



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

THIRTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
THIRD SESSION
1999

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 17 August 1999

Legislative Assembly

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

PRESS GALLERY, VIDEOTAPING BY MURDOCH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland): For the information of members I advise that I have given permission for post graduate journalism students from Murdoch University to take film footage of the Press Gallery during question time today. It is part of their project about a day in the life of a journalist. Footage will be restricted to press reporters. I believe Roger Martin is the focus in the Press Gallery and there will not be any footage taken of the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

STUDENT PARLIAMENT

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland): In the galleries of the House are students who are members of the student Parliament established to celebrate the centenary of women's suffrage. They represent all Assembly electorates and Council regions of Western Australia. In a three-day program these 91 young representatives of the State have met in the parliamentary chambers and brought to notice many issues of concern across the vastness of Western Australia.

On behalf of all members of Parliament it is a great pleasure to welcome our young representatives to question time in the Legislative Assembly. We hope that their experience has been educational and that they have a closer understanding of our parliamentary system of government. I encourage each student parliamentarian to talk about their experiences to their schools and communities when they return home.

I also give the special thanks of the House to Professor David Black and Professor Harry Phillips, who again have given generously of their time and expertise to enable us to run the student Parliament so successfully.

At 3.00 pm this afternoon in the foyer outside the Parliamentary Library, the President and I will present certificates of participation to all the students. Members of course are welcome and encouraged to join us.

Events like this point to the gross inadequacy of the Parliament's facilities and accommodation and the severe limits our building imposes on running parliamentary and community events such as this. I therefore encourage all members to support me to ensure that we get proper facilities in the future!

[Applause.]

NUTRI-METICS SITE, REDEVELOPMENT

Petition

Dr Gallop presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 129 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 State Government and Parliament to oppose the high rise development application received for the Nutri Metics site, bounded by Albany Highway, Oswald Street, Hordern Street and Armagh Street Victoria Park, in that it is out of scale, out of character and sets a dangerous precedent for the future residential and commercial development of Victoria Park.

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 13.]

PYRTON PRISON SITE, EDEN HILL

Petition

Mr Brown presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 338 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 on the State Government to ensure the people and the Parliament of Western Australia have an opportunity to determine if a prison should be placed Pyrtion Site in Eden Hill.

To enable this to occur, we call on the Government to ensure any proposal to place a prison on this Site is made the subject of a major amendment to the Metropolitan Region Scheme.

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 14.]

SOUTHERN RIVER AND FORRESTDAL KENNEL ZONES*Petition*

Mrs Holmes presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 2 085 persons -

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

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

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

[See petition No 15.]

HIGH LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP*Petition*

Ms McHale presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 14 persons -

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

We, the undersigned residents of Western Australia are totally opposed to the Pangea proposal to locate a high level nuclear waste dump in Western Australia.

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 16.]

DOCTOR SHORTAGE, GERALDTON*Petition*

Mr Bloffwitch presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 81 persons -

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

We the undersigned ask the government to encourage overseas and local doctors to set up practise and alleviate a doctor shortage in Geraldton. Also to classify Geraldton/Greenough as *an area of unmet need*.

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 17.]

ALINTAGAS, SALE*Petition*

Mrs Roberts presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 19 persons -

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

We urge you to oppose the sale of AlintaGas. AlintaGas is a public asset that is efficient and profitable.

The Government deceived the people of Western Australia by concealing its intention to privatise AlintaGas from voters before the last election.

AlintaGas does not belong to the Government, it belongs to the people and the Parliament should not authorise its sale without a mandate from the people of Western Australia.

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 18.]

FAMILY COURT*Petition*

Mr Trenorden presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 116 persons -

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

We, the undersigned express our concern at the functions and the operations of the Family Court of Western Australia. We believe the said court to be mainly responsible for the disintegration of the family unit/life to the detriment of social cohesion here in Western Australia.

The Family Court of Western Australia hands down rulings in which innocent people lose all they hold dear whilst immoral behaviour is rewarded.

The fact that it is the children who are mainly affected by the said court's decisions, along with the non-custodial parent who could have been the best of parents, leaves us to make the following request.

That the Family Court of Western Australia be abolished.

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 19.]

GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD, LABELLING

Petition

Mr Brown presented the following petition bearing the signatures of five 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 State Government to support the proper labelling of genetically modified food so that consumers know exactly what they are purchasing.

We believe consumers are entitled to make a choice between purchasing natural and genetically modified food. That choice can only be provided by the law requiring genetically modified food to be labelled.

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 20.]

APPRENTICESHIPS

Petition

Mrs Roberts presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 13 persons -

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

We, the undersigned recognise that apprenticeships are an important way of providing life opportunities for young Western Australians and also to securing the skilled workforce needed to develop the wealth of our State.

We therefore call on the government to address the threat of cancellation of many apprenticeships due to the shortage of work during the current downturn in the resources sector by establishing targeted short term support programs to ensure existing apprentices do not lose their apprenticeship.

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 21.]

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT 1987, AMENDMENT

Petition

Mr McGinty presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 84 persons -

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

We the undersigned, respectfully request that the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 be amended to protect those people who own their dwelling and are renting a site in a caravan park as permanent residents. Specifically we seek protection from the consequences wreaked upon us as homeowners by the invoking, or threat of invoking, clause 64 (1 & 2) of the act by park owners and managers.

We hope that you will see the justice in this proposal and will initiate the appropriate amendments as a matter of urgency.

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 22.]

STANDING ORDERS AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE - MS DENISE BRAILEY

Response to Statements Made by the Member for Alfred Cove

MR BLOFFWITCH (Geraldton) [2.16 pm]: I have for presentation the report of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee on a person referred to in the Legislative Assembly. I move -

That the report be adopted.

The report is as follows -

The Speaker of Legislative Assembly referred to the Standing Orders of Procedure Committee a letter from Ms Denise Brailey seeking to use Standing Order No 165A to respond to statements made by the member for Alfred Cove, the Minister for Fair Trading on 28 May 1999. The committee has agreed to the following response proposed by Ms Brailey: It should be noted that Standing Order No 165A specifically precludes the committee from considering or judging the truth of any statements made in the Legislative Assembly Estimates Committee or in the submission. The committee recommends that a response to Ms Brailey in the terms specified in the appendix to this report be incorporated in *Hansard*.

Question put and passed.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: The response is as follows -

Response by Ms Denise Brailey
Agreed to by Ms Brailey and the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee
pursuant to Standing Order 165A

My name is Denise Brailey and I am President of the Real Estate Consumer Association (Inc.) ("RECA"). I have been adversely affected by reason of unnecessary and inaccurate statements made by the Hon. Doug Shave MLA, Minister for Fair Trading, which were delivered in the Legislative Assembly Estimates Committee on Friday 28 May 1999, Page E37 and recorded in *Hansard*. Furthermore, RECA's efforts and integrity have been seriously affected by the comments made in point 2.

I refer to those statements and respond as follows -

1. "That this Miss Brailey has previously lost money in business deals involving mortgage brokers."

FACTS:

I have never engaged in personal business dealings with a mortgage broker or finance broker. I have never applied for a loan with such people or engaged in borrowing or lending money to any such agency or its representative.

I have diligently and altruistically assisted those who, through no fault of their own, have been left destitute or disadvantaged through the misconduct of certain mortgage brokers named in this Parliament during the past eight months. Whether I had engaged in dealing with such licensed traders as were identified in the Legislative Assembly by Ms Alannah MacTiernan on November 12, 1998 and March 10, 1999, should be irrelevant to the debate on the subject of the obvious consequences suffered by senior self funded retirees.

2. "the defacto member for Armadale who wants me to give her \$200,000 to run her business."

FACTS:

To date the Real Estate Consumer Association (Inc) has applied to the Ministry of Fair Trading for funding, to continue its work in a dignified manner to assist hundreds of retirees, caught without income or capital, due to the operations of certain finance broker in this state. I have never asked for money for my own purpose or to use for "my business." I do not own a business. The Minister is aware by virtue of repeated correspondence that RECA members have continually called on his assistance to recommend the Ministry provide a small office in order for retirees, caught up in such dilemmas can assist themselves and others and continue their work in a voluntary capacity. The office was for an independent watchdog committee to deal with all manner of real estate, finance and property consumer complaints such as RECA has provided during the past few years, and a meeting place for those experiencing difficulties.

I respectfully ask that my letter be read out in Parliament at the next convenient opportunity. I am deeply concerned for those who have suffered incredible hardships in the twilight years of their lives and believe such remarks made by the Hon. Doug Shave as Minister for Fair Trading, are most unhelpful at this time.

Yours sincerely

DENISE BRAILEY

BILLS - APPROPRIATIONS

Messages from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following Bills -

1. Rail Freight System Bill 1999.
2. Heritage Bill 1999.

3. Planning Appeals Bill 1999.
4. Rights in Water and Irrigation Amendment Bill 1999.
5. Midland Redevelopment Bill 1999.
6. Gas Corporation (Business Disposal) Bill 1999.
7. Prisons Amendment Bill 1998.
8. Culture, Libraries and the Arts Bill 1998.
9. Culture, Libraries and the Arts (Consequential Provisions) Bill 1998.
10. Sentence Administration Bill 1998.
11. Court Security and Custodial Services Bill 1998.
12. Transport Co-ordination Amendment Bill 1998.
13. Water Services Coordination Amendment Bill 1999.
14. Child Welfare Amendment Bill 1998.
15. School Education Bill 1997.
16. Gender Reassignment Bill (No. 2) 1997.

EDUCATION DISCUSSION PAPER

Statement by Minister for Education

MR BARNETT (Cottesloe - Minister for Education) [2.20 pm]: During debate on the School Education Bill on 23 June last year I made a commitment to the member for Churchlands to explore the issue of teacher registration in Western Australia. Today I am pleased to table a discussion paper on this topic. A wide range of occupations require practitioners to register with professional boards or associations. The question is: Would teaching benefit from the same requirement?

The Western Australian Parliament has considered teacher registration in the past. Members may be aware that in 1976 the Teachers' Registration Act was passed, but was repealed only two years later. During debate on the Teachers' Registration Act Repeal Act, the then Minister for Education stated that the Government still valued teacher registration and that further legislation would be considered to implement the concept. Twenty years later, this commitment is receiving further attention. After my commitment to the Parliament, I directed a reference group be established to prepare a discussion paper. This group drew members from the government and non-government schooling sectors, as well as TAFE and the universities. Organisations representing the interests of staff, professional associations and parents were also included.

The discussion paper aims to stimulate debate. Rather than provide recommendations, it raises questions such as: Would teaching as a profession benefit from registration; what form could the registering body take; and what role could a registering body play in determining professional standards? These issues and others will need to be addressed should this matter be progressed to new legislation. I am confident that with the assistance of all the interested parties, solutions can be found. To this end, I have asked the Department of Education Services, in association with the Centre for Excellence in Teaching, to host a teacher registration forum on 24 August at which I will launch a period of public consultation.

There are many advantages and disadvantages that will need to be considered and discussed. Creation of a registering authority could result in an enhancement of the public standing of the teaching profession. It may also have a role in setting standards for professional development, ensuring the highest levels of professionalism exist in schools, protecting children from inappropriate people and recognising excellence in teaching. Possible disadvantages include the cost of registration to individual teachers. Will tightening the restrictions on teaching qualifications make it more difficult for good candidates to qualify as teachers or to assist in times of shortage? Some will claim that procedures are already in place to ensure the suitability of teachers and teacher candidates, making registration unnecessary. One thing I consider absolutely necessary is that any registering authority must be concerned primarily with the quality and standards of teaching and not become another forum for industrial relations.

Whatever form this body takes, it must not unduly interfere with the rights of the employers of teachers to manage their own staffing issues. All of these issues require debate in the public arena and the forthcoming consultation phase will allow this. I am pleased to table "Teacher Registration in Western Australia: A Discussion Paper".

[See paper No 79.]

WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE SERVICE

Statement by Minister for Police

MR PRINCE (Albany - Minister for Police) [2.23 pm]: I inform the House of the recent positive achievements of the WA Police Service, in partnership with the community, which deserve recognition in this place. All too often we hear about the doom and gloom surrounding law and order in this State. However, the latest crime statistics, major improvements in police response times and much improved public perception of our police indicate a positive, continuing trend which should be a comfort to all Western Australians.

