



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

THIRTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
SECOND SESSION
1999

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 1 June 1999

Legislative Assembly

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THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland) took the Chair at 2.00 pm, and read prayers.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICES, PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN AND KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN

Petition

Dr Constable presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 39 persons -

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

We, the undersigned wish to express our opposition to the decision taken by the Metropolitan Health Services Board to abolish the position of Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery Services at Princess Margaret and King Edward Memorial Hospitals. The loss of this leadership role at executive level is seen as detrimental to the profession of nursing and midwifery in Western Australia. We ask that this decision be reviewed and that the position is re-instated at Princess Margaret and King Edward Memorial Hospitals forthwith.

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

[See petition No 218.]

VACATION SWIMMING CLASSES

Petition

Mr Cowan (Deputy Premier) presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 99 persons -

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

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

the current high standard of teaching

the affordability of classes

the availability of classes, particularly in country areas

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

A similar petition was presented by the Speaker (84 signatures).

[See petitions Nos 219 and 227.]

EUTHANASIA, LEGALISATION

Petition

Mr Pandal presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 15 persons -

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

We, the undersigned citizens from the Electoral District of South Perth request that the House rejects any Bill designed to legalise euthanasia in Western Australia, on the grounds that such a practice devalues human life, and sends clear messages to society - especially the aged - that people are expendable and vulnerable.

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

[See petition No 220.]

CARAVAN PARK, CAMPING AND REST AREA LEGISLATION, AMENDMENTS

Petition

Ms MacTiernan presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 687 persons -

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

We, the undersigned demand that the Government repeal the regulations which forces caravan owners to rest at road-side tourist bays for no longer than a four hour period between the hours of 6pm-7am. For safer roads, long distance travellers need adequate rest breaks without the fear of having a fine imposed on them by local authorities. Thus, in the interest of road safety, we call on the Government to reintroduce the 24-hour time limit for caravan owners utilising tourist bays.

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

[See petition No 225.]

IRON WORKS, ROCKINGHAM-KWINANA AREA

Petition

Mr McGowan presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 106 persons -

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

We the undersigned, are strongly opposed to the proposed iron ore works in the Rockingham/Kwinana area. We believe that there will be little benefit for this area but instead a lot of environmental damage and a potential health hazard. We believe there are no benefits to outweigh the adverse conditions these works will bring.

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

[See petition No 221.]

CARAVAN PARK, CAMPING AND REST AREA LEGISLATION, AMENDMENTS

Petition

Mr Minson presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 9 persons -

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

We the undersigned, call upon the State Government to amend certain rules which are seen as unfair, restrictive and discriminatory towards us, the Australian public. We therefore ask that the following legislation be amended.

1. The Caravan Park 50 km protection zone be returned to its former 16 kms.
2. The 3 night Camping Law be amended to 28 nights on rate payers own property allowing for holiday visits by family or friends without having to seek special written permission from the authorities.
3. That country road Park/Rest Areas limit of 4 hours be increased to 12 hours allowing long distance tourists, travellers and truck drivers to vacate roads during the hours of darkness if they so choose.
4. That en-route country Rest Stops of up to 12 hours be not defined as camping.

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

Similar petitions were presented by Mr Pendal (12 signatures) and Mr McGowan (28 signatures).

[See petitions Nos 222, 223 and 226.]

ROCKINGHAM-KWINANA DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Petition

Mr McGowan presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 310 persons -

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

We the undersigned, wish to express our opposition to any reduction of services to the Rockingham/Kwinana District Hospital. As Rockingham/Kwinana is one of the fastest growing areas in Western Australia, we believe that there should be an upgrade to existing facilities for this hospital instead of any reductions to nursing staff and specialist services.

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

[See petition No 224.]

STANDING ORDERS AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE*Report*

THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland): I present volume 3 of the report of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee on the modernisation of standing orders. I move -

That the document be printed.

This volume contains only the joint standing orders relating to private Bills. Those standing orders have not been generally available in this House since 1968, and volume 1 of the report contains the committee's recommendation that they be deleted as they are no longer used. It was originally intended that these standing orders be included in volume 2, but they have now been reproduced as a separate volume. After reading the standing orders, members will readily appreciate why the private Bills standing orders are no longer necessary. Volume 2, which contains the existing standing orders, the proposed standing orders and summaries of explanations of all the changes, has been printed and will be available to members probably from today.

Question put and passed.

[See paper No 984.]

TAXATION REFORM PACKAGE*Statement by Premier*

MR COURT (Nedlands - Premier) [2.17 pm]: Following recent negotiations with the Australian Democrats, the Commonwealth Government has put forward a revised package of tax changes and commonwealth-state reforms. The key changes made in the revised package are the exclusion of basic food from the GST base, and other changes to the base including expanding the list of health and education services to be GST free; reducing the personal income tax cuts for those earning over \$50 000 per annum and increased GST compensation for those with low or fixed incomes; postponing the abolition of the financial institutions duty, and deferring the abolition of debits tax and state stamp duties on business transactions for at least five years; changes to diesel fuel excise credits that further reduce the cost saving to industry; and an environmental protection package including greenhouse gas abatement measures.

Many details have yet to be worked out, and state and territory treasury officials are meeting in Canberra at this time. Under the package, Western Australian exporters will still benefit substantially from the GST-free treatment of exports, fuel costs will still be lower than is currently the case for industry overall and virtually all Western Australians will enjoy personal income tax cuts.

However, there are elements of the revised reforms that are of great concern. Under the modified GST, the deferred abolition of state taxes and changes to the diesel fuel arrangements will mean increased bureaucratic complexity, which will add to business costs. The reduced personal income tax cuts for those earning over \$50 000 per annum will mean reduced work incentives. The States will have to retain their most inefficient and regressive state taxes. States will have substantially less in growth revenues, with benefits to revenue in this State over 10 years considerably delayed and less than half what was previously expected. New environment measures will mean increased commonwealth interference in state affairs and will increase uncertainty for energy projects, particularly in Western Australia. Western Australia had a key aim in tax reform to replace the worst of current state taxes with access to a broad-based growth revenue. This would assist job growth and better fund the future provision of needed community services by the States, such as education, health, law and order and public safety.

The revised package falls short on this account. It achieves only partial reform - indeed, this revised package represents not so much national tax reform, as Canberra tax reform. It also falls short of achieving real commonwealth-state reform. Lasting reform of our federal arrangements requires agreement by the States and Territories. It cannot be achieved by Canberra acting alone. Much more needs to be done urgently and cooperatively in reforming our federal financial arrangements. We have already conveyed these concerns to the Prime Minister and we intend to pursue these issues further with the other Premiers and Chief Ministers.

LEADERSHIP WA*Statement by Minister for Youth*

MR BOARD (Murdoch - Minister for Youth) [2.21 pm]: I rise to inform the House of the launch of Leadership WA, a leadership training school which will promote the importance of leadership in the community and build leadership skills and confidence in our young people. Leadership WA provides the only accredited community leadership education program in this State. It will offer leadership training for a variety of settings and situations. Leadership is for everyone. It is not constrained by socioeconomic boundaries, religion, gender or culture. Leadership is a skill that can be fostered in everyone, but most especially in young people.

In 1997 the Office of Youth Affairs commissioned the Westrek Foundation to report on the development and future direction of a leadership training school. Following consultation with a wide range of community-based organisations involved in the development of leadership, the Westrek Foundation recommended that a leadership training school, accessible to a wide cross-section of the community, be established. The community consultation process ensures we provide relevant training which adds value to existing programs. Leadership WA will at all times complement rather than compete with, or duplicate, existing leadership programs in the community.

The Leadership WA College will be housed at the old Heathcote Hospital site in Applecross. The site is being redeveloped and the college is expected to be operating from Murray House at Heathcote by May next year. Until that time courses are being run at other venues such as Central Metropolitan College of TAFE and Edith Cowan University at Joondalup.

Leadership WA offers certificate 4 of leadership. This course is nationally accredited and covers a broad range of leadership issues which address the needs of individuals and community groups. With exit points at Certificates 2 and 3, participants can choose the level of skill development that they wish to pursue. In addition, participants may enrol in individual modules without having to complete the entire course. Modules in the certificate courses include "An Introduction to Citizenship"; "First Aid"; "Teambuilding Communication"; and "Group Dynamics for Leaders". Adventure courses are also offered through a partnership with the Sail Training Ship *Leeuwin* and Fairbridge. These courses have a theory component which can lead to completing certificates 2, 3 or 4.

Over time the range of programs will be expanded to encompass the broad spectrum of leadership concepts and issues. These programs will include short courses and personal development courses outside the vocational education and training area. Leadership WA will initially be operated as part of the Office of Youth Affairs. In the future, however, it will become an autonomous body with responsibility for its administration and management, vested in a council.

Leadership WA courses are being promoted to secondary students, technical and further education and university students, youth groups and youth leaders and young people already in the workforce, as well as sporting clubs and individuals who are interested in improving their leadership skills. Applications can be made direct to Leadership WA by telephoning that organisation or through the official web site.

The Governor, Major General Michael Jeffery, is a great supporter of Leadership WA. Like the Government, he saw the need to develop the next generation of community leaders and to provide high quality role models for young people. I believe that investing in the leadership of young people is investing in the future.

[Questions without notice taken.]

BILLS - ASSENT

Messages from the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills -

1. Restraining Orders Amendment Bill.
2. Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No 3).
3. Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No 4).
4. Perth Parking Management Bill.
5. Perth Parking Management (Taxing) Bill.
6. Perth Parking Management (Consequential Provisions) Bill.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX PACKAGE

Matter of Public Interest

THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland): I received today within the prescribed time a letter from the Leader of the Opposition seeking to debate as a matter of public interest the following matter -

This House notes the unacceptability of the Howard-Lees GST package and calls on the Premier to stop his posturing and start defending the interests of Western Australia and its people by opposing the package.

The motion appears to be in order. If sufficient members agree to this motion, I will allow it.

[At least five members rose in their places.]

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

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [3.06 pm]: I move the motion. Undoubtedly, the major issue confronting the national Parliament, each of the State Parliaments and Governments and the people of Australia is the future of the Federal Government's goods and services tax package. The resolution of this matter will determine in many ways the nature of the society in which we will live, and the ability of our country to work as a community to solve many problems we face as we approach the twenty-first century. It is important that the Western Australian Parliament expresses a point of view on this matter.

The question of tax changes in Australia is one to be considered by not only the Federal Government and Federal Parliament, but also each Parliament and Government around Australia. It is important that we state for the public record our positions on this matter. This motion gives us a clear chance for this Parliament to send a message to the wider community.

I start by referring to the Premier's statements on this matter. We have heard a great deal of whining from the Premier about the Howard-Lees GST package and the circumstances from which it emerged. The Premier has complained about the lack of consultation involved in the completion of that package, and the fact that high income earners will receive only \$60 of unjustified tax cuts of the \$80 they expected to receive under the original coalition package. The Premier has today added

to the various complaints about how this package will work. Interestingly, the Premier failed to acknowledge that he brought all these problems on himself and upon the State of Western Australia when he embraced the GST package during the federal election campaign.

Mr Barnett: I'm sorry, my friend - the Australian people embraced it! They voted for it.

Dr GALLOP: I am sorry, Leader of the House, but we have two Federal Houses of Parliament; namely, the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Mr Barnett: So the Labor Party hides behind the skirts of the Democrats.

Dr GALLOP: No, it does not.

Mr Barnett: Where is Beazley? The Democrats are the Opposition. The Labor Party is hiding in the corridors.

Dr GALLOP: A hostile Senate was faced throughout the years of the Hawke and Keating Governments. Is that not remarkable? What did the Opposition say when this package was put before the Australian people last year? It said that this package would give more power to the Commonwealth in our federation. The Commonwealth has certainly seen it in those terms thus when it came to changing the composition of that package it saw no necessity to consult with the Premier of Western Australia or the Premiers of the other States. The Commonwealth simply talked to itself and to the Australian Democrats with its base in the Senate. There was not even a phone call to, let alone a meeting with, the Premiers to discuss this new package. This is the very nature of the future that the Premier endorsed when he signed off on the goods and services tax package in 1998. He is complaining about a process he agreed to when he signed off on that package last year.

It is important to note the form of the Premier of Western Australia on issues like this and there is a long history of these kinds of questions. Members will recall the interesting debate about hospital funding when a crisis occurred in the hospitals in Western Australia. The Premier tried to blame someone else rather than acknowledge the inadequacies of his own administration. He ranted and raved about the Commonwealth not providing adequate funding under the Medicare agreement.

Mr Barnett: Can you tell us whether the Australian Labor Party supports the position of the Democrats?

Dr GALLOP: No, it does not. There is no question about that. The Labor Party voted against the GST package mark I and votes against the GST package mark II. There is no question and there are no ambiguities about it.

At that time the Premier claimed \$500m over four years was required to fix the crisis; that was the Government's bottom line. Then the Government trotted off to Canberra, the crunch came and it walked away with just 20 per cent of what it said was needed to solve the hospital crisis in Western Australia; in other words, the Government was happy with 20 per cent of what it said was needed. All the huffing and puffing and all the ranting and raving dissolved into 20 per cent of what it said was needed.

We hear the same story about federal grants to the States. The Premier moans constantly that Western Australia's relative position has declined as a result of the Grants Commission's rulings and that the actual level of grants to Western Australia has reduced. However, when it comes to the crunch and the federal budget reduces the amount of funding by 20 per cent - for example, for road programs in Western Australia - he applauds the Federal Treasurer for his budget surplus even though that surplus is built on the problems of capital infrastructure needs that we have in Western Australia.

The Premier does not deliver on states' rights. He is all rhetoric and hot air but when the crunch comes he always caves in. He never delivers when it comes to the interests and rights of our State in the federation. He is the flim flam Premier. When the crunch comes it is John Howard's political interests that he serves and John Howard's political interests are not the political interests of the people of Western Australia.

This motion allows us to make two clear statements as a Parliament: The first concerns the unacceptability of the Howard-Lees package. We have the chance to tell the people of Western Australia and of the Commonwealth that we do not support this package. Secondly we are able to send a clear message to the Premier that he should be opposing the package on the national political stage. I will go through each of these issues in turn.

I will move on to the dog's breakfast of a package that we now have before us. The Democrats embarked upon a mission which was that they wanted to make the GST fair. We all know that is mission impossible. The GST cannot be made fair. By its very nature it is a regressive tax. The first step involved the negotiations between Senator Harradine and the Federal Government. Senator Harradine tried to make the GST fair by looking at compensation issues. However, he quite properly concluded that it could not be done and he went out of the equation. Then the Democrats entered the equation; but what we have is still an unfair and regressive tax package.

I will go to the essence of this package. The essentials of life, such as some food, clothing, footwear, transport and housing will be taxed at 10 per cent. That is why, as members of Parliament, people stop us in the street and say, "You fight against that GST because we know what it will mean to us and our families." This is particularly the case for the people we represent in this Parliament who find it difficult to make ends meet week by week, year by year. Under this package caviar will be GST-free while fish and chips will attract the 10 per cent tax. The lion's share of the tax cuts will go to the top 20 per cent of income earners. What a tax package! The benefits will go to the top 20 per cent. Those earning more than \$75 000 per annum will receive tax cuts of \$62 per week while those earning \$10 000 will receive just \$5.40. Therein lies the philosophy of the coalition Government.

Not only is this tax package unfair to the people of Australia, but also it is a nightmare for small business. Before the essential food exemption, the GST would have been hard on small business; it will now be a compliance nightmare for small business. The new exemptions will only add to the compliance costs for the tax collectors who, under the GST, are small businesses. The whole chicken versus the chicken pieces dilemma is only the beginning - the list of similar situations is endless. We will see the problems and complications in the community - plain buns versus those with icing; frozen yoghurt versus fresh yoghurt; hamburger rolls versus hamburgers; frozen pizzas versus frozen pies. Members should recall that this Government sold the GST on the basis that it was meant to reduce compliance costs.

Several members interjected.

Dr GALLOP: Does the Minister for Resources Development think that we should go to an election on a double dissolution on the basis of the original package? Is that the basis of his interjection?

Mr Barnett: I have not said that at all. I will make my remarks later. The people have already decided once.

Dr GALLOP: Yes, they elected two Houses of Parliament, as they have been doing since 1901. That is the system we have federally, just as we have two Houses of Parliament in Western Australia. The Premier cannot avoid the fact that under the GST there will be one million more tax collectors across Australia. Is it not interesting that the aspect of the revised package that the Premier seems to question most is the reduction of income tax to the high income earners?

Several members interjected.

Dr GALLOP: This gives us an insight into the Premier's priorities. He has indicated what really motivates him and drives his political agenda by what he has said about the GST.

I turn now to the finances of Western Australia and I point out to the Premier that the Opposition will debate this package. The Opposition has put this motion on the agenda for debate today and it will not let the Government run away from it. It will confront the debate on the Howard-Lees tax package.

The Howard-Lees package effectively means that the intergovernmental agreement signed by the Premiers and the Prime Minister is dead or, as Jeff Kennett said, dead in the water. This new package will see Western Australia keep a range of taxes which were meant to be abolished. Under this new agreement, entered into between Senator Lees and Prime Minister Howard without any consideration for the Federal Government's relationship with the States, pensioners have to pay not only a new, regressive goods and services tax but also the debits tax for the next five years and financial institutions duty on their bank accounts for a year following the introduction of the GST. Members opposite can rest easy with the package that the Prime Minister has set up because the only state tax that will be abolished from day one will be the stamp duty on marketable securities. The implications of the Howard-Lees package on Western Australia stretch far beyond the retention of a number of state taxes. Not only will consumers at the checkout be feeling the impact, but also for years to come State Governments and taxpayers will continue to feel the brunt of this centralist package.

The GST package mark I is just as bad for the State of Western Australia as the Howard-Lees package because it is a tax imposed by the Commonwealth. Over time we will see that financial power lead to more political power and less money for the States. This is not a state tax, as the Premier has tried to make out in his contribution to the debate. If it were a state tax, why were the States not involved in the resolution of the matter with the Australian Democrats. It is a commonwealth tax. That is what this Premier signed up on. He has signed up on the death warrant of the federation. We have our last chance to save it through the debates going on in Western Australia today.

Let us look at some of the other issues involved in this package. First, there is the cost of administering this cumbersome, inefficient tax. What is John Howard's solution to the extra costs that will come with the implications of this deal? He says that the Federal Government will take the cost off the GST. What does that mean? It means that it will take the cost off the States. This confirms everything the Opposition has been saying about this tax. When the crunch comes, it is a commonwealth tax and not a state tax. Under the initial tax package the cost of administration of the GST to the Australian Taxation Office was estimated at \$350m. This is expected to increase by \$60m per year under the new tax package. This money will be taken directly from the States. This has been confirmed in a letter from the Prime Minister to Senator Lees in which he wrote that additional funding to cover the increased administrative costs for the Australian Taxation Office arising from the partial removal of food from the GST base would be paid from GST revenues. What does that mean? It means less money for the States. The States were not even consulted about that change.

We have short, medium and long-term implications for state revenue. We have the implications of the administrative costs of this very cumbersome tax and what that will mean for state revenue. Of course, a whole range of other consequences will impact on our State. We do not have the time to go into them today, but they are very significant. I will mention a few. The member for Cockburn raised one earlier today. What will it mean for the cost of power generation in Western Australia? What will it mean for the involvement of the Commonwealth Government in major projects, such as the Gorgon and liquefied natural gas projects? The Prime Minister was happy to deliver to the Australian Democrats a certain commitment on the role that the Commonwealth can play in these projects. It will be interesting to see how that issue works its way through the system over the short and medium term. We will see increased costs from the ill-informed decision of this State to purchase diesel buses. We will see the involvement of the Commonwealth in setting Homeswest rents. Of course, there is that famous growth dividend - that marvellous assumption which creeps into the analysis which indicates that, because of this wonderful GST, we will get various growth benefits. Now that we have a different GST package, what will the growth dividend be compared to what was put forward previously? The Opposition questions that. These are the many issues that have been added to the debate on top of those which we raised in 1998 when the GST package was announced.

In addition to these facts, the GST is a commonwealth tax: It is administered, collected and distributed by the Commonwealth. The Premier is trying to create the impression in the community that he stands for the rights of this State in the federation. What he signed up on was a program that would have seen the step-by-step reduction of the power of the States to the point where they would become the administrative arms of the Commonwealth. What is more, the package has added to that process through a range of issues.

What will be the next step? What will the Premier do now that he has this package? I notice in the ministerial statement he delivered to the Parliament today he was a bit short on indicating what he might do. He said -

We have already conveyed these concerns to the Prime Minister and we intend to pursue these issues further with the other Premiers and chief ministers.

That is what he said about hospital funding. What did we get? We got 20 per cent. That is what he said about federal funds for the States. What did he get? He got cuts in relative and absolute terms to Western Australia. What will the Premier do? Let us look at the history of the responses on these issues. When Senator Harradine rejected the first package, the Premier called on the Prime Minister to go to an election. That was his first response and a very bold intervention by him which lasted about 24 hours. He was soon calling for a compromise. He has his compromise, and the compromise is no good. The Opposition has demonstrated in its contribution to the Parliament today that that is the case.

This leads to a very interesting question for the Premier. What is his bottom line for Western Australia? Let us do something that the Premier is not used to doing: Let us talk about his position, because he is the Premier of Western Australia and must respond on behalf of the people of Western Australia. The public is entitled to some clarity from him on this matter. On what grounds, if any, is this deal acceptable to him? What is his Treasury telling us about this package? What instructions has he given to Treasury officials who are in Canberra today? Why in his ministerial statement to the Parliament today did he not indicate the Treasury analysis and the instructions he has given Treasury officers? The people of Western Australia deserve to know their Government's position. This issue will be vital to the future of our State. The Opposition's position is clear: We opposed the GST mark I and we oppose the Howard-Lees GST mark II. We want to know what the Premier's position is because he has yet to tell us. He refused to be specific. That tells us one simple thing: He is paving the way for yet another capitulation. Just as we had the capitulation on hospital funding and federal grants to the States, we are heading for another capitulation by the Premier of Western Australia. If that is not the case, why does he not table today the specific demands he is making of the Commonwealth, so that we know whether he has achieved his objectives in this matter? Then we can know what is the Premier's bottom line in relation to this matter. The real answer to all of those questions should be that the Government should oppose this regressive tax and centralist tax in its original form and in its amended form.

That is the clear position of the Opposition, and that is what the Premier should do when he goes into the intergovernmental negotiations on this matter. Firstly, this tax is not in our State's interest, because it gives more financial power to the Commonwealth; and, secondly, this tax is not in our people's interests, because it is a complicated and regressive tax which will be imposed upon them and which will make life harder for them. To add to it, parts of the agreement entered into with the Australian Democrats will involve more commonwealth penetration of decision making in Western Australia. The Premier is under an obligation to give us his position. He is under an obligation to tell us whether he will oppose this tax package or whether, yet again, he will be full of rhetoric, full of huff and puff and rant and rave about the position of the States. When the crunch comes, he meekly subjects himself to the political interests of the Howard Government, and all of his rhetoric about the rights of the State in our federation falls away to nothing. He is the flim-flam Premier.

MR COURT (Nedlands - Premier) [3.32 pm]: The Leader of the Opposition has said it all. He has spoken for 25 minutes and not once has he said what would be a Labor Party tax proposal. The Labor Party is very good at knowing what it opposes, yet not in knowing the type of reform it might favour. Who said that?

Ms MacTiernan: You did, just then.

Mr COURT: Mark Latham, the up-and-coming young Turk in the Labor Party, said that the Labor Party is very good in knowing what it opposes, yet not good in knowing the type of reform that it might favour. The members of the Labor Party know what they oppose, but they have no idea what they want to propose. The Leader of the Opposition spoke for 25 minutes. He said that he opposes this and that, but not once did he say what he proposes. The same person described the Labor Party leadership as intellectually and politically bankrupt, and reliant on the strategy of scab lifting; that is, the members of the Labor Party have a little look under the problem and then put the lid back on it.

Dr Gallop: That is ridiculous.

Mr COURT: That was Mark Latham telling us how the Labor Party makes its policies. The Labor Party has no credibility on taxation. It had 10 years in the State Parliament and 12 years in the Federal Parliament, and it did absolutely nothing to bring about tax reform in this nation.

Dr Gallop: What is your position on the Howard-Lees package? Get on with it.

Mr COURT: The Labor Party had Mr Keating, Mr Beazley, Mr Hawke and Mr Evans supporting a goods and services tax.

Dr Gallop: You should start talking about the Howard-Lees package. The people of Western Australia want to know your position.

Mr COURT: They will know our position, but they will not know the Labor Party's position, because the Labor Party has sidelined itself in the tax debate. It went into the last election with a proposal to get rid of some of the capital gains tax

exemptions on the pre-1985 stuff. Its support base revolted at that. It wanted to increase the price of four-wheel drives; the members thought that would be popular, but they forgot to work out that it was their support base. Because the Leader of the Opposition will not talk about the Labor Party's tax proposals, the Labor Party's think tank has said that everyone thinks that the existing taxation system is broke and needs fixing.

Ms MacTiernan: Which think tank is that?

Mr COURT: The Evatt Foundation.

Ms MacTiernan: Do you accept its propositions?

Mr COURT: No, that is what the Labor Party's think tank has said.

Dr Gallop: We are debating the Howard-Lees package.

Mr COURT: We are debating tax reform. The Labor Party wants to get rid of exemptions on capital gains tax. It wants to bring back death duties. Even the member for Armadale agrees with that policy. She said that the obvious and fairest way of funding that is through death duties or, to be specific, state duties imposed on the transfer of assets from deceased estates. Another Labor Party person, Lindsay Tanner wants an inheritance tax. The members of the Labor Party do not want to talk about their proposals. They want death duties and inheritance tax, and they want to take away the pre-1985 exemptions on capital gains tax. New South Wales has land tax on homes valued at over \$1m. That is becoming a form of death duty, because many people who might have inherited homes and who do not have a large income now cannot pay their land tax payments. They were told by the Labor Party, "You can put it in the kitty, and when you die, we will take all of the land tax out of the estate." That is what the Labor Party is doing now. That is why the Leader of the Opposition does not want to talk about tax reform and what the Labor Party will do. He does not want to talk about anything to do with Labor's proposals because it has death duties and inheritance tax, and it takes away exemptions on capital gains tax and the like.

I will tell members opposite our position; that is something that the Leader of the Opposition could not tell us in 25 minutes, because he simply does not have one. We supported the taxation package that was put to the electorate by the federal coalition at the last election. We put a detailed submission forward for taxation reform. The basis of that submission was that we believe that the States should have a component of income tax with the Federal Government retiring from that area enough to allow the States to have income tax. We also believe that the State should have a component of the goods and services tax. The problem with a consumption tax is that, under the Constitution, we do not have the ability to raise those taxes now. Although we had collected alcohol, tobacco and fuel taxes in the past, the High Court rulings have made it impossible for us to do it. The States, with an incredibly narrow revenue base, had those avenues taken away. The Federal Government put up a proposal that did not include the income tax component. It said that it was prepared to introduce a goods and services tax and give all of those revenues to the States. In return, the States would abolish a number of taxes, such as financial institutions duty, bank accounts debits tax, stamp duty on a number of business transactions and the like. It would have been a major benefit to our export sector and it would have provided significant income tax cuts for people earning up to \$75 000. The Leader of the Opposition said that all he is interested in is income tax cuts for people with incomes of \$75 000. If he bothered to follow the revised Labor policy which Simon Crean released a couple of weeks ago, he would realise that he now is proposing income tax cuts for people earning up to \$80 000. He says in this Parliament that all he is interested in is income tax cuts. Even the Labor Party now has revised its package. It wants income tax cuts for people earning up to \$80 000. In a few months since the election, under the Labor Party, low income earners have gone from earning \$75 000 up to \$80 000. There also would be access to growth revenues for the State over four years. I have made it clear that we do not support the changes that have been made as a result of the negotiations with the Australian Democrats.

We now have a situation in which basic food has been exempted and the Federal Government has expanded health and education services that will be GST-free. That involves a loss of revenues of \$4b that were to flow to the State. As a result, FID is being deferred for six months and the BAD tax is to be deferred, it says, for five years, but five years is the long term, and in the long term we are all dead. In relation to the debits tax and some stamp duties on business transactions, we must read that they will stay because the Federal Government is saying -

Mr McGowan: It says what you are going to do with your own tax. You don't even get a say.

Mr COURT: I ask the member to be quiet. If he wants to listen, he should listen. The Federal Government says, "With the growth revenues that might flow through, you can then abolish some of your state taxes." That is not the deal we agreed to. In relation to growth revenues, Treasury estimated, as I have said in the statement, that in the first 10 years they will be half the growth revenues that we had previously estimated. In relation to the changes that have taken place, it goes beyond that. In the statement that the Federal Government put out, it became involved in putting in place requirements in relation to diesel fuel rebates. We have mentioned the one in relation to remote areas. It has started to talk about greenhouse gas emissions, Kyoto commitments, etc. It is starting to specify housing-type arrangements. We cannot accept that sort of interference in the way in which the State runs its affairs.

Dr Gallop: What are you going to do about it?

Mr COURT: I have already publicly said on numerous occasions since Friday night, within about 10 minutes after receiving the package, that we do not support the changes. The increased intervention that is involved in the package will be an absolute dream for bureaucrats in Canberra.

Dr Gallop: What are you going to do about it? Are you going to oppose the package or negotiate on it?

Mr COURT: Benefits will still flow through in the package. We are in the middle of a debate on bringing about tax reform in this country. All that the Leader of the Opposition has done is sit on one side and carp, "What are you going to do about it? What are you going to do about it?" All he has done is oppose. I go back to Mr Latham's comment: One thing that opposition members are good at is knowing what they oppose - they are experts at it - but they do not know what to propose. They do not know the positive things that they want to bring forward. Today, our Treasury officials met and they raised all our concerns.

Dr Gallop: Raised concerns! That is what you did on hospital funding.

Mr COURT: After 12 years in government, Labor members did nothing to bring about reform in our tax system.

Dr Gallop: Don't be ridiculous. It was the most reformist Government the country has ever had.

Mr COURT: Most reformist Government! Opposition members sit back and carp. We have made our position clear to the Prime Minister and we will continue to apply that pressure.

Dr Gallop: Pressure?

Mr COURT: After 25 minutes, the Leader of the Opposition was true to form and could not tell us what he proposed. We are in the middle of a debate on a package and we want to improve that package. We are in the debate, but the Leader of the Opposition has been left out to one side.

Amendment to Motion

Mr COURT: I move -

To delete all words after "House" with the view to inserting the following words -

notes that the proposed changes to the Commonwealth's tax package and supports the Western Australian Government in negotiations to improve the State's final outcome under the revised measures.

Point of Order

Dr GALLOP: The whole point of debate in the Chamber, as in any organisation, is to put up propositions. As you know, Mr Deputy Speaker, one cannot put up an opposite of the proposition that is put forward. That is one of the rules of debate which underpin everything we do. I seek a ruling on whether that is a legitimate amendment to our motion.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will look at the motion to start with so that I can make a decision.

Mr BARNETT: I suggest that the amendment does not negate the proposition, and we are debating the proposition.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I have read the amendment. I do not see a direct negative in it, and therefore allow the motion to stand.

Debate Resumed

MR COWAN (Merredin - Deputy Premier) [3.45 pm]: I second the amendment. The Opposition's frustration about the issue probably reflects its position with respect to the tax debate. By virtue of the action of the Leader of the Opposition in Canberra and now by the action of the Leader of the Opposition here, the Labor Party has effectively removed itself from any meaningful debate on taxation in Australia.

Dr Gallop: No, it has not; it is at the centre of the debate.

Mr COWAN: In the circles in which I move, the Labor Party is not at the centre of anything. The Labor Party has removed itself from one of the most vexing and complex issues in this nation. Because of its willingness, as stated by the Premier, merely to oppose, it has effectively withdrawn from the debate on taxation. It does not matter how hard the Opposition tries, it will be seen by members of the public as having performed a great disservice to politics in this nation because it is no longer prepared actively to be involved in the debate on taxation.

Dr Gallop: That is ridiculous; it is at the heart of the issue.

Mr COWAN: It is true. Most people regard opposition members as irrelevant because of their action in respect of the debate on taxation. They have no position on anything of their own. They have developed nothing. They are prepared merely to say, "We are opposed to change; we are opposed to reform; we are a do-nothing organisation." There is no question that this change to the proposals that were put forward by the Prime Minister and for which he called a council of Australian Governments and sought the agreement of all State Governments and Territories on a proposed GST package, will cause some difficulty for the States. That is why the Government has moved the amendment. It will be incumbent upon the States and Territories to ensure that we are no worse off.

The Leader of the Opposition, if he can get out of his negative approach for half a second, would have to acknowledge that for years most savings that have been effected by Commonwealth Governments have actually been in reductions in payments or outlays to the States and Territories and in defence. In 1996, the incoming Federal Government said, "We will maintain and increase funding for defence," so now the only saving that can be effected is in outlays to the States and Territories. The Premier and the State of Western Australia must address that issue. We will not get the revenue expected from the package that has been proposed by the Prime Minister, and we must build a safety net. It will be the responsibility of the States and Territories to do that, and we do not resile from that issue.

Some other issues have been identified by the Leader of the Opposition, which are a downside. One is the additional cost of compliance. It will create enormous difficulties for small businesses, especially those selling processed or fresh food. That aspect must be worked through and I can assure members that it will be difficult, but many people have underestimated the degree of difficulty associated with the compliance requirements for wholesale sales tax in this country at the moment.

I am disappointed that the diesel fuel credit has been reduced by 2¢ a litre, and that it will be selectively applied. I find it difficult to accept that those people who have no other recourse but to use diesel for power generation, must now pay the full level of taxation on diesel, whereas people in the forestry industry will be given some credit, but not total credit, and people in the agricultural, fishing and mining industries will get the full credit. That situation is somewhat nonsensical and there has been a degree of over-emphasis on some aspects.

Dr Gallop: What is your bottom line?

Mr COWAN: I am not sure what the member means by that question.

Dr Gallop: Would you like me to elaborate?

Mr COWAN: No. I will give the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party an opportunity to contribute for 10 minutes. Some of the concessions given in order to promote a greener environment are equally nonsensical and, as a consequence, it will be very difficult for this State to benefit from them. I support this amendment because the States and Territories will have some work to do, and it would be appropriate for this House to support the work needed to guarantee a genuine income for the State to progress some of the things that we, as a State, want to do.

MR BARNETT (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [3.52 pm]: It is fair to say that since the mid-1980s, long before I was a member of Parliament, I spoke frequently on the issue of tax reform. During my time in public life, no issue has made me as angry as the events over the past few days have. I again state briefly that there are very strong and compelling arguments that Australia should have a broadly based consumption tax. I will not go into detail but I will list them: It leads to a less distorted allocation of resources; treats all industry sectors fairly and equally; means all exports are GST free, which is particularly important for an exporting country and State; it can allow significant cuts in income tax and results in an incentive to work; reduces tax avoidance; and provides an incentive to save, which is a national imperative for a country such as Australia. Also, Australia is the only nation in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development which does not have a broadly based consumption tax. If anyone seriously believes that Australia can have a tax system that is different from that of all the developed nations, and increasingly the developing nations, and that Australia can swim against the tide, he is deluding himself.

I refer to some of the politics of the matter. The Democrats came into being as a party with a slogan of "Keep the bastards honest". They should lock themselves in a room, look in the mirror and put the slogan on the mirror. They are not being honest to the Australian people. The Australian people went to an election where the issue was tax reform and a broadly based GST. The Labor Party opposed it, but the people made their decision. It is extraordinary for a population to vote for taxation reform, let alone a new tax, but the Australian people did that. One of the characteristics of Australian people is that they accept the umpire's decision, and they voted and made a decision. There will be hell to pay from this. The Australian people will not accept this bastardisation of tax reform in Australia. They will pay out first on the Democrats and then on those who played a role. Everyone was feting Senator Harradine, then in walked Meg and the same process took place. This proposed system has taken away many of the benefits of tax reform. Tax reform is still desirable because Australia must have tax reform. However, this package is very much second best. It almost puts some of the benefits at the margin. From a decisive, distinctive and dramatic change in Australia's tax system, in many respects it has now moved to marginal changes. I draw attention to a few of the points.

Mr McGowan: Are you attacking your own Prime Minister?

Mr BARNETT: Yes I am. There is no doubt about it. I will make further points about this package. One of the issues for Australia was to improve the operation of its financial system. Australia is in competition in all sectors with Asian, North American and European banking systems. I quote from the statement -

It is also proposed that the States and Territories defer the abolition of the remaining business stamp duties. This includes stamp duties on business conveyances; leases; mortgages, debentures, bonds and other loan securities; credit arrangements, instalment purchase arrangements and rental arrangements; and on cheques, bills of exchange and promissory notes.

In other words, financial reform has gone under this package.

Dr Gallop: Talk to John Howard.

Mr BARNETT: Shut up for a moment - just be quiet. One of the important aspects of taxation reform was to introduce a broadly based consumption tax and to significantly reduce marginal rates of income tax to provide an incentive to work.

Dr Gallop: For your rich mates.

Mr BARNETT: No. My rich mates earn a lot more than \$70 000. The people affected by this change are small business people, mine workers, truck drivers, farmers, forestry workers and a whole range of people. Tradespeople and small business people typically earn between \$50 000 and \$100 000. Those income levels are prevalent for people working on mining sites. Many of them are Labor supporters; they are not my rich mates, but they voted for this package because they are sick of seeing most of their pay go in tax. They were promised at the election that the top income tax rate would apply

on salaries over \$75 000, but that has now been reduced to \$60 000. The big incentive to work harder and save has been largely compromised.

Dr Gallop: What do you reckon the median income is?

Mr BARNETT: Just be quiet for once. I want to talk about some of the environmental aspects.

Several members interjected.

Point of Order

Mr BARNETT: Mr Deputy Speaker -

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Leader of the Opposition spoke there was relative quiet. I ask members to extend the same courtesy to the Leader of the House in the last four minutes of his speech.

Debate Resumed

Mr BARNETT: I thought members opposite would enjoy this speech and I intend to finish it. There is a whole ragbag of environmental measures. I again read from the statement -

... the issue of applying a Commonwealth greenhouse trigger under that legislation in relation to new projects that would be major emitters of greenhouse gases.

The major emitters of greenhouse gases in projects in Western Australia are the North West Shelf, the Gorgon project and energy intensive industries. The energy source that does most damage to the environment is coal, and not gas. Coal emits almost no greenhouse gases at the source of mining, those emissions occur and the greenhouse gases are generated when it is burnt in Asia for power generation. This change favours coal versus gas; it favours New South Wales and Queensland mining and penalises, potentially in a dramatic way, the development of both the natural gas industry in this State and the mining industry that will process minerals using natural gas. In this State 50 per cent of the power generation is by natural gas. No other State comes near that standard. That is real environmental advance, yet this package involves a whole lot of minor tinkering. In question time, I mentioned regional power. How ludicrous is this! This is the Democrats contribution! How intelligent is this! Western Australia, through the Government and its utility Western Power, runs regional power supplies in remote areas at a loss of around \$40m. The Commonwealth Government will tax that at a full excise rate and take \$30m from us, and it will not use that money to support a regional power supply in Broome, Esperance or anywhere else but will hand it out in environmental grants! How dopey is that! That is absolute tokenism to the environment!

Dr Gallop: Is John Howard a dope?

Mr BARNETT: Mr Deputy Speaker -

Dr Gallop: Do you think he is a dope?

Mr BARNETT: A halfway intelligent comment would contribute.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition is not conducting the debate, and I ask him to desist.

Mr BARNETT: I have displayed anger in this place previously, but I have never been as angry as I am about this compromise package. Australia desperately needs tax reform. However - and I almost hate to say this - there is no doubt that this package that has been negotiated with the Democrats is better than no reform. It will still remove the imposts on exports, and it will help this State as an export State. However, the changes that have been made are appalling. To divide food into categories as a populist policy is a disgrace. It will cause chaos in the small business sector and in the food and retailing sector. This Premier and other Premiers and Chief Ministers signed an intergovernmental agreement. There is no longer an agreement; it has been broken. I do not know where we will go from here. If this deal goes ahead, Australia will compromise on tax reform. I regret that. I, like many other Liberal and National Party members around Australia, and like the majority of Australians, voted for tax reform. Who are the Democrats to deny the will of the Australian people? If the Labor Party had any integrity, it would have accepted the decision of the Australian people. This is not democracy. This is not the tax reform we should have had, and this is not the tax reform for which the Australian people had the guts and commonsense to vote. I am incredibly disappointed, and I place on record - it is not a cop out - that although it is better than nothing, we could have had great tax reform in this country.

[The member's time expired.]

MR KOBELKE (Nollamara) [4.02 pm]: We have seen today another classic example of the Premier's running away from the important issues that this State must face. The Premier wants to accept no responsibility for this major issue that is confronting the people of Western Australia and this nation. The Premier took just 10 minutes to talk about what the Labor Party policy might be, and two minutes to skirt around the central issue. The central issue is that the goods and services tax is the greatest move to centralise taxation power in Canberra since 1942 when income tax was transferred from the States to the Commonwealth. The Premier does not want to talk about that! He does not want to address that issue! Is that because he has suddenly realised from his polling that the GST is a dud and he wants to make a few noises about somehow not being for it, when all the time he is totally committed to it? The Premier has committed this State to supporting the Howard GST. The GST will be a commonwealth government tax. It will be embodied in commonwealth law, and it will be collected, administered and distributed by the Commonwealth. It is a taxation package that will increase the financial power of the Commonwealth over the States. It will centralise taxing powers in Canberra.

Approximately 56 per cent of the revenue in Western Australia's state budget derives from the State's own taxing powers.

Under the changes first put by John Howard, this State's own-source revenue would drop from 56 per cent to 42 per cent. This Premier has committed his Government and this State to deriving through this State's own taxation powers less than half of the revenue that is required for this State's budget. This Premier wants to reduce the ability of this State to raise its own revenue and control its own future finances. The Premier and Deputy Premier have run away from that fundamental issue. When the Premier committed his Government to supporting the GST, did he appreciate that the State's own-source revenue would drop from approximately 56 per cent to 42 per cent?

Mr Cowan: The High Court made that decision. We did not make that decision.

Mr Court: Do you not understand that the States cannot collect liquor, tobacco and fuel taxes?

Mr KOBELKE: Did the Premier understand that the State's own-source revenue would drop under this package?

Mr Cowan: If you knew anything about tax law, you would answer the question yourself!

Mr KOBELKE: The Deputy Premier used to play football, and I understand he used to run into the action. Now he seems to be running out of it as quickly as he can! Let the Premier speak for himself. The Deputy Premier wants to speak up for him. He is worried he will be rolled by the bloke next to him. Will the Premier not answer a simple question?

Mr Court: If you want to get up and debate tax, we have said what our position is.

Mr KOBELKE: Did the Premier not understand that the State's own-source revenue would drop under this package?

Mr Cowan: We know that! The High Court made that decision!

Mr KOBELKE: The Deputy Premier knows it but the Premier does not know it. The Premier will allow the largest centralisation of taxing powers since 1942, and he cannot even tell this Chamber that! Is he is a fool or a liar? How are we to judge this Premier?

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr COWAN: Madam Acting Speaker, can I have a retraction of that statement? It is unparliamentary,

Mr KOBELKE: Which part?

Mr COWAN: The member for Nollamara should not be smart. He knows it is unparliamentary.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms McHale): The member for Nollamara's words were, "Is he a fool or a liar?" I am sure the member for Nollamara was not calling him either of those; and if there were such an inference, I suggest he withdraw it.

Mr KOBELKE: I take your direction, Madam Acting Speaker. I withdraw.

Debate Resumed

Mr KOBELKE: The question remains: What should we think of a Premier who takes the salary of Treasurer and who bleats and beats his chest and talks about States' rights but who cannot even, on a debate about the biggest shift in taxing powers in 50 years, answer a simple question about the shift to the Commonwealth? The Premier is simply playing politics. The Premier is not standing up for Western Australia. He knows the GST is a dud. He knows he cannot sell it. He has to be seen to be attacking it, but he is a wimp. He will not stand up to it. He will go along, and Johnny Howard will say, "Roll over and I will tickle your tummy", and he will roll over like a faithful lap dog and let the Prime Minister tickle his tummy! This Premier is a wimp. He cannot come into this place and debate the issue. He cannot even answer a straight question about what he is supporting John Howard in doing; that is, making a major shift in taxation policy from the States to the Commonwealth. The Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party has made it absolutely clear that with regard to certain taxes on fuel, this State is being disadvantaged. That will happen time after time after time, because with this legislation the Premier is sending this State down the road of being a total supplicant of the Commonwealth.

Amendment (words to be deleted) put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (31)

Mr Ainsworth	Mr Cowan	Mr MacLean	Mr Prince
Mr Baker	Mr Day	Mr Marshall	Mr Sweetman
Mr Barnett	Mrs Edwardes	Mr Masters	Mr Trenorden
Mr Barron-Sullivan	Dr Hames	Mr Minson	Mr Tubby
Mr Bloffwitch	Mrs Hodson-Thomas	Mr Nicholls	Mrs van de Klashorst
Mr Board	Mrs Holmes	Mr Omodei	Mr Wiese
Dr Constable	Mr House	Mrs Parker	Mr Osborne (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr Court	Mr Johnson	Mr Pandal	

Noes (17)

Ms Anwyl	Mr Graham	Mr Marlborough	Mr Ripper
Mr Brown	Mr Grill	Mr McGinty	Mrs Roberts
Mr Carpenter	Mr Kobelke	Mr McGowan	Mr Thomas
Dr Edwards	Ms MacTiernan	Mr Riebeling	Mr Cunningham (<i>Teller</i>)
Dr Gallop			

Pair

Mr Kierath

Ms Warnock

Amendment thus passed.

Amendment (words to be inserted) put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (31)

Mr Ainsworth	Mr Cowan	Mr MacLean	Mr Prince
Mr Baker	Mr Day	Mr Marshall	Mr Sweetman
Mr Barnett	Mrs Edwardes	Mr Masters	Mr Trenorden
Mr Barron-Sullivan	Dr Hames	Mr Minson	Mr Tubby
Mr Bloffwitch	Mrs Hodson-Thomas	Mr Nicholls	Mrs van de Klashorst
Mr Board	Mrs Holmes	Mr Omodei	Mr Wiese
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Ms Anwyl	Mr Graham	Mr Marlborough	Mr Ripper
Mr Brown	Mr Grill	Mr McGinty	Mrs Roberts
Mr Carpenter	Mr Kobelke	Mr McGowan	Mr Thomas
Dr Edwards	Ms MacTiernan	Mr Riebeling	Mr Cunningham (<i>Teller</i>)
Dr Gallop			

Pair

Mr Kierath

Ms Warnock

Amendment thus passed.

Motion, as amended, put and passed.

JURIES AMENDMENT BILL

Report

Report of Committee adopted.

Third Reading

MR PRINCE (Albany - Minister for Police) [4.18 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a third time.

MR MCGINTY (Fremantle) [4.19 pm]: It is disappointing that we have again seen what has become a hallmark of this Government; namely, the Government either walks away from a proposed reform if it gets a little too hard, or we see a dummy spit if the Government does not get its own way. Consequently, some worthwhile changes to the law of this State are not proceeded with.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms McHale): Order! Too much noise can be heard from the back of the Chamber.

Mr MCGINTY: The Government initially presented a proposal designed to enhance the operation of the jury system; that is, the number of peremptory challenges to be made to potential jurors was to be reduced from eight to six. This was designed to reduce the number of jurors who would be required to be empanelled for a trial. Part of that package included the abolition of the right of the Crown to stand aside certain jurors when they were called as part of the empanelling process. The Crown currently has the right to stand aside four jurors as part of that process. Those jurors simply go to the end of the queue of jurors to be recalled. They are not dismissed from jury duty, but their names are called again as the selection of jurors proceeds. This is recognised as an anachronism. During debate the minister responsible for the Bill conceded he could see no merit in it being retained.

Mr Prince: None at all. I do not see any point in having it in the first place.

Mr MCGINTY: It is a pity that it will be reinstated in the Bill. We have recognised this is an anachronism and both sides of the House have agreed that it should be thrown out, but it will be retained. If that is good law making, I do not understand some of the things that occur in this place. It is unfortunate that is the case. This has been brought about because the upper House voted to retain the eight peremptory challenges that can be made in the jury selection process. That being the case, we now have a half-baked amendment to the Juries Act passing through this place designed to achieve very limited change, and certainly not what was intended to be achieved when this legislation was introduced into this House. While one might be able to blame the upper House for retaining the number of peremptory challenges, which is something many defendants consider to be a very important part of the preparation of their defence, the Government has said, "If you want to retain the number of peremptory challenges at eight, we will reinstate the four stand asides" which will further encumber and burden the jury selection process in this State. We have ended up with a dog's breakfast of an amendment to this legislation, but, as I have indicated, that is a hallmark of this Government which is preoccupied with the building of monuments to political leaders in this State rather than passing good laws. We are seeing a lack of direction on the part of the Government and a churlish reaction in the way legislation is amended in this place rather than an attempt to pass good laws which will make the administration of justice in this case efficient and streamlined. The Opposition does not oppose the legislation, but it is certainly not the legislation that it should be.

MR PRINCE (Albany - Minister for Police) [4.22 pm]: It is indeed unfortunate that the Legislative Council has seen fit to change what was otherwise good legislation by passing an amendment which cannot be accepted by this House. I am obliged to the member for his comments.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

TREASURER'S ADVANCE AUTHORIZATION BILL 1999

Second Reading

Resumed from 6 May.

