



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# **Parliamentary Debates**

**(HANSARD)**

THIRTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT  
THIRD SESSION  
1999

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 19 August 1999

# Legislative Assembly

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**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Strickland) took the Chair at 9.00 am, and read prayers.

## VACATION SWIMMING CLASSES

### *Petition*

Mrs van de Klashorst presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 38 persons -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned petitioners, call on the Minister for education to abandon plans to contract out vacation swimming classes as it could risk:

the current high standard of teaching

the affordability of classes

the availability of classes, particularly in country areas

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

[See petition No 24.]

## SOUTHERN RIVER AND FORRESTDALE KENNEL ZONES

### *Petition*

Mrs Holmes presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 43 persons -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned express our deep concerns over the preferred option for the Wungong/Forrestdale/Southern River Structure Plan shown in respect to the Southern River and Forrestdale Kennel Zones. To ensure the tenure of these special areas we request the Structure Plan be amended to reflect the current zoning.

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

[See petition No 25.]

## CHILD MIGRANTS

### *Statement by Minister for Family and Children's Services*

**MRS PARKER** (Ballajura - Minister for Family and Children's Services) [9.05 am]: Following on from the release of the House of Commons Health Committee report "The Welfare of Former British Child Migrants", which complemented and confirmed the findings of the WA Select Committee into Child Migration, I reported to the House one year ago on the State Government's response to its recommendations. Today I wish to provide an update on action undertaken over the past 12 months.

At the time of the two inquiries, the State Government could not provide accurate information on the number of child migrants who arrived in WA. Nor could the Government provide identifying information about all of these children. Yet a constantly recurring theme in the stories told to the two major inquiries has been their desperate need to know more about their families and their origins. All of us know that this lack of knowledge has been the cause of great sadness and trauma for many of these former child migrants over the years. In this respect I commend the great contribution of the Child Migrant Trust led by Margaret Humphreys. I am pleased to announce that I have this week approved funding for the Trust of \$128 000 over the next two years.

I am pleased also to announce today that the State Government has worked with the receiving agencies to develop the WA Referral Index. This index contains identifying information on every former child migrant who came to the State and is the first of its kind in Australia. It includes their name - and alias where relevant - their date of birth, the name of the ship they arrived on, the date of their arrival and where they were placed when they arrived.

Although the Catholic religious orders developed a personal history index in early 1999, there was no single central index, which contained identifying information on all of the child migrants who came to Western Australia. In early 1999, Family and Children's Services brought together representatives from all the Western Australian agencies, which had received child migrants. This was the first time that the 10 agencies had met together. It is as a result of this meeting, and because of the ongoing goodwill between all these agencies that the WA Child Migrant Referral Index was developed. I cannot overestimate the value of this index to the former child migrants. Because of this collaborative project led by Family and Children's Services, we are now the only State with accurate details concerning our former child migrants.

I can now state with some confidence that 2 950 child migrants came to WA from the United Kingdom and Malta between 1913 and 1968. This is the first time that any minister has been able to make such a definitive statement on this subject. The index does not include the actual records. The records of former child migrants who came to WA will remain with the receiving agencies or their nominees.

The WA Referral Index is a signpost in that it identifies the location of records where further information about the child and his or her family of origin might be found. Protocols to ensure confidentiality have been negotiated between all the agencies about access to and use of this data. To complete the picture for the former child migrants and their families, however, details were also needed about their backgrounds before they were sent to WA.

Accordingly, on behalf of the State Government, Mr Robert Fisher, Director General of Family and Children's Services recently travelled to the UK to meet with a wide range of people on this issue. I acknowledge and thank the Leader of the Opposition for the support and invaluable assistance he has provided by facilitating meetings and key contacts in the British Government.

As a result of these negotiations, the UK Government has agreed in principle to "front-end" the WA Referral Index provided issues surrounding the storage and disclosure of information in the WA index are broadly comparable with UK regulations. I am confident that they will be. The information, which will be provided by the UK Government, will include the name of the sending agency and the location of UK records where they are available.

Mr Speaker, I am glad to be able to appear in front of the House and tell such a satisfying story of bipartisan action, which will lead to significant improvement in the lives of the former child migrants who came to our State.

### **ACTS AMENDMENT (FIXED ODDS BETTING) BILL 1999**

#### *Second Reading*

**MR COWAN** (Merredin - Deputy Premier) [9.10 am]: I move -

That the Bill now be read a second time.

The main purpose of this Bill is to allow the Totalisator Agency Board in Western Australia to conduct fixed odds betting; to accept electronic and other commercially acceptable forms of payment for a bet; to supplement dividend pools; and to validate a dividend declared by the TAB where a bet that should not have been accepted is included in a betting pool or where the outcome of a race or sporting event, once declared, is later disputed.

The TAB's traditional operation is based on a totalisator system where a set amount of commission is deducted from each bet and the remaining pool is divided among winning bets. With this system the amount of the winning dividend is not determined until after the winner of the event is known. However, many punters prefer to bet at fixed odds, where the amount of the winning dividend is known at the time of making the bet.

The TAB has been able to expand its totalisator business in the absence of any real competition in the off-course wagering market. However, there have been rapid changes in the wagering market in recent years through the development of communications technology and the privatisation of off-course wagering institutions in other States. The TAB's traditional wagering market is being targeted by a large number of interstate bookmakers and TABs offering a wide range of wagering products, including fixed odds services. In addition, over the past 10 years the number of licensed bookmakers in Western Australia has declined from 102 to less than 60. Numbers are critically low at metropolitan trotting meetings and many country race meetings. Metropolitan greyhound meetings and some country gallops and trotting meetings are unable to attract the services of a bookmaker.

Currently, the TAB does not have the legislative authority to offer fixed odds products to punters. It has identified the ability to conduct fixed odds betting as a key strategy aimed at ensuring that it is well positioned to keep pace with the rapidly changing wagering market. It will also be well placed to fill any reduced fixed odds services caused by declining bookmaker numbers. The development of a fixed odds product is seen by the Western Australian TAB as critical to its ability to compete on an equal footing with other state TABs and competitors offering similar products. If the TAB does not keep pace with these organisations it risks losing its share of the wagering market, which could substantially impact upon the financial returns to its beneficiaries. These beneficiaries are the three racing codes and the Government.

The TAB wishes to offer fixed odds betting in a similar manner to the services offered by TABCORP in Victoria, the New Zealand TAB, licensed bookmakers throughout Australia and, in the near future, other state TABs. These services offer betting on horse and greyhound races, sporting and other events and provide punters with a guaranteed return at the time of making the bet.

The proposed amendments are designed to allow the TAB to offer its own fixed odds betting service or to enter into a contractual arrangement with another fixed odds betting service provider. This approach is similar to the arrangements for combined interstate totalisator pools and is a natural progression from the existing SuperTAB pooling arrangements. In the case of the TAB entering into an arrangement with another organisation, the TAB will be permitted to adopt the rules and commission structures pertaining to the service operated by that organisation. As a safeguard, the TAB will be required to gain the approval of the Minister for Racing and Gaming, acting on the advice of the Betting Control Board, before entering into the arrangement. While there will be some fixed odds race betting, this will be offered only by the TAB on selected major races so as not to detract from the more profitable totalisator business. Fixed odds betting on horse and greyhound racing will be contemplated only where new business can be generated, rather than directly transferring betting turnover from the higher return totalisator betting service.

The TAB intends to concentrate its fixed odds betting activities on sporting events. Totalisator sports betting accounts for approximately 1 per cent of the TAB's total turnover. With the introduction of fixed odds betting, sports betting turnover is expected to account for up to 5 per cent of total turnover within five years. The range of sporting events will be the same as those approved for totalisator betting, such as Australian rules football, cricket, golf and tennis tournaments, athletic championships, etc. As a safeguard, the Betting Control Board will have the authority to veto either fixed odds or totalisator betting on any event considered not to be in the public interest.

Fixed odds betting will be operated as a separate business within the TAB's operations and structured so that it is not subsidised by the TAB's principal totalisator business to the detriment of its beneficiaries; that is, the racing codes. In fact, the racing codes will benefit through the fixed odds betting service being incorporated into the existing totalisator network, with a share of the network operating costs being met from sports betting profits. This will increase the profit available for distribution to the racing industry.

An impact study commissioned by the TAB concluded that the addition of fixed odds betting to its range of betting products is not likely to establish an observable impact on the Western Australian community. The study concluded that the introduction of fixed odds is unlikely to give rise to an increased incidence of problem gambling, due principally to the discontinuous nature of betting on sporting events. Members should also note that both of the TAB's major competitors in the State - that is, the Burswood International Resort Casino and the Western Australia Bookmakers Association - have not objected to the TAB offering fixed odds betting.

Unlike some other Australian States, taxation revenue does not drive gambling policy in Western Australia. The Government's responsible attitude to gambling in Western Australia has seen a fall in the level of per capita gambling expenditure. Figures produced by the Tasmanian Gaming Commission show that from a high of \$594 per adult person in 1995-96, the level of gambling expenditure in Western Australia fell by 11 per cent to \$527 per adult person in 1997-98. This compares with the national average of \$818 per adult person in 1997-98. These outcomes are supported by Australian Bureau of Statistics research, which shows that Western Australia is the only State to have enjoyed a decline in net takings from gambling over the past three years. The Productivity Commission's recently released draft report on Australia's gambling industries also highlighted the incidence of that problem gambling in Western Australia is the lowest in the nation.

The TAB currently pays a tax of 5 per cent on its totalisator turnover. This tax is paid from commission deductions that average approximately 17.2 per cent. However, commission on fixed odds betting cannot match this level of return. Bookmakers operate on a much lower commission range, which is usually around 5 per cent. Therefore, a lower rate of tax for fixed odds betting is appropriate. Accordingly, it is proposed to match the tax rates applied to bookmakers; that is, 2 per cent on horse and greyhound racing and 0.5 per cent on all other betting, including sports betting. This taxation arrangement will be implemented through the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Tax Amendment Bill 1999. After meeting turnover tax obligations and recovering all the expenses associated with the development, promotion and operation of fixed odds betting, profits from fixed odds race betting will be distributed to the racing codes in the same manner as profits from totalisator race betting are handled. Profits from fixed odds sports betting will be paid into the TAB sports betting account for distribution as directed by the Minister for Sport and Recreation.

Currently, the TAB is constrained by the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act from accepting payment for a bet in any form other than notes or coins. This restriction prevents the TAB from accepting cheques or utilising new payment technology such as smart cards, EFTPOS, etc. This places the TAB at a competitive disadvantage by limiting its ability to satisfy the demands of its customers for new services and products. In addition, the current restriction means that TAB agents must carry large amounts of cash. This creates a high security risk and makes TAB agencies targets of crime. This Bill amends the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act to remove this restriction by allowing other methods of payment to be prescribed. It is important to note this change will not impact on existing provisions that prevent the TAB from conducting credit betting. To reinforce this important control, the Bill also includes an amendment to the Betting Control Act to establish a dedicated offence provision relating to credit betting, rather than rely on the general unlawful betting provisions.

The TAB does not currently have the power to supplement betting pools with additional funds. A dividend pool for a particular event can only include investments made on that event, less the prescribed commission deduction. In some instances where there is no winning bet in relation to an event, the dividend pool is jackpotted to the next similar event. This provides the TAB with a valuable marketing tool and stimulates betting turnover. However, jackpots occur only rarely. The ability to supplement dividend pools from funds set aside for the purpose will allow the TAB to regularly market guaranteed pool sizes. To remove any uncertainty in relation to the declaration of dividends, a provision will be inserted to validate a dividend declared by the TAB, in instances where a bet that should not have been accepted is included in a betting pool, or where the outcome of a race or sporting event, once declared, is later disputed.

In keeping with increased emphasis on the TAB's ability to compete, clause 8 of the Bill establishes a requirement for the TAB to prepare a strategic development plan and statement of corporate intent on an annual basis. The measures I have outlined will greatly improve the ability of the TAB to compete in the gambling market. I commend the Bill to the House and seek leave to table some explanatory notes.

Leave granted. [See paper No 90.]

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Cunningham.

#### **TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD BETTING TAX AMENDMENT BILL 1999**

##### *Second Reading*

**MR COWAN** (Merredin - Deputy Premier) [9.22 am]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Totalisator Agency Board Betting Tax Amendment Bill complements the Acts Amendment (Fixed Odds Betting) Bill. The main purpose of the Acts Amendment (Fixed Odds Betting) Bill is to authorise the conduct of fixed odds betting by the TAB. The TAB is currently authorised to conduct totalisator betting and is required to pay tax on its totalisator betting turnover at the rate imposed by the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Tax Act. With the proposed introduction of fixed odds betting by the TAB, it will be necessary to establish a rate of tax payable on fixed odds betting turnover.

The TAB currently pays a tax of 5 per cent on its totalisator turnover. This tax is paid from commission deductions that average around 17.2 per cent. However, commission on fixed odds betting cannot match this level of return. Bookmakers operate fixed odds betting on a much lower commission range - usually around 5 per cent - and a lower rate of tax is appropriate. Accordingly, it is proposed to match the tax rates applied to bookmakers; that is, 2 per cent on horse and greyhound racing and 0.5 per cent on all other betting including sports betting. This will establish a level playing field in terms of taxation and help to stimulate competition in the fixed odds betting market. I commend the Bill to the House and seek leave to table some explanatory notes.

Leave granted. [See paper No 91.]

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Cunningham.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

#### *Amendment to Motion*

Resumed from 18 August, after the following amendment had been moved -

That the following words be added to the motion -

but regrets to inform His Excellency that remote Western Australia still has health outcomes that are significantly worse than those in the metropolitan area and that the patient assisted travel scheme is not adequately meeting the needs of the community.

**MR TRENORDEN** (Avon) [9.25 am]: We are debating -

Mr Bloffwitch: PATS.

Mr Kobelke: It is on the Notice Paper. I am sure you can make a contribution without knowing the subject of the debate.

Mr TRENORDEN: I need to make a contribution, because the patient assisted travel scheme is an important issue in my electorate. The PAT scheme is limited to people who live outside a 100 kilometre radius of Perth. Most members on the other side have never been to Northam, but Northam is 100 kilometres from Perth -

Mr Kobelke: I went to a funeral there two weeks ago. It is a lovely place. I would like to go there for a more joyous occasion.

Mr TRENORDEN: I am sorry that it had to be a funeral to get the member for Nollamara to Northam, but Northam is a wonderful place -

Mr Carpenter: When was the last time you went to Willagee?

Mr TRENORDEN: Days ago.

The SPEAKER: Order! Perhaps the member for Avon can address the Chair.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! It would appear that some members here just want to take my calls to order for granted and ignore them. I have a sense of fair play and a sense of the occasion, but if members go beyond that, they will find I will formally call them to order. I have the capacity to do that very rapidly.

Mr TRENORDEN: The PAT scheme is a contentious issue for me, because a line has been drawn through my town and a fair slice of my electorate, where people who live within a 100 kilometre radius of Perth are not entitled to PATS and people who live outside that 100 kilometre radius of Perth are entitled to PATS. However, that is a simplistic view, because people who have a serious medical condition but live within a 100 kilometre radius of Perth can apply for PATS money. The difficulty I have in supporting PATS is the question of service. In making the decision about where the \$6m that is put into the PAT scheme should go, I would prefer to have some of that money spent on the Northam hospital rather than on hospitals in Perth.

Mr Kobelke: Is it a technical problem for people in your electorate to know whether they are within or outside that 100 kilometre radius? Is it clearly defined?

Mr TRENORDEN: It is fairly clearly defined. People with a serious medical problem can access PATS. It is a catch-22 situation for members like me. I can understand the situation of the member for Kalgoorlie and other members who live a long way from services and PATS is not a defined problem, but my constituents and I want the services to be provided at Northam hospital. Two or three years ago, Northam hospital had a historic debt of close to \$1m, which had been bouncing along for a number of years, and over the past two years the newly created Avon Hospital Board has returned that debt to nil. That is an outstanding effort. Services in Northam hospital have increased substantially. We had a debate yesterday

about doctors withdrawing services. Unfortunately, in Northam we had that same set of circumstances. However, we need to understand that the reason it occurred is that country towns cannot get doctors. There is a severe shortage of doctors in York and Goomalling. There is a good operating doctor in Toodyay, but he is very much under pressure. The doctors around Northam are seeking not to work 100 hours a week, and we should support that, because the last thing we want is for people with serious medical conditions to turn up to overworked and overtired doctors. Some of the doctors at Northam were very concerned about the long hours that they are working, because people were coming from the outlying areas into Northam hospital and were putting pressure on the whole system. There has been a substantial increase of some 30 per cent in the number of procedures that are performed at Northam hospital. Northam hospital is delivering services it was not delivering two or three years ago. That must be good for the Northam area.

I noted last night that an unfortunate person had an accident yesterday and was taken to the Northam district hospital. That is what it is; it is the Northam district hospital. Three or four years ago, before the new hospital was built, it was called the Northam Regional Hospital, but it was not a regional hospital because it did not do a regional function. Now that it is the Northam district hospital it is performing a regional function. That is a conundrum of government. It is doing a regional job because more services are going into that hospital and people are utilising the hospital more than ever before. As a member of Parliament who is concerned about the serious matter of health delivery, I want as much money as possible spent on the Northam hospital. Therefore, if people require services, they will be able to access them. Many people with serious illnesses, such as cancer, can now be treated at the Northam hospital, and that is where I want them to be treated. However, the hospital cannot provide all services, and that is where the conundrum arises. Obviously, some people with extremely serious illnesses go to Perth for treatment.

An interesting issue involves the *AvonLink* train. When people on the *AvonLink* train are surveyed, it is clear that one of the major uses of the *AvonLink* is for people going to Perth for medical treatment. They mainly go to Midland, because they can have a six or seven-hour turnaround period during which they can visit a specialist and return to the Avon region, which is fantastic. Members in this place know about my passion for the *AvonLink* train. It is a fantastic service and it is helping substantially in this health area.

I can understand the passions of members who do not have these services. I have a strong and fundamental belief that health services will change quickly in a short period. Telehealth is not a catchcry; it is a fact. I was lucky to be able to travel to Alberta several years ago with the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee to look at the University of Alberta delivering telehealth to the whole Province of Alberta. Every discipline of medicine was being delivered by telehealth. Things that I am occasionally told in Western Australia cannot be done were being done in Alberta, and people were receiving fantastic services.

I have concerns about the patient assisted travel scheme. Sections of PATS must be retained, but the bulk of the money allocated to PATS should go to the local hospital or to telehealth, because telehealth is the future. Those of us who live outside metropolitan Perth will receive great benefits from telehealth. In Alberta, Airvac - our equivalent is the Royal Flying Doctor Service - has been reduced by 50 per cent because people are able to go into medical centres, and even a nurse, under the direction of someone else who is thousands of kilometres away, can carry out a full examination of a person who has had an injury, a heart attack or whatever it may be. In many cases the best advice is for that patient not to be moved, not to be put on an aeroplane and not to be flown to wherever - in their case it would be Edmonton and in our case it would be Perth. Full internal and external examinations can be carried out. Even people without high medical qualifications can do those things through telehealth.

I would prefer it if much of the money allocated to PATS were redirected. I say that with the full knowledge that some of it cannot be redirected because there will always be people who will need the services of a specialist. PATS has served the State well. It was a federal initiative that was introduced a number of years ago. Similar to many federal initiatives, it was run by the Federal Government for a short time before it pulled the pin and handed it to the State. That was at a time when the Labor Party was in government. I am not having a go at the ALP. It maintained the PATS system through the years and we have maintained it through the years. However, it is time to re-examine PATS.

I want to make sure that people understand my position in this debate. Firstly, I want that PATS money to go to the hospital in my area, wherever possible; and, secondly, I want that money spent on telehealth. That will benefit far more Western Australians in a much more positive way than PATS. However, I recognise that some people will always need the PATS type of service.

**MR BLOFFWITCH** (Geraldton) [9.35 am]: I will talk about the patient assisted travel scheme. Before I do, I will explain what PATS is meant to do and why it is in place. It was designed for people who cannot afford to move themselves, such as people who are on pension cards and people who are disadvantaged. Unfortunately, because today only about 35 per cent of people are in the private health system, an enormous drain is put on PATS by people who are earning \$80 000 or \$100 000 a year, which is something for which the system was never designed. It was designed for the public patient who could afford nothing else.

Consequently, when the member for Riverton was the Minister for Health, he decided to put a different emphasis on it. In my area of Geraldton it has worked extremely well. I have one criticism of the changes he made; that is, he reduced the travelling expenses from 11¢ a kilometre to 8¢ a kilometre. It is debatable whether 8¢ a kilometre would pay for the fuel required for a six cylinder car if -

Mr Riebeling: This is your Government's view of what PATS is about, is it?

Mr BLOFFWITCH: No, this is my view of what PATS is about. I am the person making the speech, not the Government.

Mr Riebeling: Your view does not resemble what PATS is about.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: The member would know because he is the one who has to go to the hospital all the time and argue. I do not, because I have a very good relationship with my hospital. All I have to do is explain the difficulties and PATS is granted. However, at 8¢ a kilometre for 1 000 kilometres, a person would get \$80. I assume that it would cost much more than \$80 to drive 1 000 kilometres. I have asked the minister to review the situation. He has told me that he is reviewing it at the moment, and I hope that there will be a general increase in the travelling allowance.

Another matter relates to accommodation for people. When a system such as this is in place, people get upset. PATS operates according to what the doctor states is the degree of inconvenience a patient will experience. If the doctor does not write the record properly and PATS knocks it back, in the patient's view it is not the doctor's fault; it is a problem with PATS. However, it is not a problem with PATS. It operates under strict guidelines and it works well in most cases.

The money that was saved by introducing the 100 kilometre restriction and reducing the travelling expenses was to be used to bring specialists into various areas. Not only do we have specialists who come to Geraldton every week, but also we have four or five dialysis machines which are working full time. Prior to that, everybody had to travel to Perth to have their blood put through the dialysis machine. Now they do not. They can stay in Geraldton and it is not an inconvenience. I see some positive outcomes as a result of these changes. However, I still believe that somehow or other PATS must be means tested. Why should I be able to access it for free at the regional hospital if I am earning \$100 000 a year? The system is not meant to be used that way; it is for people who cannot afford to pay. That is where we are going wrong. I will give this example: I book myself into the regional hospital because I suspect I have crayfish poisoning, and my condition is so bad that I must have an operation. If I collapse at the hospital, I can be flown to Perth by the Royal Flying Doctor Service and that trip will be covered by the patient assisted travel scheme. Is that fair on the health system or the taxpayer? No, it is not. These problems are in the present system. The changes to the health system that have been made in the electorate of Geraldton have been positive, such that people can now receive specialist treatment in the regional hospital there. It makes more sense that, rather than send 10 people to Perth on the patient assisted travel scheme, the Government should pay for one specialist to go to Geraldton. On the one Friday he visits, he can see 15 or 20 patients. The logistics suggest that it is commonsense to do it that way. That is the way we are doing it. I look forward to the announcement by the minister that the travelling allowances will improve. At least, that money will pay for the petrol used by people who must travel from the country areas to Perth for medical treatment. I cannot support the amendment to the motion because the system works very well at the moment. Many people benefit from it. Many of those who do not, should not be using it in the first place.

**MR KOBELKE** (Nollamara) [9.41 am]: I rise not to speak to the substance of the amendment, but to comment on the fact that this amendment on the very important issue of the patient assisted travel scheme has not received a response from the Minister for Health. He was in and around the Chamber yesterday, but did not use the opportunity to respond on this matter then. I thought he would at least make a response before the vote was put. I notice the minister has been caught up and has now arrived. I hope he is ready on behalf of the Government to make a response to the amendment moved to the Address-in-Reply; that is, to add to the motion the words "but regrets to inform His Excellency that remote Western Australia still has health outcomes that are significantly worse than those in the metropolitan area and that the patient assisted travel scheme is not adequately meeting the needs of the community".

**MR DAY** (Darling Range - Minister for Health) [9.42 am]: I apologise that I was not here earlier, but I have been attending a meeting of the Ministerial Council on the Drug Strategy, another important matter. The issues raised in the amendment are important from the point of view of rural health in Western Australia. The assertion has been made that health outcomes are significantly worse in rural areas, and remote areas in particular, of Western Australia compared with those in the metropolitan area. The Government does agree with that to some extent. It is not universally the case, but we accept that major issues must be dealt with, particularly in remote areas and to a lesser extent rural areas. A large amount of resources and effort is directed towards overcoming those disparities. The member for Burrup spoke earlier in the debate on the amendment and would have referred to some of the conditions within his area, and no doubt to the north west health plan, which is being considered by the Government.

Mr Riebeling: Has that been funded?

Mr DAY: I will come to that in a moment. The process undertaken to consider the needs in the north west region of the State - the Pilbara, Kimberley and Gascoyne regions, in particular - has been very thorough. It is chaired by Tony Finucane and has received a great degree of commitment from everybody who has been involved in the process, from the chairman of the group down. I am very keen to ensure that we are able to start the program that has been drawn up by that group as soon as we can. I am giving a lot of consideration to how we can fund that the north west health plan. I am optimistic that in the near future we can start elements of it that have not already been commenced.

Nine priorities were identified in the process. Briefly they relate to maternal, foetal and child health; diabetes and renal disease; respiratory disease; cardiovascular disease; oral health; injury and poisons; mental health; alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse; and, finally, communicable diseases. They are all very significant areas and problems in the north west part of the State that need a lot of attention. They have received a lot of focus in recent years by this Government, but will be receiving much more. Some of the underlying causes of the disparities in health in remote parts of State relate in general terms to lifestyle issues. The higher rate of consumption of tobacco and alcohol is a major cause of poor health outcomes in those parts of the State. Poor nutrition, inadequate antenatal care, poor women's health and poor environmental conditions are causal facts for poor maternal, foetal and child health outcomes, and must be further addressed.

Mr Riebeling: Is that the general population or the Aboriginal population?

Mr DAY: It is both, but in particular in Aboriginal communities. I guess we say that nutrition is more of a problem for Aboriginal communities. High alcohol and tobacco consumption applies to both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

Mr Riebeling: Most problems associated with the patient assisted travel scheme do not come from the Aboriginal population.

Mr DAY: That is in the second part of the motion, and I will come to that in a moment. The Government has already done a great deal to improve the provision of health services in remote parts of the State. I am well aware, and this has been debated in this place, that a lot of additional resources have been put into expanding the mental health services in the north western part of State, such that psychiatrists are now resident in the north west; they are present in the community and can respond on a much more effective basis than was the case in the past. Additional mental health nurses and other health professionals are doing a very good job, in many cases in very difficult circumstances, in the north west in this health arena. From the beginning of next year, renal dialysis will be extended to the north west and will be provided, if not from the hospitals, at least in Port Hedland and Broome, and that is a welcome development. People who otherwise would have moved to the Perth metropolitan area to get that treatment can now get it locally.

Mr Riebeling: How do people in Tom Price get to those centres?

Mr DAY: I think it is self-evident: As the member well understands, Tom Price is a lot closer to Port Hedland than it is to Perth. He should acknowledge that we are making a genuine effort to try to get services closer to where people live.

Mr Riebeling: It is a serious question. How do people who live in Tom Price get to Port Hedland to access that service?

Mr DAY: They either drive or fly. If they need renal dialysis that must be provided in a hospital setting, they would need to relocate at some time to those areas.

Mr Riebeling: You are the minister. How do people fly from Tom Price or Paraburdoo to Port Hedland?

Mr DAY: That is a matter of detail as far as the patient assisted travel scheme is concerned, and I will come to that in a moment. I am also pleased to say that yesterday I had a meeting with the Western Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, which is the peak body for Aboriginal medical services in Western Australia. It has been keen for some time to ensure that an arrangement is in place whereby health workers in remote Aboriginal communities can administer certain medications to members of their community. The regulations under the Poisons Act, and other regulations that apply in this State, have made that difficult, particularly from a legal point of view. I have indicated to the organisation that I am keen to ensure the implementation of a system whereby Aboriginal health workers can acquire appropriate credentials to provide medications when that is appropriate. There will be much more action in that area in the next two to three months.

The Government is keen to do a great deal more, particularly as far as the north west health plan is concerned; the same applies also to the south west health plan and the metropolitan 2020 health plan. One of the great frustrations in the Health portfolio is the significant limit to the initiatives that we would like to introduce because of the ever-increasing pressure on the Health budget to meet the demands of the major and smaller hospitals. Nevertheless, a great deal of effort is being put into determining how we can do more in the north west health plan, and I hope to be able to make an announcement to that effect in the reasonably near future.

The patient assisted travel scheme was referred to in the second part of the amendment moved by the Opposition. It is important to recognise that a significant amount of our Health budget, approximately \$6.5m a year, is put into that scheme.

Mr Riebeling: How much was it in 1993 - \$7.5m?

Mr DAY: Yes. I understand that the allocation to the PAT scheme reduced by approximately \$1m when changed arrangements were implemented. The member for Burrup well knows that the reason for a reduction in the PAT scheme allocation was that increased allocations were made to ensure that more specialists were available in local communities closer to where people live.

Mr Riebeling: You wrote in a rule which prohibits young kids from accessing dental surgeons and having their hearing aids repaired. It also prohibits people from having CAT scans and a huge range of people from accessing the program.

Mr DAY: Obviously, I was not the Minister for Health at the time -

Mr Riebeling: We are not blaming you for that; we are blaming you for changing it.

Mr DAY: However, I recall the Government put additional resources into ensuring that specialist medical treatment is available closer to where people live; that is obviously a far better situation.

Mr Riebeling: Not in Northam, so don't go to the north.

Mr DAY: There is now far more specialist medical services available in the north than has ever been the case in the past. I have no doubt that will be increased.

Mr Riebeling: So it should.

Mr DAY: Of course it should. It is the Government's general policy to move services away from the centre of the metropolitan area closer to where people live.