Although any level of criminality is unacceptable, the latest crime statistics show a pleasing, continuing downward trend in

the key target areas of burglary, robbery and motor vehicle theft. The latest figures for the April-June 1999 quarter show the total number of offences dropped by more than 9 per cent compared with the same period in 1998, and more than 6 per cent on the previous January-March 1999 period. The latest quarterly figures show a 30 per cent fall in reported robberies, a 14 per cent drop in burglaries and a 24 per cent reduction in motor vehicle thefts. However, the level of assault in the community remains a concern following an 8 per cent increase in the latest quarter. There has been an increase also in reported drug offences. On a positive note, the clearance rate for all offences has increased by 3 per cent to nearly 36 per cent in the latest quarter, which is a credit to the WA Police Service.

Clearly, a range of measures implemented by the WA Police Service, including the devolution of specialist squad expertise into police districts, as well as growing community support for the Safer WA program, are having an effect. We have reason to believe that this positive trend will continue as police response times also continue to improve. In 1998-99, the police operations centre received over 536 000 calls, of which 154 127 were to the 000 emergency line. The Western Australia Police Service responded to the most urgent emergency calls within an average of five minutes, compared with 14 minutes the previous year. That is an excellent result. It is pleasing to see that police response times have improved across the board. The police must also be commended on their handling of emergency calls. Over the reporting period, at least 92 per cent of callers stated that the police response was either good or excellent in terms of the time taken to answer the call, professionalism of the response by the call taker, help provided by the call taker, and overall service provided.

These results have most likely contributed to the increased public perception of our police officers. In May this year, the Roy Morgan Research Centre conducted a national survey of professional ethics and honesty. The survey found that 92 per cent of survey participants viewed the police as having high or very high honesty and ethical standards. Honesty and ethical ratings increased in Western Australia to 73 per cent, up 3 per cent on 1998. This places the Western Australia Police Service above all other police jurisdictions surveyed and 11 percentage points above the national average for police organisations. The WA Police Service, and the community, should be congratulated for these results. We firmly intend for these trends to continue. I now table the following documents: Reported offences and clearance rates, the results of the Roy Morgan research poll, and the quarterly performance report on operations.

[See papers Nos 84A-84C.]

CHILD PROTECTION COUNCIL REVIEW

Statement by Minister for Family and Children's Services

MRS PARKER (Ballajura - Minister for Family and Children's Services) [2.26 pm]: At the inaugural meeting of the Western Australian Child Protection Council, I asked the council to review a case involving a paedophile in a south west town. That request followed a meeting I had with the Western Australian Council of Social Service in March 1998. After consultations with WACOSS on the matter, I determined that the purpose of the review would be to establish processes that applied during the case, to critique the processes currently in place, and to determine whether any gaps in process remained and to identify possible process concerns. This was consistent with WACOSS's call on 26 March 1998 "to investigate how relevant government and community organisations can improve their systems and practices to prevent or minimise such tragedies from occurring and what checks and balances can be put in place to ensure that our systems are working effectively".

The purpose of the review was never to report on the activities of a paedophile. It was to look at ways to improve current practice in the light of experiences during a case involving a paedophile in a south west town in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The WA Child Protection Council conducted that review independently and has reported back to me. I am advised that the review was conducted by a subcommittee of the Child Protection Council and chaired by Dr Pauline Meemeduma, lecturer at Edith Cowan University. Ms Sue Allen, Manager of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Mr David Roberts, Executive Director of Parkerville Children's Home, Ms Rae Walter, Executive Director of Ngala, and police Detective Sergeant Michael Miller were the other members of the subcommittee. I am pleased to note that, in the opinion of the Child Protection Council, the case reviewed did not illustrate any serious breach of practice, but rather highlighted some of the dilemmas faced by those working in the area of child protection.

As members are aware, since the time of the tragic events in the town south of Perth, a number of initiatives have been introduced by the Government to improve the response to victims of child abuse, with special emphasis on better coordination of services. They have included the establishment of the Child Protection Services Register, the introduction of reciprocal child protection procedures between all relevant government agencies, the Child Victim Witness Service, the introduction of "New Directions in Child Protection and Family Support", improving the way Family and Children's Services responds to allegations of abuse and the introduction of joint interviewing of victims of child abuse by police and Family and Children's Services.

The review was only one step in the process of further improving our response to the tragedy of child abuse. The council made a number of recommendations for further actions which I supported and are all currently being progressed. They include a review of training requirements of child protection workers regarding the notification of parents and parental involvement in complex issues, a proposed policy review in relation to Family and Children's Services' involvement with 14 to 18 year olds, the development of a best practice model in child protection and the development of a formal framework to guide departmental practice in community support strategies when tragedies affect a community. I table a copy of the Child Protection Council's report as well as my written replies to the council.

[See paper No 83.]

[Questions without notice taken.]

PETITION*Out of Order - Statement by Speaker*

THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland): Part of the petition presented to the House by the member for Southern River is out of order, in that several pages were facsimile copies. Accordingly I have directed the Clerk to alter the number of signatures on the petition to 2 085.

SPEAKER*Attendance at Funeral - Statement*

THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland): I advise the House that the Deputy Speaker will take the Chair tomorrow as I will be attending a funeral.

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT BILL 1999*Restoration to Notice Paper - Council's Message*

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

That as requested by the Council in Message No 1 this House resume consideration of the Criminal Code Amendment Bill 1999.

HORTICULTURAL PRODUCE COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 1999*Second Reading*

MR HOUSE (Stirling - Minister for Primary Industry) [3.05 pm]: I move:

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Horticultural Produce Commission Act provides for the establishment of a commission to encourage initiatives among horticultural produce growers to form growers' committees through which services can be provided to grower members. The Act provides a statutory process through which individual horticultural producer groups can self manage and raise funds for services. These services can include quality control, research, disease or pest control and product promotion. The commission's role is to direct, coordinate and supervise the functions and financial management of growers' committees. The commission also authorises the determination and fixing of charges for the services carried out by the growers' committees. The horticultural produce commission model has proved to be very successful with the formation and operation of eight growers' committees under the commission.

The Bill now before the House extends the opportunities provided by the Horticultural Produce Commission Act to all agricultural producers. The "Horticultural Produce Commission" will become the "Agricultural Produce Commission" and in line with its expanded role, "growers' committees" will become "producers' committees".

"Agricultural produce" has been broadly defined to mean the produce of an agricultural industry. "Agricultural industry" is defined to include broadacre cropping, horticultural, pastoral, grazing, dairying, intensive animal production, land-based aquacultural, apicultural industries and agroforestry. The implementation of these amendments will enable the commission to foster and support initiatives for the benefit of all agricultural producers.

The expansion of the commission to cover all agricultural produce calls for additional commissioners. The Bill allows for the appointment of two extra commissioners, one who has knowledge and understanding of animal industries and one with knowledge and understanding of cropping industries. There is an added option for the minister to appoint a third commissioner who has knowledge and experience of an area other than horticulture, animal or cropping industries.

The Act currently provides for the appointment of grower committee members by the commission. The Bill enables the option of holding an election for members of a committee. An election might be held if a large number of nominations was received or the producers group planning to form a committee requested that an election be held. The Bill provides for dissolution of a growers' committee to be carried out in a manner consistent across all polling provisions.

The Government is embarking on a program to eradicate Mediterranean fruit fly from Western Australia and the ability to include all growers and trees in that program is required to ensure the program is effective.

The Bill enables the inclusion of non-commercial or backyard growers to be included in a poll of growers, to be appointed to a growers' committee and to be required to pay a fruit fly baiting charge for service. This change has been requested by the Horticultural Produce Commission and local governments.

An amendment clarifies the power to make regulations which prescribe the manner in which charges imposed under the Act will be paid and collected, the persons to whom charges will be paid and by whom charges may be collected. This amendment was requested by local governments who have an interest in fruit fly control schemes for their towns.

The scope for producers to form committees is expanded. A committee may be established for any agricultural produce of a particular kind, class or variety, or which possesses a particular characteristic. Additionally a committee could cover a number of different kinds of agricultural produce or be established to achieve specific objects in relation to different kinds of agricultural produce. A committee may be formed for the whole or a specified part of the State.

The Bill has a redraft of the provisions for the imposition of charges for services provided by a producers' committee. The

Horticultural Produce Commission Act was reviewed for compliance with the competition principles agreement and the review concluded that the imposition of a compulsory levy would be in conflict with the competition principles agreement.

There was also a danger of infringement of section 90 of the Constitution which prohibits the imposition of excise duties except by the Commonwealth. The section for setting and imposing charges requires the commission, in setting a charge, to link the charge for the service provided with the cost, or estimated cost of providing the service. The minister must approve the charge which is payable in accordance with regulations.

An additional service a producers' committee may provide will be the establishment of a compensation scheme for the benefit of producers whose agricultural produce is destroyed as a result of action taken to control a pest or disease. Actions for control of pests and diseases can occur under other legislation and this amendment provides an option for the management of a compensation scheme by the commission.

The Horticultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill provides the opportunity for the agricultural industry to be independent in the funding and management of services and activities. The amendments will allow industry trust funds currently operating under differing legislation to be rationalised under a consistent model.

When this Bill is passed it is my intention to introduce legislation which will repeal four trust fund Acts -

the Pig Industry Compensation Act 1942;

the Potato Growing Industry Trust Fund Act 1947;

the Poultry Industry (Trust Fund) Act 1948; and

the Cattle Industry Compensation Act 1965.

These Acts have undergone a national competition policy review and bringing the relevant producer groups under the agricultural produce commission legislation will satisfy requirements arising from the review. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr McGowan.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Motion

Resumed from 12 August.

MR PENDAL (South Perth) [3.10 pm]: I support the motion moved on opening day by the member for Carine and express my good wishes to the Governor for not only having attended the session but also highlighting a number of matters not the least of which was salinity, which is arguably the most important environmental issue confronting Australia today. I do not want to discuss that on this occasion because members may be aware that I intend to move an amendment during the Committee stage of the Gas Corporation (Business Disposal) Bill.

I will address two matters in this Address-in-Reply. The first is the thorny issue of parliamentary privilege. The second is the pressure that is being brought to bear for the introduction of poker machines into Western Australia. At the end of my address I will move an amendment to the Address-in-Reply seeking the strong support of the House for the Government, which has taken a commendable stance on that issue.

Parliamentary privilege is a timely topic, given two occurrences, one that occurred in this place last Wednesday and one that occurred in the Parliament barely a few minutes ago, the former of which I knew about of course, but the latter of which I had no knowledge until you, Mr Deputy Speaker, in your capacity as a member of the Standing Orders Committee presented a report recommending that citizens should effectively be given the right of reply.

Last week the member for Willagee sought to raise a matter of privilege that he believed followed some verbal altercations he had had with the Minister for Family and Children's Services. In the time in which I have been in this place and prior to that for 13 years in another place, many examples have occurred of the House's seeking to come to grips with the way in which we deal with parliamentary privilege. After all of that time I must conclude that I do not think we deal with those claims of breaches or alleged abuse in a thorough or bipartisan way.

I was brought up in the parliamentary school of thought in which I imagine most people were brought up; that is, it was a sacrosanct notion that Parliament should always deal with its own. In other words, we apply peer assessment and judgment to our fellows in whatever House of Parliament we sit in the Westminster system around the world. For years I have believed that. However, whether it is with the passage of time or because I am a little bit older, or perhaps because I am seeing things through the eyes of an Independent, my views on the matter have changed. No longer do we have the luxury of believing we can continue to deal with parliamentary privilege at a peer level. The time has come, therefore, when we must seek change.

We have lived and laboured in all Australian Parliaments and in Parliaments around the world of the Westminster model under what we might call a historic pretence that the House is able to deal with matters in a bipartisan way. Perhaps that is the case when there are large legislatures, but the fact is on a world scale Australia does not have any such large legislature. Even the lower House of the federal Parliament is a relatively small body compared with Westminster, for example, which has in the order of 635 members. With those huge numbers there is some capacity to get members to take the partisanship or the politics out of the equation. However, that is not the case in the small Parliaments in Australia. The

time has arrived, therefore, when we might consider doing two things to our standing orders. I will take a particular interest in the new model that we may soon be using by trial to see whether it can be adopted along the lines I will suggest.

The time has come when we should amend standing orders so that we do at least two things regarding privilege. The first is that we need a permanent standing committee on privilege that is created at the start of each parliamentary session. One of the advantages of that would be that we would not have to make a political decision half way through a session about whether a matter should be referred to a privileges committee. Secondly, the House could more carefully choose three or five, or perhaps seven, members for the personal qualities that they might bring to bear one day in that four-year period when they would be required to display the level of bipartisanship that is so obviously lacking whenever that issue goes to the vote, as we saw last week.