MR MCGINTY (Fremantle) [4.23 pm]: Among the provisions for which the Treasurer seeks advance authorisation in this legislation are amounts of money for the health system.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms McHale): Can I confirm that you are not the lead speaker?

Mr MCGINTY: No, I am not. Two provisions in this legislation relate to the health system; firstly, the \$35m which was set aside following the increase in Medicare funding during the course of last year, money which the Government has indicated it intends to set aside for the reduction of waiting lists in this State. I will comment on that and then turn to the supplementary funding announced by the Premier during the summer which will inject an additional \$70m into the state hospital system.

At the beginning of the year - well over halfway through the financial year - it was with some amazement that we discovered only \$7m of the \$35m, which had been allocated for waiting list reduction strategies, had been spent. I hope the Government will consider this matter as urgent because to have spent only \$7m out of \$35m well over halfway through the year displays a lack of political commitment to achieving the intended end result of waiting list reduction. We in this place are very aware of the human cost of long waiting lists. We have all seen people with life threatening conditions waiting for surgery. We have all seen people who are in desperate conditions; their mobility is seriously affected; they are living in pain; and the constant debilitating effect on their quality of life is something which no Government should stand idly by and witness. The fact that the Government spent so little of that money on waiting list reduction strategies in the first part of this year is cause for considerable concern. I hope that during the course of this debate we will hear from the Minister for Health or the Treasurer as to how that money is proposed to be spent, and whether we will see during the course of this year the full amount of \$35m spent on initiatives which will achieve a successful waiting list reduction strategy. I refer to the necessary expenditure on capital works as well as the necessary expenditure on providing staff to ensure that wards which are currently closed are opened, and that operating theatres function around the clock rather than on a limited basis.

During the budget estimates committee hearings last week it was interesting to hear that the Government has recognised a new orthopaedic theatre is required at Fremantle Hospital if we are to achieve the necessary throughput at this major orthopaedic surgery hospital in the State. However, the Government has not announced that the money, which is available but has not been spent, will be spent on the construction of this new orthopaedic theatre at Fremantle Hospital. Similarly, Osborne Park Hospital in Perth's northern suburbs has an important role to play in reducing waiting lists. It does not have an emergency department so operations that are done there cannot be cancelled because of a sudden emergency or catastrophe which has occurred and which takes up the beds or the time of the staff. Osborne Park Hospital has the capacity to address the waiting list and effect a real reduction, but, as was revealed last week during the course of the budget estimates debate, in recent days the Government has received a report which recommends that no surgery be conducted there, notwithstanding the availability of medical and surgical wards and operating theatres. It was recommended that Osborne Park Hospital assume two functions only: firstly, that the aged care facility become a centre for excellence in dealing with matters relating to aging and dementia; and secondly, obstetrics. If that plan goes ahead, we will not have the capacity to work effectively on the waiting list reduction strategy.

The other matter that caused considerable concern during the estimates debate last week relates to the Joondalup Hospital. Significant government funds have been directed away from the government hospital system and into propping up the Joondalup Hospital, the flagship of the Government's privatised hospital system.

I would appreciate it if during this debate the Minister for Health were to explain what is happening with oncology at the hospital. When that hospital was opened last year, great promises were made to the people of the region and one after another those promises have been broken. We heard a clear promise that this would be an extensive health facility that would meet most of the needs of the people living in the region. We all know what has happened. For the past three months of this financial year, elective surgery has been cancelled in all but very few areas. Category one patients who must be operated on with great urgency are still being dealt with, as are pediatrics patients. However, patients requiring semi-urgent or routine elective surgery at Joondalup Hospital during the past three months have had their surgery cancelled until the beginning of the new financial year. That was a clear breach of the promise the Government made to the people of the northern suburbs. They now have a hospital that is simply not operating.

It is alarming that the Minister for Health did not know that medical beds at Joondalup Hospital were closed in March and have not been reopened. The minister and his 22 advisers were unable to tell the estimates committee what happened with those closed medical beds. That is not good enough. As was evidenced during question time today when asked about buses, this Government is trying to suggest that it is no longer accountable for the activities of privatised entities. Therefore, it need not know or care what is happening, even though we are talking about the expenditure of tens or hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayers' dollars. We have seen the cancellation of elective surgery, medical beds being closed and the recent developments in oncology. I hope the Treasurer or the Minister for Health can deal with that matter during this debate.

The Treasurer's Advance Authorization Bill seeks authorisation for certain expenditures. Concerns have been expressed, particularly about expenditure in the health area additional to that provided for in last year's budget. There is growing concern about these matters, particularly in the northern suburbs.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [4.34 pm]: This Bill seeks to authorise the Treasurer to make certain payments and advances and to specify a limit for payments and advances for the year commencing 1 July 1999. The Bill also seeks to amend the Treasurer's Advance Authorization Act 1998 by increasing the advance limit from \$300m to \$460m.

I will refer first to the section that retrospectively seeks to increase the authorisation limit by \$160m. This is the fourth year in a row in which the advance limit has been retrospectively increased during the financial year. In 1995-96, the limit was retrospectively increased from \$200m to \$410m; in 1996-97, from \$200m to \$300m; and last year from \$200m to \$550m. This current Bill seeks an increase to \$460m. The reasons given for such a significant increase include the additional \$70m required to fund public hospitals in 1998-99; the additional \$35m waiting list money from the Commonwealth that needs to be appropriated for 1998-99; and an additional \$65.5m to fund education.

Because of its poor budget management and planning, this Government has increasingly had to rely on the Treasurer's Advance Account to fund essential services such as health and education. The Government has had to top up health funding year in and year out simply because it does not fund the health system adequately in the budget, and the 1998-99 budget has been no exception. The Opposition claimed when the 1998-99 budget was introduced that the state hospital system needed at least another \$140m just to keep up with inflation and population growth and to fund the 1997-98 overrun. However, the State Government injected only \$70m in recurrent funding, which was well short of what was needed. As a result, the Government had to inject funds during the year just to keep the health system afloat. Again in 1999-2000, the Government has failed to provide adequate funds to Western Australia's health system. In real per capita terms, there has been a cut of 1.7 per cent in funding for health in Western Australia, and the Opposition is predicting that another bailout will be necessary towards the end of this year. Continually under funding and bailing out are not the way to run a modern health system as we approach the twenty-first century; in fact, it is an ad hoc and piecemeal approach to our health system.

The education area is another example of the Government's approach to funding essential services. Education needed a top up of \$50m during 1998-99. The second reading speech claims that that was needed as a result of the Government's commitment to reducing class sizes, but in the Estimates Committee last week the Minister for Education told us otherwise. The minister claimed that \$22m of the top up was needed just to fund the overrun from 1997-98. Apparently the Education Department is always overrunning its budget. Additional funding injected each year is apparently simply plugging the holes from the previous year. Again one must question why the Government keeps getting its budget so wrong at the start of the year.

As I have stated previously, the Government seeks to set an authorisation limit of \$460m in 1998-99. The second reading speech explains that about \$170m was necessary to fund education and health services. However, that explains only \$170m of the \$460m limit the Government is seeking. The question remains: On what was the other \$300m spent? I seek a response to that question.

This Government's poor budget management and increased reliance on the Treasurer's Advance Account to get through the year is another example of financial mismanagement in Western Australia. Despite record revenue growth and \$4b of asset sales, the Government is running deficits across government and debt is increasing. In 1999-2000, the Government is predicting a record general government deficit of \$640m following an estimated deficit of \$213m in 1998-99. This blowout has not been caused by increases in capital expenditure, as has been claimed by the Treasurer.

When one compares the 1998-99 estimated outcome to the 1999-2000 budget estimate, one finds that capital outlays increased by only \$156.9m while current outlays increased by \$470m. Net debt across the general government sector is expected to more than double from \$449m in 1998-99 to \$958m in 1999-2000. Across the public sector, net debt is expected to increase by a massive \$800m in 1999-2000. This is the result from a Treasurer who redefined the social dividend to be a debt-free future. Last year's budget speech states -

The best social dividend that any Government can deliver is to make sure that future generations are not burdened by excessive levels of debt . . .

Of course, since then we have seen this Government increase debt in Western Australia.

I now turn to the provision of the Bill which seeks to set the authorisation limit for 1999-2000. This Bill, like that of last year, seeks to set the limit of \$300m. Although the limit is the same, it is an increase from the initial limit set for each year from 1987-88 to 1997-98. The Government must remember that for both accountability and transparency reasons, new and additional funding under these Treasurer's Advance arrangements should be seen as a last resort.

The Treasurer's Advance fund should be called upon only to make payments of an extraordinary and unforeseen nature, and to make advances for the temporary funding of works and services and other advances of an accounting nature. The Treasurer's Advance is not a preferred method of funding as it does not allow prospective scrutiny, but retrospective scrutiny. This issue was discussed in the Report of the Independent Commission to Review Public Sector Finances - the McCarrey Report - which states -

The use of the Treasurer's Advance to meet major new expenditures can enable a government to avoid the need for full disclosure to Parliament of the circumstances of the payment until such time as supplementary appropriations are submitted with the following budget. The practice of seeking after the event appropriations as

a schedule to the following year's Appropriation Bill could have the effect of limiting parliamentary debate on the issue.

It is interesting to note that the Treasurer raised that same issue in June 1991 in providing comments on the Treasurer's Authorization Advance Bill in June 1991. The member for Nedlands said -

The purpose of this account in the first place was to provide funds for extraordinary expenses, such as paying for the damage caused by earthquakes or when the Treasurer needs funds immediately. This legislation is an important part of the operations of this Parliament. However, it has been abused in the past and we want the Government to take a different attitude to its operations.

That may have been his attitude when in opposition, but in Government that attitude has very much changed. The Treasurer continues to use the Treasurer's Advance as just another form of funding. For both transparency and accountability reasons, this should not be the case.

MR RIPPER (Belmont - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.31 pm]: Apart from the other provisions, this Bill seeks retrospectively to increase the limit of the Treasurer's Advance for the past financial year by \$160m, from \$300m to \$460m. Among the reasons given for the increase in this advance limit is the need to provide an additional \$65m to the Education Department of Western Australia. The second reading speech by the Treasurer states -

. . . \$50m will be allocated to the Education Department to fund this Government's commitment to reduce class sizes and other initiatives in schools and \$15.5m for the local area planning initiatives associated with schools in the western suburbs and the south-east corridor of the metropolitan area.

The argument put by the Treasurer in the second reading speech was the same as he advanced in his press release, which he put out as Premier, when he announced funding increases for Health, Education and Justice, following a review of the State's financial position. The press release states -

In the education sector we have provided \$43 million over four years for local area planning and \$50 million in 1998-99 to fund the Government's commitment to reduce class sizes and other initiatives in schools . . .

That is yet another claim that the \$50m provided for education was to reduce class sizes and to provide for other initiatives. In both the press release and the second reading speech, the Treasurer has not stated that there is a history of budget overruns in the Education Department. I questioned the Minister for Education about this circumstance in the recent Estimates Committee hearing, and was advised during the committee that the budget overruns in Education in recent financial years have been as follows: In 1994-95, \$10.5m; in 1995-96, \$15.1m; 1996-97, \$15.6m; 1997-98, \$25m; and 1998-99, \$55.5m. That is an unusual record. A major government department has, during most of the term of this State Government, not been able to live within the budgets officially allocated to it at the beginning of each financial year.

One reason the department has not been able to meet its budget targets in any of the financial years since 1994-95 has been the Government's policy of imposing a productivity dividend on all government agencies. I am not sure exactly when this policy began. It was spoken about in the 1996 election campaign and I believe it may have been imposed for the first time in 1997-98. I can tell the House that both the Minister for Education and the Treasurer have confirmed that the productivity dividend in 1997-98 which was applied to the Education Department was \$19m, and that in 1998-99 it was \$27.2m. This is not an insignificant issue. The application of a productivity dividend means a cut. Notionally, the Education Department would have a budget target. The 1.5 per cent productivity dividend policy is then applied and the budget is cut by the amount specified in that policy. The cut in what otherwise would have been the budget of the Education Department in 1997-98 was \$19m, and in 1998-99 it was \$27.2m. This productivity dividend policy is one reason the Education Department has failed to meet its budget target in, at least, the past two financial years.

Unfortunately, the claims by the Treasurer in the second reading speech about the supplementation of the budget of the Education Department in 1998-99 were contradicted by the Minister for Education in the Estimates Committee. In that committee we discussed the \$50m supplementation which the Education budget received in 1998-99. The minister said that that supplementation reflected two things: First, the overrun in the Education budget of \$22m or \$25m - he used both figures - for 1997-98. Apparently when that budget overruns, it is picked up by the department repaying the Treasury out of the budget allocation for the following year. The second element which made up the supplementation was the return to Education of the \$27.2m productivity dividend which was imposed for the 1998-99 financial year. According to the Minister for Education, the \$50m supplementation had nothing to do with class sizes and other initiatives being undertaken in schools as claimed by the Treasurer; it related entirely to returning the productivity dividend and to making up for the cost overrun that occurred in 1997-98.

I have already argued that the cost overrun in 1997-98 was because the productivity dividend of \$19m applied in that year. That \$50m supplementation was a return to the Education Department of the productivity dividends that were applied to the budget in 1997-98 and 1998-99. We have a serious circumstance - the Treasurer has misled Parliament and the public. He claimed that the supplementation was for class sizes and other initiatives. The Minister for Education put his finger on productivity dividends that applied in 1997-98 and 1998-99. That is the first conclusion we can draw from an analysis of the information provided in the Estimates Committee.

The second very important conclusion is that the Treasurer's whole productivity dividend policy has been comprehensively overturned. In the 1996 election campaign, the Treasurer ran strongly on the release by Treasury of forward estimates for the four years following 1996. He called them the Government's four-year financial plan. Members may recall that an interesting aspect of the famous four-year financial plan was the introduction of the productivity dividend policy. The

Treasurer then argued in that election campaign that the productivity dividend to be applied in each financial year was the only source of new finance for initiatives that could be taken by an incoming Government. He argued that there was a limit to the promises determined by the productivity dividend that could be implemented by any incoming Government.

I have argued on a number of previous occasions that the four-year financial plan scam was designed simply to create an artificial limit to the policies and promises to which the Labor Party could commit itself in that election campaign. Every time we see new financial information that has been provided by the Government during this term of office, it adds to the lack of credibility of the forward estimates released during the last election campaign. Now the whole productivity dividend policy has been completely overturned.

In the education budget, which is about a quarter of the State's budget, the productivity dividends were returned to the Education portfolio. Productivity dividends do not apply to at least this major part of the State's budget - I have not had a chance to investigate whether they apply to other agencies - yet they were a major aspect of the four-year financial plan when it was released in 1996. They were supposed to be the only funds available for new initiatives. Those funds have been abolished, but we have not seen the abolition of new initiatives in education. The whole argument that this was the only source of funding available for new initiatives falls to the ground.

I am labouring this point because I do not think this Government should be allowed to get away with a similar exercise in the next election campaign. It should not produce what it calls a four-year financial plan and demand a similar plan from the Opposition that must stick within the parameters of the Government's financial plan for costing new initiatives.

Mr Court: Why not?

Mr RIPPER: This Government has not stuck to the four-year financial plan. It has taken all kinds of initiatives, and every set of financial information that comes into this House undermines even more the credibility of the 1996 four-year financial plan. It was a scam. It bears no resemblance to that which the Government is doing now with its finances. The whole centrepiece of it, the productivity dividend, has been shown not to apply.

The third conclusion is that Education budgets have been overstated by the device of financing the preceding year's cost overrun in the succeeding budget. The Education budget had a cost overrun in 1997-98 of \$25m. That was funded by adding \$25m to the budget in 1998-99 and then demanding that the Education Department pay back Treasury out of its 1998-99 allocation. That means that \$25m of the 1998-99 budget was not for funding education services that year; it was for 1997-98. When the Government referred to a percentage increase in the Education budget from 1997-98 to 1998-99, it was not telling the public that part of the percentage increase was to retrospectively fund services that it had received.

The Government has been claiming double credit for some of its expenditures. It claims credit for spending more on education in a financial year than was budgeted for because it had to meet increased demand. Then it puts the same figure in the succeeding year and claims credit for the increase in education spending for that next year. That is misleading. It overstates the level of education services that the public can expect in any one financial year from the budget allocation for that year.

It seems to me that that mechanism is to continue for 1999-2000, despite the supplementation of the budget that occurred in 1998-99.

My conclusion from the transcript of the Estimates Committee is that, despite the supplementation of the budget in 1998-99, it is expected that the Education budget will be overspent by \$27m to \$30m in 1998-99. I was not certain whether that was still the bottom line.

Mr Barnett: Yes.

Mr RIPPER: If that is the case, \$50m has been allocated for the Education budget. Contrary to what the Premier said, that is to pay back the productivity dividend and to meet the cost overrun for 1997-98. Despite that \$50m allocation, Education has had further cost overruns of between \$27m to \$30m which will be funded out of the allocation for 1999-2000.

Mr Barnett: The 1999-2000 budget has provision to fund that. You were correct before; there have been two overruns of \$22m and \$27m. The productivity dividend has been applied to the administration of education; that is, Silver City and district offices. It has not been applied to the classroom.

Mr RIPPER: I take the minister to mean that my explanation of the flow of funds is essentially correct.

Mr Barnett: That is what I said in the Estimates Committee.

Mr RIPPER: To summarise the points that arise from a comparison of the Estimates Committee process and the Treasurer's claims, in his second reading speech on this Bill and in a press release he claimed that the \$50m supplementation for the Education Department budget in 1998-99 was for class sizes and other initiatives. The minister said that it was not for that; it was for cost overruns in 1997-98 and for the return of the productivity dividend. The Treasurer has been shown up by his minister for having misled the public.

Mr Barnett: Advance funding of \$15m was also allocated for local area education planning.

Mr RIPPER: I am prepared to accept that the \$15m was for local area education planning.

Mr Barnett: It was for pork-barrelling in your electorate.

Mr RIPPER: It might be returned by the proceeds of property sales. Conclusion two is that the four-year financial plan in

the estimates produced during the election campaign and the associated productivity dividend policy have been shown as a complete scam. The whole concept seems to have fallen to the ground. Conclusion three is that the overstatement in Education budgets of the level of services that people can expect is a continuing problem. Each education budget finances the cost overrun in the preceding budget.

Mr Barnett: You suggested before that there was double counting. There is no double counting. The percentage increases for education that I gave in the Estimates Committee are absolutely accurate; there is no counting twice of the same dollar.

Mr RIPPER: However, the Government is asking the public to give it credit for the fact it has spent more in education than was budgeted. When asked about the overrun, the minister usually says it is because the Government is providing extra services. Therefore, he is arguing that the overrun is a good thing. When the budget increases, the minister also argues that that is a good thing. The Minister for Education has claimed credit twice for the same expenditure.

Mr Barnett: I and the Premier have made it very clear that the 7 per cent increase in education spending for 1999-2000 is not a big increase in reality. We have made that clear. The teachers' union understands that. It is essentially funding some of those matters and it is holding the Education Budget about stable in real per capita terms with very modest growth. In reality it is not a further 7 per cent. The increase in spending, as you would concede, has been very dramatic. It has averaged 6 or 7 per cent over the past five years.

Mr RIPPER: The minister has his own arguments about the Education budget. I am pointing to an area in which the budget does not accurately reflect what would be spent on services in the financial year because it is financing a cost overrun from the previous year.

The Treasurer should explain why his second reading speech and media release claims differ from the explanation the Minister for Education gave to the Estimates Committee. On the basis of the information the Minister for Education provided, I believe the Treasurer's second reading speech misled the Parliament and should be corrected.

MR COURT (Nedlands - Treasurer) [5.01 pm]: I thank the three members for their contributions. I cannot follow the member for Belmont's logic on education. The Government is pork-barrelling the member's seat; it is spending heaps of extra money on education. The member for Belmont is receiving the benefit of the additional funds. I do not know why he is arguing about which category receives the funding. The fact is the money is being spent at levels significantly higher than previously.

Mr Ripper: Would you not agree that your productivity dividend policy has come crashing down? The whole basis on which you went to the election in 1996 - your famous four-year financial plan - has proved to be flawed.

Mr COURT: No. When a Government goes to an election, the Treasury outlines the state of the books. As the member knows, we have mid and end-of-year reviews so that one knows exactly what the position is. We then outline our proposals for three years on top of that. There will be changes for the next four years but we must spell them out.

Mr Ripper: You said there would be a productivity dividend and that would be the only source available to fund new initiatives. However, every year you attempt to apply the productivity dividend to Education, it falls flat on its face.

Mr COURT: Every year revenue changes and expenditures change. That is why Governments come into Parliament with budgets and why it is a rolling four-year estimate. However, the starting point is fixed; it is a factual situation. I thank the members for their support.

Bill read a second time, proceeded through remaining stages without debate, and transmitted to the Council.

PRISONS AMENDMENT BILL

Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mrs Holmes) in the Chair; Mr Prince (Minister for Police) in charge of the Bill.

Progress was reported after clause 1 had been agreed to.

Clause 2: Commencement -

Mr BROWN: Clause 2 deals with the commencement of the Bill. It includes provision for this Bill to not come into operation earlier than certain parts of the Court Security and Custodial Services (Consequential Provisions) Bill. It particularly mentions parts 2, 5, 6, 8 and 10 of that Bill. The Court Security and Custodial Services (Consequential Provisions) Bill is in the other place and its fate there is yet to be determined. If that Bill as drafted does not become an Act, will the essential part of this Bill fall to the ground in that the private management of a prison will not go ahead?

Mr PRINCE: I understand the private prison will proceed anyway and I do not know whether what the member suggested necessarily follows. If parts 2, 5, 6, 8 and 10 of the Court Security and Custodial Services (Consequential Provisions) Bill or some clauses of them do not pass through the other place, the Government will need to come back with a consequential amendment - some amendment to this Bill will follow. I cannot tell the Chamber what that amendment will be because it depends on what passes through the other place.

Mr RIEBELING: Why is it deemed necessary to have the tie-up of the two pieces of legislation when the operation of those parts referred to under the Court Security and Custodial Services (Consequential Provisions) Bill presumably refers to transfers from prisons to court facilities and return to the places of custody from whence the prisoners came? I hear what the minister is saying about a privatised prison. It is true that a privatised prison can be built. However, it would be

impossible to operate it under our state system without legislation. The prospect of the Court Security and Custodial Services Bill becoming an Act in its current form is remote, as we mentioned previously. To include this provision is tying it into something which is doomed in any event, and later during the committee stage we will deal with other clauses of this Bill which also do not have a ghost of a chance of getting through the upper House. Hopefully, the minister will see some commonsense in trying to back away from the dogma of a privatised prison.

Mr PRINCE: It is not a matter of dogma. The only ideology around here that is a straitjacket is the member's. The Court Security and Custodial Services (Consequential Provisions) Bill, which has passed through this place and is in the other place, contains a stack of consequential amendments to a number of other Acts which obviously flow if the main Court Security and Custodial Services Bill passes. The lockup services at the Central Law Courts and at the Supreme Court are carried out in the main by police, but they are also carried out in part by prison officers, and some prisoner transfer is also done by prison officers.

Mr Riebeling: They are responsible for the transport system.

Mr PRINCE: Mostly, but not entirely, because as part of the cell system at the Central Law Courts and at the Supreme Court, prison officers have a hand in that function, although it is mostly done by police. Therefore, there are parallel provisions in this amendment Bill, just as there are in the Court Security and Custodial Services Bill, to enable those functions to be carried out by some other service. Obviously, we would prefer to see that carried out as a private exercise. That is why there is a parallel in these two amendment Bills, and that is why this Bill, were it to pass unamended, could not be proclaimed without the Court Security and Custodial Services (Consequential Provisions) Bill also passing unamended because the two Bills would wind up not working. If changes were made to the Court Security and Custodial Services Bill, which is in the other House, consequential amendments would have to be made to this Bill so that the two Bills will work together.

Mr BROWN: I question further what the minister said about the private prison being under way. I understand - the minister will correct me if I am wrong - that a contract has been let and signed by the Government of Western Australia for the construction of a prison at Wooroloo South.

Mr Prince: Yes, so I understand.

Mr BROWN: One would presume that the contract is signed if the work is already under way. It would be an unusual circumstance, both for the Government and for the company, if work were being done without a contract in place.

Mr Prince: It would be highly unusual for something of that size.

Mr BROWN: Yes. However, there is nothing in that contract that commits the Government or the company to operating the private prison. Within that contract, the question of operating the prison is an entirely separate arrangement.

Mr Prince: That is correct, yes.

Mr BROWN: Some of the prisons built in this State have been partially or substantially built by the private sector in any event.

Mr Prince: The last prison that would not have been built by the private sector would be Fremantle.

Mr BROWN: In any event there is nothing different about that.

Mr Prince: The Government of the day has not had a construction work force for more than 100 years.

Mr BROWN: That is right. This Bill revolves around operating this new prison as "a private prison"; that is, operated by the private sector. With regard to the construction of this prison, has a financing and contractual arrangement been entered into whereby the Government will pay a set figure over a period of the contract?

Mr Prince: According to my adviser, that matter has not been determined.

Mr BROWN: Therefore, a contract has not been entered into?

Mr Prince: My adviser just corrected me. There is a contract for design and construction, but the financing has not yet been completed.

Mr BROWN: Has a final figure been determined for design and construction under that contract?

Mr Prince: Yes, there has been.

Mr BROWN: Is that final figure publicly known?

Mr Prince: It is now - \$78.7m. I think that has already been announced.

Mr BROWN: What has yet to be determined is the financing arrangement; that is, whether the Government will pay for it in one lump sum, progressively pay for it, or whether it will run under some financing arrangement whereby it will presumably pay something to rent it for a number of years once it is at lock-up stage, which is an interesting stage for a prison, after which the Government will own it.

Mr Prince: A final decision has not yet been made about who will own it at the end of the day. If, for example, the company winds up owning it, presumably there will be some lease-back arrangement. I think that is fairly obvious. If the State ends up owning it at the end of the day, there must obviously be some other form of financial relationship.

Mr BROWN: What has been agreed so far on the annual or monthly payments that the Government will make under that contract?

Mr PRINCE: My adviser recalls that a period of 90 days started to run from the date the construction started, which was only a few weeks ago - I am not sure of the dates - and within that 90 days a decision must be made on how the financing will ultimately be carried out. We are in that period at the moment. That is why matters are being negotiated right now. No doubt when a decision is made - from the point of view of the negotiations, I have no idea when that will be - we will all know.

Mr Brown: I have not looked at this matter, but perhaps the minister can tell me if there is any money in the Ministry of Justice's capital works program to pay for this?

Mr PRINCE: No.

Mr Brown: Therefore, it must be determined from where the \$78.7m will come?

Mr PRINCE: The \$78.7m has not yet been determined, no. As I said, we are now in the three-month period when we will work out how those matters of financing will be resolved. I am looking at the parliamentary secretary for confirmation of Justice matters. I think that 90-day period started to run about three weeks ago.

Mr RIEBELING: The minister referred to facts and figures in the estimates committee debate, and those were canvassed earlier in this debate. I have a problem in relation to the answers given by the minister in the estimates debate.

Mr Prince: Is the member for Burrup referring to last Friday or the hearings being held today in the other place?

Mr RIEBELING: I am referring to the estimates committee debate last Friday. At that time I referred the minister to his previously stated target of reducing reoffending rates to 30 per cent in the private prison. The budget documents revealed that last year the reoffending rate was under 30 per cent in the government prison system. Can the minister now clarify why he told us that the target for a private prison would be in excess of what the government system is currently achieving? I understand that the privatised prison will be a medium security prison. The figures provided to members following the budget debate indicated that the largest increase in prison numbers is in the minimum and maximum security areas. Unless the private prison accepts only medium security prisoners and the State is opting out of medium security prisons, it is difficult to see how this prison will be able to take the overflow. It cannot do that unless the new prison has an appropriate mix of maximum, medium and minimum security prisoners. Can the minister explain the apparent discrepancies in advice provided in the estimates debate and now?

Mr PRINCE: I understand that the recidivism rate that was set down in the request for proposal of 30 per cent was thought to be a reasonable target in early 1998. It is wonderful that the state system has managed to achieve the same rate; it was not able to in 1998.

Mr RIEBELING: The minister advised in the estimates debate that when the budget documents were prepared the government system could not achieve the 30 per cent target, and the innovative private system would. However, the documents that were released, almost as the minister sat down, indicated that the government system had achieved a figure of 29.7 per cent.

Mr PRINCE: The member will understand that as a minister representing a minister in another place I am not privy to all the detail of the budget documents. I was acting on the briefing advice that I received. The recidivism rate set in the RFP was at least one year old. The important issue, as my adviser points out, is that the contractor must do better than the government system regardless of what the figure is. A little bit of competition will be good for the prisons.

Casuarina Prison was built as a maximum security jail. The maximum security jails in this State are Albany Regional Prison, Canning Vale Prison and Casuarina. Casuarina is receiving more and more maximum security prisoners. Wooroloo Prison South will receive medium security prisoners. This is not getting out of anything; it recognises that some of the maximum security prisoners, particularly those who will be in prison for the rest of their lives, are extraordinarily difficult people to manage. In that situation the obvious and most logical thing to do is to have a specialist maximum security prison. Wooroloo South will be a medium security institution.

Mr Riebeling: Will it be all medium security?

Mr PRINCE: I doubt it will be all medium security, because I expect there would be medium security facilities at Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison, Greenough Regional Prison Albany Regional Prison and Bunbury Regional Prison as well as in Canning Vale Prison, and probably also in Casuarina but a lesser proportion. My adviser points out that the muster will be 720 at Wooroloo Prison South and there are more medium security prisoners than that - even if one takes out people who commit offences and do their time in local jails - so they must be somewhere else. The metropolitan area has 80 per cent of the State's population and roughly the same percentage of crime so there will be a preponderance of medium security prisoners in one prison, but there will still be medium security facilities in other prisons.

Mr RIEBELING: Will the new prison cater for medium security prisoners in the metropolitan area, and the other prisons will cater for maximum security prisoners?

Mr PRINCE: There will be a mix of maximum, some medium and minimum in other places, but Wooroloo will be a medium security prison.

Mr BROWN: I was interested in the minister's comment that the private prison will provide some competition in terms of recidivism rates. How will this be done? I understand that some prisoners who come into the system might be judged as

low risk. For example, someone convicted of a low level fraud charge with no violence attached to the offence, someone convicted for driving under suspension, or someone who at 45 years of age has never been in trouble with the law and has gone through a particularly bad period of his life, but is not known to have any violent tendencies, may go to a minimum security prison after a short time, or even directly. Other people who come in to the system may have a slightly longer sentence and may not be considered to be terribly dangerous, but for their own security they would not be put in a minimum security prison straight away because they might walk away.

Mr Prince: They would tend to be those people who have engaged in offences against children, where they are not a violent threat to adults but their safety is compromised if they are in the general prison system.

Mr BROWN: Whatever is the case, some people may go straight to medium security, while others at the higher end of the scale who have engaged in the worst offences, crimes of violence, generally the angry young men who pose a danger to the community, particularly the recidivist, will remain in a maximum security prison for a period. Depending on their conduct they will remain in a maximum security prison and will one day be released into the community from there.

Mr Prince: Sometimes they are.

Mr BROWN: Sometimes. However, my understanding of the way in which the prison system is supposed to work is that it is desirable to try to lower the security rating of prisoners during their imprisonment so that a recalcitrant prisoner, for example, will exhaust his sentence and be released.

Mr Prince: That is right.

Mr BROWN: If that objective applies in a high percentage of cases, a person who starts off at a maximum security prison may be there for a long or short time depending on his or her conduct and so on. That person would then go to a medium security prison, be held there for a period and then go to a minimum security prison. From there, if everything goes according to plan, that person would be released. In the scheme of things, that person may well serve some time at the Wooroloo Prison South.

Mrs van de Klashorst: The community do not want it to be known as Wooroloo South, but rather as Acacia prison.

Mr BROWN: A bank robber, for example, may go to a maximum security prison. He may stay in maximum security for a period and then be adjudged to be suitable for medium security. He may then go to Acacia and after a period be adjudged to be a person who is abiding by all the rules, has participated in the training program, go to a minimum security prison and from there be eventually released. Because the minister will judge the performance and competitive ratings of prisons, how will he judge the comparative contribution made by each of the three or more prisons that have led to that ultimate outcome? Likewise, how will the minister judge a situation when a person is eventually put into a minimum security prison if that person absconds from that prison?

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (Mrs Holmes): The member's time has expired. Before I give the member for Burrup the call, I remind members that we are dealing with clause 2 of the Bill. I ask members to address their remarks to that clause. If they wish to make other remarks in other areas, they will have an ideal opportunity to do so as we move through the Bill.

Mr RIEBELING: The comments being made by the member for Bassendean relate to the clause perfectly and I would like to hear the balance of his questions to the minister.

Mr BROWN: I appreciate that my questions are some way from the commencement in clause 2. However, if there is no substance in the Bill, it should not commence. I can therefore relate it to the clause. How will the competitive force operate in producing the best outcomes, who can lower the recidivism rates and what methodology will be used to do that given the way the system operates? Is it suggested that people who are classified minimum security and fall within the purview of the Acacia prison will enter that prison and stay there from day dot to day dot when they are released? I do not believe that is likely to be the case. If that is not the case, will the minister explain so that I can understand it but, more particularly, so that prison officers in the private and public sectors can understand how they will be competing and what measures will be used to attest to whether they are doing their job well.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The member for Bassendean is a long way from commencement in clause 2; however, he is welcome to address his remarks on those areas as the clauses go by.

Mr PRINCE: The point made by the member for Bassendean is a fair one. In colloquial parlance, one would say one cannot compare apples with anything other than apples. Comparisons must be made on the basis of comparing benchmarking criteria, like with like and so on. Clearly, some people will enter a maximum security prison and will remain there for most, if not all, of their sentence. Some people will enter minimum security prisons, commit an escape, come back into a much higher security prison and stay there for the balance of their sentence.

Mr Riebeling interjected.

Mr PRINCE: That is what I said; the member for Burrup was not listening. Obviously, as the member for Bassendean said, some people, because of the nature of the offence committed or their record, will go into a much higher security prison and stay there a great deal longer than would otherwise be the case for someone with no prior record. Age, drug dependency and a whole stack of other aspects have a bearing on how a person walking through the gates of a prison is dealt with right now. Under this Bill there will be no change to those reception criteria and how a person is adjudged as a security risk and so on.

I am obliged to the member for Swan Hills for reminding me about Acacia prison; it is in her electorate after all. Acacia

prison will take what it gets and will not be able to select only those who seem to be the best risk. It will take medium security prisoners but will get the full gamut of people who are adjudged to be medium security. Some of these people will be easy to manage, some will be extremely difficult, some will be recidivists, and some will not. As a result of looking at privately-operated prisons both in Australia and elsewhere, it is expected that there will be a new culture orientated more towards program delivery, and that is expected to improve the success of prisoner rehabilitation. The reconviction rate is one, not the only, measure of that. It is not the only way in which we will be able to look at the results coming from one institution or regime as opposed to another. It is something about which we will be able to make meaningful judgments, but it must be done on the basis of comparing like with like. For that we must be able to work out benchmarks and so on.

Arrangements have been made for what is called the "through care concept" to be applied; that is, the movement from one prison to another. That judgment will be made on the basis of a person spending significant time at Acacia, probably about a year. In the budget debate, the figure of 29.7 per cent for the public sector was for all prisoners; Acacia will have only medium security prisoners. When the request for proposal went out, the estimated public sector medium security rate was about 37 per cent. Therefore, 30 per cent was set down as the measure for the contractor. That sounds right to me, in the sense that we are able to distinguish in that way. Therefore, I do not foresee a problem with being able to compare. However, we must be able to compare something that is comparable by means of criteria and benchmarks, not simply take a raw figure which is not only unfair but also totally meaningless unless all the other variables are taken into account, which would not apply to Acacia but would apply somewhere else.

Mr RIEBELING: On the same subject, it strikes me - and the minister can set me in the right direction if I am off the mark - that some people who enter maximum security prisons are often recalcitrant and may never get out of them. My recollection of the budget debate was that about 86 per cent of prisoners that enter the system are in fact released on their earliest possible release date.

Mr Prince: That is right. They get out on their earliest date of release.

Mr RIEBELING: It is 86 per cent; therefore, a very small number of those who are not released, presumably 14 per cent, will stay in maximum security.

Mr Prince: Yes.

Mr RIEBELING: I have a problem in relation to the end product - the medium security prisoners who start in maximum security and then presumably go through a program which takes them from a category of high security to medium security. They are already in the process of succeeding by the time they enter the medium security prison. Those that are not stay put. If we compare the success rates of the maximum security prison, we must also compare the product going into the new prison. The maximum security prison has brought those prisoners to that stage. The new medium security prison will never touch the toughest prisoners.

No matter how we look at it, if this medium security prison is to be an integrated part of the rehabilitation program for all offenders, we can never say that it is more successful because the prisoners going there are already a product of the overall system. If the system works properly, after a prisoner had been in the medium security prison for a period, he would then go to the low security prison.

Mr Prince: Some, not all.

Mr RIEBELING: A prisoner might serve two years in a maximum security prison, three years in Acacia and then go to a minimum security prison for 12 months. If that prisoner is successful in not offending, who gets the brownie points?

Mr PRINCE: We can get hung up on this to some extent. Some people in maximum security prisons will never see the light of day, so they can be disregarded. Prisoners serve varying sentences in a maximum security prison. As the member for Bassendean and I have debated, the sentence will depend on the prisoner's background, his record and the nature of the offence. A prisoner serving a sentence for major fraud with no prior record is likely to flick quickly through a maximum security prison to a medium security prison. A young offender with a record of violence is likely to stay in a maximum security prison for much longer. The very few who are a management problem stay in the maximum security prison or go to a medium security prison and back again because in the judgment of the prison officers they cannot be trusted. There are not many such prisoners and, while some are serving definite sentences, others are serving indefinite sentences. Those serving indefinite sentences do not come into the equation. Some serving a definite sentence do their time hard. Of a total muster of 3 000, we are talking about 20 prisoners. It is a small group that can be quarantined from this exercise of comparing like with like.

The Albany Regional Prison is a maximum security facility, but a prisoner may go from a maximum security rating to a medium security rating within it. If a prisoner is in the medium security category, he may go to Pardelup Prison Farm. The problem with Pardelup is its relative remoteness from the urban area of Albany. If a prisoner is eligible for work release or is doing a course and is trusted to go a college or whatever, he goes back to the regional prison - a maximum security facility - even though he has a minimum security rating. One must not confuse the status of the prison in its capacity to offer a certain security regime with the status of the prisoner. That can create problems.

Programs delivered early in the sentence are aimed at enabling a security rating to be reduced, and that is right and proper. However, rehabilitation programs - the programs designed to equip a person to exist on the outside and not only to survive but also to be successful and not return to jail - tend to be offered at the end of the sentence. The maximum benefit is gained then rather than when the prisoner still has several years to serve. There is not a lot of point in offering them at that time because the prisoner tends to forget.

Irrespective of whether a prisoner has served time in maximum security or for how long, whether he is at Acacia, Canning Vale or anywhere else as a medium security prisoner, he will have had the "benefit" of the higher security rating earlier in his sentence. If there is a credit flowing through in behaviour modification, every facility will share it. Acacia will not end up with a "better class" of prisoner; it will take what it gets. Every prisoner will pass through the state-administered prisoner management regime. Those managing Acacia will not be able to sit at the back of the court and choose those prisoners who it is expected will be easier to handle. They cannot pick and choose; they will take what they get and every prisoner will go through the same management system. Admittedly, Acacia will not get any of the hard cases, because they do not come into this calculation.

Mr RIEBELING: I hear what the minister is saying, but he did not answer the question. If they are part of an integrated system, which the minister has confirmed, how will we create the competition that the member for Swan Hills and the minister mentioned earlier?

Mr PRINCE: I am not trying to be parochial, but Albany Regional Prison is generally recognised as the best place in which to do the hard time. Those serving long sentences in maximum security by and large choose Albany Regional Prison.

Mr Brown: It is only for the climate.

Mr PRINCE: Apart from that, there is a certain culture in that jail. To some extent that is a credit to the prison officers, and full marks to them. They have changed over the years but the culture has remained the same. It is seen as a well-managed facility at which prisoners can do their maximum security time "relatively easily". I have known most of the superintendents at the prison. Indeed, I was the lawyer for the executors dealing with the wills of a couple of superintendents.

Casuarina Prison is a maximum security facility. It handles different prisoners and has a different culture. One might argue superficially that the two prisons are the same but that they deal with issues differently. That is as it should be because they are handling different prisoners. Casuarina is dealing with prisoners such as the Birnies. The subculture of the prison is different. There is no reason that we cannot have another prison such as Acacia, privately managed, with a slightly different culture and with a greater emphasis on program delivery in a different style. That will then rub off on the state system and vice versa. Officers will exchange information about how they are addressing certain problems.

While Minister for Health I noted that Albany Regional Hospital and Bunbury Regional Hospital were almost identical in size, but the staff of each hospital did not know how the other hospital operated. They were doing similar things differently and each could learn from the other. When the staff at these hospitals talked to each other, they found those things out. The barriers are not as great in the prison system, but the people are still able to learn from each other how to do something better and vice versa, and that happens in the current integrated system, moderately in some cases and well in others.

There is no reason not to have that in a privately managed prison within the same integrated structure. A different attitude and a different culture are beneficial, surely. After all, the exercise is that if the State decrees, because the people of the State decree, that a number of citizens will be locked up at any one time, it is highly desirable that, having been locked up once, offenders will not be locked up again. Of course, that is putting it at its simplest. If the rehabilitation can be done better by having more input from those who are trying to achieve the same ends, surely that a good thing.

Mrs van de KLASHORST: The minister talked about culture and compliance. How will the new prison work with the expected number of Aboriginal prisoners who have a different culture from the non-Aboriginal prisoners? Will there be special programs and other ways of handling those people in a culturally appropriate way? Non-recidivism is helped when these people leave the prison with skills that they have gained while incarcerated. It is important that any prison in Western Australia, new or otherwise, take into account the fact that we have a large Aboriginal population - an over-representation - in this system. We all abhor that imbalance. Any new prison must ensure that for people in this group - I am not sure of the percentage they represent within the system, although it is very large - programs are put in place and thought is given to the fact that they need special cultural handling. I am not sure what has been put in place for them. Is accommodation for the Aboriginal prison population culturally appropriate?

Mr PRINCE: Of the prison population - that is, about 3.5 per cent of the State's population - about 40 per cent is Aboriginal. That is a ghastly figure and has been thus for as long as I can recall. Eventually, hopefully, that will diminish. I think it has been diminishing very slowly in recent times. We need special arrangements to deal with Aboriginal people who have cultural requirements. When I talked about cultural difference, I meant in management style more than anything else. In the Acacia facility, we would reasonably expect that four out of 10 of the prisoners will be Aboriginal people. The contract requires that special arrangements be made for the management of Aboriginal prisoners, including the provision of things such as medical services, composition of staff and vocational training. The prison service is doing that, and the contract will require appropriate spiritual services, catering and various other things. That is very important not only for religious purposes - not just for Aboriginals but many others - but also from a nutritional point of view for the Aboriginal people who have extraordinarily high rates of diabetes and other diseases. That will also allow them to be trained in better nutrition. All of these things and others will be part and parcel of the contract with the private operator. Some time ago, I saw the model and the plan of the prison. If I recall correctly, within the design of the prison, some areas were designated as meeting places. If Aboriginal prisoners, in particular, are able to mix in small groups, some of the degree of isolation that they otherwise feel, which tends to lead to self-harm and so on, can be stopped; it just does not happen. The present system has used buddy cells very effectively.

Mrs van de Klashorst: Double-bunking has been used.

Mr PRINCE: That is one of the best things that has happened for Aboriginal people in jail. It means that if a young Aboriginal man is depressed, he has the opportunity to be with and to talk to another Aboriginal person.

Mr Riebeling: Has it been a benefit?

Mr PRINCE: For some Aboriginal people, it has. The last time I went through Albany Regional Prison, I saw a number of cells between which an interconnecting door could be opened. This does not happen solely with Aboriginal prisoners, but it tends to happen more with Aboriginal young men who are displaced; for example, they may be in the Albany Regional Prison, but have come from the Geraldton area. The door between the cells can open so that one Aboriginal prisoner can talk to another who is quite balanced and wants to help. Having the ability for the two -

Mr Riebeling: That is not double-bunking.

Mr PRINCE: No, it is not; however, we end up benefiting from having two or more - prisoners are more than double-bunked at the moment - Aboriginal persons in the same cell. For others it definitely works in the reverse fashion. For many young Aboriginal males, it has been quite beneficial. I am not giving that as a reason we should do it; I simply make the point that it works for some who are feeling particularly depressed from time to time. The Acacia facility takes cultural aspects into account, as does the meeting place concept. They are also taken into account in other special arrangements that are written into the contract. The arrangements made for Aboriginal prisoners will be the best we can design.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (Mrs Holmes): I have been in the Chair for 55 minutes and I do not believe the debate we have had during that time has been relevant to clause 2 entitled "Commencement". Standing Order No 133, in part, states that no member shall digress from the subject matter of any question under discussion. It seems to me from the way we have been going that these speeches are similar to those made in the debate on the budget or in the second reading stage of a Bill. In committee, we must deal with the Bill, clause by clause, so that members can seek information about specific matters in those clauses. I will not allow the debate to continue in the manner in which the committee has proceeded; that is, irrelevance and repetition which does not relate to clause 2. Members are very welcome to address that clause specifically, but I will not put up with any further irrelevance.

Mr BROWN: I place on the record that until this ruling, I intended to ask the minister more questions on this matter; however, I will save those questions until we get onto clause 4.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 3: The Act amended -

Mr BROWN: I am a little curious about this clause. It is unusual. It states that the amendments in this Act are to the Prisons Act unless otherwise indicated. Why is that sort of a clause necessary in a Bill like this? Many other Bills have amendments to half a dozen or more Acts, and at the top of the page they simply refer to the Acts that will be affected. The first clause usually says that these amendments apply to X, and so on. Given that this is the Prisons Amendment Bill - in such pieces of legislation, it is not unusual to find at the end of the Bill some amendments to other bits and pieces of legislation - I am a little curious why the draftsperson has decided to embark on drawing to our attention that the amendments are to the Prisons Act. Will the minister clarify that aspect?

Mr PRINCE: Far be it for me to question the workings of inscrutable providence. I think it is a matter of the style by parliamentary counsel.

Clause put and passed.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.00 pm

Clause 4: Section 3 amended -

Mr PRINCE: Mr Chairman, I seek your agreement to depart from normal procedure and have the Parliamentary Secretary for Justice seated at the Table. She has a significant amount of information at her fingertips.

The CHAIRMAN: I have no problem recognising the Parliamentary Secretary at the Table.

Mr RIEBELING: This clause adds to the definitions. It reminds me of the problems we have with the Bill. In the Court Security and Custodial Services Bill those high-level security people were the people engaged in the transportation of the more serious prisoners. In what work will the high-level security people be engaged under this legislation? Is it envisaged that any area in this legislation will not be contracted to private contractors?

Mr PRINCE: My adviser points out that proposed section 15J provides some limitations on the functions which are being contracted. One of the examples referred to in the table is the use of firearms.

Mr Riebeling: Where?

Mr PRINCE: I cannot say off the top of my head which one refers to the carriage of firearms. Proposed section 15J(2) provides that a contract worker cannot be authorised to perform a superintendent's function of a kind referred to in a provision of this Act that is set out in the table to this subsection. The member should refer to section 57 of the Prisons Act to see what they are. There is a limitation on the areas and type of work that is intended to be contracted.

The definition of high-level security work in clause 4 refers to proposed section 15M.

Mr RIEBELING: Do we infer from that that the security people who have weapons in the new prison will not be contractors but will be prison officers?

Mr Prince: That is correct.

Mr RIEBELING: How many will be at the institution? Will it be a tower situation?

Mr PRINCE: As a matter of routine there are gun towers etc in maximum security jails, not medium security jails. Officers would be there with firearms only if they were escorting someone who was particularly dangerous or threatening.

Mr Riebeling: He would not be going to a medium security anyway, would he?

Mr PRINCE: The only instance I can think of is some sort of security breakdown which would require some force to be able to quell it.

Mr Riebeling: Is it envisaged that officers involved under the Court Security and Custodial Services Bill will have weapons?

Mr PRINCE: No.

Mr Riebeling: What if it concerns high-level security?

Mr PRINCE: People who have weapons might be used on the rare occasions that it is necessary to have armed guards, such as preventing someone from getting at a prisoner or helping him to escape.

Mr Riebeling: Will that be likely to be a police officer?

Mr PRINCE: More than likely it will be a police officer. My adviser points out that the concept and terminology of high-level security also relates to the selection of individuals to work at certain levels within a prison who would be issued with the appropriate permit to do that kind of work.

Mr RIEBELING: Is the minister saying that if in a medium security prison a control problem occurred - let us hope it does not - there will not be armed people at the prison? Is he saying that if there were a security risk, fly-in squad of armed prison officers would move in to take care of the situation? Could that not allow a dangerous situation to escalate to a worse situation than it would be if armed people were on the premises at all times? I recognise that the minister does not want towers, and that is fine, but if a control problem occurred, that situation might get worse while waiting for armed prison officers or police to arrive.