Mr Riebeling: What you did was remove the system before you put the specialists in place; and we still suffer from that.

Mr DAY: The member for Burrup is making the same assertions that he made in his speech. I have said that a great deal of effort and resources have been put into providing services closer to where people live.

Mr Riebeling: What do you say about the four examples I raised?

Mr DAY: I am aware that health services are reviewing on an ongoing basis the amount that they expend through the PAT scheme for particular services. When a significant number of people are being provided with PATS assistance to travel to Perth or another regional centre for a particular service, arrangements are made to provide those services locally if there appears to be a more beneficial outcome; for example, ophthalmology comes to mind. Another innovative development in the past couple of years has been the introduction of the rural surgical service so that visiting surgeons can be provided with the resources to visit local, rural communities, including remote areas - for example, Paraburdoo, Tom Price, Wongan Hills and Meekatharra.

Mr Riebeling: How often do they go there?

Mr DAY: We have also done a great deal to expand services such as chemotherapy in regional centres; Geraldton Regional Hospital is one example of that.

About 60 per cent of the PAT scheme is consumed by patients requiring treatment in the north west part of the State. We do not begrudge that at all. Obviously, they are in a much more remote location and, generally speaking, it is necessary for them to fly, particularly if they need to travel to Perth to receive treatment. However, the significant amount of resources that the Government puts in to ensure whatever it can to produce equity in providing health services throughout the State should be acknowledged.

Mr Riebeling: Do you support the member for Geraldton when he said there should be an income test?

Mr DAY: A means test is not something that we have considered. It is valid to raise such an argument and is something we could look at in the future. However, there are no plans to introduce any such scheme because we recognise that people living in remote or rural areas should be treated with equity in the provision of access to health services as far as we possibly can. There is a means test in that people who have health care cards are not required to pay the first \$50 of the cost of travel; whereas people who do not have a health care card are required to make a \$50 contribution. The rate per kilometre issue has been raised on a number of occasions by members of Parliament, particularly some on the coalition side, who argue for an increase in the rate paid to people who have to use their own cars.

Mr Riebeling: Do you support the member for Avon's suggestion that PATS money should be put into other technology?

Mr DAY: I will come to that in a moment. The Government is giving consideration on how to fund an increase in the rate per kilometre in the Health budget. As I said, it is not easy to find these funds, given the pressure in the Health budget. However, I hope also we will be able to do something in that arena soon. The member for Burrup raised the possibility of using other technology. I am totally supportive of exploring other opportunities wherever possible.

Mr Riebeling: As the member for Avon suggested?

Mr DAY: There has been a great deal of work done in that area; for example, the establishment of telepsychiatry. Around the State we now have an extensive network of communications through a two-way video link-up. I have seen that in a number of locations around the State, in Broome, Carnarvon, and many other centres where specialist psychiatric advice and diagnosis can be provided. For example, someone who is located in Perth can review a case in a remote part of the State. That system has been very innovative and has worked well. There will be more action in improving information technology and the exchange of information in the next couple of years.

Mr Riebeling: Do you support what the member for Avon said about the transfer of money from the PAT scheme into that new technology?

Mr DAY: That is not something to which I have given particular consideration at all. If we can provide services closer to where people live and therefore do not need to allocate as much money to the PAT scheme because people do not have to travel, obviously that would be a commonsense outcome.

Mr Riebeling: The last time you took the money out, you promised to put the services in later.

Mr DAY: The evidence clearly demonstrates that the services are being provided.

Mr Riebeling: Not if your electorate office is in Karratha. What you are saying now is so far from the truth that people will be suspicious.

Mr DAY: I do not believe that any fair-minded person who lives in Karratha, or any other remote part of the State, would expect exactly the same services to be provided there as are provided at the major tertiary hospitals in the metropolitan area.

Mr Riebeling: All we want is access. Is that a difficult thing?

Mr DAY: The Opposition should be gracious enough to recognise the work that has been done by the Government to increase the amount of resources put into providing services closer to where people live, while on the other hand maintaining the PAT scheme when people cannot receive treatment closer to home. The Opposition, particularly the member for Burrup, is very good at complaining about what the Government is doing but it is not gracious enough to recognise the significant

number of initiatives which have been implemented to address the needs of rural and remote health services in Western Australia and many other innovations in the health arena.

It is about time the Opposition stopped complaining and came up with a few constructive ideas which can be funded and which are sustainable. I have given a good outline of what the Government is doing to ensure people from remote and rural areas in Western Australia are provided with equity of access. It has not all been done; there is much more to be done and it will be done by this Government over the next 12 to 18 months and following the Government's re-election. The Government opposes the amendment. An amendment to the Address-in-Reply suggesting the Government needs to take action in these areas is not necessary. That action is already being taken as I have clearly demonstrated.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (15)

Ms Anwyl  
Mr Brown  
Mr Carpenter  
Dr Edwards

Dr Gallop  
Mr Kobelke  
Ms MacTiernan  
Mr McGinty

Mr McGowan  
Ms McHale  
Mr Riebeling  
Mr Ripper

Mr Thomas  
Ms Warnock  
Mr Cunningham (*Teller*)

Noes (28)

Mr Baker  
Mr Bloffwitch  
Mr Board  
Mr Bradshaw  
Dr Constable  
Mr Court  
Mr Cowan

Mr Day  
Mrs Edwardes  
Dr Hames  
Mrs Hodson-Thomas  
Mrs Holmes  
Mr Johnson  
Mr Kierath

Mr MacLean  
Mr Marshall  
Mr Masters  
Mr McNee  
Mr Minson  
Mr Omodei  
Mrs Parker

Mr Pendal  
Mr Sweetman  
Mr Trenorden  
Dr Turnbull  
Mrs van de Klashorst  
Mr Wiese  
Mr Osborne (*Teller*)

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Pairs

Mr Marlborough  
Mr Grill  
Mr Graham  
Mrs Roberts  
Mr Bridge

Mr House  
Mr Tubby  
Mr Shave  
Mr Barnett  
Mr Barron-Sullivan

Amendment thus negatived.

*Debate (on motion) Resumed*

**MR BAKER** (Joondalup) [10.04 am]: I will make a brief contribution to the debate on the Address-in-Reply. Like several members who have spoken before me, particularly the member for Dawesville, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Governor of Western Australia, Major General Jeffery, for his address to the opening of the third session of the thirty-fifth Parliament of Western Australia. As members would no doubt be aware, the Governor is due to retire in March 2000. It will be difficult for the Government to fill his shoes. I understand the Governor was offered an extension of his tenure but for whatever reason he declined to accept it. This Governor has proved to be very much a hands-on Governor. He has taken an active interest in youth issues and broader community issues ranging from sport to law and order and juvenile crime matters. It will be very difficult to find a suitable replacement. My personal view is that it would be preferable to find a replacement who also has a history in the military. It may be that a background of that kind augurs well for people filling this position, particularly in view of the attributes people acquire in military service. However, that is yet to be seen.

I take this opportunity to respond to several of the comments the Governor made during his speech last week, particularly the points he raised under the heading "community safety and security" as they relate to the need for the Government and the Parliament to find more effective solutions to our crime difficulties, especially street offences ranging from graffiti and criminal damage to illicit drug use and general antisocial behaviour. We should be concerned about the role of juveniles or young people in this range of offences. It seems that juvenile offenders dominate in these street offences. As I speak, ample research material is available which indicates that a major reason juveniles feature so highly in street offences is their inherent risk-taking natures. Risk-taking, wanting to experience exciting things in life, wanting to have a go and try new experiences is part and parcel of being young. That has been the case since time immemorial in various cultures around the world. Young people have an innate urge to grow up as quickly as they can, live life to the fullest, and engage in high-risk adventures. This is exciting and creates a great deal of entertainment for young people. The issue confronting Governments around the world - local, State and Federal Governments in Australia and overseas - is how to recognise this need of young people and take the requisite steps to ensure that young peoples' desire to engage in risky activities can be dealt with in such a way as to minimise the harms which can arise as a result. These are not only harms to the broader community but also to the young people involved. It is fair to say that this will be an ongoing problem. The strong desire to engage in risk-taking activity is a cause of crime, particularly among juveniles. For these young people there is also the associated desire to enhance their reputations in their peer groups with the view of elevating their status. We must try to deal with this reputation-enhancement factor. How do we allow young people to engage in risk-taking activities, to assert or enhance their positions in their peer groups while ensuring they do not harm other people or themselves in the process? One of the more obvious methods of minimising potential harm to young people as they progress through the risk-taking years is to encourage greater participation in sports of various kinds, especially sports which involve a substantial degree of risk either through playing sport or as a result of the rules under which the sport is played.

It is fair to comment that the more competitive the sport, the greater the risks and the greater the team orientation of the sport, the greater the possibility that juveniles who participate can raise or enhance their reputations in a meaningful and safe way, or in a way that will not harm them or the broader community. It is interesting to note in that regard that most young males who participate in sport tend to opt for the football codes - Australian rules football, soccer, rugby league or rugby union. One of the reasons they do that is that these games are exciting and involve a large element of risk. There is also a risk of personal injury and they can enhance their reputations among their peers through performing well and taking risks. We should encourage juveniles to engage in these types of risk-taking activities, not risk-taking activities of an antisocial nature.

It is interesting to note that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Honourable Mr Justice Malcolm, acknowledged these aspects of the development of juveniles several weeks ago when he addressed the conference of the Ministry of Sport and Recreation in May. He and Assistant Commissioner Bob Kucera made certain statements which associated a lack of participation in sport among young males with juvenile crime. This linkage must be further explored. The comment made by the Chief Justice which was reported in *The West Australian* stated that sport and recreation can be just as effective as imprisonment in reducing juvenile crime. That is a fairly new and radical statement to make. Then again, when members consider the factors I mentioned earlier and some of the causes of juvenile crime, perhaps that statement is a very succinct way of summarising what I have already mentioned - the need to satisfy young people's desire to engage in risk-taking activity. Let us be frank; we have all done it. When we were younger and as we progressed through our teenage years, we all liked to participate in high-risk-taking adventures or exciting things, because they were exciting. They helped us feel alive, and they helped us experience life. We generally found those experiences thoroughly enjoyable. Chief Justice Malcolm also told the conference that sport helped young people develop self-esteem, dignity, confidence and a sense of belonging. It also assisted in stress release, building the notion of team work and helping young people develop social skills. He went on to explain that it was also an acceptable response to plain boredom. Members would know that time and again one of the common reasons for engaging in criminal activity cited by young people is that they were bored witless. In response many of us would say that that is absolute nonsense when we look at the activities in which young people can engage nowadays and the various sports that are available. Perth is located on the coast. How could young people nowadays become bored so easily, given that when we were teenagers, the facilities, options and choices regarding recreational pastimes were not as great?

Things have moved on. It is as though the plateau or threshold for boredom among young people over the past 20 years has been elevated to a new height whereby young people require more exciting things to do if they are to believe that they are not bored or are finding life enjoyable. The factors mentioned by the Chief Justice are as important as the need to satisfy the requirements of many young people who want to participate in high-risk physical activities or adventures. These factors go a long way towards explaining why young males - the largest group represented in the juvenile crime statistics - more than females, are looking at various risk-taking pastimes to ease this sense of boredom, even if it is misplaced.

In that regard, it is very instructive to analyse some of the statistics contained in the 1996 Ministry of Sport and Recreation sports census, particularly in the risk-taking age groups for males. I refer to the age group between 13 and 22 years, which seems to be smack bang in the middle of the risk-taking years. Some experts say that the risk-taking years end around the age of 25 years, but the core risk-taking years are between 13 and 22 years of age. As at December 1996, approximately 17 000 males within this age group were playing Australian rules football, 4 346 were playing soccer and 1 849 were playing rugby union football. It is interesting to note that these statistics experience a massive decrease in the participation rate in each of those sports once the males enter the risk-taking years. It is also interesting to look at the participation statistics for the pre-13 years and post-13 years age groups. It is no secret why this drop off in the participation rates must be addressed. The drop-out rate in Australian rules football was 50 per cent; in basketball it was 25 per cent; and in the two rugby codes it was 30 per cent. It is no mere coincidence that this drop off in participation rates for young males entering the 13-22 years age bracket is reflected in an increase in juvenile crime among that 13-year-old age group. This should be addressed. As a Government, we should somehow introduce policies which encourage more young males to stick with sports during these high risk-taking years, so hopefully they can vent the need for risk-taking activities through sport, particularly through the three most popular football sports. It stands to reason that if we can address this drop-out rate, it may decrease substantially the incidence of antisocial behaviour in the broader community among this risk-taking group of young males.

Having said that generally, what should we, as a Government, do about this? What should we do in response to the Chief Justice's view that sport and recreation can be just as effective a deterrent as imprisonment? I have given some thought to that. In the first instance, we should encourage young males to continue to participate in sport when they attain the age of 18 years and, hopefully, and, hence, enter adulthood. That policy would keep more young males in the system. However, beyond that, how can we make sport relevant in the sentencing process or the law of sentencing involving young juveniles? Although Chief Justice Malcolm did not refer specifically to the Young Offenders Act and the various sentencing options of the magistrates of the Children's Court, it is interesting to note that some of the key principles or objectives of the Young Offenders Act may make it possible to somehow introduce sport into a system of sentencing involving young juveniles if, depending on their circumstances, if it can be seen to be relevant or potentially beneficial to them. It is interesting to note the objectives and principles of the Young Offenders Act, particularly those set out in section 6(d) of the Act. Section 6 is titled "Objectives". It states -

The main objectives of this Act are - . . .

- (d) to enhance and reinforce the roles of responsible adults, families, and communities in - . . .
- (iii) rehabilitating young persons who have committed offences towards the goal of their becoming responsible citizens;

It will also minimise the incidence of juvenile crime. Beyond that, another provision in the Act is quite instructive on this point. Section 46(5) of the Young Offenders Act refers to the factors a sentencing court must take into account when sentencing a juvenile offender. That subsection states -

The court is to have regard to the fact that the rehabilitation of an offender is facilitated by -

- (a) the participation of the offender's family; and
- (b) giving the offender opportunities to engage in educational programmes and in employment, . . .

It could be argued that the general principles to which I referred in the Young Offenders Act are broad enough to enable sentencing magistrates or Children's Court magistrates to factor sport and recreation into sentencing. I have not given any further thought to how that can be done. One simple idea may be to develop a conviction diversion order or a probation order which somehow compels the young juvenile male - we have acknowledged that juvenile crime is predominantly perpetrated by males - under legal coercion to participate in a proactive suitable risk-taking sport. This could show the juvenile that he can gain enjoyment in risk taking through sport and recreational pastimes. That may seem to be a naive statement, but it would be interesting to see whether sentencing in juvenile courts in the United States have taken up sport and recreation as a means of reducing juvenile crime - that is, by model or sample orders - to great effect. If that can be established, it may be that Children's Court magistrates in Western Australia, if they had the power to impose conditions attached to conviction diversion orders, would take up those sample orders. I have not followed that matter through at this early stage; however, it is worthy of further exploration, particularly in view of the Chief Justice's comments that sport and recreation can be just as effective a deterrent for juvenile offenders as incarceration.

I take this opportunity to commend the Government on its clearly stated, firm intention to facilitate the construction of a dedicated rugby union, rugby league and soccer stadium in conjunction with the proposed Perth convention and exhibition centre. These three football codes have lobbied for several years for a dedicated, international-quality sporting facility with a rectangular playing surface. It is high time that the facility became a reality. It can be argued that this lack of facility in Perth has prejudiced the senior rugby and soccer codes. Members will be aware of the demise of the Western Reds a couple of a years ago. This resulted partly from the failure of the Western Reds to attract a sufficient number of spectators to home games played at the WACA, which essentially is a cricket and Australian rules football pitch. The rugby pitch was located smack bang in the middle of the oval; therefore, people were up to 40 metres away from the sideline of the playing field. A good view of the game is possible if a rectangular pitch is used. The lack of this facility has, to an extent, prejudiced the atmosphere expected at international and national matches involving these football codes.

The new stadium, assuming it becomes a reality, could become a home base for Soccer Administration of WA, for the Rugby Union WA (Inc) and the Western Australian Rugby League (Inc). It will be used as a venue for international rugby tests, National Rugby League games, and interstate rugby competitions. Although I am happy that the facility looks like it will become a reality, I am also a little disappointed: I approached the Minister for Sport and Recreation several months ago and suggested that the Arena Joondalup be redeveloped to house these three football codes. This was not followed through, it appears, as a result of the distance factor as Joondalup is located 20 kilometres north of Perth. The concern was that people would not readily access the facility at Arena Joondalup if redeveloped to suit soccer and rugby. Not to worry.

The associated convention centre needs to proceed quickly. Members opposite have tried to make political mileage from the fact that Burswood International Resort Casino is considering its own convention centre. As the Premier has stated repeatedly, the people at Burswood decided to consider developing a convention centre at the Burswood site only when the State Government indicated it was considering promoting such a facility in Perth. If it were not for the Government's announcement, I am sure we would not have heard anything from Burswood to date on that issue. It seems that the Government's announcement acted as a catalyst for Burswood's announcement.

The proposed convention centre should have this soccer and rugby stadium as an adjunct. Burswood is totally inappropriate as a site for a football stadium. It is out of the way and not easily accessible for people in the western and northern suburbs. Two sites are being considered for the new convention centre, cum rugby and soccer stadium - the busport site near the river, and a site in Northbridge near the Entertainment Centre. My preference is that the busport site be developed, particularly concerning the rugby and soccer stadium. This will assist to bring to life that area of the CBD on the weekend and whenever the stadium is used. Northbridge has a sufficient number of restaurants and bars for such entertainment. It is appropriate to shift the focus of the CBD after hours closer to the river. It may be that the site to which I have referred will be the preferred site.

What has been the cost to the Western Australian economy and the tourism and hospitality industries in the Perth metropolitan area of not having a large convention centre? Perth was passed over by the American Society of Travel Agents earlier this year for its international convention in 2002. This was a travesty. If the issue had not been contentious, the Government may have moved earlier to facilitate the construction of a convention centre in Perth. Hypothetically, the centre may have been finished well before 2002, and we may have secured this international convention or seminar. Research conducted by the Tourism Commission has indicated that such a convention centre should be able to attract \$2.2b to Perth within 10 years of its completion. That speaks volumes for the need for such a facility. It will create jobs in the construction stage and upon completion by attracting international and national conventions to Perth.

I commend the Governor for his speech when Parliament was opened last week. I hope his successor will be able to fill his shoes.

**MS McHALE** (Thornlie) [10.28 am]: I use my contribution to the Address-in-Reply to outline two issues concerning my electorate. The first deals with the environment and the second relates to teenagers with disabilities.

An initiative at the Thornlie Senior High School indicates the measures young people are taking to protect our environment and deserves public recognition and attention. I refer specifically to Green Youth, established in August 1998, which involves students from Thornlie Senior High School and two committed supervising teachers. Green Youth is run for youth by youth and is the driving force behind the school's environmental activities. The purpose of Green Youth is to give its member a feeling of being part of a team and the opportunity of working with people who are like minded about the environment. It gives them a chance to feel that they are contributing something to the environment and to their future. It provides communication networks with other schools and it teaches them the important role that individuals, especially young individuals, can play in the future of our planet.

Green Youth is trying to take action that will make policies become reality. I will outline for the House its aims and refer to a conference organised by the school a number of weeks ago that was attended by young people from a range of schools in the southern metropolitan area. The overall aim of Green Youth is essentially to do two things; firstly to develop strong communication with other environmental groups in schools and communities primarily driven by youth through email, telephone, facsimile and mail, and secondly, to not only promote the awareness of environmental problems and possible solutions but also develop activities operating within the school and local communities, such as rubbish clean ups and Clean-Up Australia Day.

After about 12 months of operation within the school and much planning, the Green Youth committee held a regional youth forum over the weekend of 31 July and 1 August. It was attended by a mix of about 50 years 10, 11 and 12 students from the south east metropolitan area from Rockingham to the hills. At the end of the two-day conference, the students presented their recommendations to state and federal members of Parliament and representatives of local government. The recommendations affect the three tiers of government in our State.

I want to put on record their recommendations for two reasons: First, the conference members asked their political representatives to do that and therefore I am fulfilling my obligation in that regard. Also it will indicate the thinking of our young people and the passion that many of our young people feel about their environment and the role they can play in ensuring its protection. The conference recommended that these ideas be seriously considered and implemented in councils or Governments to ensure a sustainable future. They finish with these words: "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, but we borrow it from our children." It is interesting that the students at Thornlie Senior High School have adopted that often-used quote to reflect what they feel about the management of our environment. They made a number of recommendations in the categories of water quality, population and economic growth, air quality, recycling and domestic animals. These recommendations will be taken to a national conference to be held in Canberra later this year when all the recommendations from these forums will be put into the melting pot on which a report will be based that will go to Federal and State Governments for their consideration and, we hope, implementation.

The key issues discussed at the conference focus on encouraging tree planting and schools to take part in a tree-planting exercise to improve underground water quality. They were concerned about the use of fertilisers and felt that both city dwellers and farmers should be educated about the impact fertilisers and phosphorous have on the land. They believe greater government funding should be allocated to improvements in degenerated areas, such as the wheatbelt; greater promotion of water conservation and the implementation of water restrictions.

Mr Cowan: You know where it is, don't you?

Ms McHALE: I have been to the wheatbelt many times and look forward to going there in the future. The conference recommended that local councils put out guidelines on water saving and the management of fertilisers. They also believe that competitions should be run to promote better use of water and awards should be given to people who use their water wisely as well as incentives to encourage people to conserve water. Their recommendations are based very much on practical applications.

In relation to population and economic growth, as young people they are clearly focused on effective birth control. They thought that condoms and other contraceptives should be reduced in price so that birth control methods could be more accessible to them. They thought that more condom vending machines should be available in addition to family planning education.

These recommendations have come from an environmental forum run by youth. They demonstrate the breadth of their thinking, and that they see that many of the social issues are integrated and that young people are thinking of many issues in relation to the environment. They legitimately see birth control, sex education and so on as part of the debate on how we conserve our environment. Those young people want to see incentives for people who use public transport, the use of more natural resources and the planting of more trees.

Their recommendations on transport were interesting and reflect what we on this side of the House have been saying about an efficient and effective public transport system; that is, more provision should be made for bicycles, footpaths and cycling routes; a more reliable bus service should be provided to promote public transport as a first option; and cars should be used as a last resort. They recommend more research be undertaken on the effectiveness of alternatives to diesel and petrol, and the extension of train services throughout the entire metropolitan area.

I remind members that we are talking about the southern belt of Thornlie, Gosnells and Rockingham where public transport is a real concern for young people. When they want to have a good time in the city, it is often difficult for them to access public transport from those outer suburbs.

A number of recommendations were made in relation to recycling, such as encouraging it in the home and providing every home with recycling bins for glass, plastic, paper and so on. Recycling bins are used in the Thornlie area but they are not

universally provided across the metropolitan area. It is a pity the Minister for Youth is not here because one of their recommendations was to put posters around the community containing information on how to recycle and reminders and instructions on packaging.

Finally, these young people were concerned about the impact of domestic animals on our environment. They felt strongly that there should be increased fines for unlicensed pets, better incentives for desexing domestic pets, cats should wear bells and there should be restrictions on the number of cats per household according to the environment in which they live. They conclude by saying that consideration of the above recommendations will not ensure sustainability, but action will.

I want to bring to the attention of this Parliament the action taken by Green Youth. As I said at the outset, it is a very good practical example of the work young people are doing to preserve the environment, the great passion that young people feel and the very good practical ideas they generate. I commend the work of the committee and the effort it put into that conference.

I turn now to the second issue that I raise today. It is a completely different issue, but still a local matter facing families in my electorate. I refer to the work of Teen Power. Teen Power is a voluntary organisation set up by parents of teenagers with disabilities. It was established earlier this year to help meet the needs of a particularly important group in our community; that is, teenagers with disabilities. The group's primary aim is to provide structured programs for school holidays for teenagers, primarily those between the ages of 13 and 17 or 18. It is important to recognise that new figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicate that one person in five has a disability. That means that a significant proportion of our teenage population is likely to have a disability.

Families of teenagers with a disability in my electorate identified the need for holiday activities for this age group and set about designing a pilot program. As the National Council on Intellectual Disability noted in May 1999, interactions and interdependence create a society. The focus of Teen Power is to encourage interaction between teenagers with disabilities and their non-disabled peers during the holidays. Integration and interdependence happened as a matter of course during the pilot program, which was run earlier this year. The families are now keen to provide ongoing programs during the school holidays.

Teen Power came about as a result of a need expressed by families to overcome the lack of recreational opportunities for 13 to 18-year-old teenagers with a disability. It is important to recognise that, until about the age of 12, children have the opportunity to participate in supervised vacation care, regardless of disability. Money is available, although it might not be enough, for programs involving children up to the age of 13 or 14 years. After that age, fewer programs are run, probably because teenagers are considered able to look after or to entertain themselves. However, it is overlooked that teenagers with disabilities cannot look after themselves during the school holidays. They need very structured programs to get them through that period. Once these children reach the age of 13, they are unable to access these programs. The families of teenagers with disabilities say that their children still require support and supervision to allow them to participate in community-based activities.

Teen Power obtained some money - it begged and scrounged money from various organisations - to run the pilot program. The outcomes for families and the individual teenagers were remarkable. Teen Power states -

Teenagers with disabilities were able to recreate alongside their non disabled peers in an appropriate setting for youth activities at the Kenwick Youth Centre. Integration occurred naturally as teenagers participated in activities together. ie played pool, and watched videos together. We were also able to visit such places as McDonalds, go to the movies and generally do things that teenagers enjoy.

However, teenagers with disabilities are not able to do that on their own; they need supervision, structured care and other support systems that their non-disabled peers do not need.

The children were able to maintain contact with their friends as well as develop new friendships in the community. Working parents felt secure that their children were being well cared for, which enabled them to continue with their work commitments. That is a constant source of pressure and concern for parents with teenagers with disabilities during school holidays. We often forget that although our non-disabled teenagers can be independent, these teenagers need additional support. Their families received much-needed respite during that period. The pilot program was very successful; the kids thought it was fantastic, and the parents appreciated the support.

Now the group faces the funding problem. It has not received funding for the October school holidays, so all the fears have come to the fore again. I will put on record Teen Power's concerns and hope that funding will be forthcoming from the Disability Services Commission or other sources. Teen Power wrote to the Minister for Disability Services earlier this month. It has not had a response from the minister, but it is probably too soon to expect that. I hope, in advance of the minister's response, that funding will be available. It has also applied for funding from various organisations, but none of the funding is guaranteed or long term. It finds itself with no concrete base on which to plan for future school holiday periods due to the lack of funding options. If it is unable to receive that long-term funding commitment, Teen Power will have to cease operations. That would be a sad end to what has been a very good initiative, which is locally-based and meeting an enormous need in our community. It clearly hopes that funding will be available on an ongoing basis to ensure the future success of the group. It has asked the Minister for Disability Services to support it and to advocate on its behalf.

I will put on record a number of letters of support that clarify the parents' concerns. One letter from parents refers to their son who is about 16 or 17. This boy acquired a brain injury as a result of viral encephalitis and meningitis, which he contracted in 1987. Until the age of three, he was a fully able young boy. Unfortunately, he acquired this severe brain injury and as a result has required very significant support. The family states -

We have always tried to access quality activities which are age appropriate for him during the school holidays as he is very active and becomes bored very quickly due to poor concentration and increased distractibility.

The parents have written to express disappointment that this excellent program, which is desperately needed, is unable to continue due to lack of funding. They request that funds be made available. Another letter from a family, who have a 14 year old intellectually disabled young daughter, says -

. . . there is a very urgent need in the community for out of school and vacation care for intellectually disabled youth aged 13 to 18 in the Gosnells, Kenwick, Maddington and Thornlie areas.

Although it is a local issue, the same sort of problem would be facing teenagers with disabilities in the electorate of every member of Parliament. This group is not given sufficient attention. I urge members to think about our intellectually disabled population and their families. I also ask that the application for funding be given serious consideration.

As the state member of Parliament for Thornlie I am delighted to be associated with Teen Power. It represents a grass roots activity in which parents have got together, identified a need for services and wanted to fill that gap. It is about trying to integrate teenagers with disabilities with their peers and promoting an environment in which they can understand each other. As a working parent I know how difficult and worrying it is if our young teenagers are not adequately supervised; we worry about them. These families are no different. They worry about what will happen to their young teenagers during the school holidays when they are at work. However, they have an added impediment because these teenagers have a disability and cannot be left unsupervised. This is a terrific concept. I am pleased that the Minister for Disability Services is in the Chamber, even though he is not in his seat nor is he listening. I hope to engage his attention before too long. Maybe by osmosis the Minister for Disability Services will hear what I am saying and will respond at some stage.

Mr Cunningham: Maybe today!

Ms McHALE: It may be today, or it may be never. Never mind, we can live in hope. This is a terrific concept. I wanted to bring it to the attention of the Parliament, congratulate the parents and highlight what has occurred, because I am sure it will be replicated in every other seat and the funding will be forthcoming for this worthy initiative.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Riebling.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY, PRECEDENCE

##### *Standing Orders Suspension*

**MR COWAN** (Merredin - Deputy Premier) [10.54 am]: I move, without notice -

That, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order No 35 relating to precedence of the Address-in-Reply, be suspended for the remainder the current session.

My purpose in moving the motion is to ensure that we can progress some government business today rather than continue with the Address-in-Reply. I understand that the Leader of the House advised the Opposition of this proposal last week. *Hansard* reveals that there has been in excess of 24 hours' debate on this issue. The Government would not like to curtail members who have not already spoken - most of whom are on this side of the House - and they will have an opportunity to speak on the Address-in-Reply at some other time. It is not the Government's intention to deny members the right to speak on the Address-in-Reply; we want to cover some government business. I ask members of the House to give the motion their support.