Whatever the merits or otherwise of what the member for Willagee said last week, and whatever the merits of the Minister's response, the fact is that this place divided along party lines. The matter was determined as a political question. I do not want to sound overly pious, but the only three people who were required to consider their vote seriously were the Independents. As the situation unfolded, they voted for the suspension of standing orders to allow more argument to be adduced on the subject.

My first suggestion is the establishment of a permanent standing committee with members nominated at the start of the four-year term of government. We should change the standing orders to permit the appointment to that standing committee of a retired judge of the Supreme Court to join with those elected members over the next four years to consider all matters relating to privilege.

Under this proposal, the judge would have the capacity to do two important things: First, he or she would have the capacity to vote with the members on whether there has or has not been a breach or abuse of privilege; and, second, to report to the House in the same way that a member of that permanent standing committee would report. That is, the retired judge would be able to make a minority report to the House if he or she thought that was appropriate. We must overcome the history of this place and elsewhere that the outcome must always be dependent upon party politics.

Without slowing the debate, I will refer briefly to those issues of privilege that I can recall being debated in this Chamber in the past 10 or 15 years. One involved the then member for Mt Lawley, Mr Cash, who was then in opposition; one involved the then member for Gascoyne, Mr Lawrence, who was then in opposition; and one involved the then member for Ascot, Mr Bryce, who was also in opposition. On such occasions - the situation is replicated in the other place - if a Government moves against an opposition member, it succeeds. There is a surprise. If an Opposition moves against a government member, it fails. There is another surprise. One does not need to be a great student of this place to know that on every occasion the motions were decided purely on partisan lines. One cannot help coming to the conclusion that a guilty verdict depends on whether one is in government or in opposition, not on whether one is guilty.

We have in this place, and elsewhere, perpetuated the myth that only we as members of Parliament are capable of judging breaches by our fellow members. Something must be done to lift, to enhance and to restore credibility and respect for the institution of Parliament. Mr Deputy Speaker (Mr Bloffwitch), you know as I and every member who honestly answers the question knows that the public attitude towards Parliament as an institution and parliamentarians as a breed is very negative. That is a tragedy. We could lead the way throughout the world by going down the path of seriously reforming that part of our standing orders that to this day relies on the mythology that only members of Parliament can judge other members of Parliament. We could be at the forefront of the Westminster system were we prepared to do that.

How do we address the problem of those who believe in the school of thought that no outsider should be brought in to judge the actions of one of our members? It is not a huge step to take. It is interesting that in this day and age other organisations and revered institutions such as the church have had to come to grips with dreadful occurrences; for example, clerical sexual abuse. It would have been unthinkable 10 or 20 years ago that an institution such as the Catholic Church would have brought someone in from outside to deal dispassionately and independently with problems within. It is because of those abuses that the church has been driven to get its house in order. Parliament is in a position to do that today by taking the lead of the institutional church in that regard.

In 1908, a federal parliamentary joint select committee reported on the question of privilege. The chairman was none other than John Garrahan. He was one of the two principal authors of the Constitution. His committee suggested, following the Parliament's being assailed by a newspaper of the day, that perhaps in future, breaches or alleged breaches of that kind should be remitted to the High Court for its consideration. The suggestion in 1908, before the party-political system had a chance to set itself in concrete around members, allowed for such an invitation to be extended to a judge to come into a House of Parliament.

I was a member of the upper House Select Committee of Privilege dealing with the John Halden petition, and I sometimes wonder what might have happened had that alleged breach been handled in a different way. That is in the realm of speculation, and I will not pursue it.

I simply make the point that the presence of a judge on a four-year basis on our privilege committee may well have the salutary effect on every member, whoever he or she may be, that, were one to consider crossing that invisible line towards a breach, that breach may well be the subject of investigation and assessment by a retired judge of the Supreme Court.

The second issue I raise relates to the pressure in society to introduce electronic gaming machines or poker machines into the hotels and clubs of Western Australia. I give notice that at the end of my contribution I intend to move an amendment to the Address-in-Reply in the hope that my colleague the member for Churchlands will second it.

I oppose any suggestion to introduce poker machines into Western Australia. I say that as one who enjoys, maybe once or twice a year, a casual gambling spree at the Burswood International Resort Casino. For most people that is all a visit of that kind is. To most people, gambling is a reasonably interesting and healthy pastime to take their minds off other things. However, growing evidence exists of the great harm being done in Australia, particularly by electronic gambling machines. I commend the Government. It has been consistently strong in this issue of keeping electronic gaming machines out of Western Australia's clubs and hotels. We have them in the casino, and I have made some reference to that. My concern is not so much what this Government's attitude is, because it has been commendably consistent, but Governments change, and sometimes leaderships in Governments change. The Parliament should address itself, for a few minutes at least, to expressing a view that in the event of any change in the Government's leadership, the stance taken by the present Premier on this matter would be upheld.

It would be a huge temptation for a government to widen the scope of the existing laws. One can quantify that by saying that the Government could pick up another \$175m in revenue were it to allow poker machines to be introduced into hotels and clubs. It is good policy in these matters to ask about the experience of others. We need go no further than South Australia. In January this year the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Dr Jane Lomax-Smith, took the lead in this issue. Having seen for herself the impact of poker machines on the social and economic life of South Australia, she described them as a scourge. She took the view that the introduction of poker machines to South Australia had been enormously destructive of family lives and budgets. She was supported at that time by six or seven of the mayors of major local governments across the wider Adelaide metropolis. They were able to speak from a position of close observation and experience.

One of the objections I have long had to the debate about, and the promotion of, poker machines for clubs and hotels in Western Australia is that it is largely driven by the independent Gaming Commission. It is a disgrace that the law permits that organisation to use that name. It is not independent at all. It is openly and overtly in favour of promoting the introduction of poker machines into clubs and hotels. It is no more nor less a lobby for those two sets of businesses in Western Australia. A truly independent organisation, the Productivity Commission, made the observation that 92 per cent of Australians who were surveyed do not want to see an increase in the number of gaming machines across Australia. Ordinary Australians have a clear view on the destructive nature of some forms of gambling. Australians are prepared to gamble on two flies walking up a wall and they will go to the horses, the trots and the races. I enjoy doing that on a casual basis. However, surveys indicate that people are increasingly drawing the line at gaming machines. The Australian Institute of Gambling has come forward with perhaps the most chilling of all statistics. It has made the observation that about 15.6 per cent of regular video gaming machine players are probably pathological gamblers. It is an especially chilling observation coming from an institute of that ilk.

I am concerned about two things in particular. The first is that the household disposable income - what the statisticians call HDI - that is spent on gambling has doubled to 3 per cent from 1.6 per cent in the past 24 years. That is a large increment in that time. Most of it coincided with the rapid expansion of electronic gaming machines in Victoria, Queensland and South Australia. The second real concern that I mentioned at the outset is the potential for the Western Australian Government to get an extra \$175m in revenue, if it relied on the level of gambling revenues that are received in both Victoria and South Australia. I understand that in both of those States 13 per cent of the state revenue base now comes from gambling. In Western Australia, quite remarkably, the figure is only 6.4 per cent. That is an enormous gap. The difference between 6.4 per cent and 13 per cent would earn the Government in the order of an extra \$175m.

I have no compunction about commending the current Government and current Premier for saying that Western Australia will not go down that path, and will forgo that \$175m. However, the pressures will come on, and I do not know for how long future Western Australian Governments will be able to resist that temptation for extra revenues. It concerns me. The House has an opportunity, after many years, to take a stance on the matter. It has the opportunity to signal to the community where Parliament currently stands - as opposed to the more narrow sectional interests of the Government. It is well worthwhile the House going down that path, expressing that view and showing that level of leadership by adding the following words to the Address-in-Reply.

Amendment to Motion

Mr PENDAL: I move -

That the following words be added to the motion -

but that this House expresses its added concern over moves to introduce poker machines into Western Australian hotels and clubs, and supports the efforts of the present Government to ensure that such introduction does not take place.

DR CONSTABLE (Churchlands) [3.39 pm]: The member for South Perth has already indicated that gambling is an entrenched part of the Australian way of life. He did so especially when he gave the example of Australians willing to bet on two flies crawling up a wall. The facts and statistics are clear. Every year, 80 per cent of Australians gamble in some form at some time in a range of activities, from the once-a-year flutter on the Melbourne Cup to the problem gamblers who gamble in an addictive way every day of their lives.

Mr Cowan: Like becoming a member of Parliament; that is a gamble!

Dr CONSTABLE: For some it might be. If people have an inclination to support the introduction of poker machines into clubs and pubs in Western Australia, they should immediately read the draft report of the Productivity Commission entitled "Australia's Gambling Industries" published, I think, about 19 July 1999. The information in that draft report which was put out for discussion - therefore it is timely that we are debating this issue today - clearly shows that we are a nation of

gamblers. Recent figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics document gambling behaviour in Australia and I will give a few examples of the 1996-97 data. It was interesting to note that the overall participation in gambling in Australia indicated no gender difference. The figures show that 46.6 per cent of men and 45.9 per cent of women gamble at least once a week. Therefore, it is an activity equally shared by men and women. However, there are differences in the types of games or activities on which men and women are willing to gamble. It is interesting also that gambling is an activity related to age. An age break up of gambling behaviour indicates that the older people are, the more likely they are to gamble. One-third of all Australians have a weekly dream to win lotto; every week of their lives 33 per cent of Australians buy a lotto ticket. Obviously, other people buy lotto tickets less frequently, but a solid core of a third of Australians follow the lotto dream.

I turn now to figures from the draft report of the Productivity Commission. In 1998 about 82 per cent of Australians gambled at some time. A massive \$11b was spent on gambling by Australians; that is double the amount spent only a decade ago. Gambling activity has increased dramatically in that time and one reason for that is the greater access to gambling, especially poker machines in other States of Australia. A small number of Australians, 2.3 per cent, who gamble regularly are considered to be problem gamblers. That does not sound like many, but when it is translated into figures it means that about 330 000 people are considered to be problem gamblers.

Mr Pendal: That is a lot of people.

Dr CONSTABLE: It is a huge number of people and they are people whose lives are detrimentally affected by their gambling activities. One of the figures in the Productivity Commission's report suggests that, for every problem gambler, at least five people are dramatically affected in their daily lives. Multiplying 330 000 by five gives a figure of 1.65 million people in Australia affected by problem gambling which is a serious issue emanating from 2.3 per cent of adult Australians. Problem gamblers lose on average \$12 000 a year compared with \$625 by people who gamble occasionally or who are not considered problem gamblers.

Problem gamblers account for one-third of total expenditure on gambling in Australia. Therefore, those 2.3 per cent of people contribute one-third of the expenditure on gambling. They make up one in seven regular non-lottery gamblers. About 75 per cent, or three-quarters, of people surveyed by the commission believe that gambling does more harm than good. As the member for South Perth said, 92 per cent of the people surveyed by the Productivity Commission do not want to see an increase in the number of gaming machines. That is a massive number of Australians saying, "No more. There is too much of this form of gambling in Australia".

Why does the Productivity Commission recommend more consumer protection? That is a very important aspect of this issue. The commission is saying that people should be warned about gambling in the same way as they are warned about smoking by the messages displayed on cigarette packets. The Productivity Commission has come up with this clear recommendation because it sees the enormous harm gambling can cause to so many people. Its draft report refers to the risks of problem gambling and the need for more controls on advertising. It warns of the dangers of gambling and recommends restrictions on access to automatic telling machines and credit for those who are problem gamblers. It recommends better self-exclusion arrangements so that people who want to overcome their problem gambling can be helped by using those arrangements.

All Australian State and Territory Governments are in a situation of serious conflict when it comes to gambling. On the one hand States and Territories depend on revenue from gambling. Two prime examples in this State are the casino and the Lotteries Commission. Although the Lotteries Commission is involved in promoting gambling, it also does a lot of good in the community. In 1997-98 in Western Australia, \$472 per head of adult population was gathered from this source by the Government to fill its revenue coffers. As the member for South Perth said, \$170m a year - or 6.4 per cent of total revenue - is collected from gambling by the State. The exponents for the introduction of poker machines into pubs and clubs in Western Australia claim they will have a number of economic benefits including reinvestment in the community, although that has been laughed at by commentators in South Australia; the creation of job opportunities in the gambling industry; and increased tax revenue. Currently, an enormous amount of revenue is collected in Western Australia, although not as much as in other States, and the risks of introducing even more opportunities to gamble far outweigh the benefits.