Mr PRINCE: It would be the worst case scenario to try to control some form of riotous disturbance with firearms. In the Casuarina incident on Christmas Day the prison officers were able to contain, control and suppress what was happening without firearms, and it would have been potentially dangerous for them to have firearms because a firearm is an offensive weapon and if it can be taken from the officers it can be used against them. In many respects shields, helmets and batons are better for controlling a number of prisoners rioting than firearms ever would be. Their use in prisons, particularly in this State, is very limited and mostly confined to maximum security jails and guard towers, and for particular special escorts. The Metropolitan Security Unit is equipped with firearms and is capable of responding to calls from this prison, as it is capable of responding to any other. The first call from Acacia would be to the Wooroloo minimum security prison - public as opposed to private - and the second call could be to the MSU. The third call, if necessary, could be to any other prison. I cannot remember what happened in the riot in the Fremantle jail and where people were pulled from. As I recall, prison officers came from all over the place to help deal with the disturbance, as did the police. If something on that massive scale occurred again, all available resources would be called upon and that would include the police. I am reminded by the Parliamentary Secretary that there is a police station at Wundowie and at Mundaring.

Mr RIEBELING: In relation to the definition of "contract" and "contractor", I would like information on who will be parties to the contract. I presume there will be a superintendent of the privatised prison.

Mr Prince: The general manager or some similar sort of role.

Mr RIEBELING: The last definition in subclause (1) is for "subcontractor". Is it envisaged that the structure of the contract will be such that the general manager will be a subcontractor to the contractor?

Mr Prince: No.

Mr RIEBELING: They will be direct employees of the contractor?

Mr Prince: I suppose it is technically possible for the general manager to be employed on contract to the contractor, perhaps for tax purposes as a proprietary limited company. I have no idea. The effect will be that the individual will be on a contract of service to the contractor for whatever period is appropriate. Most people holding a position with that degree of responsibility would be on contracts for three to five years.

Mr RIEBELING: A workplace agreement?

Mr Prince: At that level of management it would probably be a contract of service, similar to that between a board of directors and a general manager or chief executive officer.

Mr RIEBELING: Will the contract that will eventually be signed by the successful applicant specify down to the finest detail how the prison service shall be provided? Alternatively, will it be a contract which is much broader and allows scope for management skills?

Mr Prince: I apologise if I have misled the member with regard to the general manager. Under proposed section 15A, a contract worker is a natural person. A company could not be employed.

Mr RIEBELING: That is the administrator?

Mr Prince: That is anybody who has a contract working within this contracted situation. For example, a doctor employed as a medical officer may well be a subcontractor, because he is not there all the time but only on an as-needed basis. You would expect a subcontract arrangement to exist for people such as that.

Mr RIEBELING: Is it the minister's understanding that the head contract for contractors will consist of 1 000 pages, setting out, as in an award, how many staff are needed in a certain area, routine orders and so on?

Mr Prince: No.

Mr RIEBELING: Will it be broad-based?

Mr Prince: It is a contract to provide a particular service and the parameters are finely defined. You can extrapolate from that the basic manning required at any particular time and place, but there must be a degree of flexibility, otherwise the contractor cannot manage it as effectively and efficiently as possible.

Mr RIEBELING: Under the previous legislation we debated a number of things that would be drawn up which the contractor had to do, such as training court security officers. Under this contract will it be necessary to achieve a certain level of training?

Mr Prince: Yes.

Mr RIEBELING: Who will ensure that that level of training is sufficient or on a similar basis to that currently provided to prison officers?

Mr PRINCE: With regard to training matters, the training must be that which is approved by the ministry as appropriate training which skills officers to the appropriate level for the job they are doing. That can range from high-level security to a person who does not deal with the prisoners directly. At the same time, there will be a series of procedural operational manuals, similar to the standard operating procedures used by the police and as we discussed under the custodial services Bill. That type of thing undoubtedly must exist, and those procedures must be in place and be capable of variation and amendment on an ongoing basis.

The fine detail of what people will do and how they will do it will be in that manual, but that must be developed by the contractor in conjunction with the ministry which will have oversight of that. Training is part of the permit system. People will be given a permit to operate at a particular level and that will be fairly closely controlled. There is no problem with that. Under the subcontract arrangements I have mentioned, the medical services could be subcontracted in a general sense to perhaps nursing, physiotherapy and other services. Also educational services could be contracted to the local TAFE or an educational service provider who offers a particular course in a certain area. I do not think that would be objectionable, particularly as TAFE is already engaged in doing that in the public prison system. Other educational providers should be able to do that. Anybody who offers that sort of service, clearly must be approved by the Ministry of Justice as a person appropriate to have that contact with prisoners.

Mr RIEBELING: I hear what the minister says about the ministry setting terms and conditions, but my problem is whether the ministry considers that the prison officers in the government system may be over-qualified for the work they are currently doing. Therefore, it may set different levels for reasons based more on economics than security.

Mr Prince: It is not based on economics; it is based on the appropriate person doing the appropriate job.

Mr RIEBELING: I am trying to ascertain the skill levels of the private sector in overall prison management. Will the management and training be of a similar nature? Could a person working in a private prison transfer into a government prison and do the same job? Are these people interchangeable? Will their skill levels be as equal as that?

Mr PRINCE: It is a highly speculative question. I suppose it would be possible to envisage at some date in the future some categories of people being interchangeable. It is conceptually possible but there is no intention for it to happen. It will be an individual's choice. If a person winds up in the private prison system with a permit to operate at a particular level and decides that he does the job well and would like to do it at a higher level but the opportunity is not there, that person may decide to move away from Perth to the country and see if he can become a prison officer in the public system.

Mr Riebeling: Would he need retraining?

Mr PRINCE: He would not need retraining but he would probably need some other training. It depends on the permit level he is coming from in the private system and seeking to go to in the public system. I do not see that happening except when an individual wants it. There is no intention to have a horizontal flow between the two systems because they are different employers.

Mr Riebeling: But they are both controlling prisons.

Mr PRINCE: The contractor employs one group and the public system another. While some comparisons can be made between the two, it is not possible to move people backwards and forwards.

Mr Riebeling: Why not?

Mr PRINCE: No transfer arrangements have been built into this other than for the prison officers who will also serve in Acacia prison and the security of firearms or something of that nature. The private contractor's employees are there to serve in the Acacia prison and nowhere else. If someone from the private prison wanted to become a prison officer in the public system, he would have to resign his employment and apply for other employment. I am pretty sure the prison system takes

some notice of a person's prior qualifications. I know former police officers who are now in the prison service, people from the military service work in prisons and there are prison officers from the United Kingdom in our prison system. I gather some sort of credit - for want of a better way of putting it - is given for prior experience or training. How much varies from person to person. However, that is a long way down the track. The training standards must all be consistent with national competency standards and they are all set out in the request for proposal.

Mrs van de Klashorst: It is levels 3.8 and 3.9 of the Standard Guidelines for Corrections in Australia 1996. In other words, it is a level 3 certificate in correctional procedures.

Mr PRINCE: That is on page 54 of the request for proposal which has been tabled. As the Parliamentary Secretary said, it states -

All Custody officers are required to have received initial induction training equivalent to standards 3.8 and 3.9 of the Standard Guidelines For Corrections In Australia 1996. [Certificate 3 in Correctional Procedures].

Mr RIEBELING: The question which cries out is to what level are our prison officers currently trained? Is it the same level?

Mrs van de KLASHORST: I believe it is the same level as has been proposed for the new prison. They are the same levels of training and skills.

Mr RIEBELING: I thank the Parliamentary Secretary for that answer. If both groups of officers have similar skills, presumably the contractor's salary rates will be similar to those in the government sector. A new prison can be run with fewer staff, presumably that is an advantage of a new prison system.

Mr Prince: Yes, it is in the sense that the sophistication of prison design improves every year particularly in the western world where Australia can look at America or Britain and they can look at us. You learn to design better so you can manage better.

Mr RIEBELING: Under the system I think should be in place and I believe is in place, that would be deemed to be a productivity improvement. Therefore, one might think that if the officers were doing more with less they would attract a higher wage. I am looking at the costings of these prisons and how they will operate. The Government is suggesting that a private system will be better than a government system and it should be in a position to tell the Parliament how much the private prison will cost to staff and how it calculated that amount.

Mrs van de KLASHORST: The member for Burrup talked about productivity gains but it is innovation in the way prisons are run and built. That is something the Government was seeking when it asked for expressions of interest for the contract. It wanted to look at different and innovative ways of doing things. I know from trips I have made overseas that many different and innovative ideas have been introduced into the British prison system by private companies. The member asked about the salary levels. This will be a private contractor running a business and as one does not go to a private hospital or school and set the wage levels, this contractor will have the right to set its own salary levels within normal Australian standards. If the wages are not within the normal standards, the contractor will not be able to get people. The Government expects these innovative approaches to be documented and implemented in ways that encourage their introduction throughout the Western Australian prison system. That is why the Government likes the idea of innovation in the prison system. As I said during the second reading debate there have been some amazing changes around the world.

Mr RIEBELING: I will ask the same question again in a different way. In order to look at a transparent system and judge whether it is of financial benefit to the State or whether we are paying too much for the product, we should know the going rate for that product before we put it out to the private sector. I presume the Government is not telling the Chamber that it put this product out to the private sector and told that sector to give it a price but had no idea of what it would cost the Government to provide that product. Is that what the Parliamentary Secretary is saying?

Mrs van de Klashorst: That was not the question you asked last time. The question you asked last time was what will be the salary, and will we have any control over that salary. You have now changed to another question.

Mr RIEBELING: It was the same question.

Mr PRINCE: The member for Burrup wants to know how much will be paid to each private prison employee. That will be between the employer and the employee. The State's interest will be in delivering a service. The contractor will bid for the work on the basis of a fee for the service, not the details of its arrangements with its employees, nor the terms and conditions of their employment. The State can then say, "These are the skill levels these people will have, because that is of interest to the State in entering into the contract; these are the levels that will be maintained -

Mr Riebeling: The staffing levels?

Mr PRINCE: The training and skill levels of the people, and also their backgrounds and a checklist of their probity and those sorts of things. The contract between the State and the private contractor will be for the delivery of the service. How the contractor will deliver that service will be at the discretion of the contractor. That is where the innovation will come in.

Mr Riebeling: Completely?

Mr PRINCE: The terms and conditions of employment must conform with the law; I do not have any problem with that. How the contractor carries out the job will be subject to scrutiny, because part of the oversight of the Government through the ministry will be of security, and also the proper treatment of the prisoners, the delivery of programs and so forth. The

oversight role will be quite comprehensive to ensure that what we are contracting to have delivered is delivered, and there is no form of abuse; and I use that term in the widest possible sense. It will not specify how much the contractor will pay the persons who are permitted to work at that level, nor how many people will be contracted.

Mr RIEBELING: The more we get into this the more worrying it becomes with regard to the scrutiny of the contract to deliver what the Western Australian public demands of our prison system. The one thing the public demands of our prison system is that it be secure. The public does not demand much else. The public does not demand that we deliver proper rehabilitation programs. We all want that to happen, but the general public does not necessarily care much about that. In fact, the main concern of the public is that Joe Bloggs does not walk out the front gate of the prison. I am not saying it should remain that way; I believe the public is wrong in that attitude. However, the minister has just told us that if a private contractor charges \$30m or \$50m to run the 750-bed prison annually, how it will classify and pay people will be its business.

Mr Prince: Yes.

Mr RIEBELING: I understand where the minister is coming from, but I do not agree with it. I do not take the next step of agreeing that the Government should not be involved in how many people are used to maintain the security of that prison. Surely it is in the interests of the Government to ensure that a sufficient number of people are in place to maintain security in that prison at all times.

Mr Prince: Of course the answer is yes.

Mr RIEBELING: We were told a while ago that it was none of the Government's business how many people would be employed under the contract. If work has been done on how many prison officers will be required to be in that prison, and if the contractor works out its price on the basis of those figures, what are those figures? What manning levels will be put in place to ensure that the public is secure? The biggest prison we have ever had in this State is about to be built, with 750 beds. That prison will be too big to be managed properly. It would have been much wiser for this State to have a much smaller prison.

Mrs van de Klashorst: You have been complaining for the past three months about overcrowding and have been saying you want us to do something about it. Now you want us to build a smaller prison!

Mr RIEBELING: The Parliamentary Secretary should have been listening to what I said. This Government has been totally abrogating its responsibilities for the past six years. It has now been hit with a huge bolt of lightning and thinks we have too many prisoners! If the Government had been managing things properly, it would have been building sufficient prison space to house these people.

Mrs van de Klashorst: You should have listened to the debate and seen the graph I presented. We had an exponential rise in prisoner numbers after we had planned to build this prison, not before.

Mr RIEBELING: The Parliamentary Secretary and the person who prepared the graph were the only ones in the State who thought that. I have been saying for three years, and numerous other people have been saying for five or six years, that this State has been heading for a crisis. At the end of the day, how many prison officers will be in this huge prison to control 750 prisoners?

Mr PRINCE: Clearly security is a combination of physical barriers, people and electronics. This prison will be built with the latest known technology that works. It will probably be able to be run with fewer people than would be the case had it been designed and built 10 or 20 years ago, and we would expect that irrespective of how it will be run. The result will be a safe and secure prison, and if there is ever any doubt about that, the Government will have the power to intervene and tell the contractor that it is required to meet a certain service standard which includes security, and to adjust the number of people whom it employs. That is part and parcel of what we would expect in any normal arrangement in this area. One of the reasons for proceeding in this way is the transfer of risk. The contractor will be paid to assume the risk and to discharge that responsibility. The contractor will be penalised if it does not ensure that a risk does not exist. The number of staff is a matter that will be assessed by the contractor, and that undoubtedly will fluctuate according to the numbers in the prison.

Mr Riebeling: The Government has no interest in the numbers?

Mr PRINCE: I did not say that.

Mr Riebeling: You said it was the business of the contractor.

Mr PRINCE: I did not say that. The member for Burrup keeps trying to make this mean what he wants it to mean, and it does not. The number of prison officers at any one time will be a matter for the contractor, and it will vary according to the number of prisoners, and according to the management problems that they present, because even though they will all be medium security, some will be more difficult to manage than others. The Government will not be privatising or contracting out. It will be contracting in. The provision of prison service will continue to be a government responsibility. What will change from the current situation is that some services will be purchased by way of contract. Many government services are already purchased by way of contract. Health is a classic example. With the exception of a relatively small number of doctors who are employed on salary, most doctors are employed on contract. We have had this debate on the hospital in Karratha. We will be contracting in a service for prison officers.

Mr Riebeling: All of them, not more of them.

Mr PRINCE: The contractor will be responsible for staff recruitment, training, payroll and terms and conditions. The standards and competencies will be set down. In that sense, security will be provided for in no lesser way than is provided

for in any public prison. The member is trying to make it out to be something unsafe. It will not be unsafe. It will be at least as safe as any public prison containing similar sorts of medium security prisoners.

Mr RIEBELING: My understanding from the Estimates Committee hearings is that 90 prisoners have escaped from the government prison system in this financial year so far.

Mr Prince: The overwhelming majority of whom "walked out" of minimum security prisons where they had a key to their own room! They are not to be confused with prisoners behind razor wire fences, electronic trips and whatever else.

Mr RIEBELING: Ninety.

Mr Prince: Yes.

Mr RIEBELING: I did not want to debate how they walked out and so forth. However, the mismanagement of the prison system under the minister's guidance has led to high levels of escape. The Government has control over the number of prison officers it employs to provide security to the public in relation to those prisoners. The minister said that the contractor will determine the numbers of security people employed in the new prison for varying categories of prisoners -

Mr Prince: The time of the day, the days of the week and so on.

Mr RIEBELING: This includes the working hours, or whatever. I do not disagree with that; however, I ask where the Government steps in and what checks will be in place to ensure that security needs, on behalf of the general public, are being met through the number of employees in attendance. The Government will, I hope, demand security for the public. I hope the minister will not tell us that the only check will be a fine if an escape occurs. If so, I would be greatly concerned. Will the Government set the minimum requirements so the general public will be secure at night and people do not walk or crawl out of prison? I heard the minister say that the contractor will have such responsibility and a monetary penalty will apply if someone escapes. I hope that the minister can allay my fears that no checks will apply.

Mr Prince: The escape rate from medium security prison is less than one a year.

Mr RIEBELING: A few occurred this year.

Mr Prince: It is less than one a year from medium security prisons. We had escapes from police lockups, from court custody -

Mr RIEBELING: We had five or six escapes from Kalgoorlie, did we not?

Mr Prince: We have had escapes from minimum security, in which people walked out. In the eastern goldfields, which has minimum and medium security, prisoners walked out of the minimum security area.

Mr RIEBELING: They kicked in the wall of the medium security area.

Mr Prince: They walked out of the minimum security area.

Mr RIEBELING: They did not. It was from the washout area. They got out of the wall and escaped across the roof. The minister knows that it was an escape from the medium security area.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! We are dealing with clause 4 which defines words.

Mr RIEBELING: "Contract".

The CHAIRMAN: We have taken "contract" as far as we should in general discussion.

Mr RIEBELING: I am trying to find out the specific nature of the "contract". The minister has stated in interjection that we had one escape from medium security prisons last year. I said that a number of escapes occurred in Kalgoorlie. A couple took place in Greenough as well last year, in which, from memory, the escapees took a vehicle. Therefore, last year probably six or seven escapes took place from minimum security. Perhaps the minister may wish to comment.

Mrs van de KLASHORST: One of the Government's main concerns was to ensure that the new prison is secure. The contract sets out the escape target as absolutely nil. If any escapes occur, penalties will apply. Perhaps the member has not realised that 2000 is fast approaching, and that we are building different prisons from those of the past. The member would realise that if he had read the second reading speech. The prison's design incorporates world best security practice. Double razor wire will be on the perimeter. Has the member read the request for proposal or seen the prison plan?

Mr Riebeling: I have seen an earlier plan.

Mrs van de KLASHORST: The latest technology will apply and a car will drive around the perimeter 24 hours a day.

Mr Riebeling: That was the case in the Queensland prison from which a prisoner escaped.

Mrs van de KLASHORST: One can build into the prison best practice. Security passes and safe cards will be used as people move from one place to another, and movements can be recorded electronically at all times. It will be new type of prison. In many cases, electronics will be part of prison safety. The Government has set in the Ministry of Justice contract an escape rate of nil.

Mr Riebeling: It was a target of zero in the government prisons section this year.

Mrs van de Klashorst: No, it was not.

The CHAIRMAN: I say this again, and for the last time: We are dealing with definition contained in this Bill, not taking "contract" and relating it to the second reading debate. I want members to concentrate on definitions.

Mr RIEBELING: The Parliamentary Secretary referred to the targets set by the contractor -

Mrs van de Klashorst: No, the targets were not set by the contractor. They were set out in the document.

Mr RIEBELING: The target set out for the government system this year was exactly the same - namely, zero. The Parliamentary Secretary seemed to indicate that that is the not case. I give an opportunity for the Parliamentary Secretary to correct that statement so she does not mislead the Chamber.

Mr BROWN: Clause 4(2) provides that section 3(1) will be amended by deleting the definition of "medical officer" and inserting a new definition. The new definition reads -

"medical officer" means a person who is appointed or engaged as a medical officer referred to in section 6(3) or (4).

Some other changes will be made to the definition provision for "officer" and also to "prison medical officer". In fact, the definition of prison medical officer is to be deleted. The current definition within the Prisons Act reads -

"A prison medical officer" means a medication practitioner who is registered under the *Medical Act 1894* and who is appointed under and subject to part 3 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* to be a prison medical officer.

That requires a prison medical officer to be both a medical practitioner and a person who is appointed subject to part 3 of the Public Sector Management Act. The new definition says that a medical officer means a person who is appointed or engaged as a medical officer referred to in section 6(3) or 6(4). Clause 5 will introduce changes to those sections of the Act, so it requires our going backwards and forwards to try to understand what is being done in relation to the change. This clause represents a significant change from the Prisons Act. Currently a medical officer must be a medical practitioner.

Mr PRINCE: I have just been handed by my adviser an amendment which I will move which changes what we have in front of us. I move -

Page 3, line 10 - To delete "definition" and insert "definitions".

Page 3, after line 14 - To insert the following definition -

"medical practitioner" means a person -

- (a) who is registered as a medical practitioner under the *Medical Act 1894*; and
- (b) who has current entitlement to practise under that Act;

Mr BROWN: I do not believe the amendment clarifies the point I made.

Mr Prince: It makes certain the medical officer must be a doctor suitably qualified and practising.

Mr BROWN: I am not sure that it does.

Mr PRINCE: At the moment the definition of medical officer in section 3 of the Prisons Act means a doctor registered under the appropriate Act and engaged to perform the duties. However, that does not include a prison medical officer. The definition in the amendment Bill will delete the current definition of medical officer in the Act and insert a new definition. The amendment that I have just moved would ensure that a person who is a medical officer is a person who is appointed under section 6(3) or 6(4) of the Act and who is also a medical practitioner under the Medical Act and has a current entitlement to practice. The amendment will ensure a medical officer is a duly qualified and practising doctor.

Mr BROWN: I am conscious of what the minister had to say about the intention of the amendment. However, I wonder whether that is achieved. I will run through the sequence of events, even with the amendment. The existing Act provides for the definition of prison medical officer to be a medical practitioner registered under the Medical Act. The existing Act makes it clear that it cannot be other than a medical practitioner.

Mr Prince: There are two definitions - a medical officer and a prison medical officer. We are dealing with the earlier definition of medical officer.

Mr BROWN: A medical officer means a medical practitioner who is registered under the Medical Act. Under the present Act both the medical officer and the prison medical officer must be medical practitioners.

Mr PRINCE: That is correct. The example would be a person who has qualified overseas and whose qualifications are not recognised; consequently he or she is not registered in this State. The amendment before the Chamber will ensure that the medical officer is a person who is entitled to practice in this State. The amending Bill would not do that; it would have said a medical officer means a person who is appointed. That does not necessarily mean someone who is registered as a doctor in this State. The amendment will ensure it is a person who is entitled to be a doctor in this State.

Mr BROWN: I agree that is the interpretation of the Bill without the amendment. However, I wonder if the amendment achieves what the minister says it seeks to achieve.

Mr Prince: It should in law.

Mr BROWN: I will explain why I question whether that is not the case. Clause 5 will amend section 6(3) of the Act which reads -

There may be appointed under and subject to Part 3 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* such officers, other than prison officers engaged under section 13, as are required for the purposes of this Act.

The Bill seeks to include after the words "such officers" the words "including medical officers". The Bill then seeks to repeal existing section 6(4) of the Act and insert in lieu of that section -

Without limiting the appointment of medical officers referred to in subsection (3), there may be appointed or engaged as medical officers for the purposes of this Act medical practitioners . . .

The key words are "Without limiting the appointment of medical officers referred to in subsection (3), there may be appointed". I emphasise "may be appointed". It is not "will be appointed". That means that medical officers can be appointed who are not medical practitioners.

Mr Prince: No, I do not think so.

Mr BROWN: If that is the case, what do the words, "Without limiting the appointment of medical officers referred to in subsection (3)" mean?

Mr PRINCE: I understand the point sought to be elucidated. The member's interpretation is possible as the Bill presently stands because the definition of "medical officer" that the Bill contemplates, which is an amendment to the current Act, would have enabled a person to be called a medical officer who was not registered under the Medical Act and who did not have current entitlement to practise as a doctor in this State. It would have enabled someone whose registration had lapsed or someone who had never been registered to be appointed, which might be someone who is competent but has never done it. The amendment that I have just put to the House ensures that the definition of "medical practitioner" means someone who is not only registered to practise in this State, but who has a current entitlement to do so. It must be a licensed doctor. If the amendment in clause 5(2), "Without limiting the appointment of medical officers", is considered, a medical officer must be a licensed doctor, so without limiting the appointment -

Mr Brown: Where does it state that?

Mr PRINCE: We have just defined the term "medical officer".

Mr Brown: No, you have not.

Mr PRINCE: We have. Section 3(1) defines "medical officer". The Bill changes that definition, but the two words "medical officer" still exist as a term in the definitions clause. The amendment I have just moved ensures that the term "medical officer" must mean a licensed doctor. When that term "medical officer" appears anywhere in the Bill, which then becomes part of the Act, it means that for "medical officer" in clause 5(2), one would read the following in full, "Without limiting the appointment of a medical officer which means a person who is appointed or engaged as a medical officer under section 6(3) or (4) of the Prisons Act who is registered as medical practitioner under the Medical Act and who has a current entitlement to practise." That is the effect of the definition of the words "medical officer".

Mr Brown: I do not think so, minister. Do you see the difference - medical officer as opposed to medical practitioner? Do you see the problem?

Mr PRINCE: Yes.

Mr Brown: It does not double define what is a medical officer; it defines what is a medical practitioner. A medical practitioner is the only person who is added on afterwards who may be that, but may not be.

Mr PRINCE: The Crown Solicitor's Office has come up with this.

Mr Brown: The Crown Solicitor's Office, with respect, is wrong

Mr PRINCE: The intention is that the amendments enable an appointment to be made under the Prisons Act or under the Public Sector Management Act or by way of contract for service, but whichever way is chosen, it must be a licensed doctor.

Mr Brown: The words do not say that.

Mr PRINCE: Can I give the member an undertaking, as I have done in the past and honoured it, that somebody will go away and look at this because the member and I want to ensure that we do not wind up with a non-licensed doctor practising?

Mr Brown: That is correct.

Mr PRINCE: Perhaps my adviser can keep officers of Crown Law up overnight to address this question because the member and I agree that this House does not want to see an unqualified doctor practising in a prison.

The CHAIRMAN: What does the minister wish to do with the clause?

Mr PRINCE: I have moved an amendment and I would simply like to leave it at that. How can I come back to this later? I seek the Chairman's advice.

The CHAIRMAN: Firstly, the minister must seek leave to withdraw the amendment, and then seek leave to postpone the clause.

Mr PRINCE: I do not understand why I must seek leave to withdraw the amendment. Can I simply seek to postpone debate on this clause including the amendment until a later stage? I think we did that in the last Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Further consideration of the clause postponed, on motion by Mr Prince (Minister for Police).

Clause 5 postponed, on motion by Mr Prince (Minister for Police).

Clause 6: Section 7 amended -

Mr RIEBELING: This clause relates to the term "superintendent" where it occurs. My understanding from what was said earlier is that the term "superintendent" will not appear in relation to new contracts; in fact, it will be the general manager - I think that was the term the minister used - which will be terminology used for the boss of the new prison. I am keen to discover as accurately as we can how the boss of the prison will be equated to the current system. What powers will the superintendent have? Will they compare to that of the government prison? Will he have greater powers in relation to restraining of prisoners for instance? I understand a financial penalty will be imposed if prisoners escape from the establishment.

Mr PRINCE: He will have no greater powers. He is a contract worker as defined in section 15A. Section 15I states -

The chief executive officer may authorize a contract worker who holds a permit, to perform any of the functions that -

(a) a superintendent;

...

has under this Act except a function referred to in 15J.

Section 15J(3) states -

A contract worker cannot be authorized to perform a superintendent's function of a kind referred to in Part X.

There are some limitations.

Mr RIEBELING: I am trying to determine what those limitations are in a practical sense in the management of the new prison system. Is it possible to answer that in a couple of minutes?

Mr PRINCE: Clause 6 amends section 7 by inserting the words "or other officer". Prison officers are directly empowered by section 13 of the Prisons Act. Contracted workers are reliant upon a delegated power from the chief executive officer. This amendment empowers the chief executive officer to perform and delegate the powers and duties of a prison officer. Therefore, it is simply ensuring that the chief executive officer can delegate a power that the contract worker would have to have, which the CEO may not have currently. That sounds a bit Greek but it is a technical exercise.

Mr Riebeling: Is that code for saying "the full powers of a superintendent currently"?

Mr PRINCE: I have just spelt out a number of limitations in the amendment before us on what the "superintendent" would be able to do.

Mr Riebeling: It will now be called "other officer". Does that "other officer" refer to the chief executive officer?

Mr PRINCE: Currently there are provisions in section 13 of the Prisons Act which refer to engaging prison officers as employees, the oath that they shall take, being convicted of offences and so on. Section 13 states -

Where a prison officer to whom Part X applies is convicted of an offence other than under this Act but which relates to the performance of his duties . . . the chief executive officer may, with the consent of the Minister, dismiss that prison officer.

It is not intended that the superintendent of the private prison have the powers of discipline under part X of the Prisons Act to be able to adjudicate prison offences.

Mr Riebeling: A justice or someone like that will come in?

Mr PRINCE: Yes, therefore, in that sense the superintendent is more circumscribed than a superintendent in a public prison. However, in order to ensure that the contract worker has a delegated power from the chief executive officer that he should have, this amendment will empower the chief executive officer to perform and delegate the powers and duties of a prison officer. It sounds strange but technically the chief executive is not capable of performing the duties of a prison officer under the Prisons Act. Perhaps he should be capable. However, as a matter of law, in order to delegate the power that one has, one must have it in the first place. The Prisons Act does not give the chief executive officer the power of a prison officer.

It is strange when one thinks about the Commissioner of Police as a police constable; every police officer in the Police Service is a police constable; everybody in fact has equal powers. In that sense the commissioner cannot delegate to a police constable something that the police constable does not already have. However, if the Commissioner of Police was not a sworn police constable, the commissioner would not have any power to be able to delegate to anybody else either. That is the situation with the chief executive officer at the moment.

Mr RIEBELING: I would like to clarify exactly what the minister said. I thank him for the explanation; I have gleaned what will be the difference. In the new prison that is envisaged, there will be a system whereby someone other than the superintendent will determine appropriate penalties for prison offences - for instance, lengthening a sentence - but in relation to removal of privileges and ordinary management -

Mr Prince: Part X of the Prisons Act relates to the discipline of prison officers. Therefore, clearly that does not apply.

Mr RIEBELING: I see, it is prison officers.

Mr Prince: Yes. Part X of the Prisons Act is the part of the Act that deals with disciplinary offences in relation to prison officers. That does not apply in a privately run prison.

Mr RIEBELING: Because they are not prison officers?

Mr Prince: No. However, there will be public prison officers in the private prison; for example, conducting an inspection or something of that nature. It is not conceptually correct that the superintendent of the private prison will be able to exercise a disciplinary function over a public officer.

Mr RIEBELING: I thought you intended that a justice of the peace or a judicial officer would be used.

Mr Prince: No, we have misunderstood each other. I was talking about prison officer offences. I think the member was talking about prisoner discipline offences within the jail.

Mr RIEBELING: Yes, I am. Will the superintendent of the private prison have the same powers in the management of prisoners that the current superintendents have? My understanding of the current situation - and I may be wrong - is that the punishment for offences -

Mr Prince: That is the withdrawal of privileges and things of that nature.

Mr RIEBELING: Yes, and all that can be done by the superintendent.

Mr Prince: Yes.

Mr RIEBELING: I presume that same type of ruling will be allowed. Superintendents then determine who is suitable for work release programs and the like. If a person has played up, that removes his or her ability to go into work release, which actually extends his or her sentence.

Mr Prince: No, work release is adjudicated by the Parole Board on recommendations from prison officers.

Mr RIEBELING: Yes, but one has to be eligible to go into those programs. For instance, there was one fellow who was transferred to a medium security prison - I cannot remember all the details - but his location within the prison system meant that he could not access those programs. Will the private system have the same powers within the confines of the prison? What limitations will this amendment have, if any, on the management of the prisons?

Mr PRINCE: Prison superintendents currently have the ability in public prisons to deal on a daily basis relatively summarily with offences by prisoners that are not the subject of a charge under the Police Act or the Criminal Code or whatever the case may be. That prisoner usually winds up being docked privileges of some description and in extreme cases being locked up in solitary confinement for a period. In order to deal with those forms of offences under the private prison regime, a prison superintendent from the public system will come into the prison to do it. Therefore, the private superintendent will not have that power.

Mr Riebeling: What about privileges?

Mr PRINCE: Yes, and the taking away of privileges and so on. Under section 77 of the Prisons Act, the superintendent has the ability to impose penalties and a visiting justice has the ability to impose penalties under section 78. Those systems will continue to work in the private prison but the ability to give cautions, reprimands, forfeitures of remission, cancellation of gratuities and confinements for not more than 72 hours - which a prison superintendent can do in Casuarina, Canning Vale or Albany, whatever the case may be - is something that will still be able to be done in the private prison but by a public prison superintendent. The reason for that, when one thinks it through conceptually, is that the public prison superintendent is exercising a quasi-judicial office when performing these duties.

Mr Riebeling: Does that include removal of privileges?

Mr PRINCE: Yes. It is not dealing with liberty, but with the degree of a prisoner's freedom which is something that should be dealt with by a public official. Functions of that nature can increase a prisoner's sentence and should be done by a public officer who is exercising at the very least a quasi-judicial office than by a privately employed person. Likewise the visiting justice who has much greater powers - for example, locking prisoners down for seven days and so on. We dealt with this matter conceptually and considered that it is the right thing to do. Therefore, those two systems will continue.

Mr RIEBELING: I thank the minister once again for that explanation. Will this officer be called the chief executive officer?

Mr Prince: No, a chief executive officer of the Ministry of Justice is as defined under the Prisons Act; then there is a general manager or superintendent, call him what you will.

Mr RIEBELING: The general manager of the new private prison does not have the capacity to remove privileges on a day-to-day basis.

Mr Prince: That is correct.

Mr RIEBELING: He also does not have the ability to confine prisoners to cells in a lock-down situation.

Mr Prince: No.

Mr RIEBELING: Yet they are tools used on a daily basis in the government system to maintain order.

Mr Prince: The private prison superintendent or general manager undoubtedly will manage those issues. However, the imposition of that penalty, which can lead to the prisoner's losing his liberty for longer than the judge or magistrate originally ordered, is a function that should be discharged by a public official.

Mr RIEBELING: The extension of time would be ordered by a judge.

Mr PRINCE: Technically a superintendent can require a prisoner to forfeit not more than three days of remission of sentence. If we abolish all remissions, this would be a technical argument. If we do not, theoretically the superintendent would have the ability to ensure that the prisoner stays in jail for 72 hours longer than otherwise was ordered by the judge or magistrate. As a matter of principle, that should be done by a public official.

Mr RIEBELING: When this private prison was envisaged, mention was made of a \$100 000 penalty for an escape.

Mr Prince: That is correct.

Mr RIEBELING: That is a relatively large incentive to ensure that prisoners do not escape. What checks does the Government envisage putting in place to ensure that the treatment of prisoners is not designed solely to keep them locked up? If we want to ensure they do not escape, we could chain them to the wall, but that is ridiculous. What measures will be put in place to ensure that that sort of thing does not happen?

Mr PRINCE: Because the RFP and the contract contain certain minimum requirements with respect to hours of education, recreation and so on per week, locking people down for 23 or 24 hours a day will not be possible. Of course, we have the power to inspect. All of that is laid down. The minimum requirement is six hours of work per day and four hours of education and 10 hours of recreation per week. There is also the rehabilitation aspect. It is difficult to rehabilitate someone if he is locked down, as was the case in jails 100 years ago and probably more recently than that.

Mr Riebeling: They are still locked down after riots.

Mr PRINCE: That is different; I am talking about it as a general exercise. Until the Second World War it was common for prisoners to be locked down for 23 hours a day. Over the past 50 years, prisoners are more likely to be out of their cells and doing something constructive rather than being locked in a cell doing nothing.

The non-delivery of services obviously carries a monetary penalty by way of fee reduction, the problem of recidivism will cost and so on. The incentives are there to take in the prisoners, to manage them well, to reeducate and retrain so that they do not come back and to deal with them humanely.

The member commented that the public cares only that they are kept safe. While that is the most important requirement, they also do not want to see them come back to jail. Anything that can be done that the public sees as leading to that end is welcomed and applauded vigorously. A group of prisoners from the Albany Regional Prison worked on the construction of the Bibbulmun track from Walpole to Albany. At the public commissioning of the track by the Minister for the Environment, 20 prisoners were hauled out in front of 600 people to receive certificates. As they received their certificates they were greeted with a rousing round of applause. The public want to see them locked up because they are a danger but are also delighted to see them doing something constructive that will give them a better chance when they are released. The overwhelming public attitude is that they should be kept secure and rehabilitated, and that will be applauded when it is done.

Mr BROWN: The effect of this change is that section 7(3) of the Act will provide that the chief executive officer has all the powers conferred by or under the Act on the superintendent or other officer, and may review, vary or rescind any order or direction given by a superintendent or other officer. An "officer" is defined in the Act as a person appointed or deemed to have been appointed for the purposes of this Act under section 6 or section 13. Section 6 of the Act deals with the appointment of officers and section 13 deals with the appointment of prison officers, and for the purposes of this debate that is not relevant. Section 6(1) provides -

There shall be appointed under and subject to Part 3 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* an officer of the Department who has immediate responsibility to the chief executive officer for the administration of this Act.

The appointment of an officer, as read in conjunction with the definition of "officer", requires him to be a person appointed under the Public Sector Management Act.

Mr Prince: Yes.

Mr BROWN: A deferred clause seeks to alter the definition of "officer" by deleting "section 6 or section 13" and inserting the words "or as referred to in section 6 or under section 13". The definition would then provide that an officer is a person appointed or deemed to have been appointed for the purposes of this Act under or as referred to in section 6 or under section 13. I take it that the purpose of that change, together with this clause, is to enable the term "officer" as used in section 7 to be interpreted in such a way that it applies to a person other than a person engaged under the Public Sector Management Act. I assume that the term is being changed so that the chief executive officer can exercise the powers of a person who then might be in charge of or exercise certain powers in a private prison. If that is not the purpose of the change, I do not know what it is. I wish to find out whether that is the purpose of the change and if it is not, what it is.

Mr PRINCE: Yes. Because the power of the general manager and other people employed in the private prison is a delegated power from the chief executive officer, that person must have that power in the first place. In looking at the Prisons Act, it seems to me that it has been determined that the CEO does not have all the powers of officers under the Prisons Act. In that sense, the CEO is deficient in power. Section 7(3) of the Prisons Act says that the CEO has powers conferred under the Act on a superintendent. A superintendent does not have the full gamut of powers that, under the Prisons Act, can be conferred on officers of different types. For the CEO to be able to delegate full powers to the private operators, he must have those in the first place. The powers he has are those of a superintendent; of course, that is not counting the powers under the Public Sector Management Act. The change is made to ensure that the CEO has all the powers conferred under the Prisons Act on a superintendent or any other officer. In that way, the CEO can delegate those powers appropriately.

Mr BROWN: The minister has put an interesting interpretation on it. My reading of the legislation is that the superintendent has very broad powers. The powers are given either to the superintendent exclusively or to a superintendent or to prison officer, depending on the provisions we look at. Surely in a public prison, the superintendent has those powers now. My understanding is that the words "officers to be included" are intended for two purposes: First, to enable a person engaged in a private prison to be deemed to be an officer; and, secondly, to give the CEO the powers that may be exercised by that person.

Mr Prince: The problem arises that we can have a superintendent who is not a prison officer. There may be some or there may have been some; I do not know.

Mr BROWN: There are.

Mr Prince: A prison officer has certain powers. Basically they are in section 36 of the Prisons Act which talks about the superintendent. They are not total powers, but are limited to some extent. A prison officer has somewhat different powers in some respects. Section 14 of the Prisons Act sets out the powers and duties of a prison officer. The amendment is intended to ensure that whatever is delegated by the CEO to the private prison employees is a real power and, consequently, can be exercised by the private prison employees. That is not to say necessarily that any individual in a private prison has the total power of the CEO, but if the CEO is the repository of all power, it can be delegated. If the chief executive does not have it - that is the legal advice we have - he needs it.

Mr BROWN: Perhaps the minister can clarify that this deals with the definition of "officer", not "prison officer". They are entirely different under the legislation. This does not seek to give the superintendent the powers of a prison officer under section 14. It refers to an officer. The term "officer" does not refer necessarily to a prison officer, as the minister will see.

Mr Prince: It says section 13. I think the expression "officer" includes a prison officer.

Mr BROWN: Yes.

Mr PRINCE: In the Prisons Act, the expression "officer" as defined in section 3 includes a prison officer. The powers of the CEO - I suppose it is a bit rude to criticise the work of parliamentary counsel from 18 years ago - are not expressed as elegantly as they would be these days. Today the legislation would probably say that the CEO shall have all powers that are envisaged by this Act, or words to that effect, an encompassing exercise. Under section 7(3) of the Prisons Act the CEO has only the powers of a superintendent. I am sure it was not intended to be a limiting exercise when it was written in that way 1980 or 1981. There is perceived to be a limitation as a result of saying that those are the powers of the CEO.

Mr Brown: We must read section 7(1). It gives the CEO the responsibility of the management, control and the welfare of all prisons. Do we have to read that in accordance with section 7(3)?

Mr PRINCE: That is a responsibility, not necessarily a power. Section 7(1) sets out a responsibility, not a power. Section 7(3) places power on the shoulders of the CEO of the Prisons Department, as it then was, now the Ministry of Justice. For the CEO of the Ministry of Justice, as it is now is, to delegate the suite of powers that should go to either the superintendent of a private prison or any other contract worker within it who is doing various functions, the CEO in the Ministry of Justice must have those powers in the first place. As a matter of technical interpretation -

Mr Brown: He cannot delegate what he does not have.

Mr PRINCE: Yes. It is perceived that the CEO may not have all of the suite of powers which exist under the Prisons Act as a matter of the law, but the CEO does not have at the moment. It is nice technical distinction which otherwise could be the cause of much indulgence in the Supreme Court. Irrespective of private prisons and so on, it would probably be a good idea to fix it now. It would lay to rest any suggestion that the chief executive officer is not all-powerful in the sense of the powers that exist under the Prisons Act. That is the object of the exercise.

Mr Brown: Is it intended that the chief executive officer delegate his powers to whoever might be in charge of the private prison?

Mr PRINCE: Yes; but not all of them. Under proposed section 15I headed "The contract workers' function", the chief executive officer may authorise a contract worker who holds a permit to perform any of the functions that a superintendent, a prison officer, or another officer has under the Bill, except a function referred to in section 15J. There are some other limitations elsewhere. It is to make certain that the powers sought to be delegated by contracts reside in the person who is doing the delegating.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 7: Part IIIA inserted -

Mr RIEBELING: One of the first definitions reads "contract worker means a natural person". Why are the words "or agent of a contractor" included under subsection (a)?

Mr Prince: It is someone acting on behalf of the contracted person. Agency is a common term in ordinary life.

Mr RIEBELING: I have no doubt about that. This is saying that the contract worker must be a natural person, but an agent can perform the function. Does the agent necessarily have to be a natural person in that scheme of the contract?

Mr Prince: Yes. The definition "contract worker" means a natural person. Whichever subset that is, whether it be contractor, employee or agent of contractor, it must be a natural person.

Mr RIEBELING: Proposed section 15C is headed "Minimum matters to be included in contracts". During the second reading debate I said I was concerned about the use of the word "minimum" throughout this Bill. I hoped that the minister would be able to assure me that we would not strike the word "minimum" as the lowest common denominator for the service. I would prefer a terminology such as "the level of service demanded". In relation to new section 15C, a contract must provide for fees, costs and charges to be paid to and by the contractor. What are these fees, costs and charges?

Mr PRINCE: Costs and charges are those which otherwise would be called disbursements; that is, actual moneys expended by the contractor in providing the service under the contract, for which the contractor is entitled to be recouped. Fees are the actual operating service charge, which is the fee per service specified in the contract.

Mr RIEBELING: In relation to the minimum matters to be included in contracts, I refer to the point I made earlier. I gather from the minister's comments that the contract will specify that particular services must be provided in relation to the prison system and that a fee will be struck for a particular type of service or method of delivering that service.

Mr Prince: Yes.

Mr RIEBELING: That is not what I thought the minister said earlier in relation to the broader concept of delivering a product rather than an individual part of the contract. Will the minister briefly go through the areas that will be defined in the contract relating to new section 15C(b) in the case of objectives and performance standards for the provision of prison services under the contract? That paragraph indicates that written into the contract will be a level of service that must be maintained. I hope the minister will say that it will include the minimum number of people required to perform that service.

Mr Prince: No.

Mr RIEBELING: Presumably the contractor will be entitled to a fee for service.

Mr Prince: Yes.

Mr RIEBELING: How is the fee to be established in relation to the minimum conditions and the objectives and performance standards in relation to the provision of prison services under the contract?

Mr PRINCE: The contract will specify the actual services by accurate, detailed description and will not specify the number of people who must be employed to do that. It specifies the service. The configuration of the personnel required to deliver the service is a matter for the contractor.

Mr Riebeling: But not the amount?

Mr PRINCE: The amount of money for a particular service will be specified. In broad terms - custody, care and wellbeing, reparation, rehabilitation and resourcing systems.

Mr Riebeling: For each of those sections there will be a fee. If there are 750 people in the prison, for rehabilitation there will be -

Mr PRINCE: It is in the request for proposal. These are general statements; the detail has been worked out in the contract. The RFP required proposals to be submitted based on the groupings I have just mentioned. The interested parties had to complete the pricing and financial detail schedules contained in the proposal outline, which I am sure the member has read. The financial information provided assisted in the assessment of proposals. The service volume is specified in terms of an annual bloc price. The proposal was required to be in the form of an all-inclusive price - for example, staffing, subcontractors, consumables and so on - for the delivery of specified service groupings. The prisons operation charge will be remunerated to the contractor in two components. The first, the price for providing prisons operation services, will be assessed and paid in an open book partner relationship. The second, an on-cost to cover corporate costs and overheads, will be paid and expressed as a percentage of the prisons operation charge. An easy example of a recoupable charge is the electricity cost. It is far more sophisticated and complex to work out a prisons operation charge because it depends on an exact definition of the nature of the service. The contractor knows that in order to be able to satisfy its responsibility to deliver that service, it must have this amount of consumables, that amount of specialist outside contractors, this amount of people at various different levels -

Mr Riebeling: What you are talking about is the costs and charges. I am interested in the fee they get.

Mr PRINCE: I am talking about the fee. Something like electricity is a straightforward disbursement which is recouped. It is more complex to deliver a service defined as, for example, "rehabilitation". A rehabilitation subprogram could be anger management - the member probably knows something about that. Anger management consists of a particular type of course

delivered over a period, usually some weeks, in groups of not more or less than certain numbers because that is the best delivery method, by people with certain qualifications. Therefore, in order to meet that service requirement, the contractor will know that at any one time it will have a certain number of prisoners who reach that stage toward the end of their sentences and it will need to have one psychologist, three of these, four of those or whatever the case may be, together with a room and all the stuff needed to deliver that service. The contractor is then paid for the delivery of the service. How a contractor structures the service and how much it pays those people to provide the service is a matter for it, but the fee the Government pays is for the delivery of the service. If the service is not delivered, the Government does not pay; furthermore there is a penalty. Does the member follow me?

Mr Riebeling: I do. I will ask a question when I have a chance.

Mr PRINCE: The member might not like it. The service is rehabilitation - subset anger management - bang. It would not be for all prisoners but a certain number as they exit the system.

Mr RIEBELING: The minister has used anger management as an example. In a body of 750 prisoners, presumably the ministry will say that 100 of them have to go through an anger management course each year.

Mr Prince: It will depend on what they are in for. If there are 750 prisoners at one time, 150 will be in for crimes of violence and consequently should have anger management.

Mr RIEBELING: We will use 150, as an example.

Mr Prince: It will vary.

Mr RIEBELING: What will the public get for its money with regard to this contract? What parameters will be set? In New South Wales, the anger management program is run by a psychologist, who trains the prison officers to run the courses.

Mr Prince: We have run anger management programs for some years.

Mr RIEBELING: World experts might say that the ideal way to run such a course is to have groups of 10 prisoners over a three week period, at a cost of \$8 000. However, if the private contractor determined that it could get a better result at the end of the day, because it will be penalised if it does not achieve 30 per cent, by putting more resources into the program at a cost of \$12 000 and improving the system, what scope would the Government have to check whether that process was acceptable to the ministry? Presumably some quality controls would be put in place. If the contractor were to put more money into the system or use a new system, what ownership would it have of that system? I think the minister said earlier that any new processes would belong to the ministry.

Mr Prince: That is right.

Mr RIEBELING: On numerous occasions I am told by people both inside and outside the prison system that the amount of money that is provided by the government system for rehabilitation is grossly inadequate to meet the needs of the prison system. By what standard will we test the resolve of the private system to put in place proper rehabilitation programs?

Mr PRINCE: To some extent it is a bit of a novel concept. Small businesses do not go around showing the person for whom they work their book and how they calculate it, but it is a relatively common exercise in large service delivery contracts to have what is called an open book partnering relationship. That is specified in the request for proposal and will be part of the contract that is being worked up at present. If an anger management program were required as part of the major rehabilitation program, the contractor would be required to have an open book arrangement so that Government, through its inspectorate, could monitor the level of effort that was going in. It would not be to dictate the level of effort, but to say, "They are using one psychologist and three social workers, and they have trained this body of their employees, who are at these different permit levels, to deliver this course, and they are doing it differently from the way the public system is doing it." It is clearly in their interests to produce a result. Otherwise, they will not be paid as much, and they will face a punitive fee if a ghastly mess is made. The motivation is to be there to produce the best result, which the public ultimately requires. The public will be informed about service outputs and outcomes in an annual report tabled in this place. It will be a public document. Clause 15G refers to the annual report to be delivered by 30 September. It reads -

- (2) The report is to contain such information as is required to be included in the report by the Minister to enable an informed assessment to be made of -
 - (a) the operations of each contractor; and
 - (b) the extent to which there has been compliance with the relevant contract.
- (3) The Minister is to ensure that the report is laid before each House of Parliament within 10 sitting days . . .

Mr Riebeling: Will the government system be spending the same on rehabilitation as the private system, as that will have a bearing on results?

