position to spend the full allocation of funds earmarked for 1996-97. Funds totalling \$1.9m will be available for redistribution without impacting on the implementation of the Family Future Program.

Division 65: Land Administration -

Question: The member for Rockingham asked of DOLA's involvement in the development at Port Kennedy.

Answer: The details of involvement are -

March 6 1997 The Minister for Labour Relations; Planning; Heritage requested that DOLA arrange the issuing of 22 Crown Grants pursuant to Clause 10 of the Port Kennedy Agreement Act 1992

March 13, 1997 DOLA commences the process to prepare the Crown Grants

April 23, 1997 Final subdivisional clearances received from Whelans

April 29, 1997 22 Port Kennedy Crown Grants issued

Question: The Leader of the Opposition asked what moneys have been expended and recouped in relation to the International Program.

Answer:

SUMMARY OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

	PARLIAMENTARY APPROPRIATIONS	EXPENDITURE (Including Supplementary Appropriations)	REVENUE	NET EXPENDITURE
1991-92	Nil	117 410	66 177	- 51 233
1992-93	890 000	1 303 976	776 400	- 527 576
1993-94	667 000	1 053 405	444 377	- 609 028
1994-95	710 000	948 737	531 582	- 417 155
1995-96	727 000	1 538 208	797 647	- 740 561
1996-97	666 000	1 028 670 (Est)	1 364 485 (Est)	+ 335 815 (Est)
	\$3 660 000	\$5 990 402	\$3 980 668	- \$2 009 738

Government re-endorsed in April 1996 the operation of the Land Administration International Program of DOLA until 30 June 1999. The re-endorsement was with the continued aim of enabling the further export of Western Australia's land administration and management expertise to other countries, continuing to stimulate Western Australian small business and enhance economic, trade and cultural opportunities for the State, whilst targeting self-sustainability or profitability within this time frame.

Question: The Leader of the Opposition asked whether any special strategies were developed to explain the changes to non-English speaking people with reference to brochures explaining the new strata titles laws which were published by DOLA.

Answer: Strata Titles information is published in English only; however translator services are provided by DOLA on a demand basis to answer enquiries by non-English speaking members of the public. DOLA is monitoring strata title inquiries to assess the requirement for this service, and will translate key documents in accordance with demand and as funds permit.

Division 66: Fair Trading -

Question: The member for Armadale asked whether the ministry provided any assistance to any person in relation to proceedings involving Subiaco Computer Warehouse, and whether there were any current proceedings in which assistance is being provided?

Answer: The ministry has assisted two consumers in legal proceedings against Subiaco Computer Warehouse.

Case 1 Mrs Hardigan: The consumer was successful in Small Claims action against the trader. SCW did not pay the order but, instead, appealed to the Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari, a type of writ to correct errors of law by lower Courts. SCW sought this order on the technical legal ground that the Small Claims Tribunal had erred in law in deciding against it. The error, it was claimed, was that as Mrs Hardigan had made the claim to the Tribunal and the invoice for sale was made out to Mr Hardigan, there was no contract between the company and the complainant, Mrs Hardigan.

The ministry intervened as it was apparent that both husband and wife were, in effect, agents for one another and Mrs Hardigan lodged the claim as her husband was at work at the time. Following the ministry's intervention, SCW discontinued the Supreme Court action and Mr and Mrs Hardigan received the money due to them.

Case 2 Mr Southgate: The consumer lodged a claim in the SCT on 20 July 1995 about an alleged breach of contract by SCW. At the time he was unaware that the trader had taken action in the Local Court against him. Although the summons was taken out against him on 13 July 1995, he was unaware of this action until 25 July 1995.

On ministry advice Southgate lodged a defence stating that the contract was breached as it was late and incomplete. Southgate received a notice from the Local Court that the claim could be progressed by either

party on 21 days' notice to the other. SCW made no effort to reactivate its claim. It appeared that the summons was issued as a form of insurance should the consumer wish to take Small Claims action.

Southgate was issued an interlocutory summons for judgment on 11 September 1996. The ministry sought and obtained approval to act on behalf of Southgate at that time. In the subsequent hearing, SCW's request for summary judgment was dismissed. They have taken no further steps in regard to this action. They have however retained Southgate's \$399 original deposit. The ministry has counter claimed for the deposit and a Notice of Discovery has been issued against SCW. This has not been complied with and the Ministry sought and obtained a Court order on 9 May. This order has also not been complied with and the Ministry will be seeking further orders from the Court.

Possible Future Action: The ministry has been advising Ms Teasdale regarding her dealings with SCW. It appears that SCW breached a contract with her by not supplying goods on the date specified. SCW sought full payment from her. Ms Teasdale made an application to the SCT for relief of payment. She did not appear at the hearing and the SCT ordered that she pay for the computer and that SCW supply it within 14 days of payment. However, apparently owing to a misunderstanding by Ms Teasdale the money was not payed until a cheque was tendered in April 1997. SCW had threatened to bankrupt Ms Teasdale if it was not paid. The ministry's advice was sought. Several letters have been written to SCW's solicitors seeking advice on SCW's intentions but so far they have not been answered. Accordingly the Ministry has suggested a renewal of reference to the SCT by Ms Teasdale. If SCW pursues bankruptcy action Ministerial approval may be sought to assist Ms Teasdale.

Question: The member for Armadale asked what are the criteria which apply to payments from the Home Buyers Assistance Fund, how many grants have been made from the fund, and how much money has been paid by way of grants?

Answer: To be eligible for a grant home buyers must fulfil the following conditions:

- The application form must be lodged with the Registrar of the Real Estate and Business Agents Supervisory Board no later than 90 days after the date the offer to buy the home is accepted. The home must be established or partially built, not a plan to build a home.
- The property purchased must be financed by an authorised lending institution.
- The property must have been purchased through a licensed real estate agent.
- The applicant(s), or an applicant's spouse or partner must not have owned or previously owned property in any State or Territory in the Commonwealth of Australia or in any other overseas country.
- The home purchased must be the applicants' principal place of residence.
- The maximum purchase price of the home and the gross annual income must be within the limits set out in the table and location listed below.

Locations	Gross annual family income	Maximum purchase price
Metropolitan and country	\$30 000	\$85 000
Remote areas	\$35 000	\$100 000
North West and Kimberley region	\$40 000	\$110 000

Changes to eligibility criteria from July 1, 1997 mean -

The income test will be removed. The Scheme will be available to all West Australian first home buyers, regardless of their income level, providing they satisfy all other conditions required in the application form; and

Increases in country/remote areas, maximum house price criterion will be altered as follows:

Metropolitan and Country	\$85,000
Remote areas	\$120,000
North West and Kimberley	\$140,000

Since July 1, 1996 the following grants have been made -

No of applications considered	427
No of applications recommended	306
Total amount of grants recommended	\$518 098.65
Average amount of each grant recommended	\$1 693.13

Question: The member for Armadale asked what was the source of the payment of \$700 000 to the Builders' Registration Board, and when was it paid?

Answer: The \$700 000 payment was supplementary funding from consolidated funds following approval by the Treasurer in March 1996. Payment was made in the 1995-96 budget year.

Question: The member for Armadale asked what was the composition of the Real Estate and Business Agents Supervisory Board?

Answer: Under Section 7 of the Real Estate and Business Agents Act the Board must comprise -

- (a) one, being a person who is not a licensed agent, shall be appointed to be a member and Chairman of the Board;
- (b) one, being a person who is not a licensed agent, shall be a person who is experienced in commercial practice;
- (c) one, being a person who is not a licensed agent, shall be a person who is a legal practitioner;
- (d) one shall be a person who is a licensed agent nominated for appointment by the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia; and
- (e) one shall be a person who is a licensed agent and elected for appointment by licensed agents (hereinafter called an elective member).