**MR KOBELKE** (Nollamara) [10.55 am]: The Opposition will not formally oppose this motion, as it seeks to cooperate with the Government in progressing its business through the Parliament. However, I express serious concern about the new approach of the Government to the Address-in-Reply in this House. The Address-in-Reply has traditionally been a lengthy debate when the Opposition and government backbenchers have the opportunity to raise for debate a range of issues of importance throughout Western Australia and to particular community and sectional interests within Western Australia. It seems that the Government's position is now that the Address-in-Reply should be a limited form of debate and it should be curtailed so that the Government can dominate the Chamber and have total control of the business. It is clear from the few days that we have had to debate the Address-in-Reply that it gives the Opposition an opportunity to control the agenda for the period during which the Address-in-Reply is before the House. The Leader of the House and the Deputy Premier indicated it was not the Government's intention to deny members who have yet to speak the opportunity to speak on the Address-in-Reply. I hope that the Deputy Premier was speaking with the authority of the Leader of the House, and that will be the case. Seven opposition members have not had an opportunity to make a speech on the Address-in-Reply.

Mr Cowan: They will.

Mr KOBELKE: I accept that assurance from the Deputy Premier, and that a large number of government backbenchers have not had the opportunity to speak. The Opposition is willing to accommodate the Government's wishes in this regard.

Mr Cowan: I suggest it will be Tuesday evening or Thursday afternoon.

Mr KOBELKE: I accept that it will be a time of low priority when the issues the Opposition wants to take up with the Government are not likely to receive the spotlight of the media and the general community. That being the case we still hope the Government will ensure that the opportunity will arise over the next few weeks and the Address-in-Reply will not be deferred until the very last sitting day, when there would not be a genuine opportunity for members to speak on the Address-in-Reply.

I wanted to make a brief comment on the cooperation which the Government has extended to me in the short time that I have been the leader of opposition business. In that spirit we wish to reciprocate and work cooperatively with the Government. However, I hope I have signalled clearly to the House that the Opposition thinks the Address-in-Reply is a major debate of importance to the functioning of this Chamber and I am concerned that the approach being taken by the Government is to try to downgrade the importance of the Address-in-Reply and to curtail the amount of time available to members, which is something we would strenuously resist. Given the undertakings by the Deputy Premier, the Opposition will not oppose the motion before the House to adjourn the current debate on the Address-in-Reply.

**MR RIPPER** (Belmont - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [10.58 am]: I want to briefly complement the remarks of my colleague the member for Nollamara. I am one of those opposition members who has not yet had a chance to deliver his Address-in-Reply speech. I was one of those opposition members who was asked by the Government Whip if I would please come into the Chamber to ensure that the Government had an absolute majority to deny me the right to give my Address-in-Reply speech. I am happy, along with my colleague the member for Nollamara, to cooperate with the Government's attempt to manage the business of the House. However, I do not want to be in a position where I give my Address-in-Reply speech at midnight on the last sitting day. I seek an assurance from the Deputy Premier that there will be a reasonable opportunity for members on this side of the House and on the government side of the House to deliver their Address-in-Reply speeches at a convenient time.

Mr Cowan: There will be.

Mr RIPPER: I have that assurance from the Deputy Premier.

Question put and passed with an absolute majority.

### **MIDLAND REDEVELOPMENT BILL 1999**

#### *Second Reading*

Resumed from 1 July.

**MRS ROBERTS** (Midland) [11.01 am]: I open debate on this Bill for the Opposition by indicating that it has the wholehearted support and commitment of the Opposition. We are pleased to welcome this Bill into the House, and to congratulate the Government for belatedly taking the initiative to develop a Midland Redevelopment Authority. Members will be aware that I have been calling for this for some time. Since becoming member for Midland, on numerous occasions I have drawn attention to many of the difficulties faced by the Midland community for many years. I have highlighted the fact that Midland has been treated quite shabbily by this Government, because it was promised much in the lead-up to the election in 1993 but the Government has delivered very little to Midland and surrounding areas.

Although I have congratulated the Government today on this initiative, at this stage two assurances are needed. First, the Opposition wants an assurance that the Government is totally committed to not just a redevelopment authority, but also the future of Midland and the surrounding area and to the appropriate redevelopment of the Midland railway workshops site. Part of that commitment must involve a significant financial commitment. As has been agreed by many government members, including the Premier and the Deputy Premier, the redevelopment of Midland will not happen without significant costs. I highlight, by way of information to members, that in response to my most recent grievance on the matter, the Deputy Premier said very considerable finances would be required to do the kind of work I want to take place in Midland.

The impetus for the redevelopment authority has come partly from the charrette process embarked upon by the Shire of Swan in the latter half of 1997. It was a very important process because, for the first time, a whole range of people in the community got together, including the Shire of Swan, local residents, local business people, and those with an interest in Midland and heritage matters, and went through the planning charrette process. It took place over a number of days and many people had input and indicated what they wanted for the future of Midland as a whole, and specifically the workshops site, town centre and surrounding areas. It was an interesting and worthwhile exercise and, for the first time, many diverse interest groups were working together to achieve a common goal. Although there has been plenty of disagreement in Midland over the years, and probably still is some disagreement, all interest groups agree that they want Midland to go ahead, improve and be a better place for people to live and work in. Nearly all are agreed on such things as providing employment opportunities for young people and dealing with social problems besetting that area, which social problems also beset other areas. As part of that process, some interesting initiatives were developed for the Midland railway workshops site and the road and rail systems, and to encourage more people to live in the town centre. That charrette process was invigorating for many people and it built up momentum for improving the Midland town centre and surrounding areas.

The final session of the charrette process was held at the Swan Italian Club premises and, to the best of my recollection, between 300 and 400 people were present that evening. The people who had run the charrette process made presentations and consideration was given to the plans and initiatives that had been developed by the many groups that had discussed various options for Midland. That evening I addressed the meeting and echoed some of the suggestions made during the evening. One of the main concerns was that because the task is so great and because of the diversity of interests represented by the Shire of Swan, people had no confidence that the Shire of Swan could progress all the initiatives of the charrette process by itself. There was also no confidence that the Government or any of its agencies, such as the Ministry for Planning, would be able to take up these initiatives by themselves. For the interest of members, I advise that the Shire of Swan is one of the largest local government authorities in this State and it is responsible for people in areas as diverse as the Swan Valley and Ballajura. Given its diverse interests, it is difficult for it to focus wholly and solely on Midland. It is also noteworthy that, although perhaps some of the problems in the town centre may be laid appropriately at the feet of the Shire of Swan, not all of them can be attributed to that local authority. There have been many players over the years who



have some responsibility for the current situation with the transport and road systems and the workshops site. People at the meeting were very keen to move forward, but there must be some mechanism.

On the basis of my experience as a member of the board of the East Perth Redevelopment Authority at an earlier stage, at that meeting I said I felt it would be appropriate for a redevelopment authority to be established in Midland. When I suggested it that evening, I was mindful of some of the original negative feeling towards the establishment of both the East Perth Redevelopment Authority and the Subiaco Redevelopment Authority. The authorities were certainly not unanimously embraced by the local governments and other interested parties. I put that forward at the final meeting of the charrette process as one suggestion for going forward, maintaining the momentum, and making progress on the workshops site and town centre, that would perhaps involve a range of people working together.

Having then discussed that with numerous people over the following few weeks, it became apparent that no one group or government agency or even the shire could achieve what we wanted to achieve for Midland by itself. The concept of a redevelopment authority appeared to be fairly warmly embraced by most people. With that in mind, on 21 October 1997 in this House I first asked the Government to consider establishing a Midland redevelopment authority. I did so by opening my speech on the Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No 3) and requested the Government to consider establishing a Midland redevelopment authority along the lines of the East Perth Redevelopment Authority and the Subiaco Redevelopment Authority.

I then gave a detailed summary of Midland's status at the time and the advantages of establishing a redevelopment authority. That speech was warmly received in my electorate and by all community groups in Midland. It was embraced by the Shire of Swan and the Midland Districts Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Unlike the situation in East Perth, which I remember only too well, having been a member of the Perth City Council at the time, Midland has given across the board support for the establishment of an authority. Subsequent to 21 October 1997 we were cautioned by the Premier at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce. We were told that in other instances, such as East Perth, concerns had been expressed by the shires about planning powers being taken over and other interested parties had believed that a redevelopment authority would impinge on their decision-making powers and would not necessarily be representative of their views.

Whilst some of those concerns are valid and there are concerns about the powers of a redevelopment authority and how representative it may be of the local community, most people in Midland find the situation so desperate that they are prepared to take that risk. They see that more of the same will lead to nothing happening. The worst thing that could happen is that no co-ordinated plan will emerge, Midland will develop in a hodgepodge way and the railway workshop site will continue to lie idle. The workshop site is vast; it covers 70 hectares, which is roughly equivalent to the size of the Midland town centre - the area from the town hall through to the commercial and business areas including the Midland Gate shopping centre, Centrepoin and the railway precinct. It is almost a mirror image, in terms of land area, but located on the other side of the railway line. It is an area bounded by the Helena River, which offers some development potential as well. This is not just a piece of vacant industrial land but a huge site with colossal potential; not just for Midland and the people in the immediate area but as a focus for a regional centre which services the Swan Valley area, the Hills area and others to the east and north. Midland is a gateway to the goldfields and the agricultural, mining and pastoral regions. Many people in closer towns such as Northam, Toodyay and York regard Midland with considerable affection and use Midland to conduct a lot of their business when they visit the metropolitan area.

My two main concerns are that the Government will provide the finance, and the level of commitment, required to make the redevelopment authority work and for the desired outcomes for Midland to be achieved. I have referred to the role of the Shire of Swan and I note that in relation to East Perth and Subiaco one of the key players was the then Federal Labor Government which provided most of the funding through the Better Cities program. That is something that I have highlighted in this House on previous occasions. It is my understanding that the Federal Government contributed approximately \$30 million toward the East Perth redevelopment and \$5 million towards the Subiaco redevelopment through the Better Cities program. I have been advised that there are no federal funds available for Midland as the Better Cities program was cancelled following the election of the Howard Government. This is certainly disappointing as the Better Cities program was one of the best projects initiated by the Keating Government. The renewal of cities like Midland that took place throughout Australia under that program has provided many tired and rundown communities with renewal and invigoration and provided fantastic opportunities. Towns like Midland cannot be turned around without significant injections of funding. Renewal projects such as Subiaco and East Perth have proved to be fantastic. East Perth today compared with what it was like ten years ago is a credit to everyone involved in its renewal. Ten years ago there were areas of East Perth only one kilometre from the city centre that were unsewered. Since the establishment of the colony in Western Australia that area had effectively become the city's dump yard. Much of the property there was government owned; it was occupied by industry and a lot of waste had been dumped there. An area on the city's doorstep was run down and nobody would have paid a significant sum for residential property there. It is now opened up to the river and its proximity to both river and city has made it a highly sought after residential area.

The Darling Harbour area in Sydney, which had some similarities to East Perth, has been turned into a vibrant area. The Docklands development in London and other urban renewal projects in the United States show how an area can be completely turned around. The people in Midland get fairly despondent when we hear continually about what is planned for Joondalup or for a new city beyond Joondalup, and about the massive amounts of government and joint venture funding that is proposed for those initiatives. Midland is a very old town. Towns like Midland and Guildford were very important in the establishment of the first settlement in Western Australia, yet they have been neglected in many ways, and they have been neglected most unfortunately by the Court coalition Government. They have also been duped by the Court coalition Government. I remind members that in 1992, the Court coalition Government promised a lot for Midland, none of which it has delivered. It promised that it would not close but would expand the Midland railway workshops by establishing a

world class engineering works at those workshops. However, as history now records, within months of obtaining office, the Court coalition Government announced the closure of the Midland railway workshops. That was a complete about-face on what had been promised. Since that time we have seen complete and utter neglect of that site.

Before the 1996 state election, the Court coalition Government focused its attention again on the Midland railway workshops site. In a bells-and-whistles launch in October 1996, the Premier announced that a university would be established at the Midland railway workshops site. Colour advertisements were placed in television magazines, and full page advertisements were placed in local newspapers and *The West Australian*, saying that Edith Cowan University was now in Midland. That was a con, because while some courses from Edith Cowan University were held in buildings on the workshops site, no university was formally established at that site, only a small portion of the site was involved, and government expenditure was almost none. When the Premier was questioned about how much money he would put forward as part of his university plan, we found it was in the order of \$200 000 for a couple of science laboratories that were proposed for the site. The Premier then covered up the true situation by saying that he was making approaches to the Federal Government for funding for a university for the Midland railway workshops site. The situation that subsequently unravelled was that our State Government had given no priority to a university for the Midland railway workshops site, and in its application to the Federal Government, it had listed other sites as priorities for future universities in Western Australia, and Midland really stood no chance. Those matters were subsequently confirmed in the Federal Parliament and also by government ministers and members in this place.

The Government has completely conned the people of Midland during its term of government so far, and I can only hope this is not a further attempt at a con. If the Government does not put some money up front and make a proper commitment to this authority, people will quickly regard it as a con. They will also regard it as a con if all the Government's men are appointed to the board of the Midland Redevelopment Authority. We are keen for the authority to comprise people who are representative of the people in Midland and are not politically biased, are not the Government's lackeys, and are not, for example, former government ministers or members who are appointed to the board merely to do the Government's work. We are keen for the people who are appointed to the board to be strong and independent and to appropriately represent the residential and other interests of the people of the Midland area.

Having called for the establishment of this authority in October 1997 in the Parliament, subsequent to the end of the charrette, having reiterated the need for this authority on 19 August last year in the Address-in-Reply debate, and having further raised this matter on 28 October 1998 as a grievance to the Deputy Premier, I am pleased that legislation is now before us to establish this authority. It has taken quite some lobbying by me, by the Shire of Swan, the President of the Shire of Swan, Mr Charlie Gregorini, and the councillors of the Shire of Swan, and by the Midland and District Chamber of Commerce, Mr Graeme Harris and others, to pressure the Government into giving us this redevelopment authority for Midland. Less than a year ago in that grievance to the Deputy Premier on 28 October, the Deputy Premier told me that I would not get a redevelopment authority for Midland. The Deputy Premier said -

The funds for the East Perth Redevelopment Authority came from the Federal Government's Better Cities program. As much as I wanted to see that program continue, it has been scrapped. It is highly unlikely that funding will be made available to the State for redevelopment purposes in any specific area. However, that does not mean that there are no plans or proposals.

I interjected -

Another possibility would be a Midland corporation along the lines of the Joondalup corporation.

The Deputy Premier responded -

I assure the member that that will not occur. Nevertheless, as she has correctly pointed out, we must deal with this very valuable and substantial parcel of land. Many issues must be addressed, including the remediation of contaminated sites. That work must be done.

At the risk of being accused of saying that the Government is looking into something, I advise the member that the Government Property Office is preparing an integrated land use master plan for that region. Fundamental to that plan is accommodating some of the requirements of the Police Service.

That was the general tenor of that debate less than one year ago. The Deputy Premier said in conclusion -

However, I cannot give an undertaking that a redevelopment authority will be established because the Government does not have the funds to do that.

The Deputy Premier pointed out in his response to me in October last year that the State Government did not have funds from the Federal Government for the redevelopment and presumably was not prepared to put up the funds that were necessary. All along my argument has been that the State Government has an obligation to Midland as an important regional town centre. It also has a significant obligation in respect of the Midland railway workshops site which, due to the closure by this Government of the workshops, has seen the site neglected from a land use point of view. It has been neglected from a heritage point of view because it is a significant heritage site. The Government has also been neglectful insofar as it has not cleaned up the contamination of the site.

The closure of the workshops site also had an incredible social impact on Midland and the surrounding areas because of the many jobs lost at the site. Although it was not operating with as many people as it had in its heyday, a significant number of people were working at the site, people who lost their jobs and their livelihood when the Government, having been elected to office, closed the railway workshops. I note that many of those people, for a variety of reasons, have not been able to find

alternative work. Most of my constituents tell me that they understand that is a closed situation; that the workshops will never reopen; that we will not see workshops there again, or a major engineering works or the kinds of apprenticeships at that site that were seen in previous years.

We all want to move forward now, and more than anything else, we are crying out for opportunities in Midland for our young people to get traineeships or the equivalent and to get local jobs. We realise those jobs may be in very different areas from where they were in years gone by and that new technology is an important focus for young people in their jobs. Given the proximity of the Swan Valley, there may also be some opportunities in the tourism and hospitality areas. Part of the proposal for the Midland railway workshops site is the new police operations centre, and that is very welcome. Again the Government has dragged its feet on this. The previous Minister for Police, the member for Darling Range, promised that construction would begin in June 1999, which has now passed. Currently the police operations centre is timetabled for commencement at some stage during next year, which date the Government has yet to confirm. Naturally that will be subject to this redevelopment authority once it is put in place. It is my understanding that the Government's intention is for the authority to be operative from 1 January next year. I imagine the positioning of that police operations centre and some of the road structure required for it will be amongst one the first things the new board must consider.

One of the reasons I believe this State Government has a special responsibility for the workshops site is this: The Government closed the Midland railway workshops and, in general, it has a responsibility to regional centres. The Midland regional centre has not had its fair share of government funding in recent years. Many newer areas have been developed at the expense of older areas such as Midland. The Government also has a responsibility to the young people of our State. When we consider all the factors, we find the young people in the East Metropolitan Region do not have the same level of government support that those in other areas have. The social demographic material shows that youth in Midland and the whole eastern area are more in need of government services and assistance than youth in other areas. The profile of that eastern region shows a greater level of youth unemployment, something which the Government must address.

Dr Hames: The member may be aware of the new program to try to get people in Homeswest houses into employment to assist them. We wrote to everybody in your electorate area just recently. Out of 230-something houses, there were 27 responses from people saying that they would like assistance to get work. That compares with responses received from well over half in the area of the member for Peel. I wondered why there were so few respondents to offers to assist them get into employment.

Mrs ROBERTS: It is positive that the minister has received, at least, the level of response that he has. It is probably worthwhile following up with those people as to why they have not responded. I expect that in some instances there may be a difficulty with literacy, and responding to the written word may be difficult for some of them. The profile of people who are unemployed shows that quite often they have a lower literacy level. As I have noted, there is a level of disaffection with government. I expect that some of the people who received those letters probably do not believe the Government will assist them anyway.

Dr Hames: One half were in a Labor Party electorate; from the other half, those in the electorate of the member for Peel, we got a 50 per cent response.

Mrs ROBERTS: The minister must look at individual demographics.

Dr Hames: We can do what you suggest and call a meeting so we can discuss it and try to find out why there is a low level of response.

Mrs ROBERTS: I think the minister should have some follow-up. He will probably find that within the smaller areas in my Labor electorate, the demographics may be very different from those within the small areas of the electorate of the member for Peel. I also expect there is a higher level of Aboriginality in my electorate than in that of the member for Peel. I would be interested to find out the conclusions the minister comes to if he follows up with people individually. It is important because it is very difficult to reach out to some people and to involve them in the community and to get them to respond to what is on offer. By the same token, a lot more must be on offer in this region because if all those people were to respond, I doubt there would be the local job opportunities for them to be able to obtain employment in any event.

There are significant challenges for the Midland Redevelopment Authority, once established. I sincerely hope that this is not just another exercise by the Government to fob off and keep the people of Midland quiet, where it shows a lot of promise and initiative, but does not deliver by funding or progressing anything. I suppose if I were to be cynical, I would say that I believe this will involve a new plan being developed for the next State election, a new promise of funds and of something great happening on the Midland workshops site. If that is what the Government intends, I do not think it will be received very well. Until people see the colour of its money upfront, the commitment in the State Government budget, they will simply not believe it. Until we start seeing some government money and some work taking place in Midland, people will be pretty incredulous.

Dr Hames: You have just copped the New Living program.

Mrs ROBERTS: That is a great initiative for Midvale, and I commend the Minister for Housing for it. He would have noted from any public forums he has been to in the Midland area that there is a feeling of incredulity. Even as the money is being committed, the people are saying that they are not sure it will happen.

Until definite things happen, there will be a lack of belief that the situation will really change. I inform the House that despite all the commitments given so far by the Minister for Housing and the Premier, many people in Midvale are still saying they do not believe it will happen. As people say, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Many people will not

be convinced until we see that turn around in Midvale. I am pleased to commend the Minister for Housing for the initiative he has taken in Midvale; I expect it to be an enormous boon for the people of Midvale and surrounding areas.

I turn now to the workshops and their heritage. During the committee stage, I will move several amendments to the Bill to reinforce my concerns about the heritage and history issues. I note that the Midland Redevelopment Bill is very similar to the Subiaco Redevelopment Act. Many of the clauses in this Bill have simply been copied from the Subiaco Redevelopment Act. The authority is to consist of five members appointed by the minister. Three are to be persons who, in the opinion of the minister, have a relevant qualification; and two are to be persons nominated by the council of the Shire of Swan who are members of the council, or employees, of the Shire of Swan. A "relevant qualification" for the three people appointed by the minister is defined as -

... knowledge of, and experience in, one or more of the fields of urban planning, business management, property development, financial management, engineering, transport, housing and community affairs.

I will move an amendment to insert the word "heritage" after "urban planning" because I want at least one person on the authority to have some special expertise, knowledge or qualification in the area of heritage. I do not feel that is sufficiently covered by either "urban planning" or "community affairs", although I know most urban planners would protest that they are very mindful of heritage matters. Clause 20(5) states -

In performing its functions the Authority is to have regard to, and is to seek to enhance and preserve, the heritage and significance of the redevelopment area and its adjacent areas.

I intend to move an amendment to add "in particular, regard is to be given to the heritage and labour history of the Midland railway workshops site." I will do that because I feel the Midland railway workshops site is the most important part of this redevelopment. It has an irreplaceable heritage and social history because of the work undertaken there over many years.

I recently received correspondence from Neil Byrne, the President of the Perth branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History. I have previously received correspondence from Mr Byrne and Mr Gandini, and I have spoken to other members of the society, including former upper House member Mrs Lyla White nee Elliot, and Janis Bailey of Guildford and many others. The members of the society are very concerned that proper recognition be given to the labour history and heritage aspects of the site, as are organisations such as the Machinery Preservation Club, the WA Railway Historical Society, the Friends of the Railways, the Midland Society, the National Trust, the Heritage Council of Western Australia, various unions and the Trades and Labour Council. The labour history project was launched recently during a highly successful open day at the workshops site. The rich social history of the site is phenomenal. We have many opportunities to recognise the rich history of the Midland railway workshops site and it would be a huge disappointment if we were to lose any of that history and heritage. Concerns have been expressed recently about some of the moveable heritage items being taken off-site. It was alleged that some of those moveable items had been put in storage in Forrestfield. Little by little, the various interest groups have pressured the Government and various government agencies to have those items returned to the site.

It is very important to have at least one heritage person on the board of the redevelopment authority and it would be better still if everyone took a specific role in protecting the very valuable heritage and history of the Midland railway workshops site. I note that in its correspondence to the minister, the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History asked that the Bill be amended to allow a sixth member to be added to the authority and that this person should have specific expertise in heritage issues. That is an excellent suggestion and I will be pleased to hear the minister's response to it. The Opposition would wholeheartedly endorse the minister's allowing a sixth member if he is prepared to do that. However, I am keen not to hold up the Bill. I want to move those amendments to specially focus the Midland Redevelopment Authority on those heritage and labour history issues. I hope the Government will agree to my amendments and I look forward to hearing from the minister on whether he will be prepared to allow a sixth member on the authority, a person with specific expertise in heritage issues.

In conclusion, I repeat that I congratulate the Government for bringing forward the Midland Redevelopment Bill. I look forward to the establishment of the Midland Redevelopment Authority. I hope the Government is fully committed to allowing the redevelopment authority to function effectively and that the authority will receive proper financial backing from the Government to enable it to make a difference and redevelop the Midland railway workshops site to the satisfaction of all people in the Midland area.

There are many challenges ahead of the redevelopment authority. Quite apart from the workshops site, significant planning and transport issues need to be addressed. A number of issues concerning the Midland town centre need to be addressed as do the challenges of resolving the road conflicts. The authority also needs to look at ways to open up Midland to the workshops site. Access is impeded by the railway dividing the town centre from the workshops site. We also need to open up Midland to the river because while people do not see Midland as a riverside suburb, the Swan and Helena Rivers virtually surround it.

It would be great to open up those opportunities. I will not go into any further detail at this stage. Some concerns, particularly environmental, will arise with part of the redevelopment area, but those matters can be dealt with at a later stage. I hope the authority will place priority and its principal focus on the Midland town centre and the Midland Workshops site.

I note the variance between this legislation and the statutes for the Subiaco Redevelopment Authority and the East Perth Redevelopment Authority; namely, the Midland legislation has been updated to take into account changes to planning

legislation. Changes to the role of the Environmental Protection Authority with redevelopment schemes effected through changes to planning legislation are reflected in the Bill. Putting those environmental factors up-front will be an advantage. Unlike the other redevelopment measures, which needed review within five years, a sunset clause on page 45 of the Midland Bill states that the legislation will operate until 31 December 2014, and no longer. The Government believes this authority will operate in that time frame. I have no difficulty with that; however, I will be interested in the minister's remarks about the choice of that date, and the variation from the sunset clause of both the East Perth and Subiaco authorities.

**MS MacTIERNAN (Armadale)** [11.53 am]: I endorse the comments of the member for Midland who has responsibility for this Bill for the Opposition. She has had extensive involvement in the development of this concept within her seat of Midland. Therefore, it is appropriate that she set the tone for the Opposition. She set out in great detail the Opposition's position on this Bill; that is, why it is supported, the Opposition's ongoing involvement with the measure and the areas of concern.

We have a problem in many of our regional centres - certainly in my seat of Armadale - with a lack of employment opportunities. A major part of the redevelopment proposal is directed towards providing and enhancing employment opportunities. I find it most ironic, and tragic, that we must undertake this process in the Midland Workshops, which were a centre of technical excellence developed by the State over the last 60 or more years. People were consistently trained at the Midland Workshops and often took into private companies a level of expertise and training which generally enhanced the productivity of the Western Australian manufacturing sector. An enormous amount of experience resided in that workshops in a range of trades, such as fitting, metal fabrication and electroplating. These skills are an important part of any manufacturing industry.

The Midland Workshops were not making money, and one might argue that they were economically a drain on the Government. However, that is taking a very short-term and "unholistic" view on the workshops' role in the overall development of a decent manufacturing base in Western Australia. The decision on the workshops indicated a complete and abject lack of imagination on the part of the Government in dealing with government assets. It completely wrote off an asset that was worth a fortune. An important part of that asset was the human resources and manufacturing skills of those who worked in the workshops. The Government deployed those people and let dissipate the expertise we, the taxpayers, developed over 60 years, and it sold off the physical asset at fire sale prices. It was a complete and utter disgrace.

I contrast this Government's performance with a decision made elsewhere with a similar institution. New South Wales had a rail system which had many of the difficulties faced in Western Australia. The previous Labor Government in this State started a process of renewal within Westrail which saw it become more efficient and productive. We had not completed the job by any means, but it was well on the way and further progress was necessary. New South Wales corporatised its various rail entities and created Rail Services Australia. This outfit took over the workshops previously run by the New South Wales State Rail Authority. The new entity runs workshops, signalling and maintenance functions. This contrasts with the situation at the Midland Workshops, where the Government sacked 1 000 workers. Rail Services Australia now employs 4 800 people in New South Wales without being a drain on the state budget. The organisation has been very effective not only in New South Wales, but also in winning contracts from the private sector all around Australia. While our people are still unemployed, Rail Services Australia employees now operate in joint ventures and undertake work as far afield as Hong Kong. That is what the Government could have done; it could have taken those employees and that expertise and decided that it would build on it. It did need to be corporatised and to have a commercial slant. The Government should have established a board that could give a proper commercial direction and focus to the workshops. However, it did not do that; it flushed it down the toilet. It decided to waste the asset and to take no notice of the importance it played in our manufacturing sector or that it was an asset built up by the State.

I have a tragic example of just how bad it got at the Midland Workshops. Mr Brad Bedford, a manufacturer who has his business in my electorate, did his apprenticeship as an electro and nickel plater at the workshops. He and his team at the workshops were well aware that they had a level of expertise in this area of operation that well exceeded anything in the private sector at the time. When things got tough at the workshops and noises were being made about its closing because of the lack of work, this team went out into industry and obtained work orders for the workshops. They were summoned by Westrail management and told that they would be sacked if they continued to do that. Management did not want extra work; it wanted to close down the workshops.

When I heard the pontification by the minister in his second reading explanation about his commitment to job creation in the Midland area and the need to stimulate employment, I had to ask myself whether he was serious. One need look only at what this Government has done. It has destroyed an extraordinary organisation with a massive skills base. It would have been so much better if we now did not have to cobble together employment opportunities. The workshop could be employing hundreds of people doing very productive work. This Government's lack of imagination, and its complete inability to look at anything beyond privatisation and to accept the fact that it has been elected to govern is amazing. It does not want to govern; it wants to hand over as many of the responsibilities and opportunities that governance might afford it as possible. It is a tragedy. Of course, the Opposition supports any attempt to return employment centres to the Midland area. However, the minister's and this Government's commitment rings hollow when we see the wanton destruction of a very fine manufacturing enterprise in this State. That is particularly pertinent when one looks at the performance of identical institutions in a Labor-run State, in which creativity and commitment to employment were paramount, not the ideology of privatisation.

On a more positive note, the minister and the member for Midland pointed to the use of the very vigorous charrette process. Some members have questioned its definition. It is an interactive community consultation process. The idea of developing a plan and putting it out to the public for comment is a very poor second cousin to this process of community consultation.

