



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# **Parliamentary Debates**

**(HANSARD)**

THIRTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT  
FIRST SESSION  
1997

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 20 August 1997

# Legislative Assembly

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**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Strickland) took the Chair at 11.00 am, and read prayers.

## PETITION - ROADS

*Karratha-Tom Price*

**MR RIEBELING** (Burrup) [11.03 am]: I present the following petition -

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

We, the undersigned residents of Tom Price call upon the State Government to bituminise a road between Tom Price and Karratha. We have waited 30 years and received nothing. Why should we destroy our cars and continually suffer no access to facilities?

We demand the Government honours its election promise to Tom Price people.

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

The petition bears 771 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 80.]

## PETITION - PARKS AND RESERVES

*National - Greater Beedelup*

**MR MASTERS** (Vasse) [11.04 am]: I present the following petition -

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

We, the undersigned, request that the Parliament:

1. Place a moratorium on any further roading or logging within the boundaries of the proposed Greater Beedelup National Park near Pemberton in the South-West of WA;
2. Undertake a full, open and independent study into the benefits of the creation of the proposed Greater Beedelup National Park, and the steps necessary for its implementation;
3. Give priority to the development of strategies whereby any disruption to local communities through the withdrawal of the timber resource is offset by employment and other opportunities that will become available through the implementation of the proposed Greater Beedelup National Park.

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

The petition bears 59 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 81.]

## STATEMENT - MINISTER FOR LABOUR RELATIONS

*Workplace Agreements*

**MR KIERATH** (Riverton - Minister for Labour Relations) [11.06 am]: I wish to inform the House of a milestone in labour relations reform. More than 100 000 Western Australians have now entered workplace agreements that have been used to create more jobs, higher wages and more productivity since their introduction in December 1993.

Latest figures from the Commissioner of Workplace Agreements' office indicate that to the end of July, 102 245 employees have signed workplace agreements since 1 December, four years ago.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is far too much noise in the Chamber. It is normal to allow Ministers to read their brief ministerial statements with a minimum of interjections.

Mr KIERATH: The figures also show that in July this year, 4 429 employees signed workplace agreements, the biggest number in one month since workplace agreements became available. I am encouraged and pleased to see that more people are taking advantage of the flexibility and better working conditions that can be written into workplace agreements when employers and employees simply sit down and talk. Workplace agreements allow employees to make working arrangements that are more family friendly. They also give employers more flexibility in the use of their work force to ensure they remain competitive in the global marketplace. Workplace agreements have provided higher wages and benefits to workers and have helped businesses make productivity improvements to continue growth in their operations and to provide more jobs for Western Australians. Plans by the federal Australian Labor Party to scrap workplace agreements and return to a single award-based wages system would rob people of their freedom of choice and put the brakes on businesses trying to compete in international markets.

Workplace agreements offer employees a choice of two systems - negotiated agreements or staying with the award system. The changes this Government has made to labour relations have helped us to reduce the youth unemployment rate, which fell 4.8 percentage points from 17.7 per cent in June to 12.9 per cent in July. Our youth unemployment rate is a full 12 percentage points below the national average and more than 10 percentage points lower than in any other State. This State has the lowest youth unemployment it has had in almost three years. The labour market reforms this Government has made have opened opportunities for young workers to be employed and to earn money. Western Australia has the second highest employment growth of any State, behind Queensland, for the year ending in July. Allowing employers and employees to organise flexible working arrangements has allowed employers to offer more jobs and to help more young people into the work force. That is an initiative I thought members opposite would support. More workers and employers are finding that the new work culture is based upon better cooperation and communication and is beneficial to both.

Once again this Government is fulfilling its election promise to provide more jobs and more choices for workers and business.

#### **BILLS (5) - INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING**

1. Small Business Development Corporation Amendment Bill.  
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Cowan (Minister for Small Business), and read a first time.
2. Osteopaths Bill.  
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Prince (Minister for Health), and read a first time.
3. Western Australian Land Authority Amendment Bill.  
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Shave (Minister for Lands), and read a first time.
4. Financial Accountability Bill.  
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Pandal, and read a first time.
5. Equal Opportunity Amendment Bill.  
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Ripper, and read a first time.

#### **DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES**

*Member for Southern River - Appointment*

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Strickland): I advise members that I have appointed the member for Southern River as Deputy Chairman of Committees and Acting Speaker.

#### **SELECT COMMITTEE INTO THE MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT - MEETING**

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

That leave be granted for the Select Committee on the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981 to meet when the House is sitting on Wednesday, 20 August.

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON DELEGATED LEGISLATION - AMENDMENT OF  
MEMBERSHIP RULE**

**MR BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [11.16 am]: I move -

That Rule 10 of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation be amended by deleting the words "of whom not less than 2 shall be members of the Assembly and not less than 2 members of the Legislative Council." and substituting the words ", provided that each House is represented at all times."

**MR WIESE** (Wagin) [11.17 am]: The Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation has eight members, of whom four come from the Legislative Assembly and four from the Legislative Council. The quorum for a meeting of the committee is four, of whom two must come from each House. There have been long running problems with that quorum. These problems have arisen when three persons from one House and only one person from the other House have been present. Although four members are present, the committee does not have a quorum because of the quorum rules that apply in rule 10. A classic example occurred last week when the committee met. Telephone calls made in the two days preceding the meeting indicated the committee would have the required quorum of two members from each House. However, on the morning of the meeting, for last minute personal reasons one of the members who was to be present was not able to attend and the meeting had to be cancelled. That resulted in a substantial waste of time for everybody. In my case such circumstances could result in a round trip of 400 kilometres from my electorate to a meeting, only to have the meeting cancelled at the last minute.

The precedent has been set in another joint standing committee. The Joint Standing Committee on the Commission on Government has in place the rule that we are now moving to put in place for the Delegated Legislation Committee. The proposed change has been discussed with each of the parties in Parliament and has been agreed to by the leaders of the National Party, Liberal Party and Labor Party. In addition, the leaders of both Houses have agreed to the implementation of the change. The committee will be able to function much more effectively if this change is put in place. I commend the motion to the House.

Question put and passed.

*Message to the Council*

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

That the Legislative Council be acquainted accordingly and its concurrence sought.

**OSTEOPATHS BILL**

*Message - Appropriations*

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the Bill.

**CASINO (BURSWOOD ISLAND) AGREEMENT AMENDMENT BILL**

*Second Reading*

**MR COWAN** (Merredin - Deputy Premier) [11.21 am]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

In his ministerial statement to the Legislative Council on 8 April, the Minister for Racing and Gaming announced that the Burswood Property Trust would acquire the management interests in the Burswood International Resort Casino held by Victoria Company Limited, the operator of the casino. This would mean that the control of the day to day operation of the casino would be taken over by the trust, which is predominantly Australian owned.

The Minister also outlined the Government's support for the corporatisation of the Burswood Trust and its intention to amend the Casino (Burswood Island) Agreement to increase from 5 per cent to 10 per cent the aggregate total number of shares on issue that any person shall be entitled to hold in the new Burswood public company to be created as part of the corporatisation of the Burswood Property Trust.

Among other benefits, corporatisation will improve the trust's ability to retain funds and raise finance, will improve unit holder reputation by providing for the election and review of the performance of directors of the company managing the affairs of the trust, and will broaden the trust development and investment opportunities.

Institutional investors and fund managers support corporatisation. They have also made submissions and deputations to the Government on a number of occasions to increase the limit on individual unit holdings from 5 per cent to 10 per cent. This Bill seeks to amend the Casino (Burswood Island) Agreement Act 1985 to ratify the amendments

to the Casino (Burswood Island) Agreement and to entrench in the Act the mandatory articles to be contained in the articles of association of the approved company; that is, the new Burswood public company, to be approved by the Minister to hold, as part of the corporatisation of the Burswood Property Trust, all the units in the trust.

The Bill will also ensure that the Act contains, for reference purposes, a complete set of the text of the amending agreements; and it will enable the maintenance of an up to date text of the agreement. The amendments to the agreement permit corporatisation of the trust and enable the new Burswood public company to hold all the units in the trust and acquire all the A and B class shares in Burswood Resort Management Limited - the manager of the trust.

Subject to unit holders' approval, the Burswood Property Trust proposes to effect corporatisation by a scheme of arrangement pursuant to which unit holders will swap their trust units for shares in the new listed Burswood public company. The trust will remain intact, but all the units will be held by the new Burswood company, and the manager and trustee of the trust will be replaced by a subsidiary company of the Burswood company. In effect, the Burswood Property Trust will become an in-house structure, wholly owned and controlled by the publicly listed Burswood company. The trust will continue to own the Burswood International Resort Casino and other facilities, but ultimate control will reside in the new Burswood company.

The casino agreement will empower the Minister to approve the Burswood public company acquiring all, and not less than all, of the trust units and it also ensures that the Burswood company is subject to all the controls which exist under the agreement. Amendments to the agreement will require the new publicly listed Burswood company to be approved by the Minister, and the memorandum and mandatory articles of association to be in accordance with the requirements set out in the Casino (Burswood Island) Agreement Act and Agreement and any alterations to be approved by the Minister. The mandatory articles impose the same conditions on foreign shareholdings at 40 per cent and individual shareholdings at 10 per cent. They also require the head office of the Burswood company to be located in Western Australia, at least two-thirds of the directors to be Australian citizens, and the presiding director at board meetings to be an Australian citizen.

The Government has taken this opportunity to incorporate additional amendments to the agreement. The agreement will provide for any change in ownership or control of a future operation management agreement to be approved by the Minister.

The restriction on Gaming Commission nominees to the Burswood Park Board being limited to only members of the Gaming Commission will be removed. The provisions establishing and relating to the defunct Burswood Park Technical Committee will be deleted. A new provision recognises that the State may excise land from the Burswood Park Reserve to be granted or leased to the Burswood Property Trust, and any moneys received may be paid to the registered proprietor of that land immediately prior to its acquisition by or on behalf of the State.

A mechanism has been inserted into the agreement to change the boundaries of the Burswood Park Reserve land. Currently the agreement does not provide a mechanism to change the boundaries of the Burswood Park Reserve land without amendment to the agreement. The need to amend the boundaries of the reserve land may arise if the area of the reserve is, for example, increased by the incorporation of more land into the reserve, decreased by the excision of land for the purpose of public streets or other proposals agreed to by the trustee, or decreased by the excision of land from the reserve to be granted or leased to the trust.

The definition of "resort site" has been amended to incorporate the land presently leased by the Department of Land Administration to Tennis West. The Tennis Centre reserve will be incorporated into the Burswood Park Reserve land. The Burswood Park Board will control and manage the Tennis Centre reserve as lessor so that the grounds and facilities can be maintained at the same high standard as the adjoining Burswood Park. Tennis West, the Burswood Park Board and the trustee support this proposal. I commend the Bill to the House, and in so doing table an explanatory memorandum on the measure for the benefit of members.

[See paper No 597.]

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Cunningham.

## **CEMENT WORKS (COCKBURN CEMENT LIMITED) AGREEMENT AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Second Reading*

Resumed from 19 June.

**MR GRILL** (Eyre) [11.28 am]: The dredging of shell sand and shell grit at Success Bank in Cockburn Sound, which has occurred for a number of years, has been very controversial in recent years as considerable doubt exists about whether the seagrass banks can be successfully replanted.

In 1955, Cockburn Cement Limited established its operation at Munster, and since then the plant has produced lime from the shell grit. Initially, this production was at fairly low rates, but the rate at which the material has been mined has increased fairly dramatically since the late 1960s and early 1970s. Construction of the plant at Munster began in 1953, and the first delivery of cement and lime through that plant took place in August 1955. At that time, no state agreement was in place and about 120 000 tonnes of material was produced per annum. As I have already mentioned, large amounts of shell grit and shell sand for lime and cement production were not acquired until the late 1960s.

The late 1960s brought the advent of the alumina industry in Western Australia, which required large amounts of lime. The great preponderance of the material dredged from Cockburn Sound and Success Bank largely goes into the production of lime, and to a lesser extent of cement. That lime goes directly into the mineral processing industries in this State, with about 70 per cent going into the alumina industry; about 30 per cent going into the gold industry; the next largest proportion going into the mineral sands industry; and after that the construction industry and those sorts of areas.

The downstream processing of the minerals of this State could not take place without lime. Before 1955 no great quantity of lime was produced in this State. Large quantities were not produced until about 1970 or 1971. Consequently in 1971, because of the demand for lime initially in the alumina industry and the other mineral processing industries, a state agreement was written between the State and Cockburn Cement.

That agreement lacked the requirement for the payment of any royalty for the dredging of that material from Cockburn Sound. People who look at that agreement today see that as a glaring anomaly. I found out only this morning that that anomaly is in place and has been in place for 40 years, and that makes it even more glaring. I also found out this morning that the company has a right to extend that provision for a further 10 years at its option, which is even more extraordinary.

The State, under various Governments and principally through the Department of Resources Development, has endeavoured to extract a royalty from the company for at least 15 years; however, the company has been in an extremely strong position because of the provisions of the agreement, which give it a veto over any serious attempt by the State to put in place a royalty for 40 years, with an extension of a further 10 years. That 50 years commenced in 1971. The immediate questions are why such a provision was put into an agreement of that nature at that time and why it should have been such a durable clause; that is, for half a century.

There are no clear answers. We can only surmise that at the time the agreement was initially written the powers that be thought downstream processing industries were so important that certain concessions needed to be made to ensure they could be carried out efficiently and economically in Western Australia. One of those concessions was that no royalties would be payable on the shell sand material dredged from Success Bank. More than that, I do not think we can say. Downstream processing industries in this State are very important, but whether inducements of that nature and for that duration should have been put in place is probably a moot point.

Mr Barnett: Probably at the time the State was more hungry for investment than perhaps it has been in more recent times.

Mr GRILL: The Minister is probably right. The State at that time, in 1969, 1970 and 1971 when this agreement would have been negotiated, was still a mendicant State; it was dependent on the Federal Government for top up funds. We have outgrown that status and we make a very substantial contribution to the finances of Australia, but in those days we did not. We were hungry for new industry.

Mr Thomas: You can go back even further to the BP agreement.

Mr GRILL: Yes. A number of agreements were written during that period, including the BP agreement and the port authority agreement, which contained major concessions. We were hungry for industry, trade and commerce, and were prepared to put into place some concessions to see some of those industries come to this State. We were not highly industrialised and we realised we should be doing something with our minerals, and the iron ore and alumina booms started at that time. People obviously thought we needed to bring the lime industry and the cement industry to this State.

It is easy to be critical in hindsight; however, that concession now seems to be a very generous one and one that has had a long duration. Governments of all ilks have been endeavouring for at least 15 years, through the Department of Resources Development, to bring about some form of royalty. There is no way that this company can be coerced during this agreement to pay a royalty, so I suppose the Government and the officers undertaking negotiations were very pleased, and happily surprised, when the company agreed to do so. I understand it did not offer to pay the royalty up-front. This agreement, as amended, will not put in place the full rate of the royalty immediately.

Mr Barnett: When you say coerced, you probably mean that in a literal and legal sense, and that is true. I accept

what you are saying; successive Governments have been continually pressuring for an agreement to be reached on royalties. The company is to be complimented; however, it was not as though the company walked through the door and said that it would pay royalties. It has been sought by Governments for some years.

Mr GRILL: I had hoped to make that clear. We must give some credit to the company. Fairly recently it conceded the need to pay a royalty, but it was not keen to pay the full royalty up-front. It took the view that it was undertaking a fairly extensive research program. I understand the program to which the company committed itself a few years ago runs at the rate of about \$1m a year for pure and new research and applied research. It has a fairly big expenditure on that front. From the briefing we had this morning I understand the company is no longer obliged to carry through with that research in any legal sense. It has a voluntary program mainly concerned with the regrowing and replanting of seagrass which it will continue until the year 2001. However, it is probably obliged to continue with it if it wants to continue dredging Success Bank and Parmelia Bank and other enriched areas in the vicinity. To the credit of the company, it has agreed to pay a royalty. It had a complete veto. It could have held out for 50 years. In this sense, we should be prepared to give it some credence and some thanks. It is not as though the company has not made a fair investment in Munster and the dredging operation. I was informed by the department this morning that the replacement cost of the plant and equipment Cockburn Cement Limited has in that area is approximately \$350m. Cockburn Cement is not a local company; it is not even an Australian company. It is owned by the Rugby Group. It is an English company which has operated as a good citizen in Western Australia since 1953 and it has made a substantial contribution to the State. Some credit should go to the company.

Cockburn Cement is not the only company in this State that makes lime. Swan Portland Cement Ltd makes some lime, but not in the same quantity as Cockburn Cement. Other companies make lime, including Loogana Lime Pty Ltd in my electorate which makes lime principally for the goldmining industry.

I said a moment ago that 70 per cent of the lime produced in this State went into the alumina industry and I want to correct that figure. My notes indicate that 60 per cent goes into the alumina industry, 30 per cent into the gold industry and 10 per cent into mineral sands, construction and other industries. The figures I used previously added up to 110 per cent.

Mr Barnett: I thought it was close for you.

Mr GRILL: The Minister is unfair and he should have withheld the temptation to score that easy point. I did make a mistake and I have corrected that figure.

The actual quantity of lime, which is a very large feature of the Western Australian processing industry, produced in this State is approximately 900 000 tonnes per annum and the majority of it is produced by Cockburn Cement. It is the big lime producer in this State; according to the information given to me today, it produces something like 850 000 tonnes per annum. It is installing a new kiln and its production will increase to one million tonnes of lime per annum, which is a lot of lime.

I was told a few technical things this morning which I found quite interesting and they bear on the environmental and economic arguments of producing lime and cement in Western Australia. It appears that Success Bank is virtually the only large source of fairly high quality lime grit close to the metropolitan area. The quality of the lime sand or grit from Success Bank runs at approximately 92 per cent. Local limestone, which is a source of lime, runs at approximately 80 per cent lime and is of an inferior quality. Two tonnes of shell sand, grit or limestone is used to produce one tonne of lime. If the shell sand is at 92 per cent lime quality the final product can come out at about 82 per cent, which is the minimum quality needed in the processing industry. If local lime, at about 80 per cent lime quality, is used it is likely that the lime will be only 70 per cent quality, which is below the minimum level at which it can be used in the processing industry. The lower grade lime can be used in the cement industry because that industry needs silica and other so-called impurities to make cement. However, the mineral processing industries, particularly the alumina industry, find it necessary to have lime at approximately 82 per cent, therefore the lime in the sand grit at Success Bank is a very valuable source, especially for Cockburn Cement. It becomes an even more valuable source when one examines the agreement, because it not only provides the company with access to the shell sand and shell grit for 50 years, but also contains another section which is quite extraordinary and unable to be easily explained. I refer to clause 6(6) which places a significant obligation on the State, in the event that the deposits at Success Bank run out, to find a similar source of lime within fairly reasonable proximity to the current deposits. I cannot understand the reason that the State would have entered into an agreement which contained a clause of that nature.

Mr Bloffwich: The problem is that it was in the original legislation. The company would not agree to this Bill unless that provision was brought forward from the old Bill. I do not know why it was in the original legislation, but if you were the company you would understand its saying, "It is in there; why should we forfeit it?"

Mr GRILL: The Government would be keen to see that section in the agreement expunged. I understand the company has forcefully indicated that it is not prepared to see that section expunged; therefore, it remains for the reason given by the member for Geraldton. It is rather unfortunate. While I reflected upon the generosity of Cockburn Cement the truth is that in this very critical area it is not prepared to release the State. The State continues to bear that obligation and, in the event that these banks cannot be dredged in the near future for environmental or any other reasons, there appears to be no doubt, at least on present indications, that the company will maintain its rights under clause 6(6).

I am not close to the negotiations but no doubt the Minister is. He has various views and I do not know whether he wants to express them in Parliament. The matter may be commercially confidential. At the end of the day that obligation rests fairly and squarely on the State. It can be discharged if the State finds other deposits in the event that Success Bank or Parmelia Bank cannot be dredged or the company drops its right and the State is released from its obligation.

The Minister might like to comment on those matters, because that clause represents a major ongoing obligation on the State. It also represents some impediment to the State's being completely objective about environmental concerns. I will not become involved in the environmental debate, because I do not know a lot about it and the Opposition's spokesperson on environmental matters will make some comments in that arena. While the State has an obligation under clause 6(6) of the agreement I do not know whether it can be objective in its assessment of the environmental risks.

We have the ongoing controversy about whether seagrass can be regrown. The company maintains that its experimental work, on which it is spending \$1m a year, will be successful and that in the year 2001 it will demonstrate that it can regrow seagrass. That will remove the impediment to the further mining of Success Bank and the mining of Parmelia Bank. However, most of the environmental world is highly sceptical about the prospect of success in that area. Only time will tell. I happily wish the company luck. I hope it is successful so that we have a cheap source of reasonably high quality shell sand in reasonably close proximity to the metropolitan area. That is good for industry.

Western Australia has other sources of metallurgical limestone on the Nullarbor Plain, and at Exmouth and Dongara. I understand that the quality of metallurgical limestone on the Nullarbor is high. However, the cost of transporting that limestone to the metropolitan area and the south west for crushing and processing is high. Likewise transport costs from Dongara to the large south west market are high. As a result of this morning's briefing I understand that the Exmouth deposit offers some real prospect of high quality limestone - that is, limestone with about 98 per cent lime - and that Swan Portland Cement Ltd already plans to transport that limestone to the metropolitan area by ship in a way that would make it competitive with Cockburn Cement. Clearly that is the case because Swan Cement is prepared to put its money where its mouth is and it is already building a kiln and preparing to transport a substantial amount of that limestone for processing in the south west of the State.

This arena has a number of players. If Swan Cement proceeds - as I have no doubt it will - with its proposal to make lime in the Kwinana region with Exmouth limestone for the first time it will be a major competitor of Cockburn Cement in the supply of metallurgical or industrial lime in the mineral processing and construction industries in this State. For equity reasons alone there are good arguments for Cockburn Cement to pay the sorts of royalties that everybody else must pay.

All the other producers, even though they may not be as large as Cockburn Cement, pay a royalty on metallurgical grade limestone at the rate of 50¢ a tonne. A lower grade limestone - I presume with about 80 per cent lime or less - attracts a royalty of about 30¢ a tonne. The construction companies, and I suspect that Swan Cement for at least a portion of the limestone it extracts from its quarries on land in and around the metropolitan area, would pay the lower royalty rate. This Bill proposes that Cockburn Cement should pay 50¢ a tonne for metallurgical grade limestone, although not immediately. It proposes that the higher rate should be phased in over a three year period commencing in 1997-98. Cockburn Cement will pay one-third of the prescribed rate in the coming year, two-thirds in the year after that, and the full rate in the year after that. It will then be on the same footing as its competitors and potential competitors in this field. That is important for equity purposes.

The state agreement came into effect in 1971. That agreement was amended in 1986 to include environmental reporting requirements. Until 1986 there was no formal requirement to report on environmental issues from mining activity on Success Bank. In 1986 the agreement was amended so that dredging management plans became a requirement under the agreement. The dredging management plans had to be approved by various authorities, including the Department of Minerals and Energy and the Environmental Protection Authority. Since that time the Environmental Protection Authority and the Department of Minerals and Energy have assessed those plans. The preparation of dredging management plans and environmental assessment plans has resulted in a considerable duplication of work for the company. The Bill will exclude the necessity for that duplication, and provide for one



set of requirements for dredging management plans and the environmental assessment. In future Cockburn Cement will satisfy government requirements by producing one set of plans and the Government, through the EPA, will discharge its duties and responsibilities in one assessment. That seems to be eminently sensible. I do not know a lot about the environmental debate on this matter but on the face of it that duplication seems to be a nonsense requirement.

A further amendment includes a new environmental assessment clause. I have looked at the new and the old clauses and I cannot see a lot of difference. Probably the same sort of obligation is placed on the company under the old assessment clause -

Mr Barnett: It is a matter of having a standard environmental clause as per modern agreements. It is not a policy decision as such.

Mr GRILL: That is how I see it. The new clause allows uniformity and centralisation and, once again, gives the lie to the impression that there is duplication in the environmental assessment process. That also appears to be a commonsense clause and the Opposition supports it.

This Bill has three aims: First, to impose upon the company a royalty obligation - one over which it has had a veto for at least 30 years - and the Opposition supports that. The second aim is to prevent duplication of reporting and assessment requirements, and the Opposition also supports that. The third aim is to introduce what is now a uniform clause in respect of environmental assessment, and that is also commonsense. The Opposition supports these measures.

My colleagues might have some comments to make about environmental matters. As I said, I am not an expert in that arena and I do not want to comment, but the issue has been contentious. The question of whether this company will be mining in this area in five years - or even two, three or four years - is yet to be answered. Much will depend on the research currently being done by the company and the perceived success of that research. It is a very interesting area.

The company is also doing some research into beneficiating the second grade limestone. It would be a major breakthrough for Western Australia if it were successful in doing that. More than that, I am told it would be a world breakthrough. If it is done here, it will be a very big operation and it will set precedents in research and the size of such operations. We hope that that research is successful, because there are immense quantities of low grade limestone in the area. If that 80 per cent limestone can be beneficiated, there will be an endless supply of limestone for the making of lime and therefore the processing of minerals in the immediate area, and it will be very economic.

For all those reasons I believe we are heading in the right direction. We have been pushing for at least 15 years to get the company to a point where it is prepared to pay a royalty. It places it on an equal footing with other competitors and potential competitors and it is the right thing for the State. I have some misgivings about the continuing obligation, whereby the State has a real duty to find similar sources of supply for Cockburn Cement in the event that Success Bank is worked out or for environmental reasons there cannot be any further dredging. As time goes on, the State should push the company to drop that obligation; it is unfair. It was obviously put in place a long time ago in an environment that no longer exists. A 50-year term is far too long. With some minor qualifications that my colleagues might have in respect of the environment, the Opposition supports the legislation.

**MR THOMAS (Cockburn)** [12.06 pm]: I am very pleased to have the opportunity to speak in this debate and to endorse the comments of my colleague the member for Eyre, the shadow Minister for Resources Development. It is not my intention to speak at any great length, but I wish to comment from my perspective as the local member - as its name indicates, Cockburn Cement is located in my electorate. This issue has some planning as well as environmental implications.

The member for Eyre said that when the original agreement was negotiated in the early 1970s - presumably the negotiations commenced in the late 1960s - the State was very eager to attract investment and to encourage industrial development. In its eagerness to obtain that development, the State entered into agreements that it probably would not enter into today. Those agreements covered environmental standards, planning matters and financial implications that disadvantage the State relative to the terms we expect in the 1990s. In some cases the State has been trapped in those agreements and has been in a weak negotiating position in its attempts to improve them from its point of view.

The most obvious example of such an agreement is the original BP agreement, which was the first such Act passed in the 1950s. The Bert Hawke Government sought to attract BP to build an oil refinery in Western Australia. In today's world that agreement Act is absolutely outrageous in relation to the benefits that accrue to the proponents and the lack of favourable terms for the State. As the member for Eyre indicated and the Minister conceded by way of interjection, successive Governments have sought to improve the terms of those agreements, but have been

negotiating from a weak position because they have been bound by their long term nature - in this case 50 years. In addition to being in a weak position because the State was eager to attract development, some matters were not even contemplated in the 1970s. There was no Environmental Protection Act or Environmental Protection Authority and the notion of the environment as a political issue did not exist.

The environmental impact of this company is primarily on seagrasses, which are obviously under water in Cockburn Sound and out of sight and mind. In the late 1960s and early 1970s people did not have the same concern or knowledge about seagrasses, which are now much more widely understood. The State is obviously concerned to do something about the environmental implications of the operations of this company. However, it is doing so from a position of weakness because, essentially, it has to get the company to concede matters when it is under no legal obligation to do so. Moreover, at the time the agreement was entered into, the plant site was in bush, a long way from any residential settlement. The implications for nearby residents who are my constituents were not a consideration because these areas had not been subdivided. The nearest suburbs to the north would have been Spearwood and Hamilton Hill and to the south the residential areas of Kwinana such as Medina and Calista. In addition to the environmental implications which arise from the company's underwater mining operations and their effect on seagrass, quite severe planning implications result from its location. These have been brought to the fore this year with the publication of the Fremantle Rockingham Industrial Area Regional Strategy Report, which seeks to definitively determine the areas which will be required for industrial development in the Fremantle to Rockingham area so that planning can take into account the impact on residents and areas can be developed in a way which is consistent with modern and proper standards. That is a very desirable process.

As the member for Cockburn, my impression is that Cockburn Cement has been a very good corporate citizen. It is under no legal obligation to vary its agreement in order to pay royalties or to provide for proper standards for environmental protection. Notwithstanding that, it has agreed to do so. It could be said that if the company did not, it would be under such political and community pressure that it could be forced into taking action which would not be of its own choosing. That is a cynic's view. It may well be the case, but a cynic is one who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing. I am prepared to take the situation on face value and say that the company has acted in a proper manner and that we should acknowledge that. Cockburn Cement is a large player in the Cockburn community and, as I indicated, a good corporate citizen. Cockburn Cement has generously sponsored local sporting groups, in particular the Cockburn Cougars, the state league basketball team in the area, which a couple of years ago was the premier team and which are the flagship of sport in the Cockburn area.

I was involved in a project for the construction of a recreation centre in South Lake and was grateful for the assistance of Cockburn Cement. When I first became the member for Cockburn the suburb of South Lake was still relatively new and lacking in recreational facilities. It was a young area with a lot of young children and teenagers. Social problems existed because for a large part they had nothing to do. It was off the public transport routes and so in the summer people could not readily go to the beaches or to Fremantle. The City of Cockburn approached the State Government with a proposal to build a recreational centre in conjunction with the construction of the then new Lakeland Senior High School. I was part of the deputation that met the then Minister for Education, Carmen Lawrence. Lakeland Senior High School was at an advanced planning stage. I put the proposition to her that in addition to building the normal facilities one expects at a high school there should be facilities for use by the community. We proposed to have a good swimming pool, a gym, theatre facilities and the like which could be used not only by the school but also by the community. It was a good idea. The City of Cockburn put in money and drew up the plans. The Minister will no doubt appreciate from his other capacity that the Education budget was tight. The then Minister for Education was not able to put in much extra money to facilitate the project. We approached a number of companies and people in the area. One of the companies which was prepared to contribute in the order of, from memory, \$50 000 to that process was Cockburn Cement. We now have in the South Lake area an absolutely top of the range recreational facility which has transformed the nature of the area. Members should go there during the day. If they were to go there now they would find that the pool would be occupied possibly by secondary or primary school students. The coffee shop would probably have some of their parents as customers. The parents are able to use the recreational facilities and the coffee shop for social meetings. I am very proud and pleased to have prevailed upon the then Government to put in some money. It did not come from the Education budget but from a fund called the outer metropolitan regional facilities fund.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms McHale): The level noise is getting too high. I am having difficulty hearing the member. I ask members to curtail their conversations so that Hansard and I may hear the member's contribution.

Mr THOMAS: It was a substantial contribution. The outer metropolitan regional facilities fund was established by Peter Dowding. It was a 1989 election promise to provide facilities in outer metropolitan areas. When areas are first developed people are young and short of cash, relatively speaking. It was recognised that if facilities were left to local governments to develop and were reliant on the rate base, they might not be developed for some years or even some decades. By that time children would have grown up and left, which would mean that a whole generation of

children could miss out on top of the range recreational facilities. Peter Dowding's idea was to set up the fund to bring forward the construction of such recreational facilities. I was able to successfully lobby Peter Dowding when he was Premier and Joe Berinson as Minister assisting the Treasurer to put some of that money into this facility. That decision was made and I was very pleased about it. Shortly afterwards Peter Dowding resigned as Premier, and in the wash-up the outer metropolitan regional facilities fund was abolished. The only facility ever built from that fund was the recreation centre in South Lake, but that would not have been possible without the contribution of Cockburn Cement. That must be acknowledged and I am happy to do so on occasions such as this, and on other occasions when these questions arise.

It could well be said that it is in Cockburn Cement's interests to have good public relations, sponsor local schools and sports teams, and engage in the type of community relations in which it is engaged at present with regard to its impact on close residential areas. It is doing this in a professional and systematic manner. One could be cynical and say it is in the company's interests, because the company is therefore able to maintain a favourable public image and it will reduce pressure to improve the State's position in a financial and environmental sense. As I indicated earlier, I am prepared to take it at face value. It is said that a cynic is a person who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing. I am pleased the agreement has been varied in the way it has, and I am prepared to acknowledge the contribution to the Cockburn community by Cockburn Cement.

**MR MARLBOROUGH (Peel)** [12.22 pm]: I have a number of concerns about the Bill, unlike my colleague the member for Cockburn. I am concerned that this Bill has been introduced by a Government that has reneged on the environmental standards it established for this company some years ago. In 1993 a report was published by the Environmental Protection Authority, and supported by both sides of the House, indicating that the company's mining regime needed to be changed dramatically. I will briefly go through the history of this matter.

We know that in the 1950s Governments, quite rightly, were chasing multinational companies to establish in Western Australia, just as this Government is today. In doing so they were willing to offer all forms of inducement to make sure that happened. It is true that the environmental standards required today were not part of those inducements, mainly because of people's ignorance of environmental matters at the time. Western Australia was not in a position to push in many instances for appropriate royalties and the like. I am sure the Minister will agree that times have changed, and it has been necessary for this Parliament to consider a number of state agreements involving many multinational companies in this State and amend them. There is no better example of that than British Petroleum Ltd. Between 1986 and 1988 BP had the only oil refinery in the western hemisphere that did not have a sulphur extraction plant. It took massive cajoling by the then Premier, Brian Burke, and his Minister David Parker to enforce this requirement. It was necessary for them to go to London to talk to the board of BP to obtain agreement to the construction of a sulphur extraction plant, because the local Australian management of BP declined to do so. At that time BP in Australia threatened that if it were forced to establish a sulphur extraction plant, it might seriously consider closing down its production line and using oil from offshore.

It is not unusual for changes to be made to the agreements made in the 1950s when consideration is given to the new evidence, new environmental standards and the requirements of Western Australian taxpayers. This Bill simply addresses one part of the equation. It recognises that for many years Cockburn Cement has avoided paying royalties. The Government has gone through its own geriatric process trying to get money from the goldmining industry, and we are all aware of how it has handled that process. The Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party jumped on the bandwagon saying other parts of the mining industry pay royalties and there is no reason that they should subsidise the goldmining industry. Many of his colleagues, particularly when the heat was on, had varying views and we have seen a similar approach to royalties in the goldmining industry as is proposed in this Bill; that is, the royalties will be phased in over a period. The goldmining industry probably wishes it were treated in the same way as Cockburn Cement will be, because that company was not required to go through the process to which the goldmining industry was subjected. That process undermined the stability of that industry, and in that process this Government was aided and abetted by its counterparts in the federal arena, who do not know what they are doing about any industry at all. I am sure the Minister for Energy will agree that the Federal Government has no history of understanding the industrial needs of this nation. Aided and abetted by dumb johnny in Canberra, this Government has its own blue with the goldmining industry because it cannot get its act together and it has destabilised that industry in Western Australia. Thankfully, Cockburn Cement is being treated differently.

**Mr Barnett:** The difference is that Cockburn Cement has had 25 years free of royalties, and the gold industry has had 100 years free of royalties.

**Mr MARLBOROUGH:** I will remember that in future. Is that how the legal system works? A person who commits only three offences gets a lesser sentence than a person who commits six offences. It is a reward system.

**Mr Barnett:** It has had a good run.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: Cockburn Cement has fallen into the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party's version of a reward system. He did not mention that there was no cement industry in WA prior to that, although there has been a goldmining industry for a hundred years. What a nonsense. I am pleased the Government will obtain royalties from Cockburn Cement, and it is not before time. Historically it has been one of the more difficult companies to deal with, in both management standards and its treatment of the community. It leaves a fair bit to be desired. It is interesting to note that in many ways it was a prime example of a British company that thought it was dealing with a colony until the 1980s. Thankfully, there have been some changes in management to bring it more in touch with reality, I suggest more as a result of commercial pressures than anything else. Members opposite may be aware that in the 1980s Len Buckeridge put a mining claim on the whole of the seabed from Trigg to Rockingham to get hold of the lime that company was mining. He intended to argue in court, when a Labor Government was in office, that the arrangements the Government had with Cockburn Cement were against fair trading practices, and it could not allow one company to mine the seabed for lime and shell, as had been and is now the case. Len said that could not be continued.

Mr Barnett: Were you backing Len at the time?

Mr MARLBOROUGH: No, I was not. One of the reasons is that we knew Len also had in mind to ship in clinker from Taiwan and Korea as a cheap product for his processors. He at least knew, and the Minister now knows - so we should not be kidded by this document - that the whole area of ocean is on limestone. It does not just apply to Success Bank. It is clear from the Fremantle foreshore and the limestone cliffs that the bottom of the seabed is that substance worn down. It may be of 80 per cent, 82 per cent or 94 per cent purity but it is very good quality limestone. I arrived in Western Australia in 1963, and until 1970 the site on which Cockburn Waters is located was owned by Cockburn Cement and was intended to be its limestone quarry. It was getting limestone from that area, and it was to be a major quarry for its limestone requirements. It moved from that for purely commercial reasons, and, I suggest, some environmental considerations.

I turn now to a document that outlines the environmental standards that were laid down by the EPA in 1993. That document was supported by both sides of the House. The document is entitled "Summary Sheet - EPA Briefing to Hon Premier, 26 November 1993", and it states under the heading "Historical Perspective" that -

Major losses of seagrasses on Parmelia Bank between 1982 and 1986, causing destabilisation of Bank and accretion of grey sand on Woodman Point. This is explained, in part, by CCL's activities.

It states under the heading "Cockburn Cement Activities" that the Cement Works Agreement Act was amended in 1986 requiring CCL to submit dredging management plans covering the proposed activities for the first two years in detail, and the remaining eight years in general, and that this rolling 10 year plan is resubmitted every two years. It states at page 2 that the last two DMPs have been only partly approved by the Minister for Resources Development. When did the Leader of the House become the Minister for Resources Development?

Mr Barnett: After the election in December 1993.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: It states that the previous Minister had partly approved the last two DMPs on advice from the EPA that the long term environmental impacts were unacceptable. It states also that -

Environmental unacceptability centres on irreversible losses of seagrasses during the next 30 years, -

Mr Barnett: Of course that is not established. The jury is out on that.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: The jury is not out; the Minister is out on that. It continues, with regard to the mythical ability to grow seagrasses -

- given that rehabilitation of minesite with *Posidonia* seagrasses, which is the only species considered capable of stabilising the area in the long-term, is not technically feasible.

That is what the EPA said, and that is the environmental evidence with which the Minister was dealing. It states also -

CCL once again say they only have approved resource for a further 9 months despite being warned that further mining on Success Bank was likely to be environmentally unacceptable in November 1988.

Ten years later, the Minister is allowing the same mining regime to continue. The Minister has done nothing. He has continued to accommodate that company. He has overthrown the advice of his environmental department about the company's mining activities in this area.

Mr Barnett: Let me tell you what happened in that period.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: I know precisely what happened.

Mr Barnett: You do not know. We negotiated with the company for it to continue a dredging program between the two channels, and to undertake a more extensive research program. That is being assessed. With due respect to the member, the scientific evidence is not finally resolved. The company has yet to demonstrate totally that it can regrow seagrasses. It is having some success. It is interesting that despite popular opinion, some areas of Success Bank have had an increase in seagrasses. Full knowledge is not available about whether the plant material is migratory, or whether the sea bottom changes. The jury is still out. It is a scientific and technical issue.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: The jury is out only in the Minister's mind. The company has a vested interest in trying to grow seagrasses and has a commitment to ensuring that it continues in that endeavour. However, all the independent scientific evidence shows that the seagrasses in Cockburn Sound are best equated to a rain forest, which has both an upper and a lower canopy of growth, which grow at different rates and by different processes. The upper canopy may grow to a height of 12 metres, and sunlight and nutrients filter through the canopy. However, if that 12 metre height were reduced by 9 metres, the canopy would not receive the same sunlight and nutrients, and neither it nor the under canopy would grow.

That is what the independent scientific evidence indicates, and that is what was indicated to the Parliament and to us in government in November 1988. We did not set out to destabilise Cockburn Sound. We listened to the scientists who said in 1988 that if we allowed the mining of seagrasses in Cockburn Sound to continue at the current rate, we would destroy it altogether. The only thing that has changed is that the Minister came into government and saw that it was a problem, and his answer was to change the EPA. None of the evidence has changed. The evidence is clearly there. What we did in our last years in government -

Mr Barnett: We know what you did.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: What we did with Cockburn Cement from 1988 when we had this evidence was talk to it about a new mining regime. The company resisted the proposed mining regime to save seagrasses. Does the Minister know why? There was resistance because it would cost a lot more money. The EPA was saying that it was no longer appropriate to mine in a straight line dredging operation. We got carried away by saying it was a new boat channel. It meant that we took a Gibson Desert approach to mining, where we removed everything in sight. That is the cheapest method of mining, and most mining operations are carried out in that way. That approach is no different from what we have seen in the farming industry. Farmers today do not farm as they did 20 years ago, because they know from scientific evidence that if they knocked over every tree in the paddock, they would have salinity and water problems.

That is what was coming through with this mining operation in 1988. We said to Cockburn Cement, through the EPA, and through a proper process of negotiation, that we would extend the limits to which it could mine from a 5 to a 12 kilometre radius, but we wanted it to mine away from where the seagrasses were growing. That meant that rather than mine in a straight line, which was the cheapest and most effective way of mining, the company would have to mine a patch, then lift up the dredge cutter, undo the anchors, pull it to the next spot and drop anchor. That would make the mining operation more costly, because once the company went 12 kilometres out it would go into deeper water, which would necessitate the use of a bigger dredge.

The company did not want to spend the money. It did not argue necessarily about the environmental standards that were being pointed out by the scientists. It had its own scientific evidence. It was aware of the changes in public opinion and of what the community was demanding from companies of its international reputation and size. However, it did have concerns about how quickly it needed to move in that direction, and how much it would cost to move in that direction. That is the reason that the briefing note advised the Premier that the last two DMPs - which were at least four years prior to 1988, because they were advanced every two years - had been only partly approved by the Minister for Resources Development on the basis that the long term environmental impacts were unacceptable.

The Bill takes hardly any notice of the environmental requirements in Cockburn Sound. The Government will allow the company to continue to mine just as it did in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. The company may need to bring in a mining program to honour the agreement but we have not recognised the need to change the mining program. During the break the Government produced a highly commended report - I forget its title - about the quality of the environment in Cockburn Sound. The diminishing status of seagrasses was highly prominent in that report. On the one hand we cannot express concern about the report and say that we will address the situation, but on the other hand allow the largest sand mining company in the State to not change its environmental standards. The department told the Minister that it was not appropriate. I can point to *Hansard* in 1993 when the Government agreed with the Environmental Protection Authority report.

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

Mr MARLBOROUGH: It is not a case of wanting Cockburn Cement to close. We want the Minister to get off his

backside and set acceptable environmental standards. We would like to see a strong Government push on acceptable environmental standards for the 1990s and beyond. Unfortunately, this Bill is a dead loss. Environmentally it changes nothing. The reporting procedure will remain exactly the same.

Recently, with the breakup of the EPA and the diminution of its powers, the chairman gave up in frustration. He returned to the private sector. He has had enough. I would like to hear his independent comments today on the scientists in the EPA in 1993. He supports the scientific findings. I commend Cockburn Cement for trying to plant new seagrasses, but the fact that it is trying does not mean it will succeed.

Mr Barnett: Do you not think the company should have the opportunity to prove it?

Mr MARLBOROUGH: Can the Minister tell us how long the company has been trying to plant seagrass?

Mr Barnett: Using the submersible machine, it is probably about 12 months.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: About four years ago Cockburn Cement brought a video into this Parliament -

Mr Barnett: I have seen it.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: The company was trying to demonstrate that it could grow seagrass. It was confident that it could. I hope that it has made some progress since then. I support technology and science. However, it is not good enough to base this new legislation on the possibility that the company may achieve success in future in that area and to give it the same mining plan and recording process.

Mr Barnett: These are valid points to discuss in the community but they are not the subject of this Bill.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: What does the Minister mean? It is the cost of operation and how the Government will allow the company to operate in the sound -

Mr Barnett: This is not what the Bill is about. People are discussing seagrass plantings in Cockburn Sound but it is not what the Bill is about.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: The Minister has missed the point. It is not simply seagrass in Cockburn Sound. Seagrass is the victim! The point is that the Government recognised a major decline in environmental standards in 1988 that could be stopped by convincing the mining company to change its mining method. The Minister is not willing to do anything to progress that situation. We have no evidence to indicate that mining operations are having less impact today than they had in 1988. The company's production has increased dramatically and I suggest that the mining has increased accordingly to accommodate that increased production. That is the point.

Seagrass will be talked about, but we will also talk about the unwillingness of the Government to pursue the environmental standards demanded by the community. This is the old argument that I have had with industry at Kwinana: It will not do the company or the Government of the day any good to maintain the standards at that level, because to do so will simply make it more difficult for other industries to be established. The outcry will be on the basis that the industries are not performing; they are not meeting environmental standards and, therefore, we do not want them. We face that situation repeatedly in Rockingham with the IP14 area with new heavy industries attempting to establish themselves, and there is always an outcry from local government and from the community.

The Minister is part of the process because he is not demanding the environmental standards necessary for industry in the 1990s. He is willing to take a laissez faire approach to the environmental standards of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. It is not good enough. The Minister is undermining the potential for industries to be accepted and recognised, and to be established and allowed to grow in the area.

I commend the Minister for introducing a royalty regime. One may argue about the quantum of the royalty and the phasing in process. However, we should recognise, commend and support the royalty system.

The entire Bill is predicated on the basis of where the work will be undertaken. Clause 6(1) of the agreement refers to that as -

... within that part of the sand banks as lie within a radius of five (5) miles from a point marked "R" in red on the said map marked "A". In considering applications from the Company for approval for areas from which shell sand may be obtained the Authority will have regard for technical and economic considerations related to the Company's operations ...

The environmental considerations are not even outlined in the Act. One could argue that the environmental considerations are important enough to be placed in the Act. It is one thing to consider the company's problems but what about the State's problems?

Mr Barnett: The member does not seem to appreciate that the environmental clause is a standard clause. The environmental processes are through the Minister for the Environment and the EPA. They are formal processes.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: This is one of the Minister's worst performances. I thought with such a Bill the Minister would have the Minister for the Environment beside him. To include a standard clause in a Bill relating to one of the few mining operations of this type occurring in the nation - most mining operations in Australia, by definition, are on land -

Mr Barnett: The member is assuming that I, as Minister for Resources Development, try to second guess the environmental process. I do not.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: I assume that by now the Minister would be wise enough to know that one of the first questions asked by the World Bank of companies seeking to establish an operation is: Does the community want the operation? If the World Bank determines in the negative, it will delay any advance on funds. Therefore, it will not be spent or it will not be spent properly. The second question is: Does the company foresee any ongoing problems with the growth pattern suggested? That boils down to such considerations as looking after the environment. All smart managers know that. The Minister has been dealing with the company for many years. I thought it would be part of the Minister's natural make-up as the Minister for Resources Development, when he is being asked to put in place a new Act, to have in his hip pocket consideration of whether that company has appropriate mining standards - and, therefore, environmental standards - for the 1990s. It is not too difficult an ask.

In this debate I have discovered that the Minister obviously has not given the environment any consideration. He has said he sees it not as his responsibility, but as the responsibility of the Minister for the Environment. Is the Minister for Resources Development suggesting the Minister for the Environment will come along with a different Bill on the role of Cockburn Cement and to look after Cockburn Sound?

Mr Barnett: No, the environmental legislation deals with it and the resources Bill ensures those powers stay with the Environment portfolio. You keep telling the world what I do. I sit down, as I have done extensively on many occasions with the company and at times with the Minister for the Environment, to try to find sensible solutions to what I concede is a sensitive, difficult and unresolved environmental issue. I disagree with you: I do not think the technical and scientific evidence is conclusive one way or the other. It will be several years before we know. In the meantime, that industry is important to the State. It employs many people - probably many of them in your electorate. The situation should be managed sensibly.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: I return to the environment and to the lack of approach in the supporting background note to the summary sheet to any concerns. Under the heading "EPA evaluation of the results of CCL research on seagrass regeneration" it states -

The EPA has also recently sought, from the CSIRO, an independent evaluation of the current status of natural and artificial regeneration of *Posidonia* meadows.

CCL and its consultants provided the findings of their latest research which supported the stance of the EPA in that it has not been conclusively shown anywhere in the world that the *Posidonia* seagrass meadows can regenerate from seed within several decades or by transplanting intact segments of meadow.

I ask the Minister and members on this side of the House to look at the lack of environmental standards in this legislation that allows this company to continue mining as it did in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. Those standards are no longer appropriate and should be changed immediately.

**DR EDWARDS** (Maylands) [12.52 pm]: I will comment first on the royalty provision. Members will agree the royalty is fair to the State. It is good that industry has come to the party to agree to have the agreement Act altered to insert that royalty. It is also fair to other industries that are trying to break into the same market. In a long term sense there has been an anomaly with Cockburn Cement Ltd in that it had no royalty, and until the last decade or so there was no thought for rehabilitation. I will comment on that issue in a similar vein to the member for Peel's comments.

The change to the dredging management programs is logical. Why should the company duplicate information it is already providing? However, Cockburn Cement has been in the public eye and people complain to me that they have difficulty getting hold of information about it. For example, Cockburn Cement organised a huge international peer review meeting early in 1996. Although it promised people in the community access to the findings of the peer review panel, the information has been extremely slow in coming forward. When I ask for information, generally I get it quickly. Given that the company has been a good corporate citizen by agreeing to have a royalty imposed, perhaps it should be a better corporate citizen by getting the information it has out to the broader community.

I turn now to the major environmental problem, which is the loss of seagrass when dredging is done. It seems to be

fate that where the best deposits are for Cockburn Cement are also where the seagrass is. That is not an uncommon story. There is a joke that when God made the world, he put all the mining deposits in national parks.

Mr Barnett: He had a perverse sense of humour in putting the uranium deposits at Kakadu.

Dr EDWARDS: Yes. Cockburn Cement suffers the same problem. However, the difficulty is that in Cockburn Sound, 90 per cent of the seagrass has been lost. Obviously that is not all due to Cockburn Cement's activities - it is not quantified who is responsible for what proportion - but undoubtedly Cockburn Cement's activities have contributed significantly to that loss of seagrass. That was a big concern to the Labor Government when it was in power.

In 1986 the Labor Government altered the agreement Act to provide for Cockburn Cement to put forward dredging management plans at two-yearly intervals. At least we all had a better idea of where that was planned to occur and what the likely environmental impacts would be. In association with that, a committee was set up between the relevant parties; in particular, Cockburn Cement, the Environmental Protection Authority and the then Department of State Development. That meant there was coordination at officer level about the long term plans.

As a result of that, in 1988 the plans were drawn to the attention of EPA officers and they indicated they thought further dredging was not acceptable. They sought further information in 1989 and had a report given to them in 1990. A briefing note I have states that in light of the long term impact on Success Bank, in 1990 the then Minister for State Development rejected applications to mine Success Bank because he was worried about the seagrass and the environmental implications. In 1991 the EPA wrote to the company and stated that further mining that was intended at that stage was unacceptable and that its concern was about the loss of the Posidonia seagrass meadows - either directly through the process or indirectly from the disturbance that arises as a result of mining. Historically there was much concern about what was happening.

The same briefing note indicates that in November 1993 there still appeared to be concern from both the Minister for Resources Development and the Minister for the Environment about the implications on the environment. A meeting was called and Cockburn Cement asked those Ministers to get the EPA to review its stance. The EPA that was set up under the Liberal Government's regime in January 1994 was changed to become a five member body with a department that served it. One of the first things the new EPA considered was Cockburn Cement's proposal. We saw with the new EPA, and as is reflected in this proposal, a change in the culture of the EPA.

It was some surprise to the community that when the EPA considered this proposal from Cockburn Cement, it passed it. The Department of Environmental Protection attached some conditions, but ultimately the Minister's conditions were not the same as the departmental conditions. Information I have gathered through freedom of information legislation and information in the community indicates there was a strong feeling in the department that the conditions had been watered down. The Cockburn Cement issue is one of the matters that have caused tension between the DEP and the EPA.

Mr Barnett: As I recall, that involved confining dredging between those two channels for a period, which in a sense drew a line around it as to where dredging would occur.

Dr EDWARDS: Yes. However, the information I have obtained through freedom of information indicates that people in the department were concerned about that. The first chairman of the EPA under this Government's regime was Dr Ray Steedman, for whom I have a lot of time. He had been a consultant for Cockburn Cement. I am not suggesting he had a conflict of interest, but there was a cultural change in the EPA and the EPA was different than it was previously.

It appeared the Liberal Government, and the Labor Government before it, took one tack. Departmental people were strong in their concern. Suddenly the new EPA oversaw the department and made a decision. The coastal waters alliance took that decision to the state full court.

Mr Barnett: I cannot speak for the EPA; however, the cultural change following the change of Government was the movement away from the confrontationist approach on environmental issues, which stopped developments through opposing forces, towards a clear philosophy that the environment should be tackled in an intelligent way to combine development with high environmental standards. The ethos change in government was for the better. Ridiculous stand-offs occurred in the community in the 1980s over environmental issues. I argue that this Government has a far better and more practical environmental record than that of the previous Government.

Dr EDWARDS: No.

Mr Barnett: I didn't think you would agree.

Dr EDWARDS: Even looking at the matter objectively, the Minister would lose that argument. This Government



in five years has not proclaimed one new national park, which hardly indicates a great deal of concern for the environment. If the Minister goes down the list of environmental issues faced, he will find that his Government does not meet the criterion claimed.

[Leave granted for speech to be continued.]

Debate thus adjourned.

[Continued below.]

*Sitting suspended from 1.01 to 2.00 pm*

**[Questions without notice taken.]**

## **RESTRAINING ORDERS BILL**

*Council's Message*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Assembly.

## **CEMENT WORKS (COCKBURN CEMENT LIMITED) AGREEMENT AMENDMENT BILL**

*Second Reading*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

**DR EDWARDS** (Maylands) [2.38 pm]: In March 1996 the state Full Court of the Supreme Court determined that the decision of the Environmental Protection Authority on Cockburn Cement's continuing dredging program was not valid because the EPA had gone outside its own Act. As a result the EPA effectively restarted the assessment, but when doing so it did not re-advertise or take new information from members of the public. Therefore, the public had no input to the new assessment. People thought there was an agreement that no new information would be considered, the decision would be made on the basis of the old information and it would be made within six weeks. The upshot of the court decision was not that the information was inadequate but that there was a problem with the way the EPA considered the information. It was disappointing for the conservation community to find that although it was removed from the process, the company was able to submit further information, findings and argument. That was one of the deficiencies in that process.

Going back to the relations between the EPA and the Department of Environmental Protection around that time, I refer briefly from to annual report of the DEP in mid-1995. The report states that the decline of seagrass meadows on Success and Parmelia Banks is of utmost concern as these meadows are now the only major remaining benthic primary producers in the Cockburn Sound-Owen Anchorage area, and that these meadows have an extremely important ecological role with regard to fish habitat and stabilisation of the banks.

The rumours that came out of the DEP at that stage were that the EPA was very unhappy about what had happened in the court case, it was having close discussions with Cockburn Cement, and it was being very hands on about writing the report. That would not surprise me, because in September 1994, the DEP noted its concerns about was happening with Cockburn Cement. The first concern was that Cockburn Cement appeared to be relying extremely heavily on discussions with the chairman. As I have said previously, the chairman was previously a consultant to that company. The department's view was that the company should rely more on the ministerial conditions that were attached to its approval. It was concerned that the proper process was not being followed to the letter of the law.

The DEP noted also that Cockburn Cement was being extremely active in engaging professionals, scientists and people from the universities to be involved in the studies that it was performing, and it raised the possibility that only a limited number of scientists would be available, certainly in Western Australia, and perhaps even Australia wide, to review those studies and to give the DEP and the EPA truly independent advice. That is a valid concern in these situations.

The DEP noted also that Cockburn Cement was very keen to drive the environmental performance issue, and that the DEP and the EPA should have clear views about this matter in order to ensure that the process was as accountable and as credible as possible and assure the community that the environment was being protected in conduct of these sensitive activities.

After the full court decision in 1996, the EPA stated publicly that it would prefer Cockburn Cement to stop dredging until the environmental assessment had been redone; however, it did not have the power to make that happen. A situation then arose which is quite concerning and which I believe this Bill fails to address. The Minister for Resources Development, who is the Minister in charge of this state agreement Act, said that he could not prevent dredging, and he argued that the environmental concerns came under the control of the Minister for the Environment.

Mr Barnett: The agreement does not override the environmental factors.

Dr EDWARDS: The Minister's argument was that the provisions of the EPA Act were not overridden by the state agreement Act.

Mr Barnett: At the same time, I work with companies to try to ensure that we resolve some of the environmental issues, and this was one of those cases.

Dr EDWARDS: The Minister for the Environment gave permission for mining to go ahead.

I am a bit unclear of the reason for this variation to the state agreement Act, because obviously the Environmental Protection Act prevails over the agreement. The company must abide by the environmental conditions, and its proposals must be assessed environmentally. People in the community may read more into the proposed clause than is intended, because it appears from my reading that it will not prevent the situation that arose after the full court case. The company can still perform its activities despite that new clause.

Seagrass plays an extremely important role. We need seagrass offshore to protect beaches and keep them clean and white, and to protect our fishing industries, because seagrass provides the nurseries for fish. The activities of Cockburn Cement have long worried people who are concerned about seagrass and the state of the environment. I commend Cockburn Cement for spending about \$6m on its environmental management plan, and for attempting to regrow seagrass. However, having spoken to a range of experts about this matter, I remain sceptical that it can regrow seagrass, in particular the species that it has been dislodging. One of the problems is that the company is now mining at a depth which is below the depth of the seagrass, and the seagrass cannot be just put back into the hole because the hole is too deep and the seagrass does not get enough light to grow. I was interested in the publicity that the company received in April when it showed various people the new underwater machines that plant seagrass. It would be great if that worked, but I remain sceptical.

We support what is being done with regard to royalties, and we have no problems with the dredging management plans. However, the jury is still out and only time will tell whether the environment is being protected.

**MR RIPPER** (Belmont - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [2.45 pm]: This Bill requests the Parliament to make three changes to the Cockburn Cement Limited Agreement: To ratify a royalty arrangement, to standardise the environmental obligations imposed on this company with the obligations imposed on other companies under other agreement Acts, and to remove duplication in the assessment of dredging management plans. I will deal with the second two items first.

There can be no argument about the fact that the clauses in state agreement Acts which impose environmental obligations on companies should be standardised. This agreement dates from 1971, which was before the establishment of the Environmental Protection Authority, and this Bill proposes to modernise the environmental clauses of the agreement to reflect the establishment of that authority and the practices which have developed with regard to other agreements. The Opposition does not oppose that change.

Another sensible change that is proposed in this Bill is to allow information provided for environmental assessment purposes to be taken into account when dredging management plans are assessed by the Minister for Resources Development under the agreement. That will be advantageous for both the company and the Government because it will prevent them from having to be involved in duplicate assessments.