David Miller is the chairman and a lawyer by profession. He is a partner with Kott Gunning. However the chairman does not have to be a lawyer. The only stipulation is that he not be a licensed agent. He is engaged in property law. He has no direct links with the real estate industry.

Lyn Pugh is the member experienced in commercial practice. She is a retired accountant and has no links with the real estate profession. She actually sees herself as representing 'consumers'. Lyn was previously employed as administrator by Parker and Parker.

Gordon Bragg is the member who is legally qualified. He is a partner with Godfrey Virtue and undertakes property related work. He has no direct links with any real estate agent.

Ross Ledger is a deputy member who is experienced in commercial practice, is a semi-retired accountant and is a consultant in private practice. He was a partner with Henry Rae and Court. He is not known to have any links with the real estate industry.

Craig James is the deputy legally qualified member. He is a partner with Gibson and Gibson and is engaged in property/commercial law. He has no direct links with the real estate industry.

Jeremy Hughes is the member nominated by REIWA. He is a REIWA councillor. He owns his own real estate business, J R Hughes and Co. The business is mainly residential sales. He is a member of REIWA Council.

Peter Gregory is the deputy member nominated by REIWA. He is engaged mainly in the sale and leasing of commercial property. He is the principal of his own company Peter Gregory Real Estate. He is not a member of REIWA council but is a REIWA member.

William (Bill) Goddard is the elective member (ie elected by all licensed agents). He is in business as a sole operator as a business broker and undertakes some property management. He is a member of REIWA Council.

Antonio Bonavita is the deputy elective member. He is the principal of Antonio Bonavita and Associates and deals mainly in residential property in Fremantle. He is a former REIWA Council member.

Question: The member for Armadale asked how many claims were there against the Fidelity Guarantee Fund in respect of the Frances Mary Chan matter, how long had they been outstanding, and how long will it be before they are resolved?

Answer: Seven claims have been received against the Fidelity Guarantee Fund. One claim in the prescribed form was received in January 1996. Further claims in the prescribed form have been received in February 1997. Complaints which have been referred to as notices of intention to make a claim were received in August 1995. Each of the seven claims is required to be assessed on its own merit.

Evidence to substantiate the claims in the terms of the provisions of the Real Estate and Business Agents Act 1978 continues to be gathered. Until such time as that process is completed it is not possible to provide an accurate time

in which the claims will be resolved. I am hopeful that the process of assessment will be completed in the next three to four months in respect of a majority of the claims.

Question: The member for Armadale asked if it was possible for the Parliamentary Library to get online access to Business Names Branch database information?

Answer: Yes, the Parliamentary Library can have access to the Business Names Branch database. The requirements, much of which should already be in place, are -

- (a) an access line through Bureau Services, Department of Contract and Management Services;
- (b) appropriate terminal emulation software to match the features of an IBM 3270 terminal;
- (c) a personal computer of almost any kind; and
- (d) a log in identity and password which can be arranged by the Ministry's Business Names Branch.

Access will provide Business Names information with listings of business proprietors. There is also a free Internet service which provides a simple search facility; however proprietors names are not shown on this service. Access is already being provided to the Hon Leader of the Opposition with the use of facsimile equipment. This proposal will be discussed with the staff of the Parliamentary Library.

Division 68: Local Government -

Question: The member for Rockingham asked the Minister to advise whether the Department of Local Government had received a complaint regarding the local government election in the Town of Albany.

Answer: The department has not received a complaint of the type referred to for the Town of Albany but has received correspondence from the Shire of Albany. The letter covers authorisation of electoral material and the returning officer is seeking advice on what action needs to be taken. The department will provide that advice.

Question: The member for Collie asked whether the centralised corporate services allocation on page 581, as part of the department's total overall budget of \$1.7m includes payments for contracts.

Answer: Yes, \$48 000 for management contracts and \$19 000 for computer maintenance contracts.

Question: The member for Collie asked for supplementary information on how much corporate service money goes on consultants.

Answer: \$48 000 is available for management consultants.

Division 70: Family and Children's Services -

Question: The member for Nollamara asked who will accept responsibility under the Financial Administration and Audit Act for funding the Right to Buy scheme.

Answer: As the funding is in the Family and Children's Services' budget reporting will appear in our annual report. This will be undertaken in liaison with Homeswest. Mr Fisher also offered to provide a copy of a letter from Treasury to provide further clarification. The letter is as follows -

Transfer of Miscellaneous Services Division Items to Budget Sector Agencies

As requested, this advice is to confirm that at its meeting on 29 January 1997, the Cabinet Budget Standing Committee (CBSC - formerly Cabinet Estimates Committee) approved the transfer of funding and responsibility for Miscellaneous Services Division Items to budget sector agencies from 1 July 1997.

The Right to Buy Scheme (RBS) is administered by Homeswest, a non budget sector agency and therefore, it was not possible to transfer RBS to that agency. Accordingly, and as part of its deliberations, CBSC considered that Family and Children's Services was the most appropriate budget sector agency to be responsible for RBS.

As the Miscellaneous Services Division was withdrawn as a Division for the 1997/98 Budget Statements, and in order for the 1996/97 estimated actual for RBS to be reflected in the budget papers, the published 1997/98 Budget Statements for Family and Children's Services include an amount of \$3.0 million for RBS in the 1996/97 estimated actual information. No funding provision in 1997/98 and the three outyears has been provided for RBS.

Question: The member for Churchlands asked why there was a variance between the department's 1996-97 estimated expenditure on advertising - \$556 627 - and the estimate for 1997-98 - \$400 000.

Answer: The variance is due to the cost of advertising for staff vacancies. As the number of vacancies for 1997-98 is unknown, no estimate of the cost of advertising can be provided.

Question: The member for Nollamara asked about the department's estimated under-expenditure - recurrent - in 1996-97 of \$1.176m.

Answer: The under-expenditure is due to the following -

- (1) Funding for a number of youth-related agencies being transferred from Family and Children's Services to the Office of Youth in 1996-97 - \$539 854.
- (2) Transfer of Minister's office to the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet - \$420 000.
- (3) Previously the department expended funds for the Home and Community Care Project and sought reimbursement from the Commonwealth via the Health Department. In 1996-97 the department no longer provides this service - \$156 000.
- (4) Responsibility for the funding of the Duke of Edinburgh Award has transferred to the Office of Youth - \$60 000.

Question: The member for Kalgoorlie asked the following questions in relation to consultancy fees -

- (a) What is the total figure for money spent on market research in the last year and estimated for the forthcoming year and especially with the many references to review and evaluation?
- (b) What is the total figure for money spent on consultancy fees in the last year and estimated for the forthcoming year and especially with the many references to review and evaluation?

Answer:

- (a) Expenditure for market research for the 1996-97 financial year is \$174 000. It is estimated that \$145 000 will be spent on market research during the 1997-98 financial year.
- (b) Expenditure for consultant fees other than market research for the 1996-97 financial year is \$187 000. Expenditure estimates are not made for consultancy fees for the forthcoming year.

Question: The member for Churchlands asked the Minister the number of full time equivalents involved in the Parent Information Centres.

Answer: There are 12 full time equivalents involved in the current eight Parent Information Centres.

Question: The member for Churchlands asked the Minister whether information could be provided on the total funding for the Parent Link Home Visiting Service for 1996-97, estimated expenditure for 1997-98 and the number of full time equivalents involved.