Mr Osborne: In Victoria and New South Wales about 10 per cent of total state revenue is derived from gambling.

Dr CONSTABLE: It is higher than that; it is up around 13 per cent. The member for Bunbury is right, it is a huge amount and it is rising rapidly. Even without gaming machines, the Western Australian Government collects a large amount of revenue from gambling. We also have a very high participation in gambling with 45 per cent of people taking part in one or more forms of gambling each week. On the other hand, the Government needs to ensure consumer protection and to recognise, as I believe this Government does, the huge cost to individuals and families when gambling becomes a problem. It is a community problem as well as a family and individual problem. Western Australia is the only State in Australia that does not allow electronic gaming machines in hotels and licensed clubs. Interestingly, when comparing Western Australian figures with those of the other States, the growth in gambling in Western Australia in 1997 was 0.2 per cent compared with 18 per cent throughout the rest of Australia. The rate of gambling is increasing dramatically outside Western Australia and the big difference between this State and the other States and Territories is that we do not have gaming machines. The Court Government should be congratulated on the stand it has taken on this matter. In particular, the Premier should be congratulated on his strident comments against the introduction of gaming machines in hotels and licensed clubs. The policy of the Government has clearly been stated, in that it will not extend the introduction of gaming machines beyond the casino. In articulating such a policy, the Government is clearly recognising the danger of the spread of poker machines and has recognised that the social costs far outweigh any justification for increasing government revenue by introducing gaming machines.

The Productivity Commission's findings must be examined in full, and I will mention more of them. I have already

mentioned that at least five people are affected by every problem gambler; it affects their partners, spouses, children and perhaps work mates. One in four problem gamblers has reported divorce or separation as a result of gambling, so it clearly has a very serious effect on families and family break-ups. One in 10 problem gamblers stated in the survey that they had contemplated suicide as a result of gambling, and others reported loss of work or study time because of their gambling addiction. We are very lucky indeed in this State to be able to learn from the activities and experiences in other States. The member for South Perth referred to an article in *The Advertiser*, a South Australian newspaper, and quoted statements by the mayor of Adelaide. Other local authorities with licensed hotels have noted an enormous effect on their communities because members of licensed clubs are moving from clubs to hotels for their social activity. As a result, many of the clubs cannot survive financially. That shift and breakdown in social activity is destroying many of the organisations that are important to individual communities remaining vibrant and successful. Many disparaging remarks have been made by other local authorities in South Australia about the introduction of gaming machines. One of the recommendations of the local authorities is that gaming machines be moved from hotels to licensed clubs. That would help to prop up the local clubs and also maintain that part of the social fabric.

While many individuals and families are affected by gambling, one of the effects of the introduction of gaming machines in South Australia of which I am aware is the impact on voluntary and charitable organisations. For some time I sat on the board of one of those organisations in Western Australia, and the board watched with great concern the effect of the introduction of gaming machines on the revenue of organisations such as the Cerebral Palsy Association in South Australia. People who at one time spent money on raffles or donations to voluntary organisations, instead spent their spare money or money they might have used in that area on gaming machines and hotels. As a result the revenues of the voluntary organisations in South Australia slipped dramatically. We must be aware of that because so many charitable and voluntary organisations in this State that support disabled people and other worthy causes would definitely be affected by the introduction of poker machines in Western Australia. That would bring pressure to bear on the Government to provide even more support for charitable organisations.

The research is clear; increased accessibility to gaming machines increases the problems caused by gambling. The research also indicates that the availability of gaming machines target a more vulnerable demographic group. The research indicates that gambling machines increases the chances of pathological addiction. Women are more likely to play electronic gaming machines, while men spend twice as much on other forms of gambling. Poker machines attract more takings per capita than any other form of gambling. The Government must continue to resist any temptation it might have -

Mr Cowan: Are you drawing a distinction between electronic gaming machines and poker machines, or are you lumping them together?

Dr CONSTABLE: I said that poker machines attract more takings per capita than any other form of gambling, and that women are more likely to play electronic gaming machines. I am sure the Government is aware of that, but it should continue to resist any temptation to introduce poker machines to increase revenue takings to the State.

The Productivity Commission report referred to a new form of gambling, Internet gambling, which poses a new and significant threat in a number of ways. It certainly poses a threat for consumers, particularly problem gamblers, who, in the comfort of their own homes, can spend an awful lot of money trying to feed their addiction. It also poses an enormous threat to Governments because of the possible loss of revenue from Internet gambling, as they are not so easily able to get their share of the gambling dollar.

The findings of the Productivity Commission lend overwhelming support to the Court Government's policy not to increase the number of poker machines in this State and to contain them within the casino. We must continue to be vigilant about the effects of gambling and to assist those addicted to gambling. The Government should not bow to pressure from hotels or clubs or to the pressure of the need to increase revenue by increasing the number of poker machines beyond the current level. It is a timely amendment moved by the member for South Perth, and I support it.

MS WARNOCK (Perth) [3.57 pm]: Unusual as it may be for me to support any amendment moved by the member for South Perth, I rise to support this amendment. Indeed, I wish to go further, but more of that in a moment. It may also be unusual for one who is the granddaughter of a horse trainer and publican to have done nothing more energetic with regard to gambling than to have bought many raffle tickets at Labor Party fundraising events over the years. That is the limit of my involvement in gambling as a member of the public.

Nonetheless, as Opposition spokesperson on racing, gaming and liquor for two years, I had an opportunity to read a great deal and talk to many people about gambling. Although it has no attraction for me personally, I came to understand a great deal more about it in the time I spent in that portfolio. As the two previous speakers in this debate have made very clear, the Productivity Commission, which attracted a lot of attention around the country when it began its investigations, has made it obvious that gambling in Australia has increased dramatically in a short time. Although only a few people in the community are addicted to gambling or are regarded as problem gamblers, nonetheless it is clear from the Productivity Commission report and from discussions I have had with members of Parliament, such as Nick Xenophon, and members of the community, such as the Reverend Tim Costello from Victoria, that gambling affects far more people than the very few who are addicted to it. It is alarming to the Opposition, and that is why it supports this amendment and also supports the Premier's view that poker machines should not be introduced in hotels and licensed clubs in Western Australia. It is alarming that it is a form of gambling which attracts such a wide group of people. It attracts a number of people who quite clearly cannot afford to gamble. It attracts older people, increasingly it is attracting women and it is creating all sorts of social problems.

From my background, it would be extraordinary if I had a moral objection to gambling and, indeed, I do not, but I have a

concern about the social effects of gambling. That, in essence, is the Opposition's reason for continuing to oppose the introduction of further poker machines into Western Australia, and specifically into hotels and clubs. Given the staggering expansion of gambling in Australia generally in recent years - it has been well documented already in this debate - and the social problems that have arisen elsewhere in Australia, specifically in relation to the rapid growth of poker machines, we could do nothing but support this amendment today. Ours is not necessarily a moral objection, although there may be some on our side who have a moral objection to gambling, but rather it is a deep concern about the likely effects of this form of easily-available gambling on those least able to afford it.

I have also read reports which raise concerns about the effects of excessive spending on poker machines on small business and other forms of entertainment. When I took over this portfolio I received a report in 1996 about the effect on the Totalisator Agency Board in South Australia. There was an enormous amount of concern that the TAB in South Australia, which is so important to the racing industry, was facing a \$10m shortfall at that time because of the impact of poker machines and the economic downturn in that State. South Australia has problems peculiar to South Australia, but, at the time, an enormous amount of concern was expressed about the introduction of poker machines and the effect it had on other forms of well-established gambling, as well as on other forms of small business. That report is one of the many things that flagged some concern about the effects of poker machines.

As I said, older people are gambling more. Very few of them feel they are addicted to gambling, but gambling has increased greatly among older people in recent years. A great many of them use this particular form of gambling. There is also growing concern about the number of women becoming addicted to poker machine gambling. In the short time I had to prepare myself for this debate, I sought to find an interesting report I had on this subject which I received from some of my colleagues in Melbourne earlier this year. Alas, thanks to my erratic form of filing, I could not find that excellent report. On another occasion in this House I hope to make use of that report, which is about women and gambling in Victoria where poker machines have spread enormously. The view was that women found this an easy form of gambling. I am not someone who objects to gambling per se, but this form of gambling also encouraged them to continue to gamble, quite often to the extent that they were unable to afford it and were using their household budgets for that week. That is one of our major concerns with this form of gambling: It is easy and repetitive, the rewards are relatively quick to come and, therefore, it sets up a kind of addiction which other forms of gambling may not.

I also have a strong concern because, like other speakers, I have great enthusiasm for the work of the Lotteries Commission. It is extraordinarily concerned about any further expansion in this type of gambling and its introduction into Western Australia for the simple reason that the Lotteries Commission's form of gambling attracts a similar group of people in the community to that group of people who are attracted to poker machine gambling elsewhere in Australia. I am sure that every member of this House would agree that the Lotteries Commission has an extraordinarily important function in our community. I have always been a great enthusiast of the Lotteries Commission, particularly the Western Australian Lotteries Commission, because it is unique in the way it allocates the money received from that gambling. It is entirely independent of government, and it allocates the funds in a particular way each year. Even more important and valuable is the fact that it allocates the funds to many small community groups which have come to depend absolutely on the money from the Lotteries Commission to fund their small enterprises, charities and so on. The money is received by the Lotteries Commission every year from a fairly mild form of gambling, and certainly not one that encourages addiction. Although, as one who has never bought a lotto ticket, perhaps I am not in a position to say that. The social usefulness of that funding for small groups in the community is such that it would be disastrous if that money disappeared from our community. That is one of the major concerns I had when I was approached by not only the so-called independent group which wants to introduce poker machines, but also the people from the other side; that is, the church groups and the various community groups which are concerned about the introduction of poker machines. On all occasions when I had discussions with them, I remember speaking about the Lotteries Commission. Because it is such an important institution in Western Australia and has such an important social effect, I would hate to see anything damage its revenue so it could not continue the extraordinarily important work it does. If I were to look for a personal reason for opposing the introduction of poker machines, it would be that one. It would be a great pity if we could not see the important effects of the Lotteries Commission continue in our community for the foreseeable future.

I found one report given to me by Tim Costello, which is dated November 1998. It is the report by the Interchurch Gambling Taskforce which reviews the social and community consequences of the cap on electronic gaming machines in Victoria. It was an investigation into what happened when gaming machines were introduced in Victoria as a result of the Gaming Machine Control Act in 1991. It investigated a cap set by ministerial direction in Victoria, which was to remain until 2000 when a review is scheduled. I will relay a couple of points from that review. It states -

- The statewide cap on EGMs of 27,500.
- An 80:20 city:country division in numbers of EGMs.
- A maximum number of EGMs to be 100 in restricted and 5 in unrestricted areas.
- 50:50 division in EGMs between hotels and clubs.
- 50:50 division in EGM distribution between Tattersalls and Tabcorp.

Those two organisations run these machines in Victoria. The report mentioned various regulations, such as how much of the floor in a facility could be taken up by the machines, where they had to be and those types of issues. It is particularly relevant in this amendment debate to mention the negative consequences which were drawn to my attention by Tim Costello when he gave me this report. It continues -

The negative consequences of these measures have been:

- the trend for machines to be concentrated in lower socio-economic regions, which has caused numerous social and community problems and is exploiting a market characteristic that people of lower incomes tend to gamble more and more often, when they can often least afford it. This has caused saturation in these areas, and subsequently a form regressive taxation across the Victorian population with many millions of dollars being pulled out of poorer communities.
- severe competition between the two providers for the maximum returns available, which has involved high degrees of advertising, promotional inducements and incentives to attract people to gaming venues and engage them in gambling behaviours.
- the development of a new form of problem gambling involving a new and large audience of people who would rarely have gambled before the introduction of EGMs.

This group is attracted by the convenience and easy access of EGMs, and spends from household savings and the household budget, leading to a sacrifice in necessities and financial stress.

That is the matter I want to draw to the attention of the House apart from the matter of the Lotteries Commission, which I mentioned earlier. Those negative consequences are extraordinarily important and significant. For those reasons among many others the Opposition supports this amendment; indeed, it would like to go further.

Amendment on the Amendment

Ms WARNOCK: I move -

That the amendment to the Address-in-Reply be further amended by adding the words "and Opposition" after the word "Government".