I turn now to the background of this issue. We were advised in the briefing by the Department of Resources Development that the current value of the company's investment in this project is about \$350m. The company is Western Australia's major producer of lime. Lime is a vital ingredient of the alumina, goldmining and mineral sands industries. Western Australia has a scarcity of suitable resources for the production of lime, particularly when quality is taken into account. Although other quality sources exist for the production of lime, they are located at Dongara and Exmouth, and on the Nullarbor plain, which are a considerable distance from the south west alumina market in particular.

The best resources for the production of lime close to the south west market are in Cockburn Sound, particularly on Parmelia and Success Banks. Therefore, it is important commercially in providing lime for mineral processing that the company is able to draw on the shell sand from Cockburn Sound. Even though this resource is better than some of the lower grade resource closer to the south west, I understand that by world standards the company's lime is not of the highest quality. That is not the fault of the company; it is a question of the resource on which it must draw. It is not easy for the company to produce lime to the highest standard available in the world. This might not be a problem if the lime were a frequently traded product, but I understand that it is not traded on the world markets in extensive quantities. Therefore, Cockburn Cement and other lime production companies in Western Australia still have a commercial opportunity.

The agreement reached in 1971 imposed no royalty for the company's use of the shell sand resource from Cockburn Sound. The original rationale for not imposing a royalty is obscure. Perhaps the Government and the Opposition of the day were keener to secure an investment than to obtain a royalty from the operation. Perhaps the objective was to secure a local source of vital input for mineral processing. Perhaps they viewed the company's effective dredging of a second shipping channel in Cockburn Sound as the appropriate quid pro quo for the use of the resource. It is an interesting issue because, as I have indicated, it is a fairly strategic resource which has the correct combination of sufficient quality and proximity to the south west market to make it a very valuable resource. It is difficult for companies which do not have access to the resource to compete with Cockburn Cement.

The royalty concession was not insignificant. The second reading speech indicates that when the full royalty is payable, around \$800 000 will be paid to the State and if production increases, the payment to the State when the full royalty is applied may be as much as \$1m a year. Under the original agreement the royalty concession was applied from 1971 until 2021. That indicates the risks that the State accepts when it offers concessions to resource developers over the long term. That is underlined by the valuable and strategic nature of this resource.

In its briefings to the Opposition the Department of Resources Development indicated that its files did not reveal an explicit rationale for the extension of the royalty concession. I turned to the 1971 *Hansard* to check the second reading debate on the agreement Bill. It was an interesting agreement Bill because it was negotiated by a Liberal Government when Sir Charles Court was the responsible Minister. It was then ratified by Parliament when Labor was in power and the responsible Minister was Herb Graham. Herb Graham and Sir Charles Court were participants in the second reading debate in 1971 but neither referred to the royalty concession. The issue was not raised in Parliament, and there was no Committee stage on the agreement Bill. The only comment close to the issue was when both members mentioned that the agreement exempted the company from certain requirements of the Mining Act. They spoke about exempting the company from labour requirements under the Mining Act; in other words, the requirement to spend certain money on exploration when a company held a lease under the Mining Act.

This was a significant royalty concession valued at millions of dollars, extended over 50 years, not dealt with in the files of the Department of Resources Development and not mentioned by politicians on either side, when both sides had had executive responsibility for the issue when the matter was debated in Parliament. That is an instructive example from our past which I hope will not be repeated when we make financial arrangements with companies in future.

References have been made to the good corporate citizenship of Cockburn Cement. I do not dispute those references. I commend the company for its research program on regrowing seagrass in Cockburn Sound. I commend it for indicating that it will continue to spend on the program past the period when it has an explicit obligation to do so. I also commend the company for being a smart corporate citizen. It has taken a stance which I hope will assist it in the public debate which will occur in future on environmental matters.

The controversy about dredging in Cockburn Sound will continue. I understand that the Environmental Protection Authority must be convinced that seagrass in Cockburn Sound can be regrown. It must be convinced by about 2001 before the company will be allowed to continue dredging in areas supporting seagrass growth. This will be a sensitive issue. If the company cannot convince the EPA and it is forced to cease dredging in the areas supporting seagrass growth, it will experience significant difficulties. I have already indicated the strategic nature of the resource. It is a quality resource which is in the right place. Other quality resources are in the wrong place, considering the cost of transport. Therefore, the company will experience some difficulty in accessing other suitable commercial sources of shell sand or its equivalent, if the EPA cannot be convinced to allow the company to continue dredging in seagrass areas.

My colleague, the member for Eyre, has drawn attention to the significant difficulty that might be imposed on the State under a clause of the existing agreement if the company cannot find a suitable resource. The existing agreement contains an extraordinary clause which puts an obligation on the State to use its best endeavours to find another suitable resource. That obligation on the State was also not mentioned by either side during parliamentary debate.

Mr Barnett: Perhaps it was like one of those corridor discussions.

Mr RIPPER: Perhaps it was. Perhaps Herb Graham and Sir Charles Court agreed not to mention the significant concessions the State was extending to Cockburn Cement; that is, the royalty concession and the obligation accepted by the State to find a suitable resource if the company could not use shell sand. That is not the way to proceed when significant financial decisions with a long term impact on the State are being made. The alternative is that the company will be able to convince the EPA that seagrass can be regrown. I hope the company will be able to do that, because it will give us the best of both worlds - the re-establishment of seagrass meadows and the ability to use the resource. Even if the company convinces the EPA, it will have difficulty convincing the Conservation Council of WA and the rank and file conservationists. My argument is that whichever way the decision goes, the company will

face a difficult period of public debate. It would be all the more difficult for the company if those opposed to its activities were able to say that the company did not even pay a royalty on this resource it was using. Although the company is a good corporate citizen, it is also an intelligent corporate citizen that has made a good decision about the best position it can adopt for the public debate that will occur with more intensity as we approach 2001 on the use of the shell sand resource from Cockburn Sound.

It is interesting to consider the historical examples given in the debate. They show us that in our political culture perhaps there has been insufficient debate about the long term financial obligations placed on the State. I am happy to indicate that, along with my opposition colleagues, I support the Bill before the House.

**MR BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Minister for Resources Development) [3.01 pm]: I thank members opposite for their comments and, in particular, for their support of the legislation. This Bill is an amendment to the Cement Works (Cockburn Cement Limited) Agreement Act 1971. As members outlined, it relates primarily to the company now paying a royalty on the mining of shell sand and has two other relatively minor provisions; namely, to stop double reporting requirements and also to modernise environmental clauses. The royalty payments are significant and reflect the great maturity and sense of corporate and social responsibility of Cockburn Cement Ltd. The royalties will generate around \$270 000 this year and \$540 000 next year, and the full royalty rate of around \$800 000 per annum will be achieved thereafter.

The member for Eyre traced the history of the project and of the company. I found that interesting. He made a valid and important observation about the importance of lime to other mineral processing industries in this State. I agree with that. He referred to clause 6(6) of the agreement concerning the obligation of the State to use its best endeavours to find an alternative resource if, for whatever reason, the shell sand could not be mined. That is something the Government would like to have negotiated out of the state agreement, but the company preferred to retain that in the agreement, as it is entitled to do. I do not think anyone can predict how that would operate if it came into play: It would be something of a dilemma for all parties. Nevertheless, any amendment to the agreement can be only by mutual agreement. It is commendable and responsible for the company to agree to pay royalties.

The member for Cockburn commented on some aspects of the agreement. I was pleased with his comments about the high level of local corporate responsibility displayed by Cockburn Cement with its investment in and development of parklands. The member for Peel commented on environmental issues, as did the member for Maylands. The member for Maylands provided an informed and well researched account of the recent history of environmental issues concerning the project. As I said during the debate, in the first instance, as far as I can assess it, the environmental issue of Cockburn Sound, particularly of seagrass, is significant. I do not think anyone denies that; the company certainly does not. However, the evidence is not conclusive at this stage. The company is using its best endeavours and substantial amounts of funding to develop an ability to revegetate. If dredging takes the seabed to a depth below which there is adequate light, obviously that will be a constraint on the growth of some species. That is a legitimate point. It is difficult from a scientific and methodological point of view in a place like Cockburn Sound - a relatively mobile environment in its own right - to distinguish between natural phenomena and the impact of mining and other industries.

The member for Belmont commented on some of the dredging aspects of the project. The arrangements with the company currently are that it has the right and entitlement to dredge between the two shipping channels. That is in a relatively defined area - one that minimises any impact. That dredging will go through to 2001. It is hoped that by that time we will have a better handle on the scientific information and, in particular, on the ability to revegetate seagrass.

The issue of beneficiation arises also. An area further out called Mewstone has large reserves, albeit at a lower grade. If an economic technique can be developed to beneficiate some of that area, that may provide long term alternatives if the seagrass trials prove unsuccessful. However, those reserves are further out and other costs would be associated.

Cockburn Cement has been an important industry for this State. The company is a good corporate citizen. It does not underestimate the environmental challenge it faces. It is addressing it, as well as it is able to, in a responsible way. The agreement Act contains some provisions that might seem strange by the standards of the 1990s. The absence of a royalty is something most members would regard as not acceptable today. In that sense the agreement Act has been modernised.

The provision relating to the State having to use its best endeavours to find an alternative resource is not something one would contemplate putting in a modern agreement Act. I do not make those comments as a criticism; I think it reflects that what was negotiated in the late 1960s and early 1970s, at a different time and under different community standards and expectations, differs from what would be negotiated now. This process is common to many agreement Acts. They are continually updated and modernised to reflect changing values and technical circumstances.

I thank members for their support. I know the company and the department will appreciate that support. It is important members demonstrate bipartisan support to projects and businesses such as this.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*Committee*

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Bloffwitch) in the Chair; Mr Barnett (Minister for Resources Development) in charge of the Bill.

**Clause 1 put and passed.**

**Clause 2: Commencement -**

Mr GRILL: When is it intended that the provision will come into operation? Do any time imperatives apply, and when is the royalty regime expected to commence? The Minister has given some outlines on what will be achieved in the royalty regime, but what is the upside given that Cockburn Cement Limited seems to be expanding its production capacity and what can we expect from royalties four or five years down the track?

Mr BARNETT: The agreement Act signed between the Government and Cockburn Cement Limited sees the new royalty arrangement apply from 1 July 1997. Although royal assent will follow that date, royalties will be paid effective of that date.

Regarding the upside, the royalties will be phased in, with one-third to be paid this year and two-thirds next year. It will generate \$270 000, \$540 000 and \$800 000, and when the company has completed its expansion project, we expect royalties to be of the order of \$1.4m a year.

Mr GRILL: Is it expected following the implementation of the royalty regime that the company's current research program will be phased out, and for how long and on what basis will it continue?

Mr BARNETT: The research program being undertaken by the company is independent of the royalty issue. It will continue as part of its environmental management program so it will comply with its environmental approvals. The current program extends to 2000-01, and I hope it proves to be successful.

Mr Grill: Is the company happy to proceed with the research program to the full extent while paying the royalty?

Mr BARNETT: Yes. Although it is not obliged to undertake a research program, it does so through goodwill; I suspect it also does so through self-interest because it must be able to manage the issue in an acceptable way to continue to receive environmental approvals.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 3 put and passed.**

**Clause 4: Section 2 amended -**

Mr GRILL: The clause states -

**"the Second Variation Agreement"** means the agreement a copy of which is set forth in the Fourth Schedule.

What does the "second variation agreement" mean? Is the first agreement the one entered into in 1986, or some other variation agreement.

Mr BARNETT: The first variation agreement was in 1986. The member for Maylands outlined the agreement which related to the dredging management program. An amendment to that end was made to the agreement during the time of the previous Labor Government, so this is the second amendment to the agreement Act.

Mr GRILL: I know it is going back in history a little, but does the Minister have any information indicating whether royalties and the contentious clause 6(6) of the schedule to the agreement were serious matters for discussion, and to what end, at the time of the first variation agreement?

Mr BARNETT: I cannot give a definitive answer on whether the royalty and clause 6(6) of the schedule were raised at that stage. However, I would be very surprised if they were not as I understand that the Department of Resources Development, and its predecessor, the Department of State Development, has pursued this issue for a number of years. When I took up the issue as Minister, I was conscious that I was not the first Minister to do so.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 5 put and passed.**

**Clause 6: Fourth Schedule added -**

Mr GRILL: Clause 6 is the new agreement contained in the fourth schedule. How will we deal with all the possible questions involved? I do not know how many questions will be allowed under one clause of the Bill. I assume that the Committee will allow multiple questioning in relation to the various clauses of the schedule.

The CHAIRMAN: We will deal with it as one clause. The member may return to areas as many times as he likes, and he may jump from one provision to another within that schedule. Nevertheless, only one question will be put to cover all the provisions in the clause. The member can raise various issues in his contributions.

Mr GRILL: I return to the core of my concerns about the ongoing operations of this Act with clause 6(6) of the schedule to remain intact. It is an extraordinary clause. It was written into the Act in circumstances where the State was probably desperate for business enterprise and industrial development. Nevertheless, it is unsatisfactory to hang around the neck of a State Government such onerous responsibilities potentially for 50 years. The member for Belmont has already commented on this onerous provision. I have briefly looked at the second reading speech of 24 November 1971 - although I have not made a complete assessment of that debate - and it would seem that two factors were skated over: First, the duration of the agreement, which was 40 years, plus an extension of 10 years, and second, clause 6(6) of the schedule to the agreement.

Mr Barnett: It was a typical lack of diligence by a Labor Government!

Mr GRILL: It does little good throwing brickbats around the Chamber; in fact, the agreement was originally negotiated by Sir Charles Court.

They were different times, circumstances and environments. It is a little disturbing that governments of different ilks have not brought that clause forward. It is a particularly onerous clause. Perhaps we can understand that people in 1971 were not particularly worried, looked at Success Bank and saw an immense resource. It is a different matter when environmental assessments are in place. Of course, an environmental protection authority was not in place then, and a number of members have made that point.

It is a little worrying that the Minister has also failed to focus on that issue in the second reading speech. In his response a few minutes ago - I do not want to be unfair - he tended to dismiss that issue on the basis that it is unlikely that it will ever come up and that the duties and responsibilities that were imposed upon the State in 1971 will ever need to be discharged.

I ask, firstly, how seriously the Minister views this; secondly, whether he has taken any legal advice about what the clause means; and, thirdly, if so, whether he can tell us in general terms what the advice was and to what degree, in a legal sense, the State is bound by the literal wording of the clause.

Mr BARNETT: It would require the State to use its best endeavours. I will read into the record the clause which states -

If and when it should become impractical for the Company to obtain shell sand pursuant to this clause the State will use every endeavour to find other shell sand within a reasonably economic distance from the jetty, and if other shell sand is not available, then other equivalent material.

In a literal sense that is onerous on a Government. It must be put into context in terms of both time and scale. We are talking about something that happened in the 1970s. That sort of thing would not be agreed in the 1990s. In terms of scale, I have just been advised that in 1971 the company started mining at the rate of about half a million tonnes per year. The resource at Success Bank is 200 million tonnes. Even after 25 or 26 years of mining, probably less than 20 million tonnes out of 200 million tonnes has been mined. We could add to that the resource at Parmelia Bank, which is probably a further 200 million tonnes, and the further resource at Mewstone is larger again.

In terms of the time in which the agreement was negotiated and the scale of the resource in the area, no-one could envisage a scenario in which the resource would run out. Apart from environmental considerations, it is almost impossible to imagine that that resource could be totally depleted. While the Government looked for that safeguard, maybe it could foresee the environmental issues. Who knows? I can understand why a government at that time would agree and not be too upset about it. That, in part, might reflect why neither government nor opposition raised the issue either during negotiation or when the final Bill went through. Currently the company mines about 1.6 million tonnes. Even under the current rate of mining we are looking at a resource on Success Bank which will last for probably well over another 100 years. It is a long term issue.

We have sought legal advice and I am sure previous governments did the same. Essentially the clause means what it says. How we would deal with it if ever it came into play, I cannot answer. Both sides would see it as somewhat of a conundrum. I think it would be resolved by negotiation; there would be some agreement. I do not think it will come into play, short of an environmental policy change or the failure to be able to handle the environmental issues. We tried to negotiate that out of the agreement for the reasons that are obvious, but failed.

Mr Grill: Would you agree that it is a very substantial contingent of the important potential?

Mr BARNETT: Potentially yes, given the environmental issues and it will be a difficult thing for a future government to deal with if it must do so. Hopefully the environmental management and the regeneration will be acceptable. Even if dredging was confined to Success Bank, we are looking at another 100-plus years, at least, of resource.

Mr RIPPER: The Minister indicated in his view that this is a long term issue, and I very much hope he is right. The thing that makes it perhaps a whole lot more potentially pressing is the environmental question. Although the Minister and I hope that regeneration of seagrass will prove to be viable, a number of people believe the company will not succeed in that regeneration process. It is possible that it might become a pressing issue in 2000 or in 2001. The Minister, or his successor, the member for Eyre, may have to deal with it.

Mr BARNETT: I am very confident in the longevity of this Government, but even I would balk at the prospect of 100 years. Should the environmental standard change or should the regeneration of seagrass fail, the next step would be to move to the Mewstone resource, which has no vegetation on it. It is naturally bare sand; therefore, seagrass is not an issue at Mewstone. Then there is the issue of beneficiation. That brings in a cost factor because it is more expensive to beneficiate. The resource at Success Bank is about 92 per cent grade; at Mewstone it is about 88 per cent to 91 per cent. It does not sound like much of a difference, but it involves a cost factor in beneficiating and also it is a further haulage distance for barges. Should the environmental process prove unsatisfactory, the Government could meet the requirement through a move to Mewstone.

Mr Ripper: The company would have to be able to beneficiate.

Mr BARNETT: Part of its research is directed towards beneficiation. Even if beneficiation is proved to be economic, there would still be the issue of the extra cost of transport to consider. There are middle steps before a future government is placed in a hopeless position.

Mr GRILL: I do foresee the possibility somewhere down the track that the clause could bring the parties into court. This point probably sounds a little pedantic; nonetheless, court cases often revolve around quite pedantic points. During the Minister's response to the second reading speech, he referred to clause 6(6) of the agreement Bill with words to the effect that the State would have to use its best endeavours to find other shell sand.

Mr Barnett: That is the wording of the clause.

Mr GRILL: The wording in the clause is slightly different. It says that the State will use every endeavour to find other shell sand within a reasonable economic distance from the jetty.

In that sense I wonder whether every endeavour places a much higher degree of responsibility on the State, rather than the term normally used; that is, best endeavours. I wonder whether we have a more onerous clause in this sense. The Minister indicated he has a legal opinion on this matter. Did they look at the wording and reach a conclusion on whether there was a greater degree of responsibility on the State in those circumstances?

Reference is also made to economic distance from the jetty. That localises the project to a great degree. I presume it is referring to the point at which the product would be landed. That means a source would have to be found within Cockburn Sound. The parameters that will come into effect to limit the options might be environmental rather than the availability of the actual resource. Are we stuck with a clause which places some onerous local requirements on the source at the point of supply?

Mr BARNETT: I agree with the member, after all, he is a lawyer.

Mr Ripper: He is giving free advice.

Mr BARNETT: That is right, but whether it is quality advice is another thing. I agree that the phrase "every endeavour" is more onerous than the phrase "best endeavours". However, that is the legal advice the Government received. I doubt that it would end up in the court. The history of 60 or more agreements Acts is that to date none has ended up in a court dispute. Any differences have been resolved by negotiation. There have been incidents and the closest a dispute has been to a court case is the dispute about royalties related to Argyle Diamonds. Hopefully, despite the tendency for people to become more litigious in the way things are handled in the corporate sector -

Mr Grill: We have a serious dispute between Alcoa and Western Power about the supply of gas.

Mr BARNETT: The member appears to be referring to the issue of Western Power renegotiating its gas purchase contract. That is a commercial matter, not an agreement Act matter. Again I hope that issue can be resolved without ending up in the courts.

If there is a dispute, I hope it will be resolved through negotiation. Perhaps some arbitration process may even come into play.

I take the member's point about the strange wording of, "the economic distance to the jetty". At the end of the day one cannot find what is not there. If it is not available obviously the next resource is the Mewstone resource. Given its grade and its distance from the coastline it could be argued that Mewstone is within economic distance, despite the fact that it would have to be transported for a longer distance and be beneficiated.

Mr Grill: Is Mewstone further out and in deeper water?

Mr BARNETT: Yes, it is about 10 kilometres off shore. It would be more costly to transport the resource from Mewstone. Mewstone does not have the environmental constraint. If the environmental issues are not resolved satisfactorily in the future the Mewstone resource would be used. In the meantime we will sort out the current problems to ascertain whether we can use the resource which is in closer proximity and of higher grade.

Mr GRILL: I will explore the two avenues where there seems to be some scope for hope in respect of the resource. The first is the research into regenerating seagrass. Would the Minister outline the research that is being done and the prospect of its success? The second great hope appears to be beneficiation. How much has been spent on that and what sort of research has been done in that respect?

Mr BARNETT: I am not an expert on the revegetation process. It is a submersible structure and involves the taking of slabs of grass and soil and transplanting it in clumps. While the project is in its early days the company claims that it is successful. Some members opposite are pessimistic about the ability of seagrass to regenerate. I concede from my limited knowledge that there could be a different mix of seagrass. I also recognise that in deep water the lack of light may affect growth rates. I take a more optimistic view. Nature has a remarkable ability to regenerate itself and if members watched "Foreign Correspondent" last night they would have seen an interesting example of this.

Mr McGinty: Some of us were in here.

Mr BARNETT: I am pleased members opposite were in this place. A segment of the program focused on the mouth of the Danube that comes through Romania. It was an interesting report about how the mouth of the Danube had regenerated remarkably quickly, to the surprise of almost every expert.

Mr Grill: What was the degrading factor?

Mr BARNETT: The gist of the program was that this area had been highly degraded. Effectively, the land which had been below water had been converted into farmland. There had been a total use change and nature had regenerated very quickly and was recreating the previous ecosystem. I am not saying that would apply to Cockburn Sound. I am sure the member for Eyre, with his knowledge of minesites, would agree that the way nature regenerates is remarkable. The tree planting programs in the goldfields have been a great success. I am optimistic rather than pessimistic, but I recognise it is a technical, scientific issue.

Mr Grill: I asked the Minister about beneficiation.

Mr BARNETT: I am advised two projects are currently under way. The beneficiation research is part of the \$6m project.

Mr Grill: That is part of the \$6m per annum?

Mr BARNETT: Yes. Part of it is for transplanting revegetation and the beneficiation. The first of the beneficiation projects is being undertaken by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation. It is using an innovative technique that could be patented if it proves successful. The other research is being done within the company with the use of electrostatic technology. Both new technology and existing mining technology is being used. The company recognises it could be important to its long term future. Bearing in mind the company has undertaken major investments it is obviously confident that with its new kiln it will be able to resolve the environmental issues or work on a beneficiated product.

Mr GRILL: The introduction of a royalty regime tends to place the various competitors and potential competitors for the production and sale of lime in Western Australia on a more equal footing. Who are the competitors and



potential competitors in this arena and what are the prospects for other substantial sources of lime supply in the State in the next few years?

Mr BARNETT: Swan Portland Cement Ltd, Western Limestone and Lumeah Limestone would be the main competitors. I was interested in the member's comments. It is a good example of inputs into the alumina industry in particular. Although we make speeches about value adding we tend to underestimate the input of mineral processing. This is a good example of how one industry has spawned the development of another by providing an input.

Mr RIPPER: Is the Minister concerned about the level of competition in this industry and the price of lime? Is it a conscious aspect of government policy to encourage more competition in the production of lime to assist mineral processing industries?

Mr BARNETT: In a general sense I do not have any great concern about a lack of competition. We encourage new producers to set up in the Dongara area and further north. If we encourage more players into the market and as demand for the product increases, more competition will require more investment. That provides alternatives for users, not just in pricing through competition, but sometimes different grades of product, a wider choice and alternative range of suppliers. I welcome that development.

**Clause put and passed**

**Title put and passed.**

### *Third Reading*

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Barnett (Minister for Resources Development), and transmitted to the Council.

## **HUMAN TISSUE AND TRANSPLANT AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Second Reading*

Resumed from 8 May.

**MR McGINTY** (Fremantle) [3.44 pm]: The Human Tissue and Transplant Act was passed in 1982. It was envisaged at that time that advancement in medical technology would enable persons who had need of human tissue to receive donated organs or tissue, and a scheme was provided for persons who were willing to make their remains available for scientific research. Part III of the Act deals with donations of bodily tissues after death. Part IV provides a scheme whereby donations of bodily tissues can be made for the purpose of medical research.

In 1995 a Bill was introduced into this House with the object of clarifying a difficult issue. Many of the descendants, relatives and family of people who had passed away had been offended at times by the insensitive way that body parts were removed from the deceased person. There was some confusion, particularly in section 22 of the Act. The 1995 Bill was introduced to overcome some of those problems. That legislation was second read but proceeded no further because it was surrounded by a measure of public controversy. A number of people who had been on the receiving end of unfortunate treatment when it came to handling particularly the removal of the body parts, tissues or organs from bodies of their deceased relatives did not see the way in which the Government proposed to address this question in 1995 as appropriate. For that reason the Bill did not go beyond being formally second read, and a measure of public consultation was introduced to ensure that the correct approach was adopted.

This Bill is simple in scope and certainly will improve the situation for the surviving family members of people who are the subject of the removal of human tissue or organs for transplanting. In particular the major cause of concern is the unsatisfactory way in which section 22 of the Act is expressed. Section 22(3) deals with the way in which body tissue or organs can be removed from the body of a deceased person. It states -

The authority of a designated officer to authorize the removal of tissue from the body of a deceased person under this section is restricted by the expressed terms of the wishes or consent of the deceased person, or the consent of the senior available next of kin, as the case may be, both as to the tissue which may be removed and as to the purpose or use of the tissue.

It is immediately apparent from that subsection that consent can be obtained in a variety of ways. It can be the expressed consent of the deceased person or the consent of the senior available next of kin. That consent relates to the removal of the body tissue as well as to the purpose or use to which the tissue is to be put. It is common policy ground between the Government and the Opposition that a person can make a clear wish before his or her death to donate an organ or tissue to science for use in research or for transplant purposes. It is not something that should be able to be overridden subsequently by the next of kin in a state of grief. That is a very sound policy position. It might

well cause some grief to the next of kin to see body parts taken from a loved one and used either for transplant purposes or scientific research. However, if that were unequivocally the expressed will of the person now deceased, it is correct that that wish be honoured.

That is correct from a number of points of view. First, if a clear choice has been made by the person about the disposal of his body then, as a matter of principle, that choice should not be able to be interfered with unless there are strong policy grounds to do so. In addition, it should not be able to be interfered with by someone in a state of grief who might have a different point of view from the deceased person.

Secondly, we have a particular problem in Western Australia in securing sufficient organ donations for transplant purposes. This area of the law is one practical impediment. The next of kin can stifle or frustrate the deceased person's stated transplant objectives. That then leads to particular problems in making organs available for transplant.

Very recently a very good, long term friend of mine from my student days died because there were not sufficient organs available for transplant in this State. He was my age and died of a collapsed heart. He could have been kept alive only if a heart were available for transplant. A heart was not going to become available in Western Australia so he was medically evacuated to Melbourne. Some two or three weeks after he was flown to Melbourne, while waiting for a heart to become available, he passed away.

That experience leads me to the view that, in constructing laws dealing with the provision of organs for transplant, we should not be throwing up barriers to making those organs more readily available. Certainly, my experience with that friend, who might well be alive today had our organ donation and transplant laws been somewhat different, has led me to the view that, while we must respect the sensitivities and wishes of family and friends, we also must do everything we can to encourage people to donate their organs for transplant where that is appropriate. Unless it offends their religious or philosophical views, we should encourage people to make their organs available for use for either medical research or transplantation. We are not succeeding in that objective at the moment and we hope this legislation will remove one impediment.

I refer members again to section 22(3). In terms of the proper construction to be placed on the provisions of the current Act, there is no doubt that the available senior next of kin can give consent for the removal of body parts. That is an alternative to the lack of consent of the deceased person. I presume it would also operate in reverse: If the available senior next of kin were to object vehemently to the taking of organs or tissue that could well frustrate the consent of the deceased person.

In the second reading speech, the Minister stated -

Part III of the Human Tissue and Transplant Act 1982 deals with donations of tissue after death, either by the deceased or by the senior next of kin as defined by the Act. For a donation of tissue to be made under part III, the designated officer has to be satisfied there is a consent or an expressed wish by the deceased for that donation or that there is no reason to believe that the deceased had expressed an objection to the use of the tissue.

That is not correct; that is not what this amending Bill provides. If there is confusion or a measure of ambiguity in the current legislation, we need it clarified. In particular, we need to be clear that the wording used in the second reading speech is accurate. As we all know, second reading speeches are available to be used as extrinsic material to aid in the construction of the legislation should any interpretation become necessary. The way in which this has been expressed in the second reading speech is not reflected in the legislation, nor should it be intended by the legislation. The second reading speech states -

For a donation of tissue to be made under part III, the designated officer has to be satisfied that there is a consent -

That is the first circumstance -

- or an expressed wish by the deceased for that donation -

That is the second circumstance -

- or that there is no reason to believe the deceased had expressed an objection to the use of the tissue.

That is the third circumstance.

The fact that the deceased had not expressed an objection is not justification for taking tissue from a body. That must be clarified because this is an area about which emotions run high and about which we need absolute clarity in the rules applicable to transplants and the taking of body tissue. The second reading speech tends to suggest that if the deceased did not express an objection to the use of the tissue that is a relevant circumstance that could lead to the

taking of tissue. That must be clarified. It does not appear to be carried forward in this legislation. The second reading speech goes on to highlight the essential problem this legislation seeks to remedy -

However, the drafting of some of the sections of parts III and IV of the Act has led to concerns about the limitations that may be placed on the use of tissue. One interpretation of section 22 is that the intentions of the deceased could be limited by the senior next of kin.

That is the very point I was making. It is not one of interpretation: It is quite clearly what the legislation currently provides. In that sense, the Opposition is happy to support the legislation because it changes the law to prevent the next of kin from frustrating the clear, expressed will of the deceased person.

The second reading speech then states -

The correct interpretation is that if the consent of the deceased person is obtained, then the limitations to be observed are the limitations are those imposed by the deceased.

With due respect to the Minister, that is not the correct interpretation. It is not what the legislation currently provides; it is what it will say once these amendments are passed. Perhaps that can be seen as nitpicking. I accept that an unintended impediment is imposed by the current legislation. The second reading speech continues -

If the consent of the senior next of kin is obtained, the limitations to be observed are the limitations imposed by the senior next of kin. Section 22(3) is being redrafted to remove those doubts.

All of that has the support of the Opposition. We believe it is an appropriate measure to enact. As I have indicated, it will provide a measure of certainty, subject to clarification from the Minister about what he has said in his second reading speech which does not appear to align itself with the contents of the Bill.

If I may be a little more specific, the existing provisions of section 22(2) deal with the circumstances where, first, in paragraph (a) the deceased person has expressed the wish for his organs or tissues to be taken after his death. In that circumstance there is a clearly defined case and no problem. Section 22(2)(b) goes on to refer to where, after making inquiries, the designated officer has no reason to believe that the deceased person had expressed an objection to the removal after his death of tissue from his body for the purpose or a use referred to in subsection (1), and the designated officer is satisfied that the available senior next of kin consents to the removal of the tissue from the body of the deceased person for the purpose or use referred to in subsection (1). Quite clearly two things need to be satisfied where a deceased person had not clearly expressed his wish for tissue to be removed from his body. The medical officer needs to be satisfied, first, that there was never any expressed opposition from the deceased person and, second, that the next of kin agrees with the material being taken from the body. Therefore, it is not accurate to say that the mere existence of no reason to believe that the deceased has expressed an objection to the use of the tissue in itself can give rise to the taking of tissue. It was quite clearly stated in the course of the second reading speech that it was never intended that consent to the taking of tissue from a body would be implied from a silence or failure by the person to object prior to death to the use of his bodily tissue after the event. Subject to some clarification on that issue, which we will pursue with the Minister a little later, I am pleased to indicate the support of the Opposition for this Bill.

The other limit of the Bill which will amend the Human Tissue and Transplant Act is the establishment within the context of the legislation of appropriate codes of practice to be observed by professionals operating in this area. People associated with the removal of tissue and bodily parts will see the Executive Director of Public Health, who will be given the authority under this legislation to prepare codes of practice for standards to be observed for obtaining the necessary consents. It is appropriate to deal with those matters of detail by codes of practice. What we believe will occur here, and what the Minister clearly believes, is that best practice rules will be obtained from other jurisdictions and will be developed by advisory groups, and that those codes of practice will set standards which will be observed and enforceable. The Act provides monetary penalties for those people who take or use tissues and organs in an inappropriate way or contrary to the appropriate consents. More appropriately, provision is made for the reporting of a breach of an undertaking to the appropriate professional registration body which may take it into account when dealing with disciplinary proceedings against the doctor, technician or whoever. In each of those respects this is good legislation which has the support of the Opposition. Subject to the matters I have foreshadowed where the legislation does not seem to strictly accord with the second reading speech, which I wish to raise with the Minister, I am happy to indicate the support of the Opposition for this legislation.

**MS McHALE** (Thornlie) [4.06 pm]: I want to canvass two issues: First, to address and review the primary purpose of this amendment Bill and, second, to canvass the need for the better management of organ donation. This Bill is inextricably woven into the second issue. As my colleague the member for Fremantle has indicated, this Bill amends the Human Tissue and Transplant Act 1982. The Act set the framework for the management in a medical context of human tissue transplants and, at a more human level, the management of organ donation and transplants. Over

the past 15 years our community has raised a number of concerns about the management of organ removal and donation. A number of public, heartfelt cases have highlighted the concern of family members of the deceased. For one reason or another family members or parents have found out that organs of a deceased have been removed without their knowledge. Members on this side of the House commend the Bill because it seeks to address the concern of those parents about the giving of consent or otherwise for organ donation and transplant.

I am happy to support the Bill. I will take the opportunity of making some comments about the need to look at the way we manage organ donation. From the second reading speech we learn that the main purpose for this amendment to the 1982 Act is to remove from the original Act ambiguity which caused some difficulty in hospitals and certainly caused great grief for parents about whether consent had been given.

It is important to paint the picture in which many parents find themselves when faced with the decision to consent or otherwise to organ transplants. Typically they are already in a traumatic situation. For many family members and parents we are overlaying an already traumatic situation with yet another traumatic decision because the decision to consent to organ transplant or donation is often made in a sudden death situation. A fatal road accident, an unexpected death, a childhood death or even suicide are examples of cases for which consent to organ donation is given. In other instances death was to some degree expected.

Members might imagine how the parents of a 20 year old son would feel when he had been killed in a road accident. I am talking about an unexpected death resulting in grief and trauma, on top of which the parents must decide to consent or otherwise to organ transfer. Given that environment, it is imperative that very good legislation be in place to manage that incredibly traumatic situation. We need a legislative framework that will minimise the ambiguity and any unanticipated trauma arising from that already traumatic situation. If this legislation does that, it is a further reason to support it. I hope it will.

Legislation which provides clarity in the management of that decision making process is essential. An environment, for which we cannot legislate in this Bill, in which grief and trauma are dealt with sensitively is also critical. This goes to the quality of service given by our health industry in our hospitals in moments of grief and trauma, where it is recognised that the decision before parents is both critical and difficult. I hope we do not lose sight of the need for sensitive management of those parents.

Clearly that has not always been the case. Members who were in the House in 1995 might recall the debate on the Coroners Act. One of my predecessors, the member for Kenwick, spoke at great length on the amendments to the Coroners Act. She talked about some of the traumatic cases that were brought to both her attention and the attention of members of the Government. She referred to families who found that a number of organs had been removed from the body of a deceased family member without the consent or awareness of family members.

To a large extent the amendments are long overdue. An attempt was made in 1995 to amend the substantive Act. A second reading speech was made but the Bill was withdrawn for a number of reasons. There are many views about the facilitation of organ donation.

The fundamental element in the management of this fairly controversial issue is choice. It is about consent. It would be far more advantageous if we had a society or an environment in which we could all very freely exercise our consent to donate our organs, and did so. However, religious influences make that impossible for some people. Certain religious groups believe one's body must be buried intact, and the removal of any organ would be a violation of their religious beliefs. As I said, the importance of clarity of legislation, particularly in relation to managing those social influences, is equally important.

During the debate in 1995 a number of cases were brought to the attention of the House where the management of organ removal was insensitive to say the least; downright appalling is a more realistic description. I will not canvass the specific details again because for those family members the trauma is still very much alive, and it is not relevant to traverse the same material with the names and details. Suffice to say, at least five or six fairly significant and very public cases were brought to the attention of the community through *The West Australian* and this Parliament where the grief of sudden death was significantly compounded. The grief and trauma of a family has endured over the years because parts of a body were found two and a half years or more later. That must stop. I am not sure whether this Bill will deal with that. That may be the domain of another piece of legislation.

Mr Prince: That is more coroners legislation.

Ms McHALE: Nevertheless, those unintended consequences could still occur if clear legislation is not in place.

In supporting this legislation I think we are trying to achieve a balance between managing the grief caused by the trauma and the family's distress - even in cases where consent has been given - and ensuring the protection of the deceased's family members, with the need to encourage organ transplant in our society so that we can increase the number of organs that might be available for donation.

From this legislation I hope will come the positive spinoff of clarifying that ambiguity and of providing a better legislative framework. As a result we might derive benefit by increasing the number of organs available for transplant. A couple of days ago an article in *The West Australian* indicated that Western Australia has the lowest number of donors of all States, with 24 donors in 1991, 12 last year and six so far this year. One in three Australians waiting for a transplant die and the number of donors has fallen nationwide. Although Western Australia has the lowest rate the problem is repeated throughout the States because of a downturn in the number of donors.

Mr Johnson: Is that in proportion to the population of WA?

Ms McHALE: I have the absolute numbers. If our population is increasing and these numbers are decreasing, a percentage would make the situation here appear worse.

Mr Prince: There is no doubt that Western Australia has the lowest donation rate in Australia. South Australia has the highest.

Ms McHALE: I see this Bill in the context of difficulties surrounding transplant waiting lists and the number of donors. I hope this legislation will encourage an environment in which the anxiety suffered by many families when faced with a decision to consent will be removed. The spinoff will be more organs available for transplant, which will ultimately help other members of our community. Unfortunately I do not have the most recent data to enable me to clarify the figures.

Mr Prince: I have them somewhere.

Ms McHALE: The figures given to Parliament in 1995 show that the number of donors has declined over the past four or five years.

Mr Prince: They have declined everywhere except in South Australia.

Ms McHALE: What is happening in South Australia that is not happening here?

Mr Prince: They have adopted a form of the Spanish model, which has caused a significant turnaround in the donation rate. I am sending two of our people to South Australia for a conference in the next month or two and a couple of senior clinicians from South Australia are coming here to talk to our intensivists. What South Australia is doing applies in the intensive care area.

Ms McHALE: I am pleased to hear that because whatever efforts have been made over the past three or four years to increase donors have failed miserably.

In 1991 there were 23 organ donors and in 1994 there were 18. The number of corneal donations has decreased as well. Therefore, whatever attempts have been made over the past three or four years to increase the number of donors has failed miserably. The rate of organ donation could be improved if there were more public awareness and, perhaps, promotional campaigns - although members opposite appear to have a strange view of promotional campaigns in the media -

Mr Prince: If people want to donate - and 100 000 people say on their driver's licence that they do - it will work only when the matter has been discussed with the family. Where that discussion takes place the donation rate is over 70 per cent. That discussion is critical.

Ms McHALE: Perhaps that reinforces the need for an awareness campaign of some sort. Most people think that if they fill out the driver's licence, that is the end of it, but it is not because, to be frank, the people are dead when the decision is made.

Mr Prince: For two successive years I have been involved with the kidney people, who are very keen, the media and the Opposition to push the message but it does not seem to be getting through.

Ms McHALE: The Minister has reinforced my argument that without an effective campaign and a strategic approach, Western Australia will continue to be the State with the lowest number of donors. The Australian Medical Association and probably the Minister share our view that a greater effort needs to be made to increase the number of organ donors.

I turn now to the interesting figures relating to transplants. One may think that I am moving away from the point of the Bill, but I am not. The fundamental issue is about encouraging an environment in which we may achieve a greater organ donor population. There are several key types of transplants, and perhaps a kidney transplant is one of the largest type. It is interesting that the success rate of organ transplants is very high, therefore any encouragement we can give for donor transplant and organ donation will be incredibly cost effective. Keeping someone alive on a dialysis machine costs about \$50 000 a year, depending on the type of dialysis used. A kidney transplant costs about

half that figure - perhaps \$20 000 to \$25 000. I understand the survival rate is about 94 per cent for kidney transplants, and with the use of drugs in subsequent years the cost diminishes to \$2 000 to \$3 000 annually. From a cost of \$50 000 a year for dialysis to \$3 000 on medication maintenance we have significantly reduced the cost to the community and to the health sector.

The survival rate for liver transplants is slightly less, at around 90 per cent. The majority of people waiting for transplants are children and, sadly, about 20 per cent of those children die while on the waiting list.

Mr Prince: It is true. We also send children to the Eastern States as and when appropriate. It is a case by case exercise.

Ms McHALE: I recognise that. However, the difficulty for a family sending a child to Melbourne is huge. It is a risk that the family will take but again the emotional and financial cost is significant. Pancreas transplants are less common.

Dr Turnbull: And less successful.

Ms McHALE: I thought the survival rate was around 90 per cent, but I defer to the member's expertise. Again, the effect of a transplant as opposed to maintaining a person on insulin is significant from a cost and health perspective.

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

Ms McHALE: Any legislation that we discuss in this place must funnel into the overall vision of a caring and healthy society. Although in the scheme of things this Bill provides a solution to a problem of ambiguity relating to consent, it feeds into the broader picture of creating an environment in which we remove ambiguity, concern and the difficulty that parents and family members have, so that we can generate additional organs to ensure the health of other members of our society.

We support the legislation if it clarifies that very contentious, difficult and emotional issue of making a decision about whether organs will be removed. It is incumbent on us, as legislators, to encourage an environment in which organ donation is much more prolific and more accepted in our society. The legislation, of itself, will not do that. That comes to matters such as information, the process of organ transfer and removal, and the importance of organ donation. People may indicate on their driver's licence that they wish to donate - I have done that - but there is little point in doing that if people do not tell their family. We need better awareness in the community and a greater commitment by the Government to encourage organ donations. The figures over the past four or five years do not support any suggestion that there has been a strong commitment to that element of our health climate.

It is a balance between managing the wishes of the deceased and of his or her family members in a time of trauma and grief. Often a decision must be made quickly when a person has died, often in a traumatic road accident, perhaps suicide or even a childhood death - an unexpected and unanticipated death. It is a process of balancing the very real emotional trauma and feelings in that environment with the need for ensuring organs are available and, conversely, that they are not taken inappropriately without the consent of family members.

I am pleased that Labor members are willing to support the Bill. We hope that it will ensure that the objective outlined in the second reading speech, to remove that concern, will be effected when the Bill is enacted and becomes law.

**MR PRINCE** (Albany - Minister for Health) [4.30 pm]: In view of the time, I seek leave to continue my remarks at a later stage.

[Leave granted.]

Debate thus adjourned.

## GRIEVANCE

### *One Mile Jetty, Carnarvon*

**DR GALLOP** (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [4.31 pm]: I grieve to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport regarding the magnificent tourism and recreation asset in the One Mile Jetty in Carnarvon which is under threat from the twin forces of age and weather. In presenting this grievance to Parliament today, I acknowledge the magnificent work done by the Carnarvon Jetty Restoration Committee, the honorary secretary of which is Fred Hoefler. I have had the privilege of meeting with the committee members twice, and I applaud them for their work in the Carnarvon area to raise the status of the One Mile Jetty issue, to raise money for the restoration of that jetty and to provide a framework within which the local shires and government are informed on the issue. Fred has been involved from the beginning and his contribution needs special acknowledgment in Parliament.

The Carnarvon Jetty Restoration Committee, along with other bodies in the Carnarvon district, has a plan for a Carnarvon maritime heritage precinct based upon five important parts of the town; namely, the One Mile Jetty, the lighthouse museum, the Carnarvon tramway, Babbage Island, and the Carnarvon town itself. When one looks at the heritage precinct idea, one can see how it is coming into shape. The Gascoyne Historical Society runs the lighthouse museum and cottage which already attracts over 200 visitors a week. The Carnarvon Light Rail Association has been restoring the tramway for eight years, and has restored for tourists' rides a steam locomotive, the *Kimberley*, which was built in 1922. Also, 1.4 kilometres of the original 2.5 kilometre track has been relaid. Train rides for the public commenced a year or two ago now draw great crowds. It can clearly be seen that the tramway restoration has terrific tourist potential.

The missing link in the equation is the One Mile Jetty, and we have a brilliant concept which needs strong support. The jetty came into operation in 1899, and the tramway and bridge were added soon after. In those days, coastal shipping was the most effective means of trade and travel, and the jetty was the crucial link between Carnarvon and the outside world; in fact, it helped to develop the Gascoyne region's pastoral and agricultural industries. Eventually, air and road links undermined its importance and the jetty received its last ship in 1984. Since then it has remained an important facility for local residents and visitors wishing to walk or fish along its length.

Despite the tourist and recreational potential, the jetty is in a state of disrepair and neglect. Timbers are damaged and rotting and structural support problems must be addressed if the jetty is to withstand the extremes of time and weather. The Government of Western Australia should invest in the full restoration of that jetty for three very important reasons: First, the jetty is listed on the state Heritage Register as a place of significance. It is good to see our Heritage Council recognising our industrial and commercial, as well as architectural and natural, heritage. The jetty's significance in our State's history should be recognised through preservation as well as listing by the Heritage Council - we have the listing, but not the preservation.

The second reason for its restoration is recreational, as the jetty remains a great fishing and recreational reserve for the citizens of Carnarvon and those who visit. The dilapidated condition of the jetty is threatening this opportunity for recreation in the area. Indeed, some parts of the jetty are off limits because of the dangers involved. Of course, people still like to access facilities despite the danger, so it is important to restore the jetty to remove that danger.

Thirdly, and most importantly, the jetty has tourism potential. The 1995 "Putting Carnarvon on the Map" study recognised the potential for the jetty to play a major role in tourism development. The WA Tourism Commission has estimated that facilities which encourage tourists to stay in Carnarvon one more night would generate an extra \$1.3m in revenue, or an extra 17 full time jobs in the area.

What need we do? We need a commitment from the Government and the Department of Transport to restore the jetty. It is estimated that the restoration will cost about \$1.2m. If that were done, the ongoing maintenance of that asset could pass to the local community. I am sure a local management group involving the shire would be only too happy to take on that task if the jetty were restored through investment by the Department of Transport or other parts of the Government of Western Australia. When we consider the money wasted on the Elle Racing and Global Dance fiascos, it is a scandal that such a major asset is left to rot. The Government should do more to support local communities, such as that in Carnarvon, which can do much more for the State than flashy entrepreneurs and ever willing consultants.

I now point to an example of expenditure of this nature which has been very successful: The Busselton jetty was in a poor condition, and following a \$500 000 allocation from the Department of Transport, restoration commenced and is continuing. The jetty attracts a gross revenue of \$350 000 annually, part of which come from charging the public to walk along the jetty or ride on its train. Maintenance is conducted biannually with a budget of \$250 000. Put simply, the economics of the Busselton jetty restoration have shaped up and withstood any public scrutiny on investments of this nature.

The Carnarvon jetty needs an initial investment for the restoration, and that injection of funds is the responsibility of the State Government. On behalf of the local community, I call on the Government to give the project its full support.

**MR OMODEI** (Warren-Blackwood - Minister for Local Government) [4.38 pm]: The One Mile Jetty issue has been ongoing for a long time in Carnarvon. I understand that a local loan poll resolved not to fix the jetty, with the vote determined on a 2:1 ratio. As the Leader of the Opposition mentioned, the cost to fix the whole of the jetty was reputed to be between \$1.2m and \$1.8m. However, no matter what happens, the head of the jetty will have to go anyway. The jetty no longer serves any transport-related purpose and it has been closed on the seaward side from pier 103 onwards on safety grounds. The condition of the jetty is such that its continued existence without restoration presents a risk to shipping through its collapse, with floating debris, particularly timbers, entering the navigational channels.

I understand that the Carnarvon Jetty Restoration Committee has been actively pursuing discussions with the Department of Transport and the shire with a view to saving the jetty for tourism and heritage purposes. I can understand the Leader of the Opposition raising the issue in a political way as the chairman of that committee is a former member of this place, Mr Kevin Leahy. The Leader of the Opposition has extolled the virtue of the secretary, Fred Hofler, and those people are within their rights to raise the issue in this and other forums.

The cost of demolishing the jetty by burning the superstructure and removing the remaining piles, which is the Department of Transport's past and preferred demolition method based on safety and ease of cost, is approximately \$380 000. I understand that the original figure was \$190 000, but the costs which are being bandied around vary. The alternative, which would involve a complete dismantling of the jetty, has been estimated at between \$870 000 and \$893 000, as well as the \$1.2m and \$1.8m to which I referred.

The Shire of Carnarvon has been advised that, in accordance with the Department of Transport's strategic plan for maritime facilities, a funding allocation based on the combined burn and demolition option would be supported if the council decided to accept ownership of the jetty. As the Leader of the Opposition said, the jetty was included in the State's list of heritage places late in 1996 and the Heritage Council has indicated its desire to save the jetty if at all possible. The costs are exorbitant and the Shire of Carnarvon has declined to take over the ownership because it considers the \$400 000 offered by the Department of Transport to cover the future demolition of the jetty to be insufficient. Members cannot blame the local shire because it is dealing with ratepayers' money and it does not want to be caught with a liability that will cost the ratepayers more money. The council is also concerned at the potential ongoing jetty maintenance and the cost that may need to be borne by its ratepayers.

The Carnarvon Jetty Restoration Committee is trying to convince the shire that it should change its stance and, as a backup strategy, it has sought a lease of the jetty in its own right to enable it to pursue the jetty's restoration. The committee believes that it will be successful in its application for a \$200 000 grant from the Heritage Council, so long as the jetty is under the control of either it or the shire.

Although the Department of Transport has concerns about the restoration committee's ability to achieve the jetty restoration without the support of the shire, it does not want to frustrate what may be the final chance to save this important regional attraction. Many Western Australians have enjoyed the Carnarvon jetty. I remember going there on my honeymoon about 26 years ago. This facility could be enhanced together with the development of the adjacent precinct. Advice has been given to the restoration committee that a lease of the jetty would be considered if it can secure the level of funding outlined, and subject to certain other conditions and assurances. If the shire does not change its stance on the jetty and the restoration committee fails to obtain the Heritage Council grant, funding will be sought to demolish the jetty.

Dr Gallop: Put your money in and restore this asset. This Government has wasted money on Global Dance and Elle.

Mr OMODEI: The Leader of the Opposition does not change. He talks about \$1.2m and \$1.8m and all the figures in between.

Dr Gallop: The Premier spent that in two minutes flat on two failures.

Mr OMODEI: The Leader of the Opposition thinks that the money comes out of the air. The Labor Party flicked its fingers and hundreds of thousands of dollars materialised.

The fact is that if the jetty is not taken over by either the shire or the restoration committee, it could be demolished. The alternative is the risk of flotsam and the subsequent threat to shipping in the shipping channels. The Leader of the Opposition feels strongly about this issue, but I advise him that the jetty has been deteriorating over the past 40 to 50 years. As the seat was held by the Labor Party I am at a loss to understand why this issue was not resolved when members opposite were in government.

The Department of Transport is consulting with the restoration committee and the local shire. The restoration committee's application for funding is currently before the Heritage Council. If the committee receives the funding a project to restore the jetty and enhance the surrounding precincts will be on the agenda. I am sure the local member, who is very much aware of the situation, will have an input into this issue and will discuss the matter with the Department of Transport and the Minister for Transport with a view to getting a positive outcome for the people of Carnarvon.

#### **GRIEVANCE - MR JOHN SYDNEY-SMITH**

##### *International Grand Prix Sponsorship*

**MR BARRON-SULLIVAN** (Mitchell) [4.44 pm]: My grievance is to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation. I raise this matter on behalf of a constituent who approached me some months ago. I am



sure all members are approached with some unusual requests and at first I thought this issue fell into that category. However, when I made further inquiries it was obvious that there was considerably more to this request than met the eye. The person who approached me, John Sydney-Smith who lives in College Grove, Bunbury, asked me whether I could assist him in finding funds to help him race a motorcycle at the International Grand Prix in Phillip Island in October. My initial response was to ask him whether he had found private sponsorship and what other approaches he had made to obtain the funds to allow him to pursue his racing career.

I found that John has a very distinguished record as a motor racer. He is currently 0.1 seconds off the lap record at Wanneroo and third in the national championships for the 250cc Grand Prix and, as I said, he has qualified to compete in the International Grand Prix in October. His dilemma is that he has used up his private sponsorship to get this far. He has done extremely well and has stretched every dollar as far as he can. He has some very good sponsors who have backed him to this stage.

Unfortunately for John, the industry sponsors are based in Melbourne and Sydney. The big dollars are not in Western Australia, but the big problems most certainly are. One of the problems is the Nullarbor. It has been a fact of life with a number of sports - this is not the only sport - that the distance between this State and some of the sporting venues in the Eastern States presents a huge problem in time, simple geography and the cost of participating in national and international events.

Following John's approach to me, I looked into this matter and a number of interesting points came to light. The first one was that his request was very different from a number of other requests I have had for funding for sporting achievements. If members read the history of motor racing in Western Australia, they will find that the motor racing industry has, to some extent, depended on funds from the tobacco industry. Over the years successive Governments have changed that regime and obviously have reduced the incidence of tobacco advertising generally, particularly at sporting venues. In return there is now a bureaucratic or government policy-led approach towards distributing funds to sporting clubs, sporting associations and individual sports people. Unfortunately in that process, people involved in motor racing, particularly in the field of motorcycle racing, have been cut out of the deal. It is almost impossible for an individual sportsperson in this field of endeavour to obtain funds under the existing arrangements.

The benefits that accrue to a State and to individual sports people from being able to develop and progress in motor racing are not inconsiderable. For example, some years ago it was very hard for a lot of people in not only Australia, but also overseas, to pinpoint Wollongong on a map, but as a result of hundreds of millions of people watching Wayne Gardiner on international television and reading about him in magazines, they have become aware of where this motorcycle racer was from and they found out more about the country in which he lived. This State can achieve that by fostering people like John as ambassadors for the State and ultimately for Australia. I am not suggesting that we go down the path of reversing the situation of funding arrangements or that we change the rules relating to tobacco advertising. However, I am sure the Parliamentary Secretary is aware that because of the unique circumstances surrounding my constituent's request for assistance, I have put a proposal to the Minister for some form of assistance in this instance.

The second reason for raising this matter is that it opens up the whole question of government sponsored assistance to sports people, sporting associations and sports in general in regional areas. Proposals have been put forward for a branch or division of the Institute of Sport to be established in the south west and regional areas. However, more importantly, a number of people have raised the question of whether we get our fair share of the cake and what sort of assistance is available for sports people, clubs and associations in regional areas. I would very much appreciate some general comments from the Parliamentary Secretary on what assistance is provided in this regard.

Realistically, I appreciate - as every member would - that there are significant funding constraints in every portfolio area and this area is obviously no exception. I realise there is no specific budget item we can rely on to assist my constituent or others in his situation. However, I am asking that he simply be given serious consideration - hopefully favourable in the long term. I ask that the Parliamentary Secretary and his ministerial colleague take the request on board and give it serious consideration.

I do have a fall back plan. I have offered my constituent assistance in seeking private sponsorship at the local level. Should this request not be successful, I will help him in every way to get over the line at the international grand prix in October. I would dearly like to see a Western Australian and national champion and, hopefully, one day a world champion from Bunbury.

**MR MARSHALL** (Dawesville - Parliamentary Secretary) [4.52 pm]: I sympathise with the dilemma facing the member for Mitchell in trying to find sponsorship for a brilliant young athlete in his electorate. As a former international sportsperson and coach, I have dealt with hundreds of talented young athletes in Western Australia. I know how hard it is for them on occasions when they have the ability but must raise money to prove they can reach international standards. One can liken that to a youngster going to university who must eat a little humble pie and

get odd jobs to get through. However, when they finally get their degree they know that they can earn an income that will set them up for life. The same thing happens to talented young athletes who find it difficult to raise money. They must eat a little humble pie and look for sponsorship, outside help and family assistance. When they make the grade and get into international sport they too are set for life.

I know a little about John Sydney-Smith. When he first started making his mark in motorcycling I wondered whether he was related to Len Smith, the 1953, 1954 and 1955 Western Australian road racing champion who rode a BSA Gold Flash motorcycle. I know that John Sydney-Smith is a highly regarded rider and that he has had a very successful season. He has won 10 local events and has competed in three national events. I believe he has received a wild card to compete in the grand prix of the Australian nationals. That is fantastic.

Some government allowance has been made for sportspersons who have achieved. However, most assistance has gone to those participating in olympic sports. I refer members to the Western Australian Institute of Sport, which is similar to the Australian Institute of Sport. All the talent of the nation is brought under one umbrella and given the best coaching and advice possible. Unfortunately, motorcycle riding is not included. If an olympic sportsperson is in the top eight in the world, a subsidy of up to \$10 000 is available. At the moment, John Sydney-Smith has not been able to prove himself. This is the chopping block section of a competitor's life. He needs help, but it comes primarily from local sponsorship.

The Sports Development Fund allocates \$3m to cater for over 100 sporting organisations in Western Australia. Just making that appropriation to those sports is very difficult. In 1997, motorcycle racing was allocated \$30 680. Perhaps the member's constituent could go to his association and see whether funds are available - \$5 000 or \$10 000 - to bridge that gap, in transport particularly, to help him get to the Eastern States for the national titles. Most sports people go to their association and if it has enough confidence in that person's ability, it approaches the commission for funds. The commission has the money and the responsibility to fund national sporting organisations. This young man could approach the state organisation and request that it apply to the Australian Sports Commission for assistance.

The member mentioned sponsorship and pointed out that since tobacco sponsorship has been removed the situation has been very difficult. That same sponsorship was removed from cricket. The Benson and Hedges competition was an enormous aid to that sport and it has now been removed. However, cricket has been able to find more sponsors. When the Eagles, the Wildcats and Perth Heat started in Western Australia, people were concerned about where the sponsorship would be found, yet the Fremantle Dockers and the Orioles found sponsorship. I would like the member to tell that lad that nothing is impossible and that sponsorship is available for the talented.

Years ago I wanted to send a lad to America. I approached a leading businessman and asked him for \$5 000. He said that he would get it at lunchtime the next day - he said that that much was spilt over the table. That was a shocking statement, but he gave me \$5 000 the next day to send that young lad to the Harry Hopman Camp. Only recently in Mandurah, Jarrod Mosely, the captain of the Australian amateur team that won the Eisenhower Cup, turned professional. Along with 11 others I backed the young lad in his professional career. We each invested up to \$2 000 and the lad is now playing on the professional circuit. He won \$15 000 in Asia last week and his father rang the investment group to see whether the members wanted a dividend. Not one of the local people at the golf club wanted any money; they simply wanted to see the lad get a chance in life. The member for Mitchell can do that in his electorate.