Answer: The total funding for the 11 Parent Link Home Visiting Services was \$844 582 in 1996-97. The estimated expenditure for 1997-98 is \$1 164 000. There are 12 full time equivalents involved in the eight current departmental services.

Question: The member for Churchlands asked the Minister whether there are savings by contracting out the Parent Link Home Visiting Services.

Answer: In 1996-97 the departmental and non-government services received the same level of funding which was at the rate of \$85 000 per annum; one exception was the departmental service at Port Hedland which received \$90 000 due to higher costs in that location.

Question: The member for Collie asked about the cost of foster care.

Answer: Foster carers receive a subsidy, based on age, for all children in care. Pocket money, similarly based, is also paid but only for wards in care. Foster carers receive both these amounts fortnightly. In addition, the department pays a wear and tear clothing allowance to foster carers for wards and approved children every four months. The department's Children's Expenditure Manual provides details of all rates currently paid (see extract below).

With the exception of pocket money, all rates are subject to an annual CPI adjustment which is effected from 1 December each year. The adjustment for 1997 is yet to be calculated. The subsidy is based on costs of keeping a child as assessed by the Australian Institute of Family Studies. Extract 6.3 (appendix 2) from the department's Children's Expenditure Manual identifies what is covered by the subsidy.

The department also meets other placement costs associated with individual children, eg, education, health, counselling, child development, family contact, day care, etc. Costs for each child vary substantially depending on the child's circumstances but the average expenditure is currently \$1 800 pa per ward and \$980 pa for other children.

Current Subsidy Rates as of 1.1.97

Appendix 1

Out of Home and Alternative Care Subsidies and Allowances

Basic Subsidy: (Wards & Departmentally Placed)

Under 13	\$144.48 (per fortnight)
13 & over	\$218.68 (per fortnight)

High School Rates are paid at the commencement of the year the child turns 13.

Wards are automatically entitled to all below.

Departmental placements may be eligible. Eligibility would need to be identified in the case conference plan approved by the Division Manager.

Pocket Money

This is based on age

Children up to 13th year	\$2.00 per week
Children in 13th to 15th year	\$5.00 per week
Children in 16th year and over	\$6.50 per week
Working age (awaiting Benefits)	\$10.00 per week

Pocket money for departmental placements must be approved by Regional Directors as an Above Scale Subsidy payment.

Initial Clothing Grant (Once Only)

	Under 13	13 & over
1st month in quarter	\$299.75	\$381.50
2nd month in quarter	\$272.00	\$349.00
3rd month in quarter	\$245.00	\$305.00
4th month in quarter	\$218.00	\$283.00

Wear and Tear Allowance

Three times per year, January, May, September (CPI quarterly adjustments).

5 & under	\$156.00
6 & over	\$206.00

Wear and tear allowance does not cover school uniforms which are claimed separately by either LPO or reimbursement after discussion with, and approval by, the field officer.

Basic Subsidy Coverage

Appendix 2

The basic subsidy payment is expected to cover the following:

- Food and shelter;
- Heating/electricity/gas;
- Local transport;
- Outings and entertainment;
- Haircuts;
- Small toys;
- General expenses related to personal hygiene items, basic general medical treatment and pharmaceutical requirements - non-prescriptive;
- Incidental expenses for education, leisure and hobby activities, ie, pencils etc, which may be reasonably considered to be met by the payment of the standard age related subsidy.

Question: The member for Kalgoorlie asked for details on the increase in the category "other grants and subsidies" totalling \$1.6m.

Answer: The majority of the increase relates to funded election commitments for domestic violence initiatives as well as an adjustment for CPI increases for various non-government state funded services.

Question: The member for Churchlands asked for details on the domestic violence, victim support and advocacy services. The level of funding was provided. The member for Churchlands asked for the date each service came on stream as supplementary information.

Answer: The Armadale service operated by Armadale Gosnells Women's Refuge had the Service Agreement signed by all parties on 21 January 1997, and received their first payment by the end of January 1997.

The Joondalup service operated by the Pat Giles Centre had the Service Agreement signed by all parties on 12 December 1996, and received their first cheque in early January 1997.

The Tom Price/Paraburdoo service operated by the Nintirri Centre had the Service Agreement signed by all parties on 20 December 1996, and received their first cheque in January 1997.

The Karratha/Dampier service operated by the Local Information Network Karratha had the Service Agreement signed by all parties on 2 December 1996, and received their first cheque in December 1996.

The Albany service operated by Anglicare had the Service Agreement signed by all parties on 18 April 1997, and received their first cheque in late April 1997.

Question: The member for Kalgoorlie asked the Minister for clarification as to which budget the \$250 000 for Aboriginal Family Violence Services came from in 1996-97 and 1997-98.

Answer: It is confirmed that \$250 000 was included in the Domestic Violence Prevention Unit as part of the Women's Policy Development Office budget in 1996-97 for Aboriginal domestic violence initiatives. Treasury approval has been given to expend this money in 1997-98.

In addition, Family and Children's Services have established four Aboriginal family violence services using savings in 1996-97 and will continue to fund these from new moneys provided as an election commitment.

Question: The member for Nollamara asked the Minister to provide details of planned achievements for the department's two program areas for 1997-98.

Answer: Major Planned Achievements 1997-98 - Protection and Care of Children Program:

- Evaluation of "New Directions" in Child Protection and Family Supports.
- Introduction of new legislation.
- Full implementation of the Child Protection Services Register.
- Development of Standards for the assessment of carers across the department and non-government Out of Home and Alternative Care services, with the establishment of a centralised register of carers.
- Progress developments towards the establishment of statewide (and national) procedures to obtain criminal record checks for all persons working with children within government departments and funded services.
- Implementation of strategies from the OHPAC Review to improve services.
- A review will commence on the implementation of the Adoptions Act 1994.

Major Planned Achievements for 1997-98 - Family and Community Support Program:

- The department will complete implementation of the recommendations of the evaluations of the first five pilot parent information centres and Parent Link home visiting services.
- The three year Best Start project will be evaluated and the department will consider the recommendations of the evaluation report.
- Further progress will be made on improving the department's response to families affected by domestic violence, including continued development of non-government domestic violence services.
- The department will continue to develop culturally appropriate services and implement its Languages Services Policy.
- Changes to the Child Care Regulations resulting from the review of regulations will be implemented.
- Provision of child care will be improved in areas of high need by planning and implementation for long day care places and year round care places.

Question: The member for Churchlands asked questions about a new service in the metropolitan area for children traumatised by witnessing domestic violence. The member for Churchlands asked to be provided with information on when it was started.

Answer: The service was advertised calling for requests for proposals on 23 November 1996. Relationships Australia was selected as the Service Provider in April 1997. Copies of the Service Agreement are with Relationships Australia, awaiting signature.

Question: The member for Kalgoorlie asked how many Aboriginal staff were employed by the department at 30 June 1996, how many Aboriginal staff are employed now, what is the increase in the number of Aboriginal staff employed over this period and where are these officers based.

Answer: Family and Children's Services employed 110 Aboriginal staff as at 30 June 1996 which increased to a peak of 117 at 8 August 1997. As at 23 May 1997, there were 111 Aboriginal people employed by the department. A detailed breakdown of these figures is set out below -

DIRECTORATE	30/6/96	8/8/96	23/5/97
North Country	62	69	62
South Country	10	11	13
Metropolitan	12	12	12
Special Field Services	13	14	13
Central Office	13	11	11
TOTAL	110	117	111

However, a plan is in place to further increase Aboriginal employment levels over the next three years using a number of commonwealth subsidised traineeships. These are:

- The Australian Vocational Traineeship Scheme;
- Cadetships
- District Officer/Family Welfare Officer Traineeships.