Mr PRINCE: Although input is an important factor, which we often express in dollar terms, government generally has moved a long way from using inputs as a measure of effectiveness. We all realise that the amount of money has a degree of importance, but it often does not reflect the value of what comes out the other end. We should measure results, which these days are commonly called outcomes. That is critical. That view is generally accepted across the public sector and, I hear, across Australia with the exception of the Commonwealth, which still talks about inputs. It is silly. The object of the exercise is to produce a result which is measurable, definable and "good". This is not at any cost, obviously. To say that we put a certain amount of money into something often does not mean that anything at all has been achieved. One must look at both how much resources are directed in one end, and measure the outcome at the other end. This system of

contracting requires the outcomes to be the defining criteria for the payment, which is the input. That loop is critical in ensuring that things happen. It is possible then, for example, to say that the private results are better than the public results, possibly partly because more money is directed and possibly partly because of the way it is structured and delivered. We will be able to look at a number of aspects to distinguish between private and public.

Mr RIEBELING: I referred to testing the effectiveness of the public versus the private system. As may have been gleaned from debate over the past few weeks, the Opposition does not think that the system will necessarily be better because it is a private operation. However, members opposite support private prisons and, being in government, it is in their interests to ensure such prisons will produce better results. The minister is saying it will. If a determining factor and gauge is the end result, that can be affected greatly by inputs. The minister might not want to focus on inputs. However, if one puts three times as many resources - I exaggerate - into rehabilitation in the private system than that provided for the public system, presumably one will achieve a better result. One would hope so.

Mr Prince: In any system, no matter how inefficient, the output would increase from tripling inputs. Nevertheless, whether one achieves a better outcome is debatable.

Mr RIEBELING: If we end up with a private system it should be transparent, so that we can assess whether it works better than the government system. The Government will lock the State into a long contract which will impact on the State's finances for decades. We want to ensure that when we come to office in the not too distant future that proper processes are in place, so that these things can be tested. The Opposition holds the view that the Government system can deliver an effective rehabilitation program. If it does not, it is the fault of poor management. The prison officers are capable of producing whatever they are resourced to do. If there are deficiencies in the current practice, the Government should change the system and remove those deficiencies. This legislation should provide for the proper scrutiny of a private system so that outcomes of the private and public systems can be tested on an equal footing.

Will the minister summarise the measures contained in the contract that will improve the current programs, such as the sex offender and anger management programs, to produce better results than are currently being achieved? What sort of resources is it envisaged will be dedicated to improving such programs? Will the Government provide a similar increase in resources within the government system, or is it the Government's intention to continue the current inefficient system within the government system?

Mr PRINCE: I will make a couple of points before the parliamentary secretary talks about her experience of private systems elsewhere. At the moment we are sorting out the funding and whether it will be a lease. However, for want of a better way of expressing it, the lease period envisaged for the prison is 20 years. It may be that at that time the Opposition will come to power and have the opportunity to renegotiate the lease, but it will not be sooner.

I appreciate what the member for Burrup is saying about resources. However, he places too much emphasis on what goes in at the front end as opposed to the results. The member will be familiar with what is commonly said, particularly by those people of professional backgrounds and particular expertise; that is, if they could do the job differently they could do it better. The public sector is often constrained by the attitude that there is only one way to do something. Even though everybody grumbles and says they know a better way to do something, they still say, "This is the way we have always done it and it cannot be changed." There is a certain inertia in the public sector. In some respects that is a good thing, because insofar as government tries to change society it does it slowly. Insofar as one is dealing with service delivery it is not necessarily a good thing, because the pace of change of society and the ability to use technology is changing so fast that the inertia of the public sector does not help.

The private sector is far more responsive to that because of the way in which it is structured and its motivation. The private sector has better innovation and flexibility. In the delivery of any service or program, the private sector has the ability to be flexible. We have the absolute requirement to deliver at a certain standard a certain result. We have an open book so what is being done and what are the resources can be seen. If the contractor chooses to put more money into one program than the public sector would do, that is something from which the public sector can learn because the intellectual property and what is being done belongs to the State, not to the contractor. We are able to learn from what the contractor is doing as opposed to the public system.

Mr Riebeling: If this contractor goes in, will we be able to find out how much it is spending on rehabilitation compared with what the Government is spending in the State?

Mr PRINCE: Effectively, yes. I do not know what an anger management team comprises by way of people in the public sector. However, say, for example, it comprised a psychologist, social workers and prison officers. It may be that the people in the private sector would say that the better way of doing it is to have a team structured differently because that is what is happening in the United States, the eastern States or the United Kingdom, whatever the case may be. If that is done, we can then say, "By doing it a different way, you end up with a better result." The Blair Government has looked at the private systems and said, "This is good." In the United States and the eastern States, they not only produce a result that is comparable to the public system, but it is usually better and at a lower cost. I know the Parliamentary Secretary wants to talk on this matter because she has seen some of these things and I have not.

Mrs van de KLASHORST: I am not sure that the member understands that one invoice will be paid monthly for services. The Government will not pay individual fees for all the services that are within the prison. It will be based on the number of prisoners, but certain criteria has been set down that must be met in order for the contractor to receive that payment. It will not be so much money that will be allocated for anger management or for other programs - perhaps sex offender programs. It will be only one fee for the year.

I have been overseas and seen this and I have done a fair amount of reading. The published experiences from overseas are that the performance is at least as good as, and often at a very lower cost than, the current public systems in those places which have private prisoners. That is a positive and it comes out in all the reading I have done. I do not know how much reading the member has done.

Mr Riebeling: Lots.

Mrs van de KLASHORST: The member will agree that that message has come out in many of the books. The Government has the right to hold a 5 per cent holdback depending on the annual performance. I have recently been reading the Blakenhurst performance assessment which shows the various standards. We will be conducting the same assessment every year on an ongoing basis, which is happening at Blakenhurst. The Blakenhurst Prison is run at a considerably lower cost than some of the government prisons in England. The report was very favourable and had many innovative ideas that have been put into place in the prison system. If the member gets a chance in the long parliamentary break, I suggest he has a look at it.

Mr BROWN: While we are debating international experiences, I bring the attention of the House to a media release issued by Corrections USA. It states -

Corrections USA To Stage First Ever National Protest Against Private Prisons In Nashville; Professional Correctional Officers To Call For An End to Prison Privatization.

Correctional Officers from the United States and Canada, in an unprecedented show of unity, will be protesting against Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) and political leaders in Tennessee who support prison privatization, on October 16, 1998 in Nashville. CCA, the nation's top private prison corporation, is headquartered in Nashville and has spent vast amounts of resources in an attempt to privatize the public prison system in that state. The protest will be held at the State Capitol from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and continue at CCA headquarters from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Corrections USA (CUSA), a non-profit corporation organized and run by professional correctional officers and dedicated to upholding public safety by improving corrections, is sponsoring the event and is working closely with the Tennessee State Employees Association. Said CUSA Spokesman, Brian Dawe: "Every time a new private prison opens another community in America is put into unnecessary jeopardy. Private companies such as CCA use lies, deceit, manipulation, and huge campaign donations to convince politicians to use taxpayers dollars to fund private prisons. Enough is Enough. What we demand, and what the public wants, is full disclosure from private companies. Law abiding citizens have the right to know all the facts about private prisons before and after they are built."

Dawe continued: "The escape of six inmates, four of them murderers, from CCA's Youngstown, Ohio facility, the murder of two inmates there and the unprecedented violence being reported has finally gotten nationwide attention. Dungeons for dollars is not only bad public policy, it is a very dangerous practice. These are not isolated instances: Private prison companies are having major problems throughout the country and around the world."

Mrs van de Klashorst: What date is that?

Mr BROWN: It is 7 October 1998. It goes on to list a whole range of things. I will quote a little more -

Richard Loud, a Rhode Island Correctional Officer and President of CUSA's Board of Directors states: "When decisions of life and liberty are determined by corporate stockholders every citizen in this country is in danger. Private companies have been responsible for escapes and beatings in Texas; rapists on the loose in Tennessee; murderers roaming the streets of Ohio; escapes in Rhode Island; and riots in New Mexico and Minnesota; and the list grows daily. Privatized youth facilities have been forced to shut down or have had to be taken over by the public sector in South Carolina, Louisiana, Colorado and Arizona, where children have been beaten and in at least two instances have turned up dead. This is sound public policy? This is public safety? This is corporate greed pure and simple. As one CCA Executive put it, "We aren't in this business to do good, we are in it to do well." That about says it all."

Gary Harkins, President of the Association of Oregon Corrections Employees and Co Chairman of CUSA's privatization committee stated, "We have over 650 pages of documents describing incidents of abuse, mismanagement, understaffing, poor training, staff turn over rates ranging from 40 to 100%, riots, escapes, assaults and murders. The rate of incidents is simply mind boggling. We fear that the large number of reports involving abuse and mismanagement now surfacing may be just the tip of the iceberg. The "cloak and dagger" attitude of the privateers who hide behind the corporate veil and refuse to disclose these incidents to the public puts us all at risk. We have no way of knowing how much of the public's safety is being compromised for corporate profit. As taxpayers we are ultimately responsible for conditions in our prisons, whether they are public or private. Unless we can force these corporations into the same level of disclosure the public sector must adhere to, we will never know the full extent of the damage until after we're paying for it through the nose. This has the potential to rival the savings and loan scandal in terms of cost to the American taxpayers."

It goes on. I am interested in the comments made by the Parliamentary Secretary of her international experience. There are many documents here, as can be seen from the stack that I have. I am happy to refer to more as the debate goes on which say that this is not a universal view, that all is rosy and everything is well in the private system.

Mr PRINCE: Perhaps the member for Bassendean will be prepared to lay on the Table for copying that part of the document

including the covering note from the Police Union (WA) so that we can see not only its prominence but also the compendious nature of it. He might recall that I have already laid on the Table all the documents that I have that he has asked for and others so that he is as fully informed as he possibly can be. Therein lies the complete difference between some of the United States models to which the member has referred which have been totally based on reduced cost, nothing else, and not based on service standards. Many States in America seem to be dealing with poverty by locking it up. We are not interested in that in this State or in this country. They will undoubtedly reap the results of doing that, if they are not already.

We have been able to learn from what has been done in the United States and from other overseas experience. The research we have done has focused on those prisons that have performed badly, as well as those that have performed well. The Blair Labour Government in the United Kingdom has looked closely at the private prisons established by the Conservatives and determined that they perform very well - they do at least as well, if not better, than most public prisons and at a lower cost. The RFP and the contract will impose standards and produce results. It is not simply a matter of locking people away for a period of time at the lowest cost.

Corrections Corporation of Australia is the most experienced Australian private prison operator. It has been in business for a decade in this country and its performance in Queensland has been reported on very favourably by the Peach commission. The Government is not interested in reinventing the wheel or making the mistakes that others have made. Australia is not the United States.

Progress reported.

LOAN BILL 1999

Second Reading

Resumed from 6 May.

MR TRENORDEN (Avon) [9.21 pm]: I have spent a great deal of time over the past six months dealing with the current rash of bank closures in metropolitan and country areas. The situation has serious ramifications, particularly for country people, who run out of options.

Bendigo Bank has come up with the concept of community banking. I am very enthusiastic about this concept because not only does it re-establish services, but it also gives communities the opportunity to participate in the wealth-creating activity of banking. In fact, some communities that are seriously looking at community banking are anticipating six-digit profits. That is a considerable amount for small country communities and if they are able to generate those profits they will benefit greatly. To its credit, Challenge Bank has come out with a new arrangement called instore banking. It allows a business in a community to set up signage and deliver all aspects of banking from that store. It is not as good as having a full branch, and will not be seen to be as good; nevertheless, it is a genuine attempt by Challenge Bank to recognise the needs of a rural community. BankWest has come to an arrangement with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, which has given rise to the institution of a GuildBank. People in communities which have pharmacies are now provided with a full range of banking services through the local chemist. Again, it is a credit to BankWest for at least coming up with a workable banking option. The Police and Nurses Credit Society Ltd has gone to a franchising arrangement which gives regions an opportunity to arrange services from that organisation. The last in this group I will mention is the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd, along with Westpac Banking Corporation, which at least have had the good grace to apologise for how they have treated rural people in regard to the closures of their branches in rural areas. The banks have a moral responsibility to people in business. I recognise there is the question of profits and private enterprise having a right to do as it wishes; however, banks always retain a moral responsibility to provide services to all communities, even those in the country. The banks are now feeling the pain because in many cases they have lost the loyalty of former clients in the country. The banks did not value that loyalty for some years; however, they are working out that loyalty will affect profits - their bottom line. They have realised that they have made a mistake in this area.

Having spent a couple of years investigating this issue, I am pleased that the situation has turned around somewhat. There are opportunities out there. In my electorate, Brookton, Pingelly and Toodyay are without full banking services. Challenge Bank has offered in-store banking services, which is being considered. Those towns are also considering community banking with Bendigo Bank, and other options. I am pleased that I can advise this House about the available options, given that two years ago they were few.

I now turn to health services in my electorate. The town of Northam has a serious problem with health services. The brief history is that the Northam hospital comprised a large building that was vacated. When it closed a few years ago, the regional aspect of the hospital went. Interestingly, when it was a regional hospital it did not serve the function, but now it does. That is a curiosity to me. People from outlying areas are now coming to the Northam hospital to seek services to a far greater degree than has been the case over the past few decades. Those coming into the community are putting pressure on that hospital and on the doctors in the community of Northam: Not only are a small number of doctors expected to carry an ever increasing load, but also, in many cases, the procedures of the hospital have been capped.

Until quite recent times the Northam hospital did not have a board. A few years ago when the board was established, it inherited a historic debt of just under \$1m. It has worked very hard to eliminate that debt, and the people on the Avon Hospital Board must be rewarded for their efforts. Money needs to flow into the hospital and some of the restrictions on capping must be lifted and, in some cases, removed because it restricts the capacity for bringing in specialists. In the past couple of years we have witnessed a major blowout in expenditure in the Health Department. It has been heavily discussed and I will not reiterate the issues. However, I am concerned that the teaching hospitals have dramatically benefited from

the extra blowout in health funds over recent years and country hospitals have not. That is an important issue to me and the National Party and I will be vigorously pursuing it.

A couple of days ago I visited the hospice in Northam and handed over a cheque for approximately \$104 000 from the Lotteries Commission. I hasten to add that I had little to do with raising the money. The Lions Club and the staff and committee of the Northam hospital made a fantastic effort to raise approximately \$700 000 over recent years to build a hospice. They tell me that it will be the first hospice established outside an urban area in the southern hemisphere.

Mr Prince: Albany has one; I was the inaugural chairman.

Mr TRENORDEN: I am referring to outside urban areas - in a community of not more than 10 000 people. Albany is a city. The point is that a small group of people have achieved this facility outside urbanised areas. It was an outstanding effort. A brand new building attached to the hospital will be opened some time next year. The effort of the hospice committee and the staff of the Northam hospital associated with the hospice must be congratulated.

Brookton Nursing Home is moving to a new facility for the aged. Its existing accommodation houses 27 beds. The new building will have approximately 21 beds and will be important for the delivery of aged care in the region. Brookton Nursing Home is a facility well recognised for dealing with aged people, particularly those with worse than average problems, such as serious dementia.

The Minister for Education, who is not listening, deserves a bouquet for the outstanding amount of capital works undertaken on schools in my electorate over the past three or four years. Only a few months ago the minister visited the small primary school at Bakers Hill. I hope most people know where Bakers Hill is. The school's facilities were dreadful and, although it has not been totally rebuilt, the refurbishing is substantial. I was fortunate to visit the school a few weeks ago. It is a magnificent building and both staff and children are delighted with their beautiful new surroundings.

In York the primary school has been amalgamated with the high school and the primary school has been rebuilt on the high school site. It is now a magnificent school with an image to match the practical facilities important for excellent education. Most of the other schools in my electorate have benefited from minor works such as covered areas, toilet blocks and new roofs in place of asbestos roofs. I am grateful for the improvements in that area as, I am sure, are the parents.

A maturing attitude in Northam has created a climate in which to build the community and bring people closer together. The elders in the local Nyoongah community are looking for a site for a detoxification centre for the kids. Unfortunately, Northam shops still carry on their shelves many substances that have the potential to be abused, and which are locked away in most metropolitan areas and must be asked for. In recent cases children have been involved in misusing these substances. The Nyoongah community wants an area on the site which can be used to give Aboriginal kids short bursts of education, and it also wants to establish a cultural centre. I support the Aboriginal community in this matter. The Avon Valley has an ever-growing number of tourists and one of its real deficiencies is the capacity for tourists - intrastate, interstate and overseas - to see some real Aboriginal culture. If properly addressed, this could be a real commercial opportunity for the Aboriginal people.

Community policing in the Avon region is achieving results. I must say, because I get verbally beaten up from time to time, that it is not exactly the result the public wants, but the major problems in crime are occurring in the metropolitan area and not in my electorate. I receive telephone calls about elderly people being beaten up and so forth, but those things are not happening in my electorate. However, people in the Avon electorate are much irritated by and have great concern about break-ins and theft, even though the number of offences is decreasing and the clean-up rate has improved. That can be further improved if I can successfully establish a program to amalgamate all the goodwill in the Northam, Toodyay and surrounding areas into a consolidated group, with everyone working together for a better community. That climate is in Northam and surrounding towns at the moment, and I hope I can build on it in the coming months.

Another activity in Northam is the establishment of the new plant research centre of Agriculture Western Australia. It is a substantial and attractive building, and it brings this particular research to the edge of the wheatbelt, which is very pleasing. I predict many great things will emanate from that centre. It will give Agriculture Western Australia in Northam and the central wheatbelt an extra focus which will be important.

I have reported to the House previously that a private group is currently seeking to establish a university in the Shire of Northam, between the towns of Northam and Toodyay, for between 2 000 and 5 000 students. It is progressing steadily and steadfastly with the proposal to establish the university. It is a wonderful proposal which is exciting for the whole of my community. I have not heard one negative comment about this proposed university, and it is rare for a local member not to hear one complaint about any particular aspect. It envisages employing a staff of more than 200, and many other people will be associated with it. It would be of enormous benefit to the community, given the proximity to the Muresk Institute of Agriculture which is associated with Curtin University; the C.Y. O'Connor college, and the Northam Senior High School. We have the capacity to turn the Avon Valley into an education precinct of some note. It is an exciting prospect, which I am looking forward to.

I refer to simple matters such as the *AvonLink* rail service. The service is growing at an exceptional rate. People are using the rail service even though it had serious problems some years ago when the carriages were old and worn out. At that time it delivered a very poor service. The train has been refurbished at a cost of approximately \$1m a carriage, and it is now delivering an excellent service which is being widely utilised.

The pressure is increasing on York, Northam and the rest of my electorate, particularly Toodyay; people want to move into those communities. We have our problems at the moment. Youth unemployment is a serious problem in the Avon region.

The communities need to attract something to promote youth employment; it is a serious deficiency. Another constant irritation is the lack of service from Telstra - that is not a state issue but it is a serious irritation to rural people. People are waiting a long time to get telephones fixed, particularly businesses which have been unable to get their telephones fixed for five and six days at times. They have been cut off from the world for those periods. To say that is frustrating is to understate the situation.

Mr Barnett: Is that in the township?

Mr TRENORDEN: No, in the regions. Some tourist operators and hotels are being cut off. If a fault occurs on a Friday afternoon, it can be Tuesday or Wednesday before it is fixed. I concede that a delay of five or six days usually includes a weekend but that is very serious for a hotel or a tourist operator. I will be making a grievance to the Minister for Resources Development on Thursday on another not so happy matter but I have given him a plug in education today.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Osborne.

House adjourned at 9.41 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

JETTY LICENCE, BARRACK SQUARE LIMITED

1944. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Jetty License dated 22 July 1994 issued to Barrack Square Limited for the Old Perth Port Project - Stage One still in effect?
- (2) Is the licensee for this jetty licence still Barrack Square Limited, and if not, who is the new licensee?
- (3) Has the consent of the Minister been given to any assignments under clause five of this licence?
- (4) If the answer to (3) above is yes, then what were each of these assignments?
- (5) Have there been any breaches to, or variations from, this jetty licence as granted on 22 July 1994, in addition to any stated in the answers to parts 2 to 4 above?
- (6) What was the amount and the date of receipt for each licence fee payment received under this jetty licence?
- (7) Does the licensee provide a berthing facility to the Department of Transport in accordance with clause 16.5 of the licence, and, if not, why not?
- (8) Does the licensee provide an office to the Department of Transport in accordance with clause 16.6 of the licence, and if not then why?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. Barrack Square Limited changed its name on 11 July 1996 to Old Perth Port - Swan River WA Limited.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) No.
- (6) Jetty Licence Fees:

Amount	Date
\$625	October 1994
\$380	April 1996
\$12	December 1996
\$407	December 1996
\$412	September 1997
\$422	September 1998
- (7)-(8) No. Transport has relocated its operations to Ellam Street, Victoria Park.

RIVERBED LEASE, BARRACK SQUARE LIMITED

1945. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Riverbed Lease dated 22 July 1994 issued to Barrack Square Limited for the Old Perth Port Project - Stage One still in effect?
- (2) Is the lessee for this Riverbed Lease still Barrack Square Limited, and if not, who is the new lessee?
- (3) Has the consent of the Lessor been given to any assignments under clause 34 of this lease?
- (4) If yes to 3, then what were each of these assignments?
- (5) Have there been any breaches to, or variations from, this Riverbed Lease as granted on 22 July 1994 in addition to any stated in answers to parts 2 to 4 above?
- (6) Does the lessee still provide an office to the Department of Transport in accordance with clause 52 of the lease, and, if not, why not?
- (7) If the lessee provided an office to the Department of Transport under the obligations in this Riverbed Lease, then;
 - (a) what was the floor area of the office;
 - (b) from what date was this office used by the Department; and
 - (c) when did the Department cease to use this office?
- (8) Who is currently the nominated Managing Agent under this Lease?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. Barrack Square Limited changed its name on 11 July 1996 to Old Perth Port - Swan River WA Limited.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) No.
- (6) No. Transport has relocated its operations to Ellam Street, Victoria Park.
- (7) (a) 31 square metres (approximately).
(b) June 1995.
(c) December 1997.
- (8) Chesterton International.

JETTY LICENCE, BARRACK SQUARE LIMITED

1946. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

For each payment received under the Jetty License dated 22 July 1994, issued to Barrack Square Limited, for the Old Perth Port Project - Stage One, what was the amount and date of each receipt for -

- (a) the Bank Guarantee required under lease clause 50;
- (b) the Option to take a Lease of Stage II Area required under lease clause 53;
- (c) the Option to take a Lease of Stage III Area required under lease clause 54;
- (d) rent;
- (e) the Harbour Levy;
- (f) the Management Fee;
- (g) the Costs and Expenses incurred by the Lessor in accordance with lease clause 10, and
- (h) payments other than those provided in answers to the above?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

The only payments received under the Jetty Licence dated 22 July 1994 are for annual jetty licence fees: Details are as follows:

Amount	Date
\$625	October 1994
\$380	April 1996
\$12	December 1996
\$407	December 1996
\$412	September 1997
\$422	September 1998

Other payments relating to the lease are as follows:

- (a) Bank Guarantee - Transport holds the original Bank Guarantee for \$25 000 (Challenge Bank Limited) dated 28 July 1994.
- (b) Option for Stage II:

Amount	Date
\$4 160	March 1999
- (c) Option for Stage III - Nil.

Amount	Date
\$4 160	March 1999
- (d) Rent

Amount	Date
\$25 000	July 1994
\$25 000	August 1994
\$25 000	September 1994
\$25 000	October 1994
\$5 000	January 1998
\$5 000	February 1998
\$5 000	February 1998
\$5 000	March 1998
\$5 000	April 1998
\$5 000	May 1998
\$5 000	June 1998
\$5 000	August 1998
\$5 000	September 1998
\$5 000	October 1998
\$5 000	October 1998

\$5 000	November 1998
\$5 000	December 1998
\$5 000	February 1999
\$5 000	February 1999

- (e) Harbour Levy:
Amount Date
\$11 250 March 1999
- (f) Management Fee:
Amount Date
\$11 250 March 1999
- (g) Costs and Expenses - Nil.
- (h) Other Payments - Nil.

TOURISM, BRITISH TOURISTS

1988. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an interview that took place on the Sattler file on 20 January 1999 in which the caller claimed the high number of British tourists occurred as a consequence of the lower Australian dollar and lower air fares, rather than the Government's advertising campaign?
- (2) What research does the Government have which differentiates between people electing to travel because of -
- lower air fares;
 - currency appreciation; and
 - encouragement through advertising?
- (3) Does the research indicate that part of the reason for the increase in the number of British tourists visiting Western Australia arises from the appreciation of the pound and the lower air fares?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) I am not aware of the specific interview referred to.
- (2) This Government does not have any research that differentiates between people electing to travel as a result of the three factors referred to.
- (3) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PROVISION OF SERVICES

1991. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) What steps have each department and agency under the Attorney General's control taken to ensure it provides an equal level of service to all West Australians wherever they live?
- (2) Has each department and agency examined the -
- quality; and
 - ease of access,
- of the services provided in each of the regions compared to the average quality and access in Perth?
- (3) Will the Attorney General provide details of what changes/improvements have been made in this regard since 1 January 1997?
- (4) Has the level and/or quality of services provided by each department and agency throughout Western Australia been actively reviewed since 1 January 1997?
- (5) What was the outcome of that review?
- (6) Who undertook the review?
- (7) When was it undertaken?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(2) The current focus on improving agency performance in the Western Australian public sector reflects the continuing importance of achieving results. In the Western Australian public sector, the results or outcomes to be achieved are made clear in an agency's program and sub-program objectives. Activities used to assess the performance of public sector agencies include monitoring, auditing, review and evaluation. Service levels are commonly documented in annual reports, budget papers and customer service charters.
- (3)-(7) In May 1998 the Government announced the commencement of a process to develop a whole-of-government regional development policy for Western Australia. The policy will provide a framework for coordinated

Government action to ensure that all regional communities receive a high standard of services. A Steering Committee has been formed to oversee the policy formation process. The Steering Committee has membership from 14 State Government agencies, the Western Australian Municipal Association, the Regional Development Council, the Deputy Premier's Office and four community representatives. As an input to the policy, a scoping paper "*An Overview of Regional Development in State Government Agencies*" was written by the Department of Commerce and Trade which outlines the regional development activities of 42 State Government agencies. In addition, "*Policy Directions Papers*" have been written by a range of State Government agencies to identify opportunities to accelerate regional development and define appropriate measures for regional development outcomes. As a further input to the policy process, a "*Policy Framework Discussion Paper: Setting the direction for Regional Western Australia*" was compiled in January 1999 by a consultancy firm, Synectics Creative Collaboration. The paper outlines a vision, principles, values, goals and objectives for regional development. Consideration of access to services is included in the framework paper.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PROVISION OF SERVICES

1993. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) What steps have each department and agency under the Minister's control taken to ensure it provides an equal level of service to all West Australians wherever they live?
- (2) Has each department and agency examined the -
 - (a) quality; and
 - (b) ease of access,
 of the services provided in each of the regions compared to the average quality and access in Perth?
- (3) Will the Minister provide details of what changes/improvements have been made in this regard since 1 January 1997?
- (4) Has the level and/or quality of services provided by each department and agency throughout Western Australia been actively reviewed since 1 January 1997?
- (5) What was the outcome of that review?
- (6) Who undertook the review?
- (7) When was it undertaken?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1)-(2) The current focus on improving agency performance in the Western Australian public sector reflects the continuing importance of achieving results. In the Western Australian public sector, the results or outcomes to be achieved are made clear in an agency's program and sub-program objectives. Activities used to assess the performance of public sector agencies include monitoring, auditing, review and evaluation. Service levels are commonly documented in annual reports, budget papers and customer service charters.
- (3)-(7) In May 1998 the Government announced the commencement of a process to develop a whole-of-government regional development policy for Western Australia. The policy will provide a framework for coordinated Government action to ensure that all regional communities receive a high standard of services. A Steering Committee has been formed to oversee the policy formation process. The Steering Committee has membership from 14 State Government agencies, the Western Australian Municipal Association, the Regional Development Council, the Deputy Premier's Office and four community representatives. As an input to the policy, a scoping paper "*An Overview of Regional Development in State Government Agencies*" was written by the Department of Commerce and Trade which outlines the regional development activities of 42 State Government agencies. In addition, "*Policy Directions Papers*" have been written by a range of State Government agencies to identify opportunities to accelerate regional development and define appropriate measures for regional development outcomes. As a further input to the policy process, a "*Policy Framework Discussion Paper: Setting the Direction for Regional Western Australia*" was compiled in January 1999 by a consultancy firm, Synectics Creative Collaboration. The paper outlines a vision, principles, values, goals and objectives for regional development. Consideration of access to services is included in the framework paper.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PROVISION OF SERVICES

1994. Mr BROWN to the Minister for the Environment; Labour Relations:

- (1) What steps have each department and agency under the Minister's control taken to ensure it provides an equal level of service to all West Australians wherever they live?
- (2) Has each department and agency examined the -
 - (a) quality; and
 - (b) ease of access,
 of the services provided in each of the regions compared to the average quality and access in Perth?

- (3) Will the Minister provide details of what changes/improvements have been made in this regard since 1 January 1997?
- (4) Has the level and/or quality of services provided by each department and agency throughout Western Australia been actively reviewed since 1 January 1997?
- (5) What was the outcome of that review?
- (6) Who undertook the review?
- (7) When was it undertaken?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(2) The current focus on improving agency performance in the Western Australian public sector reflects the continuing importance of achieving results. In the Western Australian public sector, the results or outcomes to be achieved are made clear in an agency's program and sub-program objectives. Activities used to assess the performance of public sector agencies include monitoring, auditing, review and evaluation. Service levels are commonly documented in annual reports, budget papers and customer service charters.
- (3)-(7) In May 1998 the Government announced the commencement of a process to develop a whole-of-government regional development policy for Western Australia. The policy will provide a framework for coordinated Government action to ensure that all regional communities receive a high standard of services. A Steering Committee has been formed to oversee the policy formation process. The Steering Committee has membership from 14 State Government agencies, the Western Australian Municipal Association, the Regional Development Council, the Deputy Premier's Office and four community representatives. As an input to the policy, a scoping paper "*An Overview of Regional Development in State Government Agencies*" was written by the Department of Commerce and Trade which outlines the regional development activities of 42 State Government agencies. In addition, "*Policy Directions Papers*" have been written by a range of State Government agencies to identify opportunities to accelerate regional development and define appropriate measures for regional development outcomes. As a further input to the policy process, a "*Policy Framework Discussion Paper: Setting the Direction for Regional Western Australia*" was compiled in January 1999 by a consultancy firm, Synectics Creative Collaboration. The paper outlines a vision, principles, values, goals and objectives for regional development. Consideration of access to services is included in the framework paper.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PROVISION OF SERVICES

1995. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Planning; Employment and Training; Heritage:

- (1) What steps have each department and agency under the Minister's control taken to ensure it provides an equal level of service to all West Australians wherever they live?
- (2) Has each department and agency examined the -
 - (a) quality; and
 - (b) ease of access,
 of the services provided in each of the regions compared to the average quality and access in Perth?
- (3) Will the Minister provide details of what changes/improvements have been made in this regard since 1 January 1997?
- (4) Has the level and/or quality of services provided by each department and agency throughout Western Australia been actively reviewed since 1 January 1997?
- (5) What was the outcome of that review?
- (6) Who undertook the review?
- (7) When was it undertaken?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1)-(2) The current focus on improving agency performance in the Western Australian public sector reflects the continuing importance of achieving results. In the Western Australian public sector, the results or outcomes to be achieved are made clear in an agency's program and sub-program objectives. Activities used to assess the performance of public sector agencies include monitoring, auditing, review and evaluation. Service levels are commonly documented in annual reports, budget papers and customer service charters.
- (3)-(7) In May 1998 the Government announced the commencement of a process to develop a whole-of-government regional development policy for Western Australia. The policy will provide a framework for coordinated Government action to ensure that all regional communities receive a high standard of services. A Steering Committee has been formed to oversee the policy formation process. The Steering Committee has membership from 14 State Government agencies, the Western Australian Municipal Association, the Regional Development Council, the Deputy Premier's Office and four community representatives. As an input to the policy, a scoping paper "*An Overview of Regional Development in State Government Agencies*" was written by the Department of

Commerce and Trade which outlines the regional development activities of 42 State Government agencies. In addition, "*Policy Directions Papers*" have been written by a range of State Government agencies to identify opportunities to accelerate regional development and define appropriate measures for regional development outcomes. As a further input to the policy process, a "*Policy Framework Discussion Paper: Setting the Direction for Regional Western Australia*" was compiled in January 1999 by a consultancy firm, Synectics Creative Collaboration. The paper outlines a vision, principles, values, goals and objectives for regional development. Consideration of access to services is included in the framework paper.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PROVISION OF SERVICES

1997. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) What steps have each department and agency under the Minister's control taken to ensure it provides an equal level of service to all West Australians wherever they live?
- (2) Has each department and agency examined the -
 - (a) quality; and
 - (b) ease of access,
 of the services provided in each of the regions compared to the average quality and access in Perth?
- (3) Will the Minister provide details of what changes/improvements have been made in this regard since 1 January 1997?
- (4) Has the level and/or quality of services provided by each department and agency throughout Western Australia been actively reviewed since 1 January 1997?
- (5) What was the outcome of that review?
- (6) Who undertook the review?
- (7) When was it undertaken?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1)-(2) The current focus on improving agency performance in the Western Australian public sector reflects the continuing importance of achieving results. In the Western Australian public sector, the results or outcomes to be achieved are made clear in an agency's program and sub-program objectives. Activities used to assess the performance of public sector agencies include monitoring, auditing, review and evaluation. Service levels are commonly documented in annual reports, budget papers and customer service charters.
- (3)-(7) In May 1998 the Government announced the commencement of a process to develop a whole-of-government regional development policy for Western Australia. The policy will provide a framework for coordinated Government action to ensure that all regional communities receive a high standard of services. A Steering Committee has been formed to oversee the policy formation process. The Steering Committee has membership from 14 State Government agencies, the Western Australian Municipal Association, the Regional Development Council, the Deputy Premier's Office and four community representatives. As an input to the policy, a scoping paper "*An Overview of Regional Development in State Government Agencies*" was written by the Department of Commerce and Trade which outlines the regional development activities of 42 State Government agencies. In addition, "*Policy Directions Papers*" have been written by a range of State Government agencies to identify opportunities to accelerate regional development and define appropriate measures for regional development outcomes. As a further input to the policy process, a "*Policy Framework Discussion Paper: Setting the Direction for Regional Western Australia*" was compiled in January 1999 by a consultancy firm, Synectics Creative Collaboration. The paper outlines a vision, principles, values, goals and objectives for regional development. Consideration of access to services is included in the framework paper.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PROVISION OF SERVICES

1998. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

- (1) What steps have each department and agency under the Minister's control taken to ensure it provides an equal level of service to all West Australians wherever they live?
- (2) Has each department and agency examined the -
 - (a) quality; and
 - (b) ease of access,
 of the services provided in each of the regions compared to the average quality and access in Perth?
- (3) Will the Minister provide details of what changes/improvements have been made in this regard since 1 January 1997?
- (4) Has the level and/or quality of services provided by each department and agency throughout Western Australia been actively reviewed since 1 January 1997?

- (5) What was the outcome of that review?
- (6) Who undertook the review?
- (7) When was it undertaken?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1)-(2) The current focus on improving agency performance in the Western Australian public sector reflects the continuing importance of achieving results. In the Western Australian public sector, the results or outcomes to be achieved are made clear in an agency's program and sub-program objectives. Activities used to assess the performance of public sector agencies include monitoring, auditing, review and evaluation. Service levels are commonly documented in annual reports, budget papers and customer service charters.
- (3)-(7) In May 1998 the Government announced the commencement of a process to develop a whole-of-government regional development policy for Western Australia. The policy will provide a framework for coordinated Government action to ensure that all regional communities receive a high standard of services. A Steering Committee has been formed to oversee the policy formation process. The Steering Committee has membership from 14 State Government agencies, the Western Australian Municipal Association, the Regional Development Council, the Deputy Premier's Office and four community representatives. As an input to the policy, a scoping paper "*An Overview of Regional Development in State Government Agencies*" was written by the Department of Commerce and Trade which outlines the regional development activities of 42 State Government agencies. In addition, "*Policy Directions Papers*" have been written by a range of State Government agencies to identify opportunities to accelerate regional development and define appropriate measures for regional development outcomes. As a further input to the policy process, a "*Policy Framework Discussion Paper: Setting the Direction for Regional Western Australia*" was compiled in January 1999 by a consultancy firm, Synectics Creative Collaboration. The paper outlines a vision, principles, values, goals and objectives for regional development. Consideration of access to services is included in the framework paper.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PROVISION OF SERVICES

1999. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Local Government; Disability Services:

- (1) What steps have each department and agency under the Minister's control taken to ensure it provides an equal level of service to all West Australians wherever they live?
- (2) Has each department and agency examined the -
 - (a) quality; and
 - (b) ease of access,
 of the services provided in each of the regions compared to the average quality and access in Perth?
- (3) Will the Minister provide details of what changes/improvements have been made in this regard since 1 January 1997?
- (4) Has the level and/or quality of services provided by each department and agency throughout Western Australia been actively reviewed since 1 January 1997?
- (5) What was the outcome of that review?
- (6) Who undertook the review?
- (7) When was it undertaken?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1)-(2) The current focus on improving agency performance in the Western Australian public sector reflects the continuing importance of achieving results. In the Western Australian public sector, the results or outcomes to be achieved are made clear in an agency's program and sub-program objectives. Activities used to assess the performance of public sector agencies include monitoring, auditing, review and evaluation. Service levels are commonly documented in annual reports, budget papers and customer service charters.
- (3)-(7) In May 1998 the Government announced the commencement of a process to develop a whole-of-government regional development policy for Western Australia. The policy will provide a framework for coordinated Government action to ensure that all regional communities receive a high standard of services. A Steering Committee has been formed to oversee the policy formation process. The Steering Committee has membership from 14 State Government agencies, the Western Australian Municipal Association, the Regional Development Council, the Deputy Premier's Office and four community representatives. As an input to the policy, a scoping paper "*An Overview of Regional Development in State Government Agencies*" was written by the Department of Commerce and Trade which outlines the regional development activities of 42 State Government agencies. In addition, "*Policy Directions Papers*" have been written by a range of State Government agencies to identify opportunities to accelerate regional development and define appropriate measures for regional development outcomes. As a further input to the policy process, a "*Policy Framework Discussion Paper: Setting the Direction for Regional Western Australia*" was compiled in January 1999 by a consultancy firm, Synectics Creative

Collaboration. The paper outlines a vision, principles, values, goals and objectives for regional development. Consideration of access to services is included in the framework paper.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PROVISION OF SERVICES

2002. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Works; Services; Youth; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

- (1) What steps have each department and agency under the Minister's control taken to ensure it provides an equal level of service to all West Australians wherever they live?
- (2) Has each department and agency examined the -
 - (a) quality; and
 - (b) ease of access,
 of the services provided in each of the regions compared to the average quality and access in Perth?
- (3) Will the Minister provide details of what changes/improvements have been made in this regard since 1 January 1997?
- (4) Has the level and/or quality of services provided by each department and agency throughout Western Australia been actively reviewed since 1 January 1997?
- (5) What was the outcome of that review?
- (6) Who undertook the review?
- (7) When was it undertaken?

Mr BOARD replied:

I am advised that:

- (1)-(2) The current focus on improving agency performance in the Western Australian public sector reflects the continuing importance of achieving results. In the Western Australian public sector, the results or outcomes to be achieved are made clear in an agency's program and sub-program objectives. Activities used to assess the performance of public sector agencies include monitoring, auditing, review and evaluation. Service levels are commonly documented in annual reports, budget papers and customer service charters.
- (3)-(7) In May 1998 the Government announced the commencement of a process to develop a whole-of-government regional development policy for Western Australia. The policy will provide a framework for coordinated Government action to ensure that all regional communities receive a high standard of services. A Steering Committee has been formed to oversee the policy formation process. The Steering Committee has membership from 14 State Government agencies, the Western Australian Municipal Association, the Regional Development Council, the Deputy Premier's Office and four community representatives. As an input to the policy, a scoping paper *"An Overview of Regional Development in State Government Agencies"* was written by the Department of Commerce and Trade which outlines the regional development activities of 42 State Government agencies. In addition, *"Policy Directions Papers"* have been written by a range of State Government agencies to identify opportunities to accelerate regional development and define appropriate measures for regional development outcomes. As a further input to the policy process, a *"Policy Framework Discussion Paper: Setting the Direction for Regional Western Australia"* was compiled in January 1999 by a consultancy firm, Synectics Creative Collaboration. The paper outlines a vision, principles, values, goals and objectives for regional development. Consideration of access to services is included in the framework paper.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PROVISION OF SERVICES

2005. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Police; Emergency Services:

- (1) What steps have each department and agency under the Minister's control taken to ensure it provides an equal level of service to all West Australians wherever they live?
- (2) Has each department and agency examined the -
 - (a) quality; and
 - (b) ease of access,
 of the services provided in each of the regions compared to the average quality and access in Perth?
- (3) Will the Minister provide details of what changes/improvements have been made in this regard since 1 January 1997?
- (4) Has the level and/or quality of services provided by each department and agency throughout Western Australia been actively reviewed since 1 January 1997?
- (5) What was the outcome of that review?
- (6) Who undertook the review?

(7) When was it undertaken?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1)-(2) The current focus on improving agency performance in the Western Australian public sector reflects the continuing importance of achieving results. In the Western Australian public sector, the results or outcomes to be achieved are made clear in an agency's program and sub-program objectives. Activities used to assess the performance of public sector agencies include monitoring, auditing, review and evaluation. Service levels are commonly documented in annual reports, budget papers and customer service charters.
- (3)-(7) In May 1998 the Government announced the commencement of a process to develop a whole-of-government regional development policy for Western Australia. The policy will provide a framework for coordinated Government action to ensure that all regional communities receive a high standard of services. A Steering Committee has been formed to oversee the policy formation process. The Steering Committee has membership from 14 State Government agencies, the Western Australian Municipal Association, the Regional Development Council, the Deputy Premier's Office and four community representatives. As an input to the policy, a scoping paper *"An Overview of Regional Development in State Government Agencies"* was written by the Department of Commerce and Trade which outlines the regional development activities of 42 State Government agencies. In addition, *"Policy Directions Papers"* have been written by a range of State Government agencies to identify opportunities to accelerate regional development and define appropriate measures for regional development outcomes. As a further input to the policy process, a *"Policy Framework Discussion Paper: Setting the Direction for Regional Western Australia"* was compiled in January 1999 by a consultancy firm, Synectics Creative Collaboration. The paper outlines a vision, principles, values, goals and objectives for regional development. Consideration of access to services is included in the framework paper.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PROVISION OF SERVICES

2006. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) What steps have each department and agency under the Minister's control taken to ensure it provides an equal level of service to all West Australians wherever they live?
- (2) Has each department and agency examined the -
- (a) quality; and
 - (b) ease of access,
- of the services provided in each of the regions compared to the average quality and access in Perth?
- (3) Will the Minister provide details of what changes/improvements have been made in this regard since 1 January 1997?
- (4) Has the level and/or quality of services provided by each department and agency throughout Western Australia been actively reviewed since 1 January 1997?
- (5) What was the outcome of that review?
- (6) Who undertook the review?
- (7) When was it undertaken?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(7) I refer the member to my answer to Question 1991.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PROVISION OF SERVICES

2007. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What steps have each department and agency under the Minister's control taken to ensure it provides an equal level of service to all West Australians wherever they live?
- (2) Has each department and agency examined the -
- (a) quality; and
 - (b) ease of access,
- of the services provided in each of the regions compared to the average quality and access in Perth?
- (3) Will the Minister provide details of what changes/improvements have been made in this regard since 1 January 1997?
- (4) Has the level and/or quality of services provided by each department and agency throughout Western Australia been actively reviewed since 1 January 1997?
- (5) What was the outcome of that review?

(6) Who undertook the review?

(7) When was it undertaken?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

(1)-(2) The current focus on improving agency performance in Western Australian public sector reflects the continuing importance of achieving results. In the Western Australian public sector, the results or outcomes to be achieved are made clear in an agency's program and sub-program objectives. Activities used to assess the performance of public sector agencies include monitoring, auditing, review and evaluation. Service levels are commonly documented in annual reports, budget papers and customer service charters.

(3)-(7) In May 1998 the Government announced the commencement of a process to develop a whole-of-government regional development policy for Western Australia. The policy will provide a framework for coordinated Government action to ensure that all regional communities receive a high standard of services. A Steering Committee has been formed to oversee the policy formation process. The Steering Committee has membership from 14 State Government agencies, the Western Australian Municipal Association, the Regional Development Council, the Deputy Premier's Office and four community representatives.

As an input to the policy, a scoping paper "An Overview of Regional Development in State Government Agencies" was written by the Department of Commerce and Trade which outlines the regional development activities of 42 State Government agencies. In addition, "Policy Directions Papers" have been written by a range of State Government agencies to identify opportunities to accelerate regional development and define appropriate measures for regional development outcomes.

As a further input to the policy process, a "Policy Framework Discussion Paper: Setting the Direction for Regional Western Australia" was compiled in January 1999 by a consultancy firm, Synectics Creative Collaboration. The paper outlines a vision, principles, values, goals and objectives for regional development. Consideration of access to services is included in the framework paper.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PROVISION OF SERVICES

2009. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

(1) What steps have each department and agency under the Minister's control taken to ensure it provides an equal level of service to all West Australians wherever they live?

(2) Has each department and agency examined the -

- (a) quality; and
- (b) ease of access,

of the services provided in each of the regions compared to the average quality and access in Perth?

(3) Will the Minister provide details of what changes/improvements have been made in this regard since 1 January 1997?

(4) Has the level and/or quality of services provided by each department and agency throughout Western Australia been actively reviewed since 1 January 1997?

(5) What was the outcome of that review?

(6) Who undertook the review?

(7) When was it undertaken?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following reply:

(1)-(7) I refer the member to my answer to Question 1991.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PERFORMANCE AUDITS

2013. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

(1) Has an audit been carried out on each department and agency under the Attorney General's control to measure the performance of the department or agency in improving the equitable delivery of services in regional areas?

(2) How many audits have been carried out since 1 January 1997?

(3) Who carried out the audit?

(4) What were the findings of the audit?

(5) Have the findings of the audit been reported?

- (6) When were they reported?
- (7) In what document or media statement were they reported?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(7) The Regional Development Council and the Department of Commerce and Trade are drafting a regional development policy for Western Australia. The policy will provide a framework for coordinated Government action to ensure that all regional communities receive a high standard of services. As an input to the policy, a scoping paper "An Overview of Regional Development in State Government Agencies" was written by the Department of Commerce and Trade which outlines the regional development activities of 42 State Government agencies. The document, which is available in hard copy and on the project website, has been distributed to the policy's Steering Committee and Reference Group. In addition, 'Policy Directions Papers' have been written by a range of State Government agencies to discuss issues relating to regions, identify opportunities to accelerate regional development and define appropriate measures for regional development outcomes. The draft policy, scheduled for release for public comment in mid - 1999, will provide further consideration of service delivery levels.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PERFORMANCE AUDITS

2015. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) Has an audit been carried out on each department and agency under the Minister's control to measure the performance of the department or agency in improving the equitable delivery of services in regional areas?
- (2) How many audits have been carried out since 1 January 1997?
- (3) Who carried out the audit?
- (4) What were the findings of the audit?
- (5) Have the findings of the audit been reported?
- (6) When were they reported?
- (7) In what document or media statement were they reported?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1)-(7) The Regional Development Council and the Department of Commerce and Trade are drafting a regional development policy for Western Australia. The policy will provide a framework for coordinated Government action to ensure that all regional communities receive a high standard of services. As an input to the policy, a scoping paper "An Overview of Regional Development in State Government Agencies" was written by the Department of Commerce and Trade which outlines the regional development activities of 42 State Government agencies. The document, which is available in hard copy and on the project website, has been distributed to the policy's Steering Committee and Reference Group. In addition, 'Policy Directions Papers' have been written by a range of State Government agencies to discuss issues relating to regions, identify opportunities to accelerate regional development and define appropriate measures for regional development outcomes. The draft policy, scheduled for release for public comment in mid-1999, will provide further consideration of service delivery levels.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PERFORMANCE AUDITS

2016. Mr BROWN to the Minister for the Environment; Labour Relations:

- (1) Has an audit been carried out on each department and agency under the Minister's control to measure the performance of the department or agency in improving the equitable delivery of services in regional areas?
- (2) How many audits have been carried out since 1 January 1997?
- (3) Who carried out the audit?
- (4) What were the findings of the audit?
- (5) Have the findings of the audit been reported?
- (6) When were they reported?
- (7) In what document or media statement were they reported?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(7) The Regional Development Council and the Department of Commerce and Trade are drafting a regional development policy for Western Australia. The policy will provide a framework for coordinated Government action to ensure that all regional communities receive a high standard of services. As an input to the policy, a scoping paper "An Overview of Regional Development in State Government Agencies" was written by the

Department of Commerce and Trade which outlines the regional development activities of 42 State Government agencies. The document, which is available in hard copy and on the project website, has been distributed to the policy's Steering Committee and Reference Group. In addition, 'Policy Directions Papers' have been written by a range of State Government agencies to discuss issues relating to regions, identify opportunities to accelerate regional development and define appropriate measures for regional development outcomes. The draft policy, scheduled for release for public comment in mid-1999, will provide further consideration of service delivery levels.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PERFORMANCE AUDITS

2017. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Planning; Employment and Training; Heritage:

- (1) Has an audit been carried out on each department and agency under the Minister's control to measure the performance of the department or agency in improving the equitable delivery of services in regional areas?
- (2) How many audits have been carried out since 1 January 1997?
- (3) Who carried out the audit?
- (4) What were the findings of the audit?
- (5) Have the findings of the audit been reported?
- (6) When were they reported?
- (7) In what document or media statement were they reported?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1)-(7) The Regional Development Council and the Department of Commerce and Trade are drafting a regional development policy for Western Australia. The policy will provide a framework for coordinated Government action to ensure that all regional communities receive a high standard of services. As an input to the policy, a scoping paper "An Overview of Regional Development in State Government Agencies" was written by the Department of Commerce and Trade which outlines the regional development activities of 42 State Government agencies. The document, which is available in hard copy and on the project website, has been distributed to the policy's Steering Committee and Reference Group. In addition, 'Policy Directions Papers' have been written by a range of State Government agencies to discuss issues relating to regions, identify opportunities to accelerate regional development and define appropriate measures for regional development outcomes. The draft policy, scheduled for release for public comment in mid-1999, will provide further consideration of service delivery levels.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PERFORMANCE AUDITS

2019. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) Has an audit been carried out on each department and agency under the Minister's control to measure the performance of the department or agency in improving the equitable delivery of services in regional areas?
- (2) How many audits have been carried out since 1 January 1997?
- (3) Who carried out the audit?
- (4) What were the findings of the audit?
- (5) Have the findings of the audit been reported?
- (6) When were they reported?
- (7) In what document or media statement were they reported?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1)-(7) The Regional Development Council and the Department of Commerce and Trade are drafting a regional development policy for Western Australia. The policy will provide a framework for coordinated Government action to ensure that all regional communities receive a high standard of services. As an input to the policy, a scoping paper "An Overview of Regional Development in State Government Agencies" was written by the Department of Commerce and Trade which outlines the regional development activities of 42 State Government agencies. The document, which is available in hard copy and on the project website, has been distributed to the policy's Steering Committee and Reference Group. In addition, 'Policy Directions Papers' have been written by a range of State Government agencies to discuss issues relating to regions, identify opportunities to accelerate regional development and define appropriate measures for regional development outcomes. The draft policy, scheduled for release for public comment in mid-1999, will provide further consideration of service delivery levels.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PERFORMANCE AUDITS

2020. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

- (1) Has an audit been carried out on each department and agency under the Minister's control to measure the performance of the department or agency in improving the equitable delivery of services in regional areas?