The member asked what the Government is doing in country areas. We have a tremendous Ministry of Sport regional office in Bunbury. I suggest that the member visit Steve Rose because the ministry has programs that might be able to assist with travel. The country package has a budget of \$399 000 and another \$200 000 has been added from the 1997-98 Budget. That money is provided for regional sport and development plans, travel to regional sports competitions, the education of coaches through accreditation programs and player development. Let us not forget the community sport recreation facilities fund, which has a budget of \$8m per annum. In the past three years, 70 per cent of that funding has gone to country areas.

I hope that these have been encouraging words. We like to see champions and I wish John Sydney-Smith the very best in his career.

## **GRIEVANCE - CASTLEREAGH EDUCATION SUPPORT SCHOOL**

### *Transfer of Resources*

**MR CARPENTER** (Willagee) [4.59 pm] I have a grievance directed to the Minister for Disability Services on behalf of Derek and Trish Doyle and their family of Willetton. Although Willetton is not in my electorate, I have come into contact with these people through my activities as the shadow spokesperson in this area.

One of Trish and Derek Doyle's two sons is nine-year-old Clint, who has a disability. He is a student at Castlereagh Education Support School. I address my remarks to the Minister on the circumstances at Castlereagh School and the circumstances facing a large group of parents of children who attend that school. Castlereagh School opened in 1978, and is an Education Department school catering for intellectually and physically disabled children. At last count it had 83 students on a full time basis. I was sent a short history of the school and information on the activities taking place there. The school body states that the school is unique in its field in that it is adjacent to the Burrendah Primary School, an early childhood unit, and is close to Willetton Senior High School. Therefore, integration, which is a high priority in the disability and education area, is possible in a way that is not possible in some other educational environments.

The Disability Services Commission has been funding two occupational therapists, two physiotherapists and a speech pathologist at the school. The level of disability among the students varies, but in some cases it is extremely high and the children need constant attention and a great deal of occupational therapy and physiotherapy. Therapy services at the school were substantially reduced at the commencement of this term, with the loss of one full time equivalent physiotherapy position, halving the service previously available, and the loss of part of an occupational therapy position. This is a result of a decision by the Disability Services Commission to transfer resources from Castlereagh to other schools. Effectively, it was a \$40 000 budgetary decision to move resources from that school and spread them to other schools. The needs of those other schools are recognised. The loss of these resources has had a devastating impact on the parents of the 83 children attending the school who believe the wellbeing, let alone the development, of their children is being placed at risk.

Derek and Trish Doyle were originally farmers at Corrigin, and when Clint was two years old he suffered a cardiac arrest. Subsequently various disabilities manifested themselves. He spent two months in Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, where his parents learnt therapy and rehabilitation skills to help their son. They spent the next three years travelling between Corrigin and Perth, often fortnightly, so that Clint could get the best possible treatment and rehabilitation. It is a round trip of 600 kilometres and often Mrs Doyle spent weeks in Perth while her husband stayed on the farm. When their son was five years old and was close to school age they had a big decision to make on whether to stay in Corrigin and continue their work on the farm, or move to a place where better resources and facilities were available for their son. They decided to look at that option, to take it up only if a suitable arrangement could be found. They spent six months travelling from Corrigin and around the metropolitan area to find a suitable location. They located Castlereagh School, which has a very good reputation in this area. They decided to leave the farm, which was Mr Doyle's family farm and was the only work he had known, and moved to Willetton to be close to Castlereagh School so that their son Clint could get the best possible help available.

Given that background, members can understand their problem and anguish when they see the resources at the school now being diminished to the point at which they question whether they might as well have stayed in Corrigin and not bothered to relocate in Perth. In many ways they are representative of the parents of the other 80-odd children at the school. I attended a meeting at the school a couple of weeks ago, and the parents feel a strong sense of betrayal. Many made huge financial and lifestyle sacrifices to locate their families close to Castlereagh School, believing that it would give their children the best possible assistance in life. They were reaffirmed in believing that they were doing the best thing for their children by a letter written by the Chief Executive Officer of the Disability Services Commission, Mr Haydn Lowe, in 1994 when the school age therapy service was transferred from the Health Department to the Disability Services Commission. The letter states in part that with this transfer therapy staffing levels at Castlereagh will remain unchanged. There is no qualification in the letter. The parents were given a written assurance that the facilities at Castlereagh would remain unchanged, and many of the parents at the meeting I attended said they had based their decision to move to that locality on the proviso that the resources would not be diminished. However, those resources are being diminished and the parents do not accept that it should happen.

They do not begrudge the provision of facilities to children with disabilities in other schools. However, they say the Government is robbing Peter to pay Paul, and they do not accept that that is the way to go. They say that if more resources must be found to provide better therapy for other school students - they know better than others of the needs of parents of disabled children - that money and resources should not be found by taking facilities from Castlereagh. I agree with those parents. They deserve better than they are getting from the Disability Services Commission and the Government, and I hope the Minister can assist.

**MR OMODEI** (Warren-Blackwood - Minister for Disability Services) [5.06 pm]: I acknowledge the very good contribution that Castlereagh Education Support School makes to the state school arrangements, particularly for students with disabilities. I understand there are 83 students at the school and they receive a very good education. I am also very much aware of the previous undertakings of the Chief Executive Officer of the Disability Services Commission and the former Minister that the existing resource levels at the school would be maintained. That advice was given in good faith and reflected the circumstances at the time within the school age therapy services program. At that time Castlereagh's principal focus was children with physical disabilities. Since that time a significant change

has occurred in the types of disability of children attending the school. More of the students have developmental disabilities and they have different needs for therapy. This has required an adjustment to match the therapy resources with the needs of the children. There has also been a considerable increase in the demand for these school age therapy services in the south metropolitan region in the past few years. For example, in the past year it is estimated that there has been an increase of at least 20 per cent in priority needs for therapy services, and this has necessitated a review of the equity resources between the schools. The relocation of therapy resources according to the change in needs and the increased demand for services is an ongoing process, and the Disability Services Commission must balance, where necessary, and is responsible for, the needs of those people and the delivery of service to this important area.

I know the director of the south metropolitan region and the school age therapy services district therapist met with 20 of the parents involved on Tuesday, 12 August and explained the rationale for the decision. He provided the opportunity for parents to voice their concerns. I understand telephone contact was made with a further three parents, and they have been assured that the services vital for their children's development, physical wellbeing and continuing health status will continue to be given high priority. The school age therapy services district therapist has made herself available to discuss individual programs with parents as required, and will work closely with the therapists and school staff to review the use of their time, redefine core tasks, and monitor the quality and quantity of services to students.

I understand Barry MacKinnon has discussed this matter with Trish Doyle. She rang my office last week seeking a meeting with me. She is meeting Barry MacKinnon, who is Chairman of the Disabilities Services Board, on Monday night with parents and friends of the school council to further discuss the matter. It is a very important matter to them.

There has been an increase in demand and adjustments have been made from the south metropolitan region coastal office, in which area Castlereagh is located. Some of those facilities will be relocated to the foothills district where students receive significantly less therapy, and allocations are still being finalised. However, indications are that improvements will be made in the following areas: Five education support units which previously received no services, and seven which previously received only consultancy services, will now have a minimum of one term of therapy; five education support centres which previously received no services, or received intermittent services, will receive services according to the priority needs of their students; 60 mainstream schools which previously received only emergency services will receive an increase in services to ensure comparable levels of service with other mainstream schools throughout the metropolitan area; the priority needs of students in the Darling Range education district who have received nominal services will be addressed; and school aged therapy services resources will be applied more equitably across education support schools, centres and units, and mainstream schools, because at an aggregated level, children within each of these different educational settings usually have similar and, therefore, comparable levels of need. Even with the adjusted allocation, Castlereagh Education Support School is still within the higher range with regard to total hours of service to students.

I am conscious of the needs of Castlereagh School. As I have said, a meeting will take place, and a further \$400 000 has been recommended for allocation to school aged therapy services from the Disability Services Commission's five year business plan, which includes country and metropolitan school aged therapy services, across the Disability Services Commission and non-government agencies. I expect that will placate many of the concerns of people within that area. A further \$700 000 in recurrent funding will be made available for therapy and professional services. It is likely that most of this funding will be applied to maintaining allocations and meeting new demand for school aged services.

I commend the parents and friends of Castlereagh School. Obviously Derek and Trish Doyle have gone to a lot of trouble in moving from Corrigin to the metropolitan area to get improved services for their son.

Mr Carpenter: They will not be very reassured or comforted by what you have said.

Mr OMODEI: The budget has been increased significantly under the five year business plan, and on Monday night Trish and Derek Doyle will meet with the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Board of the Disability Services Commission. The member for Willagee is being a bit premature. If Trish and Derek Doyle are still concerned after that meeting, I will discuss the matter with them further. That is the best I can do at the moment. I hope we can fix the problem sooner rather than later.

#### **GRIEVANCE - GLEN FORREST PRIMARY SCHOOL**

##### *Waterlogged Oval*

**MRS van de KLASHORST** (Swan Hills - Parliamentary Secretary) [5.13 pm]: My grievance to the Minister for Education is about a school that has a swimming pool but does not want one, particularly when it is a pool in winter

but not in summer! In September 1996, I wrote to the Minister about a concern that the oval at Glen Forrest Primary School became waterlogged. The Minister sent Education Department people to look at that oval, and a drainage system was installed. Unfortunately that was done during the summer months, and it was not until significant rain fell again that the principal could see that the drainage was ineffective because the oval still became waterlogged. The principal suggested that when I went to look at the oval this year I wear a pair of wellington boots, and that is what I did.

The material under the oval is clay, which is the reason that the oval, like any decent dam in the hills, retains water, and soil and turf have been placed on top of that clay. Unfortunately, the moment significant rains fall, that water stays there and takes several weeks to drain away. The water on that oval is almost ankle deep in places. The principal of that school, Mr Williams, told me that it creates a further problem because it drains into a second oval and makes both of those playing areas unusable.

A playing area for school pupils at lunchtime and recess is almost non-existent. At this time of the year, schools practise for interschool sports and their own school sports. The school has had to use the oval at the Glen Forrest townsite, which is a 10 minute walk from the school, for sports practice, and for the first time it has had to conduct the school sports on that town oval. That is not satisfactory.

A recent walkathon that was arranged by the parents and citizens' association had to be conducted up and down the steps and around the verandahs of the school rather than on the oval where it is usually held because the school does not have another area that is large enough for these children. That increases the risk of accidents, because a large number of children have to play on verandahs and in small areas, and that is the case not just for one or two weeks of the year but from when the first significant rains fall until the end of the winter.

I request the Minister to take urgent action on behalf of the students at Glen Forrest Primary School, because although the Education Department did attempt to fix the problem last year, the drainage that was installed did not work, and according to an engineer to whom the principal spoke, what is needed is subsoil drainage of the oval.

**MR BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Minister for Education) [5.17 pm]: It is a sad and soggy tale! I am aware, through the member for Swan Hills, of the serious problem with the playing area at Glen Forrest Primary School. I will recount some of the history as supplied to me by the Education Department. In 1995, the Education Department requested a turfing contractor to make recommendations for resolving the problem. He recommended subterranean drainage at an estimated cost of \$45 000. That project was subsequently recommended to be included in the capital works program of Construction and Management Services. CAMS queried the quote, on the basis that similar works in other schools had cost in the range of \$80 000 to \$100 000, and it subsequently commissioned engineers to survey the site and suggest a solution.

On the recommendation of CAMS, the option of a compensating basin and improvements to the existing open drain area was selected and approved. The Shire of Mundaring agreed to execute the works in early 1996 at a cost of \$4 000, and those works commenced in May 1996. As the member pointed out, those works failed to rectify the problem, and the oval has flooded again.

The Education Department has now contracted a firm to conduct a procedure called verti draining to break up the root zone, decompact the subsurface and allow water to penetrate. I am advised that representatives of the facilities and services branch of the Education Department will inspect the oval tomorrow to assess the success of that work. If it is found that that work has not succeeded, there will be an inclusion in future capital works programs to do subterranean drainage of the school. If the current work does not succeed, a commitment will be given to do the work fully and properly to rectify the problem. I cannot confirm when that probe work will be undertaken. Despite the best efforts of everyone, it has been a sorry and sad tale. It has gone on for too long. If the current work is not successful, I hope we can move quickly to provide a permanent solution to that problem. I agree with the member; it is unacceptable for that school.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Ainsworth): Grievances noted.

#### **MOTION - NEW STANDING ORDER No 165A**

**DR GALLOP** (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [5.20 pm]: It is with great pleasure that I move -

That the following new standing order be adopted -

#### **Responses from persons referred to in the House**

**165A.** (1) Where a submission is made in writing to the Speaker by a person or corporation who has been referred to in the Legislative Assembly by name, or in such a way as to be readily identified -

- (a) claiming that the person or corporation has been adversely affected in reputation or in respect of dealings or associations with others, or injured in occupation, trade, office or financial credit, or that the person's privacy has been unreasonably invaded, by reason of that reference to the person or corporation; and
- (b) requesting that the person be able to incorporate an appropriate response in *Hansard*, and the Speaker is satisfied -
- (c) that the subject of the submission is not so obviously trivial or the submission so frivolous, vexatious or offensive in character as to make it inappropriate that it be considered by the Standing Orders and Procedures Committee ("the committee"); and
- (d) that it is practicable for the committee to consider the submission under this resolution, the Speaker shall refer the submission to that committee.

(2) The committee may decide not to consider a submission referred to it under this resolution if the committee considers that the subject of the submission is not sufficiently serious or the submission is frivolous, vexatious or offensive in character, and such a decision shall be reported to the Legislative Assembly.

(3) If the committee decides to consider a submission under this resolution, the committee may confer with the person who made the submission and any Member who referred in the Legislative Assembly to that person or corporation.

(4) In considering a submission under this resolution, the committee shall meet in private session.

(5) The committee shall not publish a submission referred to it under this resolution or its proceedings in relation to such a submission, but may present minutes of its proceedings and all or part of such submission to the Legislative Assembly.

(6) In considering a submission under this resolution and reporting to the Legislative Assembly the committee shall not consider or judge the truth of any statements made in the Legislative Assembly or the submission.

(7) In its report to the Legislative Assembly on a submission under this resolution, the committee may make either of the following recommendations -

- (a) that no further action be taken by the committee or the Legislative Assembly in relation to the submission; or
- (b) that a response by the person who made the submission, in terms specified in the report and agreed to by the person or corporation and the committee, be incorporated in *Hansard*, and shall not make any other recommendations.

(8) A document presented to the Legislative Assembly under paragraph (5) or (7) -

- (a) in the case of a response by a person or corporation who made a submission, shall be succinct and strictly relevant to the questions in issue and shall not contain anything offensive in character; and
- (b) shall not contain any matter the publication of which would have the effect of -
  - (i) unreasonably adversely affecting or injuring a person or corporation, or unreasonably invading a person's privacy, in the manner referred to in paragraph (1); or
  - (ii) unreasonably adding to or aggravating any such adverse effect, injury or invasion of privacy suffered by a person.

(9) A corporation making a submission under this resolution is required to make it under their common seal.

All too often parliamentarians can be accused of forgetting that although they can hide behind the veil of parliamentary privilege, most individuals do not have the means to protect their reputation or privacy if they have been attacked during proceedings in Parliament. For that reason I move this motion for the inclusion of a new

standing order to give people what is often referred to as a right of reply if they feel aggrieved by references to them in this House. It will allow people to put their view forward and to seek to have it incorporated in *Hansard* - the official parliamentary record.

Proposed new Standing Order No 165A sets out the process for individuals who seek to have a right of reply incorporated in *Hansard*. Monitoring of the submissions will be required to ensure the process is not misused. This will be done by the Speaker, in the first instance, who will then refer the request to the Standing Orders and Procedures Committee for its consideration. The committee will be able to discuss the issue with the person who made the submission and any member who referred to that person in Parliament. The role of the committee is not to judge the truth of the submission or of the comments made in the Legislative Assembly, but to report to the Assembly either that no further action is to be taken or that a response is to be incorporated in *Hansard*. These responses must be succinct and directly relevant to the issue in question, and must not contain anything offensive in character or that which will affect adversely another person or corporation.

Giving Western Australians a right of reply in the manner just outlined is an innovative step for this State. It will mean that Western Australia no longer lags behind other jurisdictions that have given their citizens this basic right. The Senate was the first Legislature in the world to adopt a right of reply in February 1988. Since then the procedure has been adopted by the Legislative Assemblies of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. It was recommended for adoption in this State by the Commission on Government in its first report.

In discussing the public submissions that had been made about rights of reply, the Commission on Government notes at page 382 that -

... a right of response for individuals adversely affected by comments made in Parliament was a high priority for the public. In our view, the extent of public concern demands that a formal right of reply for aggrieved citizens be introduced.

In our community the recognition that Parliament should be a forum of public and open debate, without fear of legal proceedings, is well established. A right of reply will not take this away from members of Parliament - our absolute protection of parliamentary privilege will remain - but it will ensure Western Australians have a practical mechanism to counterbalance the right of parliamentary privilege of members of Parliament. In this way, it will make parliamentarians of all political persuasions more accountable to the people of this State.

This proposal will preserve our rights under parliamentary privilege, but at the same time provide a procedure by which members of the public can express their point of view if they feel they have been affected adversely by what is said in Parliament. It is a procedural response to an issue that has emerged in our community as a matter of some concern; that is, that parliamentary privilege can become the basis on which people in Parliament can make statements to which those outside have no recourse or response.

Some members of this Chamber may be concerned that the right of reply could be misused. However, the experience of other jurisdictions shows that this is not the case. For example, in the Senate, by June 1996 only 22 responses had been recommended for publication and there had been no case of the Senate refusing a right of reply. Even if the process is used infrequently, it is still a desirable addition to our parliamentary standards. It is a simple process that can be explained readily to the public. It can be accessed by all citizens, regardless of their skill or financial capacity, and is usually quick, cheap and effective.

I call on this House to support this motion. Giving Western Australians a right of reply will implement an important recommendation of the Commission on Government.

I note that when the Commission on Government reported about this matter it made special note of the extent to which the public was interested in the establishment of a right of reply. It was a common theme raised by members of the public in many meetings of the Commission on Government all around Western Australia. When responding to the recommendation of the Commission on Government, this Parliament would also be responding to the clearly expressed wish of the people of Western Australia.

I also believe we must take note of the fact that the principle of right of reply has been established in Queensland, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory and, of course, the Federal Senate. This is new ground for the State of Western Australia, but that ground has already been traversed by other Legislatures in this country. The evidence indicates that it has been a successful addition to parliamentary procedure and in no way undermines the great tradition of parliamentary privilege.

This is a fundamental step towards making this House more accountable to the people of Western Australia. People who may otherwise feel alienated from the political process are able to ensure their voice is heard when their reputation has been maligned and their side of the story is on the parliamentary record. In a sense this is about

fairness. It provides a procedure by which justice can be done when people feel it has not been done under the protection of parliamentary privilege. For these reasons, I urge all members of the House to give favourable consideration to this measure. The principle has been well canvassed and widely supported and I believe we are now in a position to adopt it without any qualification or compromise, given the support that has been expressed for it throughout community.

**MR CARPENTER** (Willagee) [5.31 pm]: I second the motion with some enthusiasm because this is an overdue reform to the parliamentary system as it operates in Western Australia. I do not think we would find many people who would argue against it. Having been a political journalist covering the course of political events in Western Australia over the mid-1980s until early last year, I often came upon people and situations that demanded the capacity for individuals to be able to reply to remarks made about them in the Parliament, to the Parliament. There have been a few celebrated cases in recent history where this subject has been at issue.

It is one of the most fundamental aspects of parliamentary life that the notion of parliamentary privilege should not be undermined; that the capacity for members of Parliament to speak as freely as reason allows within the confines of the Parliament and to raise issues of importance should not in any sense be threatened or weakened. This innovation strengthens the notion of parliamentary privilege. In the development of our political history in Western Australia at the moment there is a belief in the community - it probably has some justification - that parliamentary privilege is likely to be, and has been, abused. The extent of the abuse and the profligacy of such abuse should not be overstated. There have been cases in which I believe parliamentary privilege has been abused. That has led some quarters of the community to demand that something be done about curbing the powers of parliamentarians to make statements, accusations and allegations within the safety of the confines of the Parliament.

By allowing citizens the right of reply, we are addressing the issue in a reasonable way without minimising or limiting the capacity of the member of Parliament to speak his or her mind in the Parliament. It should be remembered that we are not proposing an automatic right of reply to any remark that is made about anybody or anything in the Parliament and we are not envisaging a constant parade of members of the public waiting at the doors of the Parliament for their turn to have their say. They can do that on talk-back radio. We are suggesting a much more orderly and civilised system for members of the public who feel genuinely aggrieved by remarks that have been made about them, to have some recourse to address those remarks.

It is not a right of reply which would provide an automatic right to have a response published by the House; therefore, it would not allow people, who believe they should have a right to make comments in the House, the capacity to defame or slander people in the wider community or the Parliament. The right of reply will not be automatic. It will be a procedure by which a person may seek to have a right of reply. There are checks and balances in the system, and a filtration of the wants and desires of people who feel they would like to speak to the Parliament. This is to ensure the Parliament is not abused by people outside of parliamentary life in the same way as they may believe members of Parliament are abusing their position.

The Leader of the Opposition suggested that a committee of the Parliament would be able to accept applications - if that is the right word - from people who believe they have a genuine grievance and to seek to speak in a direct way to those people to assess the gravity, the genuineness and the frankness of the grievance, but the committee is not bound in any way to do anything about it unless it genuinely feels something should be done about it. The committee has the right to do nothing at all or may allow a written reply. That is an important element of what is being suggested because it has been my experience, and probably the experience of many others, that what we may expect to adduce from a person in a direct conversation may not always be what is provided by that person; that is, if a right of reply was verbal, bearing in mind the skills and duties of Hansard reporters, a person may have given an assurance that his or her remarks would be made on a particular line, but in the Parliament that line may be well and truly traversed and remarks may be made which should not be made, or were not anticipated to be made. It is most important that this capacity of the right of reply is written so there is some form of control over the remarks provided to the Parliament and in the form in which those remarks are supplied.

As a member of Parliament I fall back on a constant theme: The general esteem - or lack of it - in which the parliamentary process is held in Western Australia, and probably Australia wide, and for all I know worldwide at this time. There is no doubt in my mind that we are going through a period in which unfortunately the parliamentary and political processes are regarded with a great deal of cynicism, and in some cases hostility. That is most unfortunate because, as I have said in this place before on other subjects, it is most important for the functioning of our society to have a political process which commands a deal of respect and is seen to be as open, accountable and accessible as possible.

In my own small way I have suggested one or two minor reforms which might go some way towards reducing the amount of cynicism, hostility and lack of faith in the political process that is evident at the moment. The Commission on Government has applied itself to similar problems. The Commission on Government recommended that this



reform be introduced. It will not suddenly turn around the general inclination in some parts of the community to believe that politicians are a dishonest, disreputable group. However, it will go some way towards providing substantial evidence that a positive reform is being made. It also provides the capacity for people to become more directly involved in the political process - admittedly to a limited extent. It will reduce the sense of alienation that people feel at the moment, justifiably or not, about the political process.

In a State like Western Australia, where the total population is less than the city populations of numerous municipalities around the world, it is sad that the population should be alienated from the politicians who represent them. We are few in number and close in proximity and there should be a great deal of interchange of communication between members of Parliament and members of the public. If one looked at a map of the world to see in which jurisdictions people were more likely to be in better touch with their politicians one would expect a place like Western Australia to rank highly, especially when the remark is often made that we have far too many politicians. However, the reverse seems to be the case.

This reform will help to address that circumstance. If individuals are targeted for adverse comment in the Parliament, under this reform they will have a direct capacity to seek redress and to reply. That is a most welcome and important development. This reform has been working very smoothly in the Senate for almost 10 years, and in the States of Queensland and New South Wales, and the Australian Capital Territory. It does not threaten parliamentary democracy; to my way of thinking it will enhance it.

The reform proposes that if a person or corporation is referred to in the Assembly by name or in such a way that they can be readily identified and the person considers they have been adversely affected by that reference, the person may write to the Speaker to request that their response be published in *Hansard*. Persons need not come to the House personally or try to make personal communications with members of Parliament and the Speaker or harass staff and members demanding they be given a right of reply. An orderly process has been suggested. That should not lead to a great deal of disruption to the processes and the proceedings of the Parliament.

This is a worthwhile reform. It will go some way to providing a better image of the parliamentary process and of politicians in the community and among the people we seek to represent. I do not know what the response will be from the Government, although I hope that the proposed reform receives general approval from both sides of the House.

**MR COURT** (Nedlands - Premier) [5.46 pm]: I find it interesting that this motion has been brought into this House four weeks before the Royal Commission into the City of Wanneroo will bring down its findings. If ever I have seen a mess that is all about damage control in the Labor Party it is this motion.

I will make some general comments about the principles involved and go into more detail later. The principle of right of reply was put forward by the Commission on Government. The Government has supported COG's recommendations. The Standing Orders and Procedure Committee of this House is the appropriate body to bring forward those recommendations. The proposition is that the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee bring its recommendations to the Parliament. That would have our broad support because we have already gone public on that. I find it cowardly that the Opposition has raised this matter four weeks before the royal commission's findings are brought down. The interim findings of the Wanneroo royal commission referred to smear, rumour and innuendo associated with most of the allegations that were raised by members opposite when the member for Victoria Park was the Deputy Leader of the Labor Party in this Parliament.

Dr Gallop: The Premier is behaving in a petulant and pathetic way. The Premier is pathetic.

Mr COURT: I do not find my response at all petulant, when members of the Labor Party have abused the privilege of this Parliament, and spent four years trying to discredit, for example, my colleague the member for Kingsley. The member for Kingsley cannot participate in this debate and the Leader of the Opposition knows that only too well.

Dr Gallop: Why? That is nonsense.

Mr COURT: That is because the smear, rumour and innuendo will be reported on in four weeks' time.

Dr Gallop: The Premier is desperate. How does the Premier know that? What a stupid comment to make. How can this reflect on a royal commission?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Ainsworth) Order! The Leader of the Opposition knows that it is disorderly to continue in that fashion after the House has been called to order by the Acting Speaker. The Premier obviously has touched a raw nerve.

Dr Gallop: I resent that comment.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I am not implying that I agree or disagree with anything that the Premier has said. However, the response from the Leader of the Opposition was very strong. I accepted one interjection but I cannot accept interjections that are made repeatedly. I ask the Leader of the Opposition to temper his response accordingly.

Mr COURT: The Wanneroo royal commission brought down interim findings in relation to the member for Kingsley and her husband which say there is no foundation for the allegations that have been made against them. Members on this side of the House have a simple rule; that is, we will wait until the royal commission brings down its full findings. It is appropriate that the member for Kingsley does not comment on these matters until then.

Dr Gallop: This motion has nothing to do with the member for Kingsley; she is a member of Parliament, not a member of the public.

Mr COURT: It is everything to do with the member for Kingsley. This is about the hypocrisy of the Labor Party. It has abused parliamentary privilege for the past four years. It has set out to destroy the member for Kingsley and others. Members of the Labor Party are so cowardly that they want to debate this matter before those findings are made public.

Dr Gallop: The Speaker's Chair is to your left, my friend.

Mr COURT: My friend, when the report comes down the Government will have no difficulty debating these matters.

I sat in Parliament for four years. I saw members of the Labor Party accuse people, in effect, of being murderers. I will go through all of that detail.

Mrs Roberts: Why are you turning this into a grubby little exercise?

Mr COURT: The member for Midland talks about a grubby little exercise. That is what this is.

Dr Gallop: Support the motion.

Mr COURT: I have said that the Government supports the broad thrust of the proposal.

This is all about damage control for the Labor Party. In four weeks the Leader of the Opposition will have to get up and publicly explain why, when he was Deputy Leader of the party, he supported his members who spent four years attacking -

Mrs Roberts: How do you know that? Have they seen the draft report?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COURT: I said that an interim finding came down.

Dr Gallop: You are wangling your way out of it now.

Mr COURT: Oh, yes!

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Several members interjected.

Mr COURT: The interim report said that the allegations against the member for Kingsley and her husband -

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Dr Gallop: It is history. You are rattled.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COURT: It is not history. The Leader of the Opposition is history.

Dr Gallop: No I am not.

Mr COURT: Yes he is.

Dr Gallop interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COURT: I want to give some examples of what was said. Opposition members came into this Parliament and said that Dr Bradshaw often boasted that he could have someone dispatched for \$2 000.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Ainsworth): Order! I regret that I have to speak to members on both sides of the House, from as far back as the Member for Wanneroo to as far forward as the Leader of the Opposition, for interjecting incessantly while the Premier is trying to be heard. The Premier can speak loudly and he is doing so, but it is difficult to hear him above the hubbub of interjections from both sides. I ask members to refrain from interjecting so frequently.

Mr COURT: It is cowardly to have a debate four weeks before the royal commission reports, knowing that the member for Kingsley cannot participate.

Dr Gallop: It is not about that issue; it is about the citizen's right of reply. You are rattled.

Mr COURT: It is all about damage control for the Labor Party. We support the proposals.

Dr Gallop: We are not devious like you. We are putting it forward as a proposition.

Mr COURT: Oh, yes! We do not want to know what took place in the last four years. The Leader of the Opposition wants to forget about it because he spent four years of his political career supporting the smear, rumour and innuendo attacking people in this Parliament who did not have the opportunity to reply. He will be caught out badly.

Dr Gallop: How do you know that?

Mr COURT: I will tell the Leader of the Opposition. The interim report has come down and reveals that the allegations against the member for Kingsley and her husband were smear, rumour and innuendo. He finds himself with very little room to manoeuvre.

Dr Gallop interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COURT: He sat there and supported a member's saying in this place that Dr Bradshaw often boasted that he could have someone dispatched for \$2 000 or fatally injected with a substance that would not be detected and that death threats and a campaign of pressure from Dr Bradshaw led to the death of Mr Baddock. We all remember the allegations that were made in this Parliament.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COURT: *Hansard* of 4 August 1994 states -

This is why the people of Western Australia are demanding that this Government at least should call for the reopening of the Kyle inquiry and certainly for other people manipulated and affected in Wanneroo by this evil doctor it should also reopen the coroner's inquiry into Rob Baddock's death. I will give reasons as to why it should do that.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COURT: It continues -

We know that beyond that are the sorts of pressures that that person and his evil empire were able to place on individuals in Wanneroo which led to the deaths of Rob Baddock . . .

It also reads -

One of them died from a heart attack after having an argument with Dr Wayne Bradshaw in his chamber that everyone in the Wanneroo council building could hear. This was about his illegal and corrupt activities . . .

Members of the Opposition accused him of being a murderer. The Leader of the Opposition came into this Parliament and supported them. The summary of findings says that there is no evidence that Dr Bradshaw ever boasted that he could have a person dispatched for \$2 000 or fatally injected with a substance that could not be detected. Members opposite came into this Parliament and were prepared to use the privilege of this Parliament without any factual evidence.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Dr Gallop interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COURT: The member for Kingsley came to me yesterday and said, "I cannot wait to get up and debate this." She sat here for four years while members opposite made a series of unsubstantiated allegations based on smear, rumour and innuendo against her and her husband. They know that with the decision of the royal commission coming down in four weeks it is quite inappropriate for her to comment.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COURT: In four weeks the Leader of the Opposition will hear from us, I can assure him of that.

Dr Gallop interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Dr Gallop interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! I formally call to order for the first time the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr COURT: The Commission on Government came down with recommendations on the concept of the right of reply and other matters, which I will go into in more detail. I thought it was a very good proposal because in my 15 years in this Parliament I have sat here and listened to allegations made against my family. The member for Nollamara is the absolute expert in making unsubstantiated allegations.

Mr Kobelke: Such as? Tell me one!

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COURT: Allegations about Perpetual Trustees' dealings, the Barrack Street Jetty - does he wish me to continue?

Mr Kobelke: They were substantiated.

Mr COURT: They were not.

Mr Kobelke interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COURT: All my family could do was to try and discuss the facts of those matters.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COURT: I have never seen people abuse the privilege of Parliament so much as members opposite. For four years in a row they came into this place and made unsubstantiated allegations.

Dr Gallop: You feel pretty strongly about it.

Mr COURT: I do feel pretty strongly about it because I reckon that the Leader of the Opposition and his party are absolute hypocrites when it comes to trying to put themselves up as knights in shining armour who are trying to protect people who have been abused by the Opposition's misuse of parliamentary privilege.

Dr Gallop interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COURT: I do not think that the Leader of the Opposition is having a particularly good run. He has had seven weeks in which to get his act together to come into this Parliament. He has run on two issues: First, the drug issue, with his party spending the last few years running around trying to liberalise drugs in our community. All of a sudden when it becomes a big issue he says, "We had better get on the bandwagon." Talk about a Johnny-come-lately!

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COURT: Do you notice in question time, Mr Acting Speaker, how uncomfortable they are when asking questions about drugs? Do you notice that half of the opposition members do not interject?

Dr Gallop: Not only is he rattled but he is a psychoanalyst as well.

Mr COURT: The Leader of the Opposition knows only too well that his party had some very clear views on this drug issue. The Opposition reckoned that we were old fashioned fuddy-duddies but now it has woken up to the fact that there is a major problem out there in the community.

Mr Kobelke interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COURT: What is the second issue? Members opposite have come in on giving people the right of reply when they have suffered abuse through parliamentary privilege. Who has abused parliamentary privilege? The Opposition has abused it. A royal commission is about to come down with a finding and the Labor Party is exercising damage control.

Dr Gallop: Who wrote your script?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COURT: I do not have any speech notes. The Leader of the Opposition read every word of his speech. He stood up and said, "Da, da, da." Fair dinkum, he cannot even get up in this Parliament and give a speech without having to read it. When I came into this Parliament I was told that we were not allowed to read speeches.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

*Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 pm*

Mr COURT: In summary, Commission on Government recommendations 60 to 65 seek to clarify the issue of parliamentary privilege. They provide mechanisms for dealing with abuse of parliamentary privilege and they effect changes to the laws of defamation.

The Government's view on recommendations 60 to 64 is that they relate directly to the powers and privileges of the Parliament. The Government considers it is not appropriate for the Executive to decide these matters but that each House should establish procedures to consider the recommendations and implement any necessary reform.

I or one of the coalition members will move an amendment to this motion so that the matter can be properly considered by the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee, which can then make recommendations to the Parliament.

In 1992 a report and recommendations of the Parliamentary Standards Committee were brought down. The report outlined a number of initiatives and recommendations on conduct that should be observed by members of this Parliament. Unfortunately a lot of rhetoric was spoken by certain people, but since 1992 their actions have shown their attitudes to be quite the opposite.

A similar standing order was adopted by the Australian Senate in February 1988. In 1995 Odgers' *Australian Senate Practice* noted that despite initial reservations by some Senators, the responses under this Order have been dealt with by the Privileges Committee and the Senate without difficulty. The Parliamentary Standards Committee considered the Senate resolution in 1989 but believed that too many problems would arise if a formal right of reply were established. Other committees that examined the issue also had reservations. For example, the House of Commons Select Committee on Procedure made some recommendations on this matter.

As I said, the right of reply issue was part of some of the recommendations by the Commission on Government. The Joint Standing Committee on the Commission on Government did not support the formal response provisions (a) and (b) of recommendation 64. The committee supported the principle of according a right of response to citizens named under parliamentary privilege and regarded the relevant standing committees on privilege to be set up by recommendation 63(I), which was supported by the Joint Standing Committee, as the most appropriate avenues of response.

That was a unanimous recommendation of the committee of which Dr Gallop was a member. As I said, the Government believes that not the Executive but each separate House of Parliament should approve the preferred changes in recommendations 63 and 64.

In summary, the Government supports the general thrust of this proposal. The proper mechanism to work through is the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee and its recommendations. In the past few years it has been prepared to trial a number of changes to the operation of this Parliament. By and large that has been to our benefit and the House has been operating more efficiently.

It is appropriate to allow people who have been wronged an opportunity to send a written message to this Parliament. It is all too easy for people to abuse parliamentary privilege. As I said, the Government has seen the interim reports on the City of Wanneroo inquiry. Already there has been talk of allegations being nothing more than smear, rumour and innuendo.

I made the point before the dinner break that the Leader of the Opposition is using this matter as a damage control exercise because in four weeks he could find himself having to explain why he was prepared to allow members on his side of the House to make outrageous allegations that could not be substantiated. It is a very serious situation.

*Amendment to Motion*

Mr COURT: I move -

To delete the words "That the following new standing order be adopted -" and substitute the following -

That the following proposed new standing order be referred to the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee for consideration and report -

**MR BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [7.37 pm]: I second the amendment moved by the Premier. As he indicated, in broad terms the Government supports the principle of the motion. However, quite properly it should be referred to the Standing Orders Committee for it to consider. It should then be returned to this House where we can debate the committee's recommendations. In principle the Government supports the change.

**MR RIPPER** (Belmont - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [7.38 pm]: The Opposition would like to see a copy of the amendment moved by the Premier; it might wish to move a further amendment. I am pleased that the Premier has supported the principle of the proposal put forward by the Leader of the Opposition. However, I am displeased with the petty politicking in which the Premier has engaged while expressing his support for the general principle of the motion.

I am concerned also that the whole issue may take a long time to resolve. I am a member of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee, and I know that the committee has a large program of work. Therefore, if the House does not give that committee some sense of its priorities, it may take considerable time to resolve this matter. It is possible that because the committee is considering a complete review of the standing orders, it will subsume this issue into that review. I would like to amend the amendment to set a deadline for the committee to report to the House, because that will tell the committee that the House knows it has a big workload but all members are vitally interested in and concerned about reform to the standing orders and want this suggestion to be given priority.

Mr Barnett: How long do you suggest?

Mr RIPPER: Would the Minister accept a deadline of two months?

Mr Barnett: That is reasonable, given the logistics of people's time.

Mr Court: That the committee report to the House within two months?

Mr RIPPER: Yes. I propose an amendment to add the words "to the House by 20 October".

Mr Court: 1997?

Mr RIPPER: Yes. It has been pointed out to me that 20 October is not a sitting day, so I will make it 23 October, which is the Thursday of the relevant setting week.

*Amendment on the Amendment*

Mr RIPPER: I move -

That the amendment be amended by adding after the word "report" the following words -  
to the House by 23 October 1997

I hope the Government will agree to the amendment.

Now that I have achieved some agreement across the House with regard to the priority that should be accorded to this matter, I will deal with the Premier's extraordinary attack on the Opposition. The Opposition moved this motion

in good faith. The Opposition suggested that this Parliament act in accordance with a recommendation of the Commission on Government and adopt a procedure which is used in the New South Wales Parliament and the Senate. The Premier's response to this suggestion was extraordinary. He alleged that the report of the Wanneroo Inc royal commission, which has not even been presented to the public or the Parliament, will be damaging to the Opposition and that this motion is all about some form of damage control. Two people who were associated with Wanneroo City Council have been convicted of corruption charges. Counsel assisting the commission, Narelle Johnson, indicated in her summing up that corruption was associated with Wanneroo City Council.

That issue is what the Opposition urged should be investigated. I see no reason for the Opposition to be concerned about the forthcoming report of the Wanneroo Inc royal commission and engage in so-called damage control. The Premier has a tendency to see all goodness on his side of politics and all evil on the other side of politics.

Mr MacLean: That is the way it is!

Mr RIPPER: The member for Wanneroo is naive enough to state that assumption explicitly. That is not the way it is. When it comes to making unsubstantiated allegations before the Parliament, some people on the member's side of politics who occupy senior positions have also made unsubstantiated allegations to the Parliament. The Premier argued on the basis of a report which has not been completed and certainly has not been presented to the public. I will quote from a report which has been completed and which -

The SPEAKER: Order! Hansard can probably choose between three or four conversations to put officially on the record. It is not meant to be that way. The only person who has the floor is the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Members who want to have loud conversations should leave the Chamber.

Mr RIPPER: In 1988 a Select Committee of Privilege was established to inquire into and report upon the allegation made in the House on 15 December 1988 by the member for Mt Lawley that government members had been involved in a conspiracy to have the facilities, offices or homes of certain people in this town bugged. The then Labor Government had a majority on that committee. Its members also included a former Deputy Leader of the National Party, Matt Stephens, and a Liberal, the then member for Cottesloe, Mr Hassell. The member for Mt Lawley is none other than the current President of the Legislative Council.

The committee summarised the evidence as follows -

In his evidence to the committee Mr Cash would not name the members of the Government he had alleged were involved in the conspiracy to bug phones and he would not name the people whose phones were allegedly bugged.

He did not present the committee with any evidence in support of the allegations made by him in Parliament . . .

Indeed he consistently refused to state in specific terms what his allegation was.

The committee stated in its findings that -

Mr Cash presented no evidence at all to the committee in support of his allegations, citing the sub judice rule as his excuse.

The committee was not convinced that this excuse was valid as Mr Cash had the opportunity of an *in camera* session to present evidence with protection from infringement of the sub judice rule.

It then recommended that the Legislative Assembly censure Mr Cash for his abuse and breach of parliamentary privilege.

Some members of the Government may say that there was a Labor majority on that committee; what did the members of the then Opposition say? It is true that a minority report was presented by a member of the Opposition, the then member for Cottesloe, Mr Hassell. What is most significant about this event is that the National Party member on that committee, a former Deputy Leader of the National Party, supported the majority report. He was a straightshooter, and it was pretty clear that the judgment of the facts made by the majority of that committee was accurate. It is not the case that this problem of unsubstantiated allegations being made by members of Parliament under parliamentary privilege is confined to one side of the House. There is a problem here.

Mr Barnett: Spread the behaviour. It is a "cover your tracks, check your backsides" strategy. You are harking back to 1988 now.

Mr RIPPER: No, I simply object to the Premier implying that this is a problem on the Labor side of politics only, because I remember clearly those events. They occurred in my first year of Parliament. We were summoned back

to Parliament just before Christmas to deal with them. It is not right for the Premier to come in here and behave in the self-righteous way in which he behaved this evening.

Mr Barnett: You will have a very direct test because when the Wanneroo royal commission report comes out - no-one knows what it will contain - you as an Opposition will have to decide -

Dr Gallop: How do you know that?

Mr Barnett: It's going to come down at some time, isn't it?

Mr Brown: You've been briefed, have you?

Mr Barnett: No, when it comes down, you will have to decide whether you are going to support the allegations made by the member for Peel in this Chamber. You will have to decide clearly whether you will stand by him or reject his allegations. You had better think about that over the next few weeks.

Mr RIPPER: It is interesting to note the assumptions the Government makes about the report of the royal commission. It is making predictions - I hope they are only predictions - about what will be in that report. Perhaps the Leader of the House will face a test about how he should respond to the facts as they relate to members on his side of the House and to people who have been active in his own political party.

Mr Barnett: We will all walk up to the test and take it on, front on. It'll be good fun.

Mr RIPPER: Parliamentary privilege is an important feature of our system. It is there for very good reasons. It is sometimes necessary for members of Parliament to raise issues under parliamentary privilege that could not be raised in any other way. If we do away with parliamentary privilege, we will lose an important means of exposing wrongdoing in our community. When members make use of parliamentary privilege to expose evil in our community, the possibility always exists that a member will have it wrong. Members are not perfect. These issues by their nature involve difficulty in determining the truth. That is why they cannot be raised in other forums. That is why parliamentary privilege is necessary. I do not think it is necessarily a bad thing when a member tries to expose wrongdoing in the community and uses parliamentary privilege and gets it wrong. That is an inevitable part of the system. The member should approach the issue with integrity and should diligently try to research the issue as best he can. However, occasions will arise when members acting properly, using parliamentary privilege, nevertheless get it wrong. On those occasions the opportunity should be available for a person who has been maligned to correct the record and have his or her point of view recorded in *Hansard*. What the Leader of the Opposition has suggested is a perfectly sensible, fair and just reform that will in some way ameliorate one of the possible negative consequences of the use of parliamentary privilege.

Mr Barnett: People may get it wrong, but there is a responsibility on members of Parliament to do some research. The member for Peel made accusations in this place about a barbecue that *The West Australian* was dopey enough to report on its front page - yet everyone said the barbecue did not happen. The only matter of interest was who did not go to the barbecue that did not happen. It was sheer nonsense. Even the most basic modicum of research would have shown that it was a fallacy and a fabrication, yet opposition members argued in this place about the barbecue that did not happen. If members use parliamentary privilege, there is a responsibility on them to at least check the facts and to do some research. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition will have to stand there and defend the member for Peel - or reject him.

Mr RIPPER: I do not think I should be kind enough to let the Leader of the House make speeches sitting down any more. If he wants to make a speech on this issue, he should get to his feet and do it properly. The Leader of the House does not know what research any member of Parliament does before he or she makes a speech in this place. With regard to the particular incidents he complains about, he does not know to whom the member for Peel spoke and what he might have been told by people for whom he had respect. A member of Parliament can be told things by people he or she has a right to trust and by people of credibility and standing; nevertheless, those things can prove to be wrong. The difficulty of the Leader of the House is that as soon as members have something wrong, he wants to accuse them of complete irresponsibility. They may have it wrong, but may not necessarily have been irresponsible. The proposal put forward by the Leader of the Opposition is fair if members have it wrong. I hope it is adopted speedily by this House after the consideration by the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee in which the Premier wants us to engage.

**DR GALLOP** (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [7.56 pm]: We have had a strange evening. I thought that when the Opposition moved a motion for the citizen's right of reply, we would outline our reasons for that measure tonight, as is normally the case with substantial propositions like this, and that government members could consider the matter at their party meeting next week and we could bring the matter to a resolution then. However, something different happened. The Premier was keen to come into the Parliament and give a speech about all sorts of things



that had little relationship to the measure I put forward in my motion. It became obvious that the Premier's speech to this Parliament before dinner had nothing to do with the measure that is before the House, but it was to do with his own position in the Parliamentary Liberal Party. The poor old Whip was sent off to get all the backbenchers in shape so the Premier could give his "bash the Labor Party for being terrible bounders" speech. The real problem the Premier had today is the continuing controversy and discussion in the community and the media about his position in the Liberal Party. I will quote from an article in *The Weekend Australian* headed "Court napping" by Matt Price, who is now *The Australian* journalist based in Perth. It states -

Richard Court's leadership is under increasing scrutiny within his party. His appearance before a parliamentary committee yesterday marks a low point in a troubled year.

This is very interesting.

Mr Court: You wait until we get our act together and then we'll really take you on!

Dr GALLOP: The Premier implies the Government does not have its act together at the moment. The Premier got the Whip to rustle up all the forces to come into the Chamber to listen to him and then he gave his well run "Let's bash the Labor Party" speech.

Let us look at why the Premier gave that speech. The article states that despite adding three seats to his Government's majority in the election last December, Court's leadership has been under question recently inside the coalition.

It continues -

Last week Perth media circles were abuzz with (false) rumours of a surprise challenge, while in June Court's Liberal deputy Colin Barnett felt compelled to deny premiership ambitions.

What is the first rule of political analysis? Whenever someone denies leadership ambitions, they exist. That is the first rule any political analyst brings to the equation. What is interesting in this article is not so much what the journalist said about the state of affairs in the State of Western Australia, but that he was quoting the Premier's Cabinet colleagues. The article also states -

A number of Court's colleagues have become alarmed at the drift in the Government's fortunes, the lack of a strong leadership and the absence it seems of a strategy to reinvigorate the Western Australian Government in its second term.

The Premier has all his advisers saying, "We have a problem; we have to do something about it; you have had your appearance before the committee about the Global Dance matters and you've got matters coming up in the Parliament this week. You have to be strong."

Mr Court: I don't want to upset you.

Dr GALLOP: One of the Premier's senior colleagues had something to say about the industrial relations legislation. The article continues -

He didn't know which way to turn so he didn't try.

When I read the next quote, I was suspicious it might have come from the Minister for Lands. I am not sure, but it sounds suspiciously like him; however, I should not use parliamentary privilege to imply that it was. It states -

"Noel -

The leader of the Liberal Party based at the Blue Duck Cafe -

- helped make Richard and looked after the party for him," says a senior Minister. "Now he's gone, Court's struggling."

That came from a senior Minister.

Mr Court: If you think that is what I said, you should wait till we get our act together and we will really give you a run for your money.

Dr GALLOP: Let us go on and look at this display of collective Cabinet solidarity. Another part of the article states -

We are not in charge and the horses are frightened.

Mr Barnett: That would have to be a rural member!

Dr GALLOP: I was naturally somewhat surprised when the Premier did not address the issues in this motion, but chose to argue some extraordinary claim that the Opposition was in damage control mode in relation to some report that will come down in the future, the contents of which no-one can know. The truth is that the Premier's advisers pumped him up and sent him in to cheer up his troops. If we have performed that function in the Parliament, let us hope it will be useful for the people of Western Australia in that it will result in a little more firm, decisive and sensible leadership from the Government of Western Australia, something we have not been getting in the past six months.

The Opposition is happy to go along with the proposed amendment, so long as a timetable is put in place and so long as the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee considers this matter and reports to this House within two months. The time has come for us to establish the citizen's right of reply. If the standing orders committee uses this issue as a means to delay what should be done, we will be extremely disappointed with the result. I thank the Government for its support in principle for this motion.

Mr Shave: Have you been using my name in vain?

Dr GALLOP: Let me ask the Minister this: Did he say that Noel helped make Richard and looked after the party for him?

Mr Shave: No.

Dr GALLOP: That is settled once and for all. How many more members do we have to ask before we get an answer to that question? Why is it that tonight the Government looks like an opposition and the Opposition looks like a government?

Mr Prince: Never in a million years.

Dr GALLOP: We are taking the initiative, bringing the ideas and proposals into Parliament, and upgrading the Western Australian political situation and those opposite do not know how to cope with it. They are the official Opposition, and we are the Government with initiative.

Mr Shave: You might be official, but you are pretty ordinary.

Dr GALLOP: How is the lasagne at the Blue Duck Cafe these days?

Mr Shave: It is pretty good.

Mr Barnett: The Blue Duck has been renovated.

Dr GALLOP: I am pleased the lasagne is good. I respect the Minister's culinary taste. It is a very good restaurant.

Mr Shave: Have you been there spying on us?

Dr GALLOP: Cottesloe is a very nice suburb.

Mr Shave: Have you been hiding in the toilets!

Dr GALLOP: I thank the Government for its in principle support and look forward very much to the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee giving a tick to an important proposal. In addition to our system of accountability, it will improve our system of government for the people of Western Australia whom we are here to represent.

**MR COURT** (Nedlands - Premier) [8.06 pm]: I will be brief. I moved the original amendment which has been amended to include a date, and we have no difficulty with that. I ask the Leader of the Opposition to pass me a copy of the newspaper article. I think he has fallen into a bit of a hole.

Dr Gallop: You can have all of it.

Mr COURT: I will autograph it for him! The article states -

Last week Perth media circles were abuzz with (false) rumours of a surprise challenge . . .

Dr Gallop: I said that.

Mr COURT: I ask the Leader of the Opposition to let me finish. I do not think he will be happy having raised this matter. I was approached by several members of the media who said, "You have called a special party meeting; you are flying Ministers and members back from overseas and your position is under threat". I told them that I had never heard so much nonsense in all my life.

Mr Carpenter: You are always the last to know.

Mr Shave: Your leader should remember that.

Mr COURT: I made some inquiries. The media had the good sense not to bother too much with this matter. I asked where that story came from. I was told by members of the media that it is not a very reliable source. I made further inquiries. Do members know where the story came from? It came from the office of the Leader of the Opposition. Those opposite were pumping the story around the media. How desperate can they get?

Mr McGinty: Did you believe that?

Mr COURT: I can give the detail about it. At the Liberal Party conference Stephen Smith came out and pulled this stunt: He held a press conference, which I thought was rather strange. At the National Party conference, the Leader of the Opposition put out a statement saying that the first vote should be on liquidating the party. Those opposite were putting out comments at different conferences, so I asked myself when the Labor Party last had a conference where it publicly discussed policy matters. We have a conference every year. The Labor Party has one every two years, except if it is before an election, when it tends not to have a conference at all. The Labor Party does not even have the ability to come together once a year! The Government supports the amendment on the amendment.

**MR MacLEAN** (Wanneroo) [8.11 pm]: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for raising this issue. It shows the type of party that he purports to lead.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! We have allowed some interjections - some of which have been fairly witty - that have related to what was going on and to debate. As soon as members get to their feet they are entitled to be heard and to get into the substance of what they want to say without other members interjecting and trying to take over their opportunity.

Mr MacLEAN: In *The West Australian* of 24 June the Western Australian Police Union called on state members of Parliament not to make unsubstantiated allegations against members of the force. The article also stated that the Leader of the Opposition rejected that criticism, saying that parliamentary privilege presented an important and last resort -

Dr Gallop: Does the member for Wanneroo know to whom the Police Union was referring? It was Hon Reg Davies and Hon Derrick Tomlinson. I was defending the member's colleagues.

Mr MacLEAN: That goes to show how easy it is for members opposite to change their position. The Labor Party has not held a solid position since the old days when Black Jack McEwen was around, even though he was not one of Labor's people. The only policy that the Labor Party ever stuck with was the White Australia policy. As soon as that policy became inopportune for the Labor Party it dropped it. That shows how the Labor Party works.

Mr Kierath: The Labor Party is allergic to work.

Mr MacLEAN: It is allergic to workers.

The Labor Party finds an issue it thinks is publicly acceptable and it runs with it. Regardless of what the party is doing its members say things that make people feel warm and fuzzy. Members opposite have not had anything serious to say in this House in the time I have been in this place. They had nothing serious to say in the other place when I was a member there.

Dr Gallop: Do you remember the Judean liberation front in the "Life of Brian" - "What did we ever do to the Romans?" The member for Wanneroo is in danger of starting to make that sort of speech.

Mr MacLEAN: The Leader of the Opposition has -

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Wanneroo is entitled to make his speech and he will get the protection of the Chair.

Mr MacLEAN: The Leader of the Opposition has come into this place today and made a grand statement. The Government agrees in principle with many of the reforms. However, in practice the Leader of the Opposition acts totally opposite to those principles. The Leader of the Opposition, as the deputy leader of his party, did not bring his members into line or require that they substantiate their allegations. He allowed some of the most scurrilous accusations to surface against not only members in this place but also members of the community. Not once during that time did I hear the Leader of the Opposition say that those people should have the right of reply.

Ms MacTiernan: Should Paul Filing have a right of reply about the things the member for Wanneroo said about him?

Mr MacLEAN: Yes. Not once while those accusations were being thrown around did the Leader of the Opposition call his members to order or ask them to substantiate the accusations they were making publicly, privately or to the House.

Dr Gallop: He knows about all my private conversations.

Mr MacLEAN: I know more about the private conversations of the Leader of the Opposition than he would like.

Not once did members opposite who purport to be the leaders of their party bring into line the people making those allegations. That gets under the skin of many people. Members opposite come in here and make grand statements and allegations, but they never carry out their own rhetoric. They stand there as pure as driven snow and say that people should have the right of reply. Would they respond to members of the Labor Party who make scurrilous accusations against people?

Dr Gallop: He is talking about you, member for Fremantle.

Mr McGinty: Member for Wanneroo, are you talking about me?

Mr MacLEAN: Absolutely. Not once did those members opposite who purport to represent the average person in the street stand up and defend them while their own members were making those accusations. How many of the accusations that have been reported in *Hansard* in the past four years have been proved? None! An interim report of the Royal Commission into the City of Wanneroo reported on the lies and scurrilous innuendo of members opposite. Have members opposite stood in this place and apologised?

Mr McGinty: What about Dr Bradshaw being found to be corrupt?

Mr MacLEAN: He was convicted by the courts.

Mr McGinty: So that allegation was right. The member said not one allegation had been proved.

Mr MacLEAN: That was right.

If the member for Fremantle had any credibility he would stand and apologise to those people whom the member for Peel, the member for Girrawheen and the member for Nollamara named. If the Leader of the Opposition were serious about this debate he would apologise to those people, and he would tell those members opposite who were involved in that scurrilous activity to apologise to those people. The Leader of the Opposition will not do that. He is full of hot air. He does not have the intestinal fortitude to say that to those members because he knows as well as I that if he tried he would not have the numbers at the next meeting of Caucus. The Leader of the Opposition is trying to shore up his position as leader. He does not have the intestinal fortitude to tell the member for Peel to apologise to the people he named.

Mr Carpenter: Jack Kennedy was a friend of mine.

Mr MacLEAN: The member for Willagee is so funny. Did the member for Willagee check the facts?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Once again we have breached standing orders. There are too many members interjecting from both sides of the Chamber.

Mr MacLEAN: If the Leader of the Opposition had the courage of his convictions, he would apologise to those people whom his party named during the last session of Parliament. He should tell members who named them to apologise. I doubt it will happen. That is why the Leader of the Opposition continues to have so little credibility in this place.

Amendment on the amendment put and passed.

Amendment, as amended, put and passed.

*Motion, as Amended*

Question put and passed.

#### **MOTION - HOSPITAL WAITING LISTS**

**MR McGINTY** (Fremantle) [8.24 pm]: I move -

That this House calls upon the Minister for Health to provide a detailed statement to the Parliament

explaining how the Government proposes to meet its election promise to halve the waiting lists for elective surgery in state government hospitals. Particularly, this House calls upon the Government to -

- (a) table a detailed explanation of how the two budgetary allocations of \$15m to reduce hospital waiting lists was or is proposed to be spent;
- (b) explain what provision has been made in the budget forward estimates specifically to reduce hospital waiting lists; and
- (c) guarantee that sufficient funding be provided to achieve the promised reduction in waiting lists.

We have a very serious problem in our hospitals. The problem exists only six weeks into the operation of the Budget approved by the Parliament for the 1997-98 financial year. It is unprecedented that a financial crisis should be on us so soon after this Parliament has approved the Budget. When the \$81m bail-out was made in March of last year, it was some nine months into the operation of the Budget. As the financial year was coming to an end, the Government realised its initial budgeting was wrong and it had not provided enough money. It therefore had to inject \$81m into the ailing public health system. That proposition is completely different from what is facing us at the moment. Six weeks into the operation of the Budget we have already an extremely serious problem on our hands.

This motion calls upon the Minister to make a statement to Parliament on this matter because that is what he should do in a system of responsible government. We have a crisis in the biggest budgetary area covered by this Parliament. We have not heard boo in the Parliament about it. I would have thought that if this Minister is to be accountable for the operations of this Parliament, we would have heard a ministerial statement and some accounting by him of how our hospitals are falling into the crisis currently besetting them. It is no trifling matter. Only six weeks after the Budget came into operation dire predictions are being made. I will refer to some of them. According to *The West Australian* of 13 August we already have a statement by the Minister to the media but not to the Parliament that hospitals are unlikely to meet their budgets this year.

Mr Prince: Parliament was not sitting.

Mr McGINTY: We sat yesterday. There was not a boo from the Minister and no intention of it. There was no intention of being accountable on these matters. The Minister gave that statement to the media that hospitals were unlikely to meet their budgets this year. He also said that elective surgery waiting lists would grow. The purpose of the debate tonight is to give the Minister a forum to tell us what is going on in our hospitals. We would appreciate a very detailed statement so that each of us can know exactly what is going on. We have to try to glean that information from disparate sources, whereas it is incumbent on the Minister to make the statement. The article reads -

"The system is certainly struggling," Mr Prince said.