It is anticipated that Family and Children's Services will employ a total of 30 trainees with four employed under the AVTS, four under the Cadetships and 22 under the District Officer/Family Welfare Officer Traineeships.

Of the 22 Aboriginal trainees employed under the District Officer Traineeships, 12 will be employed in the Country Regions and the remaining eight in the Metropolitan Region.

The full employment of these trainees should result in an increase in the current number of Aboriginal staff from 111 (23 May 1997) to 133.

Question: The member for Churchlands requested a copy of the Federal Budget fact sheet number 13.

Answer: The fact sheet is as follows -

Improved Affordability for Families with Children Requiring School Age Care:

The 1997-98 Budget measure injects an additional \$11m over four years to reform school age care. The measure will significantly improve affordability for about 70 000 low and middle income families using Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) services and move towards a more equitable system of Childcare Assistance for school age children using centres, Family Day Care and OSHC services.

School age care has been the subject of an extensive two-year pilot and research program. Research found that affordability is a key issue for families, particularly low income families.

Reforms redirect all Childcare Assistance funding provided for school age care in centres and Family Day Care; OSHC operational subsidies and Childcare Assistance (from 1 January 1998); and existing vacation care grants to the States (from 1 February 1998), to a new income tested Childcare Assistance for all school age children, to be implemented from 1 January 1998. While families using centres and Family Day Care for the first time from 1

January 1998 will receive less Childcare Assistance than existing families, this measure will benefit 70 000 families using Outside School Hours Care.

A higher rate of Childcare Assistance will be provided for families using Outside School Hours Care services, and their eligibility for Childcare Assistance will be extended to the same income cut-off as Family Day Care and centres (up to \$65 743 per annum for one child, instead of the current OSHC Childcare Assistance cut-off of \$27 125 per annum).

The family's percentage entitlement for Childcare Assistance will be applied to the new school age ceiling of \$1.95 per hour per child. While this ceiling is lower than that currently applying to families using Family Day Care and long day centres, it is substantially higher than the current maximum benefit of \$0.73 per hour per child paid to families using Outside School Hours Care services.

This measure will:

- make subsidies for school age children more equitable regardless of the form of care used. The same Childcare Assistance ceiling will apply whether the school age child is in a centre, Family Day Care or an Outside School Hours Care service.
- mean that existing school age children in centres and Family Day Care will retain all their current entitlements while they continue to use the same service.
- introduce the new school age rate for children starting new care arrangements in centres and Family Day Care, with relevant part-time loading continuing to apply in Family Day Care.
- benefit an estimated 19 000 families currently receiving Childcare Assistance in Outside School Hours Care services and an estimated 51 000 families currently using OSHC services who will become eligible for some Childcare Assistance.

Out-of-pocket costs for families with one child in Outside School Hours Care services for 15 hours per week:

Family Income	Current out-of-pocket costs	New out-of-pocket costs*	Difference in out-of-pocket costs
\$21 000	\$18.30	\$10.20	\$8.10
\$35 000	\$29.95	\$15.45	\$13.80
\$55 000	\$29.95	\$26.55	\$2.70
\$67 000	\$29.95	\$34.05	(\$4.80)

*Based on current average fees of outside school hours care services increasing by around \$1.15 per three hour session of after school care.

Other components of school age care reform package:

Funding of \$12.2m over four years will be available from 1 July 1997 to enable existing OSHC services to obtain financial and restructuring advice to assist in the transition to the new system. Funding also includes a minor capital upgrade component for services needing assistance to ensure ongoing viability or to amalgamate with other services.

Establishment funding totalling \$20m over four years has been set aside to assist new services during the first two years of establishment. Research shows that new OSHC services generally require a lead time of up to two years to build utilisation to viable levels. New community-based services will receive establishment funding for approved places for their first two years of operation.

Establishment of new OSHC services will be delayed until 1 January 1998 to enable these services to commence on the new system. Eligible Outside School Hours Care services in rural and regional Australia where no alternative care exists within a reasonable distance will be supported through disadvantaged area subsidies totalling \$15.7m over four years, to ensure working families in these areas do not lose access to care.

Question: The member for Collie asked whether the department has statistics on how it gets its referrals and whether they show a different type of referral pattern in that crisis cases are referred by agencies and are not self-referrals, and that parenting cases are self-referrals.

Answer: Mr Fisher responded that that would definitely be the pattern and that the department can provide that breakdown. The data confirms this statement and the breakdown of the data follows -

In summary the data demonstrates that in reports involving a Child Maltreatment Allegation or a Child Concern Report, only 8 per cent of referrals are made by the client themselves, while combined referrals from schools, police and hospitals comprise 25 per cent of the total (see figure 1).

In contrast 64 per cent of referrals relating to reasons other than Child Maltreatment Allegations or Child Concern Reports are made by the clients themselves while only 9 per cent are made by schools, police and hospitals combined (see figure 2).

Table 1: All referrals to departmental District Offices (excluding Parent Information Centres and Parent Home Visiting Service) during the 1996/1997 financial year to date, by Referral Agent.

Referral Agent	count	%
ANONYMOUS	838	0.97
CRISIS CARE UNIT	549	0.64
COMM GOV AGENCY	148	0.17
CHILDREN'S COURT	10	0.01
CLIENT	51574	59.67
COMMUNITY HEALTH	1560	1.80
DAY CARE	408	0.47
DEPT EMPLOYMENT EDUCATION TRAINING	18	0.02
DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION	243	0.28
DEPARTMENT SOCIAL SECURITY	1240	1.43
FAMILY COURT	301	0.35
FAMILY HELPLINE	38	0.04
FRIEND OR NEIGHBOUR	3201	3.70
HOSPITAL	2134	2.47
INTERSTATE AGENCY	467	0.54
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY	394	0.46
MEDICAL PRACTITIONER	808	0.93
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE	518	0.60
NON GOVERNMENT AGENCY	3115	3.60
OTHER DEPT WORK UNIT	1957	2.26
OTHER	1852	2.14
OTHER RELATIVE	3133	3.62
OVERSEAS AGENCY	48	0.06
PARENT OR GUARDIAN	3650	4.22
PARENT INFORMATION CENTRE	7	0.01
POLICE	2833	3.28
PRIVATE PRACTITIONER (NON MEDICAL)	204	0.24
PUBLIC TRUSTEE	41	0.05
SCHOOL	3653	4.23
SIBLING	82	0.09
WA GOVERNMENT AGENCY	797	0.92
CONVERTED DATA	609	0.70
Total:	86430	100.00

Table 2: All Child Maltreatment Allegation and Child Concern Report referrals to departmental District Offices (excluding Parent Information Centres and Parent Home Visiting Service) during the 1996/1997 financial year to date, by Referral Agent.

Referral Agent	count	%
ANONYMOUS	354	5.06
CRISIS CARE UNIT	92	1.31
COMM GOVERNMENT AGENCY	14	0.20
CLIENT	541	7.73
COMMUNITY HEALTH	184	2.63
DAY CARE	109	1.56
DEPT EMPLOYMENT EDUCATION TRAINING	2	0.03
DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION	26	0.37
DEPARTMENT SOCIAL SECURITY	70	1.00
FAMILY COURT	97	1.39
FAMILY HELPLINE	3	0.04
FRIEND OR NEIGHBOUR	965	13.79
HOSPITAL	325	4.64
INTERSTATE AGENCY	75	1.07
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY	54	0.77
MEDICAL PRACTITIONER	96	1.37
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE	97	1.39
NON GOVERNMENT AGENCY	229	3.27
OTHER DEPT WORK UNIT	326	4.66
OTHER	272	3.89
OTHER RELATIVE	782	11.17
OVERSEAS AGENCY	5	0.07
PARENT OR GUARDIAN	679	9.70
PARENT INFORMATION CENTRE	2	0.03
POLICE	636	9.09
PRIVATE PRACTITIONER (NON MEDICAL)	11	0.16
SCHOOL	772	11.03
SIBLING	28	0.40
WA GOVERNMENT AGENCY	107	1.53
CONVERTED DATA	46	0.66
Total:	6999	100.00

Table 3: All Child Maltreatment Allegation referrals only to departmental District Offices (excluding Parent Information Centres and Parent Home Visiting Service) during the 1996/1997 financial year to date, by Referral Agent.