MR KOBELKE (Nollamara) [4.11 pm]: It is not my intention to range over the large number of important issues relating to gambling to try to explain something about the role of gambling in Australia and particularly Western Australia. I wish to make a few brief comments to outline the Government's position in a very simplistic way, why the Opposition supports that position and why the amendment moved by the member for Perth should be carried by the House.

Gambling is commonplace in Western Australia and throughout Australia. It is a part of life for a very big percentage of the population. It is a most enjoyable pastime. People are able to gain enjoyment from gambling, whether it be at a casino, on horses, through the lottery or a whole range of other ways, even down to bingo at some of our local clubs. Many thousands of Western Australians enjoy it. As the member for Churchlands has said, it also has the element of the dream of something better and of lifting people's thoughts above problems which might currently beset them. Gambling plays an important, and in many respects a positive, role in our community.

However, as has been outlined today and on many other occasions, there are other issues when one looks at problem gamblers, people whose dream simply gets out of control. For them gambling becomes an obsession that totally dominates their life and in many instances destroys their life and the lives of the people around them. As the member for Churchlands indicated, something like 2.3 per cent of the Australian population are characterised as problem gamblers. Obviously depending on what criteria one uses, one may decide that the number of problem gamblers is greater or smaller than that, but it is indicative of the number of people throughout Australia who cannot control their propensity to gamble. That 2.3 per cent amounts to over 300 000 people across Australia. If one multiplies that by five for the effect on those people's families and associates, one has a total in excess of 1.5 million Australians who are adversely affected by gambling.

The aspect that relates to the States of course is the raising of revenue through gambling. States have very limited forms of revenue raising. Given the constitutional arrangements between the Commonwealth and the States, the States are hard pressed to raise the revenue they need to provide the necessary services. Gambling is a very important part of the taxation base in the States. States have an interest in promoting gambling because increasing its turnover increases revenue to the State. One can soon get to a situation, which would appear to be the case in some other States, where state government revenues are over reliant on the revenue derived from gambling. Comment has already been made on the Productivity Commission report instituted by the Commonwealth Government looking into the extent of problem gambling and the reliance of state government revenues on gambling taxes. That report indicated that some \$11b is spent annually in Australia on gambling and that the amount has doubled over approximately the past 10 years. As States become more and more reliant on gambling, there is a danger that they will overlook the negative aspects of gambling on the community. In order to provide Police Forces, schools and hospital services, the Government must have the revenue. If those problems of gambling and their effect on individuals and families can be pushed aside, Governments can make decisions driven by the need to balance their budget and overlook the very real social costs for our community of a rise in the percentage of problem gamblers.

States can end up in a position where they have something of a conflict of interest between having to raise revenue and looking at the general welfare of the community. As one of the earlier speakers indicated, in at least one State, 13 per cent of the State's revenue is based on gambling taxes. Even in this State we have a case where an agency under the Totalisator Agency Board is being taken to court over allegations that it took advantage of a problem gambler and as a result that person has lost a lot of money and his livelihood. The claim has yet to be proven in court and therefore it is inappropriate for me to discuss it in detail. An agency operating under the State Government's legislation could possibly be found to be liable for abusing a person through his problem gambling. The State gets involved in a range of issues to do with consumer protection and looking after the social problems of gambling, yet at the same time it benefits from an increase in gambling.

That is all I wish to say by way of broad remarks. The current Premier has given a very clear lead that the Government does not wish to extend its revenue base by introducing electronic gambling machines or, as they are commonly called, poker machines.

Mr Cowan: There is a difference.

Mr KOBELKE: I accept that, but the common name for them is gaming machines. The term "electronic gambling machines" covers a broad range of machines, of which poker machines are just one part.

As I say, the Premier has given a clear lead that the State does not wish to seek massive increases in its gambling revenue by the introduction of electronic gambling machines into hotels and clubs. If we look at what is happening in other States, it is clear the Government could gain considerably more revenue by making such a move. However, cognisant of the very real dangers to many people whose gambling would simply get out of control with such a wide availability of gaming machines, the Premier has indicated that he will not go down that path. Dr Gallop as Leader of the Opposition has fully supported that stand, and the Opposition is also on the record as supporting the government stand of not allowing the wholesale introduction of electronic gambling machines into hotels and clubs. That being the case, as the member for Perth has already indicated, we wish to support the amendment that is now before the House and add the further amendment which clearly makes it a bipartisan motion, which would then read, if the amendment is carried -

But that this House expresses its added concern over moves to introduce poker machines into WA hotels and clubs, and supports the efforts of the present Government and Opposition to ensure that such introduction does not take place.

I therefore hope that the House will support the amendment to the amendment.

MR COWAN (Merredin - Deputy Premier) [4.20 pm]: On behalf of the Government I make the point that no moves are being made to introduce poker machines into Western Australian hotels and clubs.

Mr Kobelke: Not by the Government.

Mr COWAN: Only with the agreement of government will they be introduced.

Mr Kobelke: Proponents are pushing for it.

Mr COWAN: I take the member's point that representatives of the hotel industry and those representing the sporting and recreation clubs have continually made representations to government. I imagine they do the same to the Opposition and independent members of this place in seeking acceptance that their wishes should be acceded to. The fact remains that the Government has no intention of introducing poker machines or electronic gaming machines into hotels and clubs. There are a number of good reasons for that.

Mr Pendal: The amendment before the House moved by the Opposition does not negate my amendment.

Mr COWAN: I understand the Opposition is seeking to get into the act by way of its own amendment. Although the Government may have perhaps treated this matter differently had this been a substantive motion, it may also have sought to directly amend the substantive motion if it had been moved by an opposition member, or in this case by an independent member. It would then have been debated on Wednesday during private members' time. I understand the competition independent members face in seeking to win some time in which to articulate their case during private members' business. However, in this instance the Casino (Burswood Island) Agreement Act prevents the use of electronic gaming machines or poker machines anywhere other than in the casino for a prescribed period. According to the precise definition of "poker machine" such machines do not exist in Western Australia. The Government has no intention of varying that Act, which has some time to run.

I do not doubt the intensity with which hotels and clubs might lobby the Government when that law ceases to have effect in this State. I live in great expectation that the Government will make a decision on that matter at that time. As there is no intention by government of permitting the expansion of electronic gaming machines into areas other than those in which they already exist, we cannot agree with this amendment, as much as we are pleased that the Opposition and the member for South Perth have indicated their great support of the actions of the Government, particularly those of the Premier, who has led this debate.

Once again we are seeing the Address-in-Reply being used as a substitute for a substantive motion that could be debated in the House during private members' business. In essence, the Address-in-Reply is being used as a vehicle for members to push their own barrows or to deny other members the opportunity that it provides to promote issues that are important to their constituencies.

The original intent of the Address-in-Reply was to identify the Government's policy objectives and its program for the ensuing year, for members to compare that with some of their ambitions or with some of the expectations their constituencies might have of government and to deliver a critique of that which government was or was not doing. That has changed because myriad amendments are made to the Address-in-Reply which go beyond that and which refer to someone's hobby horse on policy. Those amendments do not provide the general capacity for members to deal with policy issues referred to in the Governor's speech.

We did not indicate that we would do anything other than preserve the status quo with electronic gaming machines or poker machines; it is not on the agenda. This is a good example of how the Address-in-Reply debate has been varied in a way that deprives members of the opportunity of putting their arguments regarding issues which have an impact on their

constituencies and which they wish to bring to the Government's notice. Rather, the Opposition has taken up issues that are perhaps a little more likely to win some publicity. Although I acknowledge that this job must be not only done, but also seen to be done, I equally acknowledge that the member for South Perth is probably more adept than most of us at identifying issues that will give him a long run in the media to demonstrate his concern for the broader views of not just his constituency but also those of all other Western Australians. Although I also understand the sentiment behind the initial amendment and the amendment on the amendment, by which the Opposition has sought to climb on the band wagon of the member for South Perth, it is not necessary. The Government has no intention whatsoever of changing the Act to permit those things about which some reservations have been expressed in this amendment. I hope members on this side of the House appreciate that the Government is opposed to it.

MR BLOFFWITCH (Geraldton) [4.27 pm]: I acknowledge that, as a result of the way in which poker machines were introduced into Victoria, they are detrimental to the community; their introduction was not done in the right way.

However, when I was first married I lived in a little place called Granville in New South Wales, in which there was a Returned Servicemen's League club and a leagues club. For \$2 a year I was able to be a member of that very flash RSL club, which offered world-class entertainment every weekend. At no extra cost I could sit in the theatre and watch the entertainment.

Mr Barnett: With a glass of red wine?

Mr BLOFFWITCH: Yes. The wine was sold at bar prices, not lounge prices. I felt enormous benefits were derived from the money made from poker machines, which in those days were allowed only in clubs. It gave the clubs the opportunity to develop facilities for the use of members; for example, the club bought the bowling club next door to the club so that its members could bowl there free of charge. The club also owned a half share in a golf club in the hills and we could play golf at no charge. As a young working fellow I saw these as immense benefits. The \$4 or \$6 a month that I might have poured into the poker machines was nothing. It did not affect our budget; in fact, it improved our quality of life a great deal.

In the past couple of years I have visited Victoria. The poker machines in the pubs there are in the bottle shops, in the halls, in the toilets - everywhere. Like many members, I have seen people - in many cases older people - going through their purse feeding these machines. That is not the scenario that we in this State want to paint. Although I have some very fond memories of the benefits these machines brought me as a young man, I can now see the social evils that emerge when they are permitted, carte blanche, in hotels and clubs and all other outlets which have an opportunity to instal them. That is totally wrong.

We do not have poker machines in Western Australia; we have gaming machines. The gaming machines at the Burswood Casino contain card games, as well as keno. Poker machines will have a variety of emblems on the machines; for example, clowns. I am sure we have seen them when we have been to casinos in the East. The Burswood Casino does not have permission to use poker machines; it has permission to instal gaming machines. It exploits the gaming machines extremely well, and most people who use them have a good time. I am sure many people lose a lot of money.

We should not forget that many people also go into the Totalisator Agency Board and lose a lot of money. I know of cases where people have gone into the TAB, have lost the week's wages and then gone home to tell their wife there is nothing left for rest of the week. I do not know whether that is any worse than losing that money on poker machines. If abused, all these things can cause a lot of harm to families, to people who are trying to get ahead and do something positive. I will support the amendment, if it is passed, but I probably will not support it now because I do not believe in changing the Address-in-Reply.

Mr McGinty: You're having two bob each way.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: I might.

Mr Pandal: Will you vote against the Government's policy?

Mr BLOFFWITCH: That is my prerogative. If I wish to, I will. I will think about it.

Some bad points are associated with the introduction of poker machines, but bad points are associated with all forms of gambling. I know people who have spent a whole week's wages on lotto tickets. That is no worse than spending their week's wages on poker machines. As a State we promote lotto tickets through television advertising. We encourage people to buy them. People who are against the concept of tempting members of the public to spend their money in this way see no good in any of these gambling avenues. All forms of gambling are as bad as poker machines can be.

MR BARNETT (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [4.33 pm]: I wish to clarify why the Government will not be supporting this motion. It has absolutely nothing to do with the issue of gambling.

Mr Pandal: Talk about a Government in shambles! You are not going to support it either?

Mr BARNETT: The member for South Perth has been in this place long enough to know that the Address-in-Reply is a response to the Governor's address to this Parliament on the opening of the Parliament. The Government does not amend the Governor's speech.

Dr Constable: It has been done before.

Several members interjected.

Mr BARNETT: Opposition members may move amendments, if they wish; however, this Government will not be amending

the speech of His Excellency. Members in this House have views about gambling. An element of stunt is going on here, and that is fine. Members are expressing their views on gambling.

This Government and statements by the Premier have not been in any way supportive of the introduction of gambling, gaming machines and poker machines. There is a variety of views. The member for Geraldton has expressed some, and I might have a slightly different view. The Government has not supported the introduction of gambling poker machines. It is very important for members to appreciate that we will not support an amendment to the Governor's speech; however, that does not say anything about the attitude of this Government on the issue of gambling.

MR MCGOWAN (Rockingham) [4.35 pm]: I support the amendment moved by the member for South Perth.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mrs Hodson-Thomas): The question is that the words to be inserted to the amendment moved by the member for South Perth be agreed to. That amendment to the Address-in-Reply was moved by a colleague of the member for Rockingham.

Mr MCGOWAN: I recognise that. What the member for South Perth is saying is eminently sensible. The Leader of the House has just said that the Government will not allow any amendments to the Address-in-Reply. In that case, what is the point of our pursuing this whole course of action of moving amendments at all?