I want to know why it is struggling. Why is it that with the money that was budgeted by this Parliament and which came into effect only six weeks ago the health service is already struggling? We also have a statement from the Health Department that jobs will almost certainly be lost. All of these matters require detailed statements to the House. I will listen with great interest to what the Minister has to say. I hope he will be able to provide us with a comprehensive statement on these matters. The article continues -

"We need to have a debate on how much we are spending on health and the fact that it needs to be more," Mr Prince said.

Mr Prince: Yes.

Mr McGINTY: That is the extent of the difficulties from the Minister's own mouth. We need more precise information to know what the Parliament should be doing and to know what our public hospital system needs. I hope that will come out as a result of this debate tonight. The waiting list question is often used as a yardstick for the performance of our government hospitals. In the lead-up to the last election a number of unequivocal promises were made by the Minister for Health on behalf of the Liberal Party of Western Australia. Those promises included the statement that there is no doubt that as a result of this strategy access to elective surgery will improve over the next two years. Not any more it will not.

Mr Prince: Yes it will.

Mr McGINTY: No it will not. Many more people are on the waiting list today than there were 12 months ago.

Mr Prince: You finish and sit down and I will correct your ignorance.

Mr McGINTY: It is about a thousand more.

Mr Prince: I will correct your wilful ignorance, as I have five or six times so far this year.

Mr McGINTY: Less than a week ago on 14 August an article appeared in *The West Australian* entitled "Big jump in elective surgery waiting lists". Shock! Horror! What do we find in the article? According to WA Health Department figures there were 12 437 people on waiting lists in November of last year when the Government pledged to halve waiting lists within two years. The article states -

The department confirmed yesterday that by the end of June this year, the number had grown to 12,971. This number has since climbed significantly because public hospitals have cancelled hundreds of elective procedures during the flu epidemic.

Five hundred more people have been added to the waiting list since the Minister made that promise in November of last year.

That was only up to the end of June. That number is now in excess of 1 000.

Mr Prince: That is right.

Mr McGINTY: The reason is that during July the number escalated by the amount it had grown in the previous eight months. Another 500 people were added to the waiting list last month. That figure is not general knowledge as yet because it is embarrassing to the Government to have to admit that, for the first time, there are now well over 13 000 people on the waiting lists. That occurred before the outbreak of flu and all the problems associated with that, and before the budget crisis that beset us. The waiting lists for elective surgery in our public teaching hospitals grew to 13 478 - an increase in one month of 507. To that we must add the effects of cancelled surgery as a result of the flu outbreak and the budgetary crisis affecting our hospitals, which the Minister has admitted will cause a blowout in the public hospital waiting list. Will the Minister correct me on those figures? They are his own figures.

Mr Prince: I will correct your abysmal, wilful ignorance of the situation.

Mr McGINTY: Were 13 478 people on the waiting lists at the end of last month?

Mr Prince: Carry on.

Mr McGINTY: The answer is yes, and the number is blowing right out.

Mr Prince: Those are figures I published, so you are quoting accurately. No hiding.

Mr McGINTY: Was the Minister's election promise to reduce the number of people on waiting lists by 50 per cent in 1996-97 and 1997-98? It is the number of people; the Minister should not get into any flash avoidance by trying to say other indicators are involved. The Minister's specific promise to the people of Western Australia when he stood up in front of the media in November last year was to reduce "the number of people on the waiting lists".

Mr Prince: There is a year and a half to go yet.

Mr McGINTY: No. The Minister's two year strategy, as he will be aware, ends in June next year. Unless dedicated money is set aside for hospital waiting list reduction programs next year, the total amount provided will be \$30m - \$15m last year and \$15m this year. Is that not right? It is hardly two years to go.

Mr Prince interjected.

Mr McGINTY: It is two financial years - last year and this year. The two years are up in nine months' time and there is exponential growth in the number of people on the waiting lists. The Minister promised the people of this State that the numbers on the waiting lists would be halved. It will be - I suggest it already is - a broken promise. The Minister promised to halve the number of people on the waiting lists in the 1996-97 financial year. Did the Minister achieve that? The answer is no. Will he achieve it in 1997-98? The answer to that quite clearly is no. The Minister has even admitted as much himself. It behoves him, if he is honest, to say it will be a broken election promise.

Mr Prince: The promise was made over two years.

Mr McGINTY: What is the date by which we judge it?

Mr Prince: The date the promise was made - two years from then.

Mr McGINTY: Is there money in the forward estimates for the next Budget for a waiting list reduction strategy?

Mr Prince: There is \$30m over two years. Clearly it is necessary to carry that forward, subject to budget.

Mr McGINTY: If there was \$15m in the Budget last year and \$15m in this year, what is being carried forward? That is the \$30m.

Mr Prince: We are not carrying anything forward.

Mr McGINTY: That was the Minister's phrase, not mine.

Mr Prince: I didn't say I was carrying anything forward. I said that what we will look for, obviously, is an extra budget allowance in the following year to meet increased demand.

Mr McGINTY: Is there a specific amount in the forward estimates as a waiting list reduction strategy, such as the \$15m this year and the \$15m last year?

Mr Prince: Not at the moment, because we have also said the strategy must be evaluated after it has run its course.

Mr McGINTY: So there is nothing in the forward estimates?

The Minister has a big problem on his hands because he will be held accountable for the promise he made, and he will not be able to deliver on that promise. He should be honest enough to say that now.

I will look now at the figures provided by the Health Department for elective surgery as at 31 July 1997. I have already referred to the fact that the waiting lists for elective surgery in public hospitals during July blew out by another 507 people to 13 478. The figures themselves are quite instructive. Across almost all specialities there has been an enormous blowout both of the number of people on the waiting lists and in the time people spend waiting for elective surgery.

The worst of the lot is Fremantle Hospital, where the blowout is frankly frightening. At Fremantle Hospital, 919 people are waiting for general surgery. A year ago the figure was 698. That is an increase of almost 50 per cent.

Mr Prince: Are you quoting from the "Teaching Hospital Elective Surgery News", which is a public document?

Mr McGINTY: Yes, although I do not know that it is a public document. It certainly has not been reported anywhere. The figures have proved rather difficult to access.

Why has there been a blowout of 50 per cent in the general surgery waiting list at Fremantle Hospital when the Minister said he would reduce the list by 50 per cent during the course of the financial year? The Minister must start answering a few of these questions. The same sort of impact runs through all of the other specialities. The waiting list for ophthalmology has gone from 251 to 556; that is a 100 per cent increase in 12 months in the number of people waiting for eye surgery at Fremantle Hospital. The Minister promised to halve the list. That was one of the specialities the Minister identified in his policy document to be targeted and reduced by 50 per cent in the last financial year and this financial year.

Mr Prince: That is right.

Mr McGINTY: The same sort of picture emerges for other specialities. The worst case of the three major teaching hospitals where general surgery is performed - Royal Perth, Sir Charles Gairdner and Fremantle - is Fremantle by a country mile. There has been an enormous blowout in the waiting lists. I am told that at Fremantle Hospital the situation will get a lot worse than these figures indicate. My constituents want to know why, as do all those people south of the river who are waiting for surgery at Fremantle Hospital. They want to know why, when the Minister promised to halve the waiting lists and halve the time, they are further down the queue and still waiting. According to the Minister's own words, the situation is expected to get worse.

Looking at the global figures, one sees there has been a significant blowout both in the number of cases and in the waiting time for general surgery, ophthalmology and orthopaedics - that is a particularly acute problem - and plastic surgery, although the waiting time for plastic surgery has come down marginally, by a matter of days, over the past 12 months. One can go through all the specialities that the Minister identified and promised would be reduced, but they have headed in the opposite direction. It is incumbent on the Minister during this debate not to engage in personal abuse - as he did a few moments ago - but to answer some specific questions.

Mr Prince interjected.

Mr McGINTY: A few moments ago did the Minister say that I was deliberately distorting and misleading -

Mr Prince: I said that you were being wilfully ignorant.

Mr McGINTY: If the Minister looks at *Hansard* he will find that he did not say that.

Mr Prince: I said that you were wilfully ignorant.

Mr McGINTY: Is anything I have said so far incorrect?

Mr Prince: Some of it is. I will correct you when you have finished.

Mr McGINTY: What has been incorrect? The Minister cannot think of anything yet. I am asking the Minister to deal with the issue. He has a big problem; we appreciate that. A little frank and honest disclosure and some accounting to the Parliament in an open and honest way would go a long way -

Mr Prince: Is this the bipartisan approach?

Mr McGINTY: No it is not. The Minister made a promise, and he has broken that promise. At least people expect the Minister to be honest. There is nothing bipartisan about that. The Minister should not have made the promise in the first place, and he has broken it. The situation will become dramatically worse because of the factors to which I have already referred. We have had an exponential blowout in waiting lists; that has been compounded by budgetary problems, and it will become much worse.

I expect the Minister to be able to answer four questions tonight. I expect a detailed statement of how the \$30m set aside last financial year and this financial year has been or is proposed to be spent on specific hospital waiting list reduction strategies. It is important that the Minister provide that detail. The hospitals tell me that while the money last year was being spent upgrading operating theatres, and introducing pre-admission services to reduce the amount of time people spent in hospital and, therefore, to achieve a higher throughput - all perfectly appropriate actions - because of the budgetary crisis this year the \$15m designated for hospital waiting list reduction strategies has been gobbled up by general hospital revenue. The hospitals do not have the money to spend on the areas designated by the Minister. If that is the case, the Minister must account for that. He must explain to the Parliament and to the public where each of the \$30m has been spent on specific hospital waiting list reduction strategies, and not simply absorbed into general hospital operating revenue - although that might be addressing the question of some operations performed in hospitals. This was a specific one-off allocation designed in the long term to provide a framework in which more operations could be done and the waiting lists would be dealt with quickly.

As I and the hospitals understand the situation, the money is not being spent on those projects. Unless the Minister can provide a detailed statement tonight outlining where each of the \$30m has been spent on specific waiting list reduction strategies, the Government will stand condemned for not allocating the money to the purpose for which it was dedicated.

The second issue which I would appreciate the Minister addressing tonight is the problem that has been referred to generally in the media as the hospitals being involved in a money plea. I have already referred to a number of indicators of the extent to which we have a funding crisis in our hospitals. We discover from the pages of *The West Australian*, rather than via a ministerial statement, the extent to which hospitals have had their budgets cut in order to put money into the Joondalup Hospital. The Minister must explain how much was allocated to hospitals, including the Joondalup Hospital, last year and how much this year so that we will be aware whether Fremantle Hospital, Royal Perth Hospital, and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital will receive more or less money this financial year than last financial year.

Mr Prince: As I recall the newspaper article it is correct in relation to the amount that will go from the major teaching hospitals to Joondalup. That has been stated in newspaper articles in recent times.

Mr McGINTY: An article states that the Health Department has told five hospitals to slash millions of dollars from their budgets to pay for a \$10m contract with Joondalup Hospital. Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital will lose \$3.1m; Osborne Park Hospital \$2.7m, King Edward Memorial Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital for Children will have a combined cut of \$1.9m and Royal Perth Hospital \$1.2m. The Health Department has indicated to me that that information should have been available months ago. We need information not only in respect of the major teaching hospitals, although that is the focus of our interest. We need to know the allocation being made to each of the health service units in Western Australia, and how that stands up compared with last year, so that we can understand the effects of the hospitals not having enough money to function - according to the reports we have received.

That aspect is important. During the Estimates Committees and budget debate this year the Minister was unable to tell us about the allocation to the State's largest hospital - Royal Perth Hospital. That information is now available. It is not available publicly -

Mr Prince: I am told it is not available yet.

Mr McGINTY: I am sure the Minister would know -

Mr Prince: I do not. I asked this morning but I was told that it was not yet finalised.

Mr McGINTY: For a couple of months I have been told that it will be ready in a few days. That is not satisfactory. If we are about to vote on a budget, and we do not know how much money will be allocated to teaching hospitals -



Mr Prince: It has been like that forever. This is a recent change to get the budget through by 30 June. To get the hospital budgets fixed before March is a major step forward. It has never, in the history of this State, been done in August.

Mr McGINTY: This year a new system was introduced, and information on the cuts was available in the newspaper -

Mr Prince: The allocations for Joondalup were available. However, the total amounts to go to the various hospitals have not been fixed. The teaching hospitals are the last to be dealt with.

Mr McGINTY: I can understand people saying that the situation is subject to change, but I am sure that months ago the Health Department knew how much it was proposing, subject to negotiation, to allocate to each of the 107 health services in Western Australia.

Mr Prince: That was the starting point.

Mr McGINTY: Yes, but throughout the year that excuse will always be available - subject to review, and subject to adjustments!

Mr Prince: Are you suggesting that a Minister should interfere in that?

Mr McGINTY: I suggest that the Minister should know about the allocation, and that he should tell the Parliament.

Mr Prince: The allocation has not been fixed, so I cannot tell you. If I knew, I would answer the question.

Mr McGINTY: I think it has been fixed.

Mr Prince: I spoke to the commissioner today at 9.00 am, and he could not tell me.

Mr McGINTY: The information will become available very quickly, and I suggest that is because it has been fixed already.

Mr Prince: We told you yesterday that it would be available next week. No doubt I will know an hour or so before you.

Mr McGINTY: I suspect it will be a little before that! It is unsatisfactory for the people of this State and the Parliament to have a system which does not allow us to know how much money has been allocated to our major teaching hospitals.

Mr Prince: When I can get the system to work even better, they will have an allocation by 1 July. Last year and in previous years they had been fixed around March-April of the financial year. With respect, that is financial lunacy. We have brought it back to the beginning of the financial year. I do not think that August is acceptable. I would like to see it by 1 July. I have brought it forward by about eight months. I would like to bring it forward a couple more months. Give credit where credit is due: This has never been done before.

Mr McGINTY: This information will become available only as a result of pressure being generated, otherwise we would hear the continual excuse that it is subject to negotiation and review, or ongoing adjustments - as every budget always is. The amounts of money which will become available some time next week will be no different from the situation two months ago.

Mr Prince: It probably will be, as a result of the flu epidemic - if for no other reason. I am pleased to hear the member acknowledge that there are always ongoing variations. With \$1.3b going into hospitals, of course there will be variations.

Mr McGINTY: The fact that they are able to identify how much money is to be taken off each hospital to direct the \$10m to Joondalup tells me that they know how much is allocated at least to the major teaching hospitals. Fremantle does not crack a mention. Has anything been taken from Fremantle?

Mr Prince: No. Obviously, Joondalup is designed to serve the demands of the northern suburbs.

Mr McGINTY: What is the situation with Fremantle's budget compared with last year's?

Mr Prince: It should go up because there has been an increase in the overall Health budget of \$54m. Some \$38m of that goes into the hospital side, and the balance to the non-hospital area of the health sector. In that sense, I would expect an increase. That is a matter to be dealt with by the department and at the hospital level. I do not interfere in that because I do not think I should.

Mr McGINTY: The purpose of the debate is to get the Minister to explain the matter to the Parliament and present certain facts and figures.

Mr Prince: I am prepared to do that on waiting lists; that is what the motion is about.

Mr McGINTY: Four issues need to be explained. The first is the \$30m waiting list strategy and the second matter is the allocation to the hospitals.

Mr Prince: That does not come under this motion.

Mr McGINTY: It does because it has an immediate impact. Everybody working in hospitals will tell the Minister that if money is taken out of hospital waiting list strategies in order to prop up the hospitals generally, the waiting lists will blow out. The Minister has been prepared to make comment in the media, and he should be prepared to explain the matter to Parliament. Here is the chance.

The fourth matter is the overall position of the Health Department budget. The Minister has commented in the media and the figure of \$10m has been bandied about. It was stated that the Minister would go to the federal Health Minister to seek an additional \$10m.

Mr Prince: You will find that the Health Department has gone to the Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services about that.

Mr McGINTY: Yes, but the Minister is responsible. From what I hear, the problem is enormous and far greater than \$10m.

Mr Prince: Is this the third point?

Mr McGINTY: Yes. I refer to the overall position of the budget as it came into effect a few weeks ago. Is it \$10m or much more than that? Everyone I talk to says it is a most serious situation. In the context of the Health Department's budget, \$10m is not a most serious situation - although it is significant - this far into the financial year. I would appreciate an explanation of whether that is the extent of the problem or whether we will be looking at a bailout of greater proportions than that of March last year.

Mr Prince: There is no way of talking about bailouts without taking money from somewhere else.

Mr McGINTY: We need to know whether the Minister will cut services. What will he do? He alluded to the fact that waiting lists are likely to blow out and jobs are likely to be lost. We need to know the details of the extent of the problem, and that can be done only by addressing the current budgetary situation facing our hospitals.

The fourth problem really returns to the first problem: What is the impact of the current budgetary difficulties faced by our hospital on the elective surgery waiting lists? They are reasonable questions in a genuine search for information. We should hear answers to the reasonable questions directly from the Minister. Therefore, I have happily moved the motion tonight and I look forward to the Minister's response.

**MR CARPENTER** (Willagee) [8.55 pm]: I shall concentrate my remarks on the policy commitment made by the Liberal Party in the lead up to the last election, which is really the focus of this debate: Certain undertakings were given, and there is absolutely no prospect of those undertakings being met, and the Minister knows it. It is most unfortunate. This matter goes to the heart of many things I have spoken about in various speeches in Parliament; namely, the public's attitude to politics and political parties and the things politicians and political parties say and do.

It is not as though the 1996 election is ancient history; it is only a few months gone. In that campaign the Liberal Party released quite a comprehensive health policy titled "Building Better Health". As with policies produced by both parties, they are an interesting read but the greater interest is seeing whether the policies come into fruition.

I am reminded of the Liberal Party's 1993 environment policy which failed to see the light of day, and the subsequent fate of the person who promoted it. The attitude the Government adopted to the policy was evident thereafter. There are strong similarities between the fate of that policy and the fate of the health policy document in my hand. I hope the fate that befalls the Minister who promoted this policy is not the same as the member for South Perth's in promoting the environment policy.

Under the heading "Waiting Lists for Elective Surgery" the Liberal Party policy document is specific in what it undertakes to achieve. It reads -

The aim of the Coalition Government is to reduce the length of time people are on the waiting list before admission to hospital.

Mr Prince: Thank you.

Mr CARPENTER: I do not consider that to be an out. If the Minister had no anticipation of meeting that aim, it should not have been part of the policy document. It is totally misleading. The policy continues -

As a result, an innovative waiting list strategy has been developed to address many of the issues which give rise to long waiting lists for patients needing elective surgery. There is no doubt that as a result of this strategy access to elective surgery will improve over the next two years.

Mr Prince: Does the first quote not say that the length of time people wait will reduce?

Mr CARPENTER: It reads -

The aim of the Coalition Government is reduce the length of time people are on the waiting list before admission to hospital.

However, the document has much more than one sentence. We can go to each paragraph individually if the Minister wishes to see how closely he has fulfilled the policy document's ambitions. The results are pretty sad and the Minister knows it.

I contrast the stated position of the policy document in that paragraph with the reality which has developed in the short time since the policy was released. Like the member for Fremantle, I will quote from the "Teaching Hospital Elective Surgery News", volume 28 of 31 July 1997, provided by the health information centre eight months after the election. It summarises the position as at 31 July as follows -

The number of patients waiting for elective surgery in teaching hospitals rose from 12 971 on 30 June 1997 to 13 478 on 31 July 1997. The median waiting time on the list increased from 4.5 to 4.7 months.

It could be construed as misleading to compare only one or two months' figures, and everyone knows that in many government activities figures go up and down on a monthly basis. Therefore, I compare these numbers with the figures which prevailed six months before the last election; those of June last year. I quote from the same source, the edition of the very handy "Teaching Hospital Elective Surgery News", for June 1996. The summary of the position as at 30 June 1996 is that the number of patients waiting for elective surgery in teaching hospitals rose from 12 241 in May to 12 269 on 30 June 1996. The median waiting time on the list rose from 2.2 to 2.5 months. If members compare that with the figure for July 1997 they will find the situation has deteriorated from June 1996, as it did from June 1997. If they compare the past couple of months with the figures available this year the result is that the situation is getting worse and not better. If members compare the situation now as opposed to 12 months ago they will find that the situation is getting worse and not better. Most reasonable people reading that document would interpret the figures that way.

Let us look at the situation which prevailed in September 1995. The summary for the period 30 September 1995, from the most instructive "Teaching Hospital Elective Surgery News" for which I am most grateful, indicates that the number of patients waiting for elective surgery in teaching hospitals decreased from 10 511 on 31 August 1995 to 10 299 on 30 September 1995. In that month there was a marginal improvement. However, if members compare the figures for September 1995 with the figures for June 1996 they will find that there had been a deterioration of the position and there is a further deterioration of the position from 1996 to 1997 which is undeniable and most unfortunate, especially when one holds it up against the promise that was made in the Liberal Party's policy document.

There is absolutely no way the position could be construed as having got any better. The policy document said that the aim was to get better. It is a bit like the statement that "No child shall be living in poverty in 1990". People quite rightly read the intention as the promise and that is the reason it is included in a policy document. A party should not include promises in a policy document which it has no intention of fulfilling. People have a right to expect that the Government means that situation to occur, but in this case it has not occurred.

I refer now to the Liberal Party policy commitment for the details of what it said would be done about urgent and routine procedures and the waiting times. To do that I refer to the Liberal Party's 1996 policy document which was released less than 12 months ago. The document says -

It is the intention of the Coalition Government to ensure that everyone gets treatment within the appropriate time for their condition. For people with a classification of urgent, the national standard is that they should not have to wait for more than 30 days, while patients requiring routine procedures should be treated within 12 months.

I want to hold that up against the reality as it was at the end of July this year in relation to routine and urgent matters and the waiting lists for people seeking elective surgery. From the same source I referred to earlier, the summary for 31 July 1997 indicates that there were 288 patients on the waiting list for urgent surgery of which 22 per cent had been waiting longer than 30 days. Of the 13 190 patients on the waiting list for non-urgent surgery, 23 per cent had been waiting for longer than 12 months. If one compares that to the assertion made in the Liberal Party's policy document one will find a grave disparity between what was promised and what has not been achieved.

It is obvious that when this policy document was drawn up there was either a serious lack of attention paid to the detail of what the Government could achieve in the next couple of financial years or the Government had no intention of fulfilling its promise and the policy was simply for the purpose of helping it to win the election. At the end of June 1996 there were 434 patients on the waiting list for urgent surgery, of whom 36 per cent had been waiting longer than 30 days. There was an improvement in that regard, and I give the Government points for that. Out of the 11 835 patients waiting for non-urgent surgery at the end of June 1996, 21 per cent had been waiting for longer than 12 months. That is approximately the same figure for July this year. In real terms there are more people on the waiting lists for non-urgent elective surgery, 13 190 as opposed to 11 835. There is a considerable increase in the real figures.

I ask the Minister to try to explain to the Parliament, and I suppose to the people of Western Australia, the reason that less than 12 months ago, when the policy document was released in the run up to the last state election, promises of the nature of those included in this document could have been made. On what basis were those promises made? On what assertions, facts and figures did the Liberal Party make those promises? It is not unreasonable to say that part of the art of government is the ability to make some sort of assessment of what is the Government's capacity. It must weigh its desires against the financial realities that confront a Government. Everyone knows that Governments are always crying poor and continually saying they are in need of more money, but surely it must have been obvious just a few months ago, when these promises were made, that they could not be fulfilled. If that was not the case, what dramatic event that we are yet to hear about has occurred in the interim which has made the fulfilment of those commitments absolutely impossible in such a short period? Why are the Health Department and hospitals in the position they are in today? Why is it that only a few weeks into the financial year and a few weeks since the Budget was brought down, let alone coming into effect, the hospitals are already demanding more funding? How could the Government frame a Budget a short time ago and already it is inadequate?

For years I have listened to the two responses from Health Ministers relating to this financial problem. One response has always been to blame the drift from private health insurance to public health for putting a greater burden on the public hospital system.

The other traditional response has been to blame Canberra. Without wanting to anticipate the Minister's response, I would not mind betting that those two points figure prominently. Again, without wanting to anticipate that response, I point out that he is the Minister, his Government is now well and truly into its fifth year in government, coalition or conservative Governments are in power in every State and Territory except New South Wales and the coalition Government in Canberra has been in office long enough to have an impact on policy making and application. If the Minister intends to raise these two spectres of Canberra denying the States funds and the continual drift from private health insurance to public health insurance, I ask: Who is to blame and who is or is not doing anything about it? The Minister has the greatest capacity in the Parliament to do something about this, obviously in cooperation with his state and federal colleagues. That anticipated defence does not stack up. I would be disappointed in the Minister - a man of great capacity - if he relied on such worn out old arguments.

However, before I allow him to respond, I will raise a couple of other matters. The first relates specifically to Fremantle Hospital. I talk about that hospital obviously out of self interest because my electorate is in that catchment area and many of my constituents come to see me with concerns about access to elective surgery, emergency treatment and so on. Until today, I was relying only on anecdotal evidence about the problems at that hospital in relation to elective surgery. However, as the member for Fremantle has pointed out, the very useful *Teaching Hospital Elective Surgery News* has provided very clear evidence of a major problem that does not seem to have been addressed. The waiting lists for elective surgery are growing in real terms across the entire spectrum of elective surgery including ear, nose and throat, general surgery, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, plastic surgery, urology, cardiothoracic surgery, neurosurgery, vascular surgery and gynaecology. Unless I have misread the figures, no area is improving; everything is getting worse. That is totally unacceptable when one considers the role of that hospital for the people in southern suburbs of Perth.

It is particularly unacceptable when during the election campaign the Government produced a document containing a clear commitment. I do not see any qualifications; it is not an aim or a target. The document states -

Reduce by 50 per cent, in 1996/1997 and 1997/98, the number of people on waiting lists in targeted specialities in metropolitan and country hospitals.

If one intends to reduce something by 50 per cent that means halving it. If one looks at what has happened at Fremantle Hospital, in particular, one sees that rather than the figures having been halved, they have blown out dramatically. That has occurred not only in the raw statistics of people who are waiting but also in terms of the median waiting time. In other words, the length of time people are waiting is growing considerably. In 1996 the median waiting time for ear, nose and throat surgery was 7.85 months. I can understand why the Government would be keen to reduce that figure. Last month that waiting time was 9.5 months. If the Government had succeeded in

its 1996 target to reduce the waiting time by half, we would now be looking at a wait of three months. Instead it is 300 per cent above that target figure.

The Government is always extolling the virtues of the private sector and commercial arrangements. If I employed a person who gave me a commitment that he would reduce a particular problem by half, and his final figure was 300 per cent worse than the target figure, I would sack him. I would also probably take legal action to get my money back if I had paid any.

Unfortunately, the Minister for Health is in the most unfortunate position of being held responsible for what is happening in the health system, more so than any of his Cabinet colleagues and the Premier - I do not think he will be jumping over hurdles to take on this responsibility. Only a few months ago the Minister gave a commitment to the people of Western Australia that he would reduce the number of people on waiting lists in targeted specialities in metropolitan and country hospitals by 50 per cent. Unfortunately, he has failed very badly and he does not seem to be able to explain why or what he intends to do about it.

Without wanting to be overly dramatic about the situation, I suggest that anyone else who found themselves in this situation - especially if they were in some sort of commercial enterprise - would no longer be representing their clients. In other words, they would be sacked. I would be interested to know on what basis the Minister can justify not being sacked for the outcomes he is delivering as the Minister responsible for the health system of Western Australia. Despite his best intentions, he is not delivering on what he promised. Not only that, he is failing hopelessly. It might seem to be an overstatement and a bit cruel, but that is the nature of the game.

The Minister produced this document. Unlike the very unfortunate member for South Perth, the Minister is being held responsible for the document he produced. The member for South Perth produced his environment document, but he got the sack before he had a chance to put it into practice. The Liberal Party, which then won government, used him in a very cynical way to get the Green movement on side for the election and then ditched him afterwards. He did not have to bear the unfortunate responsibility of carrying the can for a policy that was never implemented. This Minister very sadly does not find himself in that position: He must carry the can. He knows that and he accepts that responsibility; he has said as much.

We could probably go through every paragraph in the policy document and look at its individual components to see in what areas the Minister has not achieved his stated goals in relation to waiting lists for elective surgery. I would be interested to hear from the Minister of any area in which he has achieved the position he set out to achieve. The situation that now confronts him is that only nine or 10 months ago he, for all intents and purposes, was the author of this document which has turned out to be somewhat misleading, to say the least. I have nothing against the Minister for Health personally but, sadly but truly, he is in a very unfortunate situation and I do not know how he will get out of it. He seems to have no hope of getting anywhere near these figures and he has probably given up. The budget figures which were released only weeks ago seem to be totally deficient. I do not know who in the Government is to blame for that, but it is the Minister's responsibility. He is in a very sad position. I am interested to know how the Minister will defend himself and what he intends to say about the parlous state of the health system in Western Australia, for which he is now responsible.

**MR PRINCE** (Albany - Minister for Health) [9.21 pm]: I will first make a few general comments. The health system - if it is a system and that is another question - is not in a parlous state. The quality of the health system in Western Australia is extremely high by Australian standards and in many respects it is world best practice, although not totally. There are some particular areas, mostly in the tertiary teaching hospitals, where Western Australia has world best practice, and across the totality of health services the quality is second to none compared with anywhere else in Australia or any comparable systems. It is not that the system is failing to deliver. It is delivering a huge service to a monumental number of people - more every day than it has ever delivered before. The problem is that the system does not have the capacity to meet the growing demand because the demand is outstripping the capacity of the health system to deal with it. There are a number of reasons for that, which have been enumerated on many occasions. Unfortunately, although commentators, particularly those in the Press, appreciate this now, it seems sadly that they become lost in the political point scoring rhetoric and somewhat simple-minded games that are sometimes played in this place.

Even though some of the statements I shall make may have been made before on many occasions, I will repeat them because they are still true. There are a number of reasons that the demand for hospital based health services in this State, in common with every other State of the Commonwealth, is increasing at a rate of approximately 3.8 per cent per annum.

Mr Carpenter: When did you discover that?

Mr PRINCE: That has been known for the past 18 to 20 months.

Mr Carpenter: You knew that when you drew up the policy document?

Mr PRINCE: Yes. In 1995, 27 000 people dropped out of private health insurance cover. The rate of drop-out has continued and at present it is 130 people a day. Members opposite say it is a hoary old worn out argument, but it is happening. It is not a point from the past; it has the weight of 130 a day at the moment.

Dr Turnbull: That is exactly the attitude of the former Minister for Health for the Labor Government.

Mr PRINCE: I will come to that.

Mr Carpenter: There has been a change of Government since then.

Mr PRINCE: The member is talking about Mr Wilson who was the Minister for Health. That man predicted what would happen as a result of Medicare. So did Senator Richardson, who was the last decent federal Health Minister under Labor. I have nothing in common with his politics, but I respect him for saying that if the private health cover in this country ever went below 40 per cent, it would be in difficulty. In Western Australia fewer than 35 per cent of the population have private health cover and that figure is falling. Western Australia has proportionately more public patients than any other State at the moment. When the Commonwealth Government changed last year it clearly recognised the difficulties. It has determined on certain policy settings, and has made Australia's debt a high priority. I applaud the Government for that because a nation with 20 million people cannot carry on with a national debt of \$200b. That must be brought under control and reduced because the interest being paid on it is dead money.

Mr Carpenter: Is it public debt?

Mr PRINCE: Yes. The result has been that the Commonwealth has tightened up quite a few areas of expenditure, and medical benefit schedule payments are one of them. It has nothing to do with public hospitals directly but indirectly it has a significant effect. Medical benefit schedule payments were increasing in the vicinity of 17 per cent per annum, and pharmaceutical benefits were projected to increase 38 per cent over two to three years. The graphs show it is an exponential curve, and it is going off the scale. The Commonwealth Government has done a number of things on pharmaceuticals, including insisting upon generic pharmaceuticals as opposed to brand names. I have some difficulty with that but it is another question. The Federal Government had to take action of that nature. The result has been, in part because of the actions taken on the medical benefits schedule payments, that general practitioners who were bulk billing are now charging their patients. It is a co-payment. People are then going past the GPs to the outpatient departments of public hospitals in ever increasing numbers. They do not want to go to GPs because it will cost them. That is one of the direct consequences of pegging medical benefit schedule payments, as the Commonwealth did in its Budget 12 months ago, that brings people into the public hospital system. There is also the dropout in private health cover which brings people who must go to hospital into the public system because they have no choice and cannot go anywhere else.

Other things increase demand in public hospitals. One is the aging population, and the last I shall mention is the ability of medical technology, techniques and skills to do an ever increasing number of things for human beings, particularly the elderly, that they could not do before. One example, which is one of the most dramatic, is that until two and a half years ago it was thought in most cases that it was not possible to put a person over the age of 75 years on haemodialysis. In other words, an elderly person with a number of health problems whose kidneys failed would die. As a result of some advances in the technique of dialysis, frail people over the age of 75 years can undertake haemodialysis. As a consequence, the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital dialysis unit alone has had a 100 per cent increase in the number of patients in the past 12 months. There is no way of predicting that. Such things happen because the technology, technique and skills suddenly open up life for people who would otherwise have died.

Mr Carpenter: What a load of rubbish.

Mr PRINCE: No. It is the most dramatic example I can think of, but there are many others that are not as dramatic. In my view an informed debate is needed on the amount this country is prepared to spend on health. At the moment 8.5 per cent of gross domestic product is spent on health. In the United States, depending on the figures used, the expenditure is between 11 and 14 per cent of GDP. The United States' system does not accommodate more than 40 million of its people whose only access to any form of health care is charity. There is no way we want that in Australia.

Mr Carpenter: That is why the member for Alfred Cove supports Medicare -

Mr PRINCE: The Americans look at what we do to see whether it can be replicated in America. We look at what America does, particularly the area of advances in medicine, to see what we can use here. In the United Kingdom the system spends 7.5 per cent of the nation's GDP on health; it is a different system. I am not sure about Canada because it is done differently.

Mr Carpenter: You are not the Health Minister in Canada, but in Western Australia.

Mr PRINCE: I know I am not. I am making the point because the problem articulated by the member for Willagee and the member for Fremantle is not exclusive to this State; it applies everywhere in Australia. We need to decide as a community how much we are prepared to pay for our health care. People's expectations of the capacity of health systems to deliver to them are not realistic. The systems cannot deliver what many people think they should.

Mr Carpenter: All the members from southern suburbs' seats are waiting for your explanation of what is happening.

Mr PRINCE: The member for Willagee raised many generalities.

Mr Carpenter: I thought they were specific.

Mr PRINCE: I am doing my best to answer them by giving him the totality of the picture. For the past year I and other Health Ministers debated this at a number of conferences with little success yet in bringing about change. It does not need to be a radical change to the concept usually called Medicare - an inaccurate use of the word. It must be refined. One of the refinements is to ensure that it is a commonwealth commitment which must be funded by the Commonwealth because the States and Territories do not have the capacity to fund.

The States and Territories produce high quality hospital systems that must be maintained, and that must be recognised. In the 1997-98 state Budget health received an increase of I think 3.4 per cent which in real terms is \$54m over and above the allocation for 1996-97. That is a significant amount of money. The only other budgetary area that received a substantial increase was education. All other budgetary areas received either the same funding as 1996-97 or a little more.

Mr Board: Youth Affairs got double its previous allocation.

Mr PRINCE: How much?

Mr Board: It went from \$5m to \$15m.

Mr PRINCE: By and large the major increases were in health and education.

Mr Carpenter: You are not getting much support from your side.

Mr PRINCE: I can take everything they have.

Mr McGinty: They want to tar and feather you.

Mr PRINCE: They should feel free.

Mr McGinty: They do not have enough staff or money.

Mr PRINCE: Now, now! As somebody said, waiting lists are used as a yardstick, but in many respects they should not be. In some respects they are a useful yardstick but they relate only to elective procedures, not emergency treatment or urgent medical treatment. They are not an accurate representation of everything that happens in a hospital, whether it be one of the large teaching hospitals, one of the smaller outer-metropolitan hospitals or one of the country hospitals.

Much work happens in hospitals that is not elective. Judging the efficiency of the health service by measuring the size of a waiting list is an unreasonable way to measure the efficiency, effectiveness or productivity of hospitals. Waiting lists are registers of people who have been assessed as needing elective care. Although deemed necessary by the treating clinician, in the opinion of a doctor the care can be delayed for some time.

It is important to stress that the absolute number of people on a waiting list is not a good indicator of the performance of public hospitals. Many other issues should be examined. The issue is whether a patient is treated within a clinically appropriate time. I am pleased that in his speech the member for Willagee quoted that the aim of the waiting list strategy was to bring down the waiting time. The time is the issue.

If there were 5 000, 15 000 or 25 000 people waiting it would not be the number that was relevant but the time they would wait to have their procedure. The long term waiting are the people whom the waiting list strategy was intended to identify and act upon.

One of the measures of waiting lists' effectiveness is the median waiting time. The median waiting time of a hip replacements is 5.26 months. That means 50 per cent of people wait for a longer period and 50 per cent wait for a shorter period. Our median waiting time for all procedures has fallen over the past 12 months, but only by a very small amount.

Another measure is clearance time; that is, the length of time it would take to provide services to everybody on the elective surgical waiting lists, assuming that the rate of service remained constant and no patients were added to the list. That is an artificial measure, but it is useful as a comparison. In other words it is a prospective measure of the capacity of the system to remove patients from the list, not an average waiting time. It is a statistical measure and that is all.

Admissions from the waiting list - cases admitted in 1994 were 27 000; in 1995, 29 826; and in 1996, 30 206. Over the past two years the number of cases admitted to hospitals from the waiting lists increased by more than 8 per cent; that is, 8 per cent more people have gone into hospital. Therefore, there has been an increase in the number of people from waiting lists who have had their operations. That is not a failure because it is a significant number of people.

Mr McGinty: You said that the median waiting time had decreased over the past 12 months. The figure for 30 June 1996 was 4.47 months. The figure for this month is 4.70 months. In fact it has increased, not decreased as you led us to believe.

Mr PRINCE: I have been working on figures that might be a little older than those. They have either gone down a little, up a little, or are about the same.

I talked about admissions from the waiting list in 1994, 1995 and 1996. The cases on the waiting list in December 1994 were 10 817; in 1995, 11 278; in 1996, 12 687 and as we heard at 30 July, 13 478. Over the past two years the growth in demand as seen by cases on the waiting list was 16.8 per cent; hospitals have taken in 8 per cent more patients. At the same time 16 per cent more people were added to the waiting list. We are not meeting the increase in demand. That does not mean people are not having operations; an enormous and increasing number are.

More people are seeking elective surgery than even the increased productivity is accommodating. The waiting list strategy is a two-year project, which is not something thought up as some sort of election strategy; it was worked on by the Health Department, doctors and hospitals for at least nine months of last year. I announced that in this place in early November, not as part of an election platform -

Mr Carpenter: Was the announcement related to the election?

Mr PRINCE: I did not know when the election would be held when I made that announcement. I do not recall the exact date. It was certainly in November.

Mr Carpenter: Are you denying that it was an election policy?

Mr PRINCE: It was not a simple policy statement that had no backing. It was the result of a lot of work by people other than me who have worked in the system for a long time. It was not thought up in some political circle, as part of a policy writing exercise, but came out of a project run by some clinicians, the Health Department and some hospitals. It aimed to improve the waiting list database, because there had been considerable doubt about whether it was accurate, particularly with regard to the way in which hospitals classified patients. It examined capital works and equipment, the purchase of targeted activity from the wait list, and refinement of activity reporting, among other things.

We improved the waiting list database by applying the national health data dictionary definitions of categories to all the teaching hospitals that were adding patients to the list, because they were classifying patients in different ways, which meant that we did not have an accurate estimate of the categories.

We then developed guidelines for adding patients to the waiting list and undertook an audit of the list, which has since been provided to hospitals to help them to manage their lists. We also conducted clerical audits, which led to deletions of people who had been on the list for a long time but had had their operations performed elsewhere. Only the teaching hospitals keep waiting lists. The waiting lists in country hospitals and in many outer metropolitan hospitals are kept by doctors who are not staff of the hospital, and they are not disclosed to hospital authorities. In a number of cases, the same patient was listed in a number of hospitals, and that had to be worked out.

Non-teaching and rural hospitals have now been told how to access the teaching hospital waiting list in order to identify leakage. For example, people in the south west were bypassing Bunbury Hospital and going to a teaching hospital when the elective procedure that they required could be obtained at Bunbury Hospital. The same occurred at Northam and elsewhere in the country. Serious cases should go to hospitals where the appropriate treatment can be provided, but many cases can be dealt with closer to home. That is better medicine.

In 1996-97, \$5 986 582 was spent on capital and equipment. That allowed us to deal with an increased number of people. The detail is as follows: Princess Margaret Hospital spent \$35 000 on an additional microscope that is used particularly for intricate surgery such as on nerves and tendons. Fremantle Hospital spent \$1 581 988 -



Mr Carpenter: We will have a lot to say about Fremantle Hospital.

Mr PRINCE: The member for Willagee was not at the opening of the accident and emergency centre. He was not even interested.

Mr Carpenter: Of course I was interested. What a disgraceful comment!

Mr PRINCE: The shadow Minister was there. Perhaps he should have told him.

That hospital spent that money on upgrading a theatre, an inpatient ward, and the purchase of some extra gastroenterology equipment to enable it to handle more cases of that nature. After four years of planning and two years of building, and at a cost of about \$8m, we rebuilt that accident and emergency centre. It is magnificent. I would not say it is the best in the State, but it is certainly one of the best. It is superb. The dialysis unit and the children's ward have been upgraded, and a stack of other things have happened at Fremantle Hospital, as the member for Fremantle knows very well, because he has attended many of those openings. Members opposite should give credit where credit is due, because that hospital is in a Labor electorate, and we did it not for a crass political reason but because it was the right thing to do. Why was it not done when members opposite were in power? It is not as though these things did not need to be done until now. That accident and emergency unit at Fremantle Hospital had not been touched since 1959.

Royal Perth Hospital received \$474 000 to upgrade a theatre at Shenton Park and to purchase additional orthopaedic instruments to allow increased orthopaedic procedures. Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital received \$3 895 594 to upgrade a theatre and purchase orthopaedic and gastroenterology instruments so that it can perform a greater number of operations, to increase the skilling of its orthopaedic staff, and to upgrade its day surgery unit. All of those targeted capital equipment expenditures will enable those hospitals to deal with more people surgically and allow for increased waiting list activity in targeted specialities in 1997-98.

In 1996-97, the money that was not spent on capital was spent on targeting cases in the following areas: Ear nose and throat, 450 cases in teaching hospitals, 104 in metropolitan non-teaching and 46 in rural, a total of 600. Orthopaedic, 789 in teaching hospitals, 118 in metropolitan non-teaching and 109 in rural, a total of 1 016. Ophthalmology, 124 in teaching hospitals, 29 in metropolitan non-teaching and 104 in rural, a total of 257. Urology, 109 in teaching hospitals, 110 in metropolitan non-teaching and 64 in rural, a total of 283. Plastic surgery, 183 in teaching hospitals, 50 in metropolitan non-teaching and 16 in rural, a total of 249. Vascular, 89 in teaching hospitals and none in metropolitan non-teaching and rural. General surgery, 376 in teaching hospitals, 250 in metropolitan non-teaching and 62 in rural, a total of 688. Gastroenterology, 142 in teaching hospitals, 30 in metropolitan non-teaching and none in rural, a total of 172.

The total of that activity was 2 262 extra cases in teaching hospitals, 691 in metropolitan non-teaching hospitals and 397 in rural hospitals, a total of 3 354. That is what the remainder of the \$15m was spent on, other than the capital upgrades in 1996-97. The reporting on activity undertaken from the waiting list is being addressed by the quarterly acquittals that are required as part of the funding arrangements. The status of the waiting list is reported in the "Teaching Hospital Elective Surgery News", from which the member for Willagee quoted and which has never previously been produced with this accuracy. It is a public document. If I did not want to be beaten around the head with it, it would not be made public. It is public because it should be known. That document is being reviewed, and recommendations have been made about the statistical presentation of the data so that it will be easier to read, because the member must admit that it takes a while to work out what it means.

Mr Carpenter: I had no problem.

Mr PRINCE: I am pleased. I would not expect the member to have a problem; other members might.

The budget reform process has provided an avenue for improved reporting, which I am sure all members will appreciate. The improvement in data provision has allowed for improved benchmarking, which is also important, within the categories and the health conditions, and with other States.

The purchase of targeted activity from the waiting list for 1997-98 is an additional 9 650 cases, which are as follows: Ear nose and throat, 1 873 in teaching hospitals, 338 in metropolitan non-teaching and 147 in rural, a total of 2 358. Orthopaedic, 2 003 in teaching hospitals, 319 in metropolitan non-teaching and 348 in rural, a total of 2 670. Ophthalmology, 315 in teaching hospitals, 74 in metropolitan non-teaching hospitals and 332 in rural, a total of 721. Ophthalmology is extremely important because it is mostly for elderly people. In the past many elderly people have travelled to Perth for that procedure. I am pleased to say that more and more ophthalmic surgeons are prepared to go bush for particular sessions, as long as their operating microscopes and their specialised instruments, such as sterilisation equipment, are available.

Perth is a long way for an elderly person from a place such as Esperance to come and wait for an operation and then

return home, particularly if their eyes do not work. We aim to take the surgery there. We are doing that sort of thing more and more. More rural ophthalmology cases are coming off the long waiting list than cases at the teaching hospitals, because that is where many of those cases are. The remaining figures are urology, 277 in teaching hospitals, 51 in metropolitan non-teaching hospitals, and 200 in rural hospitals; plastic surgery, 465 in teaching hospitals, none in metropolitan non-teaching, and 51 in rural; vascular, 226 in teaching hospitals, 409 in metropolitan non-teaching, and none in rural; general surgery, 955 in teaching hospitals, 503 in metropolitan non-teaching, and 192 in rural; and gastroenterology, 361 in teaching, 211 in metropolitan non-teaching, and none in rural. The total of that activity is 6 475 additional cases in teaching hospitals, 1 905 additional cases in metropolitan non-teaching hospitals, and 1 270 in rural hospitals - a total of 9 650 extra cases. That is where the \$15m is going.

Mr McGinty: For this financial year?

Mr PRINCE: Yes.

Mr McGinty: Not into capital works?

Mr PRINCE: No, unless there is some carry over in relation to some of the capital works I mentioned. That money is all going to purchasing those cases off the waiting list. There are other initiatives, of which I will give one example: A Busselton day surgery unit is to be commissioned in February 1998, which arises from the closure of a nursing home and conversion to a day unit. It will allow for an increased throughput in the Busselton area of over 50 per cent and better utilisation of regional specialists. A Bunbury-based surgeon will undertake work in Busselton. He has not been able to do that before. Day surgery cases will be able to stay there. The potential exists for some Bunbury day surgery to take place in Busselton. Busselton is a growing place. It has a relatively high retirement population. People at the retirement end of life tend to be the heaviest users of those services. Centralising waiting lists has had a significant effect, but the effect is not yet completely felt. As a result of that centralising it is planned that patients should be able to be seen more quickly. There are long waiting lists for a particular type of case in one place and shorter lists in another. It is not an efficient use of the total capacity.

Mr McGinty interjected.

Mr PRINCE: They are. It is hoped that is one of the things a centralised waiting list will balance better, so that roughly the same waiting time applies everywhere, particularly when 70 per cent of the hospital capacity is in four hospitals and they are all along the river and roughly within 5 kilometres of either the GPO or Fremantle and the distance is not that great. We should be able to spread the use across all of them more evenly than has ever been the case in the past. This strategy was intended to do that. It has not yet done that, but it is beginning to do so. It requires a high level of cooperation and coordination between hospitals and doctors. In a sense the metropolitan health service board provides a forum for that to be done even more so. I think there is a waiting list for orthopaedic procedures of seven months at Royal Perth Hospital and three months at Swan District Hospital. Between teaching hospitals and metropolitan hospitals which have a capacity to do second level procedures, there is a significant difference as well. By creating the one board, which is the forum for this type of coordination, we have been able to use a system - there has not been one before - to spread the load across the totality of the resource available.

Mr McGinty: Wouldn't you accept that a good, strong Minister would have been able to do that with various boards operating?

Mr PRINCE: It is debatable. I have chosen to create one board, not as an end in itself, but as the means to achieve the aim of coordination and the creation of a system, because there has never been a system: There has been a series of independent, largely autonomous hospitals with, at best, an ad hoc coordination among each other.

Mr McGinty: The principle you were trying to achieve had our support.

Mr PRINCE: Yes, I appreciate that, and I appreciate also that people are seeing whether it works. That augurs well for its success.

In conclusion, although admissions from the waiting lists are increasing, growth of the lists is occurring at a faster rate. It has proved difficult to meet the reduction targets. What was said last November did not account for the flu epidemic, the like of which this State has not seen before.

Mr McGinty: That is not reflected in these figures.

Mr PRINCE: No, I just make that point, although that has had a significant effect on waiting lists. We have no control over things like flu, and they are not predictable.

Mr Carpenter: These figures are for July. When was the flu epidemic?

Mr PRINCE: I know. The member for Willagee made the point that this is the Government's fifth year in office.

We spent a fair few years getting the Labor Party's debt under control, and the Commonwealth is doing the same thing. Western Australia has the same situation as exists elsewhere, yet we have a higher public patient ratio than any other State. I think we are getting close to having the lowest private health ratio. That is a matter of extreme concern. We at a state level can do nothing about that. The fact that people write letters to the editor saying it is a disincentive to be privately insured because if they go to hospital they wind up paying as a private patient, whether they go public or private, and that it pays to be public, shows how the system is skewed wrongly. It is called Medicare. That must be changed. I cannot change it. The State cannot change it. All the States are saying to the Commonwealth that it is the Commonwealth's commitment. It must change the system - not necessarily radically, but so there is an incentive for people to be privately covered. There must be an incentive to go to general practitioners rather than the outpatients department at hospitals. Public hospitals should be places where people get first class accident and emergency care - and they do. If they have a medical emergency they should get first class care there - and they do - and elective surgery that cannot be afforded by the individual should be done there. In other words, those who can pay, should pay; those who cannot should get it anyway. That is a principle for which I will fight. However, across Australia at the moment, the system is not working.

We in this State looked carefully at how to deal with waiting list strategy times. It was not an election gimmick; we came up with a sensible, practical and very well-researched plan that should work. However, it does not take into account that 135 people a day are dropping out of private health cover in this State. The Commonwealth's encouragement to go back into private health seems not to have worked. There has not even been a plateauing in the drop-out rate. We were being conservative by saying that it should plateau; that it would not turn up. However, it has not done that. That is the crux of the reason the strategy is working, but not working as fast as the increase in demand.

The Government will do anything it can at a state level to address this situation. However, there is a limit to what any State can do when the forces that are causing this are not within its control. I have a great deal of confidence in the hospitals, particularly in the doctors, nurses and allied health services, because they do a superb job. I am sure they will continue to do that. However, they want to be paid. That is not unreasonable. Eighty per cent of the Health budget goes into wages and salaries. In a state Budget that is totally committed and spent there is a limit to how much more can be put into any area.

If health needs more, it comes off somewhere else; from education or law and order. We are talking about large amounts of dollars. That is the conundrum we face at the moment. Never in the history of this State has a Budget come down before 30 June; never have the hospitals had a good idea of their budgets in August. It has always happened in March of the financial year. Every April all the hospitals have said that they need more of this, that or the other, and that they will close wards and so on. Those opposite know that because they have heard it and seen it for years. Because we brought the budget cycle sensibly to the beginning of the financial year, the hospitals have a good idea of what they are going to get, although they do not know exactly, and neither do I at the moment. Of course, the hospitals are saying the same things now that they always say. I am not discounting it; I am just making the point that they are saying it now, rather than nine months through the financial year because, through sensible management, we brought the whole budgetary process forward to coincide with the financial year.

I am concerned about it, and I will do everything I can. I am sure the hospitals will produce the best possible care they can for the maximum number of people, with a budget that has gone up \$54m this financial year.

**DR TURNBULL** (Collie) [10.01 pm]: The member for Willagee used an interesting example when he talked about being 300 per cent worse after he had been to hospital. He said that it would be the doctor's fault. I can assure members opposite that if a person's condition is 300 per cent worse after that person has been to a hospital, it is very rarely due to any negligence of the doctor. Usually the patient's body is the problem. The example the member used tonight is a very good one of the problem with the health system in Western Australia: The body of the medical services is starting to fail from overload. It is similar to the case of the heart of the member for Willagee which might stop if it is overloaded and incapable of being repaired or replaced. In that example, the member has put his finger on the waiting list problem in Western Australia.

The Minister for Health has just described this problem of overload caused by the number of patients who are now coming into the public health system in Western Australia. I strongly support and endorse the figures the Minister presented. One reason Western Australia has this problem of an overload of people coming into the public system and leaving the private system is that we in Western Australia have been very fortunate for many years to have an extremely good public health system. Many hospitals in the Eastern States are old and antiquated and will never reach the standards of the public hospitals in Western Australia. Many people in the Eastern States are still hanging on to their private cover because they know the public hospitals are not of a high standard, although the people working in them try very hard to cope. I can assure members of the Opposition that the Minister for Health is very caring. He plans very carefully in line with this Government's policies.

When a service becomes overloaded and is dragged down, certain people get dropped off the elective surgery waiting list or get pushed to the end of the list. This is exactly the problem Hon Keith Wilson, as Minister for Health in the former Labor Government, alluded to in this House in the speech he made before he resigned as Minister. He said that he was acutely aware of the failure of his party's policy of free medicine for all. The very people who were supposed to be being serviced by that system - the elderly, those with chronic conditions, those who could not afford to pay, those who came from the country, those who lived in the outer metropolitan area and those who were from the lower socioeconomic areas - would suffer under the totally free Medicare service. The offer of free service for all in public hospitals was made with absolutely no understanding of the financial commitments involved. Hon Keith Wilson made it very clear that the people who were suffering were those who the Labor Party purported to support.

Unfortunately in the current situation country people are suffering most as a result of the controls being imposed on hospital elective surgery waiting lists. Country people on the lists are waiting the longest. That is the why the policies which the Minister has just explained - that is, the provision of services in the country areas - are starting to help people in non-metropolitan areas. There is a long way to go, but the process has started. I support the work of the Minister for Health.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (16)

Ms Anwyl  
Mr Brown  
Mr Carpenter  
Dr Edwards  
Dr Gallop  
Mr Graham

Mr Grill  
Mr Kobelke  
Ms MacTiernan  
Mr Marlborough  
Mr McGinty

Mr McGowan  
Mr Riebeling  
Mr Ripper  
Ms Warnock  
Mr Cunningham (*Teller*)

Noes (26)

Mr Baker  
Mr Barnett  
Mr Barron-Sullivan  
Mr Bloffwitch  
Mr Board  
Mr Bradshaw  
Mr Day  
Dr Hames  
Mrs Hodson-Thomas

Mrs Holmes  
Mr House  
Mr Johnson  
Mr Kierath  
Mr MacLean  
Mr Marshall  
Mr Masters  
Mr McNee  
Mr Minson

Mr Nicholls  
Mrs Parker  
Mr Prince  
Mr Shave  
Mr Sweetman  
Dr Turnbull  
Mr Wiese  
Mr Osborne (*Teller*)

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Pairs

Ms McHale  
Mr Thomas  
Mrs Roberts

Mr Tubby  
Mr Cowan  
Mr Court

Question thus negatived.

**TURF CLUB LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

*Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr Barnett (Leader of the House), read a first time.

**ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE - ORDINARY**

**MR BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [10.11 pm]: I move -

That the House do now adjourn.

I advise members that because of the progress of the introduction of Bills there is not a great deal of material on the Notice Paper so I anticipate that we may be able to adjourn at around lunchtime tomorrow.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 10.12 pm*

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### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Answers to questions are as supplied by the relevant Minister's office.

#### EDUCATION - DEPARTMENT

##### *Teachers - Child Abuse*

354. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Are any procedures in place to ascertain whether -
  - (a) teachers employed by the Education Department of Western Australia; or
  - (b) applying for a position in EDWA,
    - (i) have been convicted of; or
    - (ii) are suspected of,

crimes of child abuse in Western Australia or any other jurisdiction?
- (2) If yes to (1) above -
  - (a) what are the procedures;
  - (b) how long have they been in place; and
  - (c) in the last five years, how many teachers in Western Australia have been identified?
- (3) Does EDWA have a "never-to-be-employed" list of teachers?
- (4) If yes to (3) above -
  - (a) what criteria must be met for a teacher to be included on the list; and
  - (b) how many teachers are on the list?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) (a)-(b) As indicated in my Ministerial Statement of 26 June 1997, the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment and Training has agreed to develop a coordinated national strategy in schooling to prevent paedophilia and other forms of child abuse. The recommendations of the national strategy have been adopted by the Education Department of Western Australia and are being implemented.

In accordance with the national strategy the Department will maintain a record of allegations and criminal charges of sexual misconduct involving employees and such information will be exchanged between education authorities when requested. The Department now has in place a procedure for ensuring applicants for teaching positions who have worked under other education authorities, or have unexplained gaps in their employment, will have their employment record checked before being offered employment.

From Semester 2, 1997 teacher trainees in tertiary institutions in Western Australia will be required to produce a police clearance as part of their enrolment procedure. The Department already has a procedure for screening such students. The students are required to disclose any criminal convictions prior to approval being given for them to undertake teacher training in a Government school. Persons with serious or repeat offences (not just child abuse) will not be given such approval.

All qualified teachers are required to indicate on their application for employment form whether they have any criminal conviction when applying for a position with the Department. New *Application for Employment* procedures are being developed which will require a police clearance prior to employment and these will be in place shortly.

There are also procedures for dealing with any allegations of child abuse whilst an employee of the Education Department. These procedures require notification to the Police Child Abuse Unit for investigation of allegations. Allegations are also investigated under the Education Act misconduct provisions (Section 7C).

As indicated in my Ministerial Statement, the Department is reviewing the files of all current employees where there have been allegations of sexual impropriety to ensure investigations have reached a satisfactory conclusion.

- (2) (a)-(b) The procedures for dealing with allegations of child abuse against employees are contained in an Education Department publication "*Allegations of Sexual Contact against Employees - Procedures*" which was published in 1994.

Procedures for dealing with allegations of misconduct against teachers are long standing. The current Section 7C of the Education Act was included in 1981.

- (c) The Department has been able to identify from its records for the past five years:
- 27 Section 7C investigations of allegations of child abuse by teachers;
  - 21 investigations concluded (8 resulted in the dismissal of the teacher involved); and
  - 6 cases pending.
- (3) There is no "never-to-be-employed" list of teachers. However, where someone is known to the Department to have placed a child at risk, the person's personal file and electronic records are marked Not to be employed without reference to the Manager, Human Resources Branch.
- (4) (a) There are a number of criteria which could result in a teacher having their records marked as "Not to be employed without reference to the Manager, Human Resources Branch". This includes persons who have been terminated on the grounds of misconduct or inefficiency, those who have retired on the grounds of ill health, workers' compensation cases and persons who have resigned while subject to investigation for misconduct or inefficiency.
- (b) There are approximately 60 teachers who currently have their records marked as "Not to be employed without reference to the Manager, Human Resources Branch". Of those, 10 are teachers who have been subject to investigation over allegations of sexual abuse or convicted on such charges.