This charrette process involved the community's coming together and, under the guidance of the trained facilitator, interacting in an exchange of ideas. It is a much more creative and appropriate way of coming to a decision that one could say had general community support. I urge the Minister for Planning to explain this process to the Minister for Transport, because if ever there were an area in which we needed to embrace the charrette process it is local traffic management. If the minister were on the ball, he would realise that he would solve many of the seemingly intractable disputes in his portfolio area if this very creative, interactive process involving bringing people together, having trained facilitators, encouraging participation and exchange of development ideas were adopted more broadly.

I note that the minister has commented on the parallels of this development and the Subiaco and East Perth developments. The member for Midland was very positive about the development at East Perth. Of course, it is an extraordinary development. However, there is a major problem with it; that is, the homogeneity of the population simply because there is no low-cost housing and no real diversity of housing. As a result, we are not getting the dynamic, creative interactions we should be getting in such an inner-city development. It is a great tragedy that again at a crucial time the East Perth Development Authority fell under the administration of a conservative Government. This Government has presided over the removal of all the low-cost housing in that development. That will be to the long-term detriment of the development because of the energy and variety that one expects from an inner-city area. People want to live in these areas because of the energy and synergies, but that will not exist if we exclude all but the extraordinarily wealthy. Musicians and artists will not live in an area in which there is no low-cost alternative housing.

Mrs van de Klashorst: There is Homeswest housing.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Where?

Mrs van de Klashorst: In East Perth. The CEO showed it to me.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Does the member mean in the East Perth redevelopment area? What percentage and where is it?

Mrs van de Klashorst: I can find out.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Perhaps the Minister for Planning can tell us.

Mr Kierath: I cannot remember the street, but I have been through the houses. I opened them, and I believe the new minister has opened another group.

Ms MacTIERNAN: In the development?

Mr Kierath: Yes.

Mr Prince: I have seen them too.

Mr Kierath: The Government's commitment was to about 40 units.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Out of how many?

Mr Kierath: That is 40 additional units over and above what has already been built. Three sites have been identified.

Ms MacTIERNAN: When the original plan was first mooted in the early 1980s, it included a 30 per cent public housing component.

Mr Kierath: That fell by the wayside.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Yes, but only when it became obvious it would be a much more expensive site to develop because of the toxic waste. The Labor Party's last plan still involved a substantial component of 15 per cent.

Mr Kierath: Obviously the Government has considered those commitments and believes that it has met them all. You might have a different opinion about what the level should be, but the Government has met all of its commitments.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I am not arguing that the Government has met the commitments but whether it has committed to the right thing. I am interested to know how many dwellings are in the overall plan and how many -

Mr Kierath: I will provide that information.

Ms MacTIERNAN: It is a question of equity and ensuring that low-income earners are not excluded from inner-city areas. Diversity is important for the vitality of those areas and in many ways makes them more attractive to people seeking the buzz of inner-city life. If we want something other than a suburban mentality to be brought into East Perth, we must make sure that we have that diversity. I am sure that at Midland there is much low-cost housing. I am also sure that availability will not be a problem in that redevelopment.

One of the issues that concerns me is the power of the minister effectively to approve development applications where the authority has a financial interest or is an applicant in the application. I am concerned because we are taking away the planning powers of the Swan Shire Council in this area. That has been done in East Perth and Subiaco; there is nothing new about it. The problem here is that the minister will have the power to appoint three out of five members of the authority that will oversee the development. That authority will then put up development applications which will go to the minister for approval. So we really have a situation where the ministerial appointees are making decisions about development proposals and those decisions are being signed off by the minister without reference to the council, or, indeed, any other authority. I note a word of concern about that.

Mr Kierath: If I may interrupt, the application goes off to the council and is not without reference to the council, but the council does not have a decision-making power. It has an advisory role.

Mrs van de Klashorst: Isn't the council represented on the board?

Ms MacTIERNAN: Yes, it is represented on the board.

Mr Kierath: There are two councillors on the board.

Ms MacTIERNAN: They have no power.

Mr Kierath: They have no decision-making power; they have a consultancy power.

Ms MacTIERNAN: One would expect, as a political matter, that they would be making some comments. It may well be that the Swan Shire Council, which comprises the elected representatives, totally opposes a particular development plan that the authority has signed off on. The council will have only two out of five representatives on the authority.

Mr Kierath: That is correct.

Ms MacTIERNAN: The other three will be the minister's appointees.

Mrs van de Klashorst: Isn't that the same as East Perth?

Ms MacTIERNAN: I acknowledge that.

Mrs Roberts: We had seven.

Mr Kierath: It is the same principle.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Yes, but, as I say, I issue a word of caution here that effectively the ministerial appointees are putting together development plans which they submit for approval to the minister who appointed them. A certain closedness in the system could give us cause for concern. It would very much depend on the calibre and quality of the people who are selected. I am wondering whether the minister has made a decision as to who the appointees will be.

Mr Kierath: In my reply I will comment on the points the member for Midland has made. I have nobody in mind at this time. I have very strong views that it should not be a representative body. The two councillors are designed to be the representatives. It needs people of quality and ability to make the right decisions. We have talked this over with the shire. When I went out to the shire all the different groups there were asking, "Why do you want a redevelopment authority?" I said that they all had different views. They said, "We cannot resolve them all ourselves. We acknowledge that." They need to be resolved. The key is the concept plan which will decide the general thrust of everything. The detail then must be in line with that concept plan. As I said to the parties there, the most important aspect will be the concept plan. We need to put all our best efforts into it to get it right. Once it is right, it will be the vision that is implemented.

Ms MacTIERNAN: In theory that is nice, but what legislative prescription is on the authority, having got the concept plan, to actually put together a development application that is consistent with that concept plan?

Mr Kierath: We have very stringent guidelines with both East Perth and Subiaco. You might argue that, in some cases, they have been too tight, narrow and restrictive. However, I believe that it knocks out some of the issues you have in mind.

Ms MacTIERNAN: No, that is not what I am talking about. If, for a variety of reasons, something suits the Government, for example, the Government decides it wants a particular development on a site and it goes to its three appointees on the authority who put up a development application or approve a development application - either way - that is really inconsistent with the concept plan, there is nothing in the legislation that says that cannot be done.

Mr Kierath: If I may answer in another way, I am not aware of a situation of that nature which has occurred with East Perth or Subiaco. I cannot perceive a possible situation occurring with Midland either.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I hope the minister is correct. I am simply pointing out that, because of the way the legislation has been drawn, although the concept plan may be excellent and signed off and agreed to by all parties, there is really no guarantee that development applications which are inconsistent cannot be initiated or approved by the authority. There seems to be no legislative prescription because there are no third-party appeals. The minister will correct me if I am wrong.

Mr Kierath: I will check that for you.

Ms MacTIERNAN: An appeal may be lodged if someone is knocked back, and if that person went to the Town Planning Appeals Tribunal, he could point out that his development was consistent with the concept plan. If the development application is inconsistent, however, there does not seem to be any legislative obligation on the development authority to approve development applications only in accordance with the concept plan.

The member for Midland raised the question of heritage issues. Of course, these are of particular concern given that with the development authority's application, the ministerial appointees will have the balance of the decision-making power, with the minister vetting and directing them, and certainly making the final decision if the authority is the developer.

We note that in the new heritage legislation which the minister is proposing, the minister will take the power to make decisions about government sites from the Heritage Council and give it to the Minister for Heritage. There are very historic buildings at Midland. If the minister is successful in getting his new legislation through, no longer would the Heritage Council be able to make the final determination about listing areas such as the Midland Workshops. Under this system, as

with any privately-owned structures, the question would need to go back to the minister for him to decide whether the items should be listed. The minister will see our concern. When we look at the interaction of this legislation with the proposed heritage legislation, not only are we effectively giving the Minister for Planning control over all of the development applications, but we will also give the minister total control of heritage matters. That is of some concern. There may not be enough checks and balances in the system. We all hope that everyone will act in good faith, but I raise that matter as a caution. We all hope that with regard to the heritage legislation, the minister will not get his way -

Mr Kierath: The Midland Workshops are on the state heritage register.

Ms MacTIERNAN: That gives us some comfort.

Mr Kierath: I have just been reminded that clause 50(1)(a) of the Bill states that the authority may grant or refuse to grant approval of the proposed development having regard to the redevelopment scheme. Therefore, although it is not cast in concrete, it states pretty strongly that it must have regard to the redevelopment scheme.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I understand that. If a development were refused even though it complied with the scheme, that would be ground for appeal by the private developer to either the minister or the Town Planning Appeal Tribunal. However, if the development application did not comply and was approved, no-one would have the standing to appeal, because we do not have third-party appeals in this State. Therefore, if an application were granted that was inconsistent with the guidelines, there would be no way in which anyone else could enforce those provisions. It works in only one direction: An enforcement power, or a capacity to bring the matter to the court if the application has been refused.

Mr Kierath: They can, of course, go to the minister.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I am talking about its going the other way. I am talking about situations where developments that should not be approved because they are outside of and inconsistent with the concept plan are approved. If that were to happen, there would be nothing that anyone could do -

Mr Kierath: I understand that the minister -

Ms MacTIERNAN: Can people make third-party appeals to the minister?

Mr Kierath: I am pretty sure that all development approvals must be signed off by the minister.

Ms MacTIERNAN: No. On my reading of it, that is only for development approvals that are submitted where there is a conflict and where the authority is the developer. I hope the minister does the right thing, good people are appointed to the board, and the concerns we have raised about the powers of the minister are not realised.

**MRS van de KLASHORST** (Swan Hills - Parliamentary Secretary) [12.23 pm]: I have extreme pleasure in supporting the Midland Redevelopment Authority Bill because I, along with other people in the Midland area, am very pleased that the Government is doing something positive for the Midland area. The Midland Redevelopment Authority has been called for not only by me, the member for Midland and other members in the area, but also by the local council, the local business association and some of the local community groups. It is welcomed by the people of Midland, and it heralds the dawning of a new era for Midland and the surrounding region. The boundaries of the Midland Redevelopment Authority have been worked out in accordance with the needs of the local community and all of the groups that I have mentioned.

Before I comment on that, I point out some of the inconsistencies in some of the issues raised by the Opposition in this debate. It must be remembered that the Labor Party held the seat of Midland for 69 years. I was the first Liberal member to hold that seat after that time, and I held it for four years. Although the member for Midland came in at a later stage and may not realise this, a lot of work was done in the Midland area during the four years that I was the member for Midland, and also later as a continuation of some of the efforts that I commenced while I was the member for Midland. One of those things was the Midvale Homeswest redevelopment. I went to the then Minister for Housing and we looked at what we could do to make Midvale a nicer place for people to live. We held several meetings, and there was then a redistribution. I did not continue with it, but fortunately - and I commend the minister for this - Homeswest is continuing with that process and will make Midvale into a beautiful area in which to live.

Swan View Primary School and Swan View High School have been upgraded since we have been in government. Middle Swan Primary School has been doubled in size and many facilities have been provided at that school that were not there when the Labor Party held the seat of Midland. Edith Cowan University is running courses at the Midland Workshops site for nearly 300 students. That was an initiative of this Government when I held the seat of Midland. The Police Communications Centre to be built at Midland is an initiative of this Government, from when upper House member Hon Derrick Tomlinson and I went to the minister and a Cabinet subcommittee was formed. Funding for the Midland central Mainstreet project was obtained with the help of the Deputy Premier, who launched that project in Midland. A community youth centre has been set up in Midland, with help and funding through the former Minister for Family and Children's Services, and my office was used to provide water for that centre for the first couple of days until the water was connected. That is a major step forward for the young people in the area.

I fought tooth and nail to have the dental clinic established at Swan District Hospital, because Armadale hospital also wanted it, and we went to the Minister for Health and fought for it on the basis that Midland did not have a facility like that in the area. Swan District Hospital has been upgraded, and the previous Minister for Health, the member for Albany, and I attended the opening of the new emergency department, which has been doubled in size. New geriatric and administration centres have also been built at Swan District Hospital. A youth mental health service has been opened since we have been in government. The Disability Services Commission has moved its headquarters for the eastern region into Midland and



employs a number of local people. The Minister for Disability Services and I attended the opening of those premises a couple of weeks ago.

Mr Cowan: We do not need a redevelopment! It has all happened!

Mrs van de KLASHORST: When we first came into government, the saleyards were upgraded and land was added to them. Heritage money has been given for the upgrading of the town hall. I could go on and on. I wonder sometimes why the member for Midland does not attend the same meetings that I attend, because she obviously does not know any of these things. She thinks absolutely nothing is happening in Midland. I think a lot of positive things are happening in Midland.

Mrs Roberts: Perhaps you are more easily pleased than I am.

Mrs van de KLASHORST: I achieve. That is the difference.

The member for Armadale talked about the closure of the Midland railway workshops. I agree that was a very sad and difficult time for the local people. A number of people have called me to say that out of adversity has come challenge, and while change is not always welcome, the Midland Redevelopment Authority presents an opportunity to bring that site back to where it will be working for the people of Midland. The workshops site will form the major part of the redevelopment plan for Midland and, with the construction of the new police support facility which is expected to begin next year as the anchor in that area, new life will be brought back into that site in Midland. The Midland Redevelopment Authority, which we hope will start as soon as possible, will be responsible for developing key areas in Midland, and it all comes back to the combined efforts of all the local groups.

The Ministry for Planning also put money into the charrette process, from which came a mass of local community needs, concerns and ideas. This redevelopment authority will look at those objectives and work with the local people to make sure that some of these things happen as they fit in with the area. There has been a gradual expansion of commercial and light industrial premises along the Great Eastern Highway. The business people and the local community of Midland have told me that since the development authority has been announced, land prices in Midland have started to rise, and some people are looking at investing in the area. That activity had stopped previously.

This Bill is a positive initiative by the Government for the Midland area. The decision to establish the redevelopment authority to oversee the successful redevelopment of Midland is very necessary and important. I am proud to have been involved in the lead-up to this outcome. I congratulate everybody who has worked so hard, particularly those in the Midland business association, for their input over recent years, which has resulted in the Government seeing the need for this proposal. The successful redevelopment of city centres, such as East Perth and Subiaco, is a good example of what can be achieved. I have no doubt that Midland will join them in the future and become the vital, natural centre of this expanding area, and a thriving region situated to the east of Perth. It is our turn and our time, and I will do everything I can to ensure that what is done in Midland is the very best not just for the people there but for all those who use Midland as a centre.

**MR BROWN** (Bassendean) [12.31 pm]: It is interesting that this Bill has been introduced in 1999. In 1992 the coalition, then in opposition, made a number of promises to people residing in and around Midland. One was to retain the Midland Workshops. We all know that was a lie and the coalition had no intention of doing that. When it came to power, notwithstanding what it said in the election campaign, the Government moved to close the workshops immediately. That was the beginning of the harsh reality for many people in Midland who then knew the colour of the Government and that they could not believe anything the Government said. This was a hard and fast coalition commitment and it simply was not honoured. It is significant that, six years later, it has been necessary to introduce a redevelopment Bill, but that was to be expected because a main part of the area was gutted. That is what happened when the Midland railway workshops were closed.

Many proud tradespeople live in my electorate which does not cover Midland. They are mostly men, but not young men. Some have never been able to gain employment since the closure of the workshops, and their lives have been shattered by that decision. Some of them, although they will not admit it publicly, believed what the coalition said in its electoral propaganda in 1992; that is, that it would retain the Midland railway workshops. As I said, the lives of some of these people were shattered because they believed that false promise. The member for Swan Hills can talk about all the fine aspects of the redevelopment authority, but it has been born out of a bit of a disaster - out of a falsehood - as a consequence of a Government that kept no faith with the people from whom it sought votes. Before the election it told them lies to get their votes and then it let them down coldly and callously after the event.

I am pleased to see, as a result of this Bill, steps are now being taken to revitalise Midland. This is important because the planning in areas such as the Midland railway workshops has been something of a disaster. I have had a little contact with the Australian Railway Historical Society. From time to time members of the society have been advised about the different rules which apply at the Midland railway workshops. Members of that society use a shed at that site to house and work on old trains and carriages. From time to time all sorts of messages have gone down. It seems that the coalition Government has tried to move out the historical society and otherwise place pressure on it. About 18 months to two years ago, it was told that if it took a carriage out of the Midland railway workshops, it could not be brought back. The society was told other things which, generally, either resulted from poor management or were designed to try to create some frustration so the society would find it difficult to operate. Indeed, that situation created frustration among a number of members of the society, some of whom - I think to the annoyance of the ministers involved - came to me to seek assistance. I endeavoured to provide that assistance by placing questions on the Notice Paper in this place, and they will be recorded in the *Hansard*.

I would like the minister to answer some questions when he responds to this debate. What is likely to be the ongoing position of the Railway Historical Society? Is it likely to continue to be provided with one of the main sheds at the Midland

railway workshops? Is it likely to be allowed to continue to restore carriages and trains and to do the work it is involved in there and for which it was given access, or is it intended that it be moved out? Maybe the minister could provide the answers in his response to the second reading debate or perhaps we should take up the matter in Committee.

Mr Kierath: It is neither. It will come out in the redevelopment concept plan. I am not aware of any plan to move the society out. Obviously the site will come under the Midland Redevelopment Authority when it is established. I understand the charrette has had a role for something like that on the site. The detail of that will come out when the concept plan has been developed. That will be put out for public comment.

Mr BROWN: I thank the minister for those comments. I take it from that answer there is no desire or plan, either on the table or under it, by the Government, for this group to be moved on.

Mr Kierath: There is no plan by the Midland Redevelopment Authority. It is not at my level. I did not want to get control of the site. Maybe cooperation has not always been there. That is one reason to put it under the redevelopment authority. Many people have had control of the site. Cabinet considers that to bring it under one authority might take some of that - I am trying to think of the right word -

Mr BROWN: It does not matter; I understand the message.

Mr Kierath: We might shift from acrimony to goodwill!

Mr BROWN: I am sure that will be welcomed by members of the society. They are unpaid and have an interest in the history of trains and train travel and in restoring locomotives and carriages, and they do not do this just for their own benefit. They get the greatest pleasure in being able to restore these things so the general public can appreciate them.

Mr Kierath: Their activities are very much in keeping with the thrust of the objects of the redevelopment authority, and that is the difference. That has not been there until now. If the Bill is passed and is proclaimed, there is an obligation to have a focus in that area.

Mr BROWN: I think this Bill has a much better chance of being proclaimed than have some other Bills and of being proclaimed very quickly, and I am pleased about that. I thank the minister for those comments which I am sure will be well received by members of the society.

**MR KOBELKE** (Nollamara) [12.39 pm]: I will make some brief comments in support of this Bill. I first congratulate the Government for bringing it on. While we hope the Government will live up to the promise made in the legislation, the second reading speech was very short and did not answer many of the questions I will ask later in my remarks. The member for Midland indicated in her contribution that she first called for the establishment of such a redevelopment authority some time ago. I congratulate the member for Midland for persevering with this proposal to the point that the Government has seen the benefits likely to flow to Midland and the surrounding areas from the establishment of such a redevelopment authority. In its period in government, the Labor Party was very keen to pursue urban redevelopments such as that envisaged in this Bill. I will speak to the Bill in the context of what has already happened in this State with the East Perth and Subiaco redevelopment authorities. In the early 1980s under the Burke Government, the then member for Perth, Terry Burke, played a key role in setting up and getting the East Perth Redevelopment Authority under way. The great success of the East Perth Redevelopment Authority is evident to anyone who takes the time to drive or walk through that area of East Perth. It has been transformed into a wonderful residential area. That is indicative of the early planning, both of the structures of the East Perth Redevelopment Authority and the detailed work which flowed from that body being established.

A key element of the great success of the East Perth redevelopment was the availability of Better Cities money from the Commonwealth Government. As a previous speaker indicated, that money is no longer available. That places a responsibility on the minister and the Government to give an undertaking on what moneys will be committed to the Midland Redevelopment Authority. Simply to have a shell with the Government stating the best of intentions will be of no real effect if the Government is not willing to commit funds and explain in some detail how the project is to be financed. We have seen the huge cost involved in a redevelopment of the quality and size of the East Perth redevelopment. While the Midland redevelopment may be smaller, we hope it will be of comparable quality. The only downside to the East Perth redevelopment was the failure of the current Government to provide a significant amount of affordable housing. That was a key part of the deal; the commonwealth Better Cities money came forward with the proviso that the whole East Perth redevelopment project would involve a considerable amount of affordable, medium to low-cost housing and the Government has reneged on that part of the deal. The member for Perth has taken that issue up on many occasions in order to drive home to the Government that it has broken that part of its promise for the East Perth redevelopment. Midland will be different but I hope in his response the minister will indicate whether any characteristics have already been incorporated into the residential component of Midland redevelopment or whether the matter has not been considered. One would like to have some idea about what residential component there may be in the redevelopment area and the nature of that residential redevelopment.

Another issue associated with the East Perth redevelopment was the serious problem of soil contamination in the land which was formerly part of the East Perth power station. The minister may correct me but I think polyvinyl carbonates were identified in the soil at East Perth. I am not sure of the exact chemical but it was carcinogenic and a major inhibitor -

Mr Minson: Polychlorinated biphenyls.

Mr KOBELKE: I thank the member for Greenough for his assistance with the chemical name which I cannot remember.

Mr Minson: It is the only one I know.

Mr KOBELKE: Is the member for Greenough guessing?

Mr Minson: I think that's what it was.

Mr KOBELKE: I think we can move on by saying there was a chemical in the soil as a result of the power station, one which posed a major problem to the redevelopment of that site. When Labor left Government, the indicative cost of that clean-up was in the order of \$60m. That was something which would really thwart the development of the total area of the East Perth Redevelopment Authority. The current Government showed a great deal of initiative and flair in approaching that serious problem in a different way. Initially I had some concerns but they were allayed by the scientific work the Government did. I do not know whether the minister can respond, but I think the total cost of that clean-up was under \$15m at the end of the day.

Mr Kierath: I think it was around \$10m to \$12m but it was certainly less than \$15m.

Mr KOBELKE: The Government was able to address the problem in a way which met the scientific criteria and enabled the land to be incorporated into the redevelopment without the constraints which would have applied without that clean-up.

Mr Kierath: We used a special bacterial process.

Mr KOBELKE: I was not going to speak on that but the minister has drawn to the attention of the House the fact that the new process which saved the money used bacteria to feed on the nasties in the soil. People who passed the site on Royal Street near the railway station would have seen the soil laid out for months as it went through this treatment process. That was a factor in the East Perth redevelopment where the Government found a new and innovative way of doing something which enabled the project to go ahead. I commend the Government for that. That issue is relevant to this Bill because there are likely to be similar problems in Midland with the old railway workshops in an old and large industrial area. Soil contamination and other problems are likely to arise and must be dealt with by the Midland Redevelopment Authority. I mention that in passing because the cost factor was a big issue in East Perth. The Government has not given any undertaking about what moneys will be available for the Midland Redevelopment Authority to deal with these and other issues. Without that commitment, there is a hollow promise in this important legislation.

I now comment briefly on the Subiaco Redevelopment Authority, which was also initiated by the Labor Government. This Government took up the issue, brought the legislation into the Parliament and saw the project result in the developments taking place on the ground in Subiaco. While it was a Labor initiative, it was driven to some extent by the protestations and encouragement of the then mayor of Subiaco, Helen Passmore. She did not like some of the things Labor saw as necessary solutions to problems in the area and the initial plan for the Subiaco Redevelopment Authority came out of cooperative discussions between the City of Subiaco and the last Labor Government. The Subiaco redevelopment also involved a large area of government land and I will speak later about how that relates to the Midland redevelopment. It involved a large area of old industrial land, something which again has parallels in Midland. Also we again had the problem of a commitment to affordable housing in the area, which this Government has backed away from. To my knowledge, no real commitment has been made to providing affordable housing in the Subiaco Redevelopment Authority area. The redevelopment we are hoping will take place in Midland under the auspices of this Bill is obviously different from both East Perth and Subiaco. The Midland area is further from the centre of the city but, similar to both East Perth and Subiaco, it is old urban development and an important part of our history in Perth. Like other areas, it has important heritage aspects which are under-utilised. It is hoped that the importance of Midland as a regional centre will be enhanced, and that the area will grow through the processes available under the redevelopment authority. Midland played an important role in the past. The Opposition hopes to see a rejuvenation so Midland in the near and long-term will play an important role in metropolitan Perth.

[Leave granted for speech to be continued at a later stage.]

Debate thus adjourned.

[Continued on page 538.]

### **NORTHBRIDGE TUNNEL**

*Statement by member for Perth*

**MS WARNOCK** (Perth) [12.51 pm]: I have been working for some time on behalf of a group of Northbridge constituents whose properties have been damaged by construction work on the Northbridge Tunnel. Some are at last receiving a response from the Minister for Transport, but at least in one case, that of a Mr Mondia, the response has been inadequate - in fact, it amounts to shirking a moral responsibility. Despite a loss adjuster's report recommending that a small amount of compensation be paid for damage allegedly caused to Mr Mondia's house in Northbridge, the contractor, Baulderstone-Clough joint venture, has refused to pay, and now the minister has refused to intervene on my constituent's behalf. Payments have been made to others on the basis of the same loss adjuster's report, and the Woodward-Clyde report made it clear that the tunnel dewatering had had a significant impact on ground water levels in the area. Why is the contractor showing a distinct lack of goodwill, and why will the minister not encourage the company, which after all is working for the Government, to operate in good faith? It is not good enough. I ask the minister to act on behalf of my constituent.

### **DENTAL SURGEONS**

*Statement by member for Greenough*

**MR MINSON** (Greenough) [12.53 pm]: I touch on a matter upon which I will expand in the Address-in-Reply. I refer to the difficulty in getting dental surgeons to serve in our rural and remote communities. I quote the Director of Dental Health as follows -

"We usually recruit graduate dentists but there has been competition from interstate areas and we are losing them," he said.

"We are placing advertisements and looking nationally and internationally for a permanent dentist but that will take time."

I draw this fairly simple problem to the House's attention: Dentists can work two days a week in Perth and earn more money than they can in a week in the country. When I came to Parliament, graduate doctors, dentists, lawyers and members of Parliament earned about the same money - namely, around \$45 000 a year. Now most of those groups are earning around \$85 000 a year, but the dentists' top level is \$54 000 a year. In no way will people operate on other human beings, take the legal risk involved, live in remote areas, and work in caravans and in very difficult parts of Western Australia for that sort of money. As one who has worked in that way briefly, I know that offering those people around 60 per cent of the salary of a member of Parliament is an insult. To talk about paper shufflers and so on earning that sort of money is absurd.

### **POLICE AND CITIZENS YOUTH CLUBS**

*Statement by member for Kalgoorlie*

**MS ANWYL** (Kalgoorlie) [12.55 pm]: I rise to inform the House of the very valuable work that police and citizens youth centres are performing around the State. I heard last night about the Geraldton Police and Citizens Youth Club which I understand is about to undertake a massive expansion. I was very pleased to be present at the Kensington PCYC last night for the annual general meeting. Vital services are provided for young people around the State by these organisations, which, indeed, could be worthy of more financial support from the Ministry of Justice on the basis of crime prevention. The Ministry of Justice defunded a project in Kalgoorlie-Boulder as at 31 March 1999, but we are yet to hear how the significant amount involved of more than \$100 000 will be spent. The Rockingham and Serpentine PCYCs won awards for their programs. Unfortunately, I missed the opening of an expansion of the Kalgoorlie PCYC earlier this week. Senior Constable Graeme Lewington is presiding over the Kalgoorlie PCYC, which has won awards for its anti-graffiti programs. It has a very active, vocal and talented young council of people operating that PCYC.

### **MIDLAND REGIONAL YOUNG PERSON QUEST**

*Statement by member for Swan Hills*

**MRS van de KLASHORST** (Swan Hills - Parliamentary Secretary) [12.56 pm]: I bring to the House's attention the Midland Regional Young Person Quest, which I attended last evening. This quest is organised by concerned citizens and local people connected with the Midland Safer WA group, and encourages and supports young people to put themselves forward to be part of the quest. They learn such things as grooming and deportment and public and current affairs. The local business community in particular, and others in the area, such as the Ministry of Justice and I, support them in trying to build young people's self-esteem. Usually, they are disadvantaged young people who are supported by Rotary and sponsored by some businesses and others in the area. I congratulate the committee, which is doing a wonderful job. It comprises people who work hard to support these young people and to establish the quest. A couple of hundred people attended the function last night. The Navy offered support and local groups danced and entertained those in attendance. The quest was held and prizes given. On behalf of the whole community, I thank them and congratulate the work of the Midland Regional Young Person Quest organising committee.

### **GREEN YOUTH**

*Statement by member for Thornlie*

**MS McHALE** (Thornlie) [12.57 pm]: Earlier today I spoke about an initiative in my electorate called Green Youth. I now acknowledge the contribution of the students themselves, and place on the record the names of the committee members. I will then speak a little more about Green Youth. I congratulate Katrina Naylor, the president; Amy-Louise Wheldon, the vice-president; Takeeta Eddy, the secretary; Amanda Fairs, the treasurer; and 15 other students from the upper school of Thornlie Senior High School who comprise the Green Youth committee.

Green Youth was established in August 1998 involving students from Thornlie Senior High School. It is run by youth for youth and is the driving force behind the school's environmental activities. Involvement in Green Youth gives students a feeling of being part of a team and working with like-minded people on the environment. Rather than things being said in theory, Green Youth makes them a reality. The group feels strongly that the decisions made for the future of this planet we call home should include the voice of its future leaders. Despite the establishment of the group last year, Green Youth feel that their work is not being acknowledged by the general public. I acknowledge that work.