- (2) How many audits have been carried out since 1 January 1997?
- (3) Who carried out the audit?
- (4) What were the findings of the audit?
- (5) Have the findings of the audit been reported?
- (6) When were they reported?
- (7) In what document or media statement were they reported?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1)-(7) The Regional Development Council and the Department of Commerce and Trade are drafting a regional development policy for Western Australia. The policy will provide a framework for coordinated Government action to ensure that all regional communities receive a high standard of services. As an input to the policy, a scoping paper "An Overview of Regional Development in State Government Agencies" was written by the Department of Commerce and Trade which outlines the regional development activities of 42 State Government agencies. The document, which is available in hard copy and on the project website, has been distributed to the policy's Steering Committee and Reference Group. In addition, 'Policy Directions Papers' have been written by a range of State Government agencies to discuss issues relating to regions, identify opportunities to accelerate regional development and define appropriate measures for regional development outcomes. The draft policy, scheduled for release for public comment in mid-1999, will provide further consideration of service delivery levels.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PERFORMANCE AUDITS

2021. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Local Government; Disability Services:

- (1) Has an audit been carried out on each department and agency under the Minister's control to measure the performance of the department or agency in improving the equitable delivery of services in regional areas?
- (2) How many audits have been carried out since 1 January 1997?
- (3) Who carried out the audit?
- (4) What were the findings of the audit?
- (5) Have the findings of the audit been reported?
- (6) When were they reported?
- (7) In what document or media statement were they reported?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1)-(7) The Regional Development Council and the Department of Commerce and Trade are drafting a regional development policy for Western Australia. The policy will provide a framework for coordinated Government action to ensure that all regional communities receive a high standard of services. As an input to the policy, a scoping paper "An Overview of Regional Development in State Government Agencies" was written by the Department of Commerce and Trade which outlines the regional development activities of 42 State Government agencies. The document, which is available in hard copy and on the project website, has been distributed to the policy's Steering Committee and Reference Group. In addition, 'Policy Directions Papers' have been written by a range of State Government agencies to discuss issues relating to regions, identify opportunities to accelerate regional development and define appropriate measures for regional development outcomes. The draft policy, scheduled for release for public comment in mid-1999, will provide further consideration of service delivery levels.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PERFORMANCE AUDITS

2024. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Works; Services; Youth; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

- (1) Has an audit been carried out on each department and agency under the Minister's control to measure the performance of the department or agency in improving the equitable delivery of services in regional areas?
- (2) How many audits have been carried out since 1 January 1997?
- (3) Who carried out the audit?
- (4) What were the findings of the audit?
- (5) Have the findings of the audit been reported?
- (6) When were they reported?
- (7) In what document or media statement were they reported?

Mr BOARD replied:

- (1)-(7) The Regional Development Council and the Department of Commerce and Trade are drafting a regional

development policy for Western Australia. The policy will provide a framework for coordinated Government action to ensure that all regional communities receive a high standard of services. As an input to the policy, a scoping paper "An Overview of Regional Development in State Government Agencies" was written by the Department of Commerce and Trade which outlines the regional development activities of 42 State Government agencies. The document, which is available in hard copy and on the project website, has been distributed to the policy's Steering Committee and Reference Group. In addition, 'Policy Directions Papers' have been written by a range of State Government agencies to discuss issues relating to regions, identify opportunities to accelerate regional development and define appropriate measures for regional development outcomes. The draft policy, scheduled for release for public comment in mid-1999, will provide further consideration of service delivery levels.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PERFORMANCE AUDITS

2027. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Police; Emergency Services:

- (1) Has an audit been carried out on each department and agency under the Minister's control to measure the performance of the department or agency in improving the equitable delivery of services in regional areas?
- (2) How many audits have been carried out since 1 January 1997?
- (3) Who carried out the audit?
- (4) What were the findings of the audit?
- (5) Have the findings of the audit been reported?
- (6) When were they reported?
- (7) In what document or media statement were they reported?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1)-(7) The Regional Development Council and the Department of Commerce and Trade are drafting a regional development policy for Western Australia. The policy will provide a framework for coordinated Government action to ensure that all regional communities receive a high standard of services. As an input to the policy, a scoping paper "An Overview of Regional Development in State Government Agencies" was written by the Department of Commerce and Trade which outlines the regional development activities of 42 State Government agencies. The document, which is available in hard copy and on the project website, has been distributed to the policy's Steering Committee and Reference Group. In addition, 'Policy Directions Papers' have been written by a range of State Government agencies to discuss issues relating to regions, identify opportunities to accelerate regional development and define appropriate measures for regional development outcomes. The draft policy, scheduled for release for public comment in mid-1999, will provide further consideration of service delivery levels.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PERFORMANCE AUDITS

2028. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Has an audit been carried out on each department and agency under the Minister's control to measure the performance of the department or agency in improving the equitable delivery of services in regional areas?
- (2) How many audits have been carried out since 1 January 1997?
- (3) Who carried out the audit?
- (4) What were the findings of the audit?
- (5) Have the findings of the audit been reported?
- (6) When were they reported?
- (7) In what document or media statement were they reported?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(7) I refer the member to my answer to Question 2013

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PERFORMANCE AUDITS

2029. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has an audit been carried out on each department and agency under the Minister's control to measure the performance of the department or agency in improving the equitable delivery of services in regional areas?
- (2) How many audits have been carried out since 1 January 1997?
- (3) Who carried out the audit?
- (4) What were the findings of the audit?

- (5) Have the findings of the audit been reported?
- (6) When were they reported?
- (7) In what document or media statement were they reported?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1)-(7) The Regional Development Council and the Department of Commerce and Trade are drafting a regional development policy for Western Australia. The policy will provide a framework for coordinated Government action to ensure that all regional communities receive a high standard of services. As an input to the policy, a scoping paper "An overview of Regional Development in State Government Agencies" was written by the Department of Commerce and Trade which outlines the regional development activities of 42 State Government agencies. The document, which is available in hard copy and on the project website, has been distributed to the policy's steering Committee and Reference Group. In addition, 'Policy Directions Papers' have been written by a range of State Government agencies to discuss issues relating to regions, identify opportunities to accelerate regional development and define appropriate measures for regional development outcomes. The draft policy, scheduled for release for public comment in mid-1999, will provide further consideration of service delivery levels.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PERFORMANCE AUDITS

2031. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has an audit been carried out on each department and agency under the Minister's control to measure the performance of the department or agency in improving the equitable delivery of services in regional areas?
- (2) How many audits have been carried out since 1 January 1997?
- (3) Who carried out the audit?
- (4) What were the findings of the audit?
- (5) Have the findings of the audit been reported?
- (6) When were they reported?
- (7) In what document or media statement were they reported?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(7) I refer the member to my answer to Question 2013.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, EMPLOYEES UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE

2036. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

How many employees under the age of 21 years were recruited by each department and agency under the Minister's control in the -

- (a) 1997-98 financial year; and
- (b) 1998-99 financial year (to date)?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Department of Resources Development

(a)-(b) Nil.

Office of Energy

- (a) 1
- (b) Nil.

Western Power

- (a) 42
- (b) 21

AlintaGas

- (a) 2

(b) Nil.

Education Department of Western Australia

- (a) 1997/98 financial year: This information has been archived and is no longer readily available. I am not prepared to commit the enormous cost and amount of time required to retrieve this information.
- (b) Relevant records are only available from 4 September 1998. From this date until 22 March 1999, 848 employees under the age of 21 have been recruited. This includes a large number of seasonal staff performing swimming teaching roles.

Department of Education Services

- (a) One.
- (b) Nil.

Curriculum Council

- (a)-(b) Nil.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, EMPLOYEES UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE

2038. Mr BROWN to the Minister for the Environment; Labour Relations:

How many employees under the age of 21 years were recruited by each department and agency under the Minister's control in the -

- (a) 1997-98 financial year; and
- (b) 1998-99 financial year (to date)?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

WorkSafe Western Australia:

- (a) Two
- (b) One

Perth Zoo:

- (a) One
- (b) Four

Commissioner of Workplace Agreements:

- (a) One
- (b) Two.

Department of the Registrar, Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission:

- (a) Nil
- (b) One

WorkCover WA:

- (a) Nil
- (b) Nil.

Department of Productivity and Labour Relations:

- (a) Three
- (b) One

Department of Conservation and Land Management:

- (a) Seventy-five
- (b) Sixty-two

Department of Environmental Protection:

- (a) Nil
- (b) Three

Kings Park and Botanic Garden:

- (a) Six
- (b) Five

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

2056. Mr BROWN to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

- (1) How many contracts (other than employment contracts and contracts for less than \$50,000) did each department under the Deputy Premier's control enter into in the months of -

- (a) November 1998; and
- (b) December 1998?

- (2) What was the amount of each contract?

- (3) What is the name of each person/entity with whom the contract is been awarded to?

- (4) What is the nature of the work or services required by the contract?

- (5) What is the completion date of the contract requirements?

- (6) Was each contract awarded to the lowest tender?

- (7) If not, why not?

Mr COWAN replied:

Department of Commerce and Trade

- (1) (a) Three.
- (b) Three.

- (2)-(7) \$90,828
 Telesis Communications
 Provision of consultancy services to produce inputs for use by the Department of Commerce and Trade in the preparation of an information and communications industry development strategy for WA.
 The completion date was six weeks from contract award
 Telesis was not the lowest tenderer
 Telesis was selected as the preferred service provider for the following reasons:
 Best value for money with 75% more hours for their fee
 Satisfactory approach to all stages of the project. Sound understanding of the task required. Superior in terms of perceptible co-operation and innovation
- \$70,275
 Dow Digital
 To design and develop a webservice that will demonstrate WA's information and communications to the world
 April 1999
 Dow Digital was not the lowest tenderer
 Dow Digital complied with all the assessment criteria and represented the best value for money
- \$341,655
 Douglas Partners
 To provide geotechnical services for the Jervoise Bay project
 March 1999
 Douglas Partners was not the lowest tenderer
 Douglas Partners bid represented the best value for money
- \$60,000
 Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
 Provision of a probity auditor for the Jervoise Bay project
 June 1999
 Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu was not the lowest tenderer
 Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu's bid represented the best value for money
- \$205,550
 Hardcastle & Richards
 To provide forward works engineering services for the Jervoise Bay project.
 August 1999
 Hardcastle & Richards was not the lowest tenderer
 Hardcastle & Richards' bid represented the best value for money
- \$66,000 per annum for an initial period of two years, with an option for a third year
 Conlan & Associates
 The contract is designed to address the particular characteristics of international aid programs as a market for Western Australian industry and provides information and advice to assist Western Australian organisations to increase access to this market
 3 years from contract award
 Yes
 Not applicable
- Small Business Development Corporation
 (1) Nil.
 (2)-(7) Not applicable.
- International Centre for Application of Solar Energy (CASE)
 (1) Nil.
 (2)-(7) Not applicable.
- Technology Industry Advisory Council (TIAC)
 (1) (a) One contract in November 1998.
 (b) Nil.
- (2)-(7) \$59 500 plus costs for the purchase of ABS data to a maximum of \$4 500. Maximum possible costs \$64 000
 The contract was awarded, through CAMS, to the Institute for Research into International Competitiveness at Curtin University of Technology
 The contract was a consultancy to assist TIAC in the preparation of a study on Industry Policy in Western Australia addressing the question - "In an International Context: Is there a case for positive assistance programmes, within an industry policy framework, for the Western Australian Manufacturing Industry?"
 End of March 1999.
 The contract was not awarded to the lowest tenderer.
 The contract was awarded to the second lowest tenderer (price difference \$500 plus ABS data costs) under the Supply Commission's Value for Money Policy.
- Gascoyne Development Commission
 (1) Nil.
 (2)-(7) Not applicable.
- Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission
 (1) Nil.
 (2)-(7) Not applicable.

Great Southern Development Commission

- (1) Nil.
 (2)-(7) Not applicable.

Kimberley Development Commission

- (1) Nil.
 (2)-(7) Not applicable.

Mid West Development Commission

- (1) (a) Nil.
 (b) Two.
 (2)-(7) Monaveen Civils
 \$332 900
 Stage 1, Forward Works for the Batavia Coast Marina
 February 1999
 Yes.
 Not applicable.

 Central Earthmoving
 \$296 829
 Soil remediation for the Batavia Coast Marina
 February 1999
 Yes.
 Not applicable.

Peel Development Commission

- (1) Nil.
 (2)-(7) Not applicable.

Pilbara Development Commission

- (1) Nil.
 (2)-(7) Not applicable.

South West Development Commission

- (1) (a) Nil.
 (b) Two
 (2)-(7) Snowy Mountains Engineering Company Australia
 \$154 254
 Coastal and civil engineering services
 August 1999
 No.
 The successful tenderer demonstrated greater experience and capacity to undertake the work.

 Space/Trout Consultants
 \$58 260
 Coastal and landscape design services
 August 1999
 No.
 The successful tenderer demonstrated greater experience and capacity to undertake the work.

Wheatbelt Development Commission

- (1) Nil.
 (2)-(7) Not applicable.

UTILITIES AND OPEN TRUCKS, PASSENGERS KILLED

2078. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many passengers have been killed while riding in the back of utilities or open trucks in -
 (a) 1995-96;
 (b) 1996-97, and
 (c) 1997-98?
 (2) What measures are being proposed to be contained in the Road Traffic Amendment legislation due before the House to deal with this problem?
 (3) If those measures include a delay in the implementation of protective devices, what is the justification for allowing such delay or period of grace?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) It is estimated that between 4 and 8 fatalities occur each year as a result of people travelling in the open load space of a vehicle. Police crash reports estimate the following number of fatalities in the years specified:
- | | | |
|-----|-----------|---|
| (a) | 1995-1996 | 4 |
| (b) | 1996-97 | 3 |
| (c) | 1997-98 | 5 |

It should be noted that information gained from Police crash reports about the extent of the open load space problem in Western Australia, is not conclusive. Police reported crashes have the potential to underestimate the

true number of fatalities resulting from passengers travelling in the open load space of vehicles because they do not specifically record the position of passengers in the crash vehicle. The fatalities recorded for each year above have been gleaned from the "crash description" provided by Police on the crash report.

- (2) In an effort to reduce death and injury to people riding in the open load space of vehicles in metropolitan and regional Western Australia, I am proposing to introduce regulations which will:

from 1 January 2001, prohibit people from riding in the open load space of a vehicle unless it is fitted with a roll over protection device;

from 1 January 2006, prohibit people from riding in the open load space of a vehicle completely;

allow a transition period up to 1 January 2001 to enable people to comply with the requirements of the regulation;

empower the Director General of Transport to grant an exemption on application, either generally or for a specified time or purpose;

generally exempt emergency services; and

apply to any area/road open to and used by the public.

- (3) A transition period is proposed up to 1 January 2001, on the basis of fairness and equity, to enable people to comply with requirements of the regulations. This will provide sufficient time for:

people to fit a roll over protection device to an existing vehicle;

people to purchase a new vehicle suitable for carrying passengers; and

funding organisations and companies to mirror the regulation change in organisational policies.

A similar "grace" period was allowed in the Northern Territory at the introduction of similar legislation. As a result of the introduction of Open Load Space legislation, the Northern Territory experienced a reduction in fatalities to passengers travelling in the open load space of a vehicle of approximately 75 per cent. In an attempt to achieve similar results, the Western Australian approach is being modelled on the Northern Territory approach.

CAT BUSES, COMPLAINTS

2079. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many complaints has the Minister or the Department of Transport received regarding the service provided by the CAT buses?
- (2) Could the Minister elaborate on the types of complaints that have been received?
- (3) Has there been an increase in the number of complaints since Southern Coast Transit took over the management?
- (4) What is the Department doing to improve the reliability of the service?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) An average of nine complaints per month received on Transperth's Customer Comment phone service. This compares to a patronage figure of approximately 300 000 per month.
- (2) The types of complaints received include dissatisfaction with driver conduct, service running delays due to traffic congestion during peak times and the crowding of the vehicles due to the popularity of the service.
- (3) There has been no discernible increase in the number of complaints since Transperth contracted Southern Coast Transit to operate the CAT service.
- (4) The Department is in the process of placing an order to purchase additional CAT buses to relieve the pressure which has arisen due to the popularity of the service. Transport is also examining bus priority measures with the City of Perth to explore other options to ease traffic congestion and improve service reliability.

REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT, SIGNING

2083. Mr BROWN to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Is it true that a number of national and local community groups, including -

- (a) Tourism South West; and
- (b) Shire of Denmark,

have called on the Government to hold off signing the Regional Forest Agreement?

- (2) Does the Minister intend to hold off signing the Agreement as requested?

- (3) If so, will the Minister consult widely with these organisations and other groups before signing the agreement?

(4) If not, why not?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) A number of groups requested that the RFA not be signed until their requirements were met.
- (2) The State and Commonwealth governments signed the Regional Forest Agreement on 4 May 1999.
- (3) Ministers of both governments have consulted widely with stakeholder groups including Tourism South West and the Shire of Denmark.
- (4) Not applicable.

TOURISM, STATISTICS

2084. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

(1) Further to question on notice No. 967 of 1998, what number of visitors from the following countries visited Western Australia, namely -

- (a) Singapore;
- (b) Indonesia;
- (c) United Kingdom; and
- (d) Australia,

in the -

- (i) 1994-95 financial year; and
- (ii) 1995-96 financial year?

(2) With respect to the visitors from -

- (a) Singapore;
- (b) Indonesia;
- (c) United Kingdom; and
- (d) Australia,

what were the visitor numbers from each of these destinations for each quarter in the -

- (i) 1996-97 financial year; and
- (ii) 1997-98 financial year?

(3) Of the amount of \$294 723 spent on advertising in Australia, what amount was spent in each State and Territory?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

(1)-(3) Please refer to my answer to Question on Notice No 1857.

TOURISM, SAFETY OF OUTBACK TRAVEL

2099. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the recent death of an Australian tourist in South Australia's outback which has prompted a conference over improving the safety of outback travel?
- (2) What steps does the Government intend to take to improve the safety of outback travel?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) Yes, I am aware that Caroline Grossmueller died of heat exhaustion while trying to reach safety across a 70 km stretch of South Australian desert. Her body was discovered on Tuesday, 15 December 1998 approximately 30 km from Williams Creek. Ms Grossmueller had been driving with her boyfriend, Karl Goeschka, when their campervan become bogged near Lake Eyre, 70 km from Williams Creek, on December 7 1998. The couple had left their campervan after it was bogged, with Dr Goeschka turning back two days later. The couple had panicked when by the second day no rescue had come. Ms Grossmueller's body was found with a two-litre bottle, three quarters full of water, and a backpack containing some food. The South Australian Tourism Commission recently held a seminar on Travelling Safely in the Outback on 26 March 1999, which involved tour operators and other government agencies.
- (2) Outback travel and the safety considerations that it incurs is a critical issue and one that the State Government has taken several measures to address. There are a variety of dimensions upon which safety for the outback traveller can be assessed upon, these primarily being through signage and information distribution. The Department of Local Government administers the Community Facilities Grants Program, which is a \$4 million dollar program funded over four years. This program recognises the deficiencies in community facilities and covers information signs. The State Government acknowledges that the need for financial assistance in regional areas for such purposes is particularly important. The Tourism Development Fund (TDF) is a program designed to increase the visitation to an area and enhance the quality of visitor experiences by assisting with the funding of tourist attractions and amenities for the benefit of the travelling public. In the two years that the program has been in operation, several projects involving signage have been approved. For example, directional and informational signage was

a contentious issue in the Murchison area with serious implications for travel safety and accessibility. The Mid West Development Commission coordinated (on the behalf of the Shires of Yalgoo, Murchison, Cue, Meekatharra, Mt Magnet and Sandstone) and was successful in the lodging of its application for these Shires, to both the Western Australian Tourism Commission's Tourism Development Fund and the Department of Local Government's Community Facilities Grant Program. This will assist in the establishment of an effective navigation system in the Murchison area, as well as maximising the tourism potential of the area. Favourable public comment on the levels of signage in Western Australia can be evidenced by a comment directed to the WATC, as written by F W Bush of Medina in a letter dated 15 March 1999:

We were most impressed with the parking bays for campers, and/or rest stops. Most especially, the signs that let the traveller know that the next parking is x kms further along, thereby letting the traveller know what is ahead, and how far. We do hope that this courtesy to the public is being carried out on all country roads - and especially the long haul to the North of Western Australia".

The Department of Land Administration is also conscious of safety issues, by incorporating into its touring maps cautionary notes relating to outback issues. These excerpts enforce the importance of ensuring supplies of fuel, water, oil, first aid utilities and emergency rations are featured within the touring agenda as well as the usual vehicle repair/back up equipment. Such regional touring directories exhibit the strong level of partnership between industry and government (the Midwest - Outback Gascoyne Murchison edition being a good example of the above) in recognising and formulating creative solutions to safety issues. Sections which deal with travelling aspects such as driver safety, fatigue and vehicle fuel considerations are incorporated in the Golden Heartlands, Kalgoorlie and the WA Goldfields and the Pilbara Holiday Planners which are produced by the Regional Tourism Associations. The State Government has also worked towards improving the road funding situation, this being reflected by the increase in State sourced road funds by more than \$285 million in real terms in 1998/99 compared to 1992/93. The State has also increased funding for local roads, and via the new fund sharing agreement, has put in place a system which will provide for greater involvement by local government in the definition and prioritisation of needs for local roads. The State Government will continue to maintain its commitment to the responsibility of ensuring tourists are provided with the appropriate tools and knowledge to conduct their travels in a safe and responsible manner.

MAROOMBA AIRLINES, PERTH-BUSSELTON SERVICE

2100. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Further to question on notice 358 of 1998, what is the amount of subsidy/payment made to Maroomba Airlines for providing the Perth to Busselton service?
- (2) What is the frequency of the service?
- (3) What is the amount of the subsidy/payment made by Government for each service?
- (4) Does the arrangement the Government has with Maroomba Airlines last for a period of time?
- (5) What period?
- (6) What is the total amount the Government expects to subsidise/pay Maroomba Airlines over that time?
- (7) Has there been any discussion about extending the Perth/Busselton air service to Margaret River?
- (8) Have any arrangements been made in this regard?
- (9) What are those arrangements?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) The State and the Shire of Busselton have been supporting the Maroomba air service on a 70/30 share basis, with the State's payments as follows:

May 98 - \$6 205.50	June 98 - \$7 282.80	July 98 - \$6 860.70
Aug 98 - \$7 282.80	Sept 98 - \$6 627.60	Oct 98 - \$5 002.20
Nov 98 - \$7030.80	Dec 98 - \$6 262.20	Jan 99 - \$6 199.20
- (2) There are two return services on Monday and Wednesday and one return service on Friday afternoon. (A total of five return services per week).
- (3) The subsidy is paid on a basis of Maroomba covering the cost of the first three seats on the flight, with the subsidy being paid on the shortfall on the next three seats. The subsidy is paid monthly as per (1).
- (4) Yes.
- (5) The Government would look to the service operating for two years (to October 1999) to become viable. (Skywest commenced the service in October 1997, with Maroomba taking over in May 1998).
- (6) The amount will depend on passenger loadings, but an amount of \$93 000 has been budgeted for.

(7)-(8) Yes.

- (9) The Margaret River service commenced on 22 March 1999, with 21 passengers being carried in the latter part of March and 49 passengers being carried in the month of April. Although it is still early days, these figures are encouraging for the success of the service.

BUSSELTON AIRPORT, STATISTICS

2101. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

What was the average number of movements (landings and departures) each day at the Busselton airport in the months of October, November and December 1998?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

Such statistics are not kept by State Government Departments. It is suggested that the member liaise directly with the Shire of Busselton to obtain the information he seeks.

TOURISM, NEW JOBS

2102. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Is the Minister aware Mr Bill Bailey of the Tourism Training Council predicted before Christmas three hundred thousand new jobs would be created across Australia in the tourism industry?
- (2) How many additional jobs does the Government anticipate being created in the tourism industry in Western Australia in the -
 - (a) 1998-99 financial year;
 - (b) 1999-2000 financial year; and
 - (c) 2000-2001 financial year?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) Mr Bill Galvin, Chief Executive Officer of Tourism Training Australia, anticipates that up to 300,000 new tourism jobs will be created over the next decade as tourism hospitality increases across the nation. This prediction is based on the Tourism Training Australia "2020" Report from 3 years ago and updated prior to Christmas 1998.
- (2) Job creation figures can only be estimated at this stage as there is no definitive study on this. However, based on a study by the Bureau of Industry Economics in 1983, and through a process of CPI adjustment, it is now estimated that for every additional \$1 million of tourism expenditure, 13 jobs are created in the workforce. Using the methodology as follows:

Applying an estimated 13 jobs generated per additional \$1 million visitor expenditure to expenditure forecasts for the international¹ and domestic² markets to Western Australia,

Jobs created as a result of tourism expenditure in the years mentioned can be estimated at:

	Jobs	Increase
1998/1999	79,300	1,300
1999/2000	80,700	1,400
2000/2001	82,200	1,500

This builds on top of two very successful years where increased tourism business has led to increases of 1,600 jobs in 1996/97 over 1995/96, and in the face of the Asian economic downturn, a stabilisation in jobs between 1996/97 and 1997/98.

1. Based on application of constant average annual growth rate (from 1994/95 to 1997/98) of international visitor expenditure in Western Australia
2. Based on application of constant average annual growth rate (from 1994/95 to 12 months to March 1998) of interstate and intrastate visitor expenditure in Western Australia

BUSES, NEW

2109. Mr PENDAL to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the Transperth advertisement in *The West Australian* on 22 February 1999, and ask -

- (a) when will the Perth assembly of new buses commence operations;
- (b) what part of new buses will be manufactured in Western Australia, or should it refer to "assembly" in the advertisement;
- (c) is "low sulphur fuel" meant to read "low sulphur Diesel fuel";
- (d) is a Euro 2 engine a Diesel engine;

- (e) what specifically are the 'exhaust emission standards' which this engine meets;
- (f) how many buses will be used on the Circle route;
- (g) when will these buses be available for service in Perth; and
- (h) what is the history of previous attempts by Transperth to provide a similar circle route service?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a)-(b) The new bus construction commenced in Western Australia in February and the first fully built bus is expected to be delivered in June 1999. The complete body of the bus is manufactured at the Malaga plant.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) In this case yes. Gas engines are also subject to Euro 2 standards.
- (e) The engine meets the standards nominated by the body known as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE Euro 2).
- (f) Approximately 28, subject to demand and consequent passenger loadings.
- (g) Four buses are in service as at 19 May 1999.
- (h) In 1987 Transperth introduced five cross suburban services that were loosely coordinated to provide a similar but infrequent service.

BUSES, FUEL

2110. Mr PENDAL to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the sulphur content of ordinary Diesel fuel being used on Transperth buses?
- (2) What is the price for this fuel?
- (3) Who is the supplier of ordinary Diesel?
- (4) What is the difference in price between ordinary Diesel and low sulphur Diesel?
- (5) What is the sulphur content of low sulphur Diesel?
- (6) What quantity of low sulphur Diesel will be regularly required?
- (7) Who is the supplier of low sulphur Diesel?
- (8) Does the supplier have the capacity to supply efficient low sulphur Diesel on a regular basis for the whole bus fleet?
- (9) How many Transperth buses presently run on -
 - (a) ordinary Diesel;
 - (b) low sulphur Diesel, and
 - (c) natural gas?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) Sulphur content of "standard distillate" is 0.5% (maximum) by mass and typically ranges from 0.15% to 0.3% (data supplied by BP).
- (2) Price of "standard distillate" varies between 60 and 64 cents per litre.
- (3) Caltex is supplying most of the requirements for the fleet.
- (4) Low sulphur diesel is an additional 1.7 cents per litre over the cost of "standard diesel".
- (5) Sulphur content of low sulphur diesel is 0.05% by mass maximum.
- (6) The total Transperth bus fleet uses approximately 17 million litres per annum.
- (7) Low sulphur diesel is being manufactured by BP Kwinana and is distributed by Caltex.
- (8) Yes.
- (9) Number of Transperth buses operating on:
 - (a) standard diesel = 13
 - (b) Low sulphur diesel = 810
 - (c) Natural gas = 52
 - (d) LPG = 2

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CASH PROFILING

2137. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

- (1) Has the Government/Under Treasurer introduced a new process of financial management incorporating cash profiling on a fortnightly basis for the whole financial year, and an exception-reporting mechanism against that profile?
- (2) Will the Minister provide all of the latest documents necessary to understand the profiling of the departments and agencies under the Minister's control?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Please refer to the response to question on notice 2134 of 9 March 1999.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CASH PROFILING

2145. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Government/Under Treasurer introduced a new process of financial management incorporating cash profiling on a fortnightly basis for the whole financial year, and an exception-reporting mechanism against that profile?
- (2) Will the Minister provide all of the latest documents necessary to understand the profiling of the departments and agencies under the Minister's control?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr DAY replied:

Please see answer to question number 2134.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CASH PROFILING

2152. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Government/Under Treasurer introduced a new process of financial management incorporating cash profiling on a fortnightly basis for the whole financial year, and an exception-reporting mechanism against that profile?
- (2) Will the Minister provide all of the latest documents necessary to understand the profiling of the departments and agencies under the Minister's control?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1)-(3) Please refer to the response to Question on Notice 2134 of 9 March 1999.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS

2162. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Labour Relations:

In the 1996-97 financial year with respect to the Department of Productivity and Labour Relations -

- (a) how many formal industrial and legislative complaints were lodged;
- (b) how many of these were resolved without resorting to legal proceedings;
- (c) how many investigations were undertaken;
- (d) how many prosecutions were commenced;
- (e) how many prosecutions were concluded;
- (f) what number of the concluded prosecutions were "successful";
- (g) what number of investigations were categorised as "no valid complaint";
- (h) in how many of the cases which were resolved as "no valid complaint" did the complaint relate to an alleged breach of an award;
- (i) how many investigations were concluded by way of "deeds of settlement"; and
- (j) in how many of the cases which were resolved by "deeds of settlement" was there evidence of a breach of an award?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (a) 764
- (b) 623
- (c) 1069 (446 of these matters were lodged in 1995-96)
- (d)-(f) 2
- (g) 212
- (h) 176
- (i)-(j) Nil

BEDFORDALE HILL UPGRADE

2179. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What has been the cost to date of the Bedfordale Hill upgrade?
- (2) How much does Main Roads Department expect the project to cost in total?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) \$22.4 million.
- (2) Total project cost including land acquisition, project development costs, design and documentation, contract 64/96, and project and contract management costs is \$27.3 million.

SOUTHERN LINK ROAD

2180. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How much has been allocated for the development of the Southern Link Road?
- (2) If no specific allocation has been made, are there any cost constraints on the project?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1)-(2) \$50 million. Planning and Public Consultation for this project has already commenced.

WA INNOVATION SCHEME

2191. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Since 1 July 1998, how much has been allocated under the Western Australian Innovation Scheme?
- (2) What amount has been allocated to each recipient?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) Since 1 July 1998, funds of \$529 456 have been allocated under the Western Australian Innovation Support Scheme.
- (2) Since 1 July 1998 funding has been allocated to the following recipients -

AAEP Pty Ltd	\$50 000
Ausplow Pty Ltd	\$50 000
Biotrans Pty Ltd	\$50 000
Compri Tube Clean Pty Ltd	\$49 000
Jumbo Vision International Pty Ltd	\$50 000
Midwest Training Group Pty Ltd	\$50 000
Mt Romance Australia Pty Ltd	\$50 000
Pine Ridge Surgical	\$40 456
Summer Coast Pty Ltd	\$50 000
Wamtech Pty Ltd	\$40 000
Weed Control Australia Pty Ltd	\$50 000

BEENUP AND JANGARDUP MINE, ROAD

2194. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

In relation to the Beenup and Jangardup mineral sands haulage route -

- (a) how much was the original and final costs of the road;
- (b) how much was contributed by Main Roads, Cable Sands and BHP;
- (c) if there was an increase in the cost of the road, did either mining company contribute to the blowout; and
- (d) if not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a)-(d) Budgeting cost estimate was \$43 million with final project cost being \$64.3 million. BHP's subsidiary Mineral Deposits Pty Ltd contributed \$18.3 million, Cable Sands Ltd \$2.6 million and Main Roads WA \$43.4 million. The additional cost was due to various factors including unforeseen environmental constraints, additional works to minimise impact on landowners and difficult ground conditions. The "Mineral Sands (Beenup) Agreement - Side Letter" detailed a fixed contribution for road construction adjustable only by a Building Price Index to cover inflationary costs.

NARROWS BRIDGE, RIVER DRILLING CONTRACT

2195. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

With regard to Main Roads' contract with BHP Engineering Pty Ltd for river drilling investigations for the Narrows Bridge duplication -

- (a) will the Minister for Transport table BHP's final report;
 (b) if not, why not; and
 (c) what were the original and final costs for this contract?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a)-(b) BHP's report details the geotechnical profile of the ground in the vicinity of the piers and abutments of the new bridge. The geotechnical investigation was undertaken and a copy of the associated report was provided to all proponents to assist them with the preparation of the design and construct proposals. As the report is a technical document I would be pleased to arrange for Main Roads to provide the Member with a briefing and a copy of the document.
- (c) \$194 063 and \$218 633.

WESTRAIL, CLAREMONT LAND AUCTION

2196. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

In relation to the two plots of land adjacent to the Claremont Railway Station, auctioned for Westrail on 18 November 1998 -

- (a) for each lot, will the Minister for Transport state -
- (i) the lot number;
 (ii) the auction sale price; and
 (iii) the name of the buyer;
- (b) was each lot valued prior to auction;
- (c) if yes, what were the valuations of each lot, and on what date were they valued; and
- (d) who conducted the land valuations?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a) (i) The land was auctioned as one parcel. A contract of sale has been entered into and lot numbers will become available when a title is issued following rezoning of the land from railway use to urban use.
- (ii) \$315 000.
- (iii) Christopher Wesley Whitmore.
- (b) The land was valued as one parcel.
- (c)-(d) The parcel of land was valued at \$250 000. Westrail received the valuation from the Valuer General in a letter dated 3 November 1998.

OFFICE OF ROAD SAFETY, BUDGET

2197. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the budget for the Office of Road Safety for the following years -
- (a) 1998-1999;
 (b) 1999-2000; and
 (c) 2000-2001?
- (2) What was the budget for the Office of Road Safety for 1997-98?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) (a) \$2 305 597.
- (b) \$2 717 273 (provisional unapproved).
- (c) No budget estimate has yet been prepared.
- (2) The budget for the Office of Road Safety for 1997-98 was \$1 639 000.

ROAD PROJECTS OVER \$1M

2198. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

The 1997-98 New South Wales Road Traffic Authority (RTA) annual report provides a table of the number of road projects worth more than \$1m which were completed within budget or within 10% over budget.

- (a) will the Minister for Transport provide a similar table for 1996-97 and 1997-98; and
- (b) if not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a)-(b) I have obtained a copy of the relevant page from the New South Wales RTA Annual Report. While I am not prepared to commit scarce resource to providing such a table for past years, I have asked Main Roads to consider providing a similar table in their 1998-99 Annual Report.

AUTOMATIC TICKET VENDING MACHINE CONTROL SYSTEM CONTRACT

2212. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

With regards to Contract No 205/98 for Replacement of Automatic Ticket Vending Machine Control System for the Department of Transport -

- (a) will the Minister state the name of the companies who tendered for the contract;
- (b) has a contract been awarded yet;
- (c) if yes, to whom was the contract awarded; and
- (d) if no to (b) above, when will it be awarded?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a) Corporate Computer Consultants Pty Ltd.
Motherwell Systems Pty Ltd.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Motherwell Systems Pty Ltd.
- (d) Not applicable.

GRANT THORNTON, CONTRACTS

2216. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

- (1) How many contracts have been awarded to Grant Thornton since 1 January 1997?
- (2) For each contract, will the Minister state -
 - (a) the project the contract was awarded for;
 - (b) the original contract cost;
 - (c) the actual final cost of the contract;
 - (d) the date the contract was awarded and the date it was completed; and
 - (e) whether the contract went out to tender, and if not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Department of Resources Development

- (1) Nil.
- (2) (a)-(e) Not applicable.

Office of Energy

- (1) Nil.
- (2) (a)-(e) Not applicable.

AlintaGas

- (1) Nil.
- (2) (a)-(e) Not applicable.

Western Power

- (1) Nil.
 (2) (a)-(e) Not applicable.

Education Department of Western Australia

- (1) One.
 (2) (a) Analyse and change management services (Panel Contract).
 (b) The contract is a panel period contract until 30 June 1999 on an "as required" basis. No purchase orders have been issued to Grant Thornton to date.
 (c) Will not be known until 30 June 1999.
 (d) Awarded 22 September 1998, due to be completed 30 June 1999.
 (e) Contract went out to public tender (EDTC 086/98).

Department of Education Services

- (1) The Department of Education Services has not awarded any contracts to Grant Thornton since 1 January 1997.
 (2) (a)-(e) Not applicable.

Curriculum Council

- (1) The Curriculum Council has not awarded any contracts to Grant Thornton since 1 January 1997.
 (2) (a)-(e) Not applicable.

GRANT THORNTON, CONTRACTS

2218. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for the Environment; Labour Relations:

- (1) How many contracts have been awarded to Grant Thornton since 1 January 1997?
 (2) For each contract, will the Minister state -
 (a) the project the contract was awarded for;
 (b) the original contract cost;
 (c) the actual final cost of the contract;
 (d) the date the contract was awarded and the date it was completed; and
 (e) whether the contract went out to tender, and if not, why not?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

WorkSafe Western Australia:

- (1) Nil
 (2) Not applicable.

WorkCover WA:

- (1) Nil
 (2) Not applicable.

Department of the Registrar, Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission:

- (1) Nil
 (2) Not applicable.

Perth Zoo:

- (1) Nil
 (2) Not applicable.

Commissioner for Workplace Agreements:

- (1) Nil
 (2) Not applicable.

Department of Productivity and Labour Relations;

- (1) Nil
 (2) Not applicable.

Department of Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) Nil
 (2) Not applicable.

Department of Environmental Protection:

- (1) Nil
 (2) Not applicable.

Kings Park and Botanic Garden:

- (1) Nil
 (2) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

2259. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Has the Attorney General received any written advice from any agency under his control on the impact of the Goods and Services Tax?

- (2) If yes, when was this advice received?
- (3) Will the Attorney General table this advice and if not, why not?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply:

- (1) I have received, in the normal course of events, advice from my agencies on the Commonwealth's tax reform proposals including the impact of the goods and services tax.
- (2) This advice has been received since the release in August 1998 of the Commonwealth's "A New Tax System".
- (3) The Premier released an analysis of the impact of tax reform on Western Australia on 6 September 1998. It is not normal practice to table advice, which is received on a whole range of matters, from agencies.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

2261. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) Has the Minister received any written advice from any agency under his or her control on the impact of the Goods and Services Tax?
- (2) If yes, when was this advice received?
- (3) Will the Minister table this advice and if not, why not?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1) I have received, in the normal course of events, advice from my agencies on the Commonwealth's tax reform proposals including the impact of the goods and services tax.
- (2) This advice has been received since the release in August 1998 of the Commonwealth's "A New Tax System".
- (3) The Premier released an analysis of the impact of tax reform on Western Australia on 6 September 1998. It is not normal practice to table advice, which is received on a whole range of matters, from agencies.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

2262. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for the Environment; Labour Relations:

- (1) Has the Minister received any written advice from any agency under his or her control on the impact of the Goods and Services Tax?
- (2) If yes, when was this advice received?
- (3) Will the Minister table this advice and if not, why not?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) I have received, in the normal course of events, advice from my agencies on the Commonwealth's tax reform proposals including the impact of the goods and services tax.
- (2) This advice has been received since the release in August 1998 of the Commonwealth's "A New Tax System".
- (3) The Premier released an analysis of the impact of tax reform on Western Australia on 6 September 1998.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

2263. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Planning; Employment and Training; Heritage:

- (1) Has the Minister received any written advice from any agency under his or her control on the impact of the Goods and Services Tax?
- (2) If yes, when was this advice received?
- (3) Will the Minister table this advice and if not, why not?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) I have received, in the normal course of events, advice from my agencies on the Commonwealth's tax reform proposals including the impact of the goods and services tax.
- (2) This advice has been received since the release in August 1998 of the Commonwealth's "A New Tax System".
- (3) The Premier released an analysis of the impact of tax reform on Western Australia on 6 September 1998. It is not normal practice to table advice, which is received on a whole range of matters, from agencies.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

2265. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) Has the Minister received any written advice from any agency under his or her control on the impact of the Goods and Services Tax?
- (2) If yes, when was this advice received?
- (3) Will the Minister table this advice and if not, why not?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) I have received, in the normal course of events, advice from my agencies on the Commonwealth's tax reform proposals including the impact of the goods and services tax.
- (2) This advice has been received since the release in August 1998 of the Commonwealth's "A New Tax System".
- (3) The Premier released an analysis of the impact of tax reform on Western Australia on 6 September 1998. It is not normal practice to table advice, which is received on a whole range of matters, from agencies.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

2266. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

- (1) Has the Minister received any written advice from any agency under his or her control on the impact of the Goods and Services Tax?
- (2) If yes, when was this advice received?
- (3) Will the Minister table this advice and if not, why not?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) I have received, in the normal course of events, advice from my agencies on the Commonwealth's tax reform proposals including the impact of the goods and services tax.
- (2) This advice has been received since the release in August 1998 of the Commonwealth's "A New Tax System".
- (3) The Premier released an analysis of the impact of tax reform on Western Australia on 6 September 1998. It is not normal practice to table advice, which is received on a whole range of matters, from agencies.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

2267. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Local Government; Disability Services:

- (1) Has the Minister received any written advice from any agency under his or her control on the impact of the Goods and Services Tax?
- (2) If yes, when was this advice received?
- (3) Will the Minister table this advice and if not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1) I have received, in the normal course of events, advice from my agencies on the Commonwealth's tax reform proposals including the impact of the goods and services tax.
- (2) This advice has been received since the release in August 1998 of the Commonwealth's "A New Tax System".
- (3) The Premier released an analysis of the impact of tax reform on Western Australia on 6 September 1998. It is not normal practice to table advice, which is received on a whole range of matters, from agencies.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

2270. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Works; Services; Youth; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

- (1) Has the Minister received any written advice from any agency under his or her control on the impact of the Goods and Services Tax?
- (2) If yes, when was this advice received?
- (3) Will the Minister table this advice and if not, why not?

Mr BOARD replied:

- (1) I have received, in the normal course of events, advice from my agencies on the Commonwealth's tax reform proposals including the impact of the goods and services tax.
- (2) This advice has been received since the release in August 1998 of the Commonwealth's "A New Tax System".

- (3) The Premier released an analysis of the impact of tax reform on Western Australia on 6 September 1998. It is not normal practice to table advice, which is received on a whole range of matters, from agencies.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

2273. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Police; Emergency Services:

- (1) Has the Minister received any written advice from any agency under his or her control on the impact of the Goods and Services Tax?
- (2) If yes, when was this advice received?
- (3) Will the Minister table this advice and if not, why not?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) I have received, in the normal course of events, advice from my agencies on the Commonwealth's tax reform proposals including the impact of the goods and services tax.
- (2) This advice has been received since the release in August 1998 of the Commonwealth's "A New Tax System".
- (3) The Premier released an analysis of the impact of tax reform on Western Australia on 6 September 1998. It is not normal practice to table advice, which is received on a whole range of matters, from agencies.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

2274. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Has the Minister received any written advice from any agency under his or her control on the impact of the Goods and Services Tax?
- (2) If yes, when was this advice received?
- (3) Will the Minister table this advice and if not, why not?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following response:

- (1)-(3) I refer the member to my answer to Question No 2259.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

2275. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Minister received any written advice from any agency under his or her control on the impact of the Goods and Services Tax?
- (2) If yes, when was this advice received?
- (3) Will the Minister table this advice and if not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) I have received, in the normal course of events, advice from my agencies on the Commonwealth's tax reform proposals including the impact of the goods and services tax.
- (2) This advice has been received since the release in August 1998 of the Commonwealth's "A New Tax System".
- (3) The Premier released an analysis of the impact of tax reform on Western Australia on 6 September 1998. It is not normal practice to table advice, which is received on a whole range of matters, from agencies.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

2277. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has the Minister received any written advice from any agency under his or her control on the impact of the Goods and Services Tax?
- (2) If yes, when was this advice received?
- (3) Will the Minister table this advice and if not, why not?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(3) I refer the member to my answer to question 2259.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEVEL ONE EMPLOYEES

2282. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

In relation to the employment status of Level One employees of the agencies falling within the Minister's responsibility -

- (a) what is the total number of Level One employees at each agency as at 9 March 1999; and
- (b) of these employees, how many were -
 - (i) permanent full time; and
 - (ii) on short term contract?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Department of Resources Development

- (a) 6
- (b) (i) 4
- (ii) 0

The remaining two employees are permanent part-time.

Office of Energy

- (a) 7
- (b) (i) 5
- (ii) 1

The remaining employee is permanent part-time.

Western Power

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.

AlintaGas

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.

Education Department of Western Australia

- (a) The total number of level one staff is 3 071.
- (b) (i) 614.
- (ii) 838.

The remaining 1 619 are permanent part-time.

Department of Education Services

- (a) The total number of level one staff is three.
- (b) (i) One.
- (ii) Two.

Curriculum Council

- (a) The total number of level one staff is six.
- (b) (i) Three.
- (ii) Three.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEVEL ONE EMPLOYEES

2284. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for the Environment; Labour Relations:

In relation to the employment status of Level One employees of the agencies falling within the Minister's responsibility -

- (a) what is the total number of Level One employees at each agency as at 9 March 1999; and
- (b) of these employees, how many were -
 - (i) permanent full time; and
 - (ii) on short term contract?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

Perth Zoo:

- (a) Four level one employees.
- (b) (i) One permanent full time, 3 permanent part time.
- (ii) Nil

Commissioner for Workplace Agreements:

- (a) Four level one employees.
- (b) (i) Two
- (ii) Two.

Department of the Registrar, WA Industrial Relations Commission:

- (a) Seven and a half employees.
- (b) (i) Seven
- (ii) Nil

WorkSafe Western Australia:

- (a) Twenty-eight employees
 (b) (i) Nineteen
 (ii) Nil

WorkCover WA:

- (a) Forty
 (b) (i) Twenty-one plus one part time.
 (ii) Eighteen

Department of Productivity and Labour Relations:

- (a) Eight
 (b) (i) Five
 (ii) One

Department of Conservation and Land Management:

- (a) Two hundred and seventy-three
 (b) (i) Nine-two
 (ii) Seventy-five

Department of Environmental Protection:

- (a) Fourteen
 (b) (i) Six
 (ii) Four

Kings Park and Botanic Garden:

- (a) One
 (b) (i) Nil
 (ii) One

BELLTOWER EXPENDITURE

2307. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

In relation to the Government's planned belltower -

- (a) how much has been spent to 9 March 1999;
 (b) will the Premier provide a breakdown of this total into payments to individual firms, including architectural and design services, market research, project management and any other consultants; and
 (c) how much has been budgeted for work on the project prior to the commencement of construction?