Referral Agent	count	%
ANONYMOUS	50	2.72
CRISIS CARE UNIT	39	2.12
COMM GOVERNMENT AGENCY	4	0.22
CLIENT	154	8.37
COMMUNITY HEALTH	37	2.01

DAY CARE	36	1.96
DEPT EMPLOYMENT EDUCATION TRAINING	1	0.05
DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION	6	0.33
DEPARTMENT SOCIAL SECURITY	18	0.98
FAMILY COURT	30	1.63
FAMILY HELPLINE	1	0.05
FRIEND OR NEIGHBOUR	175	9.52
HOSPITAL	109	5.93
INTERSTATE AGENCY	30	1.63
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY	20	1.09
MEDICAL PRACTITIONER	41	2.23
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE	12	0.65
NON GOVERNMENT AGENCY	86	4.68
OTHER DEPT WORK UNIT	96	5.22
OTHER	47	2.56
OTHER RELATIVE	149	8.10
OVERSEAS AGENCY	1	0.05
PARENT OR GUARDIAN	153	8.32
PARENT INFORMATION CENTRE	1	0.05
POLICE	211	11.47
PRIVATE PRACTITIONER (NON MEDICAL)	2	0.11
SCHOOL	269	14.63
SIBLING	9	0.49
WA GOVERNMENT AGENCY	21	1.14
CONVERTED DATA	31	1.69
Total:	1839	100.00

Table 4: All referrals except Child Maltreatment Allegations and Child Concern Reports, to departmental District Offices (excluding Parent Information Centres and Parent Home Visiting Service) during the 1996/1997 financial year to date, by Referral Agent.

Referral Agent	count	%
ANONYMOUS	484	0.61
CRISIS CARE UNIT	457	0.58
COMM GOVERNMENT AGENCY	134	0.17
CHILDREN'S COURT	10	0.01
CLIENT	51033	64.25
COMMUNITY HEALTH	1376	1.73
DAY CARE	299	0.38
DEPT EMPLOYMENT EDUCATION TRAINING	16	0.02
DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION	217	0.27
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY	1170	1.47
FAMILY COURT	204	0.26
FAMILY HELPLINE	35	0.04
FRIEND OR NEIGHBOUR	2236	2.82
HOSPITAL	1809	2.28

INTERSTATE AGENCY	392	0.49
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY	340	0.43
MEDICAL PRACTITIONER	712	0.90
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE	421	0.53
NON GOVERNMENT AGENCY	2886	3.63
OTHER DEPARTMENTAL WORK UNIT	1631	2.05
OTHER	1580	1.99
OTHER RELATIVE	2351	2.96
OVERSEAS AGENCY	43	0.05
PARENT OR GUARDIAN	2971	3.74
PARENT INFORMATION CENTRE	5	0.01
POLICE	2197	2.77
PRIVATE PRACTITIONER	193	0.24
PUBLIC TRUSTEE	41	0.05
SCHOOL	2881	3.63
SIBLING	54	0.07
WA GOVERNMENT AGENCY	690	0.87
CONVERTED DATA	563	0.71
Total:	79431	100.00

Figure 1:

% of Referrals for CMA and CCR Reasons by Referral Agent

REFERRER	% OF ALL REFERRALS
POLICE, SCHOOL, HOSP	25
CLIENT	8

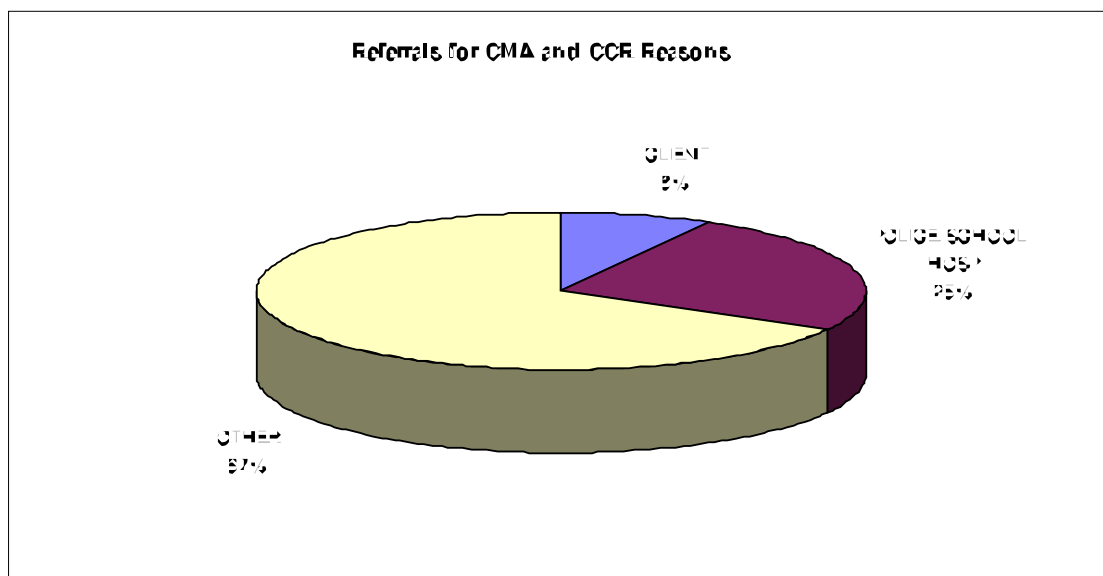
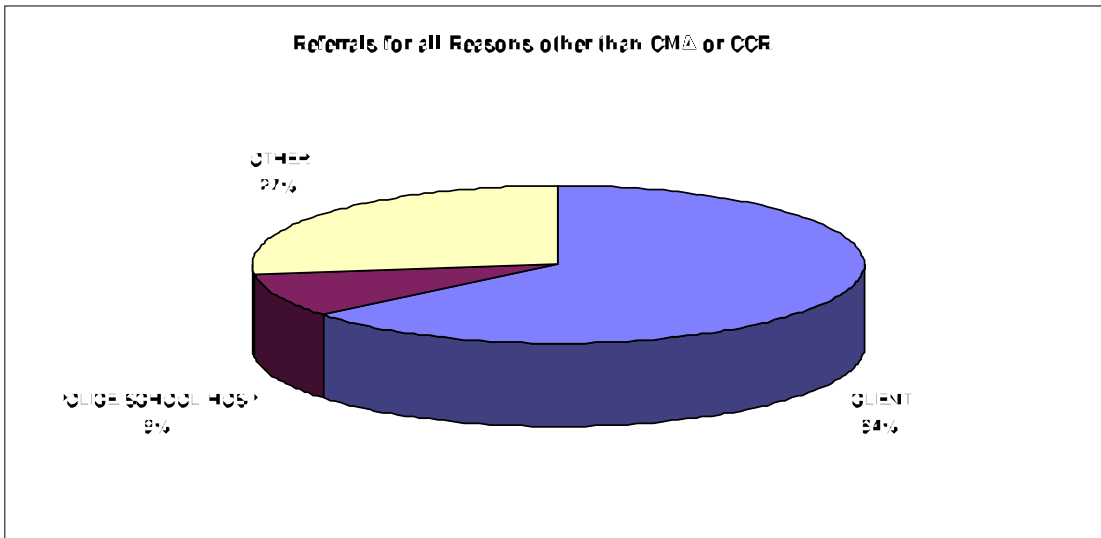


Figure 2:

% of Referrals for all Reasons other than CMA and CCR by Referral Agent

REFERRER	% OF ALL REFERRALS
POLICE, SCHOOL, HOSP	9
CLIENT	64



Division 71: Office of Seniors Interests -

Question: The member for Southern River requested a breakdown of the budget item in relation to the office equipment and IT components.