### **BATTLE OF THE SCHOOLS QUIZ**

*Statement by member for Hillarys*

**MR JOHNSON** (Hillarys) [12.58 pm]: On Thursday, 20 May at Joondalup Arena, year 7 students from 18 schools in the Hillarys, Carine and Joondalup area participated in the "Battle of the Schools" quiz. The quiz night was the work of three local drug action groups of Whitford, Joondalup and Carine, which joined forces to raise drug awareness in the community. The quiz linked in with the school drug education project, and over 450 people, including contestants, parents, siblings and grandparents, turned up to support their teams.

Although questions focused on drug education and drug awareness, the usual sport, entertainment and audio questions were asked. The questions were well researched and were looked over by professionals involved with the school drug education

project and representatives from the District Education Office and the Health Department. The volunteers who assisted on the night came from Lions, local drug action groups, the Health Department, the Joondalup police, the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office and health promotion students. Michael Schultz from Channel 10 donated his time to be quiz master for the evening.

I firmly believe that with such projects - following the success of the intensity project last year - the conveners of the three local drug action groups, Vicki Hancock, Val Crossley and Paul Kimber, are working towards achieving drug awareness and drug education in our community.

Joondalup primary, the winning school, won a Pentium computer, and Padbury Catholic Primary School came second. However, more importantly, I hope the participants and observers learnt that one need not be out of control to have a good time. The fight against drugs is not an easy one. Almost 50 years of tobacco education has taught people the dangers of smoking. Studies show that the more information we can provide to young people, the more likely they will be to make an informed choice and not start to use drugs in the first place.

*Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm*

**[Questions without notice taken.]**

### **CONVENTION CENTRE, GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL**

*Matter of Public Interest*

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Strickland): Today I received a letter from the Leader of the Opposition seeking to debate as a matter of public interest the following motion -

That this House expresses concern that the Government continues to pursue the expenditure of \$100 million plus crown land on a convention centre at the same time that Burswood is expanding its convention centre facilities.

And further expresses concern at the Premier's misrepresentations on this matter at Question Time yesterday.

If sufficient members agree to this motion, I will allow it.

[At least five members rose in their places.]

The SPEAKER: The matter shall proceed on the usual basis, with half an hour allocated to members on my left, half an hour to members on my right, and five minutes to the Independent members, should they seek the call.

**DR GALLOP** (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [2.41 pm]: I move the motion.

We are dealing with a very important issue for the people of Western Australia. It relates to a commitment made by the Government to spend \$100m in straight cash and make an effective gift of public land to the private developers of a convention centre in Perth. Earlier this week, the Government announced its short-list of three applicants for the Perth convention and exhibition centre. It was said this centre would cater for a 2 500-person meeting area in the Perth central business district. The issue of the convention centre in Western Australia has been a controversial one but not because of any argument about whether we should have a convention centre; that question has not caused the controversy in the community.

Mr Court: You're trying to get out of it now.

Dr GALLOP: No. The controversial issue has been the huge commitment of taxpayers' money to this project. We have seen the Government go to the private sector and tell it "Here is \$100m and you can access that money if you come up with a convention centre proposal that we like." On top of that, the Government said it would give the private sector land to go with the project. That was a ridiculous way to approach the question of getting a convention centre in Western Australia. There is no doubt that by approaching the issue in that way, the Government has opened up the possibility of taxpayers' money not being spent in the most productive way. That is why we have controversy over this issue, not over whether we should have a convention centre in Perth but over the expenditure of over \$100m of taxpayers' money. We need to be sure about two things in relation to that money. First, that the Government of Western Australia will get a good return on that investment compared to all the other ways that money could be spent. Second, it is very important that we be sure there will not be an ongoing drain on public funds after the initial investment. These are the two important issues raised by the style and approach the Government has adopted in this matter; is this an investment which is justified compared to others and will there be an ongoing drain on public funds after the initial investment?

This takes us to the situation in the private sector in Western Australia. *The Australian Financial Review* of Wednesday, 18 August 1999 ran an article written by Mark Drummond which said -

Perth casino and resort operator Burswood Ltd will press ahead with its \$75 million expansion plan, despite missing out on the short list for the West Australian Government's convention and exhibition centre mandate.

The chief executive of Burswood is quoted in the article as saying -

"Our plans are go," . . . "We have our approvals and we're committed."

When asked whether he believed Burswood's expansion commitment might reduce the commercial viability of a second convention centre for the three short-listed bidders, the CEO of Burswood said -

"That's certainly something they'll have to take on board."

There is a commitment in the private sector to spend \$75m on expanding an existing convention centre to accommodate up to 1 800 delegates. Burswood has committed to 900 square metres of meeting rooms and 3 300 sq m of additional pre-function and foyer areas on top of the convention centre commitment it made.

Mr Court: Where is the exhibition centre?

Dr GALLOP: The convention centre I said. It is committed to a convention centre in Burswood. We must ask ourselves whether the Government's actions in this matter are responsible. I went back to the initial report prepared for the Government by Pannell Kerr Forster in 1994. It was a feasibility study of having a convention centre. It is interesting to go back to that study. Calculations in the study showed that such a centre would not reach financial operating break-even for four years, and I note the assumption behind that analysis was that capital costs were not included. There were no capital costs and no profit for four years. This is the economics of this sort of project. The Government is pushing a convention centre with state support - which will compete with another convention centre built by Burswood to cope with 1 800 delegates - and which will have only a portion of its capital costs met by the Government through the \$100m gift plus the crown land, which is effectively a gift. The Opposition believes that before the Government went ahead with its commitment, it should have repeated its analysis of this question in light of the Burswood development. The Government has said the private sector will get \$100m, it can go ahead and build this convention centre. The one question that must be asked is: Will that be an ongoing, viable operation in the marketplace? There is no doubt whatsoever that the developers of the convention centre the Government is promoting will return to the Government in the future asking for more state support. There is no doubt about that.

Mr Minson: Why?

Dr GALLOP: Because of the crude economics of it.

Mr Minson interjected.

Dr GALLOP: We are entitled to make a judgment on this matter and we are doing so. When I asked the Premier this question yesterday, he said that would be the developer's responsibility. However, the fact of the matter is this Government is entering into an arrangement with the private sector behind which it will sit as a Government and as sure we are in this Parliament today, will have ongoing implications for the taxpayers of Western Australia.

The Premier also misled the people of Western Australia when he spoke about this matter in the Parliament yesterday. He referred to the fact that the land being given to the convention centre developers would not be freehold land but leasehold land. The Premier did not tell the Parliament that it will be a 99-year lease on what is effectively a peppercorn rent. Most people would say that, to all intents and purposes, that is a freehold gift by the Government to the developers. The Government's gift will be \$100m-plus, and will be up to \$160m when all factors are drawn together. This will give the private sector the opportunity to develop something which other developers are already developing in the marketplace.

Mr Court: Who?

Dr GALLOP: I refer to the Burswood convention centre.

Mr Court: Burswood has asked for \$100m, plus two hectares of land, my friend!

Dr GALLOP: The Premier is out of touch. I refer the Premier to Burswood's press release, which I am sure is available to him, describing the development.

Mr Court: Read it out. Tell us.

Dr GALLOP: It is in the press release.

Mr Court: You left out the part on the exhibition centre.

Dr GALLOP: It is an 1 800-delegate convention centre which will cater for the convention needs of the Perth metropolitan area. Here it is. Is the Premier saying he will build only an exhibition centre?

Mr Court: It is a minor detail, my friend!

Dr GALLOP: It is not, as it confirms the economic lunacy on the other side of Parliament on this matter. This Government is out of control with public money. The Deputy Premier intervened on this issue a few weeks ago, and said it was a luxury we could ill-afford. His belief lasted only 24 hours. The first statement he made had much more relevance to public debate than his second statement following the cabinet meeting at Moora. This Government is out of control. It is spending money on pet projects of the Premier, when it could be better spent on behalf of the tourism industry in Western Australia and on job development. I am extremely concerned that the Government's commitments and the system it will establish will result in an ongoing drain on taxpayers' money. These matters should have been considered by the Government before it entered its commitment. Research carried out on a convention centre in 1994 is out of date given the \$75m commitment made by Burswood. Therefore, the figures the Government released to defend its position are out of date given what is happening in the marketplace today.

We have an irresponsible Government which releases material that is not based on up-to-date research, which is willing to spend \$100m of hard-earned taxpayers' money on a gift to private developers and which will allow a situation to be established with the potential for ongoing requests for state support.

**MR MCGOWAN** (Rockingham) [2.53 pm]: I had the privilege a number of years ago to take a holiday in Europe, during which I drove through a number of Eastern European countries. I noticed one striking fact: They had hospital systems in decay, law and order out of control, public services in decay, and transport systems that did not work, but they built great monuments. In this day and age, the Court Government is following the lead of the Governments of Eastern Europe. Things are falling apart everywhere. People are complaining about police and hospitals are out of control, yet the Court Government is building monuments. We have the belltower, the Barrack Street redevelopment, the maritime museum and a range of proposals, but the biggest monument will be the convention centre.

The Government has set aside a gift of \$100m to be handed over to the private developer of the convention centre. That is not all. As the Leader of the Opposition indicated, crown land involved in that development has been estimated by various people involved in the property market around Perth to be worth up to \$50m. I refer to the sites alongside the Entertainment Centre and the river. This is a gift of freehold land. Any lawyer will outline that a 99-year lease is a gift of land. We see a \$150m handout to a private sector interest at the same time as a private sector developer is spending its money on building substantially the same facility. It has no semblance of a level playing field.

The Burswood International Resort Casino development, despite the protestations of the Premier in question time, will happen. I only need quote Mr Ed Posey, the managing director of Burswood, who said, "Our plans are go. We have our approvals and we are committed." Even Hon Max Evans, the Minister for Finance, acknowledged that the Burswood convention centre will happen. A private sector developer is building a convention centre while the Government will hand out \$150m to another developer for the same facility. I am sure that the Premier will respond that the Burswood concept is not up to the Government's convention centre plan.

Let us consider what the Burswood will offer as part of its convention centre. It will offer a theatre with seating, in the plenary mode, for 2 300 people. When that is linked by video with the grand ballroom, it will cater for 3 000 people in one sitting in the plenary mode. Let us suppose there is no video link. The centre can currently cater for 2 300 people. It will offer a new convention facility to cater for 1 800 people in the plenary mode. In addition, it will offer a banquet facility to cater for 1 200 people in one sitting. It will also offer 14 new breakout rooms; that is, rooms in which one can conduct meetings while a convention is taking place. It will offer another 3 300 square metres of exhibition space on top of the existing 9 000 square metres. We will see in total 12 300 square metres of exhibition space, which includes the Burswood dome which is an exhibition facility.

The Government's own feasibility study on the project from 1997 - the Holy Grail for the project - stated that if the Burswood project can accommodate up to 2 200 delegates theatre-style, is supported by a separate banquet area capable of simultaneously catering for the same number, plus the required 15 breakout rooms, and exhibition space of 10 000 sq m, it will provide a suitable facilities mix to meet industry needs. That will be good enough. We will then not need another convention centre in Perth. The Burswood project meets every criterion, bar one. It will offer banquet space for 1 200 people, and the report stated it would like banquet space for 2 200 delegates.

The Burswood project falls down on one point; that is, it is 1 000 down on the banquet numbers. It will offer a banquet facility for only 1 200 people and not 2 200 people. Because the Burswood facility does not meet the Government's criteria on that one point, the Government will throw \$150m to a private sector developer to build another convention centre.

The next point I raise also relates to the Government's feasibility study. This one is the killer! The Government's feasibility study on page 50 includes the estimated number of conventions that could be held at a facility it intends building. The Burswood project, which it is estimated will be completed by the end of 2001, will cater for up to 2 500 delegates to a convention. The Government says that is not big enough - we need one bigger and better to cater for more than 2 500 people. What does the Government's feasibility study say about how many conventions can be expected to be held in Perth? One would expect that for an expenditure of \$150m we would get 20 or 30 a year. Under the Government's own projections, WA's forecast share of the national market in 2001 for conventions of over 2 500 people will be two! There will be two in one year over eight days! This facility will cater for two conventions a year over eight days and for that \$150m will be spent! It gets worse. The Perth Convention and Exhibition Feasibility Study states on page 4 -

The competitive impact of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, the Crown Casino Complex in Melbourne, the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, the Cairns Convention Centre and the Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre, all of which have entered the market place in the last three years, needs to be evaluated in the context of Perth's ability to sustain investment in similar facilities.

This report is saying that since the study has been conducted, there are now seven convention centres around Australia that can handle over 2 500 people. The project should be re-evaluated.

Mr Court: How many?

Mr MCGOWAN: Seven.

Mr Court: Where are they?

Mr MCGOWAN: Two in Melbourne, one in Sydney, one in Cairns, one in Brisbane, one in Adelaide, and one in Canberra. The total is seven.

Mr Court: Where is the one in WA?

Mr MCGOWAN: The Premier was not listening. Using the Government's own study, the proposed convention centre will cater for only two a year over four days. The Government's report says at page 4 that the project should be re-evaluated.

The Premier asked me a question; now I will ask him one. Was this project re-evaluated? No. He has to get the member for Bunbury to defend him.

This proposed convention will be competing against seven facilities around Australia and it is estimated that it will get two conventions a year of this size over four days for an expenditure of \$150m. That is not a very good return on the Government's investment. I would hate to see the Premier in business! It really is incredible.

It appears that the Government has not re-evaluated this project as was specifically requested in the Government's feasibility study. Furthermore, the feasibility study suggests there should be a management structure such as a government board to oversee the investment in the new project. Yet, in answer to a question in this place yesterday, the Premier said the Government will not oversee the project; it will hand over the money and it will not be the Government's responsibility. He said -

Under the arrangements being negotiated the developers will operate the facilities. It will not be our responsibility.

He said that, even though the feasibility study says on page 68 that a government appointed board structure should be put in place. However, the Premier is saying that the Government does not support the feasibility study; the money will be handed over and everything will be left to the developers.

The three preferred tenderers for this project all have incorporated, as part of their projects, hotel, residential, commercial, and retail developments. Therefore, \$150m and the land on which the project will be built will be given to private sector developers to build hotels, shops, bars and apartments. The Government is handing land to someone for free on which it will be able to build apartments in the centre of Perth! That is scandalous when it is also proposed to support the developer to build something that will meet every sector of the market at no cost. Yet, yesterday in this place, the Premier abused people who want to invest money in this State by saying that the Burswood development is all a myth; it will not be done. He abused people who want to invest money in this State. It is incredible! One would think that he would want them to invest in this State.

Mr Court: What are you talking about?

Mr McGOWAN: Burswood, and the Premier's answer yesterday. He said that it is just a myth that the Burswood Resort Casino will build a convention centre.

It will, Premier. By what the Premier said yesterday, he called Ed Posey, the managing director of Burswood, a liar.

I return to the central point. Burswood has stated in its report on the project that it will cater for everything up to 2 500 people. There will be 12 500 square metres of exhibition space. It will cater for 2 300 people in the plenary mode. It will have 14 breakout rooms. All of that is required under the Government's feasibility study. The one point it falls down on is banquet space. Yet, this State will invest \$150m in the Premier's pet project in the centre of Perth! That is insane. We should be putting in place a ferry service from Burswood to the city to get people from the new convention centre to the city. We should be looking at better CAT services from Burswood to the city to get delegates to conventions to the city. The Government should realise that a government funded convention centre in the centre of Perth will have to compete with the private development in Burswood. Frankly, both will not survive, particularly because two convention centres in Perth will be competing with seven in the eastern States that will absorb nearly all of the market. Why this is being done is beyond me. It is a ludicrous decision and speaks loads about the monument mentality of this Government.

**MR COURT** (Nedlands - Premier) [3.09 pm]: I can smell the Labor Party trying to dig itself out of a corner on this convention facility. It has a reputation for being opposed to what is a long overdue facility. Once again the Opposition has come into this Parliament and said that Burswood International Resort Casino will build a convention-exhibition facility. However, when we queried the Leader of the Opposition he said that he did not say exhibition centre. Let us get down to the facts.

Mr McGowan: Burswood has 9 000 square metres.

Mr COURT: The member for Rockingham wants to know about the Burswood International Resort Casino. Burswood has the gambling deal of a lifetime. A Labor Government not only gave Burswood exclusivity as a casino for a long period, but also exclusivity on poker machines forever! It is a most outrageous deal.

I want the Burswood arrangement put on the record. This State should have had a convention-exhibition facility years ago. Burswood should have built one years ago. I appreciate that the ownership of Burswood was mixed up and someone owned the casino and other people owned the convention facilities and the like. It was not until recent years that the management came together as one body and was able to make some of these decisions. For what it is worth, Burswood should have put itself in such a strong commercial position that there was no room for a competing large convention-exhibition facility. That was not to be. When the Government stated publicly that this State needed a purpose-built convention-exhibition facility it made a lot of noise about the proposal and possible sites. It was then that Burswood said it would spend \$180m - it did not say \$75m - on exhibition facilities, new hotels, expanded ballrooms, breakout rooms etc. Burswood also said that it would need a bit of help. Burswood wanted to extend its exclusivity for 10 years. It wanted to reduce the casino tax on international commission business revenues, to remove the Burswood Park Board levy on international commissions, which is something I am sure that the Leader of the Opposition would not agree to; and to defer any increases in the casino tax rate. All of this amounted to a great deal more than \$100m, and Burswood would spend \$180m.

Burswood has announced it will spend \$75m anyway. The Leader of the Opposition would probably go out there every week; I go to functions out there four or five times a week. For the scale of the shows that it stages Burswood needs a better



ballroom, more parking and more breakout rooms. Local government held a convention at Burswood. Although that was not a super-large convention, it was not able to hold an exhibition. Local government wanted to hold a convention and an exhibition. We are talking about a convention-exhibition centre.

Mr McGowan: What do you call the dome with its 9 000 square metres?

Mr COURT: I have run a boat show there, and I am going to open another boat show today. The exhibitors cannot get gear into the Superdome because it has an airlock. They cannot back a semitrailer in. The member for Rockingham should try setting up a display there. The exhibitors at the LNG display took a week to get their gear in and out of the Superdome. Burswood may decide to take the roof off the Superdome. It has passed its use-by date and Burswood must make a decision on that. It is not a suitable exhibition facility. That is a commercial choice for Burswood. It has said it will spend \$75m and, as far as I am concerned, that is long overdue. However, that will not give the State what it wants. Burswood has said that it wants to build the convention-exhibition facilities that the Government has proposed. However, it wants \$100m and it wants land.

Members opposite have repeated what they said yesterday. Let us get the facts straight. Burswood has never said that it will build a dedicated convention-exhibition facility of the scale required for no money. Initially, it asked for tax breaks which were well in excess of \$100m. Burswood entered the process to build the current facilities and it wanted \$100m plus land to do that. Let us get rid of that myth once and for all.

I am amazed that the new tourism spokesman would quote statistics and say that there are seven centres over east, so we do not need one here.

Dr Gallop: He did not say that.

Mr COURT: He did say that. He referred to seven convention-exhibition facilities - not one of them was in Western Australia - and read out statistics which indicated that only two conventions a year would attract over 2 500 participants, and we should not worry about such a facility here. What a defeatist, negative attitude. I have no doubt, from the interest that has been shown in this project, that it will be a big success. It will act as a catalyst for future development in this country, and it will provide jobs, jobs and more jobs!

**MR PENDAL** (South Perth) [3.16 pm]: I happen to know of at least two things that have happened lately in which the Premier has done well.

Mr Osborne: He has left the Chamber.

Mr PENDAL: The problem was that he knew I would pay him a compliment, and because he was paid a compliment on Tuesday he could not take another one.

Mr Bradshaw interjected.

Mr PENDAL: I did not draw attention to the fact that the Premier left the Chamber. Members are not supposed to do that by convention. Indisputably, the Premier has done a good job in lowering state debt. As I recall, it was a major election pledge, and when the Government took office state debt was \$8.5b. It dropped to a low point of \$4.6b a year or two ago. The Government should be commended for what it did with state debt.

Unlike many people I think that the Government, and the Premier in particular, has done a good job in pursuing the notion of a belltower. I said that as recently as two weeks ago in this place. I drew the analogy of monuments in Paris that do not have an especial meaning but are beautiful in themselves. The Premier deserves credit in that regard.

Now I will come to the subject of today's motion. It puzzles and bewilders me why the Premier and the Government are so committed to the notion of building a convention centre when everyone knows - including the Premier when he was in opposition - that it is essentially an issue for the private sector, and can never be described as a core function of government. On the one level the Government has attracted a lot of respect from the financial community on the issue of state debt; and the Premier has been at least a little imaginative about the belltower project. I happen to be one person who thinks that in 50 or 100 years' time people will still want to have their photographs taken in front of that belltower before they return home from their holidays. However, I cannot in all good conscience understand why the Government wants to pour \$100m-plus into a convention centre. Therefore if members follow me in the first and second instances, at least they should follow the consistency in the third. I recall the days when we were in opposition here and in another place.

Mr Carpenter: You are still in opposition.

Mr PENDAL: That is true. We sent the then Government into a frenzy when we campaigned inside and outside the Parliament against the Government's involvement in the petrochemical industry. Why? It was because it was not a core government function. We believed that it was not for a Government per se, and particularly a private enterprise Government, to go into the petrochemical industry. If one accepts that argument, one must accept the same for the convention and exhibition centre. The Premier said a few minutes ago that this State needs a purpose built convention and exhibition centre. That is probably correct, but it does not need to be funded by the Government.

Mr Prince: It will not be.

Mr PENDAL: The minister should get his story right with the Premier because he said that this State needs a convention and exhibition centre.

Mr Prince interjected.

Mr PENDAL: I have one minute to go. The position is no different from when the previous Government said that we needed a petrochemical industry at Kwinana. Other people said that we did need a petrochemical industry - we said in the Pilbara - but that if anyone was to fund it, it should not be the taxpayer. I give full marks to the Premier over the State's debts and a few peripheral things like the belltower, but for heaven's sake let us not spend \$100m of my and other taxpayers' money on a facility which, if needed, needs to be provided by the private sector. For that reason I intend to support the amendment.

**MR BRADSHAW** (Murray-Wellington - Parliamentary Secretary) [3.22 pm]: I will take up the remarks of the member for South Perth who said that the Government will fund the Perth convention and exhibition centre. That is not true. The idea of the Government's involvement is to seed fund it or help fund it but not run it or own it.

Mr Pendal: What is the \$100m coming from? Out of your budget.

Mr BRADSHAW: It is coming out of our budget through the sale of the pipeline.

Mr Pendal: What is the difference? When you were in opposition in the shadow Cabinet, you objected to the Government spending money on Petrochemical Industries Co Ltd.

Mr BRADSHAW: There is a big difference. The Government was going build it.

Mr Pendal: The Government was going to fund it.

Mr BRADSHAW: Yes, fund it and build it. This is different.

Dr Gallop: There is a difference between a gift and ownership. A gift is worse.

Mr BRADSHAW: I will tell the Opposition what it did in Kemerton in the 1980s. It bought all the land and said to then SCM Chemicals Ltd, now Millennium Inorganic Chemicals Ltd, "Here is some land. Build here." It was free, gratis and at no cost to it. Simcoa Operations Pty Ltd came along and the Government gave it about \$10m over the cost of the land. The Opposition set a precedent for doing those sorts of things.

Dr Gallop: Were there any alternative works on the books? Of course there were not. There is an alternative to the convention and exhibition centre?

Mr BRADSHAW: No, there is not.

Dr Gallop: There is Burswood.

Mr BRADSHAW: The Leader of the Opposition is not comparing apples with apples. We want a convention and exhibition centre with a capacity for 2 500 people and a 20 000 square metre exhibition area.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition will come to order.

Dr Gallop: You lot are totally out of control.

Mr BRADSHAW: We are not out of control. The members of the Opposition are not comparing apples with apples when they compare Burswood with the convention and exhibition centre that we want in the central business district. The Leader of the Opposition is saying that it is economic suicide. He said that Leighton Contractors, the Multiplex Consortium and the Nexus Consortium are so dumb that they will not do their homework.

Dr Gallop: They are not dumb; you are dumb.

Mr BRADSHAW: The Leader of the Opposition is implying that they are so dumb that they will not do their homework to find out whether it will be viable. They will not put \$400m into a convention and exhibition centre and within the year watch it go under and walk away from it. Of course they will not. It must be a commercial reality.

Dr Gallop: Is it?

Mr BRADSHAW: Absolutely.

Dr Gallop: It is like the old entertainment centre.

Mr BRADSHAW: Who set that up? It was the Labor Party.

Mr Pendal: Who bailed it out?

Mr BRADSHAW: We got caught holding the baby. That was because it was set up in such a way that the Government had the responsibility.

Dr Gallop: This will not be like that?

Mr BRADSHAW: As far as I know it will not be like that. The Leader of the Opposition needs to ask the Premier because he has the details.

Dr Gallop: That is not very reassuring.

Mr Ripper: I would not believe anything the Premier said.

Mr BRADSHAW: When we come down to it, it is important that we get this convention and exhibition centre in Western Australia and in the central business district. I am surprised that the member for Perth is not supporting this because if she could see the flow-on effect to all the businesses in places such as Northbridge and the CBD -

Mr Minson: Not to mention the tourism to Geraldton.

Mr BRADSHAW: I have not got that far yet. If it was left only to Burswood, people would be locked into that convention and exhibition centre because everything is there, such as restaurants and entertainment.

Ms Warnock: It is a lot of jobs. Do we need the jobs?

Mr BRADSHAW: It is a lot of jobs. The member for Perth should be looking after her electorate better. She should be out there leading the charge for this convention and exhibition centre because all of the businesses in the CBD, the hotels and restaurants and entertainment centres will be getting a great spin-off by having the convention and exhibition centre built in the CBD area.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Dr Gallop interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will come to order.

Mr BRADSHAW: It is estimated that 70 per cent of convention delegates will spend additional time in Western Australia when they come for conventions. We need extra people coming from the eastern States and overseas so that we can spread them out into the tourism centres. It is estimated that one-third of delegates go to the south and 12 per cent go to the north of Western Australia. Those dollars are very important.

Mr BRADSHAW: The flow-on effect for tourism that comes out of convention centres is very important for the whole of Western Australia. We can take examples like the Atlantis marine park -

Dr Gallop: It does not exist any more.

Mr BRADSHAW: That is right. That is why we need more people coming to WA because once people in Western Australia have been to such places once or twice they do not go back and so the numbers go down and the places become non-viable. We need a whole heap of new people coming to the State all the time. The Pemberton tram is a great tourist attraction. I have been on it a couple of times. It has recently been drawn to my attention that those running it are having trouble with numbers. That is why we need more people to get on the tram and keep it viable. The Walpole Treetop Walk has apparently fantastic numbers of people using it. However, once people in Western Australia have been there once or twice, I predict that the numbers will dive. We need people from the eastern States and overseas to keep up those numbers. It is important to have more people coming to Western Australia and to a convention and exhibition centre.

One of the other spin-offs from having a convention and exhibition centre in the CBD is that apart from people being able to walk to Northbridge and other entertainment centres, hotels and restaurants in the CBD, they will be able to go to Perth railway station and hop on a train to Fremantle. When people attend conventions at the Burswood complex they tend to be locked in at that location because everything is there. There is entertainment, hotels and restaurants. Therefore, it is better to have -

Mr Ripper: We do not like the abattoir industry so we will support a competitor to the abattoir industry; we do not like the current convention operator so we will support a competitor to the convention operator.

Mr BRADSHAW: We all like the Burswood complex; it is a great set-up. However, every time the dome and the concert hall are full, it is hell trying to get in and out of the complex. It is important to try to take people away from that area.

People said that Burswood Limited would do it all for free. That is not true. As the Premier pointed out, Burswood wanted an additional 10 years exclusivity for the casino licence, a reduction in tax on international commission business revenue estimated at \$62.5m over 10 years -

Mr Ripper: That was an ambit claim and it has now withdrawn from that.

Mr BRADSHAW: Only because it lost and has been chucked out of the bid. Burswood also wanted a deferral of casino tax increases estimated at \$142m over 10 years.

Mr Marlborough: When people sit down and do business with government now they should not have a claim before government.

Mr BRADSHAW: No, they can have a claim. However, we have not accepted Burswood's claim. The other matter is that it also put in for this \$100m. It tried to be a part of it, but -

Mr Brown: It is a bit unusual for private business to be putting in for \$100m. That is really unusual. I mean, here is \$100m and a private business is putting in for it. What a surprise that is! What are they doing that for?

Mr BRADSHAW: We do not have a problem with Burswood putting in for it. The fact is that they did not come up to scratch with what they intended to build. Therefore, we have chosen -

Mr Riebeling: You have picked your favourites.

Mr BRADSHAW: No, we have not.

Mr Marlborough: This is an amazing strategy. We have a Government that has privatised health, privatised education, privatised rail, privatised energy -

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Peel will come to order!

Mr BRADSHAW: It will be better to get a free-standing convention and exhibition centre in the central business district area. Burswood's bid did not come up to the standard that we expect for this centre. Therefore, it is important under the circumstances that we continue on our merry way to try to get that centre built in the CBD area. As I said previously, it will be a commercial decision that those companies who are tendering -

Mr Brown: Is the primary focus now that it be built in the CBD?

Mr BRADSHAW: The CBD is bounded by Thomas Street -

Mr Brown: The primary focus is to build it in the CBD, isn't it?

Mr BRADSHAW: Absolutely. As I said, it will be a commercial decision that those companies will make. They will not make that decision lightly. With costs of up to \$400m involved, they will not go into this by just saying that it sounds like a good idea and therefore they will build it. They will carry out their studies and try to estimate how the revenues will flow. This motion is wrong, and I will be opposing it.

**MR BOARD** (Murdoch - Minister for Works) [3.33 pm]: In opposing this motion, I will deal with three areas: First, the value of public works; secondly, the importance of this construction and its development to Perth in the creation of jobs and wealth, as well as the importance it will have for transport and other linkages within the Perth region; and, thirdly, what it will mean in the creation of employment, particularly for young people, within the service industries.