#### GOVERNMENT PROPERTY - SALE

426. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many State Government assets of the value of \$200 000 or more have been sold by each of the departments or agencies under the Minister's control in each of the last four financial years?
- (2) What is the total value of the assets sold?
- (3) What have the monies realised from the asset sales been used for?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

Provision of the information sought would require considerable research which would divert staff away from their normal duties and I am not prepared to allocate the State's resources to provide a response. If the member has a question about a specific asset, I will endeavour to provide an answer.

#### ROADS - WANNEROO

##### *Upgrading*

442. Mr MacLEAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the upgrading of Wanneroo Road to four lanes, between the Carramar Estate in Neerabup and the townsite of Wanneroo, on the 10 year plan?
- (2) If so, when will this project proceed?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

## ROADS - BUSSELTON BYPASS

*Commencement and Cost*

557. Mr MASTERS to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Recognising that the Busselton community strongly supports the early construction and operation of the bypass road, would the Minister advise what is the current Main Roads WA proposed timing for the commencement of the Busselton bypass road?
- (2) What is the current Main Roads WA proposed timing for the completion and operation of the bypass?
- (3) In the belief that construction is not planned to commence until the year 2000, what impediments exist to the speeding up of construction such that commencement of this project is no later than 1998?
- (4) What is the indicative total cost of the Busselton bypass project?
- (5) What other major road construction or re-construction projects of similar or greater cost than the Busselton bypass are planned for commencement and/or completion over the following years -
  - (a) 1997-98;
  - (b) 1998-99;
  - (c) 1999-2000;
  - (d) 2000-2001; and
  - (e) 2001-2002?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(2) Preconstruction activities involving land purchases, planning and design have started. Construction is scheduled to commence in the 2000/01 financial year and the work will take about two years to complete.
- (3) Purchase of the land could not be achieved in time for construction to commence in 1998 even if funding were available.
- (4) Recent re-evaluation of the project, including land and changes to the extent of work following consultation with the community, indicates that the project will cost in the region of \$17 million.
- (5) I am aware of the Member's continuing interest in this project. Details of the 1997/98 Road Program are listed in the Budget papers. If the Member wants any additional information I would be happy to arrange for a detailed briefing by Main Roads.

## POLICE - SERVICE

*Review - Rehabilitation Model*

567. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Has a review been completed on an appropriate rehabilitation model for the Western Australia Police Service?
- (2) If yes, will the Minister table a copy of the review?
- (3) If no, when will the review be completed?

Mr DAY replied:

The Commissioner of Police has provided me with the following advice:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. A report was prepared for internal management purposes to assist the Western Australia Police Service in the development of an appropriate rehabilitation model for service delivery.
- (3) Not applicable.

RAILWAYS - EAST PERTH TERMINAL

*Sales Office - Cost of Operation*

599. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into the Commercial Activities of Government and Other Matters?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of his obligation to disclose to the Parliament Government financial transactions?
- (3) If so, will the Minister now disclose the total cost of operating the booking/reservations office at the East Perth Terminal?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) Is the Minister of the view that this information is of such commercial importance that it cannot be disclosed?
- (6) If so, why?
- (7) What makes this information of such a nature that it cannot be disclosed?
- (8) Is the Government put at a commercial disadvantage if private companies know the cost of operating the office at the moment?
- (9) If so, why?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(9) Unlike the previous Labor Government, the coalition Government has a commitment to honesty and accountability. As I have stated previously, Westrail is considering the option of out sourcing its Bookings/Reservations Office at East Perth. Until the out sourcing process is finalised or it is decided not to proceed with out sourcing it would be inappropriate to disclose information which could be seen as setting a floor price for tenderers. To achieve the best outcome for the State, it is essential that tenderers set their price on the actual resources they would require to carry out the Booking/Reservation Office function. Once the tender process is finalised or a decision is taken to not proceed with out sourcing I will be happy to provide the information requested by the Member.

ROADS - FREMANTLE

*Bypass - Impact on Properties*

630. Mr McGINTY to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) With reference to the planned Fremantle Eastern bypass, how many homes are likely to be demolished, or properties affected, between High Street and Rockingham Road, for the purpose of constructing the bypass and what are their addresses?
- (2) How many of these houses and properties are owned by state and local governments?
- (3) How many of the properties are privately owned homes or other kinds of private property?
- (4) How many of the private properties will be resumed against the wishes of the owners?
- (5) How many of the State or local government owned properties are occupied by tenants and when are they likely to be evicted?
- (6) What is the width of the road reservation?
- (7) What is the estimated total cost of the project?
- (8) How many lanes will the road have at each point from the Stirling bridge through to Rockingham Road?
- (9) Will there be any capacity to widen the road at some future time?
- (10) Will there be any capacity to turn the road into a freeway at some future time?



- (11) Would such an alteration require the planning process to be revisited and the community formally consulted?
- (12) What area of the White Gum Valley Primary School grounds will be claimed for the road?
- (13) Will this land be resumed and will the school be compensated in some way?
- (14) What will be the depth of the trench for the road as measured from the White Gum Valley Primary School grounds?
- (15) What area of the Portuguese Club grounds in Strang Street, Beaconsfield will be claimed for the road?
- (16) Will this area be resumed and will the club be compensated in some way?
- (17) What environmental assessment, if any, has been undertaken on Clontarf Hill which is in the path of the bypass?
- (18) What were the findings?
- (19) What is the reservation status of Clontarf Hill?
- (20) What assessments have been undertaken on the noise and pollution impacts of the bypass highway?
- (21) Will Davies Reserve in Wood Street, White Gum Valley be affected by the bypass reservation?
- (22) Will all of the trees in the reserve be protected?
- (23) What assessment has been undertaken on sites of Aboriginal significance in the bypass reservation and what were the findings?
- (24) What assessment has been undertaken of the heritage values of buildings and places on the bypass route and what were the findings?
- (25) What is the estimated volume of traffic which will be using the bypass following its completion?
- (26) What proportion is expected to be private passenger vehicles and what proportion is expected to be commercial or truck traffic?
- (27) For each traffic type, what proportion of the traffic is expected to originate in the Fremantle region and what proportion from other areas, such as the northern suburbs?
- (28) What is the cost of each component of the community consultation being undertaken on the bypass plan?
- (29) Will the bypass result in a reduction in traffic on Hampton Road?
- (30) Will traffic on Hampton Road increase regardless of the bypass?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1) Ninety-six properties are affected. Forty are vacant and 56 properties located in High, Wood, Stack, Watkins, Simper, South, Curedale Streets and Mather Road have improvements of either house or business premises.
- (2) 60 properties, 29 with improvements.
- (3) 36 properties, 27 with improvements.
- (4) Purchase negotiations normally commence two years prior to construction. Resumption action would only be taken as a last resort.
- (5) Main Roads has 21 residential leases ranging from six monthly to fortnightly. Leases would not be extended beyond January 2000. The Ministry for Planning and the City of Fremantle currently have 23 and 1 leased properties, respectively.
- (6) High Street to Lefroy Road; 45 - 55 metres.  
South of Lefroy Road; 70 - 80 metres.  
Clontarf Hill; up to 100 metres depending on depth of cut and alignment.
- (7) Current estimate is \$29 million.

- (8) Four.
- (9) The section between Stirling Bridge and High Street can be widened to 6 lanes within the current MRS reservation. The section between High Street and Rockingham Road cannot be widened within the current MRS reservation.
- (10) Not within the existing land reservation.
- (11) Yes.
- (12) Nil to 20 metres depending on the option chosen.
- (13) Any valid claim will be met.
- (14) Between 2 metres and 9 metres depending on the option chosen and final levels.
- (15) There may be a minimal requirement.
- (16) See answer to (4) above.
- (17) Flora, fauna, aesthetics and landscape assessments were conducted.
- (18) Clontarf Hill has natural environmental values based on its remnant vegetation, flora and habitats present. However, no rare or endangered species were recorded. It also has social significance as a local landmark and recreational area.
- (19) Under the City of Fremantle Town Planning Scheme the central area of Clontarf Hill is Controlled Access Highway as designated in the MRS. The eastern side of Clontarf Hill (outside the MRS) is zoned open space reserve and the western side is R25 inner urban.
- (20) A noise study of existing conditions has been conducted. Noise assessment will be undertaken during the preliminary design phase. A site contamination study has been conducted on the soil and ground impact.
- (21) No.
- (22) Not applicable.
- (23) The Department for Aboriginal Affairs has advised that there are no sites of Aboriginal significance within the road reservation.
- (24) The WA Heritage Council, Australian Heritage Commission and National Trust have advised that they do not have any listed sites within the road reserve on their registers. The City of Cockburn does not have any listed sites on its Municipal Inventory. The City of Fremantle has asked Main Roads to photograph every affected property and 12 street scapes.
- (25) Up to 40 000 vehicles per day by the Year 2021.
- (26) About 2 000 heavy vehicles per day.
- (27) Information being gathered to present will provide origin and destination information, but will not provide detail by vehicle type.
- (28)
- |                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Engineering input             | \$42 000         |
| Community Consultation        | \$61 000         |
| Graphic Presentation          | \$37 000         |
| Communication                 | \$30 000         |
| Value Management Facilitation | \$12 000         |
|                               | <u>\$182 000</u> |
- (29) Yes.
- (30) Traffic will decrease on Hampton Road once the Bypass is open and would increase if the Bypass were not built.

#### EDUCATION - PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATIONS

##### *Funding*

713. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How much money has the Government provided to -

- (a) the Western Australian Secondary Principals' Association;
- (b) the Western Australian Primary Principals' Association,

during each year since 1992?

- (2) With regard to each association and each year, for what purposes was this money given?
- (3) What has each association actually spent this money on?
- (4) Will the Minister provide a breakdown of each association's taxpayer funded expenditure?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

I am advised by the Education Department of WA as follows:

(1)

YEAR	Western Australian Primary Principals' Association (WAPPA)	Western Australian Secondary Principals' Association (WASPA)
1992/93	\$44 760.00	\$10 214.00
1993/94	\$12 752.00	\$3 000.00
1994/95	\$38 415.00	\$12 137.00
1995/96	\$54 124.00	\$24 442.50
1996/97	\$44 000.00	\$8 000.00

(2)

Western Australian Primary Principals' Association  
(WAPPA)

1992/93	National joint Conference Grant (APPA/ACPA)	\$6 000.00
	State Conference Grant	\$36 360.00
	National Conference attendance	
	Travel/Accommodation/Registration	\$2 400.00
1993/94	National Conference attendance (APPA)	
	Travel/Accommodation/Registration	\$6 000.00
	National joint Conference Grant (APPA/ACPA)	\$6 752.00
1994/95	Conference Grant	
	National Conference attendance (APPA)	\$2 700.00
	Principal Network Grant	\$2 578.00
	Principal Grant - Participation in policy development EDWA activities	\$1 000.00
	Conference Grant	\$32 137.00
1995/96	International Travel/parking expenses	\$1 124.00
	Principal Grant - Participation in policy development EDWA activities	\$1 000.00
	Travel expenses for country principals to participate in policy development	\$8 000.00
	Primary Principals' Induction	\$10 000.00
	Annual State Conference	\$34 000.00
	Industrial discussions (WPA)	\$1 804.60
1996/97	Aboriginal Education Partnership	\$10 000.00
	Annual State Conference Grant	\$34 000.00

Western Australian Secondary Principals' Association (WASPA)

1992/93	Professional Association Grant	\$10 214.00
1993/94	National Conference attendance (ASPA)	
	Travel/Accommodation/Registration	\$3 000.00
1994/95	Principal Grant - Participation in policy development EDWA activities	\$1 000.00
	State Conference Grant	\$8 437.00
	National Conference attendance (ASPA)	
	Travel/Accommodation/Registration	\$2 700.00

1995/96	Participation in policy development	
	EDWA activities	\$1 000.00
	Travel expenses for country principals to participate in policy development	\$3 000.00
	Secondary Principals' Induction	\$3 000.00
	Travel for members attendance industrial meeting (WPA)	\$5 959.00
	Annual State Conference	\$8 000.00
	Consultants/Legal Fees - Employee Relations	\$3 483.50
1996/97	Annual State Conference Grant	\$8 000.00

- (3) Prior to January 1997, the Education Department did not require Professional Associations to account for how grants/reimbursements were utilised. Despite this, the Department is satisfied that funds were expended on activities related to the identified purposes of the funding. Since January 1997 contractual arrangements have been in place for any grants provided to Professional Associations.
- (4) Details provided in (2).
- (5) Not applicable.

#### COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - MEMBERSHIP

##### *Statistics*

817. Mr BROWN to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

- (1) What boards, committees or the like in each portfolio under the Premier's control provide a sitting fee, or other payment, to board or committee members?
- (2) What is the name of each board and/or committee?
- (3) What are the names of the members of each board and/or committee?
- (4) How much is each member of the board and/or committee paid for their services?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) Centenary of Federation Celebrations State Committee  
Gold Corporation - Board of Directors  
Government Property Advisory Committee  
Salaries and Allowances Tribunal  
Western Australian Government Holdings Ltd

- (3) Centenary of Federation Celebrations State Committee  
Mr Paul Afkos  
Mr Richard Basham  
Mr Ronald Birmingham  
Hon John Caldwell  
Ms Priya Cooper  
Mr Larry Kickett  
Mrs Esther Roadnight  
Hon Ian Taylor  
Mrs Katherine White  
Mrs Marlene Whittington

Gold Corporation - Board of Directors  
Mr Bath  
Mr Peter Lalor  
Mr John Langoulant  
Mr D Mackay-Coghill  
Mr Leslie McCarrey  
Mrs Martine Pop  
Mr Peter Unsworth

Government Property Advisory Committee  
Mr Ian Johnston  
Mr Peter Leonhardt  
Mr Maurice Owen  
Mr Christian Willing

Salaries and Allowances Tribunal  
Mr Digby Blight

Mr Jeffrey Mews  
Mr Raymond Turner

Western Australian Government Holdings Ltd  
Mr Raymond Hughes  
Mr John Langoulant  
Mr William Heron

- (4) Centenary of Federation Celebrations State Committee  
Chairperson \$12,000 per annum      Members \$4,800 per annum

Gold Corporation - Board of Directors  
Chairperson \$39,000 per annum      Directors \$19,000 per annum  
Members \$19,000 per annum  
three unpaid

Government Property Advisory Committee  
Chairperson \$7,000 per annum      Members \$3,700 per annum  
one unpaid

Salaries and Allowances Tribunal  
Chairperson \$16,800 per annum      Members \$10,800

Western Australian Government Holdings Ltd  
Director \$5,000 per annum

#### COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - MEMBERSHIP

##### *Statistics*

819. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

- (1) What boards, committees or the like in each portfolio under the Minister's control provide a sitting fee, or other payment, to board or committee members?
- (2) What is the name of each board and/or committee?
- (3) What are the names of the members of each board and/or committee?
- (4) How much is each member of the board and/or committee paid for their services?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Department of Resources Development

- (1) None.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

Western Power

- (1)-(2) Western Power Board of Directors.

- (3) Western Power Board of Directors  
Mr M Macpherson      Chairperson  
Mr H Stebbins      Deputy Chairperson  
Mr D Eiszele      Managing Director  
Mr D Smetana      Director  
Ms C Devitt      Director  
Mr B Flanagan      Director  
Mr I Warner      Director

- (4) As contained in the 1995/96 financial year Annual Report, the numbers of Directors whose income and benefits from Western Power were within the specified band are as follows:

Chairperson	\$ 70,001 - \$ 80,000 pa	1
-------------	--------------------------	---

Deputy Chairperson	\$ 30,001 - \$ 40,000 pa	1
Directors	\$ 30,001 - \$ 40,000 pa	4

The Managing Director receives no additional remuneration in his role as a Board member.

## AlintaGas

(1)-(2) AlintaGas Board of Directors.

- (3) Mr I Baker (Chairperson)  
Mr S Hohnen (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr D Buckland  
Professor HY Izan  
Mr J Shawley  
Mr P Harvey (Chief Executive Officer)

(4) As contained in the 1995/96 financial year Annual Report, the numbers of Directors whose income and benefits from AlintaGas were within the specified band are as follows:

Chairperson	\$70,000 - \$80,000 pa	1
Deputy Chairperson	\$30,000 - \$40,000 pa	1
Directors	\$30,000 - \$40,000 pa	4

The Chief Executive Officer receives no additional remuneration in his role as a Board member.

## Office of Energy

(1)-(2) Alternative Energy Development Board, Electrical Licensing Board.

(3)-(4) Alternative Energy Development Board (paid on a quarterly basis whether the Board meets monthly or not):

Mr F Daly (Chairperson)	\$425.00
Mr P Jennings	\$187.50
Mr P Versluis	\$187.50
Dr L Farrant	Nil
Mr G Thompson	Nil

Electrical Licensing Board:	Half Day	Full Day
Mr J Tranter (Chairperson)	\$130.67	\$196.00
Mr R Campbell	\$ 87.33	\$131.00
Mr G Haynes	\$ 87.33	\$131.00
Mr J Jarvis	\$ 87.33	\$131.00
Mr R Penno	\$ 87.33	\$131.00
Mr B Briggs		Nil
Mr G Hender		Nil

## Department of Education Services

(1)-(2) The Early Childhood Education Council and the Aboriginal Education and Training Council provide a fee to their respective Chairpersons.

(3) Early Childhood Education Council:

Professor A Zubrick, Chairperson;  
Mr C Veale, Deputy Chairperson;  
Dr A Alderson;  
Mrs L Binder;  
Mr P Birchall;  
Ms B Bosich;  
Mrs E Bowker;  
Mr T Giglia;  
Mrs E Grindrod;  
Mr B Jeppesen;  
Mr K McNaught;  
Dr N Reeves;  
Ms R Reside;  
Ms C Vardon;  
Ms P Warburton.

Aboriginal Education and Training Council:

Mrs M O'Brien, Chairperson;  
Ms J Agale;  
Mrs K Anderson;  
Ms R Cooyou;  
Mr E Dimer;  
Associate Professor S Forrest;  
Mr R Garlett;

Mr I Hill;  
Mr G Rixon;  
Sr P Rhatigan;  
Ms T Temby;  
Ms C Vardon;  
Ms J Wilkinson;  
Mr C Wyatt.

- (4) The Chair of the Early Childhood Education Council is paid \$6 000 per annum.

The Chair of the Aboriginal Education and Training Council (AETC) is paid \$12,000 per annum, as well as consultancy fees under the following conditions:

- prior approval of the Chief Executive Officer must be sought;
- the fee will be paid at an hourly rate based on \$500 a day, to a maximum of eight hours per day (excluding travelling time); and
- consultancy expenditure must be met within the AETC budget line items.

Education Department of Western Australia

- (1)-(4) No sitting fees or other payments are provided to board or committee members.

Curriculum Council of Western Australia

- (1)-(4) No sitting fees or other payments are provided to board or committee members.

#### COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - MEMBERSHIP

##### *Statistics*

822. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Family and Children's Services; Seniors; Women's Interests:

- (1) What boards, committees or the like in each portfolio under the Minister's control provide a sitting fee, or other payment, to board or committee members?
- (2) What is the name of each board and/or committee?
- (3) What are the names of the members of each board and/or committee?
- (4) How much is each member of the board and/or committee paid for their services?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) Women's Advisory Council of Western Australia  
Family and Domestic Violence Implementation Advisory Committee  
Seniors Ministerial Advisory Committee  
Child Care Services Board  
Case Review Board  
Family and Children's Advisory Council  
Out of Home, Preventative and Alternative Care (OHPAC) Planning and Coordination Committee  
Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) State Advisory Committee  
Western Australian Taskforce on Poverty.
- (2) See answer to (1).
- (3)-(4) See below.

- (a) Women's Advisory Council of Western Australia

MEMBERS	REMUNERATION
Professor Leonie Still (President)	\$280 per day; \$185 per ½ day
Lally Butt	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Julie Ann-Harper	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Lynne Johnston	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Robyn McSweeney	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Lois Gatley	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Barbara Johnson	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Jessica May	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Mariagrazia Saraceni	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Julie Žilko	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day

## (b) Family and Domestic Violence Implementation Advisory Committee

MEMBERS	REMUNERATION
Ron Carey	Nil
David Kelly	New Member
Jennifer Gardiner	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Jocelyn Jones	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Robin Shine	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Angie Hartwig	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Jill Flannigan	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Helen Leidel	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Irene Froyland	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Ian Vaughan	Nil
Reta Clutton	Nil
John Fussell	Nil
Sue Renshaw	Nil
Cath Negus	Nil
Peta Wootten	Nil
Nawdy Roussetty	Nil
Deputy Members	
Julie Hansen	Nil
Rebecca West	Nil
Allison White	Nil
Mel Ainsworth	Nil

## (c) Seniors Ministerial Advisory Committee

MEMBERS	REMUNERATION
Ian Osborne MLA	Nil
Margie Bass	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Dr Peter Brine AM	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Norman Harris	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Bettine Heathcote	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Joy Jeffes	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Neville Lane ED	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Shri Manohar	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Betty Mazzarol	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Peter Norris	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Marlene Robins	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
John (Jack) Tinetti OAM	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Leonard Vickridge OBE VRD	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day

## (d) Child Care Services Board

MEMBERS	REMUNERATION
Karen Farley	\$196 per day; \$130 per ½ day
Kate Fischer	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Karen Williams	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Bronwyn Stewart	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Heather Finch	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day

## (e) Case Review Board

NAME	REMUNERATION
Valma Cearns	\$380 per day or part thereof
Christine Egan	Nil
Rosemary Cant	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Dean Collard	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Jim Crawley	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Patricia Dudgeon	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Maria Harries	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
John Manners	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Les Harrison	Nil
Dr Barbara Meddin	Nil

## (f) Family and Children's Advisory Council

MEMBERS	REMUNERATION
Ruth Reid	\$196 per day; \$130 per ½ day
John Barich	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Mary Clark	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Shantha Cokis	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Shelley Curry	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Brian Gordon	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day



Tracey Gosling	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Dr Judy MacDonald	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Sven Silburn	Nil
Jo Wilkie	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Rae Walter	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Pippa Warburton	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day

(g) Out of Home, Preventative and Alternative Care (OHPAC) Planning and Coordination Committee

NAME	REMUNERATION
Sue Ash (Chairperson)	Nil
Michael Clare	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
David Roberts	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Sandie van Soelin	Nil
Mike Hepburn	Nil

(Chairperson not paid. Wanslea reimbursed for Chairperson's time spent at meetings, at a rate of \$30 per hour, for up to 10 hours)

(h) Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) State Advisory Committee

NAME	REMUNERATION
Don Cummings	\$196 per day; \$98 per ½ day*
Lorraine Hams	Nil
Scott Harrison	Nil
Sister Jane Ablett	\$131 per day; \$65.50 per ½ day
Major Laurie Venables	\$131 per day; \$65.50 per ½ day
Gabrielle Whiteley	\$131 per day; \$65.50 per ½ day
Basil Lambert	\$131 per day; \$65.50 per ½ day
Jessie Healey	\$131 per day; \$65.50 per ½ day
Doug Robertson	\$131 per day; \$65.50 per ½ day
Daphne Smith	\$131 per day; \$65.50 per ½ day
Helen Miskell	Nil.

\* Mr Cummings also receives \$25 per hour for work carried out on behalf of the Committee (approximately 10 hours per month) as well as telephone subsidy and out of pocket expenses.

(i) Western Australian Taskforce on Poverty

MEMBERS	REMUNERATION
Non Government Members	
Ian Carter	\$196 per day; \$130 per ½ day
Leanne Strommen	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Anne Hawkins	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Lynda Wennstrom	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Brian Gordon	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Anne Harris	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Major Laurie Venables	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Doug Robertson	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Shawn Boyle	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Willem Bouwer	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Elaine Olley	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Yorgunup Representative	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Rev George Davies	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Government Members	
Aboriginal Affairs Department	Nil
Disability Services Commission	Nil
Education Department	Nil
Family and Children's Services	Nil
Homeswest	Nil
Office of Seniors Interests	Nil
Department of Training	Nil
Women's Policy Development Office	Nil
Office of Youth Affairs	Nil

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

*Expenditure*

839. Mr BROWN to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

(1) How much did each department and agency under the Premier's control spend on -

- (a) television advertising;
- (b) radio advertising; and
- (c) newspaper advertising,

between 1 July 1996 and 30 March 1997?

- (2) How much does each department and agency under the Premier's control plan to spend on -

- (a) television advertising;
- (b) radio advertising; and
- (c) newspaper advertising,

between 1 April 1997 and 30 June 1997?

Mr COURT replied:

Office of State Administration

- (1) (a)-(c) The accounting system does not provide a breakdown of expenditure at the level of detail sought.
- (2) (a)-(c) There is no specific budget allocation for advertising expenditure for this period.

Public Sector Management Office

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$15 026
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$6 423

Government Property Office

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$1 573.21
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$300.00

Policy Office

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$12 091
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$6 850

Graffiti Program

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$3 122.18
- (2) (a)-(c) Nil.

Anti-Corruption Commission

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$16 557.35
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$3 895.23

Office of the Auditor General

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$6 764
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$5 840

Office of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$8 701.20 + \$44 428.20 (CEO selection advertisements) = \$53 129.40
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.

(c) \$1 171.00 + \$26 828.42 (CEO selection advertisements) = \$27 999.42

Gold Corporation (including subsidiaries and overseas regional offices)

(1) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$287 456

(2) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$66 068

Treasury

(1) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$12 446 in newspapers and the public sector journal.

(2) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$8 000

Governor's Establishment

(1) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$1 357

(2) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$444

#### GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

##### *Expenditure*

841. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

(1) How much did each department and agency under the Minister's control spend on -

- (a) television advertising;
- (b) radio advertising; and
- (c) newspaper advertising,

between 1 July 1996 and 30 March 1997?

(2) How much does each department and agency under the Minister's control plan to spend on -

- (a) television advertising;
- (b) radio advertising; and
- (c) newspaper advertising,

between 1 April 1997 and 30 June 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Department of Resources Development

(1) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$20,598.38  
Note: This figure does not include spending on calling expressions of interest for studies or tenders, or on advertising staff vacancies.

(2) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) A precise figure is not available, but advertising opportunities will be assessed on their individual merits for the remainder of the financial year.

Western Power

(1) This information is commercially confidential.

(2) As above.

Office of Energy

(1) (a) \$65,000  
(b) Nil.  
(c) \$14,000

(2) (a) \$50,000

(b)-(c) Nil.

AlintaGas

- (1) This information is commercially confidential.
- (2) As above.

Education Department of Western Australia

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$222,800
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$17,200

Department of Education Services

- (1) (a) \$10,663  
(b) Nil.  
(c) \$2,968
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$564

Department of the Curriculum Council

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$561.22
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.  
(c) \$2,000

Secondary Education Authority

The Authority has no budget allocation for advertising.

- (1)-(2) Not applicable.

#### GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

##### *Expenditure*

844. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Family and Children's Services; Seniors; Women's Interests:

- (1) How much did each department and agency under the Minister's control spend on -
  - (a) television advertising;
  - (b) radio advertising; and
  - (c) newspaper advertising,between 1 July 1996 and 30 March 1997?
- (2) How much does each department and agency under the Minister's control plan to spend on -
  - (a) television advertising;
  - (b) radio advertising; and
  - (c) newspaper advertising,between 1 April 1997 and 30 June 1997?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) Family and Children's Services:
  - (a)-(c) \$461,464.

Women's Policy Development Office:

(a)-(c) \$7,340.

Office of Seniors Interests:

(a)-(c) \$37,959.

Central Drug Co-ordination Office:

(a)-(c) \$181,896.

(2) Family and Children's Services:

(a)-(c) \$112,000.

Women's Policy Development Office:

(a)-(c) \$424,000

(3) Office of Seniors Interests:

(a)-(c) \$10,000.

Central Drug Co-ordination Office:

(a)-(c) Nil.

#### GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

##### *Expenditure*

847. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

(1) How much did each department and agency under the Minister's control spend on -

- (a) television advertising;
- (b) radio advertising; and
- (c) newspaper advertising,

between 1 July 1996 and 30 March 1997?

(2) How much does each department and agency under the Minister's control plan to spend on -

- (a) television advertising;
- (b) radio advertising; and
- (c) newspaper advertising,

between 1 April 1997 and 30 June 1997?

Dr HAMES replied:

Government Employees Housing Authority:

(1) Between 1 July 1996 and 30 March 1997, the Government Employees' Housing Authority spent the following amount on advertising;

- (a)-(b) television and radio advertising - Nil
- (c) newspaper advertising - \$18,000

(2) From 1 April to 30 June 1997, the Authority intends to spend the following on advertising;

- (a)-(b) television and radio advertising - Nil
- (c) newspaper advertising - \$5,000.

Rural Housing Authority/Industrial & Commercial Employees' Housing Authority:

(1)-(2) Nil.

Homeswest:

- (1) (a) \$133,040
- (b) \$93,798
- (c) \$2,288,955

- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.
- (c) \$545,434

Water and Rivers Commission including the Swan River Trust:

- (1) The Water and Rivers Commission and Swan River Trust have spent a total of \$106,181 on advertising between 1/7/96 and 30/3/97.

- (a) Nil.
- (b) \$5,309
- (c) \$100,871

- (2) The Water and Rivers Commission and Swan River Trust plan to spend an estimated total of \$179,800 on advertising between 1/4/97 and 30/6/97.

- (a) \$150,000
- (b) \$800
- (c) \$29,000

Office of Water Regulation:

- (1)
  - (a) The Office of Water Regulation spent \$50,771 on television advertising between 1 July 1996 and 30 March 1997.
  - (b) The Office of Water Regulation spent \$10,690.82 on radio advertising between 1 July 1996 and 30 March 1997.
  - (c) The Office of Water Regulation spent \$28,621.16 on newspaper advertising between 1 July 1996 and 30 March 1997.
- (2)
  - (a) The Office of Water Regulation does not plan to run any television advertisements between 1 April 1997 and 30 June 1997.
  - (b) The Office of Water Regulation does not plan to run any radio advertisements between 1 April 1997 and 30 June 1997.
  - (c) The Office of Water Regulation will spend approximately \$6,000 on newspaper advertisements between 1 April 1997 and 30 June 1997.

Water Corporation:

- (1)
  - (a) \$257,000
  - (b) \$11,000
  - (c) \$499,000
- (2)
  - (a) \$71,000
  - (b) Nil.
  - (c) \$50,000

Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1)
  - (a)-(b) Nil.
  - (c) \$68,455 (the majority of which was spent on advertising public sector staff vacancies)
- (2)
  - (a)-(b) Nil.
  - (c) Approximately \$17,000 on advertising public sector staff vacancies.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

*Expenditure*

860. Mr BROWN to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

- (1) How much did each department and agency under the Premier's control spend on advertising in the 1995-96 financial year?
- (2) How much did each department and agency under the Premier's control spend on -
  - (a) television advertising;
  - (b) radio advertising; and
  - (c) newspaper advertising,
 in the 1995-96 financial year?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) The Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet spent \$190,030.80 on advertising in the 1995-96 financial year.
- (2) The chart of accounts used by the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet does not provide a breakdown of expenditure at the level of detail sought.

## GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

*Expenditure*

865. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Family and Children's Services; Seniors; Women's Interests:

- (1) How much did each department and agency under the Minister's control spend on advertising in the 1995-96 financial year?
- (2) How much did each department and agency under the Minister's control spend on -
  - (a) television advertising;
  - (b) radio advertising; and
  - (c) newspaper advertising,
 in the 1995-96 financial year?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) Family and Children's Services: \$532,510.  
 Women's Policy Development Office: \$12,630  
 Office of Seniors Interests: \$23,655.  
 Central Drug Co-ordination Office: Nil.
- (2) Family and Children's Services:  
 (a)-(c) Expenditure is not recorded at this level.

Women's Policy Development Office:  
 (a)-(c) Expenditure is not recorded at this level.

Office of Seniors Interests:  
 (a)-(c) Expenditure is not recorded at this level.

Central Drug Co-ordination Office: Nil.

## GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

*Expenditure*

868. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

- (1) How much did each department and agency under the Minister's control spend on advertising in the 1995-96 financial year?
- (2) How much did each department and agency under the Minister's control spend on -
  - (a) television advertising;
  - (b) radio advertising; and
  - (c) newspaper advertising,
 in the 1995-96 financial year?

Dr HAMES replied:

Government Employees' Housing Authority:

- (1)-(2) The Government Employees' Housing Authority spent \$28,000 on newspaper advertising during 1995/96. There was no expenditure on television or radio advertising.

Rural Housing Authority:

- (1)-(2) The Industrial and Commercial Employee Housing Authority spent no monies on advertising in 1995/96. The Rural Housing Authority spent \$1,034 on newspaper advertising in 1995/96. There was no expenditure on television and radio advertising.

Homeswest:

- (1) \$2,806,392
- (2) (a) \$71,583  
 (b) \$54,222  
 (c) \$2,680,587

Office of Water Regulation:

- (1) The Office of Water Regulation, which came into existence on 1 January 1996, spent \$7,865.54 on advertising in the 1995/96 financial year.
- (2)
  - (a) The Office of Water Regulation did not undertake any television advertising during the 1995/96 financial year.
  - (b) The Office of Water Regulation did not undertake any radio advertising during the 1995/96 financial year.
  - (c) The Office of Water Regulation spent a total of \$7,865.54 on newspaper advertisements during the 1995/96 financial year.

Water Corporation:

- (1) \$755,000
- (2)
  - (a) \$367,000
  - (b) \$11,000
  - (c) \$377,000

Water & Rivers Commission including the Swan River Trust:

- (1) The figure for 1995/96 is not available for the following reasons:
  - (a) The Water and Rivers Commission was established as a new agency on 1/1/96, mid way through the year.
  - (b) A new accounting system was installed in approximately May 1996, with reports from the old finance system (SMIS) being available through the (now) Water Corporation.
  - (c) The accounting system for the Swan River Trust was linked to the former Waterways Commission (now amalgamated into the Water and Rivers Commission) prior to 1 January 1996.
- (2) Answered by (1).

Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) \$45,620
- (2)
  - (a)-(b) Nil.
  - (c) \$45,620. A significant portion of this amount related to advertising staff vacancies.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

*Allocation*

881. Mr BROWN to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

- (1) How much has each department and agency under the Premier's control allocated to advertising in the 1997-98 financial year?
- (2) What is the purpose of the advertising?

Mr COURT replied:

Office of State Administration

- (1)-(2) There is no specific budget allocation for advertising in the 1997/98 financial year.

Public Sector Management Office

- (1) The Public Sector Management Office has allocated \$40 800 for advertising in the 1997-98 financial year.
- (2) The purpose of the advertising is staff vacancies and general advertising mainly in the Intersector.

Government Property Office

- (1) No allocation has been made to date, but based on past expenditure it is likely to be approximately \$2 000 to \$3 000.



- (2) Essentially all funding is for the purpose of advertising job vacancies, and tenders/expressions of interest for projects.

#### Policy Office

- (1) (a) Policy office approximately \$10 000, excluding the Constitutional Centre.  
 (b) Constitutional Centre approximately \$186 000.
- (2) The opening of the Constitutional Centre, to raise public awareness and advertising.

#### Graffiti Program

- (1)-(2) Nil.

#### Anti-Corruption Commission

- (1) \$20 000.
- (2) Job advertisements and general press advertisements to advise the public of the Anti-Corruption Commission's address and telephone numbers.

#### Office of the Auditor General

- (1) \$5 000
- (2) Mainly advertising staff vacancies and in January 1997 advertising for accounting firms to express an interest in undertaking audit work on behalf of the Auditor General.

#### Office of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner

- (1) \$6 715.00
- (2) Advertising for staff vacancies and promotion of public sector standards and related activities.

#### Gold Corporation (including subsidiaries and overseas regional offices)

- (1) \$679 906
- Please note, Gold Corporation has been appointed, along with the Royal Australian Mint in Canberra, to produce the Sydney 2000 Olympic Coin Program. This program has a proposed advertising budget in the 1997-98 financial year of \$4.62 million. This figure covers total advertising, marketing and public relations expenditure and costs will be split evenly between the two organisations.
- (2) Gold Corporation is a self-funding commercial organisation that competes with the private sector in all areas of its business, both in Australia and overseas. As such, the Corporation has considerable annual marketing expenses associated with promoting its precious metals products and services. The figures provided also include job recruitment advertisements.

#### Treasury

- (1) \$40 875
- (2) Advertising under the Unclaimed Monies Act, Expressions of Interest and staff vacancies.

#### Governor's Establishment

- (1) \$5 000
- (2) Open Days for House and Gardens and staff vacancies.

### GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

#### *Allocation*

886. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Family and Children's Services; Seniors; Women's Interests:
- (1) How much has each department and agency under the Minister's control allocated to advertising in the 1997-98 financial year?
- (2) What is the purpose of the advertising?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) Family and Children's Services: \$400,000 estimate.  
Women's Policy Development Office: \$24,000.  
Office of Seniors Interests: \$50,000.  
Central Drug Co-ordination Office: \$182,000 estimate.
- (2) Family and Children's Services: Parenting Campaign.  
Women's Policy Development Office: Events, Women's Advisory Council Appointments and Grants.  
Office of Seniors Interests: Seniors Week, Seniors Card, Outreach Activities and Launches.  
Central Drug Co-ordination Office: Drug Abuse public education campaign on illicit drugs.

#### GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

##### *Allocation*

889. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

- (1) How much has each department and agency under the Minister's control allocated to advertising in the 1997-98 financial year?
- (2) What is the purpose of the advertising?

Dr HAMES replied:

Government Employees' Housing Authority:

- (1) The Government Employees' Housing Authority has allocated \$25,000 to advertising in the 1997/98 financial year.
- (2) The purpose of the advertising will relate to the sale of surplus dwellings and land by public tender, the calling of tenders for contracts in respect of maintenance of properties and grounds and the leasing of properties in selected areas.

Rural Housing Authority:

- (1) The Rural Housing Authority and the Industrial and Commercial Employees Housing Authority have allocated to advertising in the 1997/98 financial year, \$3,800 and \$1,900 respectively.
- (2) The purpose of the Industrial and Commercial Employees Housing Authority's advertising is the sale of rental housing stock and the wind up of the Authority. The purpose of the Rural Housing Authority's advertising is promotion of the services of the Authority in local newspapers and at Agricultural Show Days.

Homeswest:

- (1) \$3,180,000
- (2) To promote the Homeswest products available.

Office of Water Regulation:

- (1) The Office of Water Regulation has allocated a total of \$30,000 to advertising in the 1997/98 financial year.
- (2) The purpose of the advertising is to promote the Farm Water Grants Scheme through radio and newspaper advertising. There is also provision for other types of advertising, e.g. entries in the *Government Gazette*, *Intersector* and *The West Australian*.

Water Corporation:

- (1) \$953,000
- (2) About 70% of this will be spent on campaigns such as Waterwise, Infill Sewerage, Making the Sewerage Connection, and customer service. Other campaigns may include information on water quality and the Corporation's approach to caring for the environmental impact of such activities as the disposal of treated wastewater. The balance will be spent on non-campaign advertising such as tenders, contracts, disposals, road closures and other public notices, and human resources.

Water & Rivers Commission including the Swan River Trust:

- (1) The Water and Rivers Commission (WRC) and Swan River Trust (SRT) estimate advertising expenditure for 1997/98 at a total of \$281,500 of which \$140,000 is for placement of a television and newspaper

community information campaign by WRC on water pollution, conservation and bore usage. The balance (\$141,500) is for production and placement of all advertising including staff vacancies, tenders, public notices and submissions.

Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) Approximately \$85,000 for advertising in the 1997/98 financial year.
- (2) The purpose of the advertising is mainly for advertising staff vacancies together with requirements for ongoing operational needs.

#### GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - POLLING AND MARKET RESEARCH

##### *Statistics*

902. Mr BROWN to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

- (1) How much has been allocated by each department and agency under the Premier's control for -
  - (a) public opinion polling;
  - (b) market research;
  - (c) customer research; and
  - (d) stakeholder research,
 in the 1997-98 financial year?
- (2) What is the precise nature of the polling and/or research that will be undertaken by each department and agency?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) Under the Output Based Management System such expenditure is not specifically budgeted at the agency level. From time to time some of the Ministry's cost centres may make specific provision for expenditure of this type where a commitment is known or anticipated at the time of setting the budget. For example, a provision of \$124,000 is allowed to fund the Attitude Monitoring Surveys.

#### GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - NUMBER AND DETAILS

928. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Family and Children's Services; Seniors; Women's Interests:

- (1) With the exception of employment contracts, how many contracts for services, involving a total payment of \$40 000 or more, has each department and agency under the Minister's control entered into between 1 September 1996 and 31 March 1997?
- (2) What is -
  - (a) the name of each contractor;
  - (b) the amount of the contract;
  - (c) the purpose of the contract;
  - (d) the date on which the contract was entered into; and
  - (e) the date on which the contract is scheduled for completion?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) Family and Children's Services - 6 general and 89 service agreements with the Non Government sector.  
Office of Seniors Interests - 1.  
Women's Interests - Nil.
- (2) Family and Children's Services - 6 general contracts are detailed below and the 89 service agreements are shown on the attached schedule. [See paper No 586.]
  - (a) Voice Systems Australasia Pty Ltd. which is a fully owned subsidiary of Asphar and Associates
  - (b) \$46,208
  - (c) Internal Auditing
  - (d) 24 March 1997
  - (e) 31 October 1997
  - (a) ACT Networking Integrators
  - (b) \$47,600
  - (c) Engage 2 support services staff - User Account Administrator and Network Engineer

- (d) 1 February 1997
- (e) 30 June 1997
- (a) Windowlogic
- (b) \$42,820
- (c) Development of Pre-Adoption Computer System
- (d) 14 February 1997
- (e) TBA - on finalisation of service to be provided
- (a) Corcom Systems
- (b) \$43,700
- (c) Specifying Scope of CCSS Development (includes Maintenance and Enhancements)
- (d) 1 March 1997
- (e) 30 June 1997
- (a) Deakin Consulting
- (b) \$56,490
- (c) System Review and Development Plan for the Client and Community Services System
- (d) 2 December 1996
- (e) 27 March 1997
- (a) Winthrop Technology
- (b) \$98,800
- (c) Provision of Information Technology Help Desk
- (d) 1 October 1996
- (e) 30 May 1997

Office of Seniors Interests

- (a) Council on the Ageing (WA) Incorporated
- (b) \$100,000
- (c) To co-ordinate Seniors Week 1997 and Seniors Week 1998
- (d) 14 March 1997
- (e) 30 November 1998

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - NUMBER AND DETAILS

931. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

- (1) With the exception of employment contracts, how many contracts for services, involving a total payment of \$40 000 or more, has each department and agency under the Minister's control entered into between 1 September 1996 to 31 March 1997?
- (2) What is -
  - (a) the name of each contractor;
  - (b) the amount of the contract;
  - (c) the purpose of the contract;
  - (d) the date on which the contract was entered in to; and
  - (e) the date on which the contract is scheduled for completion?

Dr HAMES replied:

Government Employees' Housing Authority:

- (1) The Government Employees' Housing Authority has not entered into any contracts for services involving a total payment of \$40,000 or more during the period 1 September 1996 and 31 March 1997.
- (2) Not applicable.

Rural Housing Authority:

- (1) Neither the Rural Housing Authority nor the Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing Authority has entered any contracts.
- (2) Not applicable.

Homeswest:

- (1) 138 contracts.
- (2) As per following details tabled paper. [See paper No 587.]

Water Corporation: The information sought would require considerable research and I am not prepared to allocate resources for this purpose. If the member has a specific question about the subject I would be pleased to respond. However, information about contract prices may not be available due to commercial confidentiality.

Water & Rivers Commission including the Swan River Trust:

(1)-(2) See paper No 587.

Office of Water Regulation:

- (1) No contracts.
- (2) Not applicable.

Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) 5.
- (2)
  - (a) Unisys Australia.
  - (b) \$1140 per day to a maximum of \$49,000 (anticipated 2 days per week).
  - (c) To provide project co-ordination services for implementation of the Department's replacement accounting system.
  - (d) 6 March 1997.
  - (e) July 1997.
  - (a) Oracle Systems Australia
  - (b) \$135,000.
  - (c) To effect the implementation of the Oracle financial software product as the Department's replacement accounting system.
  - (d) 26 March 1997.
  - (e) August 1997.
  - (a) Cervan Marine & Maintenance
  - (b) \$270,000 on a cost plus basis for additional work.
  - (c) Emergency repairs to roads and barge landing at Oombulgurri community as a result of severe flooding on 24/2/97.
  - (d) 12 March 1997.
  - (e) 23 April 1997.
  - (a) Labour Ready
  - (b) \$90,000 for first 6 months of contract.
  - (c) Provision of switchboard/reception services and other temporary staff.
  - (d) 28 October 1996.
  - (e) Contract renewed on 29 April 1997 for further six months.
  - (a) The Great Southern Development Commission
  - (b) \$60,000.
  - (c) Operations of the Southern Regional Aboriginal Affairs Co-ordinating Committee.
  - (d) 23 December 1996.
  - (e) 30 June 1997.

## TRANSPORT - CONCESSIONAL FARES

### *Changes - Age Pensioners*

949. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Government introduced a number of changes to concessional bus and train travel for age pensioners?
- (2) What are the exact nature of the changes that have been introduced?
- (3) Why were the changes introduced?
- (4) Has any analysis been done on the way these changes will -
  - (a) limit the ability of age pensioners and others to attend medical or other appointments;
  - (b) increase the fares paid by age pensioners?
- (5) Were these latest changes foreshadowed in the transport or other policies released by the Coalition prior to the last State election?

- (6) If not, why not?
- (7) Is there any justification for these changes?
- (8) If so, what?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) No. The Government introduced one change relating to the use of the All Day Concession ticket.
- (2) The change included a revision in the policy associated with the use of the Concession DayRider ticket restricting travel with this ticket until after 9.00 am.
- (3),(8) Past policy permitted the All Day Concession ticket to be used by the concession ticket holder at any time during the day. The same latitude was not granted to the full fare DayRider ticket holders, who have been subject to travel only after 9.00 am for many years. There was therefore an anomaly in the use of this ticket between Full Fare and Concession travellers. In addition to addressing this anomaly, the restriction also targeted the movement of some travellers away from the peak services to off-peak services.
- (4) Analysis was undertaken regarding the impact of this change upon the mobility of concession travellers, and its effect upon the cost of those concession travellers. The change resulted in a substantial reaction from long distance concession travellers, particularly people from Mandurah and Yanchep who regularly travel over 6, 7 or 8 zones during commuter peak times, ie, before 9.00 am. After detailed consideration the Transperth ticketing system was modified to permit the use of the Concession DayRider tickets prior to 7.15 am and after 9.00 am, but not between the hours of 7.15 am and 9.00 am. Additionally, passengers are permitted to undertake transfers to other services within the 7.15 am to 9.00 am period to complete their journey, on the condition that their journey commenced prior to 7.15 am.  
  
This modification offered concession travellers a choice with regard to travel with an all day DayRider ticket before 7.15 am, and assisted long distance concession travellers. The modification was introduced effective 12 May 1997. To further enhance the value of this initiative, limited service changes for bus services were introduced on 19 May 1997 relating to services commencing from Two Rocks, Muchea and Mandurah aimed at increasing the options available to concession travellers prior to 7.15 am.
- (5)-(6) The development of a more appropriate fare structure which envisaged a higher contribution from users was identified as an important element of the Government's public transport reform program.  
  
Before the last State election, the Government foreshadowed the replacement of the Transperth bus fleet with accessible buses and the introduction of a number of new bus and train services. There was a clear implication that a higher contribution was required from users to implement these initiatives.
- (7) Yes, and the member may be pleased to learn that the changes implemented by this Government to our public transport system have resulted in an extremely high acceptance rate from the public.

#### GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CRITICAL COMMENT

##### *Auditor General*

967. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Since 1 July 1995 has any department or agency under the Minister's control received a critical comment, letter or direction from the Auditor General?
- (2) If so -
  - (a) what department or agency;
  - (b) when did the Auditor General make the critical comment;
  - (c) what were the precise circumstances that gave rise to the critical comment;
  - (d) how did the circumstances come about; and
  - (e) who was responsible?
- (3) When did the matter first come to the Minister's attention?
- (4) Did the Minister make the Parliament aware of the matter when it came to his attention?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

Department of Transport

(1) Yes.

(2) (a) Department of Transport.

Critical comments received:

- i) Payments in Advance
- ii) Performance Indicators
- iii) Licensing Issues

Payments in Advance

(2) (b) 12 December 1996

(2) (c) The critical comment was in the form of a Qualified Audit Opinion attached to the Audit of the Department's accounts and performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 1996. It related to payments made in advance to a contractor (Civcon Pty Ltd) contrary to the terms and conditions of the contract and Treasurer's Instruction 308(4) which precludes payments being made in advance except where a payment in advance is a condition of purchase. The payments were made in relation to the Department's Exmouth Boat Harbour Breakwater Construction and Harbour Basin and Entrance Channel Excavation Contract No E150.

(2) (d) The prepayments arose out of the Contractor's claim that he was having financial difficulties as a result of being unable to obtain a sufficient yield of breakwater materials from the Quarry provided for that purpose. The Auditor General recognised that a formal Variation Order subsequently had been issued by the Contract Superintendent to cover the handling of excess waste materials in the Quarry. This more than covered the value of the prepayments.

(2) (e) The prepayments were authorised by the Contract Superintendent, Dr M J Paul.

(3) On receiving written advice from the Auditor General dated 12 December 1996.

(4) Yes.

(5) Not applicable.

Performance Indicators

(2) (b) 25 September 1995 and 12 December 1996

(2) (c) 25 September 1995 - The comments of the Auditor General related to the Department's performance indicators for the 1994-95 financial year. Specifically, the comments related to the presentation of performance indicators at the sub-program level instead of at the program level for the Maritime and Metropolitan Transport (headed "Public Transport and Taxi Unit") programs. Some of the performance indicator information for the Transport System were reliant on information being produced by other agencies such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and this is considered to be "dated" information and required a note to state that the information is calculated on a five year cycle. Information provided from other agencies was not backed by any certification as to its validity. 12 December 1996 - The comments related to the Department's performance indicators for the 1995-96 financial year in relation to a number of indicators within the Metropolitan Transport and Regional Transport programs. The indicators were not considered appropriate for assisting users to assess performance because information supporting these indicators is still being developed.

(2) (d) 25 September 1995 - Significant changes to the organisation structure during 1994-95 required a major review of the Department's programs and sub-programs. The 1994-95 financial year was the first opportunity the Department had to report on the basis of its three programs, namely Metropolitan Transport, Maritime and Regional Transport. Linkages between sub-program performance and the program performance were being established during 1994-95, but not completed until after the conclusion of the 1995-96 financial year.

12 December 1996 - The Department has been developing and refining its performance indicators and will continue to develop mechanisms to collect the appropriate data. The Office of the Auditor

General is now satisfied with the Department's full compliance with Treasurer's Instructions issued pursuant to the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.

- (2) (e) The Director General of Transport.
- (3) On receiving written advice from the Auditor General dated 25 September 1995 and 12 December 1996.
- (4) Yes. The presentation of the Auditor General's report on the respective audits of the performance indicators is published in the annual report to Parliament.
- (5) Not applicable.

#### Licensing Issues

- (2) (b) 8 January 1996, 5 February 1996 and 12 December 1996.
- (2) (c) 8 January 1996 - Qualifications, (i) Concessional Rebates - Regarding the 1994-95 audit of Police Licensing and Services. The practice of allowing a concessional rebate in respect to motor driver licence fees to holders of the Seniors Card. The necessary legislation came into effect 25 November 1995. (ii) Penalties for expired Motor Vehicle Licences. Audit opinion for Police Licensing and Services, regarding the lack of appropriate recovery action taken to collect penalty fees in accordance with Section 18(11) of the Road Traffic Act. Included a request for half annual licence fee for all vehicles which have expired by more than 15 days for the period 1 June 1995 to 31 July 1995. (\$372 253.40)

5 February 1996 - Audit opinion on the Financial Statements for Police Licensing and Services for the period 1 July 1995 to 31 July 1995. (i) Concessional Rebates - Seniors Card Holders (as above). (ii) Penalties for Expired Motor Vehicle Licences (as above). (iii) Reconciliation of Licensing Systems - Concern that reconciliations of the Motor Vehicles and Motor Drivers Licensing Systems to the Government Accounting System had not been adequately undertaken.

12 December 1996 - Qualification on the Financial Statements of the Department of Transport. Penalties for Expired Motor Vehicle Licences. This qualification has been carried forward from Police Licensing and Services and appeared in the 1995-96 Annual Report for the Department of Transport.

- (2) (d) 8 January 1996 - Motor Drivers Licences were being issued at concessional rates without legislative support. The legislative amendments were prepared in April 1992 and allocated the highest priority in the Legislative programme. The legislative changes were assented to by Parliament on 27 July 1995. The recovery of Penalties for Expired Motor Vehicle Licences is required under section 18(11) of the Road Traffic Act. Prior to the receipt of a legal opinion in October 1993, the former Police Licensing and Services considered that the penalty was not due unless the vehicle was re-licensed.

5 February 1996 - The concern regarding the reconciliation of accounts is due to the inability to provide proof of the reconciliation between payment applied to the Licensing database when compared to amounts brought to account in the Government Accounting System. The databases are presently being enhanced to permit the processing of comparative reports.

12 December 1996 - Annual Audit of Accounts. (As above) In addition a concern was raised by Office of the Auditor General regarding the accrual reporting of monies held in the Suspense Account. This matter is currently receiving attention.

- (2) (e) Director General of Transport.
- (3) On receiving written advice from the Auditor General dated 8 January 1996, 5 February 1996 and 12 December 1996.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Not applicable.

#### Main Roads Western Australia

- (1)-(5) The Auditor General presented a 'Satisfactory Findings' report on the 1995/96 financial statements in Report No 10, December, 1995 and also commented on 'Use of Mobile Phones,' 'Wages System' and 'Stores Management'. In report No 2 of May 1996 is a report on 'Management of Properties acquired for Main



Roads'. In report No 9 of November 1996 is a report on 'Acquisition of the Aberdeen Hotel for the City Northern Bypass project' an unqualified audit opinion on the 1995/96 financial statements and a follow up report on 'Usage of Mobile Phones', 'Wages System' and 'Stores Management'. In addition a number of queries relating to ongoing operational issues have been received and are being dealt with and reported to the Main Roads Audit Committee which includes the Auditor General.

#### Westrail

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Western Australian Government Railways (Westrail).  
(b)-(e) On two occasions the Auditor General criticised the level of security within Westrail in respect of staff access to computer systems. The first criticism was in December 1995 concerning access available to system development staff associated with the implementation of a new financial software computer package. The responsible officer was Westrail's Project Manager in charge of implementing the new system. The second criticism was in November 1996 concerning access to the computerised financial system by staff responsible for administering the functions of the system. The responsible officer was Westrail's Manager in charge of overseeing the operation of the system. The Auditor General was satisfied that Westrail took appropriate remedial action to address the problem in both incidences.
- (3) December 1995 and November 1996.
- (4) No.
- (5) The Auditor General is an Officer responsible to the Parliament for reporting on public accountability. Accordingly, the matters were contained in the Auditor General's General Second 1995 Report and General Second 1996 Report which were tabled in Parliament in accordance with section 95 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act.

#### Dampier Port Authority

In December 1995 the Authority's purchasing policies and procedures were reviewed by the Office of the Auditor General. This noted some minor deficiencies in the Authority's documentations and practices. The Office of the Auditor General's recommendations have since been adopted. In February 1996 the Office of the Auditor General questioned a range of issues associated with a major restructure of management of the Authority carried out in 1995. The queries were handled directly by the Authority. Both of these enquiries were handled directly between the Authority and the Office of the Auditor General.

#### Port Hedland Port Authority

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Port Hedland Port Authority.  
(b) 27 December 1995 and 2 October 1996.  
(c) Performance Indicators lacked supporting working papers.  
(d) Physical calculations were not kept.  
(e) Administration Officer.
- (3) 27 December 1995 and 2 October 1996.
- (4) No.
- (5) The Auditor General is an Officer responsible to the Parliament for reporting on public accountability. Accordingly, the matters were contained in the Auditor General's General Second 1995 Report and General Second 1996 Report which were tabled in Parliament in accordance with section 95 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act.

### FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES - EMERGENCY RELIEF

#### *Increasing Need*

979. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that non-government agencies continue to report an increasing number of people are seeking emergency relief?

- (2) Does the Government intend to assess the degree to which poverty and dire financial need are increasing in Western Australia?
- (3) Has the Government undertaken such an assessment?
- (4) Will the Government undertake such an assessment?
- (5) If so, when?
- (6) If not, why not?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1)-(6) Emergency relief administered by the non-government sector is funded by the Commonwealth Government, however I am aware of reports in the press of increasing pressure on agencies administering these funds. This Government is fostering strong economic growth underpinned by the lowest unemployment rate in the nation. The level of income support for those people not in the workforce is also set by the Commonwealth Government. Information on poverty factors is already available to government through a range of publications by organisations such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Department of Social Security. I am awaiting advice from the Poverty Taskforce in relation to what further action this government might take to address poverty throughout the International Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. The final report providing recommendations is due to be delivered by the end of December 1997.

#### STATE FINANCE - STATE DEBT

##### *Statistics*

986. Mr BROWN to the Treasurer:

- (1) What was the level of State debt when the Coalition came into power in February 1993?
- (2) What was the level of State debt in November 1996?
- (3) Does the overall level of State debt cover monies owed by State Trading Authorities and/or State Corporations?
- (4) How much was owed by each of the State Trading Authority/Corporations in -
  - (a) February 1993;
  - (b) November 1996?
- (5) Was the \$900m realised from the sale of BankWest used to retire State debt?
- (6) How much was used for that purpose?
- (7) Was the \$200m received from the Commonwealth as a result of the sale of BankWest used to retire State debt?
- (8) How much was used for that purpose?
- (9) Was the sale of the Government car fleet used to reduce State debt?
- (10) How much was received from the sale of the car fleet?
- (11) How much was used to reduce State debt?
- (12) Did the overall level of State debt take into account the shortfall in the third party motor vehicle insurance fund?
- (13) Did the \$50 levy on motor vehicle registration contribute to the lowering of that debt?
- (14) How much was raised by the third party \$50 levy over the period of time it was imposed?
- (15) How much has been saved by the reduction in the overall benefit paid to people injured in motor vehicle accidents?
- (16) In terms of the Government's overall debt reduction program -
  - (a) what level of debt was repaid by the realisation of funds through the sale of State assets;

- (b) what level of debt was repaid by additional taxes and charges being imposed on taxpayers such as the \$50 levy on motor vehicle owners?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) Actual net debt figures are only compiled annually. Total public sector net debt was \$8.4 billion and \$6.3 billion at 30 June 1993 and 30 June 1996 respectively.
- (3) These figures include all public trading enterprises but do not include public financial enterprises (such as the Government Employees Superannuation Board or the State Government Insurance Commission).
- (4) Net debt as at 30 June:

Agency	1993 \$m	1996 \$m
SECWA	3,629.7	—
Western Power	—	2,118.7
AlintaGas	—	1,157.7
Westrail	696.9	852.1
Water Authority	678.9	—
Water Corporation	—	430.9
Homeswest	526.4	539.2
MetroBus	115.7	—
LandCorp	29.6	85.5
Stateships	14.6	36.1
Fremantle Port Authority	65.8	42.9
Perth Market Authority	36.0	41.3
WA Meat Marketing Corporation	10.2	—
Esperance Port Authority	8.7	10.9
Geraldton Port Authority	13.0	9.9
Bunbury Port Authority	3.5	11.2
Rottne Island Board	6.9	6.9
Agencies with financial assets greater than liabilities	(114.8)	(186.3)
Total	5,721.1	5,157.0

- (5)-(6) \$895 million of the \$900 million was applied to reduce net debt. The other \$5 million was applied to cover costs of the privatisation process.
- (7)-(8) The \$200 million was applied to reduce net debt.
- (9)-(11) To date, \$185 million has been received from the sale of motor vehicles since the new leasing arrangements were introduced. Of this, \$115.4 million has been received in respect of Consolidated Fund agencies and has been used to finance new capital works. No central record is maintained of how agencies outside the Consolidated Fund applied the proceeds from the sale of their vehicles.
- (12) No, the SGIC's Third Party Insurance Fund does not form part of the State debt.
- (13) No, because the \$50 premium increase contributed to the elimination of the deficit in the Third Party Insurance Fund.
- (14) \$158,270,843.
- (15) On the matter of the \$10,000 threshold, statistical information relating to savings on claims as a result of the 1993 threshold legislation is not maintained by the SGIC. For this type of information to be collated, a manual calculation on all 30,695 claims finalised since 1 July 1993 would be required. This would be a major and time-consuming exercise. Further complications arise as a result of Section 3T of the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act which requires the SGIC to consider not only payments incurred, but the likely cost of all outstanding active claims as well. For these reasons, figures are unable to be provided.
- (16) (a) This information is not centrally maintained and, because of the considerable research required to extract the information, I am not prepared to divert resources to undertake the work.
- (b) Nil in relation to the SGIC.