Answer:

Computers	\$37 750
Printers	\$ 6 226
Telephone System	<u>\$23 017</u>
Total	<u>\$66 993</u>

Division 72: Women's Policy Development Office -

Question: The member for Kalgoorlie asked whether the Minister could provide further details on the amount of \$2.6m allocated for domestic violence prevention.

Answer: The allocation on domestic violence prevention is as follows -

Salaries and staff related expenses	\$610 000
Communications	\$14 000
Service and Contracts	\$547 000

This includes funding for -

- Media campaign
- Review and evaluation of regional planning process
- Aboriginal Training
- Best practice model victim programs

Other expenses	\$29 000
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Grants, Subsidies and Transfer Payments \$1 400 000

This includes funding for -

Regional coordinators
Men's crisis program
Aboriginal initiatives
Perpetrator counselling
Victims counselling
Community education Aboriginal

Total \$2 600 000

Division 76: Water and Rivers Commission -

Question: The member for Maylands asked where were the four monitoring bores near pest control depots that are being investigated and the extent of the problem.

Answer: The Water and Rivers Commission has carried out four investigations to quantify possible contamination near pesticide companies within the Perth metropolitan region. These have been proactive investigations to try and identify the likely extent of problems associated with these types of operations.

The investigations were in Welshpool, Osborne Park, Bayswater and Belmont and the sites were chosen as representative of possible problem areas in the Metropolitan Region. Full reports of the results have been written up in Water and Rivers Commission Hydrogeology Reports 18, 19, 20 and 36 and have been provided to government agencies and local government authorities for appropriate follow up.

In summary, all sites showed some degree of ground water contamination by a range of common pesticides. In one case, specific follow up action was needed and the local government authority was informed. The Water and Rivers Commission is keeping a watching brief on these areas and is working closely with the Health and Environmental Protection Departments to ensure any ground water contamination problems that emerge are dealt with immediately.

Question: The member for Peel asked for information on the size of the land, its current use and future management plans for it.

Answer: Most of the land is native vegetation which is managed accordingly. There are small areas of pine plantation ranging from one hectare up to 22 ha on each title totalling 67 ha. These plantations are under Profit a Prendre Agreements with the Department of Conservation and Land Management where CALM owns the plantations and pays the commission an annuity.

The areas of pine plantation will be managed by CALM until the pine is harvested up to 20 years hence. The native vegetation will continue to be managed as such.

Division 77: Police -

Question: The member for Midland asked what action was being taken to ensure the residents of Quinninup and surrounding areas could live safely and enjoy a normal life.

Answer: Police visitations and communication with the local community occur as necessary. Local police and detectives monitor movements of all bikie groups as well as other persons suspected of breaking the law.

Question: The member for Midland asked whether police headquarters was aware of the bikies at Quinninup.

Answer: The crime operations portfolio and the Bunbury police district were aware that a number of bikies affiliated with the Gods Garbage Motor Cycle Club had a chapter in Manjimup and that four of these members are permanent residents of Quinninup and socialise at the Quinninup tavern.

Question: The member for Midland asked whether the police action from Perth was contemplated prior to the publicised problems.

Answer: Yes. The activities of all outlaw motorcycle gangs are the subject of continuous ongoing operational strategies encompassing both metropolitan and country district personnel.

Question: The member for Midland asked whether a request had been made to headquarters by John Watson.

Answer: Bunbury detectives have liaised with the Crime Operations Sexual Assault Squad but as yet have not made any direct requests for assistance.

Question: The member for Midland asked how frequently managers and sergeants meet to discuss various aspects of the region.

Answer:

Southern Region: The five district superintendents meet quarterly in Mandurah and as required. Overnight accommodation is utilised by some superintendents. The furthest district office is Geraldton, some 500 km away.

Albany: Station officers in charge meet quarterly at Albany and as required. Overnight accommodation is utilised. Sergeants and section officers in charge at Albany meet weekly and information from these meetings is disseminated to all subdistricts in the district. The furthest station is about 480 km away.

Bunbury: Station officers in charge meet monthly or as required. Overnight accommodation is not utilised. Superintendent and assistant district officers meet weekly. Sergeants and Bunbury section officers in charge meet weekly. The furthest station is 140 km away.

Geraldton: Station officers in charge meet once a month at Geraldton or as required. Overnight accommodation is utilised. Sergeants from Geraldton meet weekly. The furthest station is 500 km away.

Narrogin: Station officers in charge meet every six weeks at Narrogin or as required. Overnight accommodation is utilised. The furthest station is 150 km away.

Northam: Station officers in charge meet every six weeks at Northam or as required. Overnight accommodation is utilised. Sergeants and section heads from Northam meet weekly. The furthest station is 250 km away.

Question: The member for Midland asked how many police officers were deemed medically unfit during the past 12 months.

Answer:

1995-96	22
1996-97 - to May 29	20

Question: The member for Burrup asked how many of the 6 399 FTEs were non-police.

Answer: The 6 399 FTEs comprise -

Sworn Officers	4 698
Senior Police	7
Police Aboriginal liaison officers	104
Public Servants	1 116
Wages Employees	63
School Crossing Guards	411
Total	6 399

Note: School crossing guards in accordance with Treasury policy are recorded as a full time FTE even though they are part time workers.

Question: The member for Midland asked whether there was a differentiation between voluntary and involuntary transfers because of an interest in the number of involuntary transfers to country regions.

Answer: Yes. In the period July 1996 to April 1997, 16 involuntary transfers to the country have proceeded.

Question: The member for Burrup asked how many people in the country were ordered to transfer back to the city.

Answer: This information is not recorded.

Question: The member for Midland asked how many probationary constables were included in the figure of 2 425 for 1996-97 compared with those included in the 1997-98 figure of 2 244.

Answer: 522 probationary constables were included in the figure of 2 425. 341 probationary constables were estimated and included in the figure of 2 244.

Question: The member for Midland asked whether there was a comparison between the number of recruits from one year to the other.

Answer: In the financial year 1996-97 it is planned to put 453 recruits through the Police Academy. It is anticipated that 192 recruits will be put through the Police Academy in the financial year 1997-98.

Question: The member for Midland asked for a breakdown of the categories for the figure of 2 425 in 1996-97 and the 2 244 in 1997-98 and how many detectives were employed.

Answer:

1996-97	173 FTE
1997-98	173 FTE estimated

Question: The member for Midland asked what were the staffing and funding levels of the alcohol and drug coordination unit; the child abuse unit and the official corruption unit for 1996-97 and 1997.