There is no doubt that the Government has stepped up its public works campaign, with some \$3.3b unashamedly going into public works this year. At the outset of this budget the Government clearly indicated that its public works campaign, particularly in the non-residential building area, would be stepped up considerably and would continue to concentrate primarily on infrastructure and the development of Perth. It was recognised that there was a slight slowing of investment in the State, but the Government intended to maintain the development of investment in Western Australia, which is expected to improve next year. Unashamedly, this year about \$1b will go into public works in the form of non-residential buildings.

In that sense, the flow-on effect of every \$1m that is put into investment in public works is in the order of 50 jobs created; that is, 20 jobs during the construction phase, and an estimated 30 long-term jobs. In this case, a convention and exhibition centre, which comprises hotels, retail outlets, arts and a range of activities, will create a range of employment opportunities. There will be employment opportunities in the building industry as well as in the areas which supply goods and services to the centre. I suspect that the flow-on effects to Western Australia, not just to the city of Perth, will be enormous.

There is no doubt that in world terms exhibition and conference facilities are the name of the game in 1999. As we approach the millennium, unless people are in the conference game and the exhibition business, they will miss out on hundreds of millions of dollars of investment. The world is salary-packaging, and as I stand here now people are travelling around the world because of their jobs - not on vacation but because of their jobs. People are sent overseas in large numbers to take advantage of opportunities to extend their knowledge and expertise as a type of reward for their employment. Much of that is done through the conference program. Recently, much to the disappointment of the Western Australian community, a conference of some 5 000 tourism delegates was lost to the eastern States, primarily because we did not have adequate facilities to cope with it. We cannot have people camped on the Esplanade and we cannot have people staying all over the city when they are attending large conferences.

The Government has made a difficult decision in this case. That decision has been to consider the investment of a minimum of \$100m or a maximum of \$110m for an outcome of \$400m to \$500m. We will be the only State in Australia that has been able to achieve that kind of outcome, with the flow-on effects it will create, through the input of the private sector.

Although this State is driven by resource development and mining plays a huge part in the creation of wealth in Western Australia, it cannot live on that sort of resource development only. We have often discussed in this Parliament the need for greater secondary manufacturing industry to add value to our primary industry. In this instance we are adding value to another industry; that is, the service sector, which is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. There is no doubt that the tourism industry, including the exhibition and conference sector, is one of the biggest areas of wealth creation in cities around the world. However, Perth is not well served.

We have seen a tremendous flow back to the city. We have seen the redevelopment of East Perth and the way in which the community has supported that; we have seen inner-city developments within the CBD; and we have seen developments within West Perth. These developments bring life back into our city. There is a need to create further transport links and for a water transport system into the Perth CBD. The conference and exhibition centre will act as a magnet for the further development of other infrastructure because thousands of people will visit on a daily basis.

The wisdom of the Government is to create an opportunity to add value to what we have already done in the CBD, East Perth, West Perth and Northbridge; and to be able to bring all those developments together in the creation of a very large and vibrant city. From that point of view, it is seen to be in neither the Government's nor the community's interests to isolate the development of this convention and exhibition centre from all the other infrastructure development in the CBD itself. In that sense, some wisdom will be shown. Although other people may agree or disagree with particular aspects of the

Barracks Square development, I believe it will be a tremendous opportunity for the development of water transport into the city and the creation of community input to access the water again. I believe a conference and exhibition centre in and around a location, whether it be Wellington Street, close to the water or another location in the CBD, will add to the flow of traffic and create something vibrant. We need that magnet and we need that number of people moving through our city to add to the infrastructure. The creation of free transport and its continuation, putting people back into a public transport system and the viability of our rail system are all important to this site. It is an opportunity, as architects in the building industry agree, to create a building of high-value icon status in which the people of Perth can have great pride and which will act as a magnet for tourists. It is well known that 25 per cent of the young people of this State are employed in the service and retail sectors and this will create hundreds of much needed jobs in the CBD for young people in Western Australia. I will not enter into the debate about Burswood and its added development. I hope it also goes ahead with its development and we will have a very viable conference centre in the CBD.

**MRS HODSON-THOMAS** (Carine) [3.42 pm]: I want to make a small contribution to the debate on the site for the Perth convention and exhibition centre. As most members will know, I ran an exhibition in this State. The boat show is a very large exhibition. Initially, when I was the executive officer of the Boating Industry Association, I was asked to examine the three places where we could run the exhibition; they are the showgrounds, Burswood and the passenger terminal now known as the Victoria Quay Function and Exhibition Centre. That centre has 13 000 square metres of floor space under one cover. The showgrounds, unfortunately, has limited space as there are a number of buildings on that site. The Burswood site, of course, has its dome. If anyone has ever tried to get boats into Burswood, I can assure the member for Rockingham it is an extraordinary feat as it has air locking doors and as I was told the year prior to my taking over the show -

Mr McGowan: Is that worth \$150m?

Mrs HODSON-THOMAS: The point I am trying to make is that it is essential that we provide a facility in this State. Burswood dome will never be able to accommodate exhibitions such as the boat and travel shows that want to be able to expand and hold viable shows in an area that can provide 20 000 square metres of space. During my time with the Boating Industry Association, international associations approached our association to try to run an international show in Perth; however, we just do not have the premises to do that. I am very much in favour of this development. I know that the Premier is formally opening the boat show today. I certainly will not be supporting the Opposition's motion.

**MR BROWN** (Bassendean) [3.44 pm]: I will make a few observations, firstly, about the duplicity of the Premier. In this debate the Premier referred to what Burswood wants in order to build its convention centre. He forgot to say that Burswood is now proposing to build its convention centre as a stand-alone development with no concessions from the Government. By continually referring to the first and not the second proposal, the Premier seeks to mislead. That is the degree of the Premier's argument. It is duplicitous, it is wrong and he knows it is wrong. The strength of his argument is shown by the fact that he seeks to rely on a falsehood.

My second observation is that the Standing Committee on Public Administration, a committee dominated by Liberal and National Party members, of which the Minister for Works and I were members, said in a major report on state support for industry, on page 13 at point 3.7, that it was the committee's view that governments should not be doing for industry what industry has the ability to do for itself. Industry - Burswood - is prepared to build a dedicated convention centre. If one were to go by the premium report in this State about whether the Government should intervene, the Government should not intervene. Why is it therefore that the Government seeks to intervene? There are two reasons; firstly, it hates Burswood with a passion.

Mr Board: No, that is not true.

Mr BROWN: One really sees the fire coming out of the people who talk about it. They want to crush Burswood in this regard. They talk about the golden triangle and other things. They want to push it into the sea.

Mr Prince: Sit down. Your time has expired.

Mr BROWN: The second political reason is that the Government wants some cranes on the horizon by the time of the next election and this is the only way it will get it.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

#### Ayes (18)

Ms Anwyl	Dr Gallop	Ms McHale	Mrs Roberts
Mr Brown	Ms MacTiernan	Mr Pendal	Mr Thomas
Mr Carpenter	Mr Marlborough	Mr Riebeling	Ms Warnock
Dr Constable	Mr McGinty	Mr Ripper	Mr Cunningham ( <i>Teller</i> )
Dr Edwards	Mr McGowan		

#### Noes (25)

Mr Baker	Mrs Holmes	Mr McNee	Mr Sweetman
Mr Board	Mr Johnson	Mr Minson	Mr Trenorden
Mr Bradshaw	Mr Kierath	Mr Nicholls	Dr Turnbull
Mr Day	Mr MacLean	Mr Omodei	Mrs van de Klashorst
Mrs Edwardes	Mr Marshall	Mrs Parker	Mr Wiese
Dr Hames	Mr Masters	Mr Prince	Mr Osborne ( <i>Teller</i> )
Mrs Hodson-Thomas			

## Pairs

Mr Graham  
Mr Grill  
Mr Kobelke  
Mr Bridge

Mr Court  
Mr Cowan  
Mr Barnett  
Mr Tubby

Question thus negatived.

**MIDLAND REDEVELOPMENT BILL 1999***Second Reading*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

**MR KIERATH** (Riverton - Minister for Planning) [3.51 pm]: I place on record my thanks for the very positive comments of most of the members who have spoken. I take this opportunity to reply to some of the issues raised by the member for Midland. She questioned whether this might form the basis of a new promise for the next election. If that was our intention, we would leave it until much closer to the next election to pass the Bill. We are trying to get it up and running by 1 January next year. As we have introduced it now, that indicates it will not be a promise for the next election. We are trying to make it a reality; we want to do it now. This is my second or third attempt to establish a Midland Redevelopment Authority. The member raised an obligation to Midland and we agree with her; there is an obligation to Midland, and we have not shied away from that. There has been some question about what form that obligation would take. In this instance, we have come to the view that this is the best method - it is not the only method; there are others - of resolving many of the issues in the Midland region which need attention.

The member for Midland also raised the issue of a sixth member. Quite clearly in this Bill and in the previous redevelopment authority Acts, we would not have a representative authority; we would have an authority which was based on competence, rather than representation. That is a vital component if we want this to succeed. The majority of those members must be competent people and not just people who represent the area. In this case we will have two local government representatives, and it will be up to the shire to nominate them. We will accept those representatives without question. We expect those people to represent the community views. We have reached this situation because of representations and, in some cases, there have been difficulties with the various representations and with reaching an agreed outcome. That is one of the good points about the Midland Redevelopment Authority: Even those who do not agree with some part of the plan know that it will be for the revitalisation of Midland, and all of the disparate parties agree that something must be done and the only way forward is an authority such as this. All the attempts through the traditional means have failed, but not completely, and this is seen as the only way out.

The member for Armadale made some criticisms about having a concept plan and making things happen. That is one of the attractions of a redevelopment authority: Once we have a clear vision, it just happens.

Ms MacTiernan: You missed my point.

Mr KIERATH: I will come to the member's point in a moment. I just wanted to place on record one of the points made by the member.

Ms MacTiernan: I was not opposed to the idea of a concept plan. I said that there is nothing to stop people proving a development application was in existence.

Mr KIERATH: I was just pointing out that those approval procedures are very fast and efficient and that is one of the attractions of an authority such as this.

The issue of money has been raised. One of the outcomes of the charrette was that the community believed it could be done if there was a \$20m rolling loan fund. They thought they needed \$20m up front, not as a capital contribution, but simply as a loan fund, because over the life of the project, the returns would at least equal the money that was needed. It was really a loan facility that could be drawn down and then replaced as development occurred. That will be one of the issues we must face. I have presented to Cabinet the most likely scenario which is that the redevelopment of Tuohy Gardens and the Midland Workshops site should break even or be cost neutral. It will not cost a great deal of money other than the cash flow.

The third area towards the river is the one we are not as sure about. We have commissioned a full financial feasibility study which will be available later in the year. We could have waited until that study was completed before Cabinet made a decision, but we made a conscious decision that those two areas would go pretty close. We felt confident about that. The finances will be subject to a full financial feasibility study that will be available probably in October.

The member for Midland also indicated some concerns with the detail. As I tried to point out, those issues will surface and be resolved during the development and approval of the concept plan. They are not part of this Bill, which is really a facilitating Bill. I have spoken to the parties and told them that the most important submissions they will need to make will be when we are developing the concept plan and that they should save most of their energies for that. That will take into account the town centre and the Midland Workshops site. The member also raised the issue of a sunset clause. Over time, some people have indicated their opposition to a redevelopment authority as it will have a life of its own. It will be here for an indefinite period; it will not go away. In an effort to satisfy some of those concerns, I agreed that there would be a sunset clause. In trying to assess how long it should be, we thought that the realistic, maximum life of something of this nature would be about 10 or 12 years. I was under some pressure to make it 10 years, but rather than make it 10 years and have Parliament pass another sunset clause, I made it 15 years from the outset. We wanted a definite life. If there were a reason

for it to extend beyond that, a complete and deliberate action would be taken by both Houses of Parliament to allow that to occur. It gave people comfort that it was not set up to usurp any local council powers; it was set up to facilitate the development of the area. I have covered most of points raised by the member for Midland.

The member for Armadale made a comment about getting rid of all the low-cost housing out of the other areas and that is simply not so. However, I agree that the levels may not be the ones the member would have expected but they are the levels which were agreed.

Ms MacTiernan: Were you able to get any detail on that?

Mr KIERATH: Yes I was. When I returned to my office, my staff said they had it and one of my officers dug it out but I do not have it with me at the moment.

Ms MacTiernan: Do you recognise in relation to the other matters I raised about the Midland Workshops that if in fact you took the approach taken by Rail Services Australia, you could have had a dynamic venture?

Mr KIERATH: I was not buying into that. It is not my portfolio area and I will not raise it as an issue. It is not relevant to what we are trying to do with the redevelopment authority. The member may think it is part of the history but my only complaint is about the comments of the member for Bassendean which I thought were very negative. What we are trying to do and what most people in the community want us to do is move forward, accept that -

Ms MacTiernan: You are going to airbrush these undesirable events out of history.

Mr KIERATH: Not at all. I am saying let us concentrate our energies and efforts on the future, on something positive and we will be much more constructive. When I was out at the charrette - and I was there for part of it - mixing with the community and making the announcement of the redevelopment authority, almost without exception the whole community wanted us to get on with the future, do something positive and not reflect on any negative actions of the past.

Ms MacTiernan: Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it and you are now in the process of dismantling the rest of Westrail. Maybe you could learn a lesson from that.

Mr KIERATH: That is a difference of opinion.

Several members interjected.

Mr KIERATH: I explained to the member for Armadale by way of interjection that most of the legislation will be in accordance with the concept plan which is the most vital document to come out of this process. The Midland Workshops site is already on the heritage register and I indicated to the member that a development application would have to be signed off by me in any event. If somebody objects to something, he will have an opportunity to make an approach to the minister. The member for Bassendean made some comments which were not at all helpful and I repeat that we are trying to be positive.

The member for Nollamara commented about the Government suddenly seeing the benefit of this, but that is not the case at all. Certainly this Bill follows on from the charrette of September 1997.

Ms MacTiernan: Why are they called charrettes?

Mrs van de Klashorst: It means three days.

Mr KIERATH: It was actually five days, from memory. It is a very inclusive process. The member for Midland was involved in part of it. It is an unusual facilitation where one tries to get together all the members of the community with different views and have them submit their ideas. This relates to the point about being negative and positive. We put it all in and tried to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem. The good thing about this - and even the member for Midland would agree - was that all of the people involved wanted something positive to happen in the area. They wanted to go forward and the charrette was a way for them to put their ideas in. They then broke up into various groups, some of which were given the job of attempting to resolve some of the problems. With the charrette we ended up with something of which I thought the member for Armadale would approve.

Ms MacTiernan: I was very complimentary.

Mr KIERATH: This is what I would call a consensus document achieved by agreement rather than by people having decisions imposed on them.

Ms MacTiernan: I actually made the point that the advantage of doing it that way was that it involved real consultation.

Mr KIERATH: I was not talking about the member for Armadale. I was referring to the member for Nollamara's comments.

Ms MacTiernan: I thought you said "Armadale".

Mr KIERATH: No, only when the member interjected. I was answering the points made by the member for Nollamara.

Ms MacTiernan: You did say "Armadale".

Mr KIERATH: In that case I was wrong and I apologise; I meant the member for Nollamara.

The member for Nollamara also asked about the residential component which will be subject to the concept plan. It is not considered part of this Bill; it will be considered later. The member for Nollamara said the Government had not given any

undertakings about money. One cannot have a redevelopment authority without some money being involved even if it is only cashflow money. The redevelopment authorities at East Perth and Subiaco have been cashflow situations. They will be positive in the end, but they needed money upfront. I acknowledge that redevelopments like the one at East Perth would not have got off the ground without the Better Cities money. If we want redevelopment to occur, we need to provide money.

Ms MacTiernan: You need a federal Labor Government.

Mr KIERATH: No, here we have one happening with a state coalition Government.

Ms MacTiernan: It is a little one though.

Mr KIERATH: That does not matter. It might be little to the member for Armadale but it is very big and important to the people of Midland.

Ms MacTiernan: But you are saying you will not get an East Perth development approach without a federal Labor Government. That is what you are really saying.

Mr KIERATH: No; I simply acknowledged that the money from Better Cities was very important as a catalyst in helping East Perth go ahead. It is not just the money. The key component of a redevelopment authority is the contribution of the land. The land is the real wealth generator. As one changes the zonings on land and the development area, the land provides the returns for the project. The money simply provides a bridging process for cashflow considerations. It is not usually a substantial consideration although I grant members that in East Perth much of that money went into underground infrastructure and the removal of pollutants. Those are the sorts of things that people do not see but lots of money has been put into them. Although the money is a catalyst, the great generator is the land.

I have already touched on the financial feasibility study which hopefully will be completed by October this year and which will give us the exact financial position. Our preliminary studies indicate two of the first three sites - that is, Tuohy Gardens and the Midland Workshops sites - will be financial in their own right. The financial contribution will simply be a cashflow consideration in line with what the charrette determined. The charrette process determined that the redevelopment did not require a subsidy, but rather a \$20m rolling loan fund.

Mr Kobelke: What is the likely quantum of that loan fund?

Mr KIERATH: We are not sure at the moment. That is what the financial feasibility study will determine. We are operating within those figures; we think if it is less than that, it should be okay.

Mr Kobelke interjected.

Mr KIERATH: We will know in October.

Mr Kobelke: If you are willing to do so, I would like you to put in *Hansard* your current estimate of what that loan cost might be?

Mr KIERATH: I do not have the accurate figure with me but it is less than the figure in the charrette; it is somewhere between nought and \$20m. Is that close enough for the member for Nollamara?

Mr Kobelke: That is about the normal accuracy of your answers, minister.

Mr KIERATH: The point is we could have sat back and waited until the financial feasibility study had been completed before we started to move. However, for the sake of the Midland community which wants to see some action now, we did not do that. The members for Midland and Swan Hills commented on the fact that since the announcement of the redevelopment authority, even though we have not actually passed anything, there has been renewed confidence because people draw on their expectations based on previous redevelopment authorities. It is important that we all put our shoulders to the wheel and make this one a success. I have tried to comment on the major points raised. I thank members for their support. It has been a privilege for me to be involved in this project. I have not received one negative comment about it so far. It has been a pleasure. I remember visiting the council and although there were all sorts of different interests represented on it, everybody was unanimous that they wanted a redevelopment authority not only to sort out some of the problems but also to provide direction for the future.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *Committee*

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr Baker) in the Chair; Mr Kierath (Minister for Planning) in charge of the Bill.

**Clauses 1 to 5 put and passed.**

**Clause 6: Authority established -**

Mrs ROBERTS: Will the chief executive officer's position be permanent? What other staffing arrangements will be put in place?

Mr KIERATH: We have not reached the stage of detailed planning for staff. The chief executive officer will be covered by the Public Sector Management Act. Obviously staffing will be modelled on the East Perth and Subiaco Redevelopment Authorities, although the more appropriate body is the Subiaco authority, which has had a minimum core staff. If they have required expertise, people have been contracted people under various arrangements.



It is no secret that I have been highly satisfied with the performance of Mr Wally Cox in managing the two authorities. I do not think it will be possible to spread his administration over three authorities, but one of them may wind down fairly shortly. Although I had preliminary discussions with him about whether he would be prepared to think about the future, nothing has been decided.

Mr Kobelke: Mr Wally Cox is a public servant of longstanding and has done a good job. However, you may be asking too much of one person to cover three authorities. Even his administering the two presently is perhaps putting too much on one officer, although he is very experienced and capable.

Mr KIERATH: The member for Nollamara may be right, although he has been running the two exceedingly well. He has also been involved in providing advice on water to the eastern States and doing a fair amount of work in the establishment of a ministry of culture. However, at this stage no decision has been made. I would be extremely confident if he were prepared to take it on, but that decision will not be made until November or December this year.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 7: Membership of Authority -**

Mrs ROBERTS: I move -

Page 6, line 23 - To insert after "urban planning" the word ", heritage".

I reiterate the importance of the heritage in the Midland area and the town site generally, particularly the Midland railway workshops site. Unlike some other areas, including East Perth and Subiaco, not only the built heritage but also the social and working heritage that goes with such a site is important in Midland. Some natural heritage issues will also need to be dealt with as well as Aboriginal heritage issues regarding the riverside land near Blackadder Creek.

Mr KIERATH: I am happy to accept the word "heritage". The member mentioned social heritage, which is covered in the Heritage of Western Australia Act and in this Bill. Therefore, it is not necessary to mention it repeatedly. I will also support the other amendment, although it will narrow the clause unnecessarily.

**Amendment put and passed.**

**Clause, as amended, put and passed.**

**Clauses 8 to 19 put and passed.**

**Clause 20: Powers -**

Mrs ROBERTS: I move -

Page 12, line 30 - To insert after "areas" the following -

, and in particular, regard is to be given to the heritage and labour history of the Midland Railway Workshops site.

The minister has already said that this is not really necessary and that clause 20 adequately covers the issue. However, it will serve as an additional signal to the five members who eventually comprise the board and as a message to people about how seriously people in the Midland area and those who have any association with the Midland railway workshops site take the heritage and labour history of that area.

Mr KIERATH: As I said, it is not necessary to add those words. The definition in the Bill is far wider than that which the member seeks to provide; those words narrow the definition. Nonetheless, in the spirit of cooperation, the Government will accept the amendment.

**Amendment put and passed.**

**Clause, as amended, put and passed.**

**Clauses 21 to 78 put and passed.**

**Title put and passed.**

**Bill reported, with amendments.**

## **ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE**

On motion by Mr Prince (Minister for Police), resolved -

That the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 7 September 1999 at 2.00 pm.

*House adjourned at 4.20 pm*

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### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

#### MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE BY MINISTERIAL OFFICERS

13. Mrs HOLMES to the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) Will the Minister advise what the total expenditure on Government credit cards was in the Minister's office for the following financial years -
  - (a) 1990-1991;
  - (b) 1991-1992; and
  - (c) 1992-1993?
- (2) For each individual credit cardholder in the Minister's office will the Minister advise -
  - (a) the name and position of the cardholder;
  - (b) the credit limit on the card; and
  - (c) the total expenditure on that card in -
    - (i) 1990-1991;
    - (ii) 1991-1992; and
    - (iii) 1992-1993?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) (a)-(b) Not applicable.  
(c) \$1,043.00.
- (2) (a) Karen Newman, Executive Officer.  
(b) \$10,000.  
(c) (i)-(ii) Not applicable.  
(iii) \$1,043.00.

#### MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE BY MINISTERIAL OFFICERS

15. Mrs HOLMES to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Will the Minister advise what the total expenditure on Government credit cards was in the Minister's office for the following financial years -
  - (a) 1990-1991;
  - (b) 1991-1992; and
  - (c) 1992-1993?
- (2) For each individual credit cardholder in the Minister's office will the Minister advise -
  - (a) the name and position of the cardholder;
  - (b) the credit limit on the card; and
  - (c) the total expenditure on that card in -
    - (i) 1990-1991;
    - (ii) 1991-1992; and
    - (iii) 1992-1993?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

- (1) (a)-(c) Nil.
- (2) (a)-(c) No credit card was issued to Minister's office staff or the Minister for Sport and Recreation himself.

#### MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE BY MINISTERIAL OFFICERS

16. Mrs HOLMES to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

- (1) Will the Minister advise what the total expenditure on Government credit cards was in the Minister's office for the following financial years -
  - (a) 1990-1991;
  - (b) 1991-1992; and
  - (c) 1992-1993?
- (2) For each individual credit cardholder in the Minister's office will the Minister advise -
  - (a) the name and position of the cardholder;
  - (b) the credit limit on the card; and
  - (c) the total expenditure on that card in -

- (i) 1990-1991;
- (ii) 1991-1992; and
- (iii) 1992-1993?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following response:

- (1) (a) From July 1 1990 until the Labor Government lost office in February 1993, the only period when there was a portfolio of Minister for Finance was from July 1 1990 to December 19 1990. For the period involved, the six year limit of retaining records has now expired. There are no records with respect to the information sought.
- (b) There was no portfolio of 'Finance' from 19th December 1990 until the change of Government in February 1993.
- (c) The first application for a Government credit card was made by the Minister for Finance on June 8 1993. This credit card was not utilised until after June 30 1993.
- (2) (a) (i)-(ii) Not applicable.
- (iii) The Minister for Finance from June 8 1993
- (b) (i)-(ii) Not applicable.
- (iii) \$20,000.00
- (c) (i)-(iii) Not applicable.

#### MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE BY MINISTERIAL OFFICERS

34. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

- (1) Will the Minister state the total expenditure on Government credit cards in the Minister's office for the following financial years -
  - (a) 1993-94;
  - (b) 1994-95; and
  - (c) 1995-96?
- (2) For each individual cardholder in the Minister's office, will the Minister advise -
  - (a) the name and position of the cardholder;
  - (b) the credit limit on the card; and
  - (c) the total expenditure on that card in -
    - (i) 1993-94;
    - (ii) 1994-95; and
    - (iii) 1995-96?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) (a) \$12,816.05.
- (b) \$27,077.42.
- (c) \$25,640.34.
- (2) (a)
 

1.	John Bookless	Information not available	(b)	\$10,000.00
2.	Kevin Humfrey	Principal Private Secretary		\$10,000.00
3.	G J Hamley	Principal Private Secretary		\$30,000.00
4.	Enea Tenardi	Executive Officer		\$10,000.00
5.	Graham Kierath	Minister		\$30,000.00
6.	Doug Shave	Minister		Nil
7.	David Brewster	Principal Private Secretary		\$20,000.00
8.	Christine Bos	Executive Officer		\$20,000.00
9.	Kevin Prince	Minister		\$20,000.00
10.	K A Bell	Information not available		\$10,000.00
11.	Gerald Tierney	Information not available		\$5,000.00
12.	Karen Roberts	Information not available		\$5,000.00
13.	D Nevin	Executive Officer	\$5,000.00	
14.	R K Nicholls	Minister		\$5,000.00
15.	L Bonsor	Principal Private Secretary		\$5,000.00
16.	Kevin Prince	Minister		\$20,000.00
17.	Kevin Humfrey	Principal Private Secretary		\$15,000.00
18.	Christine Bos	Executive Officer		\$15,000.00
19.	Gary Hamley	Principal Private Secretary		\$30,000.00
20.	Natasha Pereira	A/Administrative Assistant		\$5,000.00
21.	Chieng Yui	Executive Assistant		\$5,000.00
22.	Belinda Rhodes	A/Executive Officer		\$5,000.00
23.	Paul Omodei	Minister		\$5,000.00
24.	John Kime	Principal Private Secretary		\$5,000.00

(c)	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96
1.	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Nil	Nil	336.00
3.	Nil	Nil	669.78
4.	Nil	Nil	287.00
5.	Nil	Nil	3018.09
6.	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	6580.89	9327.52	Nil
8.	1695.13	3297.55	267.15
9.	1107.30	6566.34	2271.80
10.	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	145.95	Nil	Nil
12.	816.00	Nil	Nil
13.	Nil	Nil	1684.70
14.	Nil	Nil	1456.19
15.	Nil	Nil	4321.80
16.	Nil	Nil	996.95
17.	Nil	Nil	10003.38
18.	Nil	Nil	327.50
19.	Nil	Nil	Nil
20.	Nil	Nil	Nil
21.	Nil	Nil	Nil
22.	Nil	Nil	Nil
23.	1012.06	5353.38	Nil
24.	1458.72	2532.63	Nil

#### MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE BY MINISTERIAL OFFICERS

35. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will the Minister state the total expenditure on Government credit cards in the Minister's office for the following financial years -
  - (a) 1993-94;
  - (b) 1994-95; and
  - (c) 1995-96?
- (2) For each individual cardholder in the Minister's office, will the Minister advise -
  - (a) the name and position of the cardholder;
  - (b) the credit limit on the card; and
  - (c) the total expenditure on that card in -
    - (i) 1993-94;
    - (ii) 1994-95; and
    - (iii) 1995-96?

Mr DAY replied:

These periods reflect office terms of Hon Peter Foss, Hon Graham Kierath and Hon Kevin Prince for the Health portfolio.

- (1)
  - (a) Total expenditure on Government credit cards in the Minister's office for July 1993 to June 1994 was \$15.00. This period reflects the time that Hon Peter Foss was the Minister for Health.
  - (b) Total expenditure on Government credit cards in the Minister's office for July 1994 to June 1995 was \$6,233.53. This period reflects the time that Hon Peter Foss and Hon Graham Kierath were the respective Ministers for Health.
  - (c) Total expenditure on Government credit cards in the Minister's office for July 1995 to June 1996 was \$13,821.41. This period reflects the time that Hon Graham Kierath and Hon Kevin Prince were the respective Ministers for Health.
- (2) The following details for each individual card holder in the Minister's office, is summarised in the following table:
  - (a) the name and position of the cardholder;
  - (b) the credit limit on the card; and
  - (c) the total expenditure on that card in -
    - (i) 1993-94;
    - (ii) 1994-95; and
    - (iii) 1995-96?