Mr COURT replied:

- (a) \$422,092

- (b)
- | Firm | Service provided | Amount paid |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Brand Deykin & Hay | Contribution to concept illustrations | \$ 7,500 |
| Cox Howlett and Bailey | Contribution to concept illustrations | \$ 7,500 |
| The Buchan Group | Contribution to concept illustrations | \$ 7,500 |
| Coney Stevens Project Management | Project Management | \$ 35,500 |
| Ralph Beattie Bosworth Pty Ltd | Quantity Surveyor | \$ 30,000 |
| James Taylor Associates | Architectural/programming advice | \$ 10,616 |
| Hames Sharley WA | Architect and design | \$ 112,475 |
| <i>Subconsultants:</i> | | |
| Ove Arup | Structural engineer | \$ 45,698 |
| Wood & Grieve | Civil/traffic engineer | \$ 3,000 |
| BCA Consultants | Mechanical/electrical/lighting | \$ 20,500 |
| Hutchinson Associates | engineer | \$ 5,500 |
| Golder Associates | Hydraulic engineer | \$ 8,470 |
| Norbet Gabriels | Desk top geotechnical advice | - |
| McMullan Nolan | Acoustic services | \$ 6,942 |
| W Hardman | Surveying | \$ 1,875 |
| Arbor Vitae | Bell tower architect | \$ 950 |
| Irene Sauman | Landscape architecture | \$ 3,200 |
| | Heritage assessment | |
| Ozdrill Pty Ltd | Sample drilling | \$ 4,227 |
| Probedrill Pty Ltd | Sample drilling | \$ 1,500 |
| Turnbull Fox Phillips | Public relations and print media | \$ 67,254 |
| Turnbull Fox Phillips | Public comment analysis | \$ 13,658 |
| Donovan Research | Focus Groups | \$ 5,900 |
| Dept of Contract & Management Services | Contract management service fee | \$ 10,000 |
| Disbursements | | \$ 12,327 |
| Total | | \$ 422,092 |

(c) \$520,000

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, FREE TICKETS TO SPORTING EVENTS

2316. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

- (1) Has any sporting club or organisation provided the Minister with free tickets to any major sporting events in Western Australia?
- (2) If so -
 - (a) to which events were the tickets provided; and
 - (b) on how many occasions have tickets been provided?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) All members of Parliament, and the Minister in particular, receive hundreds of invitations to attend sporting, arts and social events every year. Whilst the Minister tries to attend as many events as possible, regrettably this is not always possible.
- (2) (a)-(b) This information is not readily available. Provision of this information 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 specific enquiry I will endeavour to provide a reply.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, FREE TICKETS TO SPORTING EVENTS

2331. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has any sporting club or organisation provided the Minister with free tickets to any major sporting events in Western Australia?
- (2) If so -
 - (a) to which events were the tickets provided; and
 - (b) on how many occasions have tickets been provided?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) All members of Parliament, and Ministers in particular, receive hundreds of invitations to attend sporting, arts and social events every year. Whilst I try to attend as many events as possible, regrettably this is not always possible.
- (2) (a)-(b) This information is not readily available. Provision of this information 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 specific enquiry I will endeavour to provide a reply.

ORD FARMS ROAD, WYNDHAM, CONTRACT

2347. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

With regards to supervisory contract 468/96 awarded to Gutteridge Haskins and Davey Pty Ltd for Stage One of the Ord Farms Road in Wyndham -

- (a) will the Minister explain why the contract blew out from \$320 200 to \$708 008; and
- (b) if a Final Certificate has been issued to the contractor, what was the final cost?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a) The contract period for construction of the Ord Farm Roads was extended to 40 weeks as tenders were called three times. The tenders were rejected twice as they did not provide value for money and led to the decision to lower the prequalification level of tenders to attract a larger field of potential tenderers and a more competitive price. The extra costs were for additional tender assessment and preconstruction services, adjustment to the original submission for corrected quantities, additional costs associated with extension of contract period from 26 to 40 weeks and adjustment to tendered rates for CPI increase.
- (b) A Final Certificate has not been issued but no further costs are anticipated.

PORT GREGORY-KALBARRI ROAD, CONTRACT

2348. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

With regards to supervisory contract 496/95 awarded to Gutteridge Haskins and Davey Pty Ltd for Stage One of the Port Gregory - Kalbarri Road will the Minister explain why the contract blew out from \$131 272 to \$199 654?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

A total of seventy-three days extension of time was granted to the construction contractor and required an extension to the contract administration services Contract 496/95. The variations were for:

Spur Road Reconstruction - The original contract was for the construction and sealing of 16 kilometres of roads within the Kalbarri National Park. Acting on a request from CALM the construction of Spur Roads to eight coastal gorge lookouts was included in the construction contract. This resulted in an increase in the total length of road to be constructed from 16 kilometres to 23 kilometres.

Airport Road Reconstruction - This road was originally intended for cartage of base course material, however the condition disintegrated within one week of operations. The road therefore required reconstruction for use as a haul road as well as for use after the conclusion of the contract.

Wet Weather - As a result of inclement weather, eighteen days extension of time was granted to the construction contractor.

HENRY WALKER CONTRACTING PTY LTD, CONTRACT

2349. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

With regards to contract 672/95 awarded to Henry Walker Contracting Pty Ltd -

- (a) will the Minister explain why the contract blew out from \$19 548 721 to \$21 337 480; and
- (b) if the dispute regarding the outstanding claims of \$648 000 has been settled, what was the result?
- (c) what project was the contract awarded for?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a) The cost of the contract increased due to variations associated with:
 - Extension of the service road to improve safety for local residents
 - Additional noise/retaining wall to better protect the environment for the local community.
 - The provision of a Dual Use Path as part of a wider plan to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.
 - Modifications to the bridges to ensure that the ultimate number of traffic lanes could be accommodated in the future without further construction and disruption.
- (b) The anticipated final expenditure covering all works and claims will be \$21 397 800. Outstanding claims will be settled at approximately \$60 300.
- (c) Construction of the Kenwick Link which forms part of the overall Roe Highway Project.

BGC CONTRACTING PTY LTD, CONTRACT

2350. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

With regards to contract 323/96 awarded to BGC Contracting Pty Ltd -

- (a) will the Minister explain why the contract blew out from \$1 597 124 to \$2 468 090; and
- (b) what project was the contract awarded for?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a)-(b) Contract 323/96 was awarded for the construction of a second carriageway on Great Eastern Highway from Mundaring to Sawyers Valley. The difference between the final cost and the contract price was due to extra work being required in the form of an additional intersection added to the scope of works, unforeseen rock excavation and embankment construction difficulties.

PIONEER ROAD SERVICES PTY LTD, CONTRACT

2351. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

With regards to contract 87/97 awarded to Pioneer Road Services Pty Ltd -

- (a) will the Minister explain why the contract blew out from \$1 919 308 to \$2 859 822;
- (b) if a Final Certificate has been issued to the contractor, what was the final cost; and
- (c) what project was the contract awarded for?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a) The cost increases were due to the scope of works being increased to enable additional sections of road to be resealed.
- (b) \$2 859 821.88.
- (c) Supply and delivery of crushed aggregate and bitumen. Seal/reseal various roads in the Mid West and Wheatbelt North Regions.

MAIN ROADS WA, CONTRACTS OVER \$100 000

2352. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many supervisory contracts valued at \$100 000 or more were awarded by Main Roads in the following financial years -
 - (a) 1996-97; and
 - (b) 1997-98?
- (2) How many supervisory contracts valued at \$100 000 or more have been awarded by Main Roads so far in 1998-99?
- (3) For each contract referred to in (1) and (2) above, will the Minister state -
 - (a) the contract number;
 - (b) the name of the contractor;
 - (c) the project the contract was awarded for;
 - (d) the original cost of the contract;
 - (e) the actual final cost of the contract; and
 - (f) the award and completion dates of the contract?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1)
 - (a) Five.
 - (b) Nil.
- (2) Nil.
- (3)
 - (a) Contract 491/95.
 - (b) Egis Consulting Australia Pty Ltd.
 - (c) Contract Management of Term Maintenance Contracts 119/95 and 192/95.
 - (d) \$5 374 840.
 - (e) Work still in progress.
 - (f) 29 October 1996.
29 April 2000 (estimated).
- (a) Contract 29/96.
 - (b) SMEC Australia Pty Ltd.
 - (c) Consultancy for Contract Document Review, Tender Assessment and Contract Management for road improvement works.
 - (d) \$1 006 550.
 - (e) Work still in progress.
 - (f) 21 August 1996.
31 December 1999 (estimated).
- (a) Contract 213/96.
 - (b) Gutteridge Haskins & Davey Pty Ltd.
 - (c) Tender Assessment and Contract Management of longitudinal road marking in rural Regions.
 - (d) \$329 010.
 - (e) \$324 442.
 - (f) 11 November 1996.
9 December 1997.
- (a) Contract 502/95.
 - (b) Halpern Glick Maunsell Pty Ltd.
 - (c) Provision of Tender Document Review, Tender Assessment and Contract Management services for Burkett Road.
 - (d) \$688 133.
 - (e) \$612 871.
 - (f) 31 July 1996.
30 April 1999 (estimated).
- (a) Contract 63/96.
 - (b) Halpern Glick Maunsell Pty Ltd.
 - (c) Review Contract Documents, Tender Assessment, Contract Management for Bedforddale project on Albany Highway.
 - (d) \$538 400.
 - (e) Work still in progress.
 - (f) 21 August 1996.
30 June 1999 (estimate).

TRANSFORM WA, ROAD FUNDING

2363. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the total of Transform Western Australia road funding for -
 - (a) 1998-99; and
 - (b) 1999-2000?
- (2) What Transform Western Australia road funding was made available to -
 - (a) rural local Government; and
 - (b) metropolitan local Government,in 1998-99?
- (3) Were councils informed that this funding would be available for five years?
- (4) How much Transform Western Australia road funding will be made available to local Government in 1999-2000?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1)
 - (a) \$92.8 million estimated revenue.
 - (b) \$95.0 million estimated revenue.
- (2)
 - (a) \$15 million is planned for rural local government roads.
 - (b) \$4 million is planned for metropolitan local government roads.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) \$51 million is planned for local government roads.

SUNDAY BUS SERVICE, ARMADALE STATION-MUNDIJONG

2364. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Why is there no bus service from Armadale Train Station to Mundijong on a Sunday?
- (2) Are there plans to provide such a service in the future?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) Transperth operates a reduced level of bus service on Sundays which has in the past reflected the reduced demand for bus services relative to weekdays. The bus services that are operated on Sundays are those which can be expected to demonstrate a consistent demand from a reasonable number of people. Transperth routes 230 and 235 which operate in the vicinity of Mundijong/Jarrahdale in Transport's assessment will not provide the necessary level of demand to justify a Sunday service relative to other areas in metropolitan Perth.
- (2) Transperth is implementing a plan to improve the number and frequency of bus services operated on Sundays. New services are being introduced where reasonable levels of patronage can be expected and which is regularly demonstrated on normal weekday services. There are currently no plans for a Sunday service to Mundijong.

CYCLEWAYS, ACCIDENTS

2365. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many accidents have been reported on cycleways in the Metropolitan area?
- (2) How many accidents involved pedestrians being hit by cyclists?
- (3) What is the Minister doing to ensure that cycleways can be used safely by both pedestrians and cyclists?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) In 1998, the number of accidents involving cyclists on cycleways and reported to Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA) was seven.
- (2) Three accidents involved pedestrians being hit by cyclists.
- (3) A report entitled Conflicts on Shared Paths has been prepared listing several recommendations which are in the process of being implemented. One of the recommendations was to prepare a Code of Conduct for all users of shared paths. This document which is being developed jointly between Bikewest, the Office of Road Safety and MRWA, is called Using Shared Paths with Safety and Courtesy. It has been endorsed by the WA Police Service and the Western Australian Municipal Association. It will soon be widely distributed and will address issues such as keeping left, acknowledging other users, giving way, speed, etc. Additionally, in areas of high usage, separate

facilities for cyclists and pedestrians are being constructed such as the recently opened paths in McCallum Park, South Perth and Tompkins Park, Melville.

SWAN AND CANNING RIVERS, MOORINGS

2367. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the new licensing arrangements for moorings on the Swan and Canning Rivers and ask -

- (a) what is the Department of Transport's projected revenue from mooring fees for the first year of operation of the arrangement;
- (b) what is the Department's projected expenditure on moorings in the Swan and Canning Rivers;
- (c) was consideration given to phasing in mooring fees over a time period;
- (d) if yes, why was it rejected; and
- (e) if not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a) \$117 000.
- (b) \$683 855 over five years.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) The number of individuals affected was considered likely to be relatively small and the cost of administering such a system therefore relatively high. This would have raised the cost of mooring licence fees to all users.
- (e) Not applicable.

CAT BUS SERVICE, COMPLAINTS

2369. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many complaints has the Minister or the Department of Transport received regarding the service provided by the CAT buses?
- (2) Will the Minister provide details of the types of complaints that have been received?
- (3) Has there been an increase in the number of complaints since Southern Coast Transit took over the management?
- (4) What is the Department doing to improve the reliability of the service?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

Please refer to the answer to Question on Notice Legislative Assembly 2079 asked on Tuesday, 9 March 1999.

UTILITIES AND OPEN TRUCKS, PASSENGER SAFETY

2370. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many passengers have been killed while riding in the back of utilities or open truck tops in -
 - (a) 1995-96;
 - (b) 1996-97; and
 - (c) 1997-98?
- (2) What measures will be contained in the proposed Road Traffic Amendment legislation to deal with this problem?
- (3) If those measures include a delay in the implementation of protective devices, what is the justification for allowing such delay or period of grace?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1)-(3) Refer to response to Parliamentary Question on Notice Legislative Assembly 2078 of 9 March 1999.

FIX THE ROADS CAMPAIGN

2380. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What amount was allocated to the "Fix the Roads" campaign in the -
 - (a) 1997-98 financial year; and
 - (b) 1998-99 financial year?

- (2) What amount was spent on the "Fix the Roads" campaign in the 1997-98 financial year?
- (3) What amount was spent on advertising?
- (4) What amount was spent on television advertising?
- (5) What was the nature of the television advertisements?
- (6) Did the television advertisements call for more road funding or were they geared to more of a road safety message?
- (7) What amount was spent on other advertising?
- (8) What was the nature of that advertising?
- (9) What was the message in the advertising?
- (10) Apart from advertising, what were the other major items of expenditure?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) (a) \$371 185.
(b) \$200 000.
- (2) \$389 560.26.
- (3) \$145 448.
- (4) \$68 383 in 1997-98.
- (5)-(6) The advertisements highlighted the fact that improved roads reduce road crashes, congestion and pollution; improving transport efficiencies reduces the cost of living and increased road investment provides increased employment.
- (7) \$77 065 in 1997-98.
- (8)-(9) Promoting Road Awareness Week during October 1997 run in conjunction with Local Government, and promoting the major thrusts of the campaign as per (5) above.
- (10) Strategy development, production of campaign report, development of various publicity and promotional material, campaign support and website maintenance.

RAILWAYS, PERTH-ALBANY

2381. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will the Government reintroduce a passenger train service from Perth to Albany?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) Will the Government carry out a survey in Albany and along the train line to see if people want such a service and would be prepared to use it?
- (4) If so, when?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1)-(5) There are no current plans to re-introduce passenger train services to Albany and I do not intend to conduct a feasibility study into the matter. Patronage figures for the road coach services between Perth and Albany show that those services adequately meet the present demand and have capacity for growth. This information was provided to the member in my letter to him of 22 January 1999.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2425. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

In relation to the use of Government credit cards -

- (a) have any credit cardholders either working in the Ministerial office or with a Department/Agency for which the Minister has responsibility used their cards -
 - (i) for personal use; or
 - (ii) to gain frequent flyer points; fly buys or similar benefits;
- (b) if yes, will the Minister provide details of this use;
- (c) if not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

(a)-(c) I refer the member to the answer to Assembly Question Without Notice 627 asked on 16 March 1999.

NORTHBRIDGE TUNNEL, EMISSIONS

2433. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of reports that pollution problems emanating from the Burnley Tunnel in Melbourne are affecting the surrounding suburbs in a radius of up to 4 kilometres?
- (2) Will emissions extracted from the Northbridge Tunnel undergo a cleansing process before release to the atmosphere?
- (3) If the answer to (2) above, is no, what measures have been planned to control pollution resulting from Northbridge Tunnel emissions?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) I understand the Burnley Tunnel will be open to traffic in mid 1999. I am advised that air quality modelling undertaken for the Burnley Tunnel has demonstrated that Environmental Protection Authority requirements will be met or bettered.
- (2) No.
- (3) The contractor has undertaken a detailed design process to ensure that the air quality standards set by the Environmental Protection Authority will be met. Further, a monitoring program is being developed to ensure these standards are maintained as part of the normal operation of the tunnel.

MAIN ROADS WA, CONTRACT No 573/97

2449. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

With regard to Main Roads contract No 573/97 for the Loftus Street duplication from Wellington Street to Carr Street, will the Minister state -

- (a) the name of the contractor;
- (b) the unsuccessful tenderers;
- (c) the date awarded; and
- (d) the cost of the contract?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a) Thiess Contractors Pty Ltd.
- (b) Barclay Mowlem Construction Ltd.
Boulderstone Clough Joint Venture.
Highway Construction Pty Ltd.
John Holland Construction & Engineers.
Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd.
- (c) 8 January 1999.
- (d) \$14 647 657.

MAIN ROADS WA, CONTRACT No 6/98

2450. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

With regard to Main Roads contract No 6/98 for the Mount Keith to Wiluna Road, will the Minister state -

- (a) the name of the contractor;
- (b) the unsuccessful tenderers;
- (c) the date awarded; and
- (d) the cost of the contract?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a) MacMahon Contractors (WA) Pty Ltd.
- (b) BGC Contracting Pty Ltd
Henry Walker Contracting Pty Ltd.
Highway Construction Pty Ltd.

- (c) 11 February 1999
- (d) \$23 153 377.

MAIN ROADS WA, CONTRACT No 44/98

2451. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

With regard to Main Roads contract No 44/98 for the Mitchell Freeway Heathridge Section, will the Minister state -

- (a) the name of the contractor;
- (b) the unsuccessful tenderers;
- (c) the date awarded; and
- (d) the cost of the contract?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a) Henry Walker Contracting Pty Ltd.
- (b) Highway Construction Pty Ltd.
BGC Contracting Pty Ltd.
- (c) 5 February 1999.
- (d) \$15 828 991.

MAIN ROADS WA, CONTRACT No 15/98

2452. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

With regard to Main Roads contract No 15/98 for Roe Highway Stage 3, will the Minister state -

- (a) the name of the contractor;
- (b) the unsuccessful tenderers;
- (c) the date awarded; and
- (d) the cost of the contract?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a) Consolidated Constructions Pty Ltd.
- (b) Barclay Mowlem Construction Ltd.
CMX Joint Venture.
Concrete Constructions Group Ltd.
John Holland-Henry Walker Joint Venture.
Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd.
MacMahon Contractors (WA) Pty Ltd
Transfield Constructions Pty Ltd.
- (c) 4 February 1999.
- (d) The contract award price was \$30 296 198.

MAIN ROADS WA, CONTRACT No 543/98

2453. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

With regard to Main Roads contract No 543/98 for the supply and delivery of fill materials for the Busselton Bypass, will the Minister state -

- (a) the name of the contractor;
- (b) the unsuccessful tenderers;
- (c) the date awarded; and
- (d) the cost of the contract?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a) Giacci Brothers Pty Ltd.
- (b) APH Contractors.
- (c) 21 December 1998.
- (d) \$253 000.

WESTRAIL, LEIGHTON MARSHALLING YARDS JOINT VENTURE

2454. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

What public consultation was undertaken prior to the advertising by Westrail for a joint venture partner to develop the Leighton Marshalling yards?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

As the advertisement was for a joint venture partner and not for a development proposal, public consultation at that stage was not instigated. A Consortium comprising Multiplex Constructions Pty Ltd, Rockingham Pty Ltd and Satterley and Co Pty Ltd has been selected as the preferred tenderer. The appointment of the Consortium as preferred tenderer is subject to agreement being reached on terms of engagement. Proposals for a consultation process are being discussed as part of the terms of engagement and is expected that details of that process will be available soon.

WESTRAIL, LEIGHTON MARSHALLING YARDS TENDER PROPOSALS

2455. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

Why was -

- (a) the public; and
- (b) local Government,

not given an opportunity to comment on the tender proposals for the development of the Leighton Marshalling Yards prior to selection of the preferred tenderer?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a)-(b) Westrail's actions to this point with regard to the proposed redevelopment of the former Leighton marshalling yard have been aimed solely at choosing a preferred party and not a preferred concept. Now that a preferred joint venture partner has been selected, the actual development process will commence, including the full range of approval and consultation processes which would apply to any normal development of this scale. The community will have extensive opportunities to consider and comment on the form of development proposed. I understand the Acting Commissioner of Railways met with the Mayors and senior staff of the City of Fremantle and the Town of Mosman Park prior to Westrail advertising for a joint venture partner. Following discussions it was the view of each Council that as the Councils would in due course be required to deliberate on the merits of a development application for the former marshalling yard site, it would be inappropriate for them to play any part in selecting a preferred concept.

WESTRAIL, LEIGHTON MARSHALLING YARDS ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW DOCUMENT

2456. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

When will the environmental review document prepared for the Leighton Marshalling Yards be released to the public?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

In 1998, Westrail commissioned a preliminary internal evaluation report to determine whether there are any environmental obstacles to urban development of the Leighton Marshalling Yards. The report represents only the first phase of a formal environmental assessment process. Westrail plans to release the document to the public in the near future, with an appropriate preamble to make readers aware of this.

WESTRAIL, LEIGHTON MARSHALLING YARDS, CONTAMINATION

2457. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Leighton Marshalling Yards site been found to be contaminated?
- (2) If yes, with what substances?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) A preliminary report commissioned by Westrail in 1998 did not find any evidence of general contamination of the soil or groundwater above the recognised safe levels for residential development.
- (2) Not applicable.

WESTRAIL, LEIGHTON MARSHALLING YARDS TENDER OVERVIEW

2458. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does the Tender Overview for the Leighton Shores Joint Venture contain an "out clause"?
- (2) If no, could Westrail and the Government be forced to accept a proposal that is unsatisfactory to the public?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) If by an "out clause" the member is referring to a provision under which Westrail is not obliged to accept any of the proposals received, the answer is yes.
- (2) Not applicable.

WESTRAIL, LEIGHTON MARSHALLING YARDS DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

2459. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

In assessing the developer proposals, will the evaluation panel include "no development" as an option to be considered for the site?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

I am assuming the site the member is referring to is the former railway marshalling yard at Leighton and my response is provided on that basis. The evaluation panel considered the selection of a joint venture partner and not a development proposal. However, given that the zoning of the land for development was the result of a long and considered planning process by the State Planning Commission, a "no development" option will not be considered by the Government.

WESTRAIL, LEIGHTON MARSHALLING YARDS TENDER DOCUMENTS

2461. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

What guidelines has Westrail set in the Leighton Marshalling Yards tender documents to ensure -

- (a) continued rail access to the Port; and
- (b) continued public access to all of Leighton and Port beaches?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

There are no guidelines in the tender documents; however,

- (a) The matter of rail access to the Port of Fremantle is currently the subject of a number of technical and commercial evaluations being undertaken by the Department of Transport, Westrail, the Fremantle Port Authority, and with input from the Sea Freight Council and others aimed at identifying the most viable medium-term option. This process is quite independent of the tender process for the Leighton Marshalling Yard.
- (b) Public access to Leighton and Port beaches will not be restricted.

POLICE, CRIME SQUADS

2476. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many squads exist in the Police Service under the Crime portfolio?
- (2) Which squads are they and what are their staffing levels?
- (3) Are any of these remaining squads planned to be disbanded?
- (4) If so, why?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

Additional Information: Following the Investigative Practices Review the structure of the Crime Support Portfolio has been revised. Individual specialist squads have been replaced by a strong divisional structure where the emphasis is placed on proactive, intelligence driven policing and a policy of integration of investigative strength (within the portfolio) versus isolation, has been adopted. Six (6) divisions have been established, to deal with:

organised criminal activity;
serious, serial or protracted (major) crime investigation (predominantly crime against the person);
commercial crime;
forensic services;
intelligence and covert operations; and
administration and corporate services.

The divisional structure enables experienced investigators to apply their skills and expertise to a wide variety of criminal investigations through the formation of taskforces. Taskforces will be formed to target specific criminals, criminal activity or criminal syndicates both proactively, as the result of intelligence, and reactively where an investigation has become protracted or it is identified that the matter is of a serial or organised nature. Due to the continuing devolvement of staff to metropolitan and country regions, the staffing levels of each division under the new structure are yet to be finalised.

FORESTS, PROTECTION FROM LOGGING

2483. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

Regarding the "more than one million hectares of the State's forests" the Government claims are protected from logging, will the Minister confirm data provided by Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) Corporate Relations that within the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) boundary -

- (a) 507 130 hectares are jarrah forests and woodlands, karri forests and wandoo forests and woodlands in existing and proposed formal reserves;
- (b) 196 500 hectares are jarrah forests and woodlands, karri forests and wandoo forests and woodlands in existing and proposed informal reserves;
- (c) 334 120 hectares are native vegetation including -
 - (i) bullich and yate;
 - (ii) Darling Scarp vegetation;
 - (iii) peppermint and coastal heath;
 - (iv) rocky outcrops;
 - (v) sand dunes;
 - (vi) shrub, herb and sedgelands; and
 - (vii) swamps;
- (d) 22 170 hectares are "other categories" including -
 - (i) Swan Coastal Plains vegetation;
 - (ii) Dandaragan Plateau vegetation;
 - (iii) Western Wheatbelt vegetation;
 - (iv) exotic species and cleared land; and
 - (v) Crown land not classified for any of the above; and
- (e) the area of non-forest amounts to 34 per cent of the alleged "more than one million hectares of the State's forests"?

Mrs EDWARDS replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) All informal reserves are existing not proposed.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) The total in "other categories" is 22 710 hectares.
- (e) The State's forests of Western Australia contain a mosaic of many vegetation types, including shrublands, herb communities, sedgelands, rocky outcrops, and heaths. All are important for biodiversity, providing the range of habitats for different species. Parks and reserves in the region protect all the biodiversity, not just the tall forest communities. Detailed tables showing the reservation of each ecosystem under the RFA are contained in the agreement document.

KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION, DESIGN COSTS

2486. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

With regard to the design of the extensions to the Kwinana Freeway to Safety Bay Road and removal of traffic lights -

- (a) how much was paid and is owed by Main Roads to consultants and contractors for the design of this project;
- (b) how much was paid to each individual consultant and contractor;
- (c) how much of the design will have to be changed as a result of changes to the project resulting from the Perth-Mandurah rail link;
- (d) how much is budgeted by Main Roads for the redesign of this project;
- (e) what was the original budget for the design and construction of this project;
- (f) what is the current budget for the project, including the cost of reimbursements to tenderers and design changes; and
- (g) will the Minister provide a breakdown of the total budget for the completed project?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a)-(b) The project will be delivered by a design and construct contract. The five short listed proponents will each receive \$150 000 for the original proposals.
- (c) The majority of design work for the Freeway extension and the upgrade of Safety Bay Road remains unchanged. However, the interchange layouts will be redesigned to increase the bridge lengths to accommodate the South West

Metropolitan Railway (SWMR) in the centre of the Freeway. As a consequence of the realignment of the SWMR, the scope of work will be increased to include the relocation of the Freeway north bound carriageway.

- (d) Design costs will be included in the new offers submitted by the five proponents.
- (e) \$182 000 000.
- (f) The revised scope of works is still being assessed. The current budget has not been determined but is not expected to exceed the original allocation.
- (g) Yes, when the project is complete.

RAILWAYS, TIMBER SLEEPER CONTRACT

2488. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

With regard to tender No 93/98 for the Supply and Delivery of 30 000 Type A and 5 000 Type B First Grade Timber Railway Sleepers -

- (a) was a business case prepared for this contract when it was decided to tender for timber railway sleepers rather than concrete or steel;
- (b) if yes, will the Minister table the business case;
- (c) if not, why not; and
- (d) if a business case was not prepared, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a) Tender 93/98 is for the supply of sleepers for Westrail's five year, \$126 million grain line strengthening project. A business case for the selection of sleepers was established as part of the capital evaluation proposal for the project. A decision was not taken to use only timber sleepers. A combination of timber and steel sleepers is being used in the project.
- (b) No.
- (c) The business case was part of the capital evaluation proposal which contains commercially sensitive information.
- (d) Not applicable.

PUBLIC SERVICE, APPOINTMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 64(1)(a) OF PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT ACT

2534. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

- (1) At any time since 1994, has the Minister, or the Minister's office, requested the appointment of a person to the public service pursuant to section 64(1)(a) of the Public Sector Management Act 1994?
- (2) Were any of the people the subject of such a request actually appointed pursuant to the Act?
- (3) If so, for each such appointment, will the Minister specify -
 - (a) the officer's name;
 - (b) their classification and position at appointment;
 - (c) the date their appointment took effect; and
 - (d) their relevant employing authority?
- (4) Were any of these officers subsequently seconded to work in a Ministerial office?
- (5) If so, for each secondment, will the Minister specify -
 - (a) the officer's name;
 - (b) the classification and position to which the officer was seconded;
 - (c) the date this secondment was requested;
 - (d) the date this secondment took effect; and
 - (e) the Ministerial office to which the officer was seconded to?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Department of Resources Development

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Office of Energy

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Education Department of Western Australia

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Department of Education Services

- (1) No.
(2)-(5) Not applicable.

Curriculum Council

- (1) No.
(2)-(5) Not applicable.

PUBLIC SERVICE, APPOINTMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 64(1)(a) OF PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT ACT

2537. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Planning; Employment and Training; Heritage:

- (1) At any time since 1994, has the Minister, or the Minister's office, requested the appointment of a person to the public service pursuant to section 64(1)(a) of the Public Sector Management Act 1994?
- (2) Were any of the people the subject of such a request actually appointed pursuant to the Act?
- (3) If so, for each such appointment, will the Minister specify -
 - (a) the officer's name;
 - (b) their classification and position at appointment;
 - (c) the date their appointment took effect; and
 - (d) their relevant employing authority?
- (4) Were any of these officers subsequently seconded to work in a Ministerial office?
- (5) If so, for each secondment, will the Minister specify -
 - (a) the officer's name;
 - (b) the classification and position to which the officer was seconded;
 - (c) the date this secondment was requested;
 - (d) the date this secondment took effect; and
 - (e) the Ministerial office to which the officer was seconded to?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) No.
(2)-(5) Not applicable.

INDEC CONSULTING

2555. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many consultancy contracts were issued by Westrail to Indec Consulting in:
 - (a) 1994;
 - (b) 1995;
 - (c) 1996;
 - (d) 1997; and
 - (e) 1998?
- (2) In respect to each consultancy contract what was the final value of the contract and were tenders called in respect of that contract?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1)-(2) Please refer to my response provided to Parliamentary Question Legislative Assembly Number 1178 of Wednesday, 28 October 1998.

SWAN AND CANNING RIVERS, POWER BOATS

2571. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the problems caused by the wake from speeding power boat owners to other river users?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of the environmental impact of larger power boats on the Swan and Canning Rivers?
- (3) Has the Minister considered a differential charge for boat licences which reflects engine power?
- (4) If yes, when will this be implemented?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1)-(2) Occasionally Transport receives complaints from some river users about the irresponsible behaviour of others. There is no simple correlation between vessel speed and wake generated. Some larger vessels can create considerable wash at low speeds and many power boats create virtually no wash when operating at full speed.

- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) The current schedule of fees, which is based on vessel length is considered the most appropriate means of setting registration fees. There would be significant practical difficulties in using engine power as the parameter including the fact that many vessels are re-engined during the life of the vessel. Length is an easily measured and constant parameter.

SWAN RIVER, SPEED TRIAL

2572. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the Minister's view on a six knot speed trial on the Swan River between Fremantle Harbour and North Point Walter Spit?
- (2) Has the Minister considered introducing such a speed limit in view of the wake created by large power boats?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Why was a six knot speed limit not imposed on Australia Day given the near fatal accidents on Australia Day two years ago?
- (5) Will the Minister commit to imposing a six knot speed limit on Australia Day in the year 2000?
- (6) If not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) There is already an eight knot speed limit in this area, from Chidley Point to the Harbour entrance at North Mole, and a water ski area exists at Chidley Point. The existing speed limits were introduced to ensure that vessels can transit this restricted part of the river safely. Transport has no evidence to suggest that the introduction of a six knot speed limit between Point Walter and Harbour entrance is necessary on safety grounds. In fact, it is likely that a further reduction in speed for all vessels would be strongly opposed by the general boating community. The impact of boat wash on rowing and other small craft was discussed at the State Boating Council meeting of 1 February 1999. At this meeting it was agreed that continued education and regulation was the most appropriate way to address issues associated with boat wash.
- (2) No. Vessel speed is not necessarily the prime factor in generating wake. Water depth, hull design and displacement are also significant factors.
- (3) See (1).
- (4) The main water safety concern on Australian Day occurs immediately following the fireworks event adjacent to Perth Water. For a short period of time, a large number of vessels head down river through Melville Water at the same time. At the 1999 event, some irresponsible behaviour was witnessed but generally the vast majority of boat owners do behave responsibly. Rather than introduce more regulations, Transport will continue to conduct targeted safety campaigns prior to each event. Operators who behave recklessly can still be prosecuted regardless of the speed at which the vessel is being operated.
- (5) No.
- (6) Because of the reasons given in (4).

BUNBURY PORT AUTHORITY, SALARIES OF SENIOR OFFICERS

2574. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

In relation to the Bunbury Port Authority Annual Report 1998, what are the names of the senior officers whose salaries are listed in the report for 1997-98?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

\$60 000 - \$70 000	John Barratt.
\$70 000 - \$80 000	H Evans.
	L Wilson.
\$100 000 - \$110 000	D Figlomeni.

MAIN ROADS WA, GRANT THORNTON CONSULTANCY

2590. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When was Grant Thornton, Chartered Accountants and Business Consultants, appointed to review the system of incorporating corporate overheads into the cost of road projects?

- (2) When did Grant Thornton, Chartered Accountants and Business Consultants, present its report to Main Roads WA?
- (3) On what dates and for what amounts did Grant Thornton, Chartered Accountants and Business Consultants, receive payments for preparation of the report?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) 16 June 1998.
- (2) 10 July 1998.
- (3) Two payments were made totalling \$34 938:
\$19 200 on 31 July 1998 for the Review of Allocation of Overheads.
\$15 738 on 30 October 1998 for assistance with implementation.

MAIN ROADS WA, GRANT THORNTON CONSULTANCY

2591. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Did Main Roads seek quotes from other firms before awarding the contract to review the system of incorporating corporate overheads into the cost of road projects to Grant Thornton, Chartered Accountants and Business Consultants?
- (2) If the answer to (1) above is yes, from which consultants?
- (3) If the answer to (1) above is no, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1)-(3) Following concerns raised in the Parliamentary Estimates Committee during the 1998/99 Budget Cycle the then Commissioner of Main Roads decided to seek advice from Grant Thornton Consulting. Following their review, the methodology used to account for overhead costs has been changed.

HILL, MR MICHAEL

2592. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Is WorkSafe still considering the possibility of initiating a prosecution under the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 in relation to the death of Michael Hill at Cullen Wines on 19 March 1998?
- (2) Are tanks that hold crushed grapes such as that in which Michael Hill died a "confined space" under Regulation 3.82 of the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996?
- (3) Are tanks that hold crushed grapes such as that in which Michael Hill died a "confined space" under the Australian Standard 2865-1995 (as2865)?
- (4) What, if anything, is the basis for doubting that tanks of this type would not be considered a confined space?
- (5) What further actions have to be taken or reports finalised before this fatal accident involving Michael Hill would be considered a closed case?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) It is reasonable to expect that such tanks will on occasions, meet the requirements of regulation 3.82 of the *Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996* and therefore be regarded as a "confined space". On other occasions however, it is possible that all the conditions required to be met will not be present.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The basis for determining if a tank is a confined space is dependent on the definition of "confined space" that is used. Where there is any inconsistency the definition specified in the regulations takes precedence.
- (5) Under the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*, none. However it is understood that the State Coroner is yet to hold an inquest.

APPRENTICES, GOLDFIELDS

2593. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) How many apprentices are employed in the Goldfields according to the following post code areas and specify which trades they are engaged in -
 - (a) Kalgoorlie 6430;
 - (b) Boulder 6432;
 - (c) Leonora 6438;

- (d) Laverton 6440;
- (e) Esperance 6450; and
- (f) Menzies 6436,

for each of the years -

- (i) 1993;
- (ii) 1994;
- (iii) 1995;
- (iv) 1996;
- (v) 1997;
- (vi) 1998, and
- (vii) 1999?

- (2) How many apprentices for the each of the years -

- (a) 1997;
- (b) 1998, and
- (c) 1999,

currently undertake their vocational training in -

- (i) Kalgoorlie-Boulder;
- (ii) in Perth; and
- (iii) elsewhere?

- (3) Is any research available about the cost of block release and other training to each apprentice?
- (4) If the answer to (3) above is yes, will the Minister detail any increase in cost that has occurred since 1993?
- (5) Is any research available as to whether apprentices are completing their apprenticeships?
- (6) If the answer to (5) above is yes, how many apprentices have actually completed their apprenticeships over the years -
- (a) 1993;
 - (b) 1994;
 - (c) 1995;
 - (d) 1996;
 - (e) 1997;
 - (f) 1998, and
 - (g) 1999?
- (7) What type of State government assistance is given to employers seeking apprentices?
- (8) What monitoring is done with respect to the need for apprentices in any given trade or occupation?
- (9) What steps are taken to ensure that apprentices are employed in any trade or occupation where the need is identified?

Mr KIERATH replied:

In order to prepare an appropriate response to this question it was necessary for the Department of Training to employ a programmer to run a special program to obtain the information from the Training Records System Database and then interpret, collate and format the information. As some 40 hours of staff time was required at an approximate cost of \$1,500 I sincerely hope that the member uses the information in a constructive way.

(1)	(a)	Kalgoorlie 6430		
	(i)	1993	AD	Sheetmetal
			AF	Fitting
			AH	Fitting & Turning
			AI	First Class Machining
			AM	Fitting and First Class Machining
			AO	Motor Mechanics
			AP	Motor Cycle Mechanics
			BD	Plant Mechanics (Industrial)
			BF	Ground Engineering (Aircraft)
			BI	Fuel Injection Fitting
			BR	Instrument Fitting
			CA	Electrical Fitting
			CC	Automotive Electrical Fitting
			CH	Electrical Mechanics
			CI	Instrument/Electrical Fitting
			DC	Carpentry and Joinery
			DD	Plumbing and Gasfitting
			DE	Plastering
			DG	Painting and Decorating
			DM	Glazing Bevelling
			FC	Painting (Vehicle Building)
			FD	Panelbeating
			HA	General Butchering
			HD	Baking
			HE	Pastrycooking
			HF	Cooking
				1
				2
				4
				1
				2
				3
				5
				1
				2
				5
				25
				8
				3
				2
				11
				4
				1
				2
				3
				4
				3
				7
				3
				5
				11

		JC	Cabinetmaking	9
		JX	Jewellery	2
		LM	Hairdressing	20
		QC	Boilermaking & Metal Construction and First Class Welding	3
		QG	Aircraft Maintenance Engineer & Mechanical	2
		YC	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	3
		YG	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	4
		YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	13
		YZ	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	1
		ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	7
		ZB	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	7
		ZC	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	10
		ZE	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	4
		ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	19
		ZI	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1
(ii)	1994	AO	Motor Mechanics	46
		AP	Motor Cycle Mechanics	3
		BI	Fuel Injection Fitting	2
		CC	Automotive Electrical Fitting	7
		FC	Painting (Vehicle Building)	6
		FD	Panelbeating	7
		DC	Carpentry and Joinery	13
		DD	Plumbing and Gasfitting	4
		DF	Wall and Ceiling Fixing	2
		DG	Painting and Decorating	5
		DM	Glazing-Bevelling	3
		CA	Electrical Fitting	14
		CH	Electrical Mechanics	13
		CI	Instrument/Electrical Fitting	6
		YZ	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	7
		HA	General Butchering	4
		HD	Baking	3
		HE	Pastrycooking	1
		HF	Cooking	14
		HI	Baking (Combined Pastrycooking and Breadmaking)	1
		JC	Cabinetmaking	11
		JX	Jewellery	2
		QG	Aircraft Maintenance Engineer Mechanical	3
		YC	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	5
		YG	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	5
		YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	20
		ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	10
		ZB	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	11
		ZC	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	14
		ZE	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	4
		ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	24
		ZI	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2
		LM	Hairdressing	21
(iii)	1995	AO	Motor Mechanics	52
		AP	Motor Cycle Mechanics	2
		CC	Automotive Electrical Fitting	9
		FC	Painting (Vehicle Building)	4
		FD	Panelbeating	5
		XB	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	1
		DC	Carpentry and Joinery	17
		DD	Plumbing and Gasfitting	7
		DG	Painting and Decorating	7
		DM	Glazing Bevelling	3
		CA	Electrical Fitting	10
		CG	Electronic Servicing	1
		CH	Electrical Mechanics	16
		CI	Instrument / Electrical Fitting	6
		YZ	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	16
		HA	General Butchering	9
		HD	Baking	3
		HE	Pastrycooking	1
		HF	Cooking	10
		HG	Breadmaking	1
		HI	Baking (Combined Pastrycooking and Breadmaking)	2
		JC	Cabinetmaking	14
		AS	Locksmithing	1
		JX	Jewellery	2
		QG	Aircraft Maintenance Engineer Mechanical	2
		YC	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	5
		YF	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	1
		YG	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	5
		YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	26
		ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	15
		ZB	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	15

		ZC	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	13
		ZE	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	3
		ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	35
		LM	Hairdressing	19
(iv)	1996	AO	Motor Mechanics	40
		BI	Fuel Injection Fitting	2
		CC	Automotive Electrical Fitting	13
		FB	Trimming	1
		FC	Painting (Vehicle Building)	5
		FD	Panelbeating	8
		XB	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	19
		DC	Carpentry and Joinery	15
		DD	Plumbing and Gasfitting	4
		DG	Painting and Decorating	7
		DM	Glazing Bevelling	1
		CA	Electrical Fitting	4
		CG	Electronic Servicing	3
		CH	Electrical Mechanics	19
		CI	Instrument / Electrical Fitting	7
		YX	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	7
		YZ	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	29
		HA	General Butchering	6
		HD	Baking	3
		HF	Cooking	13
		HG	Breadmaking	2
		HI	Baking (Combined Pastrycooking and Breadmaking)	2
		JC	Cabinetmaking	14
		AS	Locksmithing	1
		JX	Jewellery	2
		QG	Aircraft Maintenance Engineer Mechanical	1
		YC	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	6
		YF	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	1
		YG	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	12
		YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	30
		ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	18
		ZB	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	20
		ZC	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	8
		ZE	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	3
		ZG	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2
		ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	47
		LM	Hairdressing	19
(v)	1997	AO	Motor Mechanics	28
		BI	Fuel Injection Fitting	2
		CC	Automotive Electrical Fitting	13
		FB	Trimming	1
		FC	Painting (Vehicle Building)	4
		FD	Panelbeating	7
		FG	Autobody Refinisher	2
		FL	Autobody Repairer	2
		XB	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	28
		XD	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	1
		DA	Bricklaying	1
		DC	Carpentry and Joinery	14
		DD	Plumbing and Gasfitting	7
		DG	Painting and Decorating	6
		DL	Tiling	1
		DM	Glazing Bevelling	1
		DP	Roof Plumbing	1
		CG	Electronic Servicing	6
		CH	Electrical Mechanics	27
		CI	Instrument / Electrical Fitting	1
		YW	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	1
		YX	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	8
		YZ	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	27
		HA	General Butchering	5
		HD	Baking	1
		HF	Cooking	12
		HG	Breadmaking	2
		HI	Baking (Combined Pastrycooking and Breadmaking)	3
		JC	Cabinetmaking	15
		AS	Locksmithing	2
		JX	Jewellery	2
		QG	Aircraft Maintenance Engineer Mechanical	1
		YC	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	8
		YF	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	1
		YG	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	11
		YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	26
		YL	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	1
		ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	19
		ZB	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	25

		ZC	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	9
		ZE	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2
		ZG	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2
		ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	47
		LM	Hairdressing	18
(vi)	1998	AO	Motor Mechanics	10
		BI	Fuel Injection Fitting	2
		CC	Automotive Electrical Fitting	14
		FB	Trimming	1
		FC	Painting (Vehicle Building)	3
		FD	Panelbeating	4
		FG	Autobody Refinisher	2
		FL	Autobody Repairer	6
		XB	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	40
		XD	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	3
		DA	Bricklaying	1
		DC	Carpentry and Joinery	21
		DB	Stonemasonry	2
		DD	Plumbing and Gasfitting	5
		DG	Painting and Decorating	5
		DL	Tiling	1
		DM	Glazing Beveling	1
		CG	Electronic Servicing	7
		CH	Electrical Mechanics	26
		YW	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	1
		YX	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	5
		YZ	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	19
		HA	General Butchering	6
		HF	Cooking	14
		HG	Breadmaking	2
		HI	Baking (Combined Pastrycooking and Breadmaking)	5
		JC	Cabinetmaking	12
		AS	Locksmithing	1
		JX	Jewellery	1
		YC	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	6
		YG	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	19
		YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	16
		ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	14
		ZB	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	25
		ZC	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	4
		ZE	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	3
		ZG	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	4
		ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	42
		ZI	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1
		LM	Hairdressing	18
(vii)	1999	AO	Motor Mechanics	3
		BI	Fuel Injection Fitting	2
		CC	Automotive Electrical Fitting	16
		FB	Trimming	1
		FC	Painting (Vehicle Building)	3
		FD	Panelbeating	4
		FG	Autobody Refinisher	2
		FL	Autobody Repairer	5
		XB	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	43
		XD	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	3
		DA	Bricklaying	1
		DB	Stonemasonry	2
		DC	Carpentry and Joinery	22
		DD	Plumbing and Gasfitting	5
		DG	Painting and Decorating	6
		DL	Tiling	1
		DM	Glazing Beveling	1
		CG	Electronic Servicing	7
		CH	Electrical Mechanics	29
		YW	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	1
		YX	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	5
		YZ	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	14
		HA	General Butchering	6
		HF	Cooking	16
		HG	Breadmaking	1
		HI	Baking (Combined Pastrycooking and Breadmaking)	6
		JC	Cabinetmaking	11
		AS	Locksmithing	1
		JX	Jewellery	1
		QG	Aircraft Maintenance Engineer - Mechanical	2
		YC	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	6
		YG	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	2
		YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	12
		ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	18
		ZB	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	24

		ZC	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	3
		ZE	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	3
		ZG	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	4
		ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	52
		ZI	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1
		LM	Hairdressing	18
(b)	Boulder 6432			
(i)	1993	AF	Fitting	3
		AH	Fitting & Turning	1
		AO	Motor Mechanics	4
		BD	Plant Mechanics (Industrial)	2
		BY	Motor Mechanics (Small Engines)	1
		CA	Electrical Fitting	9
		CC	Automotive Electrical Fitting	2
		CH	Electrical Mechanics	2
		DC	Carpentry and Joinery	3
		DD	Plumbing and Gasfitting	2
		FC	Painting (Vehicle Building)	1
		FD	Panelbeating	1
		HE	Pastrycooking	2
		HF	Cooking	2
		LM	Hairdressing	7
		QA	Boilermaking Metal Construction	3
		QC	Boilermaking Metal Construction and First Class Welding	1
		YC	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	1
		YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	12
		ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	5
		ZB	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2
		ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	5
(ii)	1994	AO	Motor Mechanics	4
		BY	Motor Mechanics (Small Engines)	1
		CC	Automotive Electrical Fitting	2
		FC	Painting (Vehicle Building)	1
		FD	Panelbeating	1
		DC	Carpentry and Joinery	1
		DD	Plumbing and Gasfitting	3
		DF	Wall and Ceiling Fixing	1
		CA	Electrical Fitting	2
		CH	Electrical Mechanics	2
		YZ	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	4
		HE	Pastrycooking	2
		YC	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	1
		YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	12
		ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	7
		ZB	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2
		ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	5
		LM	Hairdressing	4
(iii)	1995	AO	Motor Mechanics	3
		BY	Motor Mechanics (Small Engines)	1
		CC	Automotive Electrical Fitting	2
		FC	Painting (Vehicle Building)	1
		FD	Panelbeating	1
		XB	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	3
		DC	Carpentry and Joinery	1
		DD	Plumbing and Gasfitting	3
		DF	Wall and Ceiling Fixing	1
		CH	Electrical Mechanics	3
		YZ	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	7
		HE	Pastrycooking	2
		JC	Cabinetmaking	1
		YC	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	2
		YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	7
		ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	4
		ZB	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2
		ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	4
		LD	Horticulture (Turf Management)	1
		LM	Hairdressing	4
(iv)	1996	AO	Motor Mechanics	2
		BY	Motor Mechanics (Small Engines)	1
		CC	Automotive Electrical Fitting	2
		FC	Painting (Vehicle Building)	1
		FD	Panelbeating	1
		XB	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	6
		DC	Carpentry and Joinery	1
		DD	Plumbing and Gasfitting	3
		DF	Wall and Ceiling Fixing	2
		CH	Electrical Mechanics	4
		YZ	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	8
		HE	Pastrycooking	2