Answer: Staffing details are as follows -

	1996-97 FTE	1997-98 est. FTE
Alcohol and Drug Coordination Unit	5	5
Child Abuse Unit	12	12
Official Corruption Liaison	10	10

Funding details are as follows -

	1996-97 \$	1997-98 \$
Alcohol and Drug Coordination Unit	345 000	Funding not yet allocated
Child Abuse Unit	68 000	
Official Corruption Liaison	35 000	

Question: The member for Armadale asked for the figures on the number of drivers' licences lost through points accumulation over the last few years since the introduction of Multanovas.

Answer: The graph shows the number of demerit point suspension files for the period 1988 to 1996. The yearly aggregate data indicates a substantial increase in demerit point suspensions during and since 1991.

However, demerit points may be given to a driver for offences other than speeding and the Western Australia Police Service computer system cannot readily provide a breakdown of the number of drivers who have had their licences suspended based on speed camera offences only.

[Friday, 23 May 1997]

E633

Question: The member for Midland asked about services and contracts conducted by Forensic Behavioural Investigative Services International Pty Ltd and if it was used for profiling work to ascertain whether a series of rapes over the past three years had been committed by the one person.

Answer: No. FBIS was not contracted to undertake work in relation to this matter.

Question: The member for Midland asked how many Police Service vehicles were fitted with government authorised immobilisers.

Answer: Western Australia Police Service passenger vehicles and panel vans are typically fitted with factory direct immobilisers.

Question: The member for Mitchell asked for a detailed breakdown of the \$255 000 grant for the volunteer sea search and rescue groups.

Answer: Payment amounts to sea search and rescue groups have not yet been determined for the 1997-98 financial year. To assist the member, payment details for 1996-97 are provided below -

Sea Search Group	\$
Albany	7 800
Augusta	7 151
Bremer Bay	6 161
Buccaneer	7 330
Bunbury	7 450
Carnarvon	6 925
Cockburn	9 984
Coral Bay	5 621
Denmark	6 047
Esperance	8 492
Exmouth	8 729
Fremantle	14 752
Geographe Bay	6 271
Geraldton	8 005
Hopetoun	7 267
Jurien Bay	8 463
Kalbarri	6 823
Lancelin	6 624
Leeman	6 473
Mandurah	9 171
Margaret River	6 791
Naturaliste	7 652
Peaceful Bay	6 710
Port Denison	9 984
Port Hedland	6 341
Port Kennedy	7 420
Port Walcott	6 306
Rockingham	10 193
Two Rocks	7 562
Walpole	6 227
West Pilbara	8 887
Whitfords	14 062
Windy Harbour	7 439
Total	261 099

The additional funding was sourced from savings in other volunteer sea search and rescue group allocations.

Question: The member for Midland asked how many Police Service vehicles were taken home over a one month period.

Answer: A total of 170 vehicles were taken home during the month of March 1007.

Question: The member for Midland asked how many of those vehicles which are taken home are fitted with government authorised immobilisers and, when not in use, are parked in an unsecured area.

Answer: As answered previously, Western Australia Police Service passenger vehicles and panel vans are typically fitted with factory direct immobilisers. It is current policy that vehicles taken home must be parked off the street and all reasonable security precautions taken.

Question: The member for Midland asked if there had been a decline in the vehicle traffic kilometres particularly in the Kalgoorlie, Norseman, Bunbury and Geraldton areas. He also requested a comparison of traffic contacts covering two consecutive 12 month periods commencing from 1995.

Answer: The statistics below are for Kalgoorlie, Norseman, Bunbury and Geraldton.

Table One - Kalgoorlie Subdistrict:

Table one compares the amount of kilometres travelled by traffic vehicles and the number of traffic contacts for 1995 and 1996.

	1995	1996
Traffic vehicle kilometres	213 389	271 467
Infringements issued	4 371	4 602
Cautions issued	4 037	3 063
Drink driving charges	511	538
Other briefs	703	597
Arrests	627	657
Work orders	327	272

Table One - Norseman Subdistrict:

	1995	1996
Traffic vehicle kilometres	144 684	167 548
Infringements issued	956	1 151
Cautions issued	1 096	1 433
Drink driving charges	45	37
Other briefs	72	113
Arrests	113	133
Work orders	82	68

Norseman has always been integrated and as such the comparison between 1995 and 1996 will be an accurate representation of trends.

Integration of traffic and general duties commenced in Kalgoorlie in October 1996 and perhaps a better indication of the effect of integration can be seen by comparing the figures over the last six months.

Table two compares the amount of kilometres travelled by traffic vehicles and the number of traffic contacts for the six month period October 1995 to March 1996 and October 1996 to March 1997.

Table Two - Kalgoorlie Subdistrict:

	Oct 95- Mar 96	Oct 96- Mar 97
Traffic vehicle kilometres	130 480	173 078
Infringements issued	2 709	1 204
Cautions issued	2 049	1 444
Drink driving charges	330	200
Other briefs	211	114
Arrests	337	548**
Work orders	199	80

**This figure represents the total number of arrests for Kalgoorlie Station. No distinction is now made between traffic arrests and other arrests since integration.

As can be seen the total number of kilometres travelled has increased markedly as the traffic patrol vehicles are now used for patrolling more often. The resultant higher visibility of traffic patrol cars on the road is a deterrent to poor driving practices in itself.

The variation in figures could be attributed to the recent implementation of the integrated approach to policing.

Over the last six months officers have become more accustomed to the change process and an extensive training program has taken place which has given previously untrained officers the confidence to do traffic duties. Consequently the traffic contacts in the subdistricts are now on the rise.

Bunbury Police District Traffic Kilometres:

The following table compares the traffic vehicle kilometres for the Bunbury Police District for the 1996-97 financial year to date and the complete 1995-96 financial year estimate.

The adjusted figure in the last column represents the full 1996-97 financial year estimate.

	1995-96	1996-97 (July-April)	1996-97 adjusted (full year estimated)
Traffic vehicle kilometres	333 665	249 521	299 425

Bunbury Police Traffic Contacts:

Figures are for the calendar years of 1995 and 1996 respectively

	1995	1996
Infringements issued	19 736	14 914
Cautions issued	17 904	11 782
Drink driving charges	1 043	764
Other briefs	2 322	2 271
Arrests *		*
Work orders	1 186	913

*Arrest figures are integrated with general station arrests and supply of this combined information would give a false indication of traffic arrest activity.

Note: Bunbury traffic has not been amalgamated with Bunbury general operational staff at this time.

Geraldton Police District:

The statistics mentioned below are supplied from the Geraldton Traffic Office.

Table one compares the amount of kilometres travelled by traffic vehicles and the number of traffic contacts for 1995 and 1996.

Table two compares the amount of kilometres travelled by traffic vehicles and the number of traffic contacts for a six month period 1 October 1995 to March 31 1996 and 1 October 1996 to 1 March 1997.

Table One - Geraldton Subdistrict

	1995	1996
Traffic vehicle kilometres	240 827	229 548
Infringements issued	3 892	3 194
Cautions issued	4 075	4 413
Drink driving charges	263	182
Summonses/briefs	697	988
Arrests	359	315
Work Orders	337	632

Table Two - Geraldton Subdistrict

	Oct 95- March 96	Oct 96- March 97
Traffic vehicle kilometres	124 164	104 564
Infringements issued	1 785	1 950
Cautions issued	2 223	2 039
Drink driving charges	90	94
Summonses/briefs	403	461
Arrests	124	147
Work orders	166	309

Question: The member for Burrup asked if the projection for payroll costs for recruits appeared under policing services or corporate services in last year's budget papers.

Answer: Policing Services.

Question: The member for Burrup asked whether, in relation to the enterprise bargaining agreement salary costs, was allowance made for the 10 per cent increase due in May when last year's figures were drawn up.