#### GOVERNMENT VEHICLES - LEASING

##### *Payments*

987. Mr BROWN to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Premier's control which leases motor vehicles, does the lease provide for any payments other than the monthly payment?

- (2) What payment does each department and agency have to make for each vehicle other than the monthly payment?
- (3) What is the total cost of those payments for each department and agency?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Other than the monthly leasing costs, the following payments are made monthly - fleet management; fuel and lubricants; vehicle registration; repairs and maintenance; vehicle services. Insurance is paid yearly.
- (3) Costs vary from month to month depending on vehicle turnover.

#### GOVERNMENT VEHICLES - LEASING

##### *Payments*

989. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control which leases motor vehicles, does the lease provide for any payments other than the monthly payment?
- (2) What payment does each department and agency have to make for each vehicle other than the monthly payment?
- (3) What is total cost of those payments for each department and agency?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Department of Resources Development

- (1) No.
- (2) Other than the monthly finance payments for leasing the vehicle itself, the Department pays -
  - management fees, including fuel and maintenance;
  - insurance; and
  - fringe benefits tax.
- (3) The total cost of payments by DRD is \$17,333 per month on average.

AlintaGas

- (1)-(3) AlintaGas does not lease its motor vehicles.

Western Power

- (1)-(3) Western Power does not lease its motor vehicles.

Office of Energy

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Cleaning, parts (tyres, etc).
- (3) Approximately \$200 - \$300 per month.

Education Department of Western Australia

- (1) Yes.
- (2) In addition to the monthly lease payments, monthly payments are made for fuel, registration, maintenance, insurance and licensing.
- (3) \$131,150 per month on average.

Department of Education Services

- (1) Yes.
- (2) In addition to the monthly lease payments, a monthly payment is made for fuel, servicing, registration and management fees.

- (3) \$1,575 per month on average.

Secondary Education Authority

- (1)-(2) In addition to the monthly financial lease payments, a monthly charge is paid to Leaseplan for fuel, servicing, registration and management fees.

- (3) \$1,793.40 per month on average.

Department of the Curriculum Council

- (1) Yes.  
 (2) Payment to Leaseplan of \$427.25 per month.  
 (3) \$427.25 per month on average.

GOVERNMENT VEHICLES - LEASING

*Payments*

1003. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control which leases motor vehicles, does the lease provide for any payments other than the monthly payment?  
 (2) What payment does each department and agency have to make for each vehicle other than the monthly payment?  
 (3) What is total cost of those payments for each department and agency?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

Department of Transport

- (1) Yes.  
 (2) Payments are made for vehicle licensing, insurance and Fringe Benefit Tax.  
 (3) \$358 882.

Main Roads Western Australia

- (1)-(2) Registration, insurance, sales tax where applicable, pre-delivery and disposal costs, purchase of accessories, fleet management charges, maintenance costs, fuel, tyres and other consumables.  
 (3) The current average monthly cost is \$100 000.

MetroBus

- (1) Yes.  
 (2) Management fee to fleet company.  
 Service and maintenance component fee to fleet company.  
 (3) Approximately \$35.00 per month comprising:

Management fee for one vehicle	\$18.90
Service and maintenance component (varies with kilometres per month)	\$16.20

EAST PERTH REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY - CHAIRMAN

*Hon Richard Lewis - Appointment*

1043. Mr McGOWAN to the Premier:

- (1) Did the Premier have any involvement in the decision to appoint Hon Richard Lewis to the East Perth Redevelopment Authority?

- (2) Did the Premier have any knowledge of the decision to appoint Hon Richard Lewis before the decision was announced?
- (3) When did the Premier obtain such knowledge?
- (4) What other public service or other Government positions does Hon Richard Lewis hold or receive remuneration for?
- (5) What are the total sums that Hon Richard Lewis is being paid by the Government and for which tasks?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) The Premier is a member of Cabinet which approved that appointment.
- (2)-(3) Yes. When the submission was put forward for Cabinet's consideration.
- (4) None.
- (5) \$24,000 Chairperson - East Perth Redevelopment Authority.

#### ROADS - KWINANA FREEWAY

##### *Traffic Lights*

1051. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the Government's time frame on removing the traffic lights from the Kwinana Freeway and installing overpasses?
- (2) Will the Government transfer the funds allocated to the freeway extension south into removing the existing traffic lights?
- (3) What is the estimated cost of removing traffic lights from the existing freeway south and installing overpasses?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) This work is outside Main Roads' 10 year program, but \$45 million for bridges at Berrigan, Forrest, Russell, Rowley, Anketell and Thomas Roads, would have been made available for these works under a proposal to accelerate the road investment program for Western Australia. As the Member now knows the recent High Court decision has meant that the Government is unable to raise road funds from the fuel franchise levy and Main Roads is looking at a range of options to enable the program to proceed.
- (2) The higher priority from the community shown by approaches to the Government is to extend the Freeway to Folly Road.
- (3) \$55 million for all bridges on the section of Freeway in question.

#### MINING - GOLD

##### *Royalty - "Revenue Threats and Opportunities" Publication*

1060. Ms ANWYL to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware of a Treasury report Revenue Threats and Opportunities or similar?
- (2) If so, when was the report generated?
- (3) If not, will the Premier make enquiries to see whether such a report exists?
- (4) Is the Premier aware of the two resolutions carried unanimously by the public meeting held with respect to the Gold Royalty?
- (5) What does the Premier propose to do about the resolutions?
- (6) Will the Premier meet with the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder to discuss the effects of the royalty?
- (7) If so, when?
- (8) If not, why not?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am advised that the report was prepared during 1996, being completed in December 1996.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Yes.
- (5)-(8) I have responded in writing to the Mayor of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, who raised the resolutions with me, explaining the reasons for the introduction of the royalty on gold and confirming the Government's commitment to consult with the industry on the structure of the royalty to minimise any adverse economic and regional impacts.

#### MINING - GOLD

##### *Royalty - "Revenue Threats and Opportunities" Publication*

1062. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of a Treasury report "Revenue Threats and Opportunities" or similar?
- (2) If so, when was the report generated?
- (3) If not, will the Minister make enquiries to see whether such a report exists?
- (4) Is the Minister aware of the two resolutions carried unanimously by the public meeting held with respect to the gold royalty?
- (5) What does the Minister propose to do about the resolutions?
- (6) Will the Minister meet with the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder to discuss the effects of the royalty?
- (7) If so, when?
- (8) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am advised that the report was prepared during 1996, being completed in December 1996.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Yes.
- (5)-(8) The Premier has responded in writing to the Mayor of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, who raised the resolutions with him, explaining the reasons for the introduction of the royalty on gold and confirming the Government's commitment to consult with the industry on the structure of the royalty to minimise any adverse economic and regional impacts. However upon request I am always willing to meet with the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

#### PASTORAL LEASES - STATISTICS

1064. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) How many pastoral leases are there in Western Australia?
- (2) What is the respective area of these leases?
- (3) Who are the lease holders?
- (4) Where leases are held in the name of a company, who are the owners and/or principal directors of those companies?
- (5) How many lease holders live on their pastoral leases?
- (6) How many leases are controlled by Western Australian people or interests?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) 563 leases which form 513 stations.
- (2)-(3) See paper No 454.
- (4) The Pastoral Board does not maintain a separate record of the current shareholders and directors of pastoral leases registered in the name of companies. As and when required this information is retrieved by the Board from the Australian Securities Commission, or, by statutory declaration made by any director, shareholder or officer of any such company upon demand by the board.
- (5) The Pastoral Board does not have statistics available to define which pastoral lessees actually reside on their leases. Many pastoral lessees appoint managers to run the station on their behalf. This information is not required by the Pastoral Board, and there is no residential clause in the conditions of a pastoral lease.
- (6) 487.

#### STATE BUDGET - ELECTION PROMISES

##### *Implementation*

1086. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) Did the Premier release a media statement on 10 April 1997 concerning the State Budget?
- (2) In that statement did the Premier say the State Budget contained \$60m as the first instalment in meeting the Coalition election promises?
- (3) Is the \$60m over and above the amount provided for in the Forward Estimates published at the time of the 1996 state election?
- (4) If not, how has the \$60m been calculated?
- (5) Did the Premier say in the media statement that the money will be split across a range of agencies, including education (\$11.8m), health (\$6.8m) and primary industry (\$6.4m)?
- (6) What other agencies have received a real increase in expenditure?
- (7) What election promises will be implemented by each agency with the additional funds provided?
- (8) How much will be allocated to meet each election promise?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) The forward estimates published at the time of the State election indicated a surplus for 1997/98 of \$60 million. This is the same amount referred to in (2).
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) Yes.
- (6)-(8) See paper No 588.

#### POLICE - DR CARMEN LAWRENCE AND HON JOHN HALDEN

##### *Media Notification of Charges*

1102. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) At what time on 21 April 1997 did the Western Australia Police Service notify the media that charges had been laid against Dr Carmen Lawrence and Hon. John Halden arising out of the Marks Royal Commission?
- (2) Were all media outlets advised at the same time?
- (3) At what time was the Police Commissioner's media statement issued?
- (4) Who drafted the Police Commissioner's media statement?



- (5) Was the statement cleared by the Director of Police Media and Public Affairs?
- (6) Who was the police spokesperson who advised the media that the penalty for the offences was 14 years?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1)-(6) This matter is currently being investigated by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations. It would be inappropriate, therefore, to comment on this matter before the matter is completed.

## POLICE - MEDIA STATEMENTS

### *Updating Information and Police Commissioner's Announcements*

1103. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) On how many occasions since the current Police Commissioner's appointment has he announced the laying of charges against any party?
- (2) On how many occasions over the last year has the Western Australia Police Service issued media statements updating the media on the status of police investigations and identifying individuals who are the subject of the investigation?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Twice.
- (2) It is not the practice of the Western Australia Police Service to issue statements to the media on on-going operational matters involving individuals, however, in these particular cases the media were quite aware of the inquiry and were continually asking as to its status following the story titled 'Lawrence may face perjury charges: police' which appeared in the Australian Financial Review on March 25, 1997. The statement released on March 25, 1997 by Assistant Commissioner Mackaay corrected the mistake that appeared in the article which inferred the Director of Public Prosecutions would decide whether charges would be pressed against Dr Lawrence. Mr Mackaay stated that the Western Australia Police Service would be the authority to prefer charges if they were to be laid and the inquiry would be completed in approximately three weeks.

## GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

### *Investment and Financial Statements*

1148. Mr PENDAL to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

- (1) Will the Premier list each Government department or agency under his control which is involved in any commercial or business venture by way of invested capital, or partnerships with the private sector on which the department/agency seeks a return?
- (2) Will the Premier indicate the level of investment in each case?
- (3) Will the Premier indicate whether such departments/agencies table their financial statements in Parliament?
- (4) If they do not, will the Premier arrange for such tabling?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Gold Corporation.
- (2)
- |                                     | Percentage | Current Estimated Level of Investment |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| Kaltails Tailings Retreatment j/v   | 10%        | \$1.6m                                |
| Perth Mint (Thailand) Limited       | 55%        | \$3.5m                                |
| Gold Corporation (Thailand) Limited | 100%       | \$1.2m                                |
| Gold Corporation (Lanka) Pty Ltd    | 50%        | \$31 000                              |
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

*Investment and Financial Statements*

1150. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

- (1) Will the Minister list each Government department or agency under his control which is involved in any commercial or business venture by way of invested capital, or partnerships with the private sector on which the department/agency seeks a return?
- (2) Will the Minister indicate the level of investment in each case?
- (3) Will the Minister indicate whether such departments/agencies table their financial statements in Parliament?
- (4) If they do not, will the Minister arrange for such tabling?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Office of Energy

- (1) The Office of Energy has no such involvement.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

AlintaGas

- (1) AlintaGas
- (2) \$12.82 million
- (3) The annual report containing financial statements is tabled in Parliament each year.
- (4) Not applicable.

Department of Resources Development

- (1)-(4) Department of Resources Development has no such ventures.

Western Power

- (1)-(4) Western Power is involved in a range of commercial transactions with the private sector in which Western Power seeks a return. The legal formalities and structures of the transactions vary, but do not generally involve share capital being acquired by Western Power or legal partnerships.

Education Department of Western Australia

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

Department of Education Services

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

Department of the Curriculum Council

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

Secondary Education Authority

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

*Investment and Financial Statements*

1151. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) Will the Minister list each Government department or agency under his control which is involved in any commercial or business venture by way of invested capital, or partnerships with the private sector on which the department/agency seeks a return?

- (2) Will the Minister indicate the level of investment in each case?
- (3) Will the Minister indicate whether such departments/agencies table their financial statements in Parliament?
- (4) If they do not, will the Minister arrange for such tabling?

Mr HOUSE replied:

#### FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

- (1)-(4) The Fisheries Department is not involved in any commercial business undertaking.

#### AGRICULTURE WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- (1)-(4) The agency has no investment powers related to invested capital (ie: shares) in the private sector. However, two former agency research stations were granted shares in a company resulting from that Company's acquisition of a dairy co-operative in which the research stations were participants. These shares are still listed as being with the agency and are reported in the agency's annual report and financial statements. Also as a part of its mission to provide research and development services to the agricultural sector, Agriculture Western Australia enters a range of joint funding partnerships with other organisations. These include Co-Operative Research Centres (CRC's) which are generally unincorporated co-operatives for which the agency makes in-kind contributions ie: staff.

#### ROADS - KWINANA FREEWAY

##### *Partial Sinking - South Perth-Como*

1169. Mr PENDAL to the Premier:

- (1) I refer to past interest in the benefits of partially sinking the Kwinana Freeway, in South Perth, as a way of retrieving foreshores lost 38 years ago and ask, will the Premier, in view of the Government's plans for Riverside Drive, request a report from the Minister for Transport on the ramifications of a partial sinking of the freeway in the area of the Milyu Nature Reserve?
- (2) Similarly, will the Premier request the Minister to consider such partial sinking of the freeway in this area, given the vast expansion in tourism accommodation along Melville Parade in the past 12 months, and given also the proximity of Perth Zoo, both locations of which can be expected to find much attraction in an expanded South Perth-Como foreshore?
- (3) Will the Premier undertake to report to Parliament on the possibilities raised in (1) and (2) above?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(3) The Minister for Transport advises that preliminary investigations indicate that lowering of the Kwinana Freeway in the area of the Milyu Nature Reserve in South Perth would require sinking of about 1.6 kilometres of the Freeway. This would cost some \$360 million and is not an option which can be economically justified in the short to medium term.

#### DRUGS - TASK FORCE ON DRUG ABUSE OFFICE

##### *Funding Allocation*

1176. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) What progress has been made by the Task Force on Drug Abuse Office in reducing alcohol and drug abuse problems in Western Australia since the release of the Task Force Report in September 1995?
- (2) What funds have been allocated to deal with alcohol and drug abuse by the Task Force Office in the current financial year?
- (3) Which agencies received these funds?
- (4) How much did each agency receive and for what specific services were these funds allocated?
- (5) What funds will be made available to each agency in 1997-98?
- (6) What impact have these newly funded services had in the community?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) The Task Force on Drug Abuse recommended a comprehensive program of action to address abuse of legal and illegal drugs in Western Australia over two to three years. It has since put into place a substantial measure of the program. Key elements have included:

- prevention programs (drug education for all schools, public education campaigns on illicit drugs, alcohol and tobacco, parent education courses);
- law enforcement (increased capacity to target drug suppliers and an Alcohol and Drug Co-ordination Unit in the Western Australia Police Service);
- expansion of services (to better meet the needs of families, youth and adults, with best practice in all services); and
- support for local community action.

Unfortunately, there is a national and international problem of increasing abuse of illicit drugs from which Western Australia is not immune. The Task Force's own assessment of trends since 1995 is as follows:

There is clearly an increase in heroin abuse following a world wide glut in heroin production. As a result the drug is more available, less expensive and of higher purity. The Task Force warned in its report at the time when no authorities were publicly anticipating the increase in heroin abuse, that there was a 'need to remain vigilant as there are anecdotal reports of a rise in use by some young people and the volume of production of raw opium, from which heroin is produced, has doubled in the last decade'.

The hallucinogenic drug LSD has made a comeback over recent years with young people reporting that it is the most used illicit drug after marijuana. The strength of this drug has also increased over the last year or so, returning to levels seen in the 1960s and 1970s.

The use of amphetamines has at least reached a plateau and there are some indications that it is in fact declining.

The drug MDMA known as ecstasy has remained, as the Task Force on Drug Abuse described it in its report a part of the illicit drug landscape. Its use has not, however, increased in the last year or two.

Marijuana use is widespread with approximately a quarter of secondary school students describing themselves as users. Use does not, however, appear to be increasing.

There has in recent years been some reduction in the rate of alcohol consumption and a substitution of lower strength beer for full strength products.

I emphasise that Western Australian trends, in illicit drug abuse particularly, are subject to the impact of trends across Australia, throughout the western world, and in much of the rest of the world as well. Western Australia may be particularly vulnerable, however, because as the Commissioner of Police pointed out recently, we are constrained by the reductions in Federal customs and law enforcement funding which make Western Australia a natural target for drug importers and dealers.

- (2)-(4) In the current financial year, the Task Force allocated the funds indicated to the following projects and programs through the agencies outlined:

Expansion of the Yirra youth program's residential treatment capacity and extension to provide outpatient treatment and family support programs (Perth City Mission)	\$64,000
Drug workers for supported youth accommodation services (Palmerston)	\$25,000
Parent Drug Information Service (Alcohol and Drug Authority)	\$31,000
Review and enhancement of individual non-government services to meet best practice (Surfacing - Collaborative Enquiry and Design)	\$48,000
Outreach service (Drug Arm)	\$16,500

Women's service (WA Council on Addictions)	\$17,500
Redevelopment of the NGO data system (WA Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies)	\$12,000
WA hosting the Australian Therapeutic Communities Conference (Palmerston)	\$3,000
Community Based Methadone Treatment program (Health Department part)	\$64,000
School Drug Education Project (Catholic Education Office on behalf of the cross sectoral project Management Group)	\$248,000
School education (Life Education)	\$45,000
Alcohol and drug coordinators in the university schools of nursing (Curtin University and Edith Cowan University)	\$38,000
Practice development project for drug abuse with Family and Children's Services (Aasha Consulting)	\$16,000
Illicit drug public education ('Drug Aware') (Health Department)	\$306,000
Community activities for 'Drug Aware' (WA Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies)	\$20,000
Central Drug Co-ordination Office (Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet)	\$466,000
Local Drug Action Groups (Nineteen established groups)	\$30,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,450,000</b>

- (5) It is anticipated that funds will be available to the agencies to continue to provide the programs that have been established.
- (6) The impact of these particular funded programs has been to:
- expand the availability of treatment and support for those people with drug problems, particularly young people and their families;
  - provide more education about drugs to young people and their families and particularly to support parents to deal with the issue;
  - provide timely and useful information to Government and its agencies addressing drug issues;
  - improve co-ordination of activity and support work across government agencies to address drug issues relevant to various fields of operation; and
  - provide support to the community to take local action, for example by developing youth activities and extending the reach of public education programs.

#### ARTS AND CULTURE - WA ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS

##### *Drama Enrolments*

1179. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the outstanding reputation the Western Australian Academy for the Performing Arts and government and independent high schools have developed in the drama field, including the recent success of Lisa McCune at the Australian Logies?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of the huge number of applications received annually from Eastern States students wishing to enrol at the Academy?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that all such inter-State students have the advantage of studying drama at TEE (or

equivalent) level as a core subject but that Western Australian high school students do not have access to it for purposes of tertiary entrance?

- (4) Does this put the Western Australian students at a disadvantage?
- (5) Is the Minister aware that in Western Australia art and music are tertiary-entrance subjects but drama is not?
- (6) Does a discrepancy exist in relation to art, music and drama?
- (7) Will the failure to classify drama as a core TEE subject have serious repercussions for the future of drama studies and teaching in Western Australia by being treated as a poor relation?
- (8) Will the Minister request the Secondary Education Authority, and the Tertiary Entrance Subjects Committee to carefully reassess the position in Western Australia to ensure that this poor relation status for drama is removed?
- (9) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. A substantial number of applications for the courses conducted by the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts are received from Eastern States students.
- (3) I am aware that each State offers drama as a subject at Year 12 level. The procedures for tertiary entrance vary from State to State. In Western Australia, the subject Drama can be included in the determination of Secondary Graduation but it is not examined in the Tertiary Entrance Examination and hence cannot be included in the Tertiary Entrance Score. For entry into TAFE, Drama can be used.
- (4) Western Australian students talented in drama and seeking entrance to tertiary studies may study Drama as a part of their program of study in Year 12. However, it cannot be used for the determination of the Tertiary Entrance Score. This would only be a disadvantage if their potential to score in Drama is greater than their actual score in the scoring subjects taken. There has been no research done on it.
- (5) Art and Music may be included in the determination of the Tertiary Entrance Score, which is the basis for university entrance, but Drama may not.
- (6) Of the three, Drama is the only one which does not have tertiary entrance examination status.
- (7) For some years it has been a concern for students wishing to study drama at a tertiary level that they have not had the opportunity to prepare at an appropriate level. I believe that this issue is now being addressed.
- (8) A request has been considered by the committees of the Secondary Education Authority for a course in Drama Studies to be developed in Year 11 and Year 12 with a view to it becoming a subject with tertiary entrance examination status. A preliminary application was endorsed at the June meeting of the Authority. The committees are now developing a drama course which will be submitted to the Curriculum Council for consideration to be included in the TEE curriculum. It is anticipated that if such a course is approved, implementation will take place in 1999 for Year 11 students, extending into Year 12 for 2000.
- (9) Not applicable.

#### STATE BUDGET - ALLOCATIONS

1180. Mr PENDAL to the Treasurer:

Will the Treasurer advise what allocation exists in the current budget for -

- (a) the Western Australian AIDS Council;
- (b) the Australian Family Planning Association (WA);
- (c) an organisation called "Women Hurt by Abortion Inc"?

Mr COURT replied:

- (a) The proposed Western Australian AIDS Council budget allocation for 1997/98 is \$1,210,000 (\$605,000 State funds and \$605,000 Commonwealth funds). This figure is still under negotiation with the Commonwealth.
- (b) The proposed Australian Family Planning Association (WA) budget allocation for 1997/98 is \$108,100

(\$88,100 State funds and \$20,000 matched State/Commonwealth funds). The matched funding agreement with the Commonwealth is still under negotiation.

- (c) Proposals are currently being considered by the Government.

#### MIGRANTS - COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

##### *Membership*

1204. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Family and Children's Services; Seniors; Women's Interests:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of any government policy encouraging people of migrant or "ethnic" background to serve on government boards and committees?
- (2) How many boards and committees within the Minister's portfolio area have members from such backgrounds?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) The "WA ONE" multicultural policy released in 1995 includes a pledge to "Encourage all Western Australians to contribute to, and participate in , all levels of public life and the decisions which directly affect them".
- (2) The Register of Boards and Committees does not include information on ethnic background.

#### MIGRANTS - COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

##### *Membership*

1215. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of any government policy encouraging people of migrant or "ethnic" background to serve on government boards and committees?
- (2) How many boards and committees within the Minister's portfolio area have members from such backgrounds?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) The "WA ONE" multicultural policy released in 1995 includes a pledge to: "Encourage all Western Australians to contribute to, and participate in, all levels of public life and the decisions which directly affect them".
- (2) The Register of Boards and Committees does not include information on ethnic background.

#### HOMESWEST - MANIANA ROAD NORTH

##### *Future Plans*

1220. Mr RIPPER to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Premier received a letter complaining that a federal member of Parliament has told a Queens Park resident that Homeswest housing on the eastern side of Maniana Road North is to be demolished to make way for a new development?
- (2) Has Homeswest provided the information to a Federal Member of Parliament which is not yet provided to Members of State Parliament or to the affected residents themselves?
- (3) What are Homeswest's plans for its properties in this street?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Homeswest has had discussions with Don Randall MP regarding Queens Park.
- (3) Homeswest holdings in Queens Park are earmarked for an Estates Improvement Program in the future. If the Member wants further information on this matter he should contact Greg Joyce, Executive Director, Homeswest for a briefing.

## EDUCATION - DEPARTMENT

*Literacy Skills Policy*

1231. Mr BAKER to the Minister for Education:

What is the Education Department's policy in respect to the responsibility of parents to assist their children in attaining acceptable literacy skills?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Education Department has no specific policy pertaining to the responsibility of parents to assist their children in attaining acceptable literacy skills. However, all literacy activities encourage collaboration with parents/caregivers, recognising that parents/caregivers can contribute significantly to supporting the attainment of acceptable literacy skills.

The draft School Education Bill, which is currently in the consultation phase, is hinged on several key philosophies, one of which being that children's best interests are served when an effective partnership exists between schools and parents. While the Bill cannot ensure the development of such partnerships, it outlines the responsibility of parents to ensure their children have the opportunity to take part in schooling. New enrolment and attendance requirements will assist schools and parents to identify if children are not attending school. Also, parents can contribute to their local school through Parents and Citizens' Associations and School Councils in government schools, and through similar structures in non-government schools.

## MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS - DRIVERS' LICENCES

*Renewal*

1258. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does the Government have any plans to change the arrangements under which car registration and/or driving licences are renewed?
- (2) Does the Government plan to give any greater period after the expiration of a licence or car registration for the new licence or registration to be paid?
- (3) If so, what criteria will be applied?
- (4) What period of time will people have to pay after the car registration or driver's licence has expired?
- (5) Will any delay in payment of the car registration after the registration has expired result in the person not being covered for third party insurance?
- (6) In what circumstances will this arise?
- (7) Will any of the changes being contemplated by the Government permit, through any delay in payment, a person/vehicle not being covered by third party insurance where the vehicle registration is renewed in the time allowed?
- (8) If so, in what circumstances?
- (9) Under the existing arrangements, how long does a person have to pay their car registration after the registration expires in order to have their registration treated as being renewed from the date it expired?
- (10) Is the person covered for third party insurance if their registration is paid within the time allowed after the expiration of the registration?
- (11) Will that be the same under the proposed arrangements?
- (12) If not, how will it differ?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) The Government is planning a range of initiatives including allowing renewals to be made over the phone using credit cards. The Government has recently strengthened follow up procedures and penalties for the late payment of vehicle registration fees and failure by the owner to return number plates for vehicles which are no longer to be registered. Under the provisions of the Road Traffic Act where a motor vehicle licence



is not renewed and the registration plates are not returned within 15 days the registered owner is liable to pay a penalty. Vehicle owners are now notified 15 days after the licence expiry of their obligation to renew the registration or return the number plates and the penalty for failure to comply. An Infringement Notice is issued, followed by a Final Demand Letter, and if the owner does not respond the matter is referred to the Fines Enforcement Registry for follow-up action.

The period allowed for payment of a registration before a vehicle is required to be presented for an inspection has been extended in some cases. The period is now two calendar months for vehicles over three years old with a Gross Vehicle Mass of 4.5 tonnes or less. Vehicles less than 4.5 tonnes which are under three years of age have up to six months to renew the registration. Vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Mass over 4.5 tonnes are allowed a period of one calendar month.

There have also been changes to the procedures for heavy vehicles associated with the introduction of the National Heavy Vehicles reforms arising from the National Road Transport Commission process. These include provisions for three month and seasonal registrations.

- (2) The Government is not intending to extend the period for the payment of drivers licences or further extend the period allowed for payment of a vehicle registration.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4),(9) Drivers Licences: A drivers licence is not valid for any period beyond the expiry date. Where a licence is paid after, but within 12 months of the expiry date, the licence is validated for the balance of the period for which the renewal would have had effect if payment had been made by the due date. If the licence has expired by more than 12 months but not more than five years, the person is required to undergo an eyesight assessment. The licence is re-issued and renewed for one or five years from the date of payment. When a licence has lapsed beyond five years a person is required to undergo all driver licensing requirements including written and practical driving tests.

Vehicle Registrations: Under Section 18 of the Road Traffic Act (1974) the owner of a vehicle may renew the registration up to six months from the expiry date provided licence fees are paid back to the date of expiry, together with any penalties imposed as a result of outstanding plate follow-up procedures. After a six month period, any application to register the vehicle is treated as a new registration. However, current departmental policy requires a vehicle to be presented for inspection prior to renewal where payment was not effected within a given period of time after the expiry date. This policy was recently reviewed and is now applied as follows:

#### Light Vehicle Registrations (Vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Mass of 4.5 Tonnes or Less)

Over Three Years Old: 'Light' vehicles over three years old are allowed a period of two calendar months for payment of the registration before the vehicle is required to undergo an inspection.

Under Three Years Old: Registration payments for these vehicles are accepted for a period of six months from the expiry date of the licence before the vehicle is required to undergo an inspection. However, the owner may elect to return the number plates, undergo examination processes and re-register the vehicle from the date of payment.

#### Heavy Vehicle Registrations (Over 4.5 Tonnes)

The period allowed for payment of a Heavy Vehicle Registration is one calendar month before the vehicle is required to undergo an inspection. The payment is renewed back to the licence expiry date in all cases unless the owner elects to return the number plates, present the vehicle for inspection and re-register from the date of payment.

- (5) Yes.
- (6),(10) The Third Party Personal Injury Insurance policy only remains in force for 15 days after the payment due by date. After that time, if the renewal has not been effected, cover will lapse and the vehicle will be uninsured for third party personal injury. Cover will re-commence effective from the date payment is made. After the 15 day period the vehicle may not be driven on a public road until the registration is renewed. However, any person injured due to negligence of a driver/owner of a Western Australian registered vehicle where the party insurance has lapsed is able to claim against the Nominal Defendant (ie. the SGIC) with the SGIC taking recovery action against the owner/driver of the uninsured vehicle for breach of warranty.
- (7) The changes being contemplated will not change the circumstances outlined in the answer to (6),(10).

- (8) Not applicable.
- (11) Yes.
- (12) Not applicable.

## RAILWAYS - SUCCESS HILL STATION

### *Security Fences*

1259. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Further to question on notice 170 of 1996, has the Minister been advised the fence on the north side of the railway line at Success Hill, from the eastern end of Railway Parade to the base of the two railway bridges crossing the Swan River, is easily breachable for a length of at least 50 metres?
- (2) If not, will the Minister make himself aware of the state of the fence?
- (3) On receipt of a report, will the Minister authorise the fence be repaired and made secure as possible?
- (4) Would it benefit public safety to prevent access at the railway bridge side to minimise or eliminate the risk of accidental injury or death?
- (5) With respect to the identified suicides on the Westrail system, can the Minister give a breakdown on the degree to which, if at all, any Coroner's findings required action to be taken by Westrail to prevent, or better prevent, access to railway lines?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1)-(4) I am advised that the 1.8 metre northern perimeter fence between the Success Hill railway station and the Swan River bridges is often damaged by persons unknown who illegally access the railway from that point. Current damage consists of broken strands of barbed wire on top of the fence and some sagging, particularly near the bridges where it is apparent that graffiti vandals climb over it to deface the underside of the bridges. Westrail is currently arranging repairs and will add barbed wire to the area of fencing near the Swan River bridges to further deter unlawful access. While it is possible to deter people from unlawfully entering railway property by the use of fencing, it will not stop people from carrying out dangerous and unlawful acts if they are determined to do so.
- (5) There has been one Coroner's finding which contained a suggestion in respect of fencing of the railway reserve. As a result of a death on the railway near Bayswater in October 1995, the Coroner made the following suggestion: "Portion of the railway reserve between Bayswater Station and Ashfield Station is unfenced.

It is suggested that consideration be given to fencing that portion of the railway reserve to reduce the access to it by pedestrians at points other than designated pedestrian crossovers". As a result of that suggestion, Westrail has undertaken to fence all unfenced locations on the suburban railway where residential development has taken place. This will result in 16 kilometres of new fencing at an estimated cost of \$350 000. The work to provide the new fencing will be completed in the 1997/98 financial year.

## FORESTS AND FORESTRY - STATE FORESTS

### *Privatisation - Study*

1270. Mr BROWN to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Has the Government given any consideration to the partial or complete sale of some or all of the State forests?
- (2) Has the Government agreed to make a contribution towards a study to be carried out by the Centre for International Economics into the privatisation of Australian forests?
- (3) Has the Government given support for such a study to be undertaken?
- (4) How much is the Government contributing towards this study?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(4) The Centre for International Economics report related to commercial plantations, not native forests. The Ministerial Council on Forestry, Fisheries and Aquaculture considered this matter but has not taken any decision to proceed with such a study.

#### POLICE - LICENSING CENTRES

##### *Closure*

1284. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Public Sector Management:

- (1) Which Police Licensing Centres are earmarked for closure?
- (2) Within what time frame will these Police Licensing Centres be closed?
- (3) How many public servants will lose their jobs as a result of further closures?
- (4) How many public service jobs have been lost since this Government came to office in 1993?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) None is earmarked for closure. The Licensing Centres in Kalamunda, Mundaring and Subiaco were closed in March 1997.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.
- (4) The number of full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) has been reduced by 48.2 from 30 June 1993 to 30 June 1997, to a total of 394.8 FTEs. This has enabled 20 officers to be transferred within the Department of Transport to perform other priority functions. In addition:
  - approximately nine employees have chosen to leave the public sector with severance or transitional payments; and
  - 19 contractors have not had their contracts renewed to accommodate the closures in Kalamunda, Mundaring and Subiaco.

#### KALGOORLIE-BOULDER TASK FORCE - REPORT

1289. Ms ANWYL to the Premier:

I refer to the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Task Force established in August 1996 following an election promise in March 1996 and ask -

- (a) when will the Task Force report;
- (b) what has the cost of the Task Force been to date and how has that been spent;
- (c) what staff have been employed or allocated to the Task Force and for what period;
- (d) how many submissions did the Task Force receive and from whom;
- (e) how many public meetings did the Task Force hold and on what dates;
- (f) did the Task Force meet with individuals or organisations and, if so, on what dates;
- (g) what implementation strategy is anticipated after the report is available; and
- (h) will the Minister table all correspondence generated by the Task Force?

Mr COURT replied:

- (a) The Task Force reported on Tuesday 29 July 1997.
- (b) Costs associated with the Task Force are estimated to be \$3000. Most of the cost was linked to travel and accommodation expenses incurred by the Executive Officer.
- (c) Peter Rowe, Policy Coordinator attached to the office of the Minister for Mines; Works; Services and Minister assisting the Minister for Justice provided executive support to the Task Force for the duration.

(d) 9 submissions were received:

Rachel Page	Regional Coordinator, Alcohol and Drug Authority
Rosa Lincoln	Childrens Studies - Edith Cowan University
Megan Anwyl MLA	Goldfields Drug Action Group
John Davey	Coordinator, Holyoake Goldfields
Lorraine Phillips	Chairperson, Domestic Violence Action Group of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Ros Fahey & Mara Richards	Health Department of Western Australia
Carolyn Knop	Secretary, Goldfields Mental Health Action Group inc
Kathleen Stanick	Senior Counsellor, Stanick Industrial and Personal Counselling Services
Malcolm Sims	President, Isolated Childrens Hostel

(e) Public Meetings were held on the following dates:

17th September 1996  
23rd October 1996  
18th November 1996

(f) The Task Force met with a number of different individuals and community groups on or around the dates the public meetings were held, refer to (e).

(g) Government Departments and Agencies are currently examining the Task Force Report for ways in which the Reports recommendations can be implemented.

(h) If requested correspondence generated by the Task Force will be tabled.

#### COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - ENERGY

##### *Membership*

1308. Dr CONSTABLE to the to the Minister for Energy:

Further to the Minister's answer to question on notice 28 of 1997, who are the members of the following boards, when and for what period were the members appointed, what remuneration is paid to each member and, where appropriate, who are the Government appointees -

- (a) Western Power;
- (b) AlintaGas Board of Directors;
- (c) The Gas Pipeline Steering Committee?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (a) Western Power Board of Directors:
 

M H Macpherson	Chairman
H I Stebbins	Deputy Chairman
D R Eiszele	Managing Director
D A Smetana	Director
C A Devitt	Director
B P Flanagan	Director
I K Warner	Director

Name	Starts	Current Appointment	Concludes	Fee \$ per annum
M H Macpherson	1.1.95		31.12.97	70,000
H I Stebbins	1.1.96		31.12.98	30,000
D A Smetana	1.1.97		31.12.99	30,000
C A Devitt	1.1.97		31.12.99	30,000
B P Flanagan	1.1.96		31.12.97	30,000
I K Warner	1.1.95		31.12.97	30,000
D R Eiszele*				

\* D R Eiszele is a Director by virtue of his position as Managing Director of Western Power and does not receive any Director's fees in addition to his remuneration as Managing Director.

Non-Executive Directors are appointed by the Governor upon the nomination of the Minister.

There are no public servants appointed to the Western Power Board.

(b) AlintaGas Board of Directors

Name	Starts	Current Appointment	Concludes	Fee \$ per annum
Ian Baker	15.12.94		31.12.97	70,000
Stuart Hohnen	1.1.96		31.12.98	30,000
Dwane Buckland	1.1.96		31.12.98	30,000
Prof H Y Izan	1.1.97		31.12.99	30,000
John Shawley	1.1.97		31.12.99	30,000
Phil Harvey*	1.1.97		31.12.99	*

\* Phil Harvey is a Director by virtue of his position as Chief Executive Officer of AlintaGas and does not receive any Director's fees in addition to his remuneration as CEO.

There are no Public Servants appointed to the Board.

(c) Gas Pipeline Sale Steering Committee membership:

Ian Baker	Chairperson, AlintaGas Board of Directors
John Shawley	Director, AlintaGas Board of Directors
John Langoulant	Under Treasurer
Dr Les Farrant	Coordinator, Office of Energy
Dr Des Kelly	CEO, Department of Resources Development

Appointed by the Minister for Energy with the approval of Cabinet with effect from 12 August 1996. Appointment was for 18 months with an extension of a further 6 months being at the discretion of the Minister. Any further extension would require referral back to Cabinet.

Mr Shawley is paid \$3,000 per month for his participation on the committee. The others receive no payment for participation on the committee.

#### SCHOOLS - CROSSING GUARDS

##### *Suitability*

1316. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Are crossing guards outside schools employed by, or on behalf of, the Education Department?
- (2) If yes to (1) above, what, if any, checks are made before employment to determine whether a crossing guard is suitable to work with children?
- (3) If no to (1) above, who employs them?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) School crossing guards are employed by the Police Service's Schools' Crossings Section on behalf of the Education Department.
- (2) A criminal computer system check is carried out by the Police Service to determine a prospective crossing guard's suitability for employment.
- (3) Not applicable.

#### EDUCATION - PORT HEDLAND DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE

##### *Changes*

1320. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Education.

- (1) Is the Government considering changes to the District Education Office in Port Hedland?
- (2) If yes to (1) above -
  - (a) what changes are being considered;
  - (b) when will the changes be introduced;
  - (c) what will be the effect of the changes on the jobs of the people employed in the current office;
  - (d) what will be the cost of the changes being introduced;
  - (e) for what reason are the changes being introduced; and
  - (f) when will the changes be implemented?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) (a) Karratha and Hedland Education Districts are to be amalgamated to form the Pilbara Education District, managed from Karratha by a District Director.
- (b) The changes were announced by the Minister for Education on 28 May 1997. District Directors will be appointed on 1 August 1997.
- (c) How these changes will affect staff in the current Hedland office will not be known until the new Director, advised by a district management group made up of local school principals, determines the staffing needs to support the Pilbara schools. It is anticipated, however, that the Hedland office will be retained and that there will be significant support provided from there to schools in the area.
- (d) Changes will be cost neutral.
- (e) The changes are part of the improvement program which builds on the Education Department's current programs and initiatives. The improvement program supports the Department's objective of moving the focus of education provision to the local level. The new District Directors will allow an increasing number of decisions to be made locally and the new district structures will allow departmental initiatives to be delivered at the district level.
- Staff in the Pilbara will benefit from the professional interaction of the combined offices and schools in the area will be supported by an integrated team able to draw from a greater breadth of expertise.
- (f) The new district structure will begin operating on 1 January 1998.

## POLICE - STATIONS

*Statistics*

1332. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Police:

With regard to Police Stations in the State electorates of -

- (a) Albany;
- (b) Avon;
- (c) Bunbury;
- (d) Burrup;
- (e) Collie;
- (f) Dawesville;
- (g) Eyre;
- (h) Geraldton;
- (i) Greenough;
- (j) Kalgoorlie;
- (k) Kimberley;
- (l) Mandurah;
- (m) Merredin;
- (n) Mitchell;
- (o) Moore;
- (p) Murray-Wellington;
- (q) Ningaloo;
- (r) Pilbara;
- (s) Roe;
- (t) Vasse;
- (u) Wagin;
- (v) Warren-Blackwood,

- (i) where are the Police Stations located within each electorate;
- (ii) what is the current staffing level at each of those stations;
- (iii) which of these stations are open 24 hours;
- (iv) what hours do those stations that are not open 24 hours operate;
- (v) what amount of overtime has been allocated for staff at each station;
- (vi) what areas do each of these stations cover;
- (vii) what is the capital works program planned for each station over the next three years?

Mr DAY replied:

To provide a detailed response to question on notice 1332 would require an extensive allocation of time and resources and I am not prepared to authorise the resources for this request. In addition, Police Station boundaries are not aligned to State Electoral Boundaries and, as such, a listing of stations in each State Electorate would not provide a proper representation of police presence. Staffing levels are subject to operational requirements and vary to meet needs as they arise within each Police District. Similarly overtime is provided to meet overall operational needs of a Region than Districts of Police Stations, as their individual requirements are not constant. Should the member for Burrup request information of a non general nature, I would be happy to provide a response.

#### TRANSPORT - DEPARTMENT

##### *Statistics*

1336. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

With regard to the Department of Transport's presence in the State electorates of -

- (a) Albany;
- (b) Avon;
- (c) Bunbury;
- (d) Burrup;
- (e) Collie;
- (f) Dawesville;
- (g) Eyre;
- (h) Geraldton;
- (i) Greenough;
- (j) Kalgoorlie;
- (k) Kimberley;
- (l) Mandurah;
- (m) Merredin;
- (n) Mitchell;
- (o) Moore;
- (p) Murray-Wellington;
- (q) Ningaloo;
- (r) Pilbara;
- (s) Roe;
- (t) Vasse;
- (u) Wagin,

- (i) where are the Department of Transport offices located;
- (ii) how many Department of Transport employees are based at each of these offices;
- (iii) which of these offices has the facility to inspect vehicles for registration and roadworthiness?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a) Albany
  - (i) The office is located in Albany.
  - (ii) The office employs 11.5 staff.
  - (iii) The office has the facility to inspect vehicles.
- (b) Avon
  - (i) The office is located in Northam.
  - (ii) The office employs 5 clerical staff.
  - (iii) The Licensing Branch has no facility to inspect vehicles. However along with the Shire of Northam there are a number of agents who carry out licensing transactions on behalf of the Department of Transport. There are 10 authorised inspection stations in the Avon district contracted to inspect vehicles for licensing purposes.
- (c) Bunbury
  - (i) The office is located in Bunbury.
  - (ii) The Branch employs 13 staff.
  - (iii) The centre has the facility to inspect vehicles.
- (d) Burrup
  - (i) The office is located in Karratha.

- (ii) The Branch employs 7.5 staff.
  - (iii) The centre has no facility to inspect vehicles. However, there are 11 authorised vehicle inspection stations in the area contracted to inspect vehicles for licensing purposes.
- (e) Collie
  - (i) The office is located in Collie.
  - (ii) The Branch employs 2 staff.
  - (iii) The office has no facility to inspect vehicles. There are 9 authorised vehicle inspection stations in the Collie district contracted to carry out vehicle inspections for licensing purposes.
- (f) Dawesville

There is no DOT office located in Dawesville. The nearest office is in Mandurah.
- (g) Eyre
  - (i) The office for Eyre is located at Norseman.
  - (ii) The office is in the local Police Station and employs 1 staff member.
  - (iii) The office has no facility to inspect vehicles. There are 4 authorised inspection stations in the district of Eyre contracted to carry out vehicle inspections for licensing purposes.
- (h) Geraldton
  - (i) The office is located in Geraldton.
  - (ii) The Branch employs 10 staff members.
  - (iii) The office has vehicle inspection facilities.
- (i) Greenough

The nearest office to Greenough is Geraldton.
- (j) Kalgoorlie
  - (i) The office for Kalgoorlie is located in Boulder.
  - (ii) The office employs 7 staff members.
  - (iii) The Branch has facilities to inspect vehicles. The vehicle inspector only inspects heavy goods vehicles. The Kalgoorlie area contains 8 authorised vehicle inspection stations, which are contracted to inspect motor vehicles for roadworthiness prior to the vehicle being licensed.
- (k) Kimberley
  - (i) The office for the Kimberley is located in Broome.
  - (ii) The office employs 1 staff member.
  - (iii) There is no Department of Transport Licensing Branch in the Kimberley district. However there are a number of agents in the Kimberley district who carry out licensing transactions on behalf of the Department of Transport. There are 14 authorised vehicle inspection stations in the district of Kimberley contracted to carry out vehicle inspections for licensing purposes.
- (l) Mandurah
  - (i) The office is located in Mandurah.
  - (ii) The Branch employs 12 staff members.
  - (iii) The Branch has the facilities to inspect vehicles.
- (m) Merredin
  - (i) The office is located in Merredin.
  - (ii) The branch employs 2 staff members.
  - (iii) The office has no facility to inspect vehicles however, there are 16 authorised vehicle inspection centres in the Merredin area which are contracted to inspect vehicles for roadworthiness prior to the vehicle being licensed.
- (n) Mitchell
  - (i) The office for Mitchell is located in Bunbury.
  - (ii)-(iii) Please refer to the information provided for Bunbury.
- (o) Moore
  - (i) There are no Department of Transport offices in the district of Moore.
  - (ii) Not applicable.



- (iii) There are a number of agents in the Moore district, where Licence renewals can be paid along with other licensing transactions. These agents include certain Police Stations and Shire offices throughout the district. Vehicle inspections are carried out by authorised inspection stations, contracted to carry out vehicle inspections. There are 17 authorised inspection stations in the Moore district.
- (p) Murray - Wellington
  - (i) There are no Department of Transport offices located in the Murray - Wellington district.
  - (ii) Not applicable.
  - (iii) There are a number of agents in the Murray - Wellington district, where licence renewals can be paid along with other licensing transactions. These agents include certain Police Stations and Shire Offices. Vehicle inspections can be carried out at the Pinjarra Police Station where a Department of Transport vehicle inspector is located. There are 3 authorised inspection stations contracted to carry out vehicle inspections located in the Murray - Wellington district.
- (q) Ningaloo
  - (i) There are no Department of Transport offices located in the Ningaloo district.
  - (ii) Not applicable.
  - (iii) There a number of agents in the Ningaloo district where licensing renewals can be paid along with other licensing transactions. There are 13 authorised inspection stations located in the Ningaloo district where vehicles can be inspected for licensing purposes.
- (r) Pilbara
  - (i) The Department of Transport office for the Pilbara district is located in South Hedland.
  - (ii) The branch employs 3 staff members.
  - (iii) The office has vehicle inspection facilities. Along with this service there are 2 authorised vehicle inspection stations contracted to inspect vehicles in the Pilbara district located in Karratha. There a number of agents in the Pilbara district where licensing transactions can be carried out.
- (s) Roe
  - (i) The Department of Transport office for the district of Roe is located in Esperance.
  - (ii) The Esperance Licensing Branch employs 3 staff members.
  - (iii) The office has vehicle inspection facilities. Along with this service there are 9 authorised vehicle inspection stations in the Roe District contracted to inspect vehicles. There are a number of agents located in the Roe district where licensing transactions can be carried out.
- (t) Vasse
  - (i) There is no Department of Transport office located in the district of Vasse. However licensing transactions can be carried out at the Busselton Police Station.
  - (ii) The Department of Transport employs 1 vehicle inspector.
  - (iii) The Department of Transport has facilities to inspect vehicles at the Busselton Police Station. Along with this service there are a number of agents in the district of Vasse who carry out licensing transactions. There is 1 authorised vehicle inspection station in the district contracted to inspect vehicles.
- (u) Wagin
  - (i) The Department of Transport office in the district of Wagin is located in Narrogin.
  - (ii) The Branch employs 4 staff members.
  - (iii) The office has no vehicle inspection facilities. Along with the Narrogin office there are a number of agents in the Wagin area who carry out licensing transactions. There are 10 authorised vehicle inspection stations in the Wagin district contracted to carry out vehicle inspections for licensing purposes.

#### ENVIRONMENT - FLY-ASH

##### *Burswood Island*

1343. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Energy:

Will the Minister table the 1993 report titled "East Perth Power Station Burswood Island Ash Deposit Site Investigation"?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The report was commissioned by Western Power and the Corporation has advised that it would prefer that it be treated in confidence. The report's conclusions were not conclusive and could be misleading if parts of the report are commented upon in isolation or deliberately taken out of context. Western Power has agreed to provide the Member with a detailed briefing on this matter including conclusions on investigations that have occurred after the report in question was undertaken.

#### TRANSPORT - DEPARTMENT

##### *Mott McDonald Report - Review*

1347. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Department of Transport reviewed the Mott McDonald report commissioned by Main Roads for the northern city bypass?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If so, what were their comments?
- (4) Have vehicle emission rates been understated in the Mott McDonald report through the use of peak traffic flow of 8 per cent of daily traffic volume instead of the more accepted figure of 10 per cent?
- (5) Is the Minister aware of any reports that have assessed the potential impact of PM10's from the traffic using stage 2 of the northern city bypass?
- (6) If so, what reports have been reviewed?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) No.
- (2) Main Roads and the Department of Environmental Protection are the Government agencies responsible for establishing the air quality standards for the City Northern Bypass Project.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The Mott McDonald report is a planning study which was issued to tenderers for information. The study indicated to tenderers that ventilation shafts may be necessary to meet the required standards. The contractor is required to design the tunnel ventilation system to meet the Main Roads/Department of Environmental Protection standards for air quality throughout the day using currently accepted traffic flow figures and emission rates.
- (5) No.
- (6) Not applicable.

#### GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYER ORGANISATIONS

##### *Details*

1350. Mr KOBELKE to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies within the Premier's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, or any other employer organisations or bodies established or controlled by an employer organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -
  - (a) the department or agency involved;
  - (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
  - (c) a description of the purpose for the contract, grant or secondment; and
  - (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) As a result of a recent request for quotation an order was placed on the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 9 June 1997 for it to develop and present a Managerial skills course to

Ministerial Office staff. The tendered price is \$3,000. The Chamber was awarded the business as being the lowest quote submitted and offering best value for money. There is no record of any other contract, grant or secondment having been entered into between the Office of State Administration and the Chamber during the period.

The ministry's systems are such that a specific name or creditor's reference is required for a successful search of data for other organisations and, as such, it is not possible to readily determine possible involvement of any other employer organisation or bodies established or controlled by an employer organisation. Ministry records reveal that \$1,059 has been paid to the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry since July 1995 for publications such as the WA Economic Review, Resource and Energy Projects, Trade Talk Newsletter and attendance at various events such as Federal Budget Night Dinners.

No other departments or agencies within the Premier's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, or any other employer organisations or bodies established or controlled by an employer organisation.

#### GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYER ORGANISATIONS

##### *Details*

1352. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies within the Minister's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, or any other employer organisations or bodies established or controlled by an employer organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -
  - (a) the department or agency involved;
  - (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
  - (c) a description of the purpose for the contract, grant or secondment; and
  - (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mr BARNETT replied:

AlintaGas

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

Office of Energy

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

Western Power

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

Department of Resources Development

- (1) The Department of Resources Development has let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and other employer organisations or bodies established or controlled by an employer organisation.
- (2)

Recipient (b)	Description/Purpose (c)	Value (d)
Kwinana Chamber of Commerce	Sponsorship fee for the "1995 Directions for Industry Conference"	\$10 000
Chamber of Mines and Energy	Sponsorship of Minerals and Energy Week 1995	\$10 000

Chamber of Mines and Energy	Sponsorship of Minerals and Energy Week 1997	\$30 000
Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Grant to the Industrial Supplies Office of WA for the 1995-96 financial year. The ISO (WA) assists local suppliers of goods and services to obtain business from the various development projects in the State. The Government's local content policy particularly recommends the services of the ISO (WA) to developers and the supplier of goods and services	\$290 000
Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Grant to the Industrial Supplies Office of WA for the 1996-97 financial year	\$340 000
Kwinana Industries Council	Contribution to the southern Metropolitan Coastal Waters Study	\$2 500

#### Education Department of Western Australia

- (1)-(2) The Education Department has not let any contracts or secondments to the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, or any other employer organisations or bodies established or controlled by an employer Organisation. It has, however, provided the following grants:

Organisation	Description	Date Paid	Amount
Chamber of Minerals and Energy	97/1 Grant (a)	28/05/97	\$20 000
	96/97 Grant (b)	12/12/96	\$15 000
Industry Commission	1997 Grant (c)	22/05/97	\$14 991

(a) 1997 annual grant to support a program of Teacher seminars.  
(b) 1996 annual grant to support a program of Teacher seminars.  
(c) Consultancy to Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision to develop a plan to establish equivalences between existing State and Territory tests.

#### Department of Education Services

- (1) No.  
(2) Not applicable.

#### Curriculum Council of Western Australia

- (1) No.  
(2) Not applicable.

### GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYER ORGANISATIONS

#### *Details*

1353. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies within the Minister's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, or any other employer organisations or bodies established or controlled by an employer organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -
- (a) the department or agency involved;  
(b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;  
(c) a description of the purpose for the contract, grant or secondment; and  
(d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mr HOUSE replied:

Agriculture Western Australia/Fisheries Department:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

#### GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYER ORGANISATIONS

##### *Details*

1354. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for the Environment; Employment and Training:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies within the Minister's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, or any other employer organisations or bodies established or controlled by an employer organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -
  - (a) the department or agency involved;
  - (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
  - (c) a description of the purpose for the contract, grant or secondment; and
  - (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

Perth Zoo

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable

Department of Environmental Protection

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

Kings Park and Botanical Garden

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

Conservation and Land Management

- (1) Yes.
- (2)
  - (a) Department of Conservation and Land Management
  - (b) WA Chamber of Commerce, Australian Institute of Management and Chambers of Commerce in various towns throughout the State.
  - (c) Provision of training courses.
  - (d) Total \$21 432

Western Australian Department of Training

- (1) Yes
- (2)
  - (i)
    - (a) South Metropolitan College of TAFE
    - (b) Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI)
    - (c) Secondment of staff member to CCI to assist with delivery of metals skills shortage program
    - (d) Nil - the salary costs for the secondment are paid by CCI.
  - (ii)
    - (a) Department of Training
    - (b) CCI
    - (c) Priority Skills Enhancement Program under a tender arrangement; on the job training for trainees; skills centre capital funding from ANTA
    - (d) \$203,000, \$53,000, and \$1.2 million respectively

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYER ORGANISATIONS

*Details*

1369. Mr KOBELKE to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies within the Minister's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, or any other employer organisations or bodies established or controlled by an employer organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -
  - (a) the department or agency involved;
  - (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
  - (c) a description of the purpose for the contract, grant or secondment; and
  - (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYEE ORGANISATIONS

*Details*

1372. Mr KOBELKE to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies, within the Premier's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Trades and Labour Council, or any union or bodies established or controlled by an employee organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -
  - (a) the department or agency involved;
  - (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
  - (c) a description of the purpose of the contract, grant or secondment;
  - (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) There is no record of any contract, grant or secondment having been entered into between the Office of State Administration and the Western Australian Trades and Labour Council during the period. The ministry's systems are such that a specific name or creditor's reference is required for a successful search of data for other organisations. As such, it is not possible to readily determine possible involvement of any other union or bodies established or controlled by an employee organisation. No other departments or agencies within the Premier's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Trades and Labour Council, or any union or bodies established or controlled by an employee organisation.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYEE ORGANISATIONS

*Details*

1374. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies, within the Minister's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Trades and Labour Council, or any union or bodies established or controlled by an employee organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -

- (a) the department or agency involved;
- (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
- (c) a description of the purpose of the contract, grant or secondment;
- (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mr BARNETT replied:

AlintaGas

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

Office of Energy

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

Department of Resources Development

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

Western Power

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

Education Department of Western Australia

- (1)-(2) The Education Department has not let any contracts or secondments to the Western Australian Trades and Labour Council, or any union or bodies established or controlled by an employee organisation. It has, however, made a number of grants. Please refer to tabled paper.

Department of Education Services

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

Curriculum Council of Western Australia

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

## GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYEE ORGANISATIONS

### *Details*

1375. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies, within the Minister's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Trades and Labour Council, or any union or bodies established or controlled by an employee organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -
  - (a) the department or agency involved;
  - (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
  - (c) a description of the purpose of the contract, grant or secondment;
  - (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mr HOUSE replied:

Agriculture Western Australia/Fisheries Department:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYEE ORGANISATIONS

*Details*

1387. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Police; Emergency Services:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies, within the Minister's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Trades and Labour Council, or any union or bodies established or controlled by an employee organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -
  - (a) the department or agency involved;
  - (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
  - (c) a description of the purpose of the contract, grant or secondment;
  - (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mr DAY replied:

Western Australia Police Service

- (1) Yes.
- (2)
  - (a) The Western Australia Police Service
  - (b) The Western Australian Police Union of Workers (Inc)
  - (c) To fill the position of President of the Union.
  - (d) No direct costs to the Western Australia Police Service. All costs/wages of the secondment are being met by the Union.

Bush Fires Board

- (1)-(2) Nil.

Fire & Rescue

- (1)-(2) Nil.

State Emergency Service

- (1)-(2) Nil

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYEE ORGANISATIONS

*Details*

1388. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies, within the Minister's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Trades and Labour Council, or any union or bodies established or controlled by an employee organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -
  - (a) the department or agency involved;
  - (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
  - (c) a description of the purpose of the contract, grant or secondment;
  - (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?



Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister has provided the following reply -

ArtsWA

- (1) Yes, Grant.
- (2)
  - (a) ArtsWA.
  - (b) Australian Writers Guild & Stages
  - (c)
 

.	\$2,000 grant - three professional development courses for writers
.	\$1,740 Advance Level Workshop for Playwrights with writer/director Jenny Kemp
.	\$66,000 progress of activities and support and development for playwrights
  - (d) a total of \$69,740.

Library and Information Service of WA

- (1) Yes.
- (2)
  - (a) Library and Information Service of Western Australia.
  - (b) Leah Proud.
  - (c) Twelve month secondment to CPSU/CSA as an industrial organiser, from 27.12.1996 to 26.12.1997.
  - (d) Nil value or cost.

Art Gallery of Western Australia

- (1) The Art Gallery of Western Australia has not let or made any contracts, grants or secondments since 1 July 1995 with the Western Australian Trades and Labor Council or any union or bodies established or controlled by an employee organisation.
- (2) Not applicable.

Perth Theatre Trust

- (1) Not applicable.

Western Australian Museum

- (1) Not applicable.

Screen West

- (1) Not applicable.

#### GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYEE ORGANISATIONS

##### *Details*

1391. Mr KOBELKE to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies, within the Minister's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Trades and Labour Council, or any union or bodies established or controlled by an employee organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -
  - (a) the department or agency involved;
  - (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
  - (c) a description of the purpose of the contract, grant or secondment;
  - (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1) No.  
 (2) Not applicable.

FORESTS AND FORESTRY - BUNNINGS FOREST PRODUCTS PTY LTD

*Contracts*

1397. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) How many contracts does the Department of Conservation and Land Management have with the company Bunnings Forest Products Pty Ltd for -  
 (a) logging of State native forests;  
 (b) transport of logs from State native forests?
- (2) What is the financial value of each of these contracts?
- (3) Are the contracts limited by -  
 (a) time;  
 (b) volume of timber extracted;  
 (c) area of forest logged?
- (4) When did these contracts start and when are they due to expire?
- (5) What is the quantity of logs felled by Bunnings Forest Products Pty Ltd -  
 (a) by volume;  
 (b) as a percentage of total timber extracted from State native forests under contract to the Department of Conservation and Land Management?
- (6) Does the Department of Conservation and Land Management hold contracts for logging or transport of logs from State native forests with any company owned by Wesfarmers Bunnings Ltd other than Bunnings Forest Products Pty Ltd?
- (7) If yes, what are the names of the companies and what is the quantity of logs felled or transported by these companies as a percentage of total timber extracted from State native forests under contract to the Department of Conservation and Land Management?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) (a) Five.  
 (b) Same as (a) above. The contracts include logging and transport of logs.
- (2) Contract rates are indexed each six months. For the purposes of providing a financial value, the value shown is the value paid under the contract for the last complete financial year the contract operated.

Contract 89/H5	\$3 290 588	(1996/97)
Contract 89/H12	\$9 099 373	(1996/97)
Contract 89/K3	\$24 722	(1994/95)
Contract 89/J6	\$2 500 047	(1996/97)
Contract 96/H3	\$910 480	(November 1996- June 1997 Contract commenced November 1996)

- (3) (a)-(b) Yes.  
 (c) Controlled by geographical area.

	Commence	Expire
Contract 89/H5	1 November 1989	31 October 1997
Contract 89/H12	1 January 1990	31 December 1997
Contract 89/K3	1 January 1990	31 December 1997
Contract 89/J6	1 November 1989	31 October 1997
Contract 96/H3	1 November 1996	31 December 2001

- (5) (a) 619 689.16 cubic metres in 1996/97  
 (b) 42%
- (6) No.
- (7) Not applicable.

## EDUCATION - MIGRANT CHILDREN

*Courses and Programs*

1408. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Education:

What funds have been allocated within the State education budget to meet the needs of migrant children of non-English speaking background in the following areas -

- (a) vocational education courses which meet the specific needs of the above group;
- (b) counselling and support programs for those children who have been subject to torture and trauma?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Children and youth from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds attending government preprimary, primary or secondary schools and who are survivors of torture and trauma have access to student support services according to need. These services include Welfare Officers, School Psychologists, School Nurses and Youth Education Officers. The Education Department, through referral processes, utilises the services of the Association for the Services of Torture and Trauma Survivors (ASeTTs) to support students deemed to be seriously at risk of not fulfilling their educational potential because of past experiences of torture and/or trauma.

## EDUCATION - ANTI-RACISM MESSAGE

*Budget Allocation*

1409. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is there any specific budget allocation for the Education Department's anti-racism message, mentioned in its "Strategic Plan" in the Future Directions statement?
- (2) If so, what is it?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The Draft Plan for Government School Education 1998-2000 contains the following statement in its Future Directions section: "Our students will develop an acceptance of people of varying backgrounds, beliefs and lifestyles, and have a sense of community responsibility, including a respect for law and the rights of others. They will develop an appreciation of heritage and tradition as well as an openness to change and will exercise effective judgement in moral and ethical matters."

A budget has been allocated to the newly formed Curriculum Council. This body is responsible for the development of the Curriculum Framework which will be adopted across all school sectors in Western Australia. The Curriculum Framework has been written and developed in line with the message contained in the extract above. Government schools are allocated budgets through their School Grants which enable them to plan for and develop a curriculum in keeping with the Curriculum Framework and its anti-racist statements.

The budget allocations to the Curriculum Council and to schools will provide access for teachers to professional development which will enable them to implement the relevant curriculum.

## LEGAL AID - FUNDING

*Commonwealth Cuts - Services Curtailed*

1422. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Has the Legal Aid Commission made an assessment of the services it will have to curtail or cease as a result of the drop in funding to Legal Aid?
- (2) What services will have to be cut?
- (3) What services will have to be curtailed?
- (4) To what extent will the services that have to be cut or curtailed affect the community's access to justice?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply:

- (1) Agreement was reached with the Commonwealth on 4 July 1997 with Commonwealth funding of \$8.25m on an annualised basis for Commonwealth matters. The Agreement is for a period of six months to 31 December 1997 during which time Western Australia will continue to negotiate with the Commonwealth on a new arrangement to operate from 1 January 1998 based on a purchaser/provider model. In addition to the Commonwealth funds, the State is providing 12 months funding of \$8.253m to cover State matters. These funds will be supplemented by the Legal Aid Commission's revenue from other sources to the extent of approximately \$1.3m.

The Commonwealth and State funding ensures that the Legal Aid Commission has sufficient funds to maintain services at normal levels for at least nine months. The State Government is examining the necessity for supplementary funding to assure the Commission's activities for the full financial year of 1997/98.

- (2)-(4) In the current circumstances no services will have to be cut. The fifteen contract staff contracted to 30 September 1997 have had their contracts extended to 31 December 1997. Extensions beyond that date will be reviewed in the light of any supplementary funding approved before the end of December 1997.

#### AGRICULTURE - MIDLAND SALEYARDS

##### *Slaughter of Newly Born Lambs*

1425. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of recent publicity about the slaughter of newly born lambs at the Midland saleyards?
- (2) Is the Minister also aware of calls made by the RSPCA for the Government to introduce new legislation which provides proper care and management for animals in Western Australia, including the transportation of livestock for sale, slaughter and export?
- (3) Does the Minister intend to introduce legislation this year?
- (4) If so, when?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1)-(5) Yes. Approval has been given for an Animal Welfare Bill to be drafted and introduced to Parliament in the autumn session of 1998.

#### GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CODE OF CONDUCT

##### *Implementation*

1426. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Public Sector Management:

- (1) Has the Government set a date, or target date or deadline, by which all departments and agencies are required to develop and implement a code of conduct under the Public Sector Management Act 1994?
- (2) If so, what is that date, target date or deadline?
- (3) If not, when does the Government expect departments and agencies to develop and implement a code of conduct?
- (4) Do departments and agencies have to report to the Minister or the Minister responsible for the department or agency on the progress they are making on the development and implementation of the code of conduct?
- (5) If so, is such a report required on an annual or more frequent basis?
- (6) If not, why not?
- (7) Will the Government require departments and agencies to report in their annual report -
  - (a) whether a code of conduct has been developed and implemented;
  - (b) compliance with the code of conduct?

- (8) If not, why not?
- (9) Have the following departments and agencies developed a code of conduct -
  - (a) Ministry of Justice;
  - (b) Tourism Commission?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) No. Assistance to public sector bodies to develop codes of conduct is the responsibility of the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards. The Commissioner has advised there is an expectation that public sector bodies will develop codes of conduct consistent with the Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics, which became operative on 1 July, 1996. The Commissioner's office has conducted training workshops for staff of departments and agencies to assist in the development of codes of conduct. Most agencies have had staff participate in these workshops and, with the assistance of the Commissioner, have commenced work on their codes.
- (2) The Commissioner expects approximately 40 public sector bodies to finish their codes of conduct by 30 June, 1997, with a further 40 by the end of 1997.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The Commissioner has advised that, under section 31 of the Public Sector Management Act, chief executive officers and chief employees must include in their annual report, statements as to the extent of compliance with the Public Sector Standards in Human Resources Management, the Code of Ethics and, where applicable the code of conduct. In addition, comment will be made by the Commissioner in his Annual Compliance Report to Parliament about progress by public sector bodies toward development of their codes of conduct.
- (5) Answered by (4).
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) Answered by (4).
- (8) Not applicable.
- (9) The Commissioner has advised that:
  - (a) A code covering all divisions of the Ministry has not been developed. Due to the size and functions of the Ministry, the Director General of the Ministry of Justice intends to develop separate codes of conduct for prisons, courts and juvenile justice. Work is underway to develop the codes for the prisons and juvenile justice.
  - (b) The Tourism Commission is well advanced in the development of its code of conduct.

#### CORONER'S OFFICE - INQUIRIES

##### *Suicides*

1429. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many coronial inquiries have been held in the last three years in connection with identified suicides on the Westrail system?
- (2) Have any of the coronial inquiries made recommendations on improving the system?
- (3) What recommendations have been made?
- (4) What action has the Government taken on implementing the recommendations?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) In the last three years, Coronal inquiries into deaths on the Westrail system have identified ten cases where death was due to suicide.
- (2) The Coroner did not, in any of the ten cases where death was due to suicide, make any recommendations on improving the system.

(3)-(4) Not applicable.

SCHOOLS - AIRCONDITIONING

*Government Funding*

1430. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How much has been set aside in the 1997-98 education budget to provide air cooling or air conditioning for schools?
- (2) What schools will be provided with air conditioning or air cooling?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) An amount of \$300,000 has been allocated in the 1997/98 capital works program to provide air-cooling in demountable and transportable classrooms in schools. In addition, an amount of \$200,000 has been allocated to enable each Education Support School to provide air-cooling in two classrooms.
- (2) It is planned to install air-cooling in the demountable and transportable classrooms in schools located in the Manjimup, Albany and Esperance Education Districts before the end of this year. Funding will be allocated to the following Education Support Schools later this year to enable air-cooling to be installed in two classrooms in each school:

Buckland Hill School  
Burbridge School  
Carson Street School  
Castlereagh School  
College Row School (Bunbury)  
Durham Road School  
Gladys Newton School  
Holland Street School (Geraldton)  
Kenwick School  
Kim Beazley School  
Malibu School  
Sir David Brand School  
South Kensington School

TAXATION - FEDERAL

*Submission - Availability*

1434. Mr BROWN to the Treasurer:

- (1) Further to question on notice No. 191 of 1997, has the Government kept a copy of the Joint States and Territories Submission to the National Commission of Audit in May 1996?
- (2) If so, is a copy of that submission publicly available?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)-(3) The submission is not publicly available. Requests for copies have, in the past, been referred to the Commonwealth Department of Finance although I understand that the member has been unable to obtain a copy through these channels. I am prepared to make a copy of the submission available to the member.

TOURISM - FREMANTLE

*Tourist Information Centre*

1436. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Further to question on notice No. 593 of 1997, have any funds been set aside in the 1997-98 Budget to provide for the establishment of a Tourist Information Centre in Fremantle?
- (2) If so, how much has been set aside?
- (3) From which Budget item are the funds drawn?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1) The Fremantle City Council has sub-contracted the operation of a Visitor Information Centre to a company which is part of the Ridgeside Corporation, trading as the Fremantle Tourist Bureau. The WATC does not have funds set aside to fund the Visitor Information Centre directly, although it receives WATC monies indirectly via the Fremantle Tourism Association (FTA).

The body recognised for funding purposes in the Fremantle area is the FTA, which under the terms of its Agreement with the WATC receives up to \$45 000 for three key activities namely, the production of a regional guide, the maintenance of a database and, a development project designed to enhance the visitor's experience to Fremantle. The Tourism Commission understands that the Fremantle Tourism Association was intending to sub-contract the maintenance of the database to the Fremantle Tourist Bureau, however progress with respect to this issue has been temporarily halted and the WATC is awaiting advice from the FTA.

- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

### SCHOOLS - FACILITIES

#### *Upgrading - Budget Allocation*

1440. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) In the 1997-98 State Budget how much has been set aside for upgrading school facilities?  
 (2) What amount was set aside for this purpose in the 1996-97 Budget?  
 (3) What school facilities will be upgraded this year?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) An amount of \$78.003 million has been allocated in the 1997/98 capital works program to upgrade facilities in schools.  
 (2) The corresponding amount allocated in the 1996/97 capital works program for this purpose was \$77.005 million.  
 (3) The facilities to be upgraded in schools during 1997/98 include:
- major additions;
  - alterations and additions;
  - administration upgrades;
  - toilet upgrades;
  - communication upgrades;
  - computers in schools;
  - library resource centres;
  - covered assembly areas;
  - pre-primary facilities;
  - asbestos-cement roof removal;
  - air-cooling of transportable classrooms;
  - security alarm systems;
  - automatic reticulation;
  - ground development;
  - sewer connections.

### POLICE - CRIME REPORTING

#### *Study*

1455. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Has the Minister and/or the Commissioner for Police stated publicly that more crimes are likely to be reported this year as police are more accessible?  
 (2) If not, has a similar statement been made by either the Minister or Commissioner?  
 (3) What is that statement?  
 (4) Has there been an examination, study or survey that reveals that crimes previously unreported are now being reported?

(5) When was that study, survey or report prepared?

(6) Who prepared the report?

Mr DAY replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) There is a view that when people have more faith and confidence in their Police Service, and when police officers become more accessible, people are more willing to report crime and that can lead to a greater incidence of reported crimes. It is not that there is more crime, but there is more reported crime.

(4) There have been irregular surveys conducted which measure the rate of non-reporting of various offence types. The most recent of these were in 1993 and 1995.

(5) 1993 and 1995.

(6) Australian Bureau of Statistics.

#### FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES - POVERTY TASK FORCE

##### *Report*

1462. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

(1) Has the Minister received a report from the Poverty Task Force established by the Government last year?

(2) Did the report contain recommendations?

(3) How many recommendations did the report contain?

(4) What were the recommendations?

(5) What action has the Government taken to implement the recommendations?

(6) Does the Government intend to implement the recommendations?

(7) If so, when?

Mrs PARKER replied:

(1) Yes, an Interim Report in October 1996.

(2) Yes.

(3) The Interim Report contained 7 recommendations.

(4) The recommendations are as follows:

- That the Hon Minister for Family and Children's Services advise the Shadow Minister for Family and Children's Services of the role of the Taskforce.
- That the long term approach to alleviating poverty be strongly encouraged through adequate resourcing to develop a long term action plan, bipartisan support and a commitment by the community as a whole to alleviating poverty.
- That a comprehensive review of Family and Children's Services' programs related to assisting people in poverty be undertaken in collaboration with WACOSS and other key stakeholders.
- That AlintaGas be encouraged to offer a rebate on the supply charge to people on low incomes.
- That Western Power be encouraged to increase its 'Power Assist Scheme' to ensure assistance is provided to people in need and that the level of funds be increased over the winter months to assist with higher power costs at that time of the year.
- That, in recognition of DSS being the national coordinator of IYEP, the Taskforce discuss with DSS the possible impact of its policies on the provision of State services.
- That market research be undertaken to determine the community's attitude and perception of



poverty, and develop themes and proposals for the community education campaign. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the campaign would be essential.

(5) The following action on recommendations has been taken:

- the Shadow Minister for Family and Children's Services has been sent copies of the Interim Report and associated correspondence.
- research has been commissioned by Family and Children's Services and resources allocated to enable the Taskforce to meet on a regular basis.
- \$600,000 has been committed over the term of this Government to progress the recommendations of the Poverty Taskforce.
- discussions have occurred with the Chief Executive Officers of Western Power and AlintaGas and the Taskforce.

(6)-(7) The Taskforce has been asked to present a final report by 31 December 1997. Further action will be considered when this report has been received.

#### TOURISM - ELLE RACING

##### *Adrienne Cahalan - Reinstatement*

1469. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware of an article that appeared in *The West Australian* on 8 February 1997 which reported the Premier as demanding the reinstatement of disgruntled Elle racing skipper Adrienne Cahalan?
- (2) Did the Premier make that demand or a demand of a similar nature?
- (3) If so, what was the exact nature of the demand?
- (4) If the Premier did not make any demand of that or a similar nature, did the Premier have any discussions about Adrienne Cahalan being reinstated by the yachting syndicate?
- (5) Who did the Premier discuss the matters with?
- (6) What position did the Premier take in those discussions?
- (7) How many separate discussions were there?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Yes.
- (5)-(7) I contacted Shane Crockett on two occasions regarding Adrienne Cahalan. One occasion was when Mr Crockett was in Europe and I indicated that in my opinion, Adrienne was one of the few female skippers in Australia who could undertake the demanding task. The other occasion occurred on January 17th, 1997 and I again indicated my concern that Adrienne was no longer with the syndicate, but Shane Crockett and I agreed that the issue was up to Mr. Harvey to manage, as he was the Manager of the syndicate.

#### GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CONTRACTS

##### *Payment Details*

1472. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

- (1) In the month of April 1997, how much was paid to companies and individuals that have contracts (other than employment contracts) with each department and agency under the Minister's control?
- (2) What was the total number of payments made?
- (3) How much was paid to each company and individual?

- (4) What is the name of each company and individual that received a payment?
- (5) What was the purpose of the payment?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(5) The information requested by the member for Morley is not stored centrally and would require the diversion of resources in every agency for a significant period of time and at considerable cost. The Government already publishes periodic reports on the extent of contracting throughout the Western Australian public sector and work is progressing well on the identification of a suitable system to make purchasing and contract data publicly available through some form of electronic bulletin board. I am therefore not prepared to commit additional resources at this time, to produce such specific data which would be of questionable value.

#### GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CONTRACTS

##### *Payment Details*

1473. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) In the month of April 1997, how much was paid to companies and individuals that have contracts (other than employment contracts) with each department and agency under the Minister's control?
- (2) What was the total number of payments made?
- (3) How much was paid to each company and individual?
- (4) What is the name of each company and individual that received a payment?
- (5) What was the purpose of the payment?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1)-(5) The information requested by the member for Morley is not stored centrally and would require the diversion of resources in every agency for a significant period of time and at considerable cost. The Government already publishes periodic reports on the extent of contracting throughout the Western Australian public sector and work is progressing well on the identification of a suitable system to make purchasing and contract data publicly available through some form of electronic bulletin board. I am therefore not prepared to commit additional resources at this time, to produce such specific data which would be of questionable value.

#### GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CONTRACTS

##### *Payment Details*

1484. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) In the month of April 1997, how much was paid to companies and individuals that have contracts (other than employment contracts) with each department and agency under the Minister's control?
- (2) What was the total number of payments made?
- (3) How much was paid to each company and individual?
- (4) What is the name of each company and individual that received a payment?
- (5) What was the purpose of the payment?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Mines has provided the following response:

- (1)-(5) The information requested by the member for Morley is not stored centrally and would require the diversion of resources in every agency for a significant period of time and at considerable cost. The Government already publishes periodic reports on the extent of contracting throughout the Western Australian public sector and work is progressing well on the identification of a suitable system to make purchasing and contract data publicly available through some form of electronic bulletin board. I am therefore not prepared to commit additional resources at this time, to produce such specific data which would be of questionable value.

## GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CONTRACTS

*Payment Details*

1486. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) In the month of April 1997, how much was paid to companies and individuals that have contracts (other than employment contracts) with each department and agency under the Minister's control?
- (2) What was the total number of payments made?
- (3) How much was paid to each company and individual?
- (4) What is the name of each company and individual that received a payment?
- (5) What was the purpose of the payment?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister has provided the following reply:

## ArtsWA

- (1) \$2,871 was paid other than payment for the normal purchase of goods and services through State Supply panel contracts.
- (2) 2.
- (3)

Newshound	\$1341.00
Maggie Baxter	\$1530.00
- (4)

Newshound	
Maggie Baxter	
- (5)

Newshound	-	for new and media information
Maggie Baxter	-	to engage private sector funds and sponsorship support for Public Art

## Library and Information Service of WA

- (1) \$558,218.06
- (2) 54
- (3)

Intercity Cleaning Services	11,735.42
Strand Cleaning Services	200.00
FAL Security	4,576.66
Security Locker Services	4,941.00
Digital	1,594.00
Memorex Telex	218.35
Hermes Precisa Australia	3,627.00
Academic Book Centre	5,449.46
Australian Large Print	47,016.64
Brodart	113,197.78
Child Education Services	49,554.30
Coutts	9,792.15
James Bennett	5,205.82
JMLS	147,704.98
Marcom	1,826.02
Masons	59,046.79
Blackwells	4,538.85
Everetts	2,308.61
Westbooks	85,684.23
- (4)

Intercity Cleaning Services
Strand Cleaning Services
FAL Security
Security Locker Services
Digital
Memorex Telex
Hermes Precisa Australia
Academic Book Centre
Australian Large Print
Brodart
Child Education Services

Coutts  
James Bennett  
JMLS  
Marcom  
Masons  
Blackwells  
Everetts  
Westbooks

- |     |                             |                               |
|-----|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (5) | Intercity Cleaning Services | Cleaning                      |
|     | Strand Cleaning Services    | Alexander Library Building    |
|     | FAL Security                | Cleaning                      |
|     | Security Locker Services    | Dianella Respository          |
|     | Digital                     | Security Services             |
|     | Memorex Telex               | Provision of locker service   |
|     | Hermes Precisa Australia    | Computer maintenance contract |
|     | Academic Book Centre        | Computer maintenance contract |
|     | Australian Large Print      | Office equipment contract     |
|     | Brodart                     | Library Acquisitions          |
|     | Child Education Services    | Library Acquisitions          |
|     | Coutts                      | Library Acquisitions          |
|     | James Bennett               | Library Acquisitions          |
|     | JMLS                        | Library Acquisitions          |
|     | Marcom                      | Library Acquisitions          |
|     | Masons                      | Library Acquisitions          |
|     | Blackwells                  | Library Acquisitions          |
|     | Everetts                    | Library Acquisitions          |
|     | Westbooks                   | Library Acquisitions          |

#### Art Gallery of Western Australia

- (1) In April 1997, apart from payments for routine purchases, the Art Gallery paid \$106,403.59 to companies and individuals that have contracts (other than employment contracts) with the Gallery.
- (2) The total number of payments made was 19.
- |     |   |             |
|-----|---|-------------|
| (3) | Coltton Property Services               | \$7,579.51  |
|     | Chubb Security Australia                | \$50,972.58 |
|     | Winthrop Technology                     | \$4,405.00  |
|     | Radio 94.5                              | \$7,500.00  |
|     | Triple M 96.1                           | \$ 900.00   |
|     | Barretts Carpets                        | \$6,603.00  |
|     | X Press Magazine                        | \$2,625.00  |
|     | Comswest                                | \$6,580.00  |
|     | Media Decisions                         | \$7,656.00  |
|     | Bellevue Monumental Works               | \$3,240.00  |
|     | Totally Confidential Records Management | \$1,842.50  |
|     | Management consultancy Centre for       |             |
|     | Continuous Improvement                  | \$2,300.00  |
|     | Interactive Video Systems               | \$4,200.00  |
- (4) Coltton Property Services  
Chubb Security Australia  
Winthrop Technology  
Radio 94.5  
Triple M 96.1  
Barretts Carpets  
X Press Magazine  
Comswest  
Media Decisions  
Bellevue Monumental Works  
Totally Confidential Records Management  
Centre for Continuous Improvement  
Interactive Video Systems
- |     |                           |  |
|-----|---------------------------|--|
| (5) | Coltton Property Services | Cleaning services provided to AGWA.            |
|     | Chubb Security Australia  | Security/Attendant services provided to AGWA   |
|     | Winthrop Technology       | Network support and help desk services         |
|     | Radio 94.5                | Radio advertising of gallery exhibitions       |
|     | Triple M 96.1             | Radio advertising of gallery exhibitions       |
|     | Barretts Carpets          | (Replacement of carpet in Admin)               |
|     | X Press Magazine          | (Newspaper advertising of gallery exhibitions) |
|     | Comswest -                | PABX consultancy                               |

Media Decisions	Newspaper advertising of gallery exhibitions
Bellevue Monumental Works	Manufacturing of base for sculpture
Totally Confidential Records Management	Progress payment for Records
Centre for Continuous Improvement	Strategic Planning workshops
Interactive Video Systems	Supply & installation of a closed circuit camera

## Perth Theatre Trust

- (1) \$21 468.03
- (2) Eleven
- (3)
- |                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Digital Equipment   | \$4393.71 |
| Schindler Lifts     | \$380.61  |
| Chubb Security      | \$3890.40 |
| CNL Cleaning        | \$3039.26 |
| Jani King           | \$1672.00 |
| Intercity Cleaning  | \$5224.00 |
| Printek Maintenance | \$2868.00 |
- (4)
- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Digital Equipment   |  |
| Schindler Lifts     |  |
| Chubb Security      |  |
| CNL Cleaning        |  |
| Jani King           |  |
| Intereity Cleaning  |  |
| Printek Maintenance |  |
- (5)
- |                     |                                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Digital Equipment   | Computer system maintenance     |
| Schindler Lifts     | Lift Maintenance                |
| Chubb Security      | Building patrol services        |
| CNL Cleaning        | Combined Venues Cleaning        |
| Jani King           | His Majesty's Theatre Cleaning  |
| Intercity Cleaning  | Perth Concert Hall Cleaning     |
| Printek Maintenance | BOCS Ticket Printer Maintenance |

## Western Australian Museum

- (1) \$34,668
- (2) 41
- (3)
- |                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Burke Refrigeration    | \$68.00     |
| Transfield Maintenance | \$1614.00   |
| Winthrop Technology    | \$100,50.00 |
| P & O Facilities       | \$8,842.00  |
| Mayne Nickless         | \$565.00    |
| Chubb Security         | \$8,279.00  |
| Read Media             | \$5,250.00  |
- (4)
- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Burke Refrigeration    |  |
| Transfield Maintenance |  |
| Winthrop Technology    |  |
| P & O Facilities       |  |
| Mayne Nickless         |  |
| Chubb Security         |  |
| Read Media             |  |
- (5)
- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Burke Refrigeration    | Plant Maintenance                        |
| Transfield Maintenance | Plant Maintenance                        |
| Winthrop Technology    | Computer Consultancy                     |
| P & O Facilities       | Plant Maintenance                        |
| Mayne Nickless         | Courier Services                         |
| Chubb Security         | Security System Monitoring & Maintenance |
| Read Media             | Media Liaison                            |

## Screen West

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - APPROPRIATIONS

*Payment*

1494. Dr GALLOP to the Treasurer:

- (1) Has Treasury changed the way appropriations are paid to Government agencies?
- (2) Is the money now forwarded fortnightly instead of quarterly?
- (3) If yes -
  - (a) how many agencies are paid in this way;
  - (b) what are the agencies concerned;
  - (c) what is the reason for the change?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) It has changed from 1 July 1997.
- (2) Yes, in most cases, money will be forwarded on a fortnightly basis unless special circumstances apply.
- (3)
  - (a) 105 agencies
  - (b) Aboriginal Affairs  
Agriculture  
Agriculture Protection Board  
Art Gallery of Western Australia  
Bunbury Port Authority  
Bush Fires Board  
Chemistry Centre (WA)  
Commerce and Trade  
Commissioner for Equal Opportunity  
Commissioner of Workplace Agreements  
Conservation and Land Management  
Country High School Hostels Authority  
Culture and the Arts  
Dampier Port Authority  
Department of Curriculum Council  
Disability Services Commission  
Education  
Education Services  
Electricity Corporation  
Environmental Protection  
Esperance Port Authority  
Executive Council  
Fair Trading  
Family and Children's Services  
Fisheries  
Fremantle Port Authority  
Gascoyne Development Commission  
Geraldton Port Authority  
Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission  
Governor's Establishment  
Great Southern Development Commission  
Health  
Heritage Council of Western Australia  
Joint House Committee  
Joint Library Committee  
Joint Printing Committee  
Justice  
Kimberley Development Commission  
King's Park Board  
Land Administration  
Law Reform Commission  
Legislative Assembly  
Legislative Council  
Library Board of Western Australia  
Local Government  
Main Roads  
Mid West Development Commission  
Minerals and Energy  
Minerals and Energy Research Inst of WA  
National Trust of Australia (Western Australia)  
Office of Energy

Office of Multicultural Interests  
 Office of Racing, Gaming and Liquor  
 Office of Seniors' Interests  
 Office of the Auditor General  
 Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions  
 Office of the Information Commissioner  
 Office of Water Regulation  
 Parliamentary Commissioner for Admin Investigations  
 Peel Development Commission  
 Perth International Centre for Application of Solar Energy  
 Perth Theatre Trust  
 Pilbara Development Commission  
 Planning  
 Police  
 Port Hedland Port Authority  
 Premier and Cabinet  
 Productivity and Labour Relations  
 Public Sector Standards Commission  
 Recreation Camps and Reserves Board  
 Registrar, WA Industrial Relations Commission  
 Resources Development  
 Rottnest Island Authority  
 Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation of WA  
 Rural Housing Authority  
 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal  
 Secondary Education Authority  
 Small Business Development Corporation  
 South West Development Commission  
 Sport and Recreation  
 State Government Insurance Commission  
 State Revenue  
 State Supply Commission  
 Subiaco Redevelopment Authority  
 Swan River Trust  
 Transport  
 Treasury  
 Valuer General's Office  
 WA Building Management Authority  
 WA Coastal Shipping Commission  
 WA Government Railways Commission  
 Water and Rivers Commission  
 Water Corporation of Western Australia  
 Western Australian Department of Training  
 Western Australian Electoral Commission  
 Western Australian Land Authority  
 Western Australian Museum  
 Western Australian Planning Commission  
 Western Australian Sports Centre Trust  
 Western Australian State Emergency Service  
 Western Australian Tourism Commission  
 Wheatbelt Development Commission  
 Women's Policy Development Office  
 WorkSafe Western Australia  
 Zoological Gardens Board

(c) as part of the Government's ongoing reform of the public sector financial system, agencies:

- now operate their own bank accounts and trust accounts;
- have their own financial management information systems; and
- have the ability to produce their own cheques and electronic transfers.

The devolution of these activities is consistent with the Government's objectives of providing more responsibility for agencies to manage their own financial affairs and to be more accountable for their financial operations.

#### SCHOOLS - PORT HEDLAND

##### *Gardeners - Training*

1516. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Have additional resources been allocated to train gardeners in the schools in the Port Hedland area in the use of reticulation systems?

- (2) If so -
- (a) which schools received additional resources;
  - (b) on what dates were the additional resources allocated;
  - (c) how much was allocated to each school;
  - (d) for what particular purpose was the allocation made;
  - (e) for what period were the additional resources made available;
  - (f) what form have the additional resources taken?
- (3) If not, when will additional resources be allocated?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)
- (a) Hedland Senior High School, Port Hedland Primary School, Baler Primary School, Cooke Point Primary School, South Hedland Primary School and Cassia Primary School.
  - (b) 10 June 1996 to 14 June 1996, 15 August 1996, 23 August 1996 and 13 September 1996.
  - (c) Sufficient time was allocated to each school to enable the gardeners to become competent in the management of watering and turfgrass cultivation.
  - (d) To ensure the gardeners could use their irrigation systems efficiently and maintain their turfgrass to a standard required by the Department.
  - (e) Refer to (2)(b).
  - (f) Formal gardener training seminars held on 13 and 14 June 1996, on watering and turfgrass management and on site training at each school.
- (3) Not applicable.

#### SCHOOLS - PORT HEDLAND

##### *Gardeners - Training*

1517. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Have additional resources been allocated to train gardeners in the schools in the Port Hedland area in general oval maintenance?
- (2) If so -
- (a) which schools received additional resources,
  - (b) on what dates were the additional resources allocated,
  - (c) how much was allocated to each school,
  - (d) for what particular purpose was the allocation made,
  - (e) for what period were the additional resources made available,
  - (f) what form have the additional resources taken?
- (3) If not, when will additional resources be allocated?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)
- (a) Hedland Senior High School, Port Hedland Primary School, Baler Primary School, Cooke Point Primary School, South Hedland Primary School and Cassia Primary School.
  - (b) 10 June 1996 to 14 June 1996, 15 August 1996, 23 August 1996 and 13 September 1996.
  - (c) Sufficient time was allocated to each school to enable the gardeners to become competent in the management of watering and turfgrass cultivation.
  - (d) To ensure the gardeners could use their irrigation systems efficiently and maintain their turfgrass to a standard required by the Department.
  - (e) Refer to (2)(b).
  - (f) Formal gardener training seminars held on 13 and 14 June 1996, on watering and turfgrass management and on site training at each school.



- (3) Not applicable.

#### MINING - GARDEN ISLAND

##### *Exploration Licence*

1518. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Will the Government allow or assist any company to obtain a mining exploration licence over Garden Island?
- (2) Will the Government withdraw any support or encouragement given to the Commonwealth in this matter?
- (3) Will the Government rule out ever permitting mining exploration for lime sand on Garden Island?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Mines has provided the following response:

- (1)-(3) There are no current applications for Exploration Licences over Garden Island. Any future applications will be processed in accordance with the Mining Act and referred to the responsible commonwealth authorities. Any application would be judged on its merits but could not be granted without commonwealth approval.

#### ENVIRONMENT - REVIEWS

##### *Legality*

1523. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Are conditions imposed on proponents by the Minister pursuant to section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, legally binding on proponents?
- (2) Are commitments made by proponents in consultative environmental reviews, public environmental reviews and environmental review and management plans legally binding on proponents?
- (3) If yes, who enforces the conditions?
- (4) Are management plans for -
  - (a) State forest and timber reserves; and
  - (b) nature reserves, national parks and conservation parks, legally binding on the Department of Conservation and Land Management?
- (5) If yes, who has responsibility for ensuring CALM complies with the management plans?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) See section 47(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986.
- (2) See answer to (1).
- (3) See section 48 of the Environmental Protection Act.
- (4)-(5) Aspects of these legal issues are addressed in the decision of the Full Court of the Supreme Court on 17 June 1997 in the case of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Friends of the Forest v. Executive Director of CALM.

#### GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - COMSWEST AND PACIFIC STAR COMMUNICATIONS PTY LTD

##### *Obligations*

1529. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Government entered into an agreement with Pacific Star Communications Pty Ltd and ComsWest Pty Ltd in relation to telecommunication services for the State?
- (2) Under the terms of the contract, does ComsWest and Pacific Star Communications Pty Ltd have a series or number of obligations?
- (3) Does the contract provide that ComsWest Pty Ltd and/or Pacific Star Communications Pty Ltd are required to report on their obligations under the contract?
- (4) Have reports been prepared by -

- (a) Pacific Star Communications Pty Ltd; and/or
  - (b) ComsWest Pty Ltd?
- (5) What are the nature of the reports that have been provided by ComsWest and/or Pacific Star Communications?
  - (6) Have the reports been examined by the Government's contract manager?
  - (7) Under the terms of the contract, how frequently are each of these reports required to be produced?
  - (8) Is ComsWest or Pacific Star Communications required to report on certain areas of performance?
  - (9) What areas of performance are each required to report on?
  - (10) Have reports on each of those areas been provided?
  - (11) If so, when (specify dates)?
  - (12) Is ComsWest or Pacific Star Communications required to report to the State Supply Commission?
  - (13) What is the nature of the report or reports required to be provided?
  - (14) Have such reports been provided?
  - (15) When were the reports provided?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(4) Yes.
- (5) A range of reports, both formal and informal, including monthly business reports and briefings.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) ComsWest are required to provide regular monthly reports. In addition regular contract management meetings are held.
- (8) Yes.
- (9) Agreed performance indicators for the Telecommunications Manager.
- (10) Yes.
- (11) They are incorporated into regular monthly business reports.
- (12) The contract provides for reports to the State Supply Commission to be provided as required from time to time.
- (13) As required from time to time by the State Supply Commission.
- (14) No. The State Supply Commission did not request such reports as it had delegated the management of the Contract to the Public Sector Management Office and subsequently to the Department of Contract and Management Services from 9 January 1997.
- (15) Not applicable.

#### SEWERAGE - INFILL PROGRAM

##### *Coolbellup*

1541. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) When will the suburb of Coolbellup be scheduled for infill sewerage works?
- (2) Given the suburbs proximity to Bibra Lake and North Lake why is Coolbellup not scheduled for infill sewerage works before the end of 1999?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Work commenced on Infill Sewerage projects in the suburb of Coolbellup in 1995/96 and is anticipated to be completed in 2002/2003.
- (2) Not applicable, see (1).

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS - COMSWEST

*Contract - Termination*

1543. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware of the State telecommunications management contract that the Government has entered into with Pacific Star Communications Pty Ltd and ComsWest Pty Ltd?
- (2) Is the Premier aware whether ComsWest was required to procure a business venture in mobile communications under the telecommunications contract the State Government has with ComsWest in conjunction with Telecom New Zealand International Limited?
- (3) Is the Premier aware of the current null-operating status of that venture?
- (4) Given that the venture was not successfully managed by ComsWest, will the Premier now call for a termination of the ComsWest contract on the grounds that ComsWest is in contravention of section 25.3(e) of the telecommunications contract in abandoning this venture?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am aware that Pacific Star Communications Pty Ltd was required to establish a mobile communications venture in WA.
- (3) Pacific Star Mobile has an office on the 31st floor of St Martins Tower, 44 St Georges Terrace and has a sales outlet operating from 125 St Georges Terrace. The business employs more than 43 people in WA.
- (4) Not applicable.

## FORESTS AND FORESTRY - GNANGARA PLANTATIONS

*Timber Production*

1546. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) What is the current annual rate of production from the Gngangara Plantations?
- (2) What is the expected production life from these plantations?
- (3) What is the estimated total production from existing plantings at the Gngangara Plantations?
- (4) What are the existing annual production requirements to meet contractual obligations for the supply of timber from these plantations?
- (5) What is the total timber production which need to be met from these plantations to meet all existing contracts?
- (6) What is the total projected production of timber from these plantations which has yet to be contracted for sale?
- (7) Is the Government considering offering timber from the Gngangara Plantations to a new operator with the potential to establish a new mill or specialised plant to utilise the timber from Gngangara?
- (8) If so, then what details can the Government give with respect to the possibility of such a new mill or plant to add value to the timber production from the Gngangara Plantations?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

To answer these questions it has been assumed that the 'Gngangara Plantations' refer to the State-owned plantations, stretching from immediately north of Gngangara Road to proposed Wilbinga Nature Reserve. These formally include Gngangara, Pinjar and Yanchep plantations.

- (1) Approximately 127 000 cubic metres. This quantity will vary from year to year.
- (2) It is planned to progressively clear fell the 'Gngangara plantations' over a period of twenty (20) years in order to establish the Gngangara Regional Park.
- (3) The quantity of timber to be produced from the 'Gngangara plantations' over the next twenty (20) years will be determined by the forest management regimes applied. Quantity can be significantly influenced by the

timing of clear felling, the timing and intensity of thinning, and the level of fertilisation. A range of options is currently being considered.

- (4) Contractual obligations are not linked to specific plantations. Current plans include the annual supply of 97 000 cubic metres under State Agreements (balance from other CALM-managed plantations) and 30 000 cubic metres under contracts of sale from the Swan Supply Cell (includes other plantations near Perth).
- (5) From 1 July 1997 until their expiry date, the total supply to the three (3) contracts of sale is 160 000 cubic metres. If they are extended for an additional five (5) years, the total supply will be 310 000 cubic metres. The total quantity of production required to meet State Agreement obligations will be sourced from the entire CALM-managed plantation resource. Plans for supply to meet these requirements will vary from year to year, and, as a consequence, so will the quantity of timber supplied from the 'Gnangara plantations'.
- (6) See answer for (3).
- (7)-(8) This is one option available to develop a market for future timber from plantations being established under the State Salinity Strategy but precise information is not available yet as discussions are at a preliminary stage.

#### GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - EMPLOYEES

##### *Number and Conditions of Employment*

1549. Mr KOBELKE to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

For all departments and agencies within the Premier's portfolios, what are -

- (a) the total number of employees;
- (b) the number of these employees who were employed on a workplace agreement;
- (c) the number of these employees who were employed on an enterprise agreement;
- (d) the number of these employees who were employed under an industrial award; and
- (e) the number of these employees who were employed under some form of contract not included in the above?

Mr COURT replied:

For the departments and agencies that are paid from the payroll administered by the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet the following refers as at 23 June 1997:

AGENCY	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet	841	460	333	240	24
Treasury	174	141	32	-	1
Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations	26	-	-	24	2
Office of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner	34	30	1	2	1
Anti-Corruption Commission	17	1	-	15	1
Salaries and Allowances Tribunal	2	2	-	-	-
Governor's Establishment	24	8	6	10	-
Gold Corporation (as at 30/6/97)	251	49	8	36	158
Office of the Auditor General (as at 15/7/97)	115	44	64	-	7
Treasury Corporation (as at 30/6/97)	45	-	-	-	45

## GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - EMPLOYEES

*Number and Conditions of Employment*

1551. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

For all departments and agencies within the Minister's portfolios, what are -

- (a) the total number of employees;
- (b) the number of these employees who were employed on a workplace agreement;
- (c) the number of these employees who were employed on an enterprise agreement;
- (d) the number of these employees who were employed under an industrial award; and
- (e) the number of these employees who were employed under some form of contract not included in the above?

Mr BARNETT replied:

## AlintaGas

- (a) 581
- (b) 132
- (c) 0
- (d) 322
- (e) 127

## Department of Resources Development

- (a) 96
- (b) 79
- (c) 17
- (d)-(e) 0

## Office of Energy

- (a) 78
- (b) 66
- (c) 12
- (d)-(e) Not applicable.

## Western Power

- (a) 3441
- (b) Nil.
- (c) 3360
- (d) 3360
- (e) 81

## Education Department of Western Australia

- (a) 30,817
- (b) 2,095
- (c) 25,765
- (d) 28,722
- (e) Nil.

## Department of Education Services

- (a) 24
- (b) 21
- (c) 2
- (d) 3
- (e) Nil.

## Curriculum Council of Western Australia

- (a) 63
- (b) 49
- (c) 6
- (d) 13
- (e) 1

Note: Employees who are employed under an industrial award include those employed under an enterprise agreement which is supplementary to, not in place of, the award.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - EMPLOYEES

*Number and Conditions of Employment*

1552. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

For all departments and agencies within the Minister's portfolios, what are -

- (a) the total number of employees;
- (b) the number of these employees who were employed on a workplace agreement;
- (c) the number of these employees who were employed on an enterprise agreement;
- (d) the number of these employees who were employed under an industrial award; and
- (e) the number of these employees who were employed under some form of contract not included in the above?

Mr HOUSE replied:

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

- (a) For the week ending 12 June 1997, the Fisheries Department had 328.6 full time, part time and casual employees.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) 327.6
- (d) 328.6
- (e) 110 Fisheries Department staff are employed under fixed term contract arrangements.

AGRICULTURE WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- (a) For the week ending 11 July 1997, Agriculture Western Australia has 1759 full time, part time and casual employees.
- (b) 14.
- (c) 1745 are employed under Agriculture Western Australia's Enterprise Agreement 1995 (EBA).
- (d) All Agriculture Western Australia's employees employed prior to the introduction of the Workplace Agreement Act 1993, were covered by their relevant award.
- (e) Nil. All contract Agriculture Western Australia employees were employed under the provisions of a relevant award and the EBA.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - EMPLOYEES

*Number and Conditions of Employment*

1553. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for the Environment; Employment and Training:

For all departments and agencies within the Minister's portfolios, what are -

- (a) the total number of employees;
- (b) the number of these employees who were employed on a workplace agreement;
- (c) the number of these employees who were employed on an enterprise agreement;
- (d) the number of these employees who were employed under an industrial award; and
- (e) the number of these employees who were employed under some form of contract not included in the above?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

Perth Zoo:

- (a) 110
- (b) Nil.
- (c) 46 on the GOSAC Enterprise Bargaining Agreement; 64 on the Zoo Keepers Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) None.

Department of Environmental Protection

- (a) The total number of employees is 217, (includes 31 part-time staff).
- (b) Nil.
- (c) 216
- (d) Nil
- (e) 1 - (CEO, employed on special Ministerial contract Salaries and Allowances Tribunal).

Kings Park and Botanic Garden

- (a) 78
- (b) 23
- (c) 54
- (d) 0
- (e) 1

Western Australian Department of Training

- (a) As at June 18, 1997 - 3623
- (b) 865
- (c) 2628
- (d) With the exception of the employees in (b) 865 and (e) 7, all remaining employees are employed pursuant to an award.
- (e) 7 - Enterprise (Certified) agreements which sit alongside awards.

Conservation and Land Management

- (a) 1599
- (b) 498
- (c) 708
- (d) 392
- (e) 1

## GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - EMPLOYEES

### *Number and Conditions of Employment*

1563. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

For all departments and agencies within the Minister's portfolios, what are -

- (a) the total number of employees;
- (b) the number of these employees who were employed on a workplace agreement;
- (c) the number of these employees who were employed on an enterprise agreement;
- (d) the number of these employees who were employed under an industrial award; and
- (e) the number of these employees who were employed under some form of contract not included in the above?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Mines has provided the following response:

- (a) 698
- (b) 486
- (c) 208
- (d) 0
- (e) 4

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - EMPLOYEES

*Number and Conditions of Employment*

1568. Mr KOBELKE to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

For all departments and agencies within the Minister's portfolios, what are -

- (a) the total number of employees;
- (b) the number of these employees who were employed on a workplace agreement;
- (c) the number of these employees who were employed on an enterprise agreement;
- (d) the number of these employees who were employed under an industrial award; and
- (e) the number of these employees who were employed under some form of contract not included in the above?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

Rottneest Island Authority:

- (a) 110 at end June 1997 (including part time)
- (b) 21 at end June 1997
- (c) 42 at end June 1997
- (d) 46 at end June 1997
- (e) 1 at end June 1997

WA Tourism Commission:

- (a) 139 permanent officers and 11 short term contracted employees at end June 1997
- (b) 0 at end June 1997
- (c) 125 at end June 1997
- (d) 1 employee employed under the Senior Executive Services Special Division as determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal at end June 1997
- (e) 13 employees are overseas staff employed on contract with local conditions and 11 employees are staff on short term contracts for specific events at end June 1997

MINING - ACCIDENTS

*Reports*

1572. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is there an obligation on mining companies to report accidents involving employees and/or other persons on a mine site?
- (2) Have St Barbara Mines complied with that requirement?
- (3) According to reports made, how many accidents were reported each year by St Barbara Mines; for the last six financial years commencing 1991-92?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Mines has provided the following response:

- (1) In accordance with section 76 (1) of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994 the manager of a mine is obliged to give notice to the district inspector for the region of any accident in which a person (including contractors) suffers an injury at the mine which prevents the injured from following his/her ordinary occupation.
- (2) Yes.
- (3)

Year	No of Accidents Reported
1991/92	15



1992/93	12
1993/94	4
1994/95	22
1995/96	17
1996/97	15

#### MINING - HEALTH AND SAFETY AUDITS

1573. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Does the Department of Minerals and Energy conduct health and safety audits of Mines?
- (2) When was the last safety audit conducted at St Barbara Mines?
- (3) What did that safety audit find?
- (4) Prior to the last safety audit being conducted, was there an earlier safety audit?
- (5) If so, on what date was that earlier safety audit conducted?
- (6) What did that safety audit find?
- (7) Were steps taken by the department to follow up on any deficiencies identified by the safety audit?
- (8) If so, what steps?
- (9) Were further inspections made at the mine to ensure compliance with appropriate legislation and regulations?
- (10) On what dates did the inspections take place?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Mines has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A safety management system audit of St Barbara Mines was conducted on 5-7 June 1996.
- (3) The findings of the audit which are given in a report were presented to the mine for necessary action. The audit findings revealed that St Barbara Mines needed to introduce better safety management systems in the following areas:
  - (a) Corporate and Enterprise leadership
  - (b) Preparation of safety plans to ensure continuous improvement
  - (c) Monitoring and improvement of occupational health and hygiene management
  - (d) Safety support services
  - (e) Risk assessment and hazard analysis
  - (f) Work practices
  - (g) Pre-employment process, training, communications and development of safety culture
  - (h) Employee involvement and accountability
  - (i) Collection of safety related information and indicators and their use for improved performance
- (4) No, however inspections were carried out on a regular basis.
- (5)-(6) Not applicable.
- (7) Yes.
- (8) The findings were discussed with the management. Also, follow up inspections were carried out.
- (9) Yes.
- (10) Inspections were carried out on the following dates (after the management systems audit).
  - 14 August 1996
  - 22 August 1996
  - 4 September 1996
  - 17 October 1996
  - 30 October 1996
  - 1 November 1996
  - 15 November 1996
  - 4 February 1997
  - 5 February 1997

11 February 1997  
12 February 1997  
18 April 1997  
5 May 1997

#### MINING - BOMB SCARES

##### *Reports*

1574. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Are mining companies under an obligation to report bomb scares?
- (2) If so, has any report of that nature been made by St Barbara Mines?
- (3) If so, when was that report made?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Mines has provided the following response:

- (1) There is not specific provision to report bomb scares. However, under section 79 of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act, a manager must inform of any occurrence at the mine which in the manager's opinion has the potential to cause serious injury or harm to health of an employee.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.

#### MINING - INJURIES

##### *Reports*

1575. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Are mining companies required to keep records of employees, or ex-employees, injured at the mine site?
- (2) For what period of time are companies required to retain such records?
- (3) Are inspections carried out to determine whether records are maintained?
- (4) Has such an inspection been carried out at St Barbara Mines?
- (5) If so, when?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Mines has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes. All accidents must be recorded in an accident log book as per section 77 of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act.
- (2) The log book should be kept for so long as mining operations continue and for a period of six years from the time of abandonment or suspension of the mining operations.
- (3)-(4) Yes.
- (5) During the management systems audit of St Barbara Mine on 5 - 7 June 1996.

#### MINING - ACCIDENTS

##### *"Near Misses"*

1576. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is there an obligation on mining companies to report what is colloquially known as "near misses"?
- (2) If so, have such reports been submitted by St Barbara Mines?
- (3) If so, how many "near misses" were reported in each of the last six financial years commencing in the 1991-92 financial year?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Mines has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes. As per section 79 of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act, a manager must inform of any occurrence at the mine which in the manager's opinion has the potential to cause serious injury or harm to health of an employee. This is in addition to reporting of accidents under section 76 and some specified occurrences under section 78 of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The provision to report occurrences which had the potential of causing a serious accident etc was incorporated in the legislation in December 1995 when the Mines Safety and Inspection Act was proclaimed. Consequently, information is only available for the 1995/96 and 1996/97 financial years. Since the proclamation of the Act four such notices have been received from St Barbara Mines. 1995/96 - 3, 1996/97 - 1.

#### MINING - ST BARBARA MINES

##### *Injury Reports*

1577. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

How many lost time injuries have been reported by St Barbara Mines in each of the last six financial years commencing with the 1991-92 financial year?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Mines has provided the following response:

YEAR	No LTIs
1991/92	15
1992/93	8
1993/94	3
1994/95	22
1995/96	14
1996/97	15

#### MINING - AGE LIMITS

1578. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is there a prohibition on employees under the age of 18 years, other than apprentices, being employed on mine sites?
- (2) Has any investigation been made to determine if under-age employees are being employed on mine sites?
- (3) Specifically, in the last six years, was any check made to determine if under-age employees were employed at St Barbara Mines?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Mines has provided the following response:

- (1) In the case of surface mines, with the exception of certain very limited categories of employees required to hold statutory certificates of competency (eg. the quarry manager), there is no specific age limit for employees stated in the Mines Safety and Inspection Act. However, the Act prohibits employment of persons, (other than apprentices and cadets) under the age of eighteen years in underground mines.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Not applicable. At the Bluebird operations of St Barbara Mines, there are surface operations only.

#### MINING - OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

##### *Prosecutions*

1579. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) How many companies have been found guilty of breaching the occupational health and safety provisions in each of the last six financial years commencing with the 1991-92 financial year?

- (2) How many prosecution actions have been taken in each of the last six financial years?
- (3) How many prosecutions have been successful in each of the last six financial years commencing with the 1991-92 financial year?
- (4) On how many occasions have financial penalties been imposed in each of the last six financial years?
- (5) What is the name of the company or companies that have had a penalty imposed on them for being in breach of the occupational health and safety provisions in each of the last six financial years?
- (6) What was the level of the penalty imposed?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Mines has provided the following response:

(1)	Year	No of companies found guilty	No of individuals * found guilty
	1991-92	0	9
	1992-93	0	3
	1993-94	0	2
	1994-95	1	4
	1995-96	2	4
	1996-97	2	0

(2)	Year	No of prosecution actions - companies	No of prosecution * actions - individuals
	1991-92	1	10
	1992-93	0	7
	1993-94	0	2
	1994-95	2	4
	1995-96	4	4
	1996-97	2	0

(3)	Year	No of successful prosecutions - companies	No of successful * prosecutions - individuals
	1991-92	0	9
	1992-93	0	3
	1993-94	0	2
	1994-95	1	4
	1995-96	2	4
	1996-97	2	0

(4)	Year	No of financial penalties (total) *
	1991-92	9
	1992-93	3
	1993-94	2
	1994-95	5
	1995-96	6
	1996-97	2

(5)-(6)

Year	Name of company successfully prosecuted	Penalty imposed on company
1991-92	nil	nil
1992-93	nil	nil
1993-94	nil	nil
1994-95	Pioneer Concrete (WA) Pty Ltd	\$25 000
1995-96	Glengarry Resources Beltreco Ltd	\$10 000 \$10 000
1996-97	Byrnecut Mining Pty Ltd WMC Resources Ltd	\$ 3 500 \$60 700

\* Explanatory note: The question relates to both prosecutions in general (Items 2, 3 and 4) and prosecutions of companies in particular (Items 1, 5 and 6). In order to avoid confusion in relation to whether the information provided relates to individuals, companies or both, this information has been categorised.

## MINING - ACCIDENTS

*Vehicles*

1580. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is there an obligation on mining companies to report vehicle accidents?
- (2) In each of the last six financial years commencing with the 1991-92 financial year how many vehicle accidents were reported by St Barbara Mines?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Mines has provided the following response:

- (1) There has always been a legal requirement for mine managers to report vehicle accidents involving injury where the injured party is disabled from following his/her ordinary occupation. However, in cases where no injury has been sustained, it was not until the introduction of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994 that the mine manager had an obligation to report such instances pursuant to Section 79 (1) which states The manager must inform the district inspector for the region in which the mine is situated of any occurrence at the mine which in the manager's opinion had the potential to cause serious injury or harm to health (other than an occurrence referred to in section 78) although no injury or harm in fact happened. Therefore minor vehicle accidents which, in the opinion of the manager, had no potential to cause serious injury would not be expected to be reported to the district inspector.
- (2)

Year	No of Vehicle Accidents
1991/92	1
1992/93	1
1993/94	0
1994/95	0
1995/96	2
1996/97	1

## ENVIRONMENT - WA CHIP AND PULP CO PTY LTD

*Chiplog Volumes*

1582. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

Given that a legally binding ministerial condition imposed under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 by the then Minister for the Environment, Barry Hodge, on 28 September 1988 requires that the WA Chip and Pulp Co Pty Ltd should strictly observe the following chiplog volume from old growth forest for the years 1988 to 1997 inclusive -

- (a) 1988 - 1990 - 583 000 cubic metres;
- (b) 1991 - 1995 - 553 000 cubic metres;
- (c) 1996 - 1998 - 442 000 cubic metres,

what volume of chiplogs came from -

- (i) old growth karri forest;
- (ii) regrowth karri forest;
- (iii) old growth jarrah forest;
- (iv) regrowth jarrah forest?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The condition of 28 September 1988 was superseded by the Ministerial Conditions of 24 December 1992 and the subsequent Determination of Annual Sustainable Timber Resource Available for Allocation by the then Minister, Kevin Minson, on 16 August 1993. This question therefore does not have a valid basis to be answered.

## FORESTS AND FORESTRY - KARRI

*Boranup*

1583. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

Given that the Department of Conservation and Land Management's annual reports show 1 260 ha of even-aged karri regeneration before 1900, how much karri forest in the Boranup area was -

- (a) clearfelled;

- (b) selectively logged, prior to 1900?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (a)-(b) A total of 1 200 ha of even aged karri regeneration had been recorded within the vicinity of Boranup. With regard to the member's question, we have defined the Boranup forest as the large contiguous belt of karri remaining in the area. The total area of this Boranup forest is approximately 2 800 ha. A project to map the structural classes of this karri forest commenced last year and interim results indicate that the majority of the existing Boranup forest was clear felled between 1880 and 1908. There is no evidence to date of areas having been selectively logged during this period.

#### FORESTS AND FORESTRY - KARRI

##### *Area*

1584. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

For all conservation parks and nature reserves containing karri forest will the Minister state what is or will be -

- (a) their area -
- (i) as they currently exist; and
- (ii) when all approved additions have been gazetted;
- (b) the area of -
- (i) unlogged; and
- (ii) logged karri forest,

when all approved additions have been gazetted?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

	(a) (i) (ha)	(a) (ii) (ha)	(b) (i) (ha)	(b) (ii) (ha)
<b>Conservation Parks</b>				
Blackbutt Reserve	nil	40	nil	20
Boorara	nil	610	480	130
Dombakup	nil	110	60	30
Muirillup	nil	160	100	nil
One Tree Bridge	nil	640	10	400
<b>Nature Reserves</b>				
Chester	nil	330	nil	20
Dalgarup	nil	920	nil	100
Dickson	nil	550	30	nil
Donnelly River	60	60	60	nil
Eastbrook	40	40	40	nil
Eastbrook Road	10	10	10	nil
McClean Road	10	10	10	nil
Mehniup	290	290	50	nil
Mt Shadforth	80	80	80	nil
Quarram	3 830	3 830	120	nil
Owingup	2 460	2 460	220	nil
Smith Brook	100	100	80	10
Stockdill road	60	60	nil	30
Strickland	nil	1 700	850	130
Thames	nil	1 400	50	nil
Whistler	20	20	10	nil

#### POLICE - PAWNBROKERS AND SECOND-HAND DEALERS ACT

##### *Exemptions*

1585. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is any consideration being given to providing exemptions under the Second-Hand Dealers Act 1906 for transactions where no cash payments are made to customers?
- (2) If so, what is the form of that consideration?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) The Secondhand Dealers Act 1906 has been replaced and on April 1, 1996 the Pawnbrokers and Secondhand Dealers Act 1994 came into effect. The provision of credit or exchange of goods in lieu of monetary payment is not exempted under the Pawnbrokers and Secondhand Dealers Act 1994. This issue was again considered during the recent review of the Pawnbrokers and Secondhand Dealer Act 1994.
- (2) Not applicable.