Mr Barnett: Excellent. Let's finish this debate now. Let's get on with the legislation.

Mr MCGOWAN: If the Leader of the House makes a mockery -

The ACTING SPEAKER: I advise members that the Hansard reporter is having a great deal of difficulty in hearing the member for Rockingham.

Mr Barnett: This is the first time the member has made a productive contribution to a debate. Let's finish the Address-in-Reply and get back to legislation. I could not agree more.

Mr Pandal: That is what Governments love to do.

Mr MCGOWAN: I think the previous two contributions by the Leader of the House say a lot about him, in that the role of Parliament -

Mr Barnett: Come on; join in the open personal attack session on me. It's open season. I feel like a duck in the middle of a lake, trying to see where the shots are coming from.

Mr MCGOWAN: The Leader of the House is asking for another editorial. I concede that after the first editorial I was almost sorry for him.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I ask the member to resume his seat for a moment. The Hansard reporter is having a great deal of difficulty hearing the member for Rockingham. I ask the member to address his remarks through the Chair.

Mr MCGOWAN: It seems that the contributions by the Leader of the House by way of interjection and his speech on this point say a lot about the attitude of Government to the role of Parliament. I thought that role was to put forward in amendments like these something which is sensible and achievable and which relates to public policy in this State. Surely members opposite, at least in this debate, should examine those matters on their merits. A matter as important as this is to the social future of this State should be examined on its merits.

Mr Barnett: It is very simple. If you want a debate about gambling, move a substantive motion. That is all you have to do. Then we will debate gambling and will probably agree with you.

Mr MCGOWAN: The Leader of the House wants members to spend more time on this. Surely issues such as this should be examined on their merits. In the past I recall members of the National Party crossing the floor on these issues, and they should look at this one very carefully. A few years ago when the airconditioning in the Chamber was debated, they crossed the floor. This issue is important, and one on which the member for South Perth is backing the Government. Surely government members should examine this issue on its merit and support it. The Government's attitude indicates one of two things: Either it regards the institution of Parliament as a rubber stamp and a joke, or it has an agenda to introduce poker machines to this State in the future. Either position says something about the Government.

Mr Johnson interjected.

Mr MCGOWAN: If the member for Hillarys is so concerned about this issue, maybe he should vote for this amendment. Maybe he should show a bit of intestinal fortitude and cross the floor as the member for Geraldton will apparently do. I am opposed to the introduction of poker machines into this State. I grew up in a place where poker machines were rife.

Mr Barnett: What is your attitude to bingo?

Mr MCGOWAN: The Leader of the House is asking for another editorial.

Mr Barnett: Do you have a policy on bingo?

Mr MCGOWAN: Has the Leader of the House ever been to bingo?

Mr Barnett: No. I imagine bingo in Rockingham would be pretty big.

Mr MCGOWAN: I have been to bingo many times in my constituency.

Mr Barnett: Do you support bingo?

Mr McGOWAN: Yes, I support bingo.

Mr Barnett: So you support bingo. That is fine.

Mr McGOWAN: However, the Leader of the House has never been to bingo.

Mr Barnett: No.

Mr McGOWAN: People normally spend only a set amount of money when they go to bingo. It might be \$12 or \$15. I am a regular attendee at bingo in my electorate and that is how much one spends. However, where I grew up, often the people who could least afford it put enormous amounts of money into these machines. The machines continue to swallow the money time after time. This starts at 10.00 am when the Returned Services League club opens and can finish at midnight when the club closes. I am glad the Leader of the House raised the matter of bingo because it lasts two or three, maybe four hours and one would normally go once or twice a week. Poker machines can take up an enormous amount of time for people with time on their hands, particularly elderly people on fixed incomes. Normally such people can spend all day in the clubs pouring their pensions through these machines.

It would be a mistake to introduce poker machines into this State. Western Australia is the only State which does not have them. If members travel to the other States, most people, even those who play poker machines - and I have relatives in South Australia, some of whom play poker machines - will tell them that whatever we do, we should not introduce them into our State; it would be a mistake. The Government's objection to this amendment shows either that it regards Parliament as a rubber stamp and allows no freedom of thought on the Liberal or National Party backbenches, or it has a secret agenda to introduce poker machines.

MR PENDAL (South Perth) [4.44 pm]: I will address myself to the amendment moved by the member for Perth, something the previous speakers did not do. I am much cheered by this amendment. I am delighted that after the words praising the Government and encouraging it to stick to its policy, the Opposition is inviting members to say they share that view and want to be part of that expression of the view of the House. What a glorious opportunity members have now. The Opposition and the member for Perth have given us an opportunity to do something bipartisan. That is something radical. It is something for members to tell their grandchildren: One day we passed something with which we all agreed and which embodied what the government and opposition members believed. However, can you believe it Madam Acting Speaker? The minute that little bit of generosity is shown by the Opposition, the Government flags members that it does not want us to give the Opposition any credit. I will address that issue and the ineptitude of it. Talk about a place in disarray! The ineptitude is something about which the government members can tell their grandchildren.

I know that if I talk about the soon to be amended amendment to the Address-in-Reply, Madam Acting Speaker will tell me to stick to the question currently before the Chair. I did not know the Labor policy but I wanted to get support for the Government's stance on record. This has now turned around. To its credit, the Opposition wants to be part of that House expression, but the Government does not want to be on record supporting its own view or supporting itself. How bizarre! Talk about political gargantuanism! I address the two words sought to be inserted by the Opposition, that it too wants to be part of an expression of view in this House which says we know there are moves afoot to extend poker machines to clubs and hotels. We know that.

Mr Johnson interjected.

Mr PENDAL: Is the member suggesting he is not receiving the correspondence? The independent Gaming Commission has written to me and other members of Parliament to say it will be pressuring the Government to extend the law. The member for Nollamara, the leader of opposition business in this House, hit the nail on the head when he said that the member for South Perth was not saying that the Government was seeking to extend the law. He made that clear; it is denied. The point of my amendment is that there are community groups - the pubs and the clubs - who want to extend the law to allow them to introduce poker machines. My original amendment was to have the House say, "No, we as a House do not believe that should ever happen and, what is more, we commend the Premier for his stance."

Mr Barnett: Good, you have said it. That is fine.

Mr PENDAL: Yes, but the Government will vote against it. The amendment moved by the member for Perth should be supported.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Sweetman): Order! Is the member for South Perth proposing a further amendment to the amendment? Is that what he is saying?

Mr PENDAL: No, that has already been done. The member for Perth has moved an amendment to my amendment. That is why I am delighted. The member for Perth has rightly taken the view that the amendment I moved simply commended the Government on a certain view. The member for Perth wanted to include the Opposition as the alternative Government. That is why I am delighted. That is why the 92 per cent of the people of Western Australia who oppose any extension of the law should be delighted. The Government and the alternative Government would have supported the amendment. However, the minute the alternative Government supports the amendment, this Government says it cannot support the amendment. At a later stage, I will speak on the question of amending Addresses-in-Reply because it is absurd to say the Government does not support such an occurrence. Last year the Government supported an amendment to the Address-in-Reply which I moved and the House did something else unthinkable - it had an outbreak of unanimity. Shock horror!

Mr Sweetman: We are not going to let that happen again.

Mr PENDAL: The member for Ningaloo said by interjection, "We are not going to let that happen again." I have seen many dopey, inept things in my time in Parliament but this just about takes the cake. I return to the question before the Chair. I thank the member for Perth for moving her amendment to my amendment in order that we get a bipartisan expression of view in this House. I intend to support her amendment to my amendment.

DR CONSTABLE (Churchlands) [4.50 pm]: I am happy to support the amendment moved by the member for Perth. In doing so I will deal with comments made by the Deputy Premier and the Leader of the House in opposing the amendment and the amendment to the amendment. I remind them that, in trying to rewrite history and how this Parliament works, in 1992 when they were in opposition, they were happy to support an amendment to the Address-in-Reply moved by the then member for Perth, Dr Alexander, relating to the Fitzgerald Street bus bridge, which amendment was passed and the Address-in-Reply was amended. In government in 1997, they did the same thing. I moved an amendment to the Address-in-Reply which supported the Speaker.

Mr Pendal: I am sorry. Are you saying they did the same thing?

Dr CONSTABLE: Yes, in opposition and in government.

Mr Minson: That is hard to believe!

Dr CONSTABLE: They have done it twice. Members opposite keep making the same mistake. They supported the Speaker's comments about the urgent need for the Government to commit funds to upgrade and improve facilities at Parliament House. It is a great pity that they did not take heed of that motion and commit the funds because, despite the enormous efforts of the Speaker and the President, we are still struggling in this building.

Last year, on Tuesday, 18 August, the same thing happened. The member for South Perth moved an amendment to the Address-in-Reply relating to One Nation and this House agreed to that motion. In 1997, the member for South Perth moved an amendment to the Address-in-Reply relating to taxation which everyone supported. I do not know what has happened in the meantime to the Deputy Premier and the Leader of the House, but they seem to have lost their way. They seem to want to manipulate this place to suit themselves and not to understand the history of this place. It is extraordinary in the extreme that they are prepared to vote against government policy for such a flimsy reason.

Amendment on the amendment put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (20)

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

Noes (30)

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

Pairs

Mrs Roberts	Mr Tubby
Mr Bridge	Mr Wiese

Amendment on the amendment thus negatived.

Debate (on amendment to motion) Resumed

MR RIPPER (Belmont - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.58 pm]: There may be some confusion among members about what we are debating. The Government has just shown us that it lacks the grace to commend the Opposition for its support of government policy. We have had an interesting few weeks in state politics. They have been difficult weeks for the Government. At times the Opposition has found it perplexing. It has not been able to find many government members prepared to support government policy. It has not been able to find members of the National Party prepared to support the Regional Forest Agreement. The Leader of the National Party has not been prepared to support the state budget; the Minister for Local Government has not been prepared to support the latest forest policy; the Deputy Premier has not been prepared to support the policies of the Minister for Energy on the uniform electricity tariff; and the Premier has not been prepared to support the Minister for Energy's actions on the Derby tidal power project. Therefore, these have been perplexing weeks! Our difficulty in dealing with the Government's approach was capped today by our not being able to get the Government to support government policy. The member for South Perth has offered the Government an opportunity to support

government policy, to which the Government has replied that it will not. It wants to cap what has happened in the past few weeks with individual members going off in different directions by its being united in rejecting a motion supporting government policy. What an extraordinary development.

The only defence the Government offers is that members cannot amend the Address-in-Reply. I quote from the Address-in-Reply passed by this Chamber in 1997. It has the usual words at the beginning -

We, the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament;

It continues -

and

wish to support the recent moves at the State and Territory Leaders' Forum for agreement to be reached by all Governments for taxation reform in Australia; and

wish to inform Your Excellency that this House supports the Speaker in his timely comments regarding the need to upgrade and improve facilities at Parliament House.

That is the 1997 Address-in-Reply. Unless members might think that is a highly unusual occurrence, let us consider the 1998 Address-in-Reply. Again, there are the usual words at the beginning, begging to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, etc etc, and then there is the amendment -

and, further, the House agrees with Your Excellency's expression of abhorrence for the politics of " ... division and hate ... " in your speech.

The defence offered by the Leader of the House about the Government's failure to support government policy falls in a heap. Why will the Government not vote to support the policy most often articulated by its leader, the Premier? It is an important question.

Mr Barnett: Even you would agree that the reconciliation issue at that time was an important, unique and highly sensitive issue and the amendment was quite proper on that unique occasion. You will take that instance of this Parliament expressing support for Aboriginal people and try to generalise it to gambling and a whole host of other issues. That is shameful and disrespectful to Aboriginal people.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! The member for Belmont has the floor.

Mr RIPPER: What about the amendment on the need to upgrade and improve facilities at Parliament House? Was it a major social issue on which Parliament had a moral obligation to make a statement, and would it have been shameful to do otherwise? The argument falls to the ground. The important question is why the Government will not support government policy. Perhaps a change is in the wind. We look around and see whether the leader-in-waiting is in the Chamber but he is not in his seat. Perhaps the leader-in-waiting, the minister for unfair trading, has a different view on poker machines.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member to speak to the amendment.