Answer: Yes.

Question: The member for Midland asked whether the \$18m expenditure for services and contracts includes services and contracts with FBIS Pty Ltd. The member also asked -

- (a) *how much money had been paid to FBIS;*
 (b) *what would be paid to FBIS in 1997-98; and*
 (c) *for a breakdown of the work contracted to FBIS and item costs.*

Answer:

- (a) To date 1996-97 payments to FBIS on direct behalf of the Police Service are \$61 821.80. In addition a private Secure Community Foundation Trust has been established by concerned citizens to assist in the Macro investigation. To ensure proper accountability, it was necessary to have such expenditure paid first by the Police Service and then recouped from the trust to maintain full police control over the Macro investigations. This expenditure to date has totalled \$46 147.25, and given that it is fully reimbursed, has a cost neutral effect on the Police Service and government.
- (b) FBIS is not on a permanent contract or paid a retainer through the WAPS. The future use of FBIS is dependent on the need for specialist assistance.
- (c) Payments on direct behalf of Police Service -

Operation	Cost (\$)
Macro Task Force	800.00
Crime Operation	400.00
Macro Task Force	6 005.30
Macro Task Force	30 400.00
Macro Task Force	2 200.00
Macro Task Force	2 600.00
Macro Task Force	700.00
Macro Task Force	5 519.00
Macro Task Force	8 380.00
Macro Task Force	4 817.50
Total	61 821.80

Payments to be recouped from Secure Community Foundation Trust -

Operation	Cost (\$)
Macro Task Force	32 000.00
Macro Task Force	14 147.25
Total	46 147.25

Question: The member for Burrup asked whether it was possible to be provided with a breakdown of consultants who were awarded contracts where the amounts were included within the listed \$1.998m for miscellaneous items.

Answer: The information requested is as follows -

Item	Consultant	\$'000
Information Technology Plan - Initial Phase	Andersen Consulting	435
Advance Selection Process	Australian Police Staff College	220
Asset Management Plan	GHD Consulting & CAMS	200
Court Security Review - Non Salary Costs	Stanton Partners CAMS Cox, Howlett and Bailey Edith Cowan University	170
ABS statistician	Australian Bureau of Statistics	78
Vehicle Fleet Review	Fleet Auditing Consulting & Training Review	25

Division 80: Contract and Management Services -

Question: The member for Nollamara asked for details of the major items to enable a meaningful comparison between 1996-97 estimated actual expenditure and 1997-98 estimated expenditure.

Answer: The table below provides details of those major items for 1996-97 and 1997-98, which enables a meaningful comparison between years.

	1996-97 \$'000s	1997-98 \$'000s
Total Net Recurrent Services expenditure shown in budget papers (p199)	67 419	45 947
Less: Revenue not retained under Net Appropriation	19 728	1 652
Add: CAMS Internal Funds Utilised:		
- Cash Balances (\$9m total)	3 366	5 634
- Asset Sales (2 Welshpool Sites)	<u> </u>	<u>4 500</u>
"Real" recurrent expenditure level	51 057	54 429
Less: Office of Youth Affairs	<u>2 537</u>	<u>5 338</u>
Underlying CAMS Net Demand	<u>48 520</u>	<u>49 091</u>

Question: The member for Nollamara asked for the names of the members of BACAC.

Answer: The current members of the Building and Construction Advisory Committee are -

Hon Mike Board	Minister
John Bollig	Architect/Planner
Greg Boyd	General Manager - Building Projects
Peter Bruechle	Consulting Engineer
Tony De Barro	Principal Policy Officer - Minister for Works Office
Syd Deykin	Architect
Horace Pierce	Company Director/Mechanical Engineer
Alan Piper	Chief Executive Officer - CAMS
Max Rivett	Company Director
Paul Schapper	Chief Executive Officer - PSMO

Question: The member for Kalgoorlie asked for details on the amount paid to consultants in the preparation of strategic asset management plans.

Answer: Currently only one contract has been let to an external consultant to prepare a strategic asset management plan. This contract has a total value of \$177 500 with expenditure this financial year expected to be \$50 000.

Question: The member for Kalgoorlie asked for details on expenditure to consultants for the current year and next financial year.

Answer: The anticipated level of expenditure on consultants for 1996-97 is \$1.2m and a budget provision of \$1.3m has been allocated for 1997-98.

Question: The member for Nollamara asked for details of contractors that have either been barred from tendering on CAMS jobs or had other penalties imposed by CAMS as a result of their having fallen foul of task force "Code of Practice".

Answer: In circumstances where breaches of contract have been identified by the task force no contractors have been either barred from tendering or had penalties imposed by CAMS. Such breaches of contract have been dealt with by enforcing the contract. Where illegal acts have been identified these have been dealt with through the relevant legislation and a number have resulted in prosecutions and remedies under the relevant legislation.

Question: The member for Nollamara asked for details of government agencies from the Minister's office or the Police Service that were located in accommodation provided by CAMS.

Answer: Officers from the Police Service were located on the 10th floor Dumas House from early June 1996 to mid-December 1996 in vacant floor space which was outside CAMS' allocated area.

Question: The member for Kalgoorlie asked for details of legal expenses including the use of Crown Law reflected in the contracting program (3.0) and overall.

Answer: The overall cost of legal advice used by the CAMS is \$205 000, of which \$200 000 related to the contracting program. Of this, \$132 000 was provided by the Ministry of Justice and \$68 000 for external service providers. Of the remaining \$5 000 Ministry of Justice expenditure is \$3 000.

Question: The member for Nollamara asked for details of planned major achievements/outputs within each program.

Answer:

Planned Achievements For 1997-98

Program 1: Advice and Services to Government:

- Contribute to a review of the Public Works and Land Administration Act.
- Continue to work with industry to ensure fair dealing in their access to government business.
- Work with the State Supply Commission to establish a delegation framework for building works contracting.
- Manage the State's heritage building assets, the largest project being the conservation, interpretation and manage the future use of the Fremantle Prison precinct.
- Replace the existing 112 analogue satellite receiving devices with digital decoders as analogue transmission is being phased out.
- Provide Westlink satellite communication services to a further 10 communities in remote country locations.
- Investigate the potential for purchasing some products electronically that are currently available through whole of government contracts.
- Develop and implement a whole of government approach to electronic tender advertising and tender document down loading.
- Continue to facilitate the Government's building and construction reform agenda.

Program 2: Asset Planning and Management Services

- Support agencies in the application of the project initiation process.
- Provide expert advice to agencies and help them plan the strategic management of their assets.
- Work with the private sector to ensure availability of expertise in strategic asset and procurement management.
- Complete the redesign of the building condition assessment process to enable the contracting out of building inspections.
- Provide corporate support services to selected agencies.
- Provide expert advice and planning support to agencies in the contracting out of services.

Program 3: Contracting Services

- Implement improved tendering documentation with revised standard terms and conditions for the procurement of goods and services.
- Review the development of whole of government contracts for goods and services.
- Develop a more efficient framework to deliver low risk building works to agencies.
- Implement a building services facilities management contract for prisons.
- Contract out the building condition assessment service.
- Assist agencies deliver their non-residential building and maintenance works program - approximately \$240m - using private sector resources.
- Enhance the existing building facilities management contracts to include more property services.
- Increase services provided to government agencies in country areas, using existing CAMS regional offices.

Program 4: Commercialised Services

- Pilot and electronic market to facilitate the supply of a broad range of goods currently stocked and distributed by Supply West.
 - Close the two Department of Contract and Management Services depots at Welshpool and sell the sites.
 - Contract out Bureau Services computing service.
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