#### HEALTH - OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

##### *Premiums*

1590. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Health Department of Western Australia has the highest occupational safety and health premium rate of the 60 largest public sector agencies (5.5 per \$100 of total wages)?
- (2) What specific initiatives have been budgeted for in the 1997-98 budget to reduce this rate?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) I presume the member is referring to the workers' compensation premium rate since there are no occupational safety and health premiums. If this is so, then I advise that the department does not have the highest rate.
- (2) Not relevant.

#### EDUCATION - CHURCHES' COMMISSION ON EDUCATION

##### *Funding*

1591. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) When was State funding to the Churches' Commission on Education first provided?
- (2) How much was the allocation at the time?
- (3) How much was allocated for the following years -
  - (a) 1997-98;
  - (b) 1996-97;
  - (c) 1995-96;
  - (d) 1994-95;
  - (e) 1993-94;
  - (f) 1992-93?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Funding was first provided to the Churches' Commission on Education in 1986.
- (2) \$20,000 was provided at the time.
- (3)
 

(a)	1997-98	\$90,000
(b)	1996-97	\$90,000
(c)	1995-96	\$90,000
(d)	1994-95	\$82,000
(e)	1993-94	\$61,000
(f)	1992-93	\$35,000

#### TRANSPORT - BUS

##### *Bus Stop - Ennis Ave, Rockingham*

1592. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will the Government re-instate the bus stop removed from Ennis Avenue, between Dixon Road and Unnaro Street in Rockingham?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) What alternative arrangements will the Government put in place to rectify the situation for the residents who formerly used this stop?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1)-(3) The Government has not removed the bus stop between Dixon and Unnaro Streets on Ennis Avenue in Rockingham. That location has bus stops on either side of Ennis Avenue between Dixon and Unnaro Streets in Rockingham. As a result of increasing traffic congestion, a bus stop situated between Unnaro Street and Council Avenue on Ennis Avenue was removed approximately two years ago. In order to minimise the inconvenience that this may have caused, the next bus stop on Council Avenue was located as close to the intersection of Council and Ennis Avenues as possible.

#### ALINTAGAS - SERVICE SUPPLY CHARGE

##### *Rebates*

1593. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) Does the Government intend to keep the AlintaGas daily service supply charge in place?
- (2) Will the Government provide pensioners with a rebate or discount in relation to this charge?
- (3) Will the Government privatise AlintaGas?
- (4) Does the Government rule out ever privatising AlintaGas?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Government funds an energy rebate which is applied to Western Power accounts. It is a contribution to all energy customers in the State that are eligible for a rebate because of their pensioner status. Because every energy customer is an electricity customer, the Government has chosen to pay its rebate through Western Power. Although the rebate is provided by Western Power, it is not funded by Western Power. It is considered a community service obligation and is funded by the State Government.
- (3)-(4) At present the Government has no plans to privatise AlintaGas.

#### ROTTNEST ISLAND - AUTHORITY

##### *Infrastructure - Budget Allocation*

1597. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) In the 1997-98 State Budget was provision made in the Capital Works Program of the Rottnest Island Authority for the amount of \$319 000 to be used for infra-structure?
- (2) What work will be carried out with these funds?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) This budget estimate allows mainly for fire fighting equipment, a range of road works and work on the non-main jetties.

#### ROTTNEST ISLAND - AUTHORITY

##### *Kingstown - Budget Allocation*

1598. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) In the 1997-98 State Budget was provision made in the Capital Works Program of the Rottnest Island Authority for the amount of \$178 000 to be used for Kingstown maintenance and improvements?
- (2) What work will be carried out with these funds?



Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) This budget estimate allows for a range of works to refurbish the buildings and facilities at Kingstown as well as the provision of audiovisual equipment for conferences and environmental education.

ROTTNEST ISLAND - AUTHORITY

*Public Buildings and Facilities - Budget Allocation*

1599. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) In the 1997-98 State Budget was provision made in the Capital Works Program of the Rottnest Island Authority for the amount of \$170 000 to be used for public buildings and facilities?
- (2) What work will be carried out with these funds?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) This budget estimate allows for the refurbishment of a number of public buildings on Rottnest, the biggest item being the possible construction of a new toilet block in Thomson Bay.

ROTTNEST ISLAND - AUTHORITY

*Tourist Services - Budget Allocation*

1600. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) In the 1997-98 State Budget was provision made in the Capital Works Program of the Rottnest Island Authority for the amount of \$66 000 to be used for tourist services?
- (2) What work will be carried out with these funds?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) This budget estimate allows mainly for properly fitting out the Picture Hall with conference facilities.

ROTTNEST ISLAND - AUTHORITY

*Environmental Work - Budget Allocation*

1601. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) In the 1997-98 State Budget was provision made for the Rottnest Island Authority to carry out new works in relation to the environment?
- (2) Has an amount of \$353 000 been allocated for this purpose?
- (3) Exactly what work will be carried out with these funds?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) This budget estimate allows mainly for the provision of various recreational and environmental management facilities including redevelopment of facilities at Parker Point, nursery/reafforestation, and environmental education and interpretation facilities.

ROTTNEST ISLAND - AUTHORITY

*Communications - Budget Allocation*

1602. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) In the 1997-98 State Budget was provision made for the Rottnest Island Authority to carry out new works in relation to communications?
- (2) Has an amount of \$130 000 been allocated for this purpose?
- (3) Exactly what work will be carried out with these funds?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) This budget estimate allows mainly for the purchase of a new reservation and moorings computing system.

ROTTNEST ISLAND - AUTHORITY

*Public Buildings Maintenance - Expenditure*

1603. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Will the Rottnest Island Authority spend \$284 000 on capital works projects in relation to public buildings maintenance in the 1996-97 financial year?
- (2) If not, what amount is being used for this purpose?
- (3) What buildings will be improved?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) These funds have been spent primarily on improvements to staff housing to bring them into line with GEHA standards.

ROTTNEST ISLAND - AUTHORITY

*Office Refurbishment and Restaurant and Bistro Upgrade*

1604. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) What was the nature of the office refurbishment carried out by the Rottnest Island Authority in the 1996-97 financial year?
- (2) What was the nature of the bistro upgrade carried out by the Rottnest Island Authority in the 1996-97 financial year?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1) Relocation of the main administration and financial sections as well as part of the Accommodation Services section of the Authority to E Shed in Fremantle, the remainder of the Accommodation Services section to the Visitor Centre, and the Environmental Section to the old administration building.
- (2) Refurbishment of kitchen and serving area as well as re-configuration of internal layout to allow internal access to toilets and a new entrance from Colbatch Avenue.

## ROTTNEST ISLAND - AUTHORITY

*Liquor Licences*

1606. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Does the Rottnest Island Authority, or any natural or corporate person on its behalf, hold any liquor licenses?
- (2) How many liquor licenses are held?
- (3) Does the Rottnest Island Authority hold any leases under which the lessee holds a liquor license?
- (4) Do any of the leases held by the Rottnest Island Authority require the lessee to return the liquor license to the Rottnest Island Authority when the lease ends?
- (5) How many leases contain this provision?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) One.
- (3)-(4) Yes.
- (5) Three.

## ROTTNEST ISLAND - AUTHORITY

*Accommodation - Cost Increases*

1607. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Has the Rottnest Island Authority increased the cost of tourist accommodation since 1 July 1995?
- (2) How many increases have there been?
- (3) What were the dates of the increases?
- (4) What were the amounts of each increase?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Three.
- (3) July 1995, July 1996, July 1997
- (4)

July 1995	3.9%
July 1996	3.5%
July 1997	3.5%

## ROTTNEST ISLAND - AUTHORITY

*Accommodation - Winter and Off Season Rates*

1608. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Does the Rottnest Island Authority offer lower accommodation rates in the winter or off-season?
- (2) Are the off-season rates well publicised?
- (3) What steps do the Rottnest Island Authority take to publicise the off-season rates?
- (4) In the last two financial years, have accommodation levels increased in the off-season?
- (5) If so, by what amounts in percentage and dollar terms?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)-(3) Winter rates are published on the summer tariffs rate sheet (available to all summer holiday makers) and advertised through special promotions in winter.

		CHANGE	
	\$'000		%
1995/96	89		5
1996/97 (a)	-62		-4

(a) reduction reflects loss of revenue from units removed from the rental market while being refurbished. This is supported by the fact that the average occupancy rate for the winter months increased in 1996/97.

#### ROTTNEST ISLAND - AUTHORITY

##### *Doubtful Debts*

1609. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) In the 1995-96 financial year, did the Rottnest Island operating statement make provision for over \$20 000 for doubtful debts?
- (2) Has any or all of that amount been collected?
- (3) What amount has been collected?
- (4) Has any or all of that amount been written off?
- (5) What are the reasons for the write-off?
- (6) What steps has the authority taken to collect any of the debt outstanding?
- (7) How many companies or individuals included in the doubtful debt figure still owe money to the Rottnest Island Authority?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

#### ROTTNEST ISLAND - AUTHORITY

##### *Leases - Termination*

1610. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Since 1 January 1994, has there been any occasion where the Rottnest Island Authority has had occasion to end a lease with a business proprietor/s prior to the lease's expiry date?
- (2) On how many separate occasions has that occurred?
- (3) What is the name of the business or individuals involved in the lease with the Rottnest Island Authority?
- (4) What was/were the reason/s for the lease prematurely ending?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Once.
- (3) Henley Developments

- (4) Notices of default were served on Henley Developments as they were considered to be in breach of the lease requirements.

ROTTNEST ISLAND - AUTHORITY

*Consolidated Fund - Payments*

1611. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) What amount will be paid by the Rottnest Island Authority into the consolidated fund in the 1996-97 financial year?
- (2) What amount do the Rottnest Island Authority expect to pay into the Consolidated Fund in the 1997-98 financial year?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1) Nil.
- (2) 1997/98 operating budget still to be finalised.

ROTTNEST ISLAND - AUTHORITY

*Water Services - Loan Repayments*

1612. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) What amount of capital repayment on loans associated with the water related services for the Rottnest Island Authority were, or will be paid, in the 1996-97 financial year?
- (2) What amount does the Rottnest Island Authority expect to pay to the capital repayment on loans associated with the water related services in the 1997-98 financial year?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1) \$671 198
- (2) \$737 918

ROTTNEST ISLAND - AUTHORITY

*Restaurant and Bistro - Lease*

1614. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Did the 1995-96 Annual Report of the Rottnest Island Authority report that the authority was then defending a claim brought about by the ex-lessees of the Rottnest Island Restaurant/Bistro?
- (2) Has the authority entered into a new lease for the -
- (a) restaurant;
- (b) bistro?
- (3) What is the name of the company or individual with whom the lease is held?
- (4) On what date/s was the lease entered into?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) No.
- (b) An agreement to lease is in place at this time.
- (3) Palmcape Pty Ltd.
- (4) Not applicable.

ROTTNEST ISLAND - AUTHORITY

*Leases - Payments*

1615. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) With respect to the various leases the Rottnest Island Authority has with business operators on the island, how are the payments under the lease assessed by the authority when the lease is entered into?
- (2) Are the levels of payments due by the lessee under the lease assessed on the basis of -
  - (a) real or expected profit;
  - (b) real or expected turnover;
  - (c) market or other value of the premises;
  - (d) other (specify)?
- (3) Does the Rottnest Island Authority apply one formula for calculating lease payments under all of the leases?
- (4) Are different formulas applied to different premises?
- (5) If so, why?
- (6) What are the different formulas that are applied?
- (7) On what basis is each formula constructed?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1) On the basis of what is applied generally by the market for that type of business on the mainland with allowance for the costs, seasonality, and conditions of operating on Rottnest.
- (2) An assessment is made on the basis of all relevant factors including those specified in (a), (b), and (c), as required by the conditions of each lease.
- (3) No.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) To reflect the different nature of the various businesses.
- (6)-(7) Base rent, share of turnover, or a combination of those (plus variable outgoings).

ROTTNEST ISLAND - AUTHORITY

*Restaurant and Bistro - Lease*

1616. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Did the 1995-96 Annual Report of the Rottnest Island Authority refer to the ex-lessees of the Rottnest Island Restaurant and Bistro, Henley Developments?
- (2) When did the lease between the Rottnest Island Authority and Henley Developments end?
- (3) Did the Rottnest Island Authority make any payments to Henley Developments prior to, at the time of, or after the lease ended?
- (4) What payments were made?
- (5) What was the purpose and nature of the payment or payments?
- (6) Were the payments reported in the 1995-96 annual report?
- (7) Under what expenditure heading in the report were the payments reported?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) December 1995.

(3) Yes.

(4)-(5)	Gross Payments	\$
-	Pay out for early termination of lease	75 000
-	Capital improvements	31 470
-	Plant and equipment	207 750
-	Stock (on-sold to new lessee)	71 118
-	Leasehold improvements valuation	1 000

(6) Yes.

(7) Review implementation costs and fixed assets.

#### ENVIRONMENT - STEPHENSON AND WARD INCINERATOR CO PTY LTD

##### *Incinerator Site - Ground Water Contamination*

1617. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Has the investigation into allegations of deliberate contamination of ground and ground water at the Stephenson and Ward incinerator site in Welshpool come to a conclusion?
- (2) If yes, what is the outcome?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) What is the name of the Department of Environment Protection officer who is conducting the investigation?
- (5) Is it still the Government's intention to pay out \$1.3m of taxpayers' money to clean up this site?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) I am advised that the investigation into this matter is almost concluded, and I should receive a report and recommendation by end of August 1997.
- (2)-(3) I am not prepared to comment on the outcome until I receive the report.
- (4) Senior staff in the Waste Management Division of DEP, which is responsible for regulating the incinerator, are involved in the investigation.
- (5) The Government is intending to remediate this contaminated site as previously announced. DEP has deferred the start of the actual on-site operations to late spring to avoid the heavy winter rainfall (this information has been released to the Community Liaison Committee for this project), and I understand the remediation strategy has been submitted to allow the EPA to provide its advice (as required by the level of assessment), and for approval by the other regulatory bodies. I appointed Professor Arthur McComb of the Murdoch University Environment School to advise the EPA in respect to this matter.

#### TOURISM - ELLE RACING

##### *Funding - Conditions*

1620. Dr CONSTABLE to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) In relation to the Minister's answer to question on notice 18 of 1997 in which he stated that \$500 000 is to be paid to Elle Racing on 31 July 1997, what, if any, conditions must be met before that payment is made? In particular, is the Western Australian Tourism Commission (or any other person or body) legally obliged to make the payment regardless of the readiness of the Elle racing yacht?
- (2) If the Elle Racing yacht is not ready for competition in the Whitbread round the world yacht race, will the Government be refunded the \$440 000 already paid to Elle Racing, and if not, why not?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1) The agreement between WATC and Elle Racing Pty Ltd has been terminated. In this event the payment which was due to be made on 31 July 1997 is not payable.

- (2) The Crown Solicitor's Office has advised that the sum already paid to Elle Racing pursuant to the now terminated agreement is not repayable by Elle Racing as WATC is obliged to pay to Elle Racing up to \$600 000 under the agreement, which obligation accrued prior to termination of the agreement. All of these matters were made clear in the letter to Elle Racing from the Crown Solicitors office which terminated the agreement and which was publicly released by the Minister at the time.

## TOURISM - ELLE CAMPAIGN

*Advertisements - Marketforce*

1621. Dr CONSTABLE to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

In relation to the Minister's answer to question on notice 18 of 1997, what is the reason for the discrepancy between the amounts paid to Marketforce noted in Paper No 422 tabled in the Legislative Council on 7 May 1997 (totalling \$1 950 124) and the amount noted in the "Summary of Expenses Associated with the Elle McPherson Campaign" annexed to your answer to question on notice 18 of 1997 (\$3 202 705)?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response:

- (1) A document titled "Summary of Expenses Associated with the Elle Macpherson Campaign" was prepared in March 1997 in response to Question No. 18 and tabled on 17 June 1997 and focused on all costs associated with the production of the television commercials and the media placement in the 1996-97 financial year. Following the preparation of this report, a more detailed report titled "Synopsis of Brand WA Advertising Costs" was prepared in response to question 422 tabled on 7 May 1997, presenting the information from the original report in a different format and incorporating other information relating to past and future financial years. There is no discrepancy between the two reports and in regard to the amount paid to Marketforce, outlined below is a table reconciling the costs between the two reports -

	No 18	No 422
Reported Figure	\$3 202 705	\$1 950 124
Reconciliation -		
Media Placement		\$2 068 500
Future Production Costs		(\$ 300 000)
Cost of Research		(\$ 464 662)
Launch Collateral		(\$ 34 890)
Indirect Expenses		(\$ 16 367)
Comparable Total	\$3 202 705	\$3 202 705

## HOSPITALS - FREMANTLE

*Cardiac Services Unit - Establishment*

1626. Dr CONSTABLE to the Premier:

- (1) Did you receive letters from the Consultant Cardiologists at Royal Perth Hospital in 1993, 1994 and 1995 urgently advising you that the establishment of a cardiac unit at Fremantle Hospital was highly inappropriate on medical, economic and staffing grounds?
- (2) If yes to (1) above, why did the Government proceed to establish a cardiac unit at Fremantle Hospital?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) In 1992 an independent report by Professor Hickie, Professor Baird and Dr Kearney assessed the future requirements for Cardio Thoracic services within Western Australia. This report acknowledged the advantages that new services at Fremantle would hold. Some clinicians at Royal Perth Hospital expressed opinions regarding the new service proposed at Fremantle, including suggesting the setting up of a unit at the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Subsequently a new service was begun at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in 1993 and in 1993 an announcement was made that a new service was to be established at Fremantle Hospital. This was to allow access to patients in the Southern Corridor to Cardio Thoracic services.



## SCHOOLS - INSTRUCTION ON STUDENT OUTINGS

*Sheltering under Trees or Overhangs*

1635. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) In 1996 did the Education Department prepare an instruction to school/teachers dealing with student outings?
- (2) Did the instruction deal with children sheltering under trees or other overhangs?
- (3) If so, exactly what did the instructions deal with?
- (4) If not, what did the instruction deal with?
- (5) When was the first draft of the instruction drawn up?
- (6) Was the first draft of the instruction drawn up by February 1996?
- (7) On what date was the instruction issued?
- (8) What consultation process took place prior to the instruction being issued?
- (9) On what date did meetings or other consultations take place about the instruction?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No. The Education Department prepared an instruction to schools during 1994 and this was issued to schools in February 1995.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The instruction dealt with educational excursions, that is, any student learning activity conducted outside the school site that is organised and supervised by the school and approved by the school principal.
- (5) September 1994.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) February 1995.
- (8) The following groups were consulted:
  - Professional Associations (secondary, primary and education support principals);
  - District superintendents and district management groups;
  - Western Australian Council of State School Organisations;
  - Selected primary, secondary, and education support schools from 15 metropolitan and country education districts (75 schools);
  - Crown Solicitor's Office;
  - State Government Insurance Commission; and
  - Relevant officers from the education departments of five other states.
- (9) Consultation took place during 1994.

SELECT COMMITTEE INTO CHILD MIGRATION - CONVERSION INTO HONORARY ROYAL  
COMMISSION

1636. Mr BROWN to the to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware of the Interim Report of the Select Committee into Child Migration?
- (2) Is the Premier aware the select committee recommended it be converted into an Honorary Royal Commission?
- (3) Does the Government intend to establish an Honorary Royal Commission into Child Migration as recommended by the select committee?
- (4) If so, when?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3)-(5) The Government has considered the committee's report. However, at this time, no decision has been made on any future action.

#### MINISTRY OF JUSTICE - OFFICERS

##### *Corporate Cards*

1643. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Further to question on notice No. 499 of 1997, why is a corporate credit card provided to people holding the position of -
  - (a) clerk;
  - (b) project officer;
  - (c) industrial officer;
  - (d) administrative officer?
- (2) Since 1 October 1996, what has been the nature of the expenditure incurred on the corporate credit by -
  - (a) C. Lefroy;
  - (b) K. Cadamy-Thompson;
  - (c) K. Johnson;
  - (d) S. Hamilton?
- (3) Are corporate cards issued to each of the above individuals and classifications available for use for entertainment expenses in accordance with the entertainment policy contained in the corporate credit card manual?
- (4) If so, why?
- (5) Is a thorough check made to ensure all incurred expenses fall within the parameters of the policy?
- (6) If so, has the policy been enforced properly?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply.

- (1) Corporate Credit Cards facilitate purchasing and accounts payable as they provide significant benefits reducing paperwork and in streamlining purchasing procedures. Ministry of Justice purchases through credit card arrangements are limited to purchases of \$1,000 or less in any one transaction unless specifically authorised. Credit cards are issued to Ministry of Justice personnel following a request by management of an operational area and approved by Director, Financial Management. All card holders are issued with the Ministry's credit card policy and procedures manual. Less senior officers, eg. level 1 and 2 Clerks would utilise the credit card arrangements for purchases authorised by more senior staff.
- (2) Nature of credit card expenditure by the following Ministry of Justice officers since 1 October 1996;
  - (a) C Lefroy (Clerk L2, Financial Management Directorate) - stationery, publications and reports, staff course registration fees.
  - (b) K Cadamy-Thompson (15/12/95 to 19/1/97 - Acting Director Human Resources) (20/1/97 to present - Project Officer, Offender Management) - accommodation and travel, course registration fees, entertainment expenses, stationery, publications, computer literature/software.
  - (c) K Johnson (Industrial Officer, G2, Casuarina Prisons Library) - library books and materials for prison library network throughout Western Australia.
  - (d) S Hamilton (Administrative Officer, Sheriff's Office) - stationery, publications, film for staff identification system, kitchen appliances and uniforms for jury assembly room kitchen staff.
- (3) Yes, only if authorised by a delegated officer.
- (4) Corporate cards are available to meet expenditure incurred on behalf of the Ministry of Justice.
- (5) Yes, monthly statements of each card holders purchases are scrutinised by the Financial Management Directorate of the Ministry of Justice to ensure compliance with credit card purchasing policy.

(6) Yes.

WATER RESOURCES - GWALIA CONSOLIDATED LTD, GREENBUSHES

*Dumpling Creek Dam*

1645. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) With respect to condition 24 of Mining Lease 01/9 held by Gwalia Consolidated Ltd, on which occasions over the last five years was water delivered to the Dumpling Creek Dam?
- (2) Is this water sampled monthly?
- (3) On what occasions has it not conformed with current criteria for drinking water?
- (4) What were the exact readings for each occasion when guidelines for drinking water were exceeded?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Mines has provided the following response:

- (1) I am informed that the lessee ceased operations on Mining Lease 01/9 in the late 1980s, and has not delivered water to the Dumpling Creek Dam since that time with the exception of one occasion in February 1995, when a small quantity of water (about 10,000 kilolitres) was delivered to the dam at the express request of the then Water Authority.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3)-(4) The water delivered to the dam in February 1995 (mentioned in (1) above) was tested at that time and found to contain 5.0 milligrams/litre of manganese. This exceeded the limit of 0.1 milligrams/litre of manganese as recommended in the National Health and Medical Research Council Guidelines for Drinking Water in Australia. Although this posed no health risk and was largely an aesthetic problem which could result in water discolouration and undesirable tastes to beverages, delivery of water to the dam on that occasion was stopped and there are no plans to utilise this source again.

SCHOOLS - DISADVANTAGED SCHOOLS PROGRAM

*Payments*

1654. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Which Western Australian government schools currently receiving payments under the Commonwealth Government's Disadvantaged Schools Program will not receive equivalent payments under other Commonwealth programs in 1998?
- (2) In each case, what is the shortfall in funding?
- (3) If the Minister cannot answer this question now, when will an answer be available?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The Commonwealth's Disadvantaged Schools Program ceased at the end of 1996. The Commonwealth has established a Literacy Program which includes elements of the Disadvantaged Schools Program, the Early Literacy Program and the general component of the English as a Second Language Program. The Education Department is currently establishing the framework for the allocation of funds under the Literacy Program. Therefore, it is not possible to identify schools who will not be receiving equivalent payments under the Literacy Program to those they received under the Disadvantaged Schools Program.
- (2) Unknown at this stage.
- (3) It is anticipated that schools will be advised of the changes to funding and guidelines in October 1997.

SCHOOLS - HIGH

*Churchlands Senior - Electronic Security System*

1656. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Did the electronic security system at Churchlands Senior High School give an adequate warning or indeed any warning of the outbreak of the fire which recently destroyed much of the school?

- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) What action has been taken to prevent electronic security systems at other schools failing to provide adequate warning of the outbreak of a fire?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) The alarm system at Churchlands Senior High School was prevented from communicating with the Central Station because the telephone lines were burnt by the fire before the alarm was activated.
- (3) The yearly alarm program will include:
  - increasing the number of smoke detectors installed as a part of the intruder alarm system; and
  - amending the specifications for alarm installations in all new and upgraded systems, to provide for "fire rated" casing to the telephone cables.

#### SCHOOLS - HIGH

##### *Exmouth District - Effect of New Staffing Formula*

1658. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

How many teachers will Exmouth District High School lose in the 1998 school year as a result of the application of the proposed new school staffing formula?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Under the proposed new staffing formula, Exmouth District High School will lose 0.2 FTE based on current enrolment figures.

#### EDUCATION - WA DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION

##### *Government Support*

1659. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

How much financial or other support is the Education Department of Western Australia providing to the Western Australia District High Schools Principals Association in 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The annual conference was supported by the provision of \$18,000 for travel and conference expenses.

#### EDUCATION - ENROLMENT BENCHMARK ADJUSTMENT

##### *Impact*

1665. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that according to the Federal Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, total savings from the Federal Government's enrolment benchmark adjustment cuts to Government schools will amount to \$270m between now and 2000-1?
- (2) Is this figure in accordance with State Government estimates?
- (3) If not, what is the State Government's estimate of the total national impact of the enrolment benchmark adjustment?
- (4) What cuts will be applied to funding for Western Australian Government schools as a result of the implementation of this Federal policy in each of the financial years -
  - (a) 1997-98;
  - (b) 1998-99;
  - (c) 1999-2000;
  - (d) 2000-2001?
- (5) What representations has the Minister made to his Federal Liberal colleague to have this policy abolished or modified?
- (6) What has been the outcome (if any) of these representations?
- (7) When does the Government expect negotiations with the Commonwealth to conclude?

- (8) What will the Government do if the Commonwealth's rethought position still penalises Western Australia?
- (9) How was the estimate of \$2.5m stated during estimates as being the cost to Western Australia of the enterprise bargain agreement (EBA) in 1997-98, arrived at?
- (10) What adjustments has the Government made, or will the Government make, to cover the losses to Western Australia as a result of the EBA?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) I am aware that the Federal Government is expecting significant savings but I cannot verify the amount of \$270 million.
- (2)-(3) No assessment of the national impact has been made by Western Australia. However, the State Government estimates that the enrolment benchmark adjustment will save the Commonwealth approximately \$28 million in Western Australia over the four year period.
- (4) Preliminary estimates based upon the original Commonwealth model are:
  - (a) \$4.0 million
  - (b) \$6.2 million
  - (c) \$8.0 million
  - (d) \$9.8 million
- (5) Through the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs I, along with all State Ministers for Education, called on the Commonwealth to review the methodology of the proposed enrolment benchmark adjustment formula.
- (6) The dialogue between the States and the Commonwealth is continuing.
- (7) The Government will continue to negotiate with the Commonwealth to get the best possible result for Western Australia.
- (8) The Government will address that when it is appropriate to do so.
- (9) The estimate of \$2.5 million related to the 1997 calendar year and derived from the original Commonwealth model using projected enrolment statistics for Western Australia.
- (10) The Government will not make any budget adjustments based upon the application of the enrolment benchmark adjustment until the Commonwealth quantifies the reduction in grants to the State.

#### FUEL AND ENERGY - GAS

##### *Wiluna*

1676. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) Does the Government intend to use gas from the goldfield's gas transmission pipeline for the generation of power in the township of Wiluna?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If so -
  - (a) in what manner will the gas be used;
  - (b) by whom will the gas be used;
  - (c) on what date will the gas be available for use in the town?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The Government, or more specifically Western Power Corporation, does not itself intend to use gas to generate power at Wiluna, although, Western Power is currently negotiating with an independent power producer for the purchase of electricity to be supplied to the township. This will be subject to the electricity supply from the independent power producer being commercially viable and offering a suitable reliability of supply. The gas used for generating this electricity would be sourced from the Goldfields Gas Transmission (GGT) pipeline.
- (2) Refer (1).
- (3) (a) The gas which would be sourced from the GGT, would be used by the independent power producer

as fuel to run its gas engines.

- (b) The independent power producer is currently assessing the viability of supplying Western Power with electricity which would be surplus to its own requirements and which could be used to supply power to the town.
- (c) An 8 km gas pipeline which will deliver gas for electricity generation is currently under construction and is expected to become available to the independent power producer in the next few months. If supply from the independent power producer is found to be commercially viable and suitable, electricity supply will commence when the generation facilities are commissioned later this year.

#### FUEL AND ENERGY - GAS

##### *Wiluna*

1677. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) Does the Government intend to extend the goldfield's gas transmission pipeline into the town of Wiluna?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) If the answer to (1) above is yes, does the Government intend to reticulate gas to domestic users in the town of Wiluna?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No. The Goldfields Gas Transmission pipeline is a privately owned and operated pipeline in which the Government has no direct financial interest or control.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) It is intended that the provision of gas reticulation systems in the future will be undertaken in a competitive manner, and may involve proponents from the public and private sector. The approach used in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, which in the near future will have a reticulated gas system established in the town, will serve as a model on which the gas reticulation of other country towns may be based. The Energy Coordination Amendment Bill 1997 currently before the Legislative Council is intended to facilitate such developments.
- (4) Not applicable.

#### MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT - DISCUSSIONS WITH PUBLIC SERVANTS

##### *Restrictions*

1680. Mr GRAHAM to the Premier:

- (1) Does the Government have a policy that restricts public servants discussing matters with Members of Parliament?
- (2) If so -
  - (a) what is that policy;
  - (b) when was the policy introduced;
  - (c) what is the purpose of the policy;
  - (d) to which public servants does the policy apply?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) The actions of public servants in this regard are governed by the provisions of the Public Sector Management Act, regulations and instructions, or where applicable, an agency's Code of Conduct. It is generally accepted practice that Members may approach government agencies direct for information on routine administrative matters. However, it is not appropriate for Members to seek information on complex policy issues from junior officers. In this respect, the longstanding practice is for such matters to be directed initially to the responsible Minister.

## ABORIGINES - PARNPJINYA COMMUNITY

*Urgent Help*

1683. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) What is the urgent help referred to by the Minister in the article in *The West Australian* of 25 June 1997 in relation to the Parnpajinya Community near Newman?
- (2) From what budget will the help be funded?
- (3) Has the Government allocated additional resources for the urgent help?
- (4) If the answer to (3) is yes, what is the source of the additional resources?
- (5) If the answer to (3) is no, how will the additional resources be provided?
- (6) What programs/services will be cutback in other areas to provide the urgent help referred to?
- (7) Was this issue taken to Cabinet?
- (8) If the answer to (7) is yes, on what date was it taken to Cabinet?
- (9) If the answer to (7) is no, why was it not taken to Cabinet?
- (10) What are the expected benefits the urgent help is expected to provide?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Aboriginal Affairs Department:

- . Enlist the support of Jigalong Community Council, other Aboriginal leaders from the Martu communities in the Western Desert and BHP Iron Ore to work with the Parnpajinya residents;
- . set in place procedures for maintaining public health and providing adequate shelter;
- . developing social development support for child care, employment and education;
- . clarifying roles and responsibilities, including Local Government.

Homeswest:

- . Existing dwellings to be upgraded providing for verandahs, concrete floors, paths and outdoor cooking facilities. Estimated cost \$100,000.
- . Homeswest is currently considering the following matters -
  - possibility of pensioner accommodation in Newman
  - further family rental units in Newman
  - possibility of a Maintenance Support Program in the future at Parnpajinya
  - possibility of transient accommodation at Parnpajinya

- (2) Aboriginal Affairs Department:

From the existing budgets of the appropriate government departments.

Homeswest:

The budgetary and program implications of these matters will be addressed in the September review of the 1997/98 budget.

- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) From the existing budgets of the appropriate government departments.
- (6) Aboriginal Affairs: The work detailed above requires the coordination and planning of the Aboriginal Affairs Department in partnership with the Aboriginal community and other agencies. Resources have been already earmarked for this activity in Jigalong and Parnpajinya in 1997/98.

Homeswest: The budgetary and program implications of these matters will be addressed in the September review of the 1997/98 budget.

- (7) No.
- (8) Not applicable.
- (9) It is not necessary.
- (10) Greater involvement of Aboriginal communities and elders, such as those from Jigalong, improved public health, lower levels of illness and improved school attendance.

EXMOUTH RESORT AND CANAL DEVELOPMENT - 1995 MEETING

*Report - Department of Conservation and Land Management*

1688. Mr BROWN to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared in the *Sunday Times* newspaper on 15 June 1997 under the heading of "Resort Group Broadside at Government"?
- (2) Is the Minister aware the article refers to a meeting in 1995 at which the resort group/consortium was invited to apply for a special licence to run a 200 000 feasibility study, financed by the group?
- (3) Did the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) have any representatives at the 1995 meeting?
- (4) On what date was the meeting?
- (5) If CALM representatives attended the meeting, did they prepare a report on the outcome of the meeting?
- (6) Did the report contain any recommendations?
- (7) What recommendations were contained in the report?
- (8) Was the report referred to the Minister or departmental head for consideration?
- (9) Did the department/Minister support the recommendations in the report?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Neither CALM nor any of my Ministerial predecessors invited any group or individual to apply for a special licence to undertake a feasibility study on the western side of the Exmouth Cape.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) 1 March 1995.
- (5) A file note was prepared.
- (6) No.
- (7) Not applicable.
- (8) Yes (the Executive Director).
- (9) Not applicable.

EXMOUTH RESORT AND CANAL DEVELOPMENT - DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

*Support*

1689. Mr BROWN to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared in the *Sunday Times* newspaper on 15 June 1997 under the heading of "Resort Group Broadside at Government"?



- (2) Is the Minister aware if the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) ever conferred with or wrote to the consortium/Trade Centre Pty Ltd in relation to the proposed development?
- (3) Has CALM ever supported the development of accommodation on the west coast of Cape Range?
- (4) On what date or dates did it support such developments?
- (5) Has CALM supported a full environment assessment of the proposed development?
- (6) Has CALM had discussions with other Government departments/agencies about the proposed development?
- (7) If so, what departments or agencies?
- (8) On what date/s were those discussions held?
- (9) At any time during those discussions did other departments/agencies support the development of accommodation on the west coast of Cape Range?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) CALM was not opposed to a development in the Jurabi Coastal Park subject to the proposal meeting environmental requirements, other statutory requirements and was consistent with Government policy; in particular, consideration by the Government of the Legislative Council Select Committee Report on Cape Range National Park and Ningaloo Marine Park and Government tendering guidelines.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) CALM supports the appropriate level of environmental assessment for any development that might occur in the Jurabi Coastal Park.
- (6) Yes.
- (7)-(8) The matter has been discussed with the Department of Land Administration (DOLA), the then Department of the Western Australian Tourism Commission (WATC), the Shire of Exmouth and the Gascoyne Development Commission (GDC). Records indicate that formal meetings took place on 1 March 1995 between CALM, DOLA, DPUD, GDC and CALM, and on 20 May 1996 between CALM, WATC and DOLA.
- (9) Yes.

#### ROADS - KARIJINI-TOM PRICE

##### *Tenders*

1700. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Further to the Minister's Media Statement dated 25 November 1996 about the sealing of the Karijini-Tom Price Road, have tenders been called for the sealing of the remaining section of this road?
- (2) If yes -
  - (a) have the tenders been let;
  - (b) when is the work due to commence;
  - (c) when is the work expected to be completed?
- (3) If no to (1) above, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)
  - (a) Yes.
  - (b) The work is currently in progress.
  - (c) November 1997.
- (3) Not applicable.

TRANSPORT - BUS

*Ennis Avenue, Rockingham Bus Stop - Removal*

1718. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Why was the bus stop located on Ennis Avenue Rockingham, near Rockingham Technical and Further Education (TAFE) removed?
- (2) Will the Government re-instate this bus stop?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

I refer the member to the response to parliamentary question 1592.

ROADS - NORTHERN CITY BYPASS

*Hamilton Square - Heritage and Botanical Assessment*

1813. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) In relation to construction work on the Northern City By-Pass, what heritage and botanical assessment has been carried out on the trees and vegetation in Hamilton Square?
- (2) What is the result of this assessment?
- (3) What plans have been made to preserve the trees or relocate them?
- (4) What, if any, community open space will be provided to replace that lost in the square as the result of tunnel construction?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) Studies have been undertaken by Main Roads' Landscape and Environment Branch, a heritage consultant and a consultant botanist.
- (2)-(3) Subject to further assessment of the tree condition and the options available to relocate trees in the area, two fig trees and one plane tree will be relocated.
- (4) The area concerned is reserved within the Metropolitan Region Scheme for freeway construction. Until now the public has been able to utilise some of the area adjacent to Aberdeen Street as community open space. With construction of the City Northern Bypass, the majority of the area will return to its statutory purpose.

ROADS - NORTHERN CITY BYPASS

*James Street Bicycle Path System*

1814. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) In relation to the Northern City By-Pass construction in Northbridge, how will safe passage be ensured for pedestrians and bicyclists entering the bicycle path system at James Street?
- (2) Will the underpasses at the end of Cleaver Street be open enough to ensure safety by providing long sight lines for bike users around the proposed corners?
- (3) Will the Cleaver Street underpass area be open to Cleaver Street to ensure street supervision of the area?
- (4) Will the new overpass at the end of Aberdeen Street be trafficable by bicycles without dismounting?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) The Dual Use Path connection at the west end of James Street will be removed and replaced by the Dual Use Path overpass at Aberdeen Street. This will be entered safely from the new piazza to be constructed adjacent to St Brigids Church.
- (2) Yes.

- (3) No. However, one leg of the underpass opens to Aberdeen Street approximately 130 metres east of Cleaver Street.
- (4) Yes.

#### ROADS - NORTHERN CITY BYPASS

##### *Bunning Lake - Monitoring*

1815. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) In relation to the construction of the Northern City By-Pass in Northbridge, what monitoring of Bunning Lake has taken place and what are the results of this monitoring?
- (2) Where does the water from the lake go after it leaves the south portal?
- (3) Have alternatives to pumping into the lakes been explored?
- (4) What plans are in place to restore the ecology of Bunning Lake?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) Regular monitoring is undertaken by the contractor and results are provided to the Department of Environmental Protection and the Swan River Trust.
- (2) Water from Bunning Lake flows to the second Main Roads' compensating basin within the Hamilton Interchange, then to the Spring Street Drain, which ultimately outfalls to the Swan River.
- (3) Alternatives have been explored and pumping to the existing lake via two settling basins on site has been found to be the only viable option to cater for the volume involved.
- (4) Restoration of the Bunning Lake to its former condition will be undertaken by the contractor. Preparation of a restoration plan is currently under way and will be submitted for the Department of Environmental Protection's approval.

#### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

##### DRUGS - HEROIN

##### *Methadone Program - Waiting List*

**529. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:**

How many of the 53 fatal heroin overdose victims this year were on the methadone waiting list?

**Mrs PARKER replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. I have information available from 1 January to 30 April 1997: One person who died following a heroin overdose was on the methadone waiting list during that period. Also, the waiting list for the central clinic methadone program has been reduced over the course of this year from nine months to the current 10 days, and a heroin dependent person who is a patient of a doctor who is a registered methadone prescriber can access methadone immediately. Fifty two doctors have been trained as prescribers, and further training of general practitioners will occur in Perth in September and training for GPs in Kalgoorlie and Geraldton will be provided later this year.

##### ENVIRONMENT - WETLANDS

##### *City of Stirling - Limit on Tadpole Collection*

**530. Mr MASTERS to the Minister for the Environment:**

The City of Stirling recently imposed a voluntary limit on the number of tadpoles that can be collected from the wetlands within that city.

- (1) Is this measure a reflection of reduced frog and tadpole numbers in the City of Stirling's wetlands?
- (2) If not, has the Department of Conservation and Land Management discussed this issue with the city?
- (3) If yes to (2), what advice has the department provided to the Minister?

**Mrs EDWARDES replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) No. The City of Stirling has indicated that the limit is not a reflection of reduced numbers of frogs in its boundaries.
- (2)-(3) Once the limit was reported to me, I asked CALM to hold some discussions with the City of Stirling about any problems it may foresee, and the city confirmed that no reduction in the frog or tadpole populations had occurred in the City of Stirling.

#### POLICE - DRUGS

##### *Squad - Number of Officers*

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

- (1) What is the budget and number of FTEs allocated to the drug squad this year, and how does it compare with last year?
- (2) Given the seriousness of the heroin crisis, does the Minister really think that he is putting enough resources into catching the drug pushers who are murdering our young people?

**Mr DAY replied:**

- (1)-(2) I thank the member for some notice of this question. However, it would not be appropriate, for obvious operational and security reasons, to advise the number of officers allocated to any particular squad, inquiry or station.

Dr Gallop: That is ridiculous.

Mrs Roberts: How can we have any confidence at all?

Mr DAY: At the end of my answer, the member for Midland should have a great deal of confidence. It is wrong to assume that the only officers involved in drug law enforcement are members of the drug squad. The fact is that potentially all officers of the Western Australia Police Service are involved in drug law enforcement. Whether they be primarily involved in traffic operations, general duties, the independent patrol group, the tactical response group or any other section, all members of the Police Service can be involved in drug law enforcement.

Whenever there is a need for increased activity in any area of police operations, whether it be emergency management, drug law enforcement or any other activity, additional officers can, and are, brought in from other areas. That is exactly what will happen. The Government has demonstrated its commitment to the Western Australia Police Service by providing substantially increased resources, both financial and human, in recent years.

#### LABOUR RELATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL - ADVERTISING

##### *Opposition's Attitude*

**532. Mr BLOFFWITCH to the Minister for Labour Relations**

The Opposition has criticised the Government for wanting to inform the public about the latest industrial relations legislation. Does the Minister have any evidence that the Leader of the Opposition is somewhat lukewarm about giving members of the public information so that they can make informed decisions?

**Mr KIERATH replied:**

It is interesting to watch the actions of the Opposition. Suddenly they have an interest in the Government providing information and education to the population of Western Australia. It is also very interesting to contrast the difference in our styles. We have been prepared to inform the public, which is more than we can say about the Opposition.

I was interested in a radio interview the Leader of the Opposition gave on 9 June, during which he was asked a question about the goods and services tax. The caller said that people needed information to make an informed decision. That is a pretty reasonable proposition. Surely even the Leader of the Opposition would support that; but,

no, his reply, first of all, was that it was a good idea, however, it would not work. He said that a GST was too difficult to explain. What a load of patronising -

*Point of Order*

Mr KOBELKE: Standing orders provide that questions asked of Ministers must relate to their portfolio. The GST in some tenuous way may connect, but the fact that it relates to a statement made by the Leader of the Opposition would seem to fall totally outside the portfolio responsibilities of this Minister. When the question was asked I did think about raising whether it was improper. The Minister's answer to the Dorothy Dixie leads clearly to the judgment that the matter is outside the Minister's responsibility.

The SPEAKER: Order! I will allow the question to remain.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

Mr KIERATH: I was simply highlighting the attitude of this Opposition about industrial relations information. The standard of those opposite is to say, "We don't want people to have information; we don't want to educate people on legislation." I was pointing out the ridiculous situation of this Leader of the Opposition, who is effectively saying that people are too dumb to understand economics. He is afraid of giving people the facts. In industrial relations we have seen the biggest scare campaign of all, rather than truthful information being made available to the public. I find it incredible that any member of this Parliament, irrespective of the side on which that person sits, would want to keep the truth and the facts hidden from the people of Western Australia. It is the old mushroom principle: Keep people in the dark and feed them on bulldust. That is what this Leader of the Opposition is trying to do. I find it unbelievable that the ALP could support that situation when in the past it has claimed to have a different track record.

PRISONS - KARNET

*HIV Positive Inmate's Activities*

**533. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliament Secretary representing the Minister for Justice:**

I refer to the revelation last month that a HIV positive inmate in Karnet Prison Farm had been sharing needles and having unprotected sex with other inmates.

- (1) Is it true that up to 140 Karnet inmates have now requested HIV tests?
- (2) What proportion of the total number of prisoners at Karnet does this represent?
- (3) How many prisoners from Karnet have been released into the community since authorities became aware of the HIV positive prisoner's high-risk activities?

**Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply.

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Thirty.

PRISONS - KARNET

*Requests for HIV Tests*

**534. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Justice:**

Has the Minister given any indication of the number of prisoners who have requested testing?

**Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:**

The Minister has not, but if the member would like me to check it, I will, and I will provide him with the answer.

KALGOORLIE-BOULDER TASK FORCE - REPORT

**535. Mr OSBORNE to the Premier:**

Could the Premier please inform the House of the State Government's progress in implementing the report of the task force on community service issues for Kalgoorlie-Boulder?

**Mr COURT replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The report was released in July this year. The task force was chaired by Mrs Kath Finlayson of the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission and Mrs Karen McGay, the Deputy Mayor of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Ms Anwyl interjected.

Mr COURT: What is the member?

Ms Anwyl: A member of Parliament.

Mr COURT: Was the member the Labor Party candidate? The task force covered a range of important social issues, including alcohol abuse, mental health, staff retention and migrant services. The report will provide an important reference point for the Government in its decision-making in a number of social areas.

I will give three examples to indicate where action has already been taken on those recommendations. First, is the establishment of a meaningful accord on the availability of alcohol. A committee chaired by Commander Daryl Balchin has already developed and launched that accord. I was able to meet with him recently and discuss the cooperation his committee had received from the liquor outlets in that area.

In relation to the question of youth suicide the State will receive over \$500 000 in federal funding to provide youth counselling services in rural areas. The goldfields has priority for this funding. To improve accommodation for government employees the Government has made a commitment to aircondition the housing that is available and it hopes to have all the houses airconditioned by December this year.

I take this opportunity to thank Kath Finlayson and Karen McGay for putting this report together.

Mr Graham: It was a nice political stunt that did not work.

Mr COURT: These people worked on a voluntary basis to prepare this report and the interjections from members opposite, particularly from the member for Kalgoorlie, are interesting. Kalgoorlie-Boulder is the heartland of the Labor Party, but it has ignored it for decades.

The Government is proud that a magnificent new Kalgoorlie-Boulder aquatic centre is under construction as a result of a commitment it has given to that area. The report of this task force is an indictment of Labor's neglect of that area. The member for Kalgoorlie has stated that the report is a political stunt and a waste of money. She said it would cost \$40 000. This report was prepared by two credible people, one of whom is connected with the National Party and one with the Liberal Party. One is the Deputy Mayor of Kalgoorlie, which is an elected position.

Mr Ripper: One is a failed Liberal candidate.

Mr COURT: That is fine; not everyone can win an election. All we have heard from the Opposition is negativity and complaints about costs. The report came up with some very good recommendations and cost \$3 000. A lot of voluntary work went into this report. The Labor Party has failed the people of Kalgoorlie-Boulder for decades. It refused to address these social issues.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I have allowed interjections; unfortunately, there were too many. I always allow the person who is asking the question, who has a keen interest in it, a degree of latitude, but several members interjecting at once is unacceptable.

Mr COURT: Labor Governments did not give priority in that area to issues like alcohol and mental health. This Government is doing something about those issues. Members opposite criticise people like Kath Finlayson and Karen McGay, but they live in the real world and they know the real issues in that area.

## FUEL AND ENERGY - ELECTRICITY

### *Uniform Tariff - National Party's Policy*

**536. Dr GALLOP to the Deputy Premier:**

I refer to the National Party's policy on uniform electricity tariffs.

- (1) Did the Deputy Premier tell businesses in Esperance during the 1996 election campaign that the National Party would not enter into a coalition agreement with the Liberal Party unless the Government withdrew Western Power's new regional commercial power tariffs?

(2) If so, why is the National Party still in the coalition given that higher electricity costs still remain?

**Mr COWAN replied:**

(1) No.

(2) That issue was first raised in October 1996.

Dr Gallop: And it was passed by Cabinet.

Mr COWAN: I am not aware that the Leader of the Opposition has a seat at the Cabinet table.

Dr Gallop: It was a Cabinet decision in October.

Mr COWAN: It is not a matter that came before Cabinet. The Premier, the Minister for Energy, and I met prior to Christmas 1996 and decided that the issue would be addressed and brought before Cabinet. That is the stage it is at the moment. I am certain that Cabinet will resolve this matter.

#### FUEL AND ENERGY - ELECTRICITY

##### *Uniform Tariff - National Party's Policy*

**537. Dr GALLOP to the Deputy Premier:**

Are National Party Ministers and members advising regional businesses not to pay that surcharge to Western Power?

**Mr COWAN replied:**

I am not able to confirm one way or the other whether that is the case. Knowing some of my colleagues as I do I am sure they would have had a number of discussions with different business owners. In the course of those discussions they may have given them some advice. The Leader of the Opposition will have to ask them individually what was said.

Dr Gallop: Are there two sets of laws in WA?

Mr COWAN: I am very pleased that the supplementary question has been asked. In reference to Cabinet and Cabinet matters, I am aware, as I am sure is the Leader of the Opposition, that a matter was put before Cabinet in March this year in relation to electricity tariffs. As the leader knows - he probably bleated about it from that time on - the domestic tariff went up by 3.75 per cent and the business tariff has remained fixed. Until recent times, that is the only matter that has come before Cabinet.

Dr Gallop: That is not true.

Mr COWAN: It is true.

#### POLICE - MANDURAH LOCKUP

##### *Upgrading*

**538. Mr MARSHALL to the Minister for Police:**

Some notice of this question has been given. Numerous requests have been made to upgrade the Mandurah police lockup. At present there is not clear vision through the doors, there is no radio surveillance and the conditions do not meet the Aboriginal deaths in custody report requirements.

(1) What changes are needed to upgrade the Mandurah lockup further?

(2) Will funding become available and, if so, when?

**Mr DAY replied:**

(1)-(2) I thank the member for some notice of this question. As the member is aware, since the Government was elected in 1993, a large amount of additional financial resources have been directed into the WA Police Service to establish new facilities and to undertake other capital works. It is acknowledged that the lockup needs upgrading. I am pleased to inform the member that the Department of Contract and Management Services has been asked to employ a consultant to plan and write the specifications for that process. The project will then be put out to tender. Documentation should be available in the next two weeks. It has been proposed that two cells be upgraded to meet the Aboriginal deaths in custody report requirements.

Mrs Roberts interjected.

Mr DAY: The member for Midland should be delighted about the very speedy - as usual - government response.

Mrs Roberts: It has taken three months for you to answer the question.

Mr DAY: It has taken me one day to answer the question.

The cells will be video and audio monitored and the prisoners will have access to voice communications with a staff member, who will be able to monitor activities from a main control panel in the general office area of the Mandurah Police Station. The cells will also have doors fitted with clear panels so that staff have a clear view inside. The remaining eight cells will have audio monitoring and a video camera will be installed in the male exercise yard. Two staff duress alarms will be placed outside the two upgraded cells.

Funding for the project will be allocated from within the existing police budget; that is, the 1997-98 budget.

#### WESTERN POWER - ESPERANCE

##### *Bids for Supply of Electricity*

**539. Mr THOMAS to the Minister for Energy:**

- (1) Has the Minister submitted to Cabinet a proposal that Western Power, with the Office of Energy's involvement, call bids for supply, but not distribution and sale, of electricity in Esperance?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) What was the fate of that recommendation?

**Mr BARNETT replied:**

- (1)-(3) I thank the member for some notice of this question. I wonder why he asked it when yesterday afternoon in this Parliament he proudly waved around a copy of ill-gotten, stolen Cabinet material.

Mr Ripper: Your own leader did that.

Mr BARNETT: I will not go through that debate again.

Several members interjected.

Mr Thomas: I challenge you to notify the Anti-Corruption Commission, and I promise I will cooperate with its investigations.

Mr BARNETT: Yesterday the member for Cockburn had in his possession stolen cabinet material. He and the Leader of the Opposition quoted from it; therefore, his question is superfluous because he has read it.

He knows that as part of the submission I put to Cabinet in May I recommended progressive private sector investment in power generation in regional Western Australia, probably starting with Esperance. I strongly support that policy. There is no such proposal currently before Cabinet, but I hope to reintroduce something along those lines.

Dr Gallop: You denied that yesterday.

Mr BARNETT: No I did not.

#### WATER CORPORATION - OCEAN REEF BOAT HARBOUR

##### *Payment for Repairs*

**540. Mr BAKER to the Minister for Water Resources**

- (1) Will the Western Australian Water Corporation agree to pay for the requisite repairs to the southern groyne at the Ocean Reef small boat harbour, which were caused by recent storm damage to the area?
- (2) Is the WA Water Corporation currently involved in negotiating the future management and control of the said area and, if so, will the Minister report on the status of those negotiations?

**Dr HAMES replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes, the Water Corporation is willing to contribute to repairs to the groyne.



- (2) Yes, negotiations have continued on this matter. We have estimated the long term cost of repairs to the groyne. I understand that a meeting, which the member chaired, occurred on 1 August of this year between the Department of Transport and Wanneroo City Council. Part of the discussions at the meeting related to an evaluation of possible commercial development of the area. I understand that Wanneroo City Council will consider the amount of money it will contribute towards the project. The development is very positive and the Water Corporation is willing to play its part in ensuring those repairs are carried out.

#### TOURISM - ELLE RACING

##### *Mr John Harvey - Meetings with Premier*

#### **541. Mr BROWN to the Premier**

I refer to the answer the Premier gave yesterday regarding his meeting with Mr Harvey of Elle Racing Pty Ltd when he stated, "We met on 6 September at a luncheon for the crew and officials."

- (1) Is it not true that the Premier met privately with Mr John Harvey at the Premier's request?
- (2) If yes, who else was at that meeting?
- (3) Is it not true that the Premier discussed the coming state election at this meeting and mentioned the benefit of having the Elle publicity during the election campaign?

#### **Mr COURT replied:**

(1)-(3) I am sorry that I do not have a copy of the first answer I gave to that question.

Mr Ripper: Just tell the truth.

Mr COURT: I always do, my friend.

Mrs Roberts: You called him friend. Is that true?

Mr COURT: The members of the Opposition are all my friends.

Mrs Roberts: If that is an example of your telling the truth, we are worried.

Mr COURT: They are not close friends, but friends.

I have not got the first answer but I think I said that a function was held for the crew and others. A meeting took place immediately prior to that luncheon.

Mr Brown: You did not say that yesterday.

Mr COURT: I said it was in answer to the question. I have not got a copy of it in front of me. That is why I asked the member yesterday why I was getting the same question twice. Perhaps I should ask the member if he has been speaking with Mr Harvey.

Mr Brown: The procedure here is that we ask the questions and you provide the answers.

Mr COURT: The reason I posed the question is that I am being asked to give word for word what was said at a meeting. Members opposite would be prepared to damage Western Australia's reputation for their short term political advantage. Someone must be telephoning the member and saying, "Mr Court said this. These were the questions and answers that took place at a meeting." I could not tell the member what took place word for word at a meeting.

Dr Gallop: Do you have two sets of rules, one set for members on your side of the House and another for members on this side of the House?

Mr COURT: No.

Dr Gallop: That is typical Court logic.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Dr Gallop: We have 30 years in this State of one set of rules for the establishment and one for the others. We have had a gutful of it, Premier. Just answer the question.

Mr COURT: I am listening to a cappuccino socialist.

Dr Gallop: You have absolutely no credibility on this issue.

Mr COURT: The Leader of the Opposition is far removed from the real world.

The SPEAKER: Order! I remind members that when Ministers and Premiers accept interjections I am prepared to allow them, and that is why they went on for such a long time. However, we cannot allow a barrage of interjections to continue.

Mr COURT: The difference between this Government and the Government of the Leader of the Opposition - Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I must say to members on my right, and it is not often I need to say this to members on my right, that there is a barrage of interjections from the government side as well. It is unacceptable and I intend to take a fairly hard line with the next people who interject.

Mr COURT: It appears Mr Harvey wants to inform members of the Opposition. All I can say to members opposite is, be warned. I suggest that they be careful not to damage this State's reputation for the sake of some short-term political gain. I make that comment because I think they should be very wary of some of the information they are receiving.

With regard to the different standards - I made this comment at the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee hearing last Friday - the difference between this Government and the former Labor Government is that this Government has operated under freedom of information legislation. It is the first Western Australian Government to have operated under that legislation, and in an issue such as Global Dance all the documentation was available and members were able to question me for three hours at the public accounts committee hearing. Can any members recall any Labor Minister who was prepared to be that accountable? The answer is no.

#### TOURISM - ELLE RACING

*Mr John Harvey - Meetings with Premier*

#### **542. Mr BROWN to the Premier:**

Does the Premier have any recollection of the meeting that took place with Mr Harvey prior to the luncheon? If so, is it true that the Premier discussed with Mr Harvey the importance of the Elle promotional campaign in terms of a Liberal Party victory?

#### **Mr COURT replied:**

I said yesterday that I have been asked the same question twice and I am interested to know why members opposite want to know about further meetings and the like. That meeting basically involved Shane Crockett, head of the WA Tourism Commission, explaining what the promotion entailed; that is, it was a combined promotion to help the Brand WA launch and to help strengthen this State's ability to retain the Whitbread round the world yacht race. A number of issues were raised and of most concern to those present was the ability of the crew that had been chosen and whether it could compete in a round the world yacht race. That related to the skipper Adrienne Cahalan. Subsequently, other views were sought on that and we were told she was probably the finest woman in the world to undertake that job. That has since been confirmed by Bruce Farr, who has designed most of the yachts for this race.

The election campaign may have been discussed from a timing point of view.

Dr Gallop: We were right. It was discussed. Your re-election required taxpayers' money. That is what it was about.

Mr COURT: The discussion probably went along the lines that we anticipated a close election.

Mr Brown: Is that your only recollection?

Mr COURT: I said yesterday that the Whitbread round the world yacht race this year would be a big success. It has the highest quality fleet ever to have entered that race. Today the private sector in Western Australia has announced that Placido Domingo will perform in a concert in this State the day before the Whitbread round the world yacht race restarts. He is one of the world's leading tenors, and that is the icing on the cake. There will be a series of the best on earth, magnificent international events in Perth, and this is an additional one that will guarantee the success of the tourism industry this year.

#### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - FAILURE TO ANSWER

#### **543. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:**

Pursuant to Standing Order No 110, I ask why question on notice 1051, regarding the extension of the Kwinana Freeway and its delay for four years, has not been answered.

**Mr OMODEI replied:**

I am aware that these questions have not been answered within the appropriate time frame. I have raised the matter with the Minister for Transport and I understand from his office that the questions are in the system and are being answered at the moment.

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - FAILURE TO ANSWER****544. Ms ANWYL to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:**

Pursuant to the same standing order, my question on notice 1073 remains unanswered after three months.

**Mr BARNETT replied:**

I am not aware of the content of that question, but I will undertake to ensure it is answered.

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