Mr RIPPER: I am, Madam Acting Speaker (Mrs Hodson-Thomas), but I will accept your guidance. I am attempting to speak to the amendment. I am very concerned about the Government's reasons for not supporting the amendment. The defence by the Leader of the House has fallen in a heap. Perhaps his argument is, like the Government, in disarray. We can conclude only that either the Government cannot get its act together on anything at this time or perhaps there is a change of policy supported by some within the Liberal Party. I suggest that the most likely candidate to support a change of policy on this matter is our old friend the minister for unfair trading.

MR COWAN (Merredin - Deputy Premier) [5.04 pm]: I want to make a few things very clear to the Opposition and to members on the government side of the House. There will be no changes to those Acts and regulations which permit the use of electronic gaming machines in one place and one place only in this State - the Burswood International Resort Casino. I repeat for the benefit of members on this side of the House who believe this in some way will erode the position of the Premier or those responsible for gaming in this State, that there will be no change to the legislation that controls video gaming in the State of Western Australia. Can I make it any clearer? There will be no change. Although I may not have got the message through to the Opposition, I hope I have got the message through to members on my side of the House. I doubt that members of the Press will listen, but I think they will at least have understood what I have said. It must be made very clear in this debate that this type of amendment to the Address-in-Reply could be moved time and again. Every time members want to start another debate on the Address-in-Reply, they could introduce an amendment that they expected the Government to support because it was government policy.

Mr Pendal: Goodness gracious; what message is that sending to children about how the Parliament works!

Several members interjected.

Mr COWAN: I am very pleased the member for South Perth raised that issue because he knows, and so do other members on that side of the Chamber, including I hope the member for Churchlands, that if they want to introduce a substantive motion on this subject, they can do so. I have been a member of the Parliament long enough to be able to say with some

authority that, unfortunately for this House, I have noted a change to the way in which the Address-in-Reply debate is dealt with in this Parliament. This modern way of dealing with the Address-in-Reply should be changed as quickly as possible.

Point of Order

Mr PENDAL: I seek your guidance, Madam Acting Speaker. Is the Deputy Premier saying, and is the Chair agreeing with him, that the House is not capable of amending the Address-in-Reply?

Mr COWAN: It is not necessary for the Acting Speaker to make a decision on that. Of course the House has a right to amend the Address-in-Reply.

Mr PENDAL: I did not ask for the Deputy Premier's ruling; I asked the Acting Speaker.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mrs Hodson-Thomas): There is no point of order. I am sure members in this place can make up their own minds when they decide to vote.

Debate Resumed

Mr COWAN: Of course, under the standing orders the House has the capacity to amend the Address-in-Reply, but I am talking about convention and practice. I am not talking about the standing orders; I know they permit amendments to be made to the Address-in-Reply. If members examine *Hansard*, or even the Votes and Proceedings, which are the official record of this Parliament, they will find that amendments to the Address-in-Reply, particularly the plethora of amendments that are moved time after time, are only a recent phenomenon. It is an issue with which this House must deal. The Governor delivers his address which indicates the direction the Government will take. The Government has provided that speech for the Governor, subject to his approval, and he delivers it. It has not been a longstanding convention for the Government to accept amendments to the Address-in-Reply.

Mr Kobelke: How far back does it go?

Mr COWAN: To my knowledge, only one amendment to the Address-in-Reply had been accepted in the 21 years prior to the past three or four years. I know the House has the capacity to do that, but it is not appropriate for the House to start entrenching this convention or practice. I would much rather see those members take up issues of importance by way of substantive motions and deal with the Address-in-Reply in the way I outlined when I spoke to the amendment on this amendment. The address given by the Governor is effectively a program of government policy that is to be implemented, and members should make some comparisons about how it affects their constituency, rather than move amendment after amendment to the Address-in-Reply. As I said before, the member for South Perth is astute enough to identify something which has been government policy and which has been stated unequivocally on a number of occasions, primarily by the Premier; that is, there would be no change to the Casino Control Act and, therefore, there would not be an extension or an expansion of video gaming machines to hotels and clubs, notwithstanding the representation that has been made by the Australian Hotels Association and the sporting and recreation clubs over the years.

Mr Brown: Has the Cabinet made a decision on that?

Mr COWAN: We have not had to. The policy is very clear. Must we reinforce all of those good things or all of those things which the Government has stated time and again that it will do? If that is the case, we will debate only the Address-in-Reply and its subsequent amendments for the rest of this session, because I will also think of a few amendments that will congratulate the Government for its policy. Although amendments of this nature to the Address-in-Reply might have some value in terms of the substantive motion when members of the Government can seek to make changes or variations, the sooner we return to debating the Address-in-Reply as it was originally intended in the standing orders, deal with it, get it out of the way and get on with substantive motions and private members' business, the better.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [5.12 pm]: I will make a couple of comments about the amendment moved by the member for South Perth. We must note that the member for South Perth has moved an amendment because it is his view that there is widespread community concern about the prospect of an extension of gambling opportunities beyond those which are available in Western Australia currently. He has done that on the basis that many reports have come in, particularly on video electronic gaming machines, which indicate that if we have too many of those machines in our community, real social and health problems will emerge. An interesting point about this debate is that both sides of Parliament have agreed. I have received a lot of letters from people who say that at least this is one issue on which the Government says something and the Opposition agrees with it and supports its position. The wide range of political parties in Western Australia have made it absolutely clear that they all agree on this. Those who may want to change things know exactly where the Parliament and the Government are coming from. Most importantly, it is a bipartisan issue; therefore everyone in the Parliament can agree on it.

As the Leader of the Opposition, I attend many social functions and people say, "Isn't it good that you, as Leader of the Opposition, agree with the Premier on something?" It is a wonderful thing that both sides of Parliament agree on this crucial issue. It is not difficult for the Parliament to support the member for South Perth on this matter, because the stated policies of all parties agree with the motion. It would be good for the Parliament to endorse what the Government and the Opposition have done on this occasion. As a Parliament, that would be a mature act on our part which would send a good message to the community that, despite all the conflict that is associated with party politics, this is an issue on which we all agree. The member for South Perth has done us all a service by putting that issue on the Table of Parliament. That is the situation we face. I call upon the backbench members of the Government to bring a bit of commonsense into this debate. They should support the amendment. The world will not collapse if they support it. The Governor will not go into some sort of fit if he

is presented with an amendment to his Address-in-Reply speech delivered on behalf of the Government. The Government will not collapse tomorrow. What will happen, however, is that the newspapers will report that there were many issues of disagreement in the Parliament related to the Government's policy, but on this issue, the Parliament spoke as one. I call upon all backbenchers to support the amendment moved by the member for South Perth. It is a good amendment. It shows that, on some issues, this Parliament can act in a bipartisan way and that we all think as one and we are not divided. It is not difficult; it will not bring down the Government; and it will not embarrass the Governor. However, it will show the people of Western Australia that there are occasions when we, as a Parliament, are united on an important social question - the question of the video gaming machines in Western Australia. We will send the message to everyone and, hopefully, it will do the cause of Parliament a lot of good. Government backbench members should join with the member for South Perth and the Opposition on this issue and put a bit of commonsense into the Government in terms of its stubbornness on what should be a very simple thing to do.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (20)

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

Noes (31)

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

Pairs

Mrs Roberts	Mr Tubby
Mr Bridge	Mr Wiese

Amendment thus negatived.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

MR MCGINTY (Fremantle) [5.20 pm]: I take this opportunity to raise with the House what I regard as further disturbing information about the ability of the Minister for Fair Trading to protect the life savings and investments of self-funded retirees, and information about what has happened to one investor during the past three months with regard to investments that go back over some three years. Mr Christopher Nicolaides is a director of Nicolaides Nominees Pty Ltd, which invested moneys through a firm known as Clifton Partners Finance Pty Ltd on the basis of a documented policy from Clifton Partners that the security would be a first mortgage registered in the name of the investor. I will relay to the House the sad story of how on a number of occasions that written policy and undertaking from Clifton Partners was not honoured. Mr Nicolaides invested two amounts through Clifton Partners: \$145 000 in 1966 in a development in Alfred Cove, and \$170 000 in 1998 in a development in South Perth. On each occasion, Mr Nicolaides received written and verbal assurances that the loan would be secured by having the name of Mr Nicolaides' company appear on the first mortgage over each property, and he would not have entered into the investment had he not received that undertaking. However, in both cases, the name of Mr Nicolaides' company did not appear on the appropriate mortgage documents.

I will take the House through some correspondence: A letter from Nicolaides Nominees Pty Ltd to the Ministry of Fair Trading, a response to that letter from the Ministry of Fair Trading, a further letter from Nicolaides Nominees Pty Ltd to the Ministry of Fair Trading, and a letter from Murie & Edward, Barristers, Solicitors and Notaries, to Mr Nicolaides. I will be referring to those letters quite extensively, and I seek to have those documents lie on the Table of the House for the remainder of today's proceedings.

[Leave granted.]

Mr MCGINTY: I refer first to a letter dated March 1999 from Nicolaides Nominees Pty Ltd to the Ministry of Fair Trading. This letter was sent to the ministry in June 1999. The letter draws attention to the two investments to which I have referred, and also to the guarantee from Clifton Partners, and it states -

Clifton Partners advises its prospective investors that **"For your protection, The first mortgage is registered in your name"**.

It was on that basis that the first investment of \$145 000 in the Alfred Cove development was made. The second investment of \$170 000 in the South Perth development was also preceded by a discussion between Mr Nicolaides, the principal of Clifton Partners and one of its investment managers. As I have indicated, in neither case was a mortgage registered in the name of Nicolaides Nominees; therefore Nicolaides Nominees lacked the security which it had been guaranteed.

This matter comes back ultimately to the role played by the minister and the Ministry of Fair Trading, and a number of important points arise from that. It is necessary to trace in some detail the nature of the transactions that surround this investment. The second investment was made to finance a development by Rylestone Pty Ltd, located at 17 Hardy Street, South Perth. The proposal for this development stated that Nicolaides Nominees Pty Ltd would be a first registered mortgagee for the amount invested. The letter then documents the dealings between Mr Nicolaides and Mr Ian Hamilton from Clifton Partners and states that -

Mr Hamilton agreed and this was reflected in the terms of the proposal and included in a letter from Clifton Partners (16th Feb 1998) which stated that "We will forward a transfer of mortgage within 2 weeks to reflect your name on the "certificate of title".

On the 7th April 1998 I received a letter together with a Transfer of Mortgage form from Clifton Partners so that "Clifton Partners Finance Pty Ltd will cease as the Mortgagee and the individual names of you and your fellow mortgagees will be shown on both the title and the mortgage documents." **The form, duly executed was forwarded to Clifton Partners on the 15th April 1998.**

The letter states also -

On the 1st March 1999 I requested a copy of the amended mortgage documents from Clifton Partners. The letter was marked for the attention of Mr Ian Hamilton. A period of eleven months had now elapsed since the execution of the Transfer of Mortgage form. **This letter remains unanswered.**

The problem was that an undertaking was given that Nicolaides Nominees would appear as the first mortgagee in respect of both loans, and it did not; and letters requesting documents from the mortgage broker were left unanswered for 11 months. On 10 March 1999, Mr Nicolaides rang Clifton Partners and was told by an employee who looked for the mortgage documents that the existing mortgage documents did not show Nicolaides Nominees as a mortgagee. Any person who had invested part of his life savings under the guarantee that he would be the first registered mortgagee over the property concerned and who found out that his name did not appear on the mortgage documents would be very worried and think he had blown his entire investment. This is true particularly against a backdrop where in March this year, both Grubb Real Estate and Finance and Global Finance Group Pty Ltd were going to the wall in similar circumstances. Mr Nicolaides suddenly found that, despite guarantees, his interest which secured his investment did not appear on the finance broker's records.

The conclusion of his letter, which was sent to the Ministry of Fair Trading in June of this year, reads -

I consider the matters raised above to be of the utmost concern. Many of Clifton Partners clients (including myself) are retirees who after many years of hard work have entrusted their life savings into what appear to be worthwhile ventures. The terms under which I entered into these agreements were clear and concise. I not only analysed them fully before committing my capital but also asked for further verbal and written undertakings by Clifton Partners that Nicolaides Nominees would appear on the Mortgage Documents. Although these undertakings were freely given they have not been honoured. Clifton Partners have failed in honouring the most fundamental issue in this type of investment and that is the matter of investor security.

He makes other comments and concludes as follows -

The lack of communication on the part of Cliftons to my genuine concerns and being mindful of the Global Finance Groups demise, (of which I was also an investor) raises speculation to new heights.