YEAR	NAME	POSITION	CREDIT LIMIT	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
1993-1994	Peter Foss	Minister for Health	\$7,000	\$15.00
			TOTAL	\$15.00
1994-1995	Peter Foss	Minister For Health	\$7,000	\$116.85
	William Richard Marmion	Principal Private Secretary	\$10,000	\$4,937.08
	Graham Donald Kierath	Minister for Health	\$30,000	\$801.05
	Brian Coulter	Press Secretary	\$30,000	\$7.50
	Enea Maria Tenardi	Executive Officer	\$10,000	\$126.50
	Deborah Angela Jackson	Personal Secretary	\$10,000	\$7.50
	Timothy Alexander Errington	Administrative Assistant	\$10,000	\$229.55
	Maria Christine Renner	Correspondence Officer	\$10,000	\$7.50
	Gary John Hamley	Principal Private Secretary	\$30,000	\$7.50
			TOTAL	\$6,233.53
1995-1996	Graham Donald Kierath	Minister for Health	\$30,000	\$2,719.03
	Brian Coulter	Press Secretary	\$30,000	\$461.40
	Enea Maria Tenardi	Executive Officer	\$10,000	\$213.45
	Deborah Angela Jackson	Personal Secretary	\$10,000	\$7.50
	Timothy Alexander Errington	Administrative Assistant	\$10,000	\$7.50
	Maria Christine Renner	Correspondence Officer	\$10,000	\$7.50
	Antony Kevin Royston Prince	Minister for Health	\$20,000	\$484.90
	Kevin Noel Humfrey	Principal Private Secretary	\$15,000	\$7,195.13
	Christine Gail Anne Bos	Executive Officer	\$15,000	\$327.50
	Gary John Hamley	Principal Private Secretary	\$30,000	\$2,397.50
			TOTAL	\$13,821.41

#### MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE BY MINISTERIAL OFFICERS

37. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Police; Emergency Services:
- (1) Will the Minister state the total expenditure on Government credit cards in the Minister's office for the following financial years -
- (a) 1993-94;  
 (b) 1994-95; and  
 (c) 1995-96?
- (2) For each individual cardholder in the Minister's office, will the Minister advise -
- (a) the name and position of the cardholder;  
 (b) the credit limit on the card; and  
 (c) the total expenditure on that card in -
- (i) 1993-94;  
 (ii) 1994-95; and  
 (iii) 1995-96?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) (a) \$466.06 (expenditure from 1 January 1994 to 30 June 1994)  
 (b) \$3,970.03.  
 (c) \$5,339.10.
- (2) (a) Robert Wiese - Minister for Police  
 Peter Middleton - Minister's Private Secretary
- (b) Mr Wiese - \$5,000  
 Mr Middleton - \$5,000
- (c) (i) Mr Wiese - \$11.25  
 Mr Middleton - \$454.81.  
 (ii) Mr Wiese - \$2,662.85  
 Mr Middleton - \$1,307.18  
 (iii) Mr Wiese - \$3,286.40.  
 Mr Middleton - \$2,052.70.

#### HEALTH DEPARTMENT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH

66. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:
- (1) With reference to the Health Department of Western Australia's (HDWA) Realignment Briefing for all HDWA staff dated 20 December 1998, given that the position of Executive Director Public Health has a number of statutory functions -

- (a) why does this document require that person to 'negotiate' the use of his statutory powers with the Executive General Manager Public Health;
  - (b) where is the requirement to 'negotiate' provided for in the Health Legislation Administration Act 1984; and
  - (c) why does the Executive Director Public health not have line management responsibility?
- (2) Does the Government intend to abolish the position of Executive Director Public Health?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) (a) The document referred to does not require the Executive Director, Public Health to 'negotiate' his statutory powers with 'Executive General Manager of Public Health'.
  - (b) The Health Legislation Administration Act 1984 contains no reference to the Executive Director of Public Health negotiating his responsibilities.
  - (c) The EDPH has line management responsibility for the staff of his office.
- (2) No.

#### HEALTH DEPARTMENT, STAFF IN ACTING CAPACITY

67. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) With reference to the Health Department of Western Australia's (HDWA) Realignment Briefing for all HDWA Staff dated 10 December 1998, which of the following positions in the Health Department are currently held in an acting capacity -
- (a) chief medical officer;
  - (b) executive general manager health systems;
  - (c) executive general manager finance and infrastructure;
  - (d) executive general manager public health and purchasing; and
  - (e) director secretarial branch?
- (2) Who currently holds these acting positions?
- (3) How long has each person been acting in each of these positions?
- (4) Have these positions been advertised recently or when will they be advertised?
- (5) What is the current level of remuneration for each position?
- (6) What qualifications does each position require whether -
- (a) substantive; or
  - (b) acting?
- (7) Is it intended that the substantive position of Executive General Manager Public Health be required to have tertiary qualifications in public health or medicine?
- (8) If not, why not?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Positions (b), (d) and (e) are currently held in an acting capacity.
- (2) Executive general manager health system performance - Ms Christine O'Farrell;  
Executive general manager public health and purchasing - Mr John Kirwan  
Director Corporate Management (formerly secretariat branch) - Mr Michael Pervan
- (3) All officers have been undertaking the duties associated with these positions since 12 December 1998. The positions were formally established following review and endorsement from the Public Sector Management Division of the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet on 11 March 1999.
- (4) The executive general manager positions of health system performance and public health and purchasing were advertised on 30 June 1999. The position of director corporate management will be advertised following confirmation of classification by the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet.
- (5) The executive general manager positions of health system performance and public health and purchasing have been classified by the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet at Public Service Award Class 3 (\$93,588). The Department is awaiting the advice of the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet in relation to the remuneration for the position of director corporate management.
- (6) (a)-(b) In accordance with the requirements of the Public Sector Management Act 1994 and the requirement for all selections to be made on the basis of merit, the selection criteria for these positions are based on the skills and competence required to carry out the tasks of the job rather than on surrogate measures such as academic achievement.

- (7) No.
- (8) Functions requiring specialist knowledge and expertise in public health are the responsibility of the Executive Director, Public Health and the Chief Medical Officer who, under the current structure, are supported by all the resources of the Department.

#### CARAVAN OWNERS, LETTERS BY MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

78. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the Minister's statement in *Hansard* on 12 May 1999 in which he indicated that he would be writing to all caravanners in Western Australia and ask -

- (a) is this course of action still the Minister's intention;
- (b) if so, what will be the content of such correspondence;
- (c) how many caravan owners are there in Western Australia;
- (d) how many letters will the Minister be sending;
- (e) what is the estimated cost of this exercise including, postage, stationary and administrative effort;
- (f) who will meet the cost of such an exercise; and
- (g) what is the estimated staff time involved in such an exercise?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (a)-(g) It is my intention at this stage to write to all petitioners referred to in the May 12 debate to ensure that they clearly understand the rights of caravanners and campers under the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act and Regulations and are not misled by comments or assertions of the Opposition.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RESEARCH PROJECTS

87. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Are any research projects being undertaken by the departments and agencies under the Minister's control?
- (2) What is the nature of each research project?
- (3) Who is conducting each research project?
- (4) What is the anticipated cost of each research project?
- (5) What is the anticipated completion date of the research project?

Mr DAY replied:

The quality of health care is underpinned by on-going research. There is extensive research activity in the health sector, ranging from small projects at individual institutions to cooperative national and international projects involving many people and institutions. Some of these research projects are combined activities from State or Commonwealth governments, or from the private sector. If the honourable member would like to specify particular research interests in the health area, I would be pleased to provide specific details.

#### ROADS, DISPLAY OF TOURIST ATTRACTION SIGNS

176. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that a number of tourist attractions suffer the disadvantage of not being able to display appropriate signs alongside main roads to advise and guide tourists to the attraction?
- (2) Is the Minister also aware that other States, most notably Queensland, seem to have no difficulty in allowing such signs to be displayed?
- (3) Will the Minister, in conjunction with his Cabinet colleagues, establish an across portfolio committee involving tourism, main roads, local government and conservation and land management to examine and propose recommendations that result in signs which meet the needs of tourism operators, local government, conservation and land management and main roads being allowed?
- (4) If so, when?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1) Local governments and Main Roads WA have the authority to approve signs on roads. I am satisfied that they consider all applications on the merits of each case.
- (2) I am not aware of the situation in other States.

- (3) If the member wishes to identify any tourist attractions that are having problems with signage, I will take the matter up with the appropriate authority.
- (4)-(5) Not applicable.

#### BIRTHS, CAESAREAN SECTION

186. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What is the rate of births by Caesarean section in this State?
- (2) Is it higher than that in any other States?
- (3) Has any recent research been done in this State on the rate of Caesarean sections and the reasons for this choice?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) The rate of births by caesarean section in WA is reportedly 20.4% of women confined. Source: 'Australia's Mothers and Babies 1996' Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 1999.
- (2) The rate for Western Australia (20.4%) is higher than for four other States/Territories in Australia. These are NSW at 17.6%, Victoria at 19.6%, Tasmania at 18.8% and Northern Territory at 19.2%. There are three other States/Territories with higher percentages than Western Australia and these are Queensland at 20.6% South Australia at 23.1% and ACT at 21.0%. The national figure for 1996 is 19.5%. Source: 'Australia's Mothers and Babies 1996' Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 1999.
- (3) The most recent published research for Western Australia was undertaken for the Legislative Assembly 'Select Committee on Intervention in Childbirth' 1995.

#### LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES, MEMBERSHIP

187. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Emergency Services:

- (1) In which towns in the cyclone belt do Local Emergency Management Advisory Committees (LEMAC) operate?
- (2) In each case who are the Members of each LEMAC ?
- (3) (a) Who is the chair of each LEMAC; and  
(b) on what date was the chair appointed?
- (4) Which organisation does each member of LEMAC represent?
- (5) What position does each LEMAC member hold in their respective organisation?
- (6) How long has each member been on LEMAC?
- (7) Who is responsible for selecting the Members of each LEMAC?
- (8) Who is responsible for appointing the Members of each LEMAC?
- (9) What qualifications are required in order to be appointed to LEMAC?
- (10) How often does each LEMAC meet?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) The following towns within the cyclone area have LEMAC's:

Broome	Derby
Halls Creek	Wyndham
Ashburton	East Pilbara
Exmouth	Port Hedland
Roebourne	Cue
Meekatharra	Mt Magnet
Murchison	Sandstone
Wiluna	Yalgoo
Geraldton	Mingenew
Carnamah	Carnarvon
Chapman Valley	Coorow
Greenough	Irwin
Morawa	Mullewa
Northampton	Perenjori
Shark Bay	Three Springs
Upper Gascoyne	

- (2)-(4) State Emergency Management Advisory Committee (SEMAC) Policy 7 advises that the LEMAC comprise the following:
- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Chair             | Shire President, Town/City Mayor (or nominee often Officer in Charge, Police Station) |
| Deputy Chair      | Nominated by Local Government   |
| Executive Officer | Nominated by Local Government   |



Members Drawn from agencies, which have specific emergency management responsibilities such as Hazard Management agencies or special expertise essential to the development of emergency management arrangements. Membership should reflect but not be limited to agencies represented on the State Emergency Management Advisory Committee. LEMAC's may co-opt other persons to be members on the Committee for necessary periods. As a guide SEMAC Policy 7 suggests that membership should include the following:

Officer in Charge Police Sub District  
 Senior Local Government Officer  
 Captain Local Fire Brigade  
 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer  
 Manager of the Local WASES Unit  
 Officer in Charge of the Local Ambulance Service  
 Health / medical representative  
 CALM officer located in area  
 Officer in Charge Local Meteorological Office  
 TELSTRA representative  
 Industry Representative  
 Family and Children's Services

- (5)-(8) All LEMAC members are nominated by the representative agency. Positions and length of service will vary in each case as it is the position not the person that most agencies nominate.
- (9) Nil. Members of agencies are drawn from those having specific hazard management responsibilities or special expertise.
- (10) SEMAC Policy 7 is not prescriptive in terms of how often they are required to meet. However, LEMAC's generally meet at least on a quarterly basis or on an as needed basis during major operations.

#### BURGLARIES AND VEHICLE THEFT, NORTH WEST

189. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Police:

For the month of March 1999, what was the number of -

- (a) house break -ins/burglaries;  
 (b) clearances of those crimes; and  
 (c) vehicle theft,

reported in the following areas -

- (i) South Hedland;  
 (ii) Port Hedland;  
 (iii) Marble Bar;  
 (iv) Nullagine;  
 (v) Hall's Creek;  
 (vi) Wiluna;  
 (vii) Karratha;  
 (viii) Wickham;  
 (ix) Roebourne;  
 (x) Tom Price;  
 (xi) Paraburdoo;  
 (xii) Newman;  
 (xiii) Carnarvon; and  
 (xiv) Geraldton?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The number of reported house burglaries and motor vehicle thefts for the month of March is contained within the following table. For the purpose of comparison, you will note corresponding statistics for the months of April and May have also been provided.

				Mar'99	Apr'99	May'99
(i)	South Hedland	Burglary	28	39	48	
		* Vehicle theft		12	7	2
(ii)	Port Hedland	Burglary	4	2	5	
		* Vehicle theft		8	0	1
(iii)	Marble Bar	Burglary	0	0	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(iv)	Nullagine	Burglary	0	0	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(v)	Halls Creek	Burglary	5	1	2	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(vi)	Wiluna	Burglary	4	0	1	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(vii)	Karratha	Burglary	6	4		
		* Vehicle theft		7	4	4
(viii)	Wickham	Burglary	0	0	2	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	1
(ix)	Roebourne	Burglary	1	2	1	
		* Vehicle theft		1	0	0

(x)	Tom Price	Burglary	3	1	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	1
(xi)	Paraburdoo	Burglary	3	0	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(xii)	Newman	Burglary	2	1		
		* Vehicle theft		1	5	2
(xiii)	Carnarvon	Burglary	5	8	14	
		* Vehicle theft		1	2	1
(xiv)	Geraldton	Burglary	22	18	20	
		* Vehicle theft		5	1	6

In the time allowed it is not possible to identify whether the offences reported in the specified period were cleared. However, the information provided below identifies any reported house burglary or motor vehicle thefts that were cleared in the specified time frame, regardless of when they were committed. The number of house burglaries and motor vehicle theft offences cleared are as follows -

				Mar'99	Apr'99	May'99
(i)	South Hedland	Burglary	3	9	50	
		* Vehicle theft		1	2	1
(ii)	Port Hedland	Burglary	0	2	2	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(iii)	Marble Bar	Burglary	0	1	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(iv)	Nullagine	Burglary	0	0	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(v)	Halls Creek	Burglary	2	0	2	
		* Vehicle theft		0	1	1
(vi)	Wiluna	Burglary	0	1	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(vii)	Karratha	Burglary	3	1	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(viii)	Wickham	Burglary	0	0	1	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	1
(ix)	Roebourne	Burglary	1	0	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(x)	Tom Price	Burglary	0	0	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(xi)	Paraburdoo	Burglary	0	0	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(xii)	Newman	Burglary	1	1	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	1	0
(xiii)	Carnarvon	Burglary	4	5	1	
		* Vehicle theft		0	1	0
(xiv)	Geraldton	Burglary	0	1	3	
		* Vehicle theft		3	1	2

#### BURGLARIES AND VEHICLE THEFT, NORTH WEST

190. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Police:

For the month of May 1999, what was the number of -

- (a) house break-ins/burglaries;
- (b) clearances of those crimes; and
- (c) vehicle theft;

reported in the following areas -

- (i) South Hedland;
- (ii) Port Hedland;
- (iii) Marble Bar;
- (iv) Nullagine;
- (v) Hall's Creek;
- (vi) Wiluna;
- (vii) Karratha;
- (viii) Wickham;
- (ix) Roebourne;
- (x) Tom Price;
- (xi) Paraburdoo;
- (xii) Newman;
- (xiii) Carnarvon; and
- (xiv) Geraldton?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The number of reported house burglaries and motor vehicle thefts for the month of May is contained within the following table. For the purpose of comparison, you will note corresponding statistics for the months of March and April have also been provided.

				Mar'99	Apr'99	May'99
(i)	South Hedland	Burglary	28	39	48	
		* Vehicle theft		12	7	2
(ii)	Port Hedland	Burglary	4	2	5	
		* Vehicle theft		8	0	1

(iii)	Marble Bar	Burglary	0	0	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(iv)	Nullagine	Burglary	0	0	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(v)	Halls Creek	Burglary	5	1	2	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(vi)	Wiluna	Burglary	4	0	1	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(vii)	Karratha	Burglary	4	4		
		* Vehicle theft		7	4	4
(viii)	Wickham	Burglary	0	0	2	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	1
(ix)	Roebourne	Burglary	1	2	1	
		* Vehicle theft		1	0	0
(x)	Tom Price	Burglary	3	1	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	1
(xi)	Paraburdoo	Burglary	3	0	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(xii)	Newman	Burglary	0	1		
		* Vehicle theft		1	5	2
(xiii)	Carnarvon	Burglary	5	8	14	
		* Vehicle theft		1	2	1
(xiv)	Geraldton	Burglary	22	18	20	
		* Vehicle theft		5	1	6

In the time allowed it is not possible to identify whether the offences reported in the specified period were cleared. However, the information provided below identifies any reported house burglary or motor vehicle thefts that were cleared in the specified time frame, regardless of when they were committed. The number of house burglaries and motor vehicle theft offences cleared are as follows -

				Mar'99	Apr'99	May'99
(i)	South Hedland	Burglary	3	9	50	
		* Vehicle theft		1	2	1
(ii)	Port Hedland	Burglary	0	2	2	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(iii)	Marble Bar	Burglary	0	1	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(iv)	Nullagine	Burglary	0	0	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(v)	Halls Creek	Burglary	2	0	2	
		* Vehicle theft		0	1	1
(vi)	Wiluna	Burglary	0	1	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(vii)	Karratha	Burglary	1	0		
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(viii)	Wickham	Burglary	0	0	1	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	1
(ix)	Roebourne	Burglary	1	0	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(x)	Tom Price	Burglary	0	0	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(xi)	Paraburdoo	Burglary	0	0	0	
		* Vehicle theft		0	0	0
(xii)	Newman	Burglary	1	0		
		* Vehicle theft		0	1	0
(xiii)	Carnarvon	Burglary	4	5	1	
		* Vehicle theft		0	1	0
(xiv)	Geraldton	Burglary	0	1	3	
		* Vehicle theft		3	1	2

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CONTRACTS OVER \$ 50 000

209. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many contracts of \$50,000 or more (excluding employment contracts) has each department and agency under the Minister's control entered into between 1 April 1999 and 31 May 1999?
- (2) What was the amount of each contract?
- (3) What is the name of each person/entity with whom the contract has been entered into?
- (4) What is the nature of the work or service required by the contract?
- (5) What is the completion date of each contract?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) 37 contracts.
- (2)-(5) See table below -

(2) Estimated Amount of Contract	(3) Person/Entity	(4) Nature of Work or Service	(5) Estimated Completion Date
\$118,000 + expenses	AXIS Technology	Y2000 Business Continuity and Contingency Planning.	August 1999
\$550,000 (Estimated – contract is on a time and materials basis)	AeM Consulting	Health Year 2000 Project Office (Contract extension).	March 2000
\$965,860	Diasonics-GE Pty Ltd	Supply of diagnostic ultrasonic scanners to be located at for one metro and six country hospitals.	Contract completed.
\$204,680	Toshiba (Australia) Pty Ltd	Supply of eight portable black and white diagnostic ultrasonic scanners to be located at eight country hospitals.	Contract completed.
\$220,000	Data General Australia Pty Ltd	Additional equipment required to support the Hospital Information Systems – PathCentre and Year 2000 Test Laboratory.	June 2001
\$50,000	Menzies School of Health	Evaluation of primary care services – Balgo Region.	30 September 1999
\$85,000	Nexus Strategic Solutions	Consultancy to develop strategies to influence retention of nurses.	31 August 1999
\$720,000 over four years	Amcon Pty Ltd	Supply high bandwidth services to Health Data Network.	June 2003
\$200,000	WA Centre for Rural and Remote Medicine (WACRRM)	Recruitment of locums in general surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology.	12 May 2000
\$3.2m over eight years	Perth Imaging	Radiology services.	Five years from 1 July 1999 plus three one year options.
\$80,000	Adelphi Tailoring Company	Provision of dental therapists uniforms	30 June 2000 with one 12 months option.
\$64,564	Fabco Pty Ltd	Supply of one mobile dental clinic and the upgrade of another	July 1999

\$351,000	Western Biomedical Westcoast Surgical & Medical Supplies Mallinckrodt Medical Pty Ltd Kendall Australasia Pty Ltd Hospital Supplies Australia Fisher & Paykel Healthcare P/L Becton Dickinson Boots Healthcare	Bacterial and viral filters	14 May 2001 plus a twelve month extension option.
\$250,000	Sanitaire	Sanitary napkin disposal service.	10 June 2001 plus a twelve month extension option.
\$118,500	Baxter Healthcare	Surgeons glove.	19 January 2000 plus a twelve month extension option
\$360,000	Prognosis Consulting	Project management for redevelopment of Armada Health Service.	16 May 2001
\$72,000	Hadlow's Horticulturalists P/L	Garden and grounds services.	6 April 2000
\$88,740	Endocorp Pty Ltd	supply and delivery of transanal endoscope.	Not applicable. One- off purchase.
\$381,150	ECRI	Medical equipment evaluation.	June 1999
\$82,834	Symonds	Accommodation study.	July 1999
\$76,000	Symonds	Medical equipment evaluation.	June 1999
\$91,475	Inteltec	Paging system for RPH Wellington Street and Shenton Park campuses.	30 April 2001
\$187,900	CDM Computers	120 personal computers.	Not applicable. One- off purchase.
\$133,411	Tyco Services	Y2K building management system upgrade.	October 1999
\$98,325	Tyco Services	Y2K building management system upgrade.	October 1999
\$149,620	Westside Fire Services	Y2K fire services panel upgrade	July 1999
\$1,280,054	SITA-BFI	Waste management services.	5 July 2002
\$50,000	Bega Garnbirringu Health Services	Development of a best practice model for delivery of health services to Aboriginal people	30 September 1999
\$50,000	Centre for Remote Health	Review of primary health care services in the Kutjungka Region.	30 September 1999

\$53,500	Centrecare Marriage and Family Service	Provision of additional abortion counselling services in 1998-99 and 1999-2000	30 June 2000
\$53,500	Relationships Australia, Western Australia	Provision of additional abortion counselling services in 1998-99 and 1999-2000	30 June 2000
\$99,954	Family Planning Western Australia	Provision of additional abortion counselling services in 1998-99 and 1999-2000	30 June 2000
\$100,000	Injury Control Council of Western Australia	Prevention of hip fractures in nursing home residents	July 2000
\$115,000	National Centre for Research into the Prevention of Drug Abuse	Demonstration project to maximise the public health benefits of the amended WA Liquor Licensing Amendment Act	March 2000
\$75,000	Shire of Halls Creek	Continuing employment of environmental health officers servicing Aboriginal communities.	30 June 2000
\$90,000	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Continuing employment of environmental health officers servicing Aboriginal communities.	30 June 2000
\$180,000	University of WA Department of Microbiology	Provision of ongoing surveillance and monitoring of mosquitoes and mosquito borne diseases throughout WA.	31 December 1999

#### MINISTER FOR HOUSING, CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE

272. Mrs HOLMES to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Will the Minister advise what the total expenditure on Government credit cards was in the Minister's office for the following financial years -
  - (a) 1990-91;
  - (b) 1991-92; and
  - (c) 1992-93?
- (2) For each individual credit cardholder in the Minister's office will the Minister advise -
  - (a) the name and position of the cardholder;
  - (b) the credit limit on the card; and
  - (c) the total expenditure on that card in -
    - (i) 1990-91;
    - (ii) 1991-92; and
    - (iii) 1992-93?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) (a) There is no record of any credit cards being issued to the Minister's Office for 1990-91.
- (b) There is no record of any credit cards being issued to the Minister's Office for 1991-92.

- (c) \$4,715.34.
- (2) (a) Doug Shave, Minister for Housing and David Brewster, Principal Private Secretary to Minister.
- (b) \$10,000.00 each.
- (c) (i)-(ii) Nil.
- (iii) Doug Shave \$600.96 and David Brewster \$4,114.38.

# ROADS, HIGHWAY AUTHORITIES' IMMUNITY, NEGLIGENCE IN CONDITION OF HIGHWAYS

327. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

I refer to the general immunity given to highway authorities in relation to negligence in the condition of highways and ask -

- (a) does this immunity apply to footpaths;
- (b) will the Government be enacting laws to remove this immunity;
- (c) will the Government be providing a legislative code to cover this area of law including the non-feasance rule; and
- (d) if not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No.
- (c)-(d) At this stage there is no proposal before the Government, that I am aware of, to do so.

# RAGNO, MR SHANE

348. Mr CUNNINGHAM to the Minister for Police:

With reference to my question without notice No. 1000 regarding the heroin death of Mr Shane Ragno, is the Minister able to advise -

- (a) the nature and chronology of the police inquiries to date, including details of any specific investigations and reports relevant to the inquiries;
- (b) the specific steps taken to investigate reports and complaints of heroin being sold from 9 Redcliffe Avenue, Marangaroo;
- (c) the reasons for and nature of police warnings to Mr Ragno not to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of his son;
- (d) why police have requested reporter Michael Southwell of *The West Australian* to stop reporting on the circumstances of Mr Shane Ragno's death; and
- (e) whether there will be a full coronial inquest into Mr Shane Ragno's death?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (a)-(b) The matter of the death of Shane Ragno is subject to a coronial investigation. Until this has been properly concluded and submitted to the Coroner, it is inappropriate to discuss related issues in this forum. Peripheral matters related to the sale of heroin in the northern suburbs will be dealt with in the course of the investigation and provided to the Coroner along with the relevant facts.
- (c) Mr Ragno was requested to ensure that his enquiries did not hinder police in the execution of their duty in regard to their investigations.
- (d) On occasions, there have been attempts to pre-empt or second guess the outcome of an enquiry before the relevant facts have been presented to the Coroner. This is an undesirable practice which has been emerging. Often it verges on a breach of the sub-judice rule. Mr Southwell was asked to await the finalisation of the investigation to prevent the reporting of non-factual information prior to the report being forwarded to the Coroner to maintain the integrity of the enquiry.
- (e) Yes.

## PERTH CITY COUNCIL, CHEMICALS SPRAYING

349. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Does the Perth City Council (PCC) continue to use chemicals such as atrazine, vorox AA and simazine?
- (2) Does the PCC undertake such spraying at night, and, if so, why?

Mr OMODEI replied:

Neither my office nor the Department of Local Government maintain records of goods and services purchased by Western Australia's 142 Local Governments. Accordingly, this Question should be directed to the City of Perth.

## CHEMICALS, ATRAZINE, VOROX AA AND SIMAZINE

350. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it correct that the chemicals atrazine, vorox AA and simazine are now banned as hazardous toxic substances in other countries?
- (2) Is it correct that simazine has been listed in New Zealand as a known human carcinogen?
- (3) Will the Minister take action to either ban these dangerous substances, or, where doubt exists, to institute an inquiry on their toxicity and report to Parliament on whether they should continue to be used in Western Australia?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Atrazine was banned in Germany in 1991, Sweden in 1989 and suspended in Italy pending the EU review of atrazine. Atrazine has been withdrawn by the sponsor company in Denmark, Finland and Norway. The UK authorities reviewed atrazine in 1992/93 and its registration was supported.
- (2) No. Simazine has not been listed by NZ authorities as a known human carcinogen. The Health Department of Western Australia is not aware of any regulatory authority globally which classifies simazine as a human carcinogen.
- (3) No. The National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (NRA) is responsible for the assessment and registration of pesticides in Australia and has recently reviewed atrazine and continued its registration in Australia. The NRA ensures that products pose minimal risk to the safety of humans and the environment when used as directed.

## CAMPING, FORTY MILE BEACH AND CLEAVERVILLE

360. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Have all the necessary approvals been granted to enable people to camp at Forty Mile beach and Cleaverville?
- (2) On what dates were all the approvals granted?
- (3) For what period of time (dates) will people be able to legally camp at Forty Mile Beach and Cleaverville?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1) The Department of Land Administration has issued "Occupation Licences to Crown Land" to the Shire of Ashburton. The licences allow the Shire to manage camping at both sites.
- (2) The licences were issued on 4 June 1999 for a period of four months, commencing on 4 June 1999.
- (3) The Shire has set a maximum length of stay of six weeks at both sites.

## ABORTION, COUNSELLING SERVICES

372. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the funding which is available from the Mental Health Division for pre and post-abortion counselling and ask the Minister -



- (a) is the Minister aware that the funding which has been allocated to Relationships Australia is only enough to allow four counselling sessions a week to cover the suburban area south of Perth, Fremantle, Rockingham and Kwinana; and
- (b) will the Minister be allowing additional funding to ensure that additional counselling appointments are made available?

Mr DAY replied:

- (a) Funding is allocated by Public Health Division not Mental Health Division. Funding to Relationships Australia covers 40 counselling sessions for the period 1/5/99 to 30/6/99 and 650 counselling sessions for the period 1/7/99 to 30/6/00.
- (b) No.

#### ROCKINGHAM REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

374. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister for Water Resources:

I refer to the Rockingham Regional Environment Centre and its effort to obtain connection to the water mains and ask -

- (a) does the Government acknowledge the community importance of the Rockingham Regional Environment Centre;
- (b) does the Government realise it is a not for profit organisation designed to promote community, environmental and scientific awareness;
- (c) is the Government aware that the cost of water connection will be in excess of \$5,200;
- (d) is the Government prepared to reduce this cost to that of ordinary household water connection; and
- (e) why has the cost of \$5,200 been imposed especially as the Environment Centre is in close proximity to housing and commercial activity?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (a)-(b) Yes.
- (c)-(e) The total cost of Water Corporation charges for the Centre are \$4,660, which comprises of \$4,480 for a 100 mm fire service as required by the City of Rockingham, and a \$180 building application fee. The Corporation previously offered to contribute \$333 of this cost as a goodwill gesture and this offer remains.

#### VEHICLE THEFT, RAILWAY STATION PARKING AREAS

400. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Police:

How many incidents of vehicle theft or break-in of vehicles parked at railway station parking areas have been reported to the Police over the last twelve months?