		YC	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	3
		YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	4
		ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	7
		ZB	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1
		ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	4
		LD	Horticulture (Turf Management)	1
		LM	Hairdressing	6
(v)	1997	AO	Motor Mechanics	1
		CC	Automotive Electrical Fitting	2
		FD	Panelbeating	1
		FL	Autobody Repairer	1
		XB	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	8
		DC	Carpentry and Joinery	2
		DD	Plumbing and Gasfitting	6
		DF	Wall and Ceiling Fixing	2
		CH	Electrical Mechanics	3
		YZ	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	12
		HA	General Butchering	3
		HF	Cooking	2
		YC	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	2
		YG	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	2
		YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	9
		ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	8
		ZB	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2
		ZE	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1
		ZG	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2
		ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	9
		ZI	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1
		LM	Hairdressing	5
(vi)	1998	FL	Autobody Repairer	1
		XB	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	7
		DC	Carpentry and Joinery	1
		DD	Plumbing and Gasfitting	7
		DF	Wall and Ceiling Fixing	1
		CG	Electronic Servicing	1
		CH	Electrical Mechanics	5
		YZ	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	11
		HA	General Butchering	2
		HF	Cooking	2
		YC	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	1
		YG	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	6
		YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	6
		ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	8
		ZB	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1
		ZC	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1
		ZE	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	3
		ZG	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2
		ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	11
		ZI	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2
		LM	Hairdressing	3
(vii)	1999	CC	Automotive Electrical Fitting	2
		FL	Autobody Repairer	1
		XB	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	7
		DC	Carpentry and Joinery	1
		DD	Plumbing and Gasfitting	5
		DF	Wall and Ceiling Fixing	1
		CG	Electronic Servicing	1
		CH	Electrical Mechanics	6
		YZ	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	5
		HA	General Butchering	2
		HF	Cooking	1
		YA	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	1
		YC	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	1
		YG	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	8
		YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	6
		ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	8
		ZB	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2
		ZC	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1
		ZE	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	3
		ZG	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2
		ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	11
		ZI	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2
		LM	Hairdressing	4
(c)	Leonora 6438			
(i)	1993	Nil		
(ii)	1994	LM	Hairdressing	1
(iii)	1995	XB	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	1
		DC	Carpentry and Joinery	2
		CH	Electrical Mechanics	1

(d)	(iv)	1996	XB DC	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive) Carpentry and Joinery	2 1	
	(v)	1997	XB	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	2	
	(vi)	1998	XB	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	2	
			CH YH	Electrical Mechanics Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	1 1	
	(vii)	1999	XB	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	2	
			CH	Electrical Mechanics	1	
			YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	1	
	(e)	(i)	Laverton 6440 1993	QC	Boilermaking Metal Construction and First Class Welding	1
				ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1
		(ii)	1994	N/A		
		(iii)	1995	AO	Motor Mechanics	1
				ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1
		(iv)	1996	AO	Motor Mechanics	1
				ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	4
(v)		1997	AO	Motor Mechanics	1	
			ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1	
			ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	6	
			LM	Hairdressing	0	
(vi)		1998	AO	Motor Mechanics	1	
			YZ	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	1	
			ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1	
	ZH		Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	3		
(vii)	1999	YZ	Engineering Tradesperson (Electrical)	1		
		ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1		
		ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2		
(e)	(i)	Esperance 6450 1993	AF	Fitting	2	
			AH	Fitting & Turning	1	
	AM		Fitting and First Class Machining	1		
	AO		Motor Mechanics	6		
	AP		Motor Cycle Mechanics	2		
	BC		Plant Mechanics (Agriculture)	1		
	BR		Instrument Fitting	2		
	CA		Electrical Fitting	3		
	CC		Automotive Electrical Fitting	1		
	CI		Instrument/Electrical Fitting	1		
	DA		Bricklaying	2		
	DC		Carpentry and Joinery	9		
	DD		Plumbing and Gasfitting	2		
	DF		Wall and Ceiling Fixing	1		
	DM		Glazing Bevelling	1		
	FB		Trimming	1		
	FC		Painting (Vehicle Building)	1		
	FD		Panelbeating	5		
	HA		General Butchering	6		
	HD		Baking	2		
	HF		Cooking	5		
	JC		Cabinetmaking	1		
	JG		Upholstering	1		
	LB		Horticulture (Nursery Person)	2		
	LC		Horticulture (Landscape Gardening)	1		
	LD		Horticulture (Turf Management)	1		
	LE		Horticulture (Gardening)	1		
	LM		Hairdressing	15		
	NI		Composition	2		
	NJ		Printing Machining	1		
	PE		Farming	7		
	YC		Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	1		
	YH		Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	3		
	ZC		Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1		
	ZG		Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2		
	ZH		Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1		
	LB		Horticulture (Nurseryperson)	2		
	LD		Horticulture (Turf Management)	1		
	LE		Horticulture (Gardening)	1		
	NI		Composition	1		
	LM		Hairdressing	12		
(ii)	1994	AO	Motor Mechanics	9		
		AP	Motor Cycle Mechanics	2		

		CC	Automotive Electrical Fitting	2
		FB	Panelbeating	1
		FC	Painting (Vehicle Building)	2
		FD	Panelbeating	7
		DA	Bricklaying	1
		DC	Carpentry and Joinery	10
		DD	Plumbing and Gasfitting	2
		DM	Glazing-Bevelling	2
		CA	Electrical Fitting	3
		CH	Electrical Mechanics	0
		CI	Instrument/Electrical Fitting	1
		HA	General Butchering	4
		HD	Baking	2
		HF	Cooking	10
		HG	Breadmaking	1
		JC	Cabinetmaking	2
		YC	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	1
		YG	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	1
		YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	5
		ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1
		ZC	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2
		ZG	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2
		ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1
		LB	Horticulture (Nurseryperson)	2
		LD	Horticulture (Turf Management)	2
		LE	Horticulture (Gardening)	1
		NI	Composition	1
		NJ	Printing Machining	1
		LM	Hairdressing	13
(iii)	1995	AO	Motor Mechanics	10
		AP	Motor Cycle Mechanics	1
		CC	Automotive Electrical Fitting	1
		FB	Trimming	2
		FC	Painting (Vehicle Building)	4
		FD	Panelbeating	4
		DA	Bricklaying	1
		DC	Carpentry and Joinery	13
		DD	Plumbing and Gasfitting	2
		DM	Glazing Bevelling	2
		CA	Electrical Fitting	1
		CH	Electrical Mechanics	1
		CI	Instrument / Electrical Fitting	1
		HA	General Butchering	3
		HD	Baking	2
		HF	Cooking	6
		HG	Breadmaking	1
		JC	Cabinetmaking	4
		YC	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	3
		YG	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	1
		YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	4
		ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1
		ZB	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2
		ZC	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1
		ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1
(iv)	1996	AO	Motor Mechanics	7
		CC	Automotive Electrical Fitting	1
		FB	Trimming	1
		FC	Painting (Vehicle Building)	6
		FD	Panelbeating	3
		XB	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	4
		XD	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	1
		DA	Bricklaying	1
		DC	Carpentry and Joinery	12
		DD	Plumbing and Gasfitting	5
		DM	Glazing Bevelling	2
		CA	Electrical Fitting	1
		CG	Electronic Servicing	1
		CH	Electrical Mechanics	2
		HA	General Butchering	3
		HD	Baking	1
		HF	Cooking	7
		HG	Breadmaking	2
		JC	Cabinetmaking	5
		YC	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	2
		YG	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	1
		YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	7
		ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2
		ZB	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	3
		ZG	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	3
		ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1
		LB	Horticulture (Nurseryperson)	1
		LD	Horticulture (Turf Management)	1
		LM	Hairdressing	8

(v)	1997	AO	Motor Mechanics	3
		CC	Automotive Electrical Fitting	3
		FB	Trimming	2
		FC	Painting (Vehicle Building)	5
		FD	Panelbeating	3
		FG	Autobody Refinisher	3
		FL	Autobody Repairer	1
		XB	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	10
		XD	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	1
		DC	Carpentry and Joinery	12
		DD	Plumbing and Gasfitting	2
		DM	Glazing Bevelling	2
		CG	Electronic Servicing	2
		CH	Electrical Mechanics	3
		HA	General Butchering	4
		HF	Cooking	4
		HI	Breadmaking (Combined Pastrycooking and Breadmaking)	3
		JC	Cabinetmaking	6
		YC	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	3
		YG	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	2
		YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	5
		ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	4
		ZB	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	3
		ZC	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1
		ZG	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	4
		ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	2
		LB	Horticulture (Nurseryperson)	1
		LD	Horticulture (Turf Management)	3
		NL	Composition	1
		NN	Printing Machining	1
		LM	Hairdressing	6
(vi)	1998	AO	Motor Mechanics	1
		CC	Automotive Electrical Fitting	4
		FB	Trimming	1
		FC	Painting (Vehicle Building)	4
		FG	Autobody Refinisher	4
		FL	Autobody Repairer	2
		XB	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	12
		XD	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	2
		DC	Carpentry and Joinery	14
		DD	Plumbing and Gasfitting	2
		DL	Tiling	2
		DM	Glazing Bevelling	1
		CG	Electronic Servicing	1
		CH	Electrical Mechanics	5
		HA	General Butchering	5
		HF	Cooking	4
		HI	Baking (Combined Pastrycooking and Breadmaking)	3
		JC	Cabinetmaking	4
		YC	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	2
		YG	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	3
		YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	3
		YL	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	1
		ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	3
		ZB	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	4
		ZC	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1
		ZG	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	3
		ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	3
		LD	Horticulture (Turf Management)	2
		LE	Horticulture (Gardening)	1
		NL	Composition	1
		NN	Printing Machining	1
		LM	Hairdressing	6
(vii)	1999	CC	Automotive Electrical Fitting	3
		FC	Painting (Vehicle Building)	4
		FG	Autobody Refinisher	5
		FL	Autobody Repairer	2
		XB	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	13
		XD	Engineering Tradesperson (Automotive)	2
		DC	Carpentry and Joinery	11
		DD	Plumbing and Gasfitting	1
		DL	Tiling	2
		DM	Glazing Bevelling	1
		CG	Electronic Servicing	2
		CH	Electrical Mechanics	4
		HA	General Butchering	5
		HF	Cooking	3
		HI	Baking (Combined Pastrycooking and Breadmaking)	3
		JC	Cabinetmaking	4

YC	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	2
YG	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	3
YH	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	3
YL	Engineering Tradesperson (Fabrication)	1
ZA	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	3
ZB	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	3
ZC	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	1
ZG	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	3
ZH	Engineering Tradesperson (Mechanical)	3
LD	Horticulture (Turf Management)	2
LE	Horticulture (Gardening)	1
NN	Printing Machining	1
LM	Hairdressing	6

- (f) Menzies 6436
 (i) 1993 Nil
 (ii) 1994 Nil
 (iii) 1995 Nil
 (iv) 1996 Nil
 (v) 1997 Nil
 (vi) 1998 Nil
 (vii) 1999 Nil

- (2) (a) 1997
 (i) Kalgoorlie - Boulder 359
 (ii) Perth 11,861
 (iii) elsewhere 1,918
 (b) 1998
 (i) Kalgoorlie - Boulder 306
 (ii) Perth 10,137
 (iii) elsewhere 1,703
 (c) 1999
 (i) Kalgoorlie - Boulder 254
 (ii) Perth 9,411
 (iii) elsewhere 1,160

(3) No.

(4) Not applicable.

(5) Yes.

- (6) (a) 3406
 (b) 2645
 (c) 2315
 (d) 2523
 (e) 2820
 (f) 2897
 (g) 923

- (7) The State Government assists employers to recruit apprentices by providing funding for the State Employment Assistance Strategy (SEAS) projects which helps employers match with a suitable applicant for an apprenticeship position. There are 39 projects that operate statewide services for employers and jobseekers. The Western Australian Department of Training operates an information service for employers (13 19 54), which provides employers with up to date information on how to recruit and register an apprentice. This information service also provides the latest information on employer incentives and can refer employers to the SEAS projects for recruitment assistance. The Department publishes a guide to employing an apprentice/trainee and is available free of charge from either the Department, the 13 19 54 service providers, SEAS projects and Training Administration Bodies. This publication provides information and contact numbers to employers who may be interested in employing apprentices/trainees.
- (8) The Department has in place a comprehensive planning framework that captures a wide range of information sources to assist in the determination of apprenticeship training demand. Through the State Training Strategy, key drivers and gaps likely to affect vocational education and training are identified. This information is then used as a basis for the setting of key directions for vocational education and training in Western Australia and priorities for the allocation of resources. Input from industry through the Industry Training Plan process provides information on vocational education and training needs and priorities from an industry perspective. This advice encompasses needs with respect to apprentices in areas specific to each industry.
- (9) When a priority for training in a particular trade is identified in the Industry Training Plan the Department promotes the take-up of apprenticeship in such areas by the use of innovative delivery strategies including in recent times the fast tracking of training in the metals industry.

ROAD TRAFFIC CODE, REVIEW

2601. Mrs ROBERTS to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is any revision of the Road Traffic Code or Regulations currently being considered or undertaken?
 (2) If so, what are the details and timetable?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Government is considering amendments reflecting the terms of the Australian Road Rules and is hopeful of having the majority of those amendments in place by the end of this year.

SMALL BUSINESS, UNCONSCIONABLE CONDUCT

2610. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Fair Trading:

- (1) Further to question on notice No 1980 of 1999, is it the Government's intention to have the Small Business Safeguards Reference Group evaluate unconscionable conduct provisions as they may relate to the small business retail sector?
- (2) If not, what other mechanism does the Minister plan to use to examine the unconscionable conduct arrangements?
- (3) If so, would it be possible for the Reference Group to produce a report before December 1999?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3)-(4) The Government regards this as a very important initiative. Accordingly the timetable for the review has been determined to ensure there is adequate and appropriate consultation between the reference group and stakeholders. In view of these circumstances and as the process is well known, the Government would not consider changing the timetable.

RAIL LINK, KWINANA FREEWAY

2612. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) On what date did the Main Roads' representative on the South-West Metropolitan Transit Planning Steering Committee first learn that the Committee was considering locating the rail link down the centre of the Kwinana Freeway?
- (2) On what date was it decided to locate the rail link down the centre of the Kwinana Freeway?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) December 1998.
- (2) March 1999.

MAIN ROADS WA, SENIOR EXECUTIVES' REDUNDANCY PACKAGES

2618. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many senior executives are taking voluntary redundancy packages as a result of the current restructuring of the Main Roads Department executive?
- (2) What positions are being abolished?
- (3) In respect to each position, what is the age of the officer taking redundancy and what is the redundancy payment that will be paid to each officer?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) Three to date.
- (2) Director Major Projects.
Director Corporate Policy and Development.
Director Road Technology Services.
Executive Director Road Strategies and Services.
Executive Director Road and Traffic Programs.
Executive Director Contract and Works Management.
Executive Director Corporate Services.
Director Human Resources.

(3)	Age	Voluntary Redundancy Payment
Executive Director Road and Traffic Programs	54	\$94 789.67
Director Human Resources	57	\$88 365.08
Executive Director Corporate Services	67	\$89 938.97

ROCKINGHAM LAKES REGIONAL PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2620. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) What is the interest of each member of the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park Advisory Committee in bushland or park management?
- (2) Why is local conservationist Jeff Anderton who fought for the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park, not on the Committee?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that one of the members of the Committee is actively campaigning against Bushplan and other areas that may be incorporated into Bushplan?
- (4) What action will the Minister take in this matter?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(2) The interests of the members of the Rockingham Lakes Regional Parks Advisory Committee include conservation, recreation, community involvement and education with many of the members having more than one interest. The selection process ensured a balance of interests was accommodated with conservation well represented. The selection criteria used in assessing applicants was:

- * Expertise in a relevant field;
- * Commitment to progressing work within the committee;
- * Representing a broad range of relevant issues;
- * Good community networks;
- * Able to devote the time/commitment required;
- * A good understanding of issues affecting the park.

It would not be appropriate to comment on individual applications to the selection process.

- (3) No. However, this should not be a problem as the role of the advisory committee is to act as a forum for members of the public to exchange opinions and advice on a range of management issues. A consensus of views is not always possible or necessary. To ensure there will be varied discussion on management issues, community members for all regional park advisory committees are drawn from a broad spectrum of park users and community interest groups.
- (4) No action will be taken with regards to this matter. It is important to note that community membership to advisory committees will be for a period of up to three years. This will ensure there is rotation of membership within the committee and other members of the community will have opportunity to apply.

JANDAKOT AIRPORT, PRIVATISATION

2625. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared in *WA Business News* on 18 March and 23 March 1999 under the heading of "Jandakot privatisation falls short"?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that the article reported Western Australian Royal Aero Chief John Douglas saying that fees had gone up between 700 per cent and 1200 per cent for flying out of Jandakot and that the increased fees could add about \$1,000 to the cost of obtaining a full pilots licence?
- (3) Has the Minister/Department of Commerce and Trade considered the impact on development, including regional development, of privatised airports?
- (4) Has any research been done on this question?
- (5) If so, what research?
- (6) What does the research show?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) The increase in the costs of aircraft operations at Jandakot are the result of two factors:
 - (a) The Federal Government, through Airservices Australia, has introduced a user pays cost recovery regime in place of a fuel levy. This means that major users of Airservices Australia services, such as those involved in pilot training, will pay more.
 - (b) The Federal Government has sold to private enterprise Western Australia's two major airports, Perth and Jandakot, previously operated by the Federal Airports Corporation (FAC). The FAC cross-subsidised

loss-making general aviation airfields such as Jandakot. This is no longer possible due to the airport being sold. See also (6) below.

- (4)-(5) The Aviation Policy Branch of the Department of Transport has examined the impact of the new charges on operators such as flying schools.
- (6) It is expected that the number of aircraft movements at Jandakot will reduce by about 35%-40%. This will reduce the pressure on Jandakot which was approaching saturation point. It is expected that airfields such as those at Bunbury, Busselton and other regional locations in Western Australia will benefit from the aviation business being transferred to more cost-effective locations.

LOGGING TRUCKS, LEGAL LOADS

2630. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the maximum legal load for log trucks on-
 - (a) public roads; and
 - (b) logging roads?
- (2) What is the maximum legal load for heavy haulage vehicles on public roads?
- (3) Under what circumstances are log truck operators permitted to exceed the maximum legal load?
- (4) Are log truck operators subject to a permit system for regularly exceeding maximum loads?
- (5) Is the Minister aware of incidents of overloading of log trucks in the south west forest?
- (6) If yes, what action has been taken in relation to these claims?
- (7) Is the Department of Conservation and Land Management expected to provide information to the Department of Transport in relation to the overloading of log trucks as shown in the Hardwood Log Delivery Note?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1)-(4) The maximum legal loads for all combination vehicles, including log haul vehicles, is controlled by the mass limits specified in Part 14 of the Vehicle Standards Regulations of the Road Traffic Act. The maximum legal load can vary depending on the configuration of the vehicle. Vehicles with a Gross Combination Mass (GCM) of up to 42.5 tonnes are able to operate "as of right" throughout the State except in areas limited by certain bridges. Vehicles exceeding a GCM of 42.5 tonnes must have a permit issued by Main Roads WA in order to operate on public roads. Currently, log haul vehicles with a maximum GCM of 87.5 tonnes are allowed to operate on public roads under permit conditions.
- (5) The Department of Transport's compliance unit undertakes regular patrols throughout the State for the purpose of enforcing mass and dimension limits of heavy vehicles. While log haul vehicles are apprehended overloaded from time to time, nothing has been presented to suggest that there is a particular problem with this section of the industry.
- (6) Penalties for non-compliance are contained in the Vehicle Standards Regulations and Road Traffic Infringements Regulations.
- (7) The Department of Transport liaises with various agencies, including the Department of Conservation and Land Management, as part of its enforcement strategies. Information is exchanged and this may include suspected overloading activities. Government agencies would be expected to pass on information about any potentially unsafe operating practices to the appropriate regulatory authority.

MADDINGTON FIRE STATION, REPLACEMENT PUMP

2651. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Emergency Services:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the condition of Medium Pumper No 42 at the Maddington Fire Station?
- (2) Is it true that all new pumps are being allocated to country stations?
- (3) If so, why, given the state of Medium Pumper No 42?
- (4) Has consideration been given to placing new pumps at Metropolitan stations prior to them being sent to country stations?
- (5) If not why not?
- (6) Is there a priority list with respect to the placement of new and refurbished appliances?
- (7) When will Maddington Fire Station receive a replacement Pump?
- (8) Which stations are getting new and refurbished appliances and when are they due to get them?

- (9) What is the reason for the delay in replacing equipment and appliances generally and particularly at Maddington where the existing appliance is in such a poor state of repair?
- (10) Will the Minister provide details on staffing levels at the O'Connor workshops for the each of the past five years?
- (11) If not why not?
- (12) What are the future intentions with respect to staffing levels at the O'Connor workshops?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) Yes. I understand the vehicle is reaching the end of its operational life.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Yes. However, it must be noted that all vehicles have an estimated operational life before being refurbished or replaced. For this reason FESA has established replacement programs for all types of appliances. An examination of the vehicles reaching the end of their operational lives, both in the country and metropolitan areas found that the age and condition were similar. However, due to the more remote locations, limited back up resources and difficulties with vehicle repairs in the event of breakdown it was determined that the country be given priority in this instance.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) Yes. However, the priority order may alter, from time to time, depending on operational priorities.
- (7) It is anticipated the replacement pump will be available within two weeks.
- (8) All new and refurbished vehicles are built by the private sector.

Refurbished appliances: The first appliance is due for delivery by the end of May with the remainder arriving over the next two months. The order of delivery is as follows:

- 1 Maddington
- 2 Kalgoorlie
- 3 Albany
- 4 Geraldton
- 5 Bunbury
- 6 Karratha

New Appliances: The tenders closed 14 May and the contract should be in place by the end of July. The anticipated building period is approximately 12 months after the contract arrangements have been finalised. The order of delivery is as follows:

- 1 Claremont
- 2 Fremantle
- 3 Daglish
- 4 Osborne Park
- 5 Kalamunda
- 6 Kwinana
- 7 Port Hedland
- 8 Mandurah
- 9 Maddington (To replace refurbished pump that becomes a standby vehicle)
- 10 Welshpool
- 11 Standby

- (9) There have been some recent delays in the acquisition for Maddington and other stations as FESA has conducted a feasibility study to determine whether appliance bodies can be refurbished or need to be replaced by new cab chassis, and the development of a new medium pump specification.
- (10) The staffing levels at the O'Connor Workshops for each of the past years are:

Year	Number
1995	49
1996	42
1997	39
1998	38
1999	34

The decrease from 49 to 34 staff has occurred through reductions in the -

Stores function	(3)
Equipment Technician	(1)
Electrical Technicians	(3)
Mechanical Apprentices	(3)
Trade Assistant	(1)
Mechanical Technicians	(4)

- (11) Not applicable.
- (12) As with all areas of FESA the staffing level at the O'Connor Workshops is monitored to ensure it provides an effective delivery of service to our customers.

HOMESWEST, FOUR BEDROOM HOUSES

2653. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many four bedroom houses does Homeswest plan to construct in the 1998-99 financial year?
- (2) How many four bedroom houses did Homeswest construct/acquire in the 1997-98 financial year?
- (3) In relation to the answer to (2) above, in what suburbs were those houses acquired/constructed?
- (4) What is the total stock Homeswest has of four bedroom houses?
- (5) What was the total stock of four bedroom houses that Homeswest had in -
 - (a) the 1995-96 financial year;
 - (b) the 1996-97 financial year; and
 - (c) the 1997-98 financial year?

Dr HAMES replied:*

- (1) 162.
 - (2) 120.
 - (3) See the table below which lists the units constructed or purchased in each suburb/town during 1997/98 -
- FOUR BEDROOM BUILDING PROGRAM 1997/98

DISTRICT	F1	F6	CAP	CHP	TOTAL
ASHFIELD	4				4
BALCATTA	1				1
BALLAJURA	1				1
BASSENDEN	1			1	2
BEDFORD	2				2
CLARKSON	1				1
DOUBLEVIEW	4				4
EDEN HILL	1				1
ELLENBROOK	5				5
EMBLETON	1				1
GREENMOUNT	1				1
INNALOO	3	1			4
JOONDALUP	2				2
KIARA	1				1
MAYLANDS	4				4
MIDVALE			1		1
MUNDARING	1				1
NEERABUP	4				4
QUINNS ROCK	3				3
SCARBOROUGH	1				1
STRATTON	1				1
SWAN VIEW	2				2

TWO ROCKS	1				1
WOODVALE			1		1
BEELIAR	1				1
GREENFIELDS	5	1	1		7
HAMILTON HILL	1			2	3
HILTON	1				1
MANDURAH	1				1
PINJARRA	1				1
PORT KENNEDY	1				1
WAIKIKI	1				1
WARNBRO	6				6
WHITEGUM VALLEY	1				1
WILLAGEE	2		1		3
YANGEBUP	1				1
BENTLEY	1				1
CANNINGTON			1		1
FERNDAL	1				1
GOSNELLS	1				1
HIGH WYCOMBE	2				2
HUNTINGDALE	2				2
MADDINGTON	1				1
MANNING	2				2
REDCLIFFE			1		1
THORNLIE	1				1
ALBANY	3	2			5
DENMARK	2				2
KENDENUP		1			1
LAKE KING	1				1
NEWDEGATE	1				1
NARROGIN		1			1
TAMBELLUP		1			1
BRIDGETOWN	1				1
BUNBURY	4	1			5
BUSSELTON	1				1

CAREY PARK		1			1
MARGARET RIVER	1				1
BOULDER		1			1
ESPERANCE		1			1
KALGOORLIE	1				1
MUCHEA	1				1
CARNARVON	3	2			5
RANGEWAY		1			1
97/98 TOTAL	97	14	6	3	120

(4) As at 31 January 1999 Homeswest had 2262 four bedroom properties.

- (5)** (a) As at 30 June 1996 Homeswest had 2132 four bedroom properties.
 (b) As at 30 June 1997 Homeswest had 2160 four bedroom properties.
 (c) As at 30 June 1998 Homeswest had 2198 four bedroom properties.

* Excludes remote Aboriginal villages and community housing properties managed by community organisations.

** Please note the figures for (5) will not correlate exactly with the building program due to the varying completion dates of construction which may cross financial years.

BURSWOOD ISLAND, ASBESTOS DUMP

2671. Mr PENDAL to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the known asbestos dump on Burswood Island in the mid-1980s and identified on Main Roads Department design map 8231-370 and ask -

- (a) is it still the case that the proposed Northern bypass will pass over the dump;
 (b) has all asbestos been cleared from the site;
 (c) if so, at whose expense was it removed; and
 (d) if not, when will removal occur and at whose expense will it be done?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a)-(d) The alignment proposed in the 1982 Main Roads drawing referred to by the honourable member has since been superseded. The road now known as the Graham Farmer Freeway is currently being constructed north of the Perth-Armadale railway line.

HOMESWEST, STOCK

2672. Mr MARLBOROUGH to the Minister for Housing:

Will the Minister advise what the total Homeswest rental stock was as at -

- (a) 30 June 1996;
 (b) 30 June 1997;
 (c) 30 June 1998; and
 (d) 30 March 1999?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (a) 38,377.
 (b) 38,166.
 (c) 37,982.
 (d) 37,867.

* Excludes stock in remote Aboriginal villages which is managed by each community.

The reduction in the level of Homeswest stock is directly related to the expansion of the New Living Program from two projects in 1996 to seven projects. Members should be aware that Homeswest had, for many years, a large number of unlettable properties - mostly flats in high density areas such as Kwinana, Lockridge, Langford, Karawara, Girrawheen and Balga. By the end of the projects approximately 1000 units will have been demolished. The New Living Program has successfully turned around the level of demand in these areas, both in respect to public housing and private ownership. The

member for Peel is fully aware of the outstanding success of the Kwinana New Town Project and Homeswest is to be commended for its innovative New Living Program. Additionally, members will also be aware of the recent demolition of apartment complexes in New Living Project areas such as Kwinana and Balga. Members may have seen the media coverage of the "Brine Place" demolition which commenced in Balga recently. This complex consisted of 78 units of accommodation and this demolition will be closely followed by the demolition of "Narang" (18 units) and "Hunt Place" (48 units). The demolition of these complexes has reduced Homeswest's stock by some 144 units, many of which were vacant for some time. Further, in recent years Homeswest has assisted many of its tenants to make the transition from rental to home ownership through the Right to Buy and GoodStart Schemes. Since the introduction of the Right to Buy Scheme in December 1993, Homeswest has assisted in excess of 1,760 families to purchase a home of their own. Under the innovative GoodStart Home Loan Scheme introduced in August 1997 Homeswest has approved purchases for 729 families. These Schemes have enabled many families to achieve their goals of homeownership, reduced the drain on public housing and provided additional funds for the building program.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT, REPEAL

2688. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Fair Trading:

I refer to the proposal by the Government to seek parliamentary repeal of the Weights and Measures Act 1915 and to replace it with a Uniform Trade Measurement Act which will govern consumers' rights to receive their correct measure of goods and ask -

- (a) is it correct that the Minister intends to exempt from the provisions of the new Act the sale of beer, ale, stout and certain spirits;
- (b) is it correct that these provisions are included in the uniform legislation being enacted by all other mainland States;
- (c) why is Western Australia to be the only mainland State to exempt beer, ale, stout and certain spirits from the new legislation;
- (d) has the Minister discussed these exemptions with the Western Australian liquor industry;
- (e) does the Minister regard it as proper that he should preside over what is to be included and excluded from the legislation when he is, or has been part of, the industry to be exempted;
- (f) will the Minister inform the House of any other industry which has been given exemption under the proposed legislation;
- (g) has Cabinet agreed to the exemption of the liquor industry; and
- (h) if the liquor industry is to be exempted, and made the subject of self-regulation, why is not self-regulation to be introduced across the board for all other industries in Western Australia?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (a)-(h) The Ministry of Fair Trading is working on new legislation to replace the outdated Weights and Measures Act. As part of this process, the Ministry is consulting with interested stakeholders on a range of relevant issues, one of which is the sale of liquor. As the report is not completed, the Government has not yet considered any proposals in relation to the Ministry's current review of trade measurement legislation. In addition, I also advise that when matters relating to the liquor industry have been considered by Cabinet, I exclude myself from the discussions. Consistent with this principle, when this matter comes before Cabinet, I will once again excuse myself.

INDEC CONSULTING, MAIN ROADS WA CONTRACTS

2692. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Did the Minister in answer to question on notice No 1256 advise the House that in 1996 Indec Consulting had received consultancy contracts from the Main Roads Department to the following values -
 - (a) 1996 - \$13,881;
 - (b) 1997 - \$155,000 approximately; and
 - (c) 1998 - \$405,000 approximately?
- (2) If so, will the Minister explain why Indec Consultants are not listed in consultancy reports tabled in this Parliament as having any contracts with Main Roads in -
 - (i) 1996; and
 - (ii) 1997,
 and is listed as having only contracts to the value of \$6,240 in January to June 1998?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1)-(2) The information provided in response to question on notice 1256 was the number of contracts awarded to Indec Consulting in 1996, 1997 and 1998. In accordance with the Ministerial Statement by the Premier of 20 August 1996, many of the contracts with Indec Consulting were assessed as contracts for the provision of services generally, rather than consultancy arrangements in place to provide management advice to Government.

BREAST SCREENING, CANNINGTON CENTRE

2699. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Where will the permanent Cannington Centre for Breast Screening be located?
- (2) How many staff will it have?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Canning Town Hall, 1317 Albany Highway, Cannington.
- (2) Two.

CHILDBIRTH, STRESS AND DEPRESSION SERVICES

2700. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What services exist in the Thornlie/Gosnells area for women suffering post natal depression?
- (2) Is the publication *Childbirth, Stress and Depression* prepared for general practitioners and health professionals still in print?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Why was the Childbirth, Stress and Depression Project Western Australia defunded in 1998?
- (5) Who is responsible for the implementation of the recommendations for future directions contained in the report on *Childbirth, Stress and Depression (vol 2)*?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) The Health Department of Western Australia funds the Health Care House located in Gosnells to provide services to women with postnatal depression. Women with the most severe postnatal depression are seen by the Armadale/Kelmscott Mental Health Service.
- (2) No.
- (3) "Childbirth, Stress and Depression" is a final report of a Commonwealth funded demonstration project. It is customary to undertake only one print run in these circumstances unless there is extraordinary demand.
- (4) The Childbirth, Stress and Depression project was a time limited, Commonwealth funded demonstration project. Commonwealth funding for this project concluded in 1998.
- (5) The Report was a report to the Commonwealth. However, the Mental Health Division of the Health Department of Western Australia provides a range of services to treat postnatal depression. The Division is currently planning for the expansion of post natal depression services in Western Australia and the findings of the Childbirth, Stress and Depression are being taken into consideration in this process.

YANCHEP CAVES, LAKE LEVELS

2703. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Will the Minister explain what action has been taken to determine why the lakes in the Yanchep Caves are drying up?
- (2) Has the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) investigated the possibility of a link between the pine plantation in the area of the caves and the disappearance of the crystal lakes?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) If yes, what have these investigations revealed?
- (5) What explanation can CALM give for the lakes in the Yanchep Caves drying up?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) CALM has consulted extensively with the Water and Rivers Commission on this matter. The fundamental cause of the situation is the long period of below average rainfall that we are experiencing. This has led to reduced recharge of the aquifers that feed the lakes.
- (2) Yes, in consultation with Water and Rivers Commission.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4)-(5) The existence of a large area of unthinned pine plantation to the east of the caves has further reduced aquifer recharge. For the last two years, to the extent that commercial markets allow, CALM has been progressively thinning these plantations. After consultation with the Water and Rivers Commission, CALM has taken steps to concentrate thinning activities in the cave recharge area. Most of the area will have been thinned by July 2000.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

2710. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Is the Government prepared to implement a scheme under which youth unemployment is eliminated by offering school leavers a guaranteed job for a period of time, say three years, on a fixed wage?
- (2) Is the Minister prepared to consider such a scheme given that it could provide valuable training, job experience, employment stability and confidence in young people and make a significant contribution to redressing some of the social problems that exist today?
- (3) Will the Minister raise this matter with the Prime Minister with a view to obtaining Commonwealth financial assistance?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1)-(2) One serious problem with a simple guarantee program is the message it sends to young people who might otherwise be successful in the job market. In the future world of work, enterprising skills will be critical for success and a guarantee scheme would almost certainly diminish young people's skills in this area. The labour market is complex and changing at a rapid rate. This Government is committed to preparing our young people for the exciting future world of work. The Access All Areas initiative aims to provide young Western Australians with a positive message about the range of options available to them. It is supported by a range of programs and initiatives that help young people come to grips with the new world of work, such things as dealing with home based businesses, managing a number of part time jobs in a way that builds a desired portfolio of skills, moving into the new knowledge based industries and focusing on a desirable lifestyle and how to achieve it given the skills currently possessed and those required. This Government believes in the innate ability of our young people and does not want to send a message that they need the Government to provide them with a job because they will be unable to get one themselves. The Commonwealth Government provides a safety net type program through its Work for the Dole initiative. It is currently seeking to expand this initiative and I have suggested changes they may wish to consider which would enhance the initiative.
- (3) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEVEL TWO EMPLOYEES

2757. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

In relation to the employment status of Level Two employees of the agencies falling within the Attorney General's responsibility -

- (a) what was the total number of Level Two employees at each agency as at 20 April 1999; and
- (b) of these employees, how many were -
 - (i) permanent full time;
 - (ii) permanent part time; and
 - (iii) on short term contract?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply:

Ministry of Justice:

- | | | |
|-----|-------|-----|
| (a) | 648 | |
| (b) | (i) | 398 |
| | (ii) | 46 |
| | (iii) | 49 |

The difference in employee numbers includes 42 casual, 4 timesheet, 1 supernumerary with the balance of 108 employees engaged in contracts greater than three months.

Crown Solicitor:

- | | | |
|-----|-------|----|
| (a) | 20 | |
| (b) | (i) | 16 |
| | (ii) | 1 |
| | (iii) | 3 |

Law Reform Commission of WA, Office of the Information Commissioner, Solicitor General:

- | | |
|-----|-----------------|
| (a) | Nil. |
| (b) | (i)-(iii) |
| | Not applicable. |

Director of Public Prosecutions

- | | | |
|-----|-------|----|
| (a) | 22 | |
| (b) | (i) | 18 |
| | (ii) | 0 |
| | (iii) | 4 |

Legal Aid:

- (a) 43
- (b) (i) 29
- (ii) 5
- (iii) 9

Ministry for Culture and the Arts:

- (a) 124 Level 2 employees (including 13 casuals)
- (b) (i) 71
- (ii) 11
- (iii) 21 short term contract (less than 12 months)
- 8 short term contract (12 months or greater)

Commissioner for Equal Opportunity:

- (a) 1
- (b) (i) None.
- (ii) 1
- (iii) None.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEVEL TWO EMPLOYEES

2760. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for the Environment; Labour Relations:

In relation to the employment status of Level Two employees of the agencies falling within the Minister's responsibility -

- (a) what was the total number of Level Two employees at each agency as at 20 April 1999; and
- (b) of these employees, how many were -
 - (i) permanent full time;
 - (ii) permanent part time; and
 - (iii) on short term contract?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

Department of the Registrar, Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission:

- (a) 21
- (b) (i) 15
- (ii) 1
- (iii) 5

WorkCover WA:

- (a) 20
- (b) (i) 18
- (ii) 2
- (iii) Nil

WorkSafe Western Australia:

- (a) 18
- (b) (i) 15
- (ii) 3
- (iii) Nil

Commissioner for Workplace Agreements:

- (a) 2
- (b) (i) 2 (one on secondment and one on leave without pay)
- (ii)-(iii) Nil

Perth Zoo:

- (a) 5
- (b) (i) 5
- (ii)-(iii) Nil

Kings Park and Botanic Garden:

- (a) 19
- (b) (i) 13
- (ii) Nil
- (iii) 6

Department of Environmental Protection:

- (a) 29
- (b) (i) 22
- (ii) 3
- (iii) 4

Department of Productivity and Labour Relations:

- (a) 30
- (b) (i) 12
- (ii) 4
- (iii) 14

Department of Conservation and Land Management:

- (a) 215
 (b) (i) 114
 (ii) 13
 (iii) 61

HOSPITALS, HIP REPLACEMENTS AND CATARACT OPERATIONS

2784. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

(1) How many hip replacements have been undertaken on public patients in -

- (a) 1997;
 (b) 1998; and
 (c) to 31 March 1999,

at

- (i) Royal Perth Hospital;
 (ii) Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital;
 (iii) Fremantle Hospital; and
 (iv) Joondalup Hospital?

(2) How many specialised surgeons were involved in these operations in each of the years mentioned in (1) above?

(3) How many cataract operations have been undertaken on public patients in -

- (a) 1997;
 (b) 1998; and
 (c) to 31 March 1999,

at

- (i) Royal Perth Hospital;
 (ii) Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital;
 (iii) Fremantle Hospital; and
 (iv) Joondalup Hospital?

(4) How many specialised surgeons were involved in these operations in each of the years mentioned in (3) above?

Mr DAY replied:

(1) (a)-(c) Number of Total Hip Replacements

	Royal Perth Hospital	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	Fremantle Hospital	Joondalup Hospital
Calendar year 1997	148	199	184	0
Calendar year 1998	177	249	178	28
3 months ended 31st March 1999	28	54	37	18

(2) Number of specialised surgeons involved in the hip replacements

	Royal Perth Hospital	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	Fremantle Hospital	Joondalup Hospital
Calendar year 1997	11	16	6	Nil
Calendar year 1998	13	8	7	5
3 months ended 31st March 1999	10	8	6	4

(3) (a)-(c) Number of cataract operations

	Royal Perth Hospital	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	Fremantle Hospital	Joondalup Hospital
Calendar year 1997	411	400	293	69
Calendar year 1998	414	257	205	188
3 months ended 31st March 1999	140	130	95	80

(4) Number of specialised surgeons involved in the cataract operations

	Royal Perth Hospital	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	Fremantle Hospital	Joondalup Hospital
Calendar year 1997	12	6	8	4
Calendar year 1998	11	3	6	5
3 months ended 31st March 1999	10	3	6	3

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND TRADE, CP RESOURCING CONTRACT

2791. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) On what date did the Department of Trade enter into a contract with CP Resourcing to provide specialist professional services to the Department?
- (2) Since that date how many contracts have the Department entered into with CP Resourcing?
- (3) What is the total amount paid to CP Resourcing for the provision of these professional services?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) On 13 May 1996, the State Supply Commission accepted the tender from CP Resourcing Pty Ltd for the "Employment and Provision of Specialist Services for the Department of Commerce and Trade" during the period from 15 June 1996 to 30 June 1997 with two further twelve month options.
- (2) One, for the "Provision of Events Management Services".
- (3) \$5 141 118 for the period 15 June 1996 to 21 April 1999.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND TRADE, CP RESOURCING CONTRACT

2795. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

In relation to the contract which CP Resourcing has with the Department of Commerce and Trade to provide a Project Director for the Jervoise Bay Project -

- (a) did the Project Director travel overseas to Norway and the United Kingdom soon after the contract was signed;
- (b) who paid for the trip;
- (c) what was the total cost of the trip;
- (d) did the expenses include meals and accommodation;
- (e) was a travel allowance paid;
- (f) was this type of travel provided for in the contract, and if so, will the Minister table the relevant section of the contract; and
- (g) did the Minister give his approval for this trip, and if yes, will he table the approval form?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The Department of Commerce and Trade.
- (c) \$8 668
- (d) Yes.
- (e) No.
- (f) The contract with CP Resourcing provides "for travel and accommodation cost outside of the Perth Metropolitan area to be reimbursed in accordance with public sector rates and guidelines provided these costs have been approved by the Department [of Commerce and Trade]".
- (g) I was advised of the proposed overseas travel and gave verbal approval.

ROAD SAFETY, USE OF YELLOW LINE

2796. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Government considered the use of a yellow line painted down one side of the road to indicate that it is a one way road or painted down the centre of the road to indicate that it is a two way road?
- (2) Is the Government aware that this is a system used in the United States of America to improve safety?
- (3) If so, what has the Government decided to do about this issue?
- (4) Is the Minister going to implement this system or a similar system to improve safety on our roads?
- (5) If so, when?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1)-(5) In Australia with typical asphalt seals, white paint gives maximum contrast under all weather conditions. Main Roads' current road marking practices generally follow the Australian Standards which specify the colour white.

Adherence to the Australian Standards ensures that road markings are uniform at a National level. Main Roads currently uses a yellow line to define bus bays and rail level crossings. The proposed new Australian Road Rules include the use of kerbside yellow line to designate "No Stopping/Standing". The adoption of yellow edgelines to denote direction of travel could therefore be misleading. I am aware of the use of yellow lines in some (not all) American States particularly on light-coloured concrete roads. However, I am advised that tests have revealed that yellow fades rapidly and the night time reflectivity is about half of that white lining when new. On dual carriageways with very wide medians, supplementary road markings and signs are provided to indicate the direction of travel. Main Roads is currently seeking further information about the safety aspects of the US colour-coded linemarking from contacts at the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

MULLEWA HOSPITAL, UPGRADE

2803. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will the Minister advise how much has been allocated to upgrade the Mullewa Hospital?
- (2) What work will be carried out with the upgrade?
- (3) On average, how many patients does the Mullewa Hospital have?
- (4) What area does the Mullewa Hospital cater for?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) \$542,000.
- (2) The project consists of alterations to the existing hospital to incorporate Community Health Service functions (community nursing, therapies, consulting rooms) within the hospital building and to relocate the main reception area and x-ray dark room to improve functional relationships. A palliative care area is also being provided.
- (3) 5.99 is the average bed occupancy for the financial year 1998/1999 as at 31 March 1999?
- (4) Approximately 54,000sq km around Mullewa.

TOURISTS, LANGUAGE NEEDS

2832. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Is the -
 - (a) Government; and/or
 - (b) Western Australian Tourism Commission;
 aware of the approximate number or percentage of tourists that visit Western Australia each year who do not speak or cannot communicate in English?
- (2) Has the -
 - (a) Government; and/or
 - (b) Western Australian Tourism Commission;
 developed any policies or services that will assist tourists who have little or no English language skills?
- (3) Has the -
 - (a) Government; and/or
 - (b) Western Australian Tourism Commission;
 sought the advice or assistance of the Office of Citizenship and Multicultural Interests in developing a language policy?
- (4) What assistance has the -
 - (a) Government; and/or
 - (b) Western Australian Tourism Commission;
 received from the Office of Citizenship and Multicultural Interests in developing such a policy?
- (5) What steps has the Western Australian Tourism Commission taken to alert local tourist bureaus to the possible language needs of overseas tourists who may have difficulty with English?
- (6) Does the Western Australian Tourism Commission employ individuals with language skills other than English?
- (7) If so, what language skills are readily available to the Commission and what standard are those language skills?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1)-(3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.

- (5) None.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) Language skills available in the WATC include:

Hindi	Cantonese
Bengali	Bahasa Indonesian
French	Bahasa Malaysian
Spanish	Dutch
Italian	Thai
German	Vietnamese
Japanese	Mandarin
Sign Language	

Skill levels range from fluent to basic.

BUILDERS REGISTRATION BOARD, APPOINTMENTS

2834. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Fair Trading:

- (1) When were each of the following appointed to the Builder's Registration Board -
- (i) Jan Thomson; and
- (ii) Mark Cornell?
- (2) in respect to each what qualifications or experience was taken into account in making that appointment?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) (i) Ms Thomson was first appointed on 1 April 1996 and reappointed on 1 April 1999 for a period of three years.
- (ii) Mr Cornell was first appointed on 1 April 1996 and reappointed on 1 April 1999 for a period of three years.
- (2) (i) Ms Thomson has had practical experience as an owner builder, and has been involved in the building of two homes, one on a pastoral property and one in Busselton, as well as the renovation of a city property. She has also served on a number of community committees and has been active in organisations such as Meals on Wheels.
- (ii) Mr Cornell has a varied commercial background and served on a number of Boards in South Africa from 1986 to 1990. He also served as a City Councillor, Deputy Mayor and Mayor of Pietermaritzburg in South Africa from 1981 to 1990.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, FACILITIES MANAGERS

2835. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Services:

- (1) Further to question on notice No 1979 of 1999, what is the date on which each of the contracts with the Facilities Managers concludes?
- (2) What was the total amount purchased by each Facilities Manager in -
- (a) 1995-96;
- (b) 1996-97; and
- (c) 1997-98 financial years?

Mr BOARD replied:

I am advised that:

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| (1) | P&O Facilities Management | Expiry: 30 June 1999 <i>plus</i> 2 x 2 year options |
| | CJJP | Expiry: 30 June 1999 <i>plus</i> 2 x 2 year options |
| | Chiefton Management | Expiry: 30 June 1999 <i>plus</i> 2 x 2 year options |
| | Serco Australia | Expiry: 30 June 1999 <i>plus</i> 2 x 2 year options |
| | Transfield Maintenance | Expiry: 30 June 1999 <i>plus</i> 2 x 2 year options |
| (2) | (a) 1995-96 financial year | |
| | P&O Facilities Management | \$ 3,636,107 |
| | CJJP | \$ 4,673,226 |
| | Chiefton Management | \$ 1,437,296 |
| | Serco Australia | \$ 5,266,428 |
| | Transfield Maintenance | \$ 4,757,908 |
| | (b) 1996-97 financial year | |
| | P&O Facilities Management | \$ 6,026,719 |
| | CJJP | \$ 5,403,287 |
| | Chiefton Management | \$ 8,371,714 |

Serco Australia	\$ 17,055,035
Transfield Maintenance	\$ 15,220,317
(c) 1997-98 financial year	
P&O Facilities Management	\$ 6,831,147
CJJP	\$ 6,268,520
Chiefton Management	\$ 8,729,233
Serco Australia	\$ 18,271,399
Transfield Maintenance	\$ 14,464,134

CRIME, CAUSES

2836. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

(1) Further to question on notice No 2497 of 1999, does the -

- (a) Government; and
- (b) Minister;

accept as fact the factors described by the Select Committee on Crime Prevention including socio-economic factors such as poverty and social disadvantage as a cause of crime?

(2) If not, why not?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

(1) No.

(2) The Government accepts that socio-economic factors such as poverty and social disadvantage are risk factors, which are associated with anti-social and criminal behaviour but which are not causal factors in themselves. Because the roots of criminal offending are complex and cumulative, embedded in social as well as personal histories it is not appropriate to give individual factors the status of direct cause.

RAILWAYS, JOHN HOLLAND CONTRACT

2845. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that rail maintenance company John Holland is likely to be sold to Henry Walker and Co?
- (2) Has the Minister obtained any legal advice as to the likely impact of this change of ownership on the contract to John Holland for the maintenance of rail infrastructure?
- (3) If yes, what is the impact that is expected?
- (4) Will Government approval be required for the sale of the contract?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) I understand that the Company John Holland Construction and Engineering Pty Ltd has been withdrawn from the market and is no longer for sale.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

TP COMMUNICATIONS, COST OF CONSULTANCY

2846. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Fair Trading:

I refer to the answer given to question on notice No 1538 of 1998 and ask -

- (a) what was the final cost of the consultancy provided by TP Communications;
- (b) has this company yet produced a report of its findings;
- (c) has this report yet been presented to the Builders Registration Board;
- (d) will the Minister table a copy of this report; and
- (e) if not, why not?

Mr SHAVE replied:

(a) \$5420:

\$3600 as a Media Consultant, to assist the Board in the preparation of media statements.

\$1820 to advise regarding the flow of information that may be of interest to the Board's various stakeholders.

(b)-(c) No.

- (d) Yes. The Registrar has indicated the Board will receive a report from TP Communication by 27 May 1999. I will table the report as soon as possible after that time.
- (e) Not applicable.

MINISTRY OF FAIR TRADING, MR TONY KYRIACOU

2847. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Fair Trading:

- (1) Aside from standard holiday and weekly salary entitlements, what sums were paid to Mr Tony Kyriacou at the conclusion of his employment with the Ministry of Fair Trading in 1997?
- (2) For what purposes were these payments made?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1)-(2) In addition to standard holiday and salary entitlements, Mr Kyriacou was paid a gross sum of \$9,000 less normal taxation and deductions. This was an all inclusive sum which was agreed with Mr Kyriacou.

BUS PURCHASES, FEDERAL FUNDING

2848. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Excluding the CAT buses, how many of the current bus fleet have been purchased with the assistance of Federal funding?
- (2) In respect to these buses and to the CAT buses, were any restrictions placed by the Federal Government on the disposal of the buses?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) 57.
- (2) No.

ATHLETICA, FUNDING

2849. Mr McGOWAN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport:

I refer to the Athletica Organisation and ask -

- (a) what is the head office address of Athletica;
- (b) how long has Athletica occupied these premises;
- (c) who is the Chairperson of Athletica;
- (d) what level of State funding does Athletica receive per annum;
- (e) does the State Government contribute to the rent of Athletica in these premises;
- (f) how many employees does Athletica have; and
- (g) what are their names?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

- (a) Suite 85, Plaistowe Mews, West Perth.
- (b) The lease was signed on 1 November 1996.
- (c) Mr Peter Bacich.
- (d) AthleticA is a State sporting association which is required to annually submit a Business Plan to the Ministry of Sport and Recreation. AthleticA received financial support for their Business Plan of \$150,000. In addition, this year AthleticA received two specific purpose grants for Officiating (\$5,000) and for the Country Sport Enrichment Scheme (\$4,048).
- (e) No.
- (f) Three.
- (g) Chilla Porter, Wayne Loxley and Charlie Merinda.

ABORIGINES, SACRED SITES

2854. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) Since the Court Government came to power, how many sacred Aboriginal sites have been saved by the Government?

- (2) How many sites have been damaged or desecrated or destroyed since the Government came to power?
- (3) Is there a record showing the sites that have been saved and those damaged, desecrated or destroyed?
- (4) What does that record show?
- (5) Where is the record kept?
- (6) As Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, is it your responsibility under the Aboriginal Heritage Act to protect Aboriginal sites for the benefit of all in the community?
- (7) Do you intend to carry out that responsibility insofar as it relates to the Pyrton site in Eden Hill?
- (8) If so in what way?
- (9) If not, why not?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1)-(5) The answering of these questions will require significant staff resources which I am not prepared to allocate at this stage. If the member has a specific question about a particular site then I would be prepared to allocate the resources to provide an answer.
- (6)-(7) Yes.
- (8) I will make a decision regarding a notice to use the land under Section 18 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act, if and when received.
- (9) Not applicable.

WORKSAFE WA, SAFETY AND HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES

2859. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) How many people were elected as Safety and Health representatives according to the receipt of "Form 3"s by WorkSafe in each of the years from 1988 to 1998 inclusive ?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The statutory requirement to notify the WorkSafe Western Australia Commissioner of a person's election as a safety and health representative under the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984* was introduced in October 1995. The annual number of notifications of election as a safety and health representative are as follows:

1995	336 (part year)
1996	2767
1997	2576
1998	3804

DRIVING TESTS, SENIORS

2866. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Department of Transport still considering the introduction of compulsory driving tests for Western Australian drivers eighty years old and above?
- (2) When will these tests be introduced?
- (3) What will these tests consist of?
- (4) Why is this policy being considered?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) All States with the exception of Victoria and the Northern Territory require some form of periodic testing of elderly drivers. In 1989 Western Australia changed the testing requirements for drivers over the age of 75 years so that a driving test was not required until age 85. There is no current consideration being given to reduce the age at which elderly drivers are required to undergo the driving test. However, AUSTROADS are funding a two year project relating to the re-testing of elderly drivers and will be making recommendations on this issue for consideration by the States.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

BATAVIA COAST CARAVAN PARK, GERALDTON, ACCESS

2867. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Minister examined the possibility of public transport access to the Batavia Coast Caravan Park in Geraldton?

- (2) If yes, what was the outcome?
- (3) If no, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)-(3) It is proposed to operate a trial bus service from the Batavia Coast Caravan Park to Geraldton for a period of eight weeks to establish the level of demand. Should the trial prove successful then a more permanent service will be considered. However, should there not be adequate patronage during the trial service period it will be withdrawn.

SAW ROAD-SOUTH WESTERN HIGHWAY INTERSECTION, VEHICLE NOISE

2869. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that residents near the Saw Road intersection with the South Western Highway have complained about the noise created by vehicles, particularly heavy vehicles and motor cycles, travelling without mufflers?
- (2) What measures will the Minister take to reduce the noise in this residential area?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)
 - (i) Patrols of South Western Highway near Saw Road are being undertaken by the Cannington District Traffic Support Group, to ensure the speed of all vehicles utilising South Western Highway do not exceed the posted speed limit of 60 km/h.
 - (ii) Any heavy vehicles or motorcycles detected in the immediate vicinity of Saw Road, and the local area in general, that do not conform to the Vehicle Standards Regulations in relation to emitted noise levels, will result in the issue of the appropriate work order to the user/owner.
 - (iii) The installation on South West Highway, of a single sign encouraging drivers of heavy vehicles not to use exhaust brakes whilst descending towards the Albany Highway/Armadale Road intersection is being investigated. This request is currently being appraised by Main Roads, Western Australia.

ABORIGINES, SWIMMING POOLS IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES

2880. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What are the particular health problems that will be improved in Aboriginal children by the provision of swimming pools in remote Aboriginal communities?
- (2) What is the source of the funds for the provision of swimming pools in remote Aboriginal communities?
- (3) Have any funds been allocated for ongoing monitoring of these health conditions?
- (4) If the answer to (3) above is yes -
 - (a) what is the source of the funds for the monitoring;
 - (b) who will conduct the monitoring;
 - (c) over what period will the monitoring take place; and
 - (d) how will the success or failure of the package be assessed;
- (5) If the answer to (3) above is no -
 - (a) why not; and
 - (b) how will the success or failure of the package be assessed?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Ear, eye and skin infections.
- (2) State Treasury - Special Project.
- (3) Yes.
- (4)
 - (a) State Treasury - Special Project.
 - (b) Institute for Child Health Research at Princess Margaret Hospital.
 - (c) Pre and post installation surveys will be conducted at one year intervals.
 - (d) Improved health, the results of monitoring study, attendance rates at school due to "No School - No Pool" policy, reduced levels of vandalism to community facilities and greater social cohesion.
- (5) Not applicable.

CRIME STATISTICS, APRIL 1999

2886. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Police:

For the month of April 1999 inclusive, what was the number of -

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

reported in the following areas -

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

Mr PRINCE replied:

		(a)	(b)	(c)
	Locality	No. Of Burglary (Dwellings)	Clearances of Burglary (Dwellings)	No Of Vehicle Theft
(i)	South Hedland	48	21	8
(ii)	Port Hedland	4	7	-
(iii)	Marble Bar	-	1	1
(iv)	Nullagine	-	-	-
(v)	Hall's Creek	1	1	1
(vi)	Wiluna	1	1	-
(vii)	Karratha	8	8	6
(viii)	Wickham	-	-	-
(ix)	Roebourne	2	2	-
(x)	Tom Price	6	4	-
(xi)	Paraburdoo	1	3	-
(xii)	Newman	1	1	6
(xiii)	Carnarvon	13	16	2
(xiv)	Geraldton	31	33	2

The Police Service statistical database cannot show which of the offences reported in April were also cleared in April. Accordingly, the above statistics represent offences of burglary (dwelling) cleared (generally), in the month of April, for each nominated locality only.

EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION CENTRE, BUNBURY

2889. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of proposals to provide an Exhibition and Convention Centre in Bunbury?
- (2) Will the Minister allocate part of the funds allocated to the Perth Convention Centre to this project?

(3) If not why not?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) No.

(3) Funds have been specifically allocated to the Perth Exhibition and Convention Centre and private sector developers have responded to the Expressions of Interest for this project on that basis.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE, RETIREMENT POLICY

2903. Mr McGOWAN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

(1) Will the Minister confirm that as of 1 July 1999 Justices of the Peace who are aged 70 or over will not be able to preside in court or perform judicial duties and JPs aged 75 or over will effectively be forcibly retired?

(2) If yes -

(a) how many JPs will be retired from court duties and how many will be retired altogether as a result of this new retirement policy; and

(b) did the Minister consult with the Royal Association of Justices before making his decision; and

(c) will the Minister outline what measures are being taken to fill the vacant JP positions to be created by his decision at the Central Law Courts, East Perth lock-up and Curtin House?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following response:

(1) The following policy is effective now however in order to allow for the adjustment of Justice of the Peace rosters, a period of grace until 1 July 1999 is allowed as required.

1.1 Justices of the Peace cease presiding in court (includes hearing Prison Act offences) at age 70 years.

1.2 In exceptional circumstances in country areas justices over 70 years may preside, however they must not be over 75 years old.

1.3 Justices will continue to exercise all the powers and responsibilities as provided for under legislation (save for 1 above) until the age of 75 years.

1.4 Justices will cease to exercise duties after age 75 years with the exception that they will *continue to be able to attest/sign/witness*, affidavits, statutory declarations, wills, summonses and complaints and documents generally requiring witnessing. Justices of the Peace 75 years and over *will not be able* to sign, search warrants, admit persons to bail, warrants, or generally exercise powers in respect to judicial or quasi-judicial matters.

(2) (a) Active Justices of the Peace under 70 years are 2485, over 70 years and under 75 years 322, and over 75 years 400.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is believed that there are sufficient Justices of the Peace to fulfil the duties required. In addition a survey will shortly be sent to all Justices of the Peace with a view to encouraging greater participation.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE, DUTIES

2904. Mr McGOWAN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

(1) Will the Minister outline the duties currently performed by Justices of the Peace at the Central Law Courts and for police at East Perth lock-up and Curtin House?

(2) Will the Minister say how many JPs are currently rostered to work at the Central Law Courts, Curtin House and East Perth lock-up and how many of these JPs are aged over 70?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following response:

(1) In the Central Law Courts Justices of the Peace ordinarily undertake duties associated with bail, witnessing/attesting documents and complaints and presiding "in-court" on restraining order and traffic matters. At the East Perth Lock-up and at Curtin House Justices of the Peace are primarily called upon to process bail matters, consider and issue warrants and search warrants, witness complaints and issues summonses.

(2) An analysis of the rosters prepared by the Royal Association of Justices of WA indicates that there are 46 individual Justices of the Peace rostered of whom 13 are over 70 years old.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE, COUNTRY AREAS

2905. Mr McGOWAN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

Will the Minister say -

- (a) how many Justices of the Peace live in regional Western Australia;
- (b) how many JPs living in regional areas are aged 70 or over; and
- (c) whether country JPs aged over 70 will, in exceptional circumstances, be able to preside in court?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following response:

- (a) 1404
- (b) 248
- (c) Yes. See *Question on Notice 2903 (1)*.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE, RETIREMENT POLICY

2906. Mr McGOWAN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has an investigation been conducted to determine the impact of forcibly retiring Justices of the Peaces will have upon regional areas as well as staffing levels and the proper execution of duties in the courts and for police?
- (2) If the answer to (1) above is yes -
 - (a) what were the main findings of the report;
 - (b) will the Minister table the report; and
 - (c) if no, what is the reason an investigation was not undertaken?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following response:

- (1) The requirement for Justices of the Peace to retire from bench duties has been policy since April 1983. As the recently introduced policy is a refinement of an already existing policy, no investigation was undertaken. There will be limited impact on regional areas as, of the 1404 active Justices of the Peace in regional areas, 121 are between 70 and 75, and will still be able to play an active role, and 126 Justices of the Peace are over 75 years.
- (2) (a)-(b) Not applicable.
(c) See (1)

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE, RETIREMENT POLICY

2908. Mr McGOWAN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Will extra magistrates be appointed before 1 July 1999, to perform the duties that will no longer be able to be performed by JPs in the wake of your decision?
- (2) If yes, how many and what is the expected cost?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following response:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE, UNPAID WORK

2909. Mr McGOWAN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Will the Minister confirm that the Justice Ministry sent a letter dated 15 April 1999 to the Royal Association of Justices Western Australia asking the Association to provide a Justice of the Peace to work "in an unpaid capacity" on weekdays, from 9.30am to 5.00pm, 10 May to 21 May at the Central Law Courts (Level 3)?
- (2) If the answer to (1) above is yes -
 - (a) has this occurred before;
 - (b) on how many occasions;
 - (c) why aren't Ministry officials seconded to fill these vacancies; and
 - (d) does the Minister think it is appropriate, in light of his policy to forcibly retire JPs based on age, that the Ministry seek a JP to work full-time, without any remuneration?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) (a) Yes.
- (b) On one previous occasion.
- (c) Ministry of Justice officers do not ordinarily hold the appointment of justice of the peace.
- (d) The request was made on the basis that a justice of the peace be provided to undertake 'justice of the peace' duties only. There was no intention that the Justices of the Peace undertake any other role.

SPORT AND RECREATION, PROJECTS IN THE WHEATBELT

2912. Mr McGOWAN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Did the following projects commence in the Wheatbelt region in 1998-99 -
 - (a) construction of a 25 metre pool in the Shire of Dalwallinu;
 - (b) construction of a multi-purpose community centre in the Shire of York; and
 - (c) upgrade of the clubrooms at the pool in the Shire of Moora?
- (2) If the answer to (1) above is yes -
 - (a) on what date did the project commence;
 - (b) what is the estimated cost of the project;
 - (c) who has been contracted for the project;
 - (d) when is the estimated date of completion; and
 - (e) if completed, when was it completed and what was the final cost?
- (3) If the answer to (1) above is no -
 - (a) when will the project commence; and
 - (b) why did it not commence in 1998-99?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

- (1) (a) Yes.
- (b) No.
- (c) Yes.
- (2) Response relates to 1(a).
 - (a) August 1998.
 - (b) \$484 000.
 - (c) Aqua Vinyl Pools.
 - (d) Not applicable.
 - (e) December 1998 and \$572 000.
 Response relates to 1(c).
 - (a) April 1999.
 - (b) \$140 000.
 - (c) Spadaccini Bros.
 - (d) July 1999.
 - (e) Not applicable.
- (3) Response relates to 1(b).
 - (a) Still to be determined.
 - (b) Community called for a re-appraisal of the original concept and they are finalising the plans for the new concept.

SPORT AND RECREATION, PROJECTS IN GREAT SOUTHERN

2913. Mr McGOWAN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Did the following projects commence in the Great Southern region in 1998-99 -
 - (a) establishment of an indoor equestrian arena in Albany;
 - (b) extension of the Albany Bowling Club; and
 - (c) reticulation of sports grounds in the Shire of Tambellup?
- (2) If the answer to (1) above is yes -
 - (a) on what date did the project commence;
 - (b) what is the estimated cost of the project;
 - (c) who has been contracted for the project;
 - (d) when is the estimated date of completion; and
 - (e) if completed, when was it completed and what was the final cost?
- (3) If the answer to (1) above is no -
 - (a) when will the project commence; and
 - (b) why did it not commence in 1998-99?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

- (1) (a) The establishment commenced in September 1996.
- (b)-(c) Yes.

- (2) Response relates to 1(a)
 (a) The project commenced in September 1996. Stage 2 commenced in 1998/99
 (b) Stage 2 = \$72 000
 (c) Kusters
 (d) November 2000

- Response relates to 1(b)
 (a) October 1998
 (b) \$80 000
 (c) WJ Builders
 (d) June 1999

- Response relates to 1(c)
 (a) January 1999
 (b) \$120 000
 (c) Contract not decided
 (d) December 1999

- (3) (a)-(b) Not applicable.

SPORT AND RECREATION, PROJECTS IN PEEL REGION

2914. Mr McGOWAN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Did the following projects commence in the Peel region in 1998-99 -
 (a) construction of the City of Mandurah for the Halls Head Sport and Community Hall; and
 (b) upgrade of the sport and recreation ground at Fairbridge?
- (2) If the answer to (1) above is yes -
 (a) on what date did the project commence;
 (b) what is the estimated cost of the project;
 (c) who has been contracted for the project;
 (d) when is the estimated date of completion; and
 (e) if completed, when was it completed and what was the final cost?
- (3) If the answer to (1) above is no -
 (a) when will the project commence; and
 (b) why did it not commence in 1998-99?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

- (1) (a) No.
 (b) Yes.
- (2) Response relates to 1(b)
 (a) January 1999.
 (b) \$156 000.
 (c) Managed by Fairbridge WA with the work being undertaken by MD Rea Pty Ltd (Building Contractor) and Heritage and Conservation Professionals (Architects).
 (d) June 1999.
 (e) Not applicable.
- (3) Response relates to 1(a)
 (a) 1999/2000
 (b) The delay has been due to the City of Mandurah seeking negotiations with the Education Department of Western Australia on a joint use facility between the City and the Halls Head Middle School. This opportunity arose following the application for funding.

SPORT AND RECREATION, PROJECTS IN MID WEST REGION

2915. Mr McGOWAN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Did the following projects commence in the Mid West region in 1998-99 -
 (a) upgrade of sport and recreation facilities in the Shire of Wiluna;
 (b) relocation of the Geraldton Police and Citizens' Youth Club; and
 (c) establishment of a skate board facility in Geraldton?
- (2) If the answer to (1) above is yes -
 (a) on what date did the project commence;
 (b) what is the estimated cost of the project;
 (c) who has been contracted for the project;
 (d) when is the estimated date of completion; and
 (e) if completed, when was it completed and what was the final cost?
- (3) If the answer to (1) above is no -
 (a) when will the project commence; and
 (b) why did it not commence in 1998-99?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

- (1) (a)-(c) No.
- (2) (a)-(e) Not applicable.
- (3) Response relates to 1(a)
 - (a) 1999/2000
 - (b) The Shire of Wiluna was unable to service the loan to support the project in 1998/99.
- Response relates to 1(b)
 - (a) 1999/2000
 - (b) The design of the facility was significantly changed.
- Response relates to 1(c)
 - (a) 1999/2000
 - (b) A change of vesting orders on the land and further research was taken in response to community feedback on the site of the project.

BOAT OWNERS, REGISTRATION FEES

2922. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Are boat owners required to pay a registration fee?
- (2) How much is the registration fee?
- (3) What was the amount of the registration fee in February 1993?
- (4) What is the total amount collected through the registration fee?
- (5) How much of the total amount collected has been allocated to
 - (a) volunteer rescue groups; and
 - (b) the Police Sea Rescue facility?
- (6) How much has been spent on works and facilities in developments like -
 - (a) Port Geographe;
 - (b) the Exmouth Marina;
 - (c) Ascot Waters in Belmont; and
 - (d) others?
- (7) Will the Minister seriously consider reducing or eliminating the fees charged for dinghy type boats (ie those up to say 3.7m (12ft)) in view of the fact that they do not require very expensive facilities as do larger boats?
- (8) Has the Government/Minister taken up with the Federal Government the matter of sales tax exemption on EPERBs and other mandatory marine safety equipment as is supported in your letter Ref: 576373 of 17 June 1997?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes. Provided the vessel is propelled by mechanical power and is not a tender.
- (2) Annual Registration fees are based on the overall length of the vessel as follows:

- less than 5 metres	\$49.00
- 5 metres to 9.99 metres	\$96.00
- 10 metres to 19.99 metres	\$179.00
- 20 metres and over	\$245.00
- (3) In February 1993 the schedule of Fees were as follows:

- less than 5 metres	\$27.00
- 5 metres and over but less than 10 metres	\$54.00
- 10 metres and over but less than 20 metres	\$101.00
- 20 metres and over	\$138.00
- (4) For the 1997/98 financial year the total amount collected was \$3 712 983.
- (5) (a)-(b) Nil.
- (6)
 - (a) Port Geographe is a private development and hence no funds collected from boat registration fees have been spent by Transport on this facility.
 - (b) The Exmouth Marina has been funded through Transport's capital works program and hence no funds collected from boat registration fees have been spent by Transport on this facility.
 - (c) Ascot Waters is a private development and hence no funds collected from boat registration fees have been spent by Transport on this facility.
 - (d) \$448 470 has been allocated for 13 projects in 1998 through the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme.

This scheme, established in 1998 from increased boat registration fees, specifically provides a source of funds to enable development of facilities for the benefit of the recreational boating community. The projects are located in the Shire of Ashburton, Broome, Mandurah, Roebourne, Northhampton, Shark Bay, Augusta - Margaret River, Busselton and Kwinana.

- (7) No. Government Services provided to Recreational Boating Community are not restricted to facilities such as marinas. Many small craft benefit from the Government's Marine Safety services and infrastructure such as boat ramps and navigation aids.
- (8) Yes. The Federal Government's current position is that items of equipment such as EPIRBs should not be sales tax exempt. However, I continually raise this issue with the Federal Minister for Transport.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS, NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION RESERVES

2923. Mr McGINTY to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) How much forest approved as -
 - (a) national parks;
 - (b) conservations parks;
 - (c) nature reserves;
 in the Forest Management Plans 1994-2003 or earlier has now been withdrawn from the conservation reserve system?
- (2) For each of the above how much was approved in Conservation and Land Management's (CALM) 1987 Regional Forest Management Plans?
- (3) Will the Minister immediately make available to Members of Parliament and the public a map on the same scale and in the same format as the map showing the Regional Forest Agreement Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) Reserve System (Map 1)?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) Why was this information not included in the Government's information package released at the time the RFA was signed?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(2) The details of all areas of State forest which were proposed as reserves in the Forest Management Plan 1994-2003 (or earlier plans), which are now proposed to remain as State Forest, are contained in Table 6 of Attachment 1 on pages 43-52 of the Regional Forest Agreement for the South-West Forest Region of Western Australia (May, 1999). A total of 54,100 hectares previously proposed as reserves is now proposed to remain as State Forest.
- (3) Map 1 contained in the Regional Forest Agreement shows the areas that were previously proposed as reserves in earlier plans, which are now proposed to remain as State Forest, at the same scale.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) The information regarding these areas remaining as State forest is clearly included in the Agreement as outlined in (1) and (2) above. A copy of the Agreement is included in the Government's information package. Reference to these areas is also included in the RFA presentation "Summary of the WA RFA" which is located on the Internet. Information regarding the net increase in formal reserves (150 885 hectares) incorporates both the 54 100 hectares mentioned remaining as State forest and the 205 000 hectares of new reserves created.

KENWICK LINK, DUAL CARRIAGEWAY

2925. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Why was the initial section of the Kenwick-Link at the William Street end not made a dual carriageway when the original plans and road reserve allowed for it?
- (2) What traffic monitoring, if any, has been put in place to measure the traffic flow at this narrowed section of the Kenwick-Link?
- (3) If any, what are the results?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) During the public consultation phase of the project, a decision was made not to construct the full dual carriageway and to keep as much traffic as possible on Albany Highway. It was determined that the four lane dual carriageway would only be constructed when traffic warranted it. This commitment was given to the proprietors of businesses on Albany Highway.

- (2) Traffic counts were carried out in September 1998 and are due to be done again in 2000.
- (3) Based on current traffic counts, a dual carriageway could not be justified.

SOIL CONSERVATION NOTICES

2930. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Primary Industry:

- (1) How many soil conservation notices have been issued by the Soil Conservation Commission in each year since January 1996?
- (2) How many appeals have there been to the Minister as a result of these notices?
- (3) Of these appeals, how many has the Minister upheld?
- (4) Of these appeals, how many times has the Minister varied the notice?
- (5) Are there any appeals currently before the Minister?
- (6) If yes, how many?
- (7) Has the Commissioner for Soils and Land Conservation sent the four appeals on land clearance bans recently upheld by the Minister for Primary Industry to a Government working group for further assessment?
- (8) If not, why not?
- (9) How many applications for land clearance are currently before the Soil Conservation Commission for approval?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1) 1996 - 9
1997 - 18
1998 - 13
1999 (up to 4 May) - 9
- (2) 12
- (3) 3
- (4) 4
- (5) Yes.
- (6) 1
- (7)-(8) The Department of Environmental Protection referred the 4 appeal cases to the Government Working Group.
- (9) The Commissioner is currently assessing 7 Notices of Intent to clear land.

SEWERAGE SYSTEM, ROCKINGHAM

2935. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of complaints/allegations relating to the design and construction of the privatised sewerage system now being undertaken at Rockingham?
- (2) Do such complaints/allegations include assertions that excessive sewer pipes were laid, leading to a waste of public funds?
- (3) Do such complaints/allegations include assertions that design plans are being manipulated to suit the financial interests of plumbers?
- (4) Under the privatised system do contractual arrangements give autonomy to contractors or is some monitoring system in place to ensure that work is done satisfactorily?
- (5) Was a report on the matter prepared by the Ombudsman, and if, so, with what result, if any?
- (6) Were members of the Police department's public sector investigation unit called in, and, if so, with what result?
- (7) Are the allegations/complaints still regarded as active?
- (8) Will the Minister give unequivocal assurances that all proper processes were followed in this matter?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) No I am not aware of a privatised sewerage system in Rockingham. However, an area in Rockingham has received reticulated sewerage as part of the Infill Sewerage Program using a design and construct contract. Under such a contract, the contractor has to design the work to the Water Corporation's standards and the designs are approved before the work is constructed. A complaint was received about this work.

- (2) Yes.
- (3) I am unaware of this specific allegation.
- (4) All Water Corporation work is monitored and supervised by experienced Corporation personnel to Corporation design standards and criteria.
- (5)-(6) Yes. All allegations were unsustainable.
- (7) No.
- (8) Yes.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

ARGYLE DIAMONDS, INQUIRY

834. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

I refer to the report of the Legislative Council Select Committee on the Western Australia Police Service of June 1996 which called for a judicial inquiry into the Argyle Diamonds affair. Given the fiasco over the dropping of charges against Detective Sergeant Noye and, now, Detective Sergeant Gwilliam, will the Government move forthwith to establish such an inquiry; and, if not, why not?

Mr COURT replied:

The Government is not proposing to have an inquiry.

Dr Gallop: This is the biggest robbery in Australia, and you are just sitting there.

Mr COURT: I will briefly give the history. In 1989 allegations of diamonds being stolen from Argyle Diamonds were made. In late 1989, the first investigation into these allegations by Detective Senior Sergeant Robin Thoy was written off, with no charges being laid. In February 1992 -

Mr Marlborough: Who wrote them off?

Mr COURT: The Labor Party was in Government then, so those opposite can tell us that. As I was saying, in February 1992, a second investigation by Detective Sergeant Jeffrey Noye, aided by Detective Sergeant Clay Gwilliam, was written off, concluding no evidence of stolen diamonds; however, one officer was charged. In early 1993 a third investigation by Detective Sergeant Clay Gwilliam was concluded, with three people being charged and convicted of diamond theft: Lindsay Roddan was sentenced to six years' imprisonment; Barry Crimmins was sentenced to four years' imprisonment; and Lynette Crimmins was put on a bond. Charges were also brought against Noye at this time. In May 1995 the "Four Corners" program alleged serious misconduct, incompetence and corruption by Western Australian police. Forensic Behavioural Investigative Services International Pty Ltd was contracted by Argyle Diamonds to conduct independent investigations.

Dr Gallop: We know all this, goodness gracious me!

Mr COURT: I am seeking to explain that -

Dr Gallop: The Premier is not explaining anything; he is just describing his inaction. That is all he is doing.

Mr COURT: No. I am just describing what occurred when the Labor Party was in government, and the action taken when we came into government. In August 1995, Commissioner Falconer received the FBIS report and referred it to the Australian Federal Police, requesting an investigation which commenced in September 1995. In July 1996, the AFP report was concluded and sent to Commissioner Falconer. That report concluded that the Western Australian police investigations were inadequate, inefficient and deficient but that there was no evidence of corruption or criminality. The report recommended that disciplinary charges be laid against one serving member and that 11 officers be counselled formally. On 5 September 1996, the then Minister for Police, the member for Wagin, tabled in Parliament the report of the Australian Federal Police. Since then there has been a series of prosecutions, mainly in relation to perjury, and the independent Director of Public Prosecutions has recently made some decisions in those cases. The point I am making is this: Before the Leader of the Opposition gets up and asks what we will do about this, he should be aware that we have done something about it. When the Labor Party was in Government, all the inquiries found there were no problems.

ARGYLE DIAMONDS, INQUIRY

835. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

Is it the case that the investigation into the issues raised by Forensic Behavioural Investigative Services International Pty Ltd and the assessments of reports provided to the Commissioner of the Western Australia Police Service did not have the powers either to coerce people to give evidence or to interview many police officers who had left the force?

Mr COURT replied:

I find it interesting that the Leader of the Opposition wants to do something now, 10 years after the previous Labor Government had the opportunity to do something, and it did nothing.

FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS, EXEMPTIONS

836. Mr MASTERS to the Minister for Health:

The minister has previously announced that community and charitable groups will be exempted from certain national food safety standards. As there is still some concern in the wider community about these standards, can the minister advise the exemptions that have been given and the new standards, if any, that community and charitable groups will be required to meet?

Mr DAY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. This issue arises out of the draft uniform food safety standards currently being considered by the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Council. As the Western Australian member of the council, this morning I participated in a long teleconference considering this issue. Members would be aware that at a meeting last December the council determined that charitable and community organisations would be exempted from some of the requirements of the draft regulations, particularly those which held such events no more than once every three months. These organisations would be exempted from the following requirements: To notify their local authority of such an event; to formally train their staff; and to prepare formal food safety plans. I am aware that concern still exists about such provisions unduly impacting on charitable and community organisations and that they may still be too restrictive. The Australia New Zealand Food Authority has recommended to the council that up to and including 12 events a year be exempt from the requirements, including the preparation of a food safety plan. However, those organisations will still be required to conform with the overall food safety standards. In essence, these are commonsense standards that we, as consumers of food, expect to apply.

The draft standards also envisage all food businesses being required to prepare food safety plans. However, I made the point that the impact of this on businesses in Western Australia needs further consideration. In the teleconference I also made the point that Western Australia currently has effective food hygiene regulations. I understand that is unlike some other Australian jurisdictions in which there have been major problems with outbreaks of food poisoning. Obviously we need effective regulations to protect consumers but without wanting to sound too confident, Western Australia's record has been very good. Several options relating to the requirement for businesses to prepare food safety plans are currently being considered by the council. The matter was not finalised in this morning's teleconference and was deferred for further consideration at the next meeting. One option refers to the possibility that only food businesses with an annual turnover of more than a certain amount - \$15 000 was suggested - be required to prepare food safety plans. Alternatively, other States suggested that it would be appropriate to apply the new standards to food businesses based on their risk classification. It is important that further consultation take place about these issues in Western Australia. We have effective regulations in Western Australia - the Health (Food Hygiene) Regulations 1993 - and it is important that anything put in place to replace them is done in consultation with participants in food industries and charitable and community organisations; consumers; environmental health officers; and the Western Australian Municipal Association whose members are the employers of environmental health officers. I will ensure that adequate consultation takes place with those groups prior to the matter being considered by Cabinet.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DAY: It is a very important issue to many people in Western Australia, including businesses and community organisations.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I share the sense of frustration being demonstrated by some members. Perhaps the minister could conclude his answer.

Mr DAY: I have almost concluded. I will ensure there is consultation prior to the issue being considered by Cabinet, hopefully before the next meeting of health ministers on 4 August.

POLICE, INVESTIGATIVE PRACTICE REVIEW REPORT

837. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

I believe some notice has been given of this question. I refer to a report in this week's *Sunday Times* claiming that the Western Australia Police Service had gone to the Supreme Court in a bid to block the release under freedom of information of a document critical of senior management.

- (1) Does the minister support the efforts of the police to block the release of the investigative practice review report? If yes, why?
- (2) If not, will the minister table a copy of the report today?

Mr PRINCE replied:

(1)-(2) I have not received any notice of that question.

Dr Gallop: It should not matter; you should be able to answer the question.

Mr PRINCE: I am about to. The member thought I had received some notice of the question but I have not. The report regarding investigatory practices was commissioned within the Western Australia Police Service. It is for the management

of the Police Service, particularly the command executive, to action and do whatever is appropriate. It is their report, not mine. I do not have a copy.

Dr Gallop: You are the minister.

Several members interjected.

Mr Ripper: It is an operational matter, is that the answer?

Mr PRINCE: I have never said that and I will not. It is a management matter for the Police Service; it has the report and how it chooses to action that report is up to it.

Dr Gallop: But we are asking you to table it.

Mr PRINCE: I do not have the report so I cannot table it.

Dr Gallop: Well, go and get it. It is easy. You are the minister, use a telephone, use email or perhaps go down there and ask.

Mr PRINCE: If the Leader of the Opposition tries saying "please," I will think about it. I will consider getting hold of the report.

POLICE, INVESTIGATIVE PRACTICE REVIEW REPORT

838. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

I have a supplementary question. Has the minister actually read the report?

Mr PRINCE replied:

No.

SOIL BLENDING OPERATION, CANNING VALE

839. Mrs HOLMES to the Minister for Water Resources:

In light of the fire caused by spontaneous combustion in a stockpile related to the soil blending operations in Acourt Road, Canning Vale, can the minister advise the House when the whole of this business - which was due to move out of the area on 1 July 1998 - is to be relocated?

Dr HAMES replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Water and Rivers Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection have been working very hard to relocate two soil blending operations including the one over the Jandakot mound. Following a report from the Minister for Youth when he was a backbencher which related to underground water supplies and their management in Western Australia, particularly the management of the two water mounds, the Government has taken a strong stance on the need to protect those water mounds from pollution. This action continues on from that report. One of the operations has been moved and the other has effected a major reduction in the amount of material stored on the site. The operator of the Acourt Road site is no longer stockpiling nutrient rich materials on the site, such as bio-solids and manures. One operator has fully relocated but the relocation of the Acourt Road site operator was delayed because of the shortage of suitable alternative land. That issue has been resolved and the operator has received approval to move its mulching operations to an alternative facility in Hazelmere. Construction of that facility is due to be completed by the end of next month and the mulching component is due to be relocated within the next two months. The old stabilised material will later be relocated as part of the rehabilitation process.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX, IMPACT ON ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS

840. Mr THOMAS to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to the goods and services tax compromise negotiated last week.

- (1) Will the minister confirm that the off-road diesel concession will not extend to power generation as it did under the original GST package?
- (2) Does this mean that Western Power will no longer make savings on fuel costs and therefore electricity consumers will face a full 10 per cent increase in their power bills?

Mr BARNETT replied:

(1)-(2) I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Prime Minister's letter to Hon Meg Lees states -

The Government will retain the excise on diesel used for power generation and will use the funds to finance a Special Purpose Payments for the States.

It continues -

Some \$66m a year is collected from (publicly-owned) power utilities in excise on diesel for power generation, mostly from WA (around \$30m) . . .

The money will be used for a series of cash rebates and the like. The situation is bizarre. As was always intended, the Commonwealth will continue to impose an excise on power generation in regional areas of Western Australia that costs Western Power in the order of \$20m and contributes to a loss of between \$35 and \$40m. In other words, the Commonwealth will tax the State and its utility Western Power for providing services into regional areas and will then graciously give the money back as rebates in remote areas. Thanks for nothing! It is of no use to regional power generation in this State.

HOMESWEST, CYCLICAL OFFENDERS STUDY

841. Mr BLOFFWITCH to the Minister for Housing:

Will the minister advise what policy changes Homeswest has initiated as a result of the cyclical offenders study recommendation in Geraldton?

Dr HAMES replied:

None of the recommendations of the Aboriginal juvenile cyclical offenders program relates specifically to housing needs. However, it is recognised that housing issues have an impact on them. As a result Homeswest has been involved in that program throughout its implementation. We provide funding for the pilot action plan that is operating in Geraldton and we have recently added funding to contribute to a second pilot program in Midland.

The programs appear to be having a positive effect and we hope that they will make a difference. We must examine housing problems that it is perceived contribute towards difficulties of the nature we described. We are therefore proposing to reduce overcrowding; provide housing appropriate to client needs, specifically Aboriginal needs; reduce the levels of tenancy termination notices; and contribute towards the development of a business plan. Homeswest also assists through what is called the supported housing assistance program by \$800 000 a year to assist Aboriginal tenants who are having difficulty managing their tenancies.

BUS DRIVERS, INDUSTRIAL ACTION

842. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Premier:

I refer to the effect the ongoing industrial action by bus drivers on Transperth services is having on people who rely on our buses for their transport needs.

- (1) Does the Premier accept that as the bus operators receive more than \$115m a year in taxpayer subsidies the Government has the right and the responsibility to intervene in the dispute to negotiate a resolution and restore this essential public service?
- (2) Do the privatisation contracts leave no scope for the Government to assert control over our public transport system?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) The negotiations are between the employer and the employee. The Government is not one of those parties. It is appropriate that those negotiations are taking place.

Mr Ripper: Where is the accountability?

Mr COURT: We have much accountability. The bus companies must provide the service to certain standards.

Mr Ripper: Every day?

Mr COURT: That is right.

Mr Ripper: What about this dispute then?

Mr COURT: Proposals have been made to the employees. If certain parties believe that they can apply pressure to get more money from the Government, they should know that it is not available.

BUS DRIVERS, INDUSTRIAL ACTION

843. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question.

What controls are written into those contracts that enable the Government to ensure that these services are restored?

Mr COURT replied:

Those services must be provided within certain guidelines. This industrial action is unnecessary action. The member should know the answer.

Ms MacTiernan: We would like to see the contracts. Will you table them?

Mr COURT: I am disappointed that the travelling public will be inconvenienced by this dispute. It is a matter between the employees and the employers. It is nonsense to say that the Government should be a party to negotiations.

FISHERIES WA, RELOCATION OF ADMINISTRATION AND RESEARCH FACILITIES

844. Mr BAKER to the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to the recent in-principle decision by Fisheries Western Australia to relocate its administration and research facilities from Marmion to the Hillarys Boat Harbour. Given some concerns about the site relating to noise, traffic access and possible environmental degradation of nearby sensitive sand dunes, will the minister consider relocating this important facility to a more favourable and suitable site adjacent to the Ocean Reef small boat harbour in the Joondalup region?

Mr HOUSE replied:

The planning for a new research and education facility has been going on for about two years. In conjunction with the people who work with Fisheries Western Australia scientifically - CSIRO and others and our client base of fishermen - we have been examining a number of sites around the Western Australian coast in search of a suitable facility. A number of concerns have been expressed about the location of that facility. Fisheries WA is working with the City of Joondalup, the Department of Transport and all the people who may be affected by its siting to work through the issues that will arise as a consequence of its location. It is important that we make a decision fairly quickly. The facility will cost \$9 to \$10m and is badly needed.

Mr Kobelke: Are you looking at a site in Katanning?

Mr HOUSE: The member for Nollamara would not know where Katanning is. He should be quiet and mind his own business.

Ms MacTiernan: The standard of debate from National Party members is extraordinary.

Mr HOUSE: That is an amazing thing for someone like the member for Armadale to say. I hope the Hansard reporter got that on the record. The member for Joondalup will be aware that we will be having discussions with all the people who will be affected by this decision and making it in conjunction with them in the best interests of the research and development facility.

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, CANDIDATES FOR POSITION

845. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the public announcement by the Anti-Corruption Commission that it had considered and dismissed allegations against two candidates for the Police Commissioner's job and ask -

- (1) Has the minister inquired into this matter?
- (2) Has he satisfied himself, to use the words of *The West Australian*, that there was no dirty work behind the scenes in relation to this issue?

Mr PRINCE replied:

It is something of a difficult issue concerning the Anti-Corruption Commission because we are not permitted necessarily to ask for nor is it permitted to give information. However, I am delighted that the accusations were investigated by the ACC, whatever they were, that the ACC has seen fit to say there is no substance to them and that in that sense there is nothing that affects whether either of those officers can be or should be part of the selection process for the position of Commissioner of Police.

Dr Gallop: Have you inquired into whether they were malicious allegations designed to bring down two people?

Mr PRINCE: I have not inquired into the motives of whoever made the allegations.

Dr Gallop: What do you do as Minister for Police?

Mrs Roberts: Would it concern you if somebody were trying to nobble those candidates?

Mr PRINCE: It would concern me.

Dr Gallop: What are you doing about it?

Mr PRINCE: In that sense this is perhaps one of the prices we pay for free media. It is a willing participant in that process, albeit perhaps it chooses not to be. No-one can make accusations with that degree of malice behind them which will have any effect unless they are made publicly. That is a problem. However, I am delighted that they were properly investigated.

Dr Gallop: What are you doing about it?

Mr PRINCE: If an accusation is made to the ACC, no-one has any power to inquire of the ACC whether it was made with malice or otherwise. The ACC decides whether the accusations have any substance. Whether I will decide at any time on whether the accusations have any criminal element is a matter for judgment at a later stage. I do not intend to contemplate that until after the selection process for the new Commissioner of Police has been completed, because it would not be appropriate to do that before that time.

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, CANDIDATES FOR POSITION

846. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Police:

I ask a supplementary question. Will the minister be inquiring into this matter after the new Police Commissioner has been appointed?

Mr PRINCE replied:

I shall certainly be asking a series of questions of police officers to ascertain what accusations were made, and why, if they are able to tell me, because that may not be within their knowledge, solely to find out whether there has been any malice that should be visited by the criminal law; and if there has, I will expect the police to act independently of any prompting on my part anyway.

JOONDALUP POLICE DISTRICT, WANNEROO SUBDISTRICT CRIME CLEAN-UP RATE

847. Mr MacLEAN to the Minister for Police:

Will the minister indicate to the House -

- (1) What is the crime clean-up rate in the Wanneroo subdistrict of the Joondalup Police District?
- (2) What success does the minister attribute to the formation of police crime teams in actively targeting crime in the northern suburbs?

Mr PRINCE replied:

Mr Speaker -

Dr Gallop: When you go fishing, do you take a fishing line?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PRINCE: When I go fishing, I go fishing at the fish shop. I am likely to catch something that way, because I can see what I am after!

Dr Gallop: That would be about right!

Mr PRINCE: The answer is as follows -

- (1) I have some clearance rates for crime in the Wanneroo subdistrict of the Joondalup Police District for the period 1 July 1998 to 28 February 1999, and I thank the member for some notice so that these figures could be extracted. The clearance rates are as follows: All crime categories 36 per cent; burglary 18 per cent; car theft 17 per cent; robbery 86 per cent; assault 100 per cent; all other assaults, including sexual assaults, 83.5 per cent; damage 36 per cent; graffiti 12 per cent; and drugs 94 per cent.
- (2) A good deal of proactive intelligence-led policing has been operating in the Joondalup Police District for two years, where designated teams of officers target specific crimes and offenders to reduce the incidence of reported crime within the district.

Mr Cunningham interjected.

Mr PRINCE: If the member for Girrawheen wants to make a speech, he should make his annual speech during the budget debate.

The successful downturn in reported crime can be attributed directly to that style of policing, and it is supported by some data for reported crime in the entire district, which compares the months of January and February for 1998 and 1999 respectively. Between January 1998 and January 1999, there was a reduction in burglary offences of 19 per cent, in car theft of 38 per cent, in damage of 42 per cent, in robbery of 51 per cent, and in assault of 20 per cent. The burglary reduction program has had a significant effect on the whole Joondalup area in dealing with burglary. The clearance rate for burglary peaked at 56 per cent in the Joondalup area. That is outstanding and is a real credit to the officers and the way in which they are doing their jobs. They have maintained an average clearance rate of 21 per cent during the period to which I have just referred. That is twice the national average for the clear-up of burglary offences, and I commend the officers for achieving that rate. These figures show clearly that in the Joondalup Police District and the Wanneroo subdistrict, the police are doing an extremely good job in containing crime.

DRUG STRATEGY, HARM MINIMISATION POLICIES

848. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for the Family and Children's Services:

As the minister responsible for the State's drug strategy, I refer the minister to her claim last week that harm minimisation policies had contributed to Western Australia's current drug crisis and ask -

- (1) To which specific harm minimisation policies or programs was the minister referring?
- (2) Given the minister's statement, is she now proposing to scrap these policies or programs?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1)-(2) I said at the forum last week that the unchallenged and non-quarantined pursuit of harm minimisation policies as the first policy principle around the country in the 1980s and early 1990s has not reduced the drug problem but has done the opposite, because over that period the problem has grown worse. The only contribution so far that the Labor Party of Western Australia can make -

Ms MacTiernan: Talk about policies!

Mrs PARKER: I will get to the policy. I will talk about the Labor Party's policy -

Ms MacTiernan: Tell us what your policies are!

Mrs PARKER: The Labor Party's policy is just more of the same, only worse, and softer. The Labor Party wants to give heroin addicts their drug of choice. The Labor Party's policy contribution is to propose shooting galleries in Perth, when we do not have an open injecting drug scene. The Labor Party's policy also proposes to allow five cannabis plants to be grown per adult per household around the State. Non-quarantined and non-targeted harm minimisation policies create a dreadful outcome. Increased availability will always lead to increased use and abuse. This Government's policy, as we have stated repeatedly, is first and foremost a commitment to harm prevention, as stated in our opposition to drug abuse; and secondly, a commitment to harm minimisation. However, harm minimisation will always be a secondary policy principle, it will always stand behind the harm prevention principle, and it will always be quarantined and targeted so that it does not have a negative effect on the remainder of the community. This Government does not want to give in to drug abuse as an entrenched reality. We will not go soft and we will not make drugs more freely available and give the message that drug abuse can be managed and is okay.

DISABLED WAR VETERANS, FARE CONCESSIONS FOR CARERS

849. Mrs HOLMES to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

While I was happy to be advised that carers of extremely disabled war veterans can now obtain concession fares to travel with their veterans, how long it will be before these carers will be able to use their concession passes on their own to service the needs of veterans who are too disabled to travel?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

If a doctor certifies that an extremely disabled war veteran requires the assistance of a carer to use public transport, the carer can apply to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for a free pass to be used when accompanying the veteran. Carers are entitled to concession travel at all times if they are eligible to hold an appropriate card; for example, the pensioner concession card, the seniors card and the health card.

MILK VENDORS, COMPENSATION

850. Mr GRILL to the Minister for Primary Industry:

- (1) Does the minister remember his commitment made in Estimates Committee B last week to seriously consider greater compensation for those former milk vendors who lost their businesses when the industry was restructured?
- (2) Why did the minister advise the committee that the number of former milk vendors who were involved in that part of the distribution adjustment assistance scheme, which was subject to the third and sixth reports of the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee in the Upper House was 250, when this number contradicts the answer the minister gave in Assembly question on notice 3494 of 1998 in which he said 53 assistance payments had been made under the DAAS and only 26 of these had appealed?
- (3) Is the Minister for Primary Industry aware that the Public Accounts Committee report and the recent resolution of the Legislative Council dealt with events resulting from the Court Government's deregulation of the milk industry in late 1994 and not with matters prior to that time?
- (4) If the minister is so aware, why did he introduce the number of 250 in the context of the debate, when he knows that to do so is to deal with a highly inflated number of people?

The SPEAKER: I hope the minister got all that question!

Mr HOUSE replied:

Yes, about 10 questions were asked.

Ms MacTiernan interjected.

Mr HOUSE: Does the member want to answer the question?

- (1)-(4) Some 250 milk vendors were involved in deregulation at the start of the process. If I gave the member the impression in the Estimates Committee that I was referring to a different number or a different part of the process, I apologise - I was certainly not trying to mislead the committee in any way. At the start of the process, 260-odd milk vendors were involved, and that was the number to which I referred in answering the question.

Mr Grill: The number involved in the resolution of the upper House and the committee of the upper House was the reduced figure of 53, of whom 26 appealed. The number you gave last year in answer to a question -

Mr HOUSE: Last week.

Mr Grill: No, last year.

Mr HOUSE: I did not link the two together. The way I viewed the question - again, I apologise if I gave the incorrect answer - was that 250 milk vendors -

Mr Grill: If we are dealing with only 53 people, it is a much smaller problem with which the minister must deal.

Mr HOUSE: No - let me finish. There were 250 milk vendors at the start of the process, all of whom have had the opportunity for some sort of readjustment. Some were given rounds by the company in some form of contract, and some decided to surrender and take advantage of the scheme offered. The member referred to that number. All who make up that number are entitled to be considered if the scheme is changed in any way - all those people can apply. We are not dealing with only the 50-odd people, or the seven people aggrieved by the decision, as the legislation affects every one of those 250 people at whom it was targeted in the first place.

As I said to the Estimates Committee, I have been reconsidering the position as a consequence of the decision made by the Legislative Council. An offer is on the table to those seven milk vendors. I have had the independent arbitrator re-examine that position. He made an offer to them in total of some \$600 000, but none of them has accepted. I have asked him to re-examine the matter. Frankly, I am not sure of his advice to me. No evidence presented to Parliament or the committee has changed the situation I see in front of me. Nevertheless, I have asked him to re-examine the matter.

Mr Grill: You gave a commitment last week to re-examine the whole question. I put it to you twice, you thought about it and you gave me your answer. You said last week that you would re-examine the whole question. You thought one impediment was the large number of people involved. I say that many fewer people are -

Mr HOUSE: The member should not try to change the facts, which are very clear as they have been the subject of a couple of debates in this Chamber and in the Legislative Council. They are unquestionable. The member should not try to misconstrue the evidence to suit his case. I have given a commitment to have that matter re-examined by the independent arbitrator. I see no suggestion - I have read all the debates - that supporting evidence was proffered in debate, except that some people have an expectation which is beyond the reality. A remedy is available to those people; namely, recourse to the law, as was taken by one person in which case the court found in favour of the appellant.