Please advise as to what action can be taken to ensure that this state of affairs is not permitted to continue and whether any action can be instigated against Clifton Partners to what can at best be described as a dereliction of duty and at worst an orchestrated and well mechanised ploy to jeopardise the capital of their investors to the benefit of their borrowers.

The Ministry of Fair Trading replied in July, and I make no criticism of the time taken to reply. Members will recall that in relation to the first investment I said that an undertaking had been given that the name of Nicolaides Nominees would appear as a first mortgagee. It did not so appear. The letter from Fair Trading reads -

An inspector of the Finance Brokers Supervisory Board visited Clifton Partners and inspected the office file relating to this investment. A copy of the declaration of trust deed was sighted. It was noted that the declaration contained information as to the beneficiaries nominated, one being Nicolaides Nominees Pty Ltd.

The view taken by Fair Trading was that even though a promise was made for the name to appear on the mortgage document, that did not occur and the declaration of the trust document secured the investment. With respect to the second investment the ministry said -

Your letter also contained reference to the investment in Rylestone Pty Ltd. You stated that your investment interest had not been registered on the certificate of title for the secured property. You had contacted representatives of Clifton Partners and made attempts to have this rectified. You were not successful.

An inspector of the Finance Brokers Supervisory Board visited Clifton Partners and inspected the office file relating to this investment. . . There was no record of the interest of Nicolaides Nominees Pty Ltd having been recorded on the certificate of title of the secured property.

The ministry comments in two other paragraphs which I will read for the benefit of the House -

Mr K. Clifton and Mr Ian Hamilton of Clifton Partners were interviewed and stated that the recording of your interest on the title had been inadvertently misplaced and had not been attended to. A written explanation of this matter has been provided by Clifton Partners to the Inspector. It was claimed that the un-availability of Mr Hamilton and other office procedures had contributed to the failure to record the interest. Mr Clifton has given an undertaking that office procedures have been altered and it is not envisaged that this will occur again.

The matter of your complaint has been brought to the notice of the Finance Brokers Supervisory Board. Investigations by the Ministry of Fair Trading under the *Finance Brokers Control Act 1975* are confined to ascertaining whether or not the licensee has complied with the provisions of the Act and/or the Code of Conduct as approved by the Finance Brokers Supervisory Board. It is a decision that no further action will be taken in this matter.

I will raise some questions in this debate about the decision of the Finance Brokers Supervisory Board to take no further action in this very important matter. Mr Nicolaides responded to that letter with a further letter dated 5 August 1999 in which he posed a number of questions that I will read to the House. They are as follows -

1. Has there been a breach of the Trade Practises Act by Clifton Partners? I stressed in my letter to you that I considered investing with this Company only as a direct result of the advertising which states that for the purposes of security 'the First Mortgage is registered in your name'.
In an approximately 3 year period (8/96-5/99) this did not occur in the case outlined to you, even though I repeatedly spoke to both the principal, senior staff and the Solicitors acting for Clifton Partners.
2. Did your investigation conduct a sample survey of other investors to ascertain the percentage not included on the appropriate mortgage documents? If so what were the results?
3. Why is it that the 'unavailability of Mr. Hamilton and other office procedures' are employed as legitimate reasons for the omission when:
 - a. A number of my calls on the subject were to Mr. Clifton personally and he undertook to correct the situation;
 - b. In the case of Rylestone, not one but two Transfer of Mortgage forms were executed by me without action being taken on either.
4. You state that my complaint was brought to the notice of the Finance Brokers Supervisory Board and that they have decided that 'no further action will be taken in this matter'. Is it factual that Mr. Kim Clifton has an official presence on the board? If so, what part did he have in the decision to take the matter no further.

In the circumstances and in view of the recent upheaval occasioned by the collapse of Global Finance and Grubb Pty Ltd one could assume that more definitive action would have been taken in this matter.

Mr Clifton instead of blaming Office procedures (which I have no doubt he promulgated in the first place) should have, being made aware of my concerns, personally ensured that the registration of mortgage was brought to its proper conclusion.

By not doing so, he placed my security in jeopardy. The question that must now be asked is how many other investors are affected in the same way and what of their security?

Do you care?

I will pause there and refer to the issues raised so far in the material I have placed before the House. The first issue is that of a conflict of interest. Mr Kim Clifton, the principal of Clifton Partners, was a deputy member of the board that resolved to take no further action against him and his company. I presume that Mr Clifton was not in attendance at that meeting, but that is not the point. The issue is: What procedure is adopted by the board when a complaint is heard against a member or deputy member of that board or a company associated with a member or a deputy member? Perhaps it should be correctly taken out of the hands of the board so that the appearance of justice will be well and truly served. It certainly leaves doubt that some influence may have been exerted particularly when, against the background I have already described, a rather unusual decision was made by the board to take no further action.

Secondly, the decision not to take any further action appears to be remiss. There have been two cases of failure to secure a loan by name on the first mortgage over the property as promised. This is arguably negligence by Clifton Partners. I have no doubt that at law it would be so found. Rather than being considered in isolation, this matter must be considered against the backdrop of the Graham Grubb and Global Finance collapse and losses. There are some remarkable similarities. The point must be made that Mr Nicolaides did not send his letter to the Ministry of Fair Trading until he had secured his capital and his interest from both of these investments. He did not lose any money. However, he spent a long period fearing that he would lose the lot when he realised that his investment had not been secured, as he had been promised it was. It is not right that no action is being taken against a finance company held in confidence and trust by investors, who know those companies are regulated by a government board, for what is clearly a case of negligence in failing to secure the interests of the lender. The second point I make is that the board has been remiss in its decision. The first point I made was the appearance of conflict of interest with a complaint being made against a deputy member of the board.

The third point I raise is that it is apparent from the documents that I have read to the House today that when the Ministry

of Fair Trading went to Clifton Partners Finance Pty Ltd with the details of this complaint, it looked no further than the two files on the two loans that were made by Nicolaides Nominees through Clifton Partners to the two projects in question. The ministry did not bother to look at any other files. I would have thought that against the backdrop of widespread community concern the first thing the ministry would do would be to audit the other files to see whether there were other mortgages in which the name of the first mortgagee was not registered. Members will remember that the promotional material of this company stated that the registration of their name on the first mortgage was the investors' security. Clifton Partners did not register the name on the mortgage on three occasions in respect of two loans. Those three failures occurred over a three-year period to one complainant. It was not as though it was an isolated event, or an event that had not been raised with the principals and senior employees of the company to correct. They had always failed to correct it. A pattern was emerging that would have warranted any worthwhile investigator doing an audit to see whether there were any other instances in which that same undertaking had not been honoured. That might have indicated a broader problem with respect to Clifton Partners.

As I said, the inspector looked at only two Nicolaides Nominees files and not at any of the others. I appreciate that the resources available to the ministry would not allow it, on every single occasion it received a complaint, to undertake a complete study of every file held by the firm. No-one is asking for that. However, a little more interest beyond the immediacy of these two files, and perhaps contact with some of the other lenders, might have shown some intent by the ministry beyond simply disposing of the file that was immediately in front of it. The Ministry of Fair Trading can properly be accused of going a bit soft on this firm.

The fourth point I raise is the role of Mr Ian Hamilton. I presume Mr Ian Hamilton is the same person who was employed not all that long ago by Blackburne and Dixon Pty Ltd, which is a finance broking company about which many members of this House will be aware. Frankly, alarm bells should have been ringing with the Ministry of Fair Trading and its inspector. Blackburne and Dixon, who previously employed Mr Ian Hamilton, is being investigated by the major fraud squad, and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission is continuing its inquiries. The reason for that is that Blackburne and Dixon arranged for 11 investors to loan \$550 000 to a convicted kidnapper, David Wayne Casella, in 1996. Mr Casella then defaulted. Mr Hamilton's letter to the investors - I presume it is the same Mr Hamilton - said that Mr Casella was an impressive and enthusiastic inventor with a proven product. If Mr Hamilton is the same person who worked for Blackburne and Dixon, the alarm bells should have been ringing at the ministry, and it should have been right in there investigating this matter closely. That is not all that Mr Hamilton has been associated with.

In 1995 Mr Hamilton also arranged for 13 retirees to invest \$665 000 with property developer Dominic Casella with a first mortgage over a proposed medical centre at the Parmelia shopping centre as security. The property was valued at \$1m. Today it is worth only \$355 000. Again, the investors incurred a massive loss. Each of these matters warranted the Ministry of Fair Trading being far more diligent in taking up these matters.

The fifth point is the role of the Minister for Fair Trading. In recent days the minister has been behaving like a king maker, a spoiler, or even a putative king. He should be making his ministry work. That is his job. That is what he is paid to do. That is what he is responsible for. That must come before pursuing his political leadership ambitions. This year we have seen a persistent course of action by a range of finance companies that have caused enormous hardship and loss, particularly among self-funded retirees. There has been a reckless disregard for the investments of those retirees. The role of the Ministry of Fair Trading and the Minister for Fair Trading is to provide some measure of protection. They are simply not getting that from the minister. The minister should sack the Finance Brokers Supervisory Board for incompetence and failure to do its job. At least then we would see that the minister was doing his job. As it stands, both the minister and the board are failing to do their jobs.

The sixth point I raise today relates to the final document which I have asked lie on the Table of the House today, which is a letter from Murie & Edward, Barristers, Solicitors and Notaries, dated 13 August 1999. It is current. It is a letter to Mr Nicolaides regarding Clifton Partners Finance Pty Ltd. It reads -

Please note that we act for Clifton Partners Finance Pty Ltd . . . and we confirm that Fair Trading has provided us with a copy of your letter dated 14 March 1999 received by them on 8 June 1999.

What the hell was the Ministry of Fair Trading doing handing over to Clifton Partners correspondence which makes a complaint against Clifton Partners, so it can get a lawyer to threaten to sue the complainant for defamation? The letter continues -

Your concerns have been noted by the Fair Trading and we are instructed that all matters have been resolved by that organisation.

It is interesting that Murie & Edward speaks on behalf of the minister and the Ministry of Fair Trading, although I will put that to one side. The letter continues -

We are writing to you to inform you of our client's concerns. In particular, in your letter dated 14 March you made the following comment.

"Please advise us . . . whether any action can be instigated against Clifton Partners to what can best be described as a dereliction of duty and at worst an orchestrated and well mechanised ploy to jeopardise the capital of their investors to the benefit of their borrowers."

Our client does not take issue that you expressed your opinion with Fair Trading. That is your right. Our client is, however, concerned that you may make comments to any third party which may cause commercial damage to our client.

Then comes the final paragraph. Being a little involved in some of these matters in the past I recognise that this a heavy, threatening letter from the solicitors in which they quote the text of Mr Nicolaides' letter to the Ministry of Fair Trading. The letter continues -

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that if your opinion is expressed to any third parties it will constitute a serious defamation of our client and may cause substantial damage to it. Accordingly, we will issue a writ forthwith claiming substantial damages and, if appropriate, exemplary damages if such a communication is made known to us.

The issue involved in this is directly covered by section 88 of the Finance Brokers Control Act, which relates to secrecy. Subsection (2) provides -

A person to whom this section applies shall not, either directly or indirectly, except in the performance of a duty under or in connection with this Act, make a record of, or divulge or communicate to any person, any information concerning the affairs of any other person acquired by him by reason of his office or employment under or for the purposes of this Act.

I suggest to the House that the Ministry of Fair Trading has committed a most serious breach of the Finance Brokers Control Act which has resulted in a threat of legal action and, if that is followed through, serious damage to Mr Nicolaides. That also raises the question of whether there has also been a breach of the Public Sector Management Act in this behaviour by the Ministry of Fair Trading. It is arguably a breach of the code of conduct of the Finance Brokers Supervisory Board. It is clear that the threatened defamation action is designed for one purpose; that is, to suppress the truth and to keep people in the dark who might want to invest through Clifton Partners. It is a most abusive process to be adopted to prevent this information, where it is clear - admittedly so - that Clifton Partners has been negligent in its failure to accord the proper security to Mr Nicolaides. I want to take time to relate that matter to the House as it is most important and requires urgent action by the minister who, unfortunately, is not currently in the Chamber.

Amendment to Motion

Mr McGINTY: I move -

That the following words be added to the motion -

but regrets to inform His Excellency that while the Deputy Premier and Leader of the National Party grandstands and criticises his own Government he is responsible for the poor administration in his own portfolios, one example of which is the Narrikup abattoir affair.

MR RIPPER (Belmont - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [5.50 pm]: The Deputy Premier from time to time distances himself from the sins of this coalition Government of which he is a member.

Mr