Mr PRINCE replied:

A search of the Western Australia Police statistical database has been conducted identifying offence data specific to vehicle thefts; attempt thefts; and stealing from motor vehicles parked at railway stations or bus stops, ignoring data for those localities where trains do not operate. Between 1 July 1998 and 30 June 1999 (inclusive), the number of separate reported incidents are:

1	Theft of Motor Vehicles	778
2	Attempted Motor Vehicle Theft	187
3	Stealing from Motor Vehicle	364

#### HEALTH, MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY

410. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does the Health Department recognise a condition known as multiple chemical sensitivity or equivalent?
- (2) If the answer to (1) above is no, why not?

- (3) If the answer to (1) above is yes -
- (a) has the Health Department established any policies or guidelines relating to this condition; and
  - (b) has the Health Department provided any advice to public hospitals regarding treatment of people with this condition?
- (4) Will the Minister table any relevant policies or guidelines?
- (5) Has the Minister received any complaints from sufferers of multiple chemical sensitivity regarding the approach taken by public hospitals to their treatment?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) No evidence of any scientifically acceptable clinical studies indicating multiple chemical sensitivity as a recognised condition is available.
- (3)-(4) Not applicable.
- (5) No.

#### INFILL SEWERAGE PROGRAM, MADDINGTON

429. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Water Resources:

I refer to the Government's promotion of the infill sewerage program and ask the Minister -

- (a) is the Minister aware that in relation to the area in Maddington known as 5g (Olga Road and Phillip Street), the infill sewerage plan excludes 17 dwellings at the western end of Phillip Street;
- (b) what is the justification for these households missing out on infill sewerage;
- (c) how many houses larger than the old sized quarter acre block have been connected to the main sewer through the infill sewerage program; and
- (d) would the Minister give consideration to including these 17 dwellings into the 5g plan?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Funds are not available for sewerage large lots that are generally considered to have sufficient area for on site effluent disposal. Smaller sized lots in higher density developments do not have this capacity. Funding is not provided for infrastructure where the likelihood exists that sewerage facilities will become redundant or will require re-construction or re-direction with the sub-division of non-conventionally sized lots.
- (c) Unknown. By default some larger lots, either encompassed by or adjacent to small lot developments, or because they front a sewer line, may receive a sewerage junction depending upon the schematic design of the system.
- (d) No. There are insufficient funds to sewer lots such as these.

#### FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY, BUDGET

448. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Emergency Services:

- (1) Did the Minister issue a media statement on 12 May 1999 concerning funding legislation for the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia?
- (2) How does the Minister intend to distinguish the budget of the Fire and Rescue Service from the budget of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority?
- (3) Is it the Government's intention to utilise the existing Fire and Rescue Service budget to fund the Fire and Emergency Services Authority?

- (4) Did the Minister also state in the same media statement that “the framework for inevitable change to fire levy contributions, and potentially emergency services funding in this State is now well advanced and we will continue to develop further legislation”?
- (5) Who is working on any proposed changes to the fire levy contributions legislation?
- (6) Is the progress made on “the framework for inevitable change to fire levy contributions” available?
- (7) What are the parameters and goals for the development of further legislation?
- (8) When is a bill for change likely to be available?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Appropriation and Forward Estimates for the Fire & Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia (FESA) distinguishes the recurrent estimates under the following headings:

Item 80 amount provided to fund outputs for the year  
 Amounts authorised by other statutes  
 - Fire Brigades Act 1942  
 - Contribution to permanent establishment  
 - Volunteer Fire Brigades  
 Item 81 Administered Grants and Transfer Payments

FESA’s financial system has been structured to enable the Fire and Rescue Service budget to be identified. In addition, under the Fire Brigades Act 1942, Section 36(1) the Governor’s approval is required for the Fire & Rescue Service Estimate of “the probable expenditure to be incurred in the operation of this Act within each district during the year ending next following 30 June”.

- (3) The Fire and Rescue Service component of the budget has not been used to fund FESA as a whole. Again, I direct the Member to the Forward Estimates, specifically consolidated funds of \$981,000 were provided to create FESA. In addition FESA has developed an internal funding model that allocated costs to the divisions of FESA to cover corporate costs. It must be emphasised that the Fire & Rescue Service budget is a component of the FESA budget.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) A sub committee of the Board of FESA.
- (6) All stakeholders will be consulted during the expanded review.
- (7) The establishment of FESA has provided the opportunity to review the funding arrangements for all emergency services with the goal to address the inequities that currently exist. The outcome of the review is to recommend a proposed new funding model for FESA that would incorporate the requirements of the Fire & Rescue Service, both career and volunteer, the Bush Fire Service, State Emergency Service, Sea Search and Rescue and Emergency Management Services. The development of the proposed model will be consistent with the following principles:

Expectation of service  
 Community rating  
 Payment equity  
 Community participation  
 Transparency, simplicity and best practice

The review will also recommend an implementation strategy.

- (8) It is expected that a final report will be delivered to me by the 30 June 2000. Comment from stakeholders will then be called for prior to the development of drafting instructions.

#### CATS, INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

451. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Does the Minister intend to give further consideration to introducing legislation to register and control cats as requested by a number of local government bodies?

- (2) If so, when?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Has the Government made a policy decision that it will not introduce legislation in this regard?
- (5) What is that policy position?
- (6) Why has the Government taken that policy decision?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1)-(6) The State Government has no intention of introducing uniform cat legislation. The Local Government Act allows Councils to make local laws on the issue addressing local priorities and circumstances. A number of Councils are considering, or have already made local laws on cats and cat control. I support such a course of action.

### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

#### GLOBAL DANCE FOUNDATION, AUDIT REPORT

##### 90. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

I refer to the Government's decision to abandon any attempts to recover the more than \$400 000 of taxpayers' money lost on the Premier's failed Global Dance Foundation venture and ask -

- (1) Will the Premier table the audit of Global Dance accounts by Ernst and Young; and, if not, why not?
- (2) Can the Premier explain why action to recover the lost money has been dropped when he claimed in 1997 that the contracts with Mr Reynolds were watertight and that taxpayers' money would be recovered if he did not deliver?

Mr COURT replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) No, the audit was prepared in the course of pre-action discovery proceedings and may be used only for related purposes.
- (2) The Western Australian Tourism Commission resolved last month to accept legal advice not to try to recover funds from parties associated with the World Dance Congress. That advice was provided by the Crown Solicitor's Office following the audit by Ernst and Young and was confirmed by a Queen's Counsel. The legal advice canvassed numerous complex legal issues and various courses of action against all possible parties. It was concluded that none of these actions would ultimately be successful in recouping the funds. As I have said on a number of occasions, the Government is very disappointed that the people involved did not deliver and that this event did not proceed. Fortunately, most of the events in which the Government has been involved have been successful.

#### GLOBAL DANCE FOUNDATION, CONTRACTS

##### 91. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

Is it then the case that the contracts were not watertight, as he claimed in 1997?

Mr COURT replied:

The Tourism Commission has acted on legal advice and made a decision that there is no point in spending further money on legal actions.

#### POLICE SERVICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

##### 92. Mrs HODSON-THOMAS to the Minister for Police:

With reference to the Police Service's new call-taking dispatch and communications and Delta communications and technology systems, will the minister advise -

- (1) What are the main features of each of the systems?
- (2) How will the systems assist police officers in their operations?
- (3) What is the cost of the technology upgrade?

**Mr PRINCE replied:**

- (1)-(3) The cost is estimated to be \$124m or perhaps more, and the yearly recurrent cost is about \$10m. The new network will replace the existing radio network, which is over 30 years old. It was good at the time it was installed, but it can now be listened to by anyone with a scanner, and that frequently occurs.

The CADCOM system is an encrypted, digitally-trunked radio network across the metropolitan area. It provides mobile data terminals in all police vehicles, including motor bikes and any form of car, which can provide both text and audio communication. The system will enable the police to deploy operational resources because it has built-in global positioning satellite equipment. It also has an alarm message capability. The result is that the location of any vehicle is known at a central point and officers can be moved around in response to various needs.

DCAT, the year 2000 compliance program, also sees the linking of the discrete stacks of information held by the police in areas such as licensing, criminal histories and so on. It will enable networking across those statistics and officers will be able to access that information from a vehicle at any location. It will also enable networking into the Ministry of Justice. A relatively seamless information flow should be possible once the system is in place. That will avoid some of the problems that have existed in the past with communications relying on fax machines and people inputting information into different departmental systems.

That DCAT exercise will also result in the entire Police Service being equipped with new computers capable of implementing that project. That is happening now, and staff training commences later this year. The system will enable the police to find people, to communicate with them securely and to give them access to information. That information will also be available to be passed from the police to the Ministry of Justice and back again with minimum paperwork.

#### POLICE SERVICE, DETAILS OF DISCIPLINARY INQUIRY

**93. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:**

I refer to the minister's refusal to provide any details relating to a disciplinary inquiry into the unauthorised access of information on the police service computer, including the name and rank of the officer who was counselled as a result of the inquiry, and ask -

- (1) What information was accessed and for what purpose?
- (2) Did the information accessed include details of the criminal record of a candidate in the recent Perth City Council elections?
- (3) If so, was that information provided to any other person or persons; and, if so, for what purpose?
- (4) Does the minister stand by his claim in this place to the effect that unauthorised access to information on the police service computer was a relatively minor disciplinary matter?

**Mr PRINCE replied:**

I thank the member for this question and some notice of it. I have received advice as to the answer that can be given from the Police Service.

- (1)-(4) I am informed that because of constraints of an Act of Parliament, which I assume is the Anti-Corruption Commission Act -

Dr Gallop: Absolute nonsense!

Mr PRINCE: I have not said anything yet. Because of the constraints of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, it is not possible to answer those questions, and it would be wrong to do so. Even if it were not for the provisions of that Act, it would be wrong to reveal the details because the matter has been dealt with internally as a disciplinary matter.

Several members interjected.

Mr PRINCE: One does not malign people by revealing details of their criminal record.

Mrs Roberts: Is it a cover-up.

Mr PRINCE: It is not. One does not reveal publicly details of internal disciplinary matters. That has never been done irrespective of who may have been involved and the circumstances. There is an appeal board and many other processes.

Mr Ripper interjected.

Mr PRINCE: That is absolute nonsense. No, I am not.

Mr McGinty: It is public corruption.

Mr PRINCE: If the person concerned had a criminal record, that is a matter of public record because it would have been recorded in a court of record. Full stop; end of case. If members opposite are talking about criminal records, that is the law. We are talking about whether a police computer was used to access publicly-available information.

Ms MacTiernan interjected.

Mr PRINCE: If the member for Armadale wants to ask a question, she should do so. However, this question was asked by the member for Midland. The matter was dealt with internally, as a disciplinary matter. Those matters are usually regarded as relatively minor in the overall scheme of things. I will not make public any details of that process, because no-one ever has.

#### POLICE SERVICE, DETAILS OF DISCIPLINARY INQUIRY

##### **94. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:**

Can the Minister explain how the public interest is served by all details in relation to this matter being kept secret?

**Mr PRINCE replied:**

Many matters are dealt with internally as part of the disciplinary structure of the Police Service. They range in seriousness, type and subject matter. They are all part of the discipline of an organised body of people charged with exceptional powers in the policing of our society. This has been the case in this State and in similar jurisdictions for well over a century. This system works in the disciplinary exercise internally because it is dealt with internally, is charged, dealt with, finished and that is it.

Mrs Roberts: It was referred to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Mr PRINCE: Yes, it was referred to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Mrs Roberts: Are you saying that is why it must be a big secret?

Mr PRINCE: No.

The SPEAKER: Order! I have allowed many interjections on the question. It was of interest to the Parliament, but we are now dealing with a supplementary question which is a single, straightforward question, yet members are asking extra questions. If they want to ask a question, they should let the supplementary question go, then stand and I will give them the call.

Mr PRINCE: Even if it had not been referred to the Anti-Corruption Commission, I would not have provided the detail because it was dealt with internally.

Mrs Roberts: Why do you make that the excuse?

Mr PRINCE: That is the answer I have been given to the question the member asked today. In relation to the question asked the other day, my answer was that I would not divulge those matters publicly because they should not be divulged. If the member wants to make more of it, she should do so. If the man has a criminal conviction, that is a matter of public record.

#### WORKERS COMPENSATION, INCREASES

##### **95. Mr BAKER to the Minister for Labour Relations:**

- (1) Is the minister aware of the implications for businesses in Western Australia of the recent increases in the cost of workers compensation insurance?
- (2) If yes, what is the minister doing to address this situation?

**Mrs EDWARDES replied:**

- (1)-(2) Yes. I have received many examples of businesses that have experienced massive increases in their workers compensation premiums. The Government will introduce in the other place later this afternoon amendments to the message that arises from some of the recommendations of the Pearson report. Many other recommendations are being implemented in a number of different ways. Yesterday I announced a review of medical costs and other associated health industries.

A number of examples have come forward which provide a worrying trend. One example is the Cerebral Palsy Association which has indicated that it cannot carry the additional cost of workers compensation far into this financial year. Currently its premium is \$1.2m, and it has tripled in the past two and a half years. This year alone, it increased by \$500 000. In the absence of alternative arrangements, it would have no option but to reduce some services. This would mean cutting accommodation places for two adults with significant multiple disabilities, respite care for 11 families who have a child with a significant disability, and recreation support for 100 people.

The amendments to be introduced in the Legislative Council will be the first step. The actuary has estimated that a reduction of 10 per cent will follow these measures. Des Pearson, who is chairman of the premium rates committee, has indicated that he will call for an interim meeting in October this year. If those legislative amendments are passed by both Houses of Parliament after the two-week recess, that will have an immediate impact on those premiums and industry this year. The Government will ask for support for its amendments. It is absolutely essential if we are to address those increases in premiums and the impact that is having on bodies such as the Cerebral Palsy Association.

**POLICE OFFICER, LEAKING OF CRIMINAL RECORD****96. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:**

I refer again to the inquiry into the leaking of a criminal record by a police officer. Will the minister explain why his commitment to openness and accountability differs so markedly from the professed commitment of his immediate predecessor who was quoted in *The West Australian* of 6 April 1998 as saying that if there was an adverse finding against an officer, that is when they probably should be identified?

**Mr PRINCE replied:**

I have absolutely no doubt that the comment was made in relation to a number of officers from the drug squad. They were much more celebrated matters and were far more serious and complex. This involved one accusation.

Mrs Roberts: Were the officers who were reinstated disciplined over anything?

Mr PRINCE: It was a great deal more complicated than that. Does the member want the files?

Mrs Roberts: One officer was disciplined and others were not.

Mr PRINCE: The member is talking about an accusation about access to a database held by the police which contains information that is publicly available. That matter has been dealt with.

Mrs Roberts: Other drug squad officers were not disciplined but they have done something much more serious.

Mr PRINCE: It was dealt with as an internal disciplinary matter and finished with. That is it.

**CAREER CHOICES EXPO****97. Mr SWEETMAN to the Minister for Employment and Training:**

I refer to the Career Choices Expo held last week. Will the minister inform the House on how it went?

**Mr KIERATH replied:**

I am pleased to advise the House that more than 100 schools, both public and private, brought students to the Career Choices Expo from places as far away as Fitzroy Crossing, Exmouth and Ravensthorpe. That is an indication of how keen and interested they were. Entrance to the expo was free, and 13 500 people visited it during the two day event, including school students, other young people, parents and older people looking for a career change.

The expo featured a range of interactive displays to give people a hands-on view of various careers. The automotive industry had a \$13m advanced concept car on display, and I hope the Premier will consider buying a couple for the ministerial fleet! It is a showcase of Australian automotive ingenuity and has been well accepted throughout the world. There is no doubt that it attracted a lot of interest.

The Midland College of Tertiary and Further Education had a flight simulator and the University of Western Australia had some very colourful and interactive science displays. The South Metropolitan College of TAFE students demonstrated their hospitality skills by providing non-alcoholic cocktails, affectionately known as mocktails. The Central Metropolitan College of TAFE had demonstrations of massage and sports activities, and the West Coast College of TAFE had child care activities.

Hundreds of careers were represented, ranging from the defence forces, Police Force, apprenticeships, traineeships, health sector, teaching and hospitality to aviation. I was keen for as many parents as possible to visit the expo with their young people, to obtain not only advice for the students but also information that may be of use to them in the future. People sought advice on training options, various qualifications and job prospects. The feedback from the exhibitors and schools has been extremely positive. I hope all members of this House, including opposition members, will join with me in congratulating the organisers of the Career Choices Expo.

The SPEAKER: I advise the House and members generally that they must take care when phrasing their questions. I let the last question slip through but if asking a minister "how it went" is not seeking an opinion, I do not know what is. I ask members to remember that.

#### REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT, CONSENT OF SCIENTISTS TO RELEASE OF THEIR NAMES

##### **98. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:**

I refer to the minister's claim yesterday that she had written to the 500 scientists who had been involved in the Regional Forest Agreement seeking their consent for their names to be released and ask -

- (1) How many scientists did the minister write to?
- (2) How many have responded by the 6 August deadline referred to in the minister's letter?
- (3) Of those who responded, how many have consented to their names being released and how many have responded negatively?
- (4) Will the minister now table a list of those scientists who consented to their names being released?

##### **Mrs EDWARDES replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) I wrote to 485 scientists and experts. I did not write to the others because their addresses were unknown, although some follow-up work is being done on that matter.
- (2) A total of 260 have responded.
- (3)-(4) The outstanding responses are being followed up. I will table full details, including the contributions and not just the names, once the list is complete.

In respect of the bibliography for many of those who are involved, as the member was reported to have requested. The bibliography should have been published, and the member might like to refer for that information to some of the 46 RFA reports that have already been published.

#### COUNTRY NURSES, ENTERPRISE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

##### **99. Dr TURNBULL to the Minister for Health:**

Can the minister inform the House if all the enterprise bargaining agreements for country nurses have been completed, what are the components of the packages, and do these agreements include a system for rosters which allows flexible time off?

##### **Mr DAY replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question. I am pleased to advise that agreement has been reached with the Australian Nursing Federation in respect of all rural health services, with the exception of Kimberley Health Service, which is still outstanding. With regard to some health services, we are still awaiting the outcome of the ballot process. The EBAs which have been agreed to fall into five major categories: The basic framework enterprise agreement, which is the same as the agreement which has been put in place for nurses in the metropolitan area; the framework EBA plus flexible working hours arrangements; the framework EBA plus retention and attraction benefits; the framework EBA plus retention and attraction benefits plus flexible working hours arrangements; and the framework EBA plus flexible working hours arrangements plus modified on-call payments. Some of the EBAs which have been agreed to include flexible time-off arrangements. The following health services have reached agreement with the ANF for EBAs which include flexible



working hours: Merredin, South East Coastal, Warren-Blackwood, Vasse-Leeuwin, Wellington, Bunbury, Lower Great Southern, Central Great Southern, and Harvey-Yarloop. I am pleased that through the processes of sensible discussion, the outcomes of most of the rural EBAs are either now resolved or close to being resolved.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX, TREASURY ANALYSIS OF REVISED PACKAGE

**100. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:**

Has the Premier reconsidered his refusal to release the Treasury analysis of the impact of the revised goods and services tax package on Western Australia? If so, will he table that document before the end of today's sitting? If not, can he explain how his insistence on secrecy serves the public interest or the public's right to have information about an issue that so fundamentally affects it?

**Mr COURT replied:**

I cannot remember any Treasury analysis ever being provided under the Labor Government. I cannot remember our asking when in opposition for a Treasury analysis and its being provided. One does not need to be too smart to work out the difference between the changes that took place with the taxation package. The changes are all public. The Leader of the Opposition is saying that he does not understand the changes that have taken place.

Dr Gallop: We understand them. We put our analysis on the table.

Mr McGinty: The Premier is into secrecy a bit these days!

Mr COURT: There is just so much information that is provided.

Dr Gallop: Why not release it?

Mr COURT: If the Leader of the Opposition does not know the changes that have taken place, he has a problem. Is it a big deal for the Opposition?

Dr Gallop: Yes, it is. We want it.

Mr Brown: You will not answer the question. You are ducking and diving.

Mr COURT: I think it is members opposite who are ducking and diving.

Mr Brown: Tell us at least why you will not release this. Be honest! Do not duck and dive all over the place!

Mr COURT: It is simple. There have never been taxation changes so publicised as these changes. Why would the Opposition not know what the changes are?

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX, TREASURY ANALYSIS OF FIRST PACKAGE

**101. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:**

I ask a supplementary question. Why did the Premier make available to the public the Treasury analysis of the first GST package?

**Mr COURT replied:**

That analysis was a preliminary analysis and not a detailed analysis. It was provided, and I have stated publicly in this Parliament what changes have taken place. Why the Leader of the Opposition would want me to say the same thing twice, I do not know.

MANDURAH MARINA

**102. Mr MARSHALL to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:**

The proposed Mandurah marina to be built at Dolphin Pool is listed as the No 1 priority in my region. The marina will not only provide employment and serve boating needs but will also add to the tourist destinations in Mandurah. Can the minister tell the House how the plans are progressing for this marina?

**Mr COWAN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The Mandurah Ocean Marina Task Force has completed the final plans for the Mandurah ocean marina development and, in accordance with the requirement of Cabinet, has reported back to me.

All of the required tasks contained within the detailed design phase have been finalised, and the preferred development plan, project program and financial assessment have been endorsed by the task force. The original concept plan has been varied to accommodate some of the input that came from stakeholders during the public consultation phase and also as a consequence of market research findings. A cabinet minute will be prepared and will be forwarded to Cabinet for approval, and I expect it to be considered within the next two months.

#### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX, LIST OF FEES AND CHARGES

#### 103. Mr RIPPER to the Premier:

Some notice of this question has been given. I refer to the statement made in the Western Australian Municipal Association newsletter of 23 July 1999 that "Treasury have finally submitted to the Commonwealth a list of Local Government fees and charges that should receive GST status". Will the Premier now release that list, plus the list of all state government fees and charges that the Government believes should have a GST? If so, when? If not, why not?

#### Mr COURT replied:

I can release that list. I do not have a copy with me; I will give it to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition this afternoon when it comes from Treasury. The Western Australian Municipal Association has been involved in all those discussions, and I understand it has the list that has been provided.

Mr Ripper: Will you give us one list or the municipal list plus the state government list?

Mr COURT: I will give the Deputy Leader of the Opposition what we have sent to the commonwealth Treasurer, because it is the commonwealth Treasurer who makes the decision. I understand that the Federal Government has pretty well said publicly anyway what will be GST free and what will be taxable; for example, general rates will be GST free but a number of the services provided will be taxable. The Federal Government has spelt that out. We have sent the list, which was developed in consensus with WAMA, but the commonwealth Treasurer will make the final decision.

Mr Ripper: Is there another list for state government fees and charges? Is there a similar process?

Mr COURT: Yes, there will be for all government - local, state and federal.

Mr Ripper: Is there another list, and can you provide it?

Mr COURT: At the end of the day -

Mr Ripper: You have sent the Commonwealth a list for local government fees and charges. Will you also send a similar list to the Commonwealth for state government fees and charges, and can we have both lists?

Mr COURT: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has asked me for the local government list, and I can get that list. With regard to the other one, I will see if there is such a list. There is obviously a list for all government taxes and charges, because the Federal Government will need to make the final determinations. Some areas have caused us concern. We have been arguing, for example, about third party insurance, and the Federal Government has said that because, in some States, third party insurance is run by the private sector and not by a government insurance office, GST should be paid on that. They are areas on which we have certainly been having discussions.

Mr Ripper: Do you agree with that?

Mr COURT: Will the member ask me whether a GST should be paid on this or that or whatever? The GST will be introduced on all services. The Federal Government has said that some areas, such as general rates, will be exempt. Of course, people will say they do not want to pay GST on this or that. We have had that argument in relation to food. The Labor Party will not have a tax on anything. It does not have a policy on taxation. It has kept itself outside the debate. For the next 18 months all those opposite will do is snipe from the sidelines and say, "Shock, horror, this is awful; we will pay tax on this". They will not bother to mention -

Mr Ripper: While high income earners get big income tax cuts.

Mr COURT: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is worried about the working people!

Mr Ripper: Absolutely.

Mr COURT: What a joke. I have been in this Parliament for 17 years and I have never seen a Labor Party so far removed from the working people as those opposite are today.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! We started with a question on the goods and services tax. We are now talking about many other things. Perhaps members could listen in silence because the member for Vasse wants to ask his question.

Mr COURT: I think Kim Beazley summed up the point correctly when he said, "When you went to Labor Party conferences, you used to meet the cream of the working class; now you meet the dregs of the middle class." I am fascinated that those opposite want to talk about helping working people. What have they done for them on forestry, on native title, on workers compensation? The final thing that made me realise just how far behind the times those opposite are is this: When Mr Keltj left the Australian Council of Trade Unions the new gentleman, Mr Combet, said that one of the things the union movement will now do is empower its members to act for themselves. Last week the minister made this comment: Welcome to the twentieth century. In 1999, the Labor Party has finally come to the conclusion that workers must be empowered to act for themselves. That is how far behind the times those opposite are. I do not know how some of them can say that they want to belong to an Australian Labor Party which does not represent working people any longer.

## ILLEGAL WEAPONS

### 104. Mr MASTERS to the Minister for Police:

A recent report from New South Wales shows that illegal concealed weapons are still being confiscated from offenders at a very high rate, suggesting that the supply routes for such weapons also need to be targeted. Can the minister advise whether the Western Australian Government is planning to put more effort into restricting the supply routes of illegal weapons?

#### Mr PRINCE replied:

First, in relation to concealable firearms, the more or less uniform firearm laws that exist around Australia are helping, but it takes time to capture a lot of those illegal concealable firearms and to take them out of circulation. Previously that was not easily done because of the virtual lack of legislation in places like Queensland, New South Wales and Tasmania. Non-firearm weapons are a huge problem that has been growing, and the Weapons Bill passed in this Parliament late last year will be proclaimed on 1 September, in 12 days' time.

Mrs Roberts: Why have we waited so long?

Mr PRINCE: It is because we have had to prepare the regulations and get them right to make sure they work. That has taken time.

Mrs Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Midland to order.

Mr PRINCE: As near as possible, we must get the regulations right before they are proclaimed. In that way, they will not have to be brought back to be changed. The Act will come into operation on 1 March. That also is a time for education, particularly for some of the retail outlets, which sell things legitimately but which will not be able to do so in the future, to make the necessary commercial arrangements, and that is fair enough. The educational process that goes with that is also aimed at trying to stop the movement of illegal concealable non-firearm weapons, particularly things like knives of all types, whether they be switchblade, butterfly or trench knives. The police will have a greater power in this area. Under the legislation they will be able to police the manufacture, carriage or possession of those weapons. If I recall correctly, under the legislation the maximum penalty is about two years' imprisonment or a fine of \$8 000.

Because our state law will prohibit the carriage, manufacture and possession of these things, the Australian Customs Service is empowered similarly to prevent their import. Over time that will reduce the number of these things available in this society. Other States have similar legislation, but not all. We need common legislation around Australia so that the Customs Service, effectively, can say that these things are not to be imported to Australia anywhere, anytime. That will reduce considerably the size of the problem that must be dealt with within the national boundaries, and hence within the state boundary. There will be a combination of action by the State and the Australian Customs Service.

## ROAD FUNDS, FUEL LEVY

### 105. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Premier:

I refer to the defence of the Premier in Parliament yesterday of the broken promise to allocate all fuel levy money to road funding and his claim that the new safety net arrangements with the Commonwealth had "given us ups in some areas and downs in some areas". Given that the safety net payments in 1999-2000 for tobacco are up 20.1 per cent, for liquor 31.2 per cent and for fuel 26.1 per cent on the figures in the pre-High Court of Australia decision of 1996-1997, where are the downs that justify the Government ripping \$79m from Western Australian motorists?

**Mr COURT replied:**

The Commonwealth agreed to collect the safety net revenue on behalf of the States at the rates of 8.1¢ per litre for petrol and 8.1¢ per litre for diesel. The revenue that would have been collected in Western Australia, using the pre-High Court decision rates, was \$190.1m for 1 966 million litres of petrol and \$60.2m for 808 million litres of diesel. The estimated collections would have been \$250.3m. The revenue which is collected in Western Australia by using the safety net revenue rates of 8.1¢ per litre is \$158.6m for 1 966 million litres of petrol and \$65.04m for 808 million litres of diesel. The estimated collections are \$223.64m. The State Government is supplementing the estimated collections by \$26.66m to bring the transport trust funds back to the pre-High Court decision levels.

Of the \$457.8m coming to the State from the Commonwealth, \$250.3m goes into the transport trust fund and \$163.7m is rebated to fuel suppliers. This leaves a balance of \$43.8m of the commonwealth payment, which is properly regarded - this advice is from Treasury - as a temporary benefit to the State and remains in the consolidated fund.

Ms MacTiernan: Why not say that to the constituents, rather than that you are putting it all into roads.

Mr COURT: I ask the member to listen.

Ms MacTiernan: You just cannot stop lying about this.

*Withdrawal of Remark*

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms MacTiernan: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

Mr COURT: It comes about largely because our off-road diesel fuel subsidies are lower than expected, although there is also a benefit from the indexation of the surcharge. If this temporary benefit recurs, it will be eroded over time by the Grants Commission, and this erosion will affect the consolidated fund, not the road funds. Of the \$250.3m safety net revenue, which goes into the transport trust fund, \$7.8m is retained by the Department of Transport, with Main Roads Western Australia receiving \$242.5m for roadworks. Growth in fuel sales has also been accounted for. The State Government agreed after the High Court decision to enter into those safety net arrangements. That is the Treasury explanation.

*Point of Order*

Mr RIPPER: The Premier appeared to be quoting from an official document; I think he referred to it as Treasury advice. Perhaps you could ask him to table it, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Under the rules of the House, if the Premier is quoting from an official document, I will ask him to table it.

Mr COURT: It is some notes which have been provided to me, not an official document.

Mr Ripper: Would you like to table it anyway?

Mr Court: No.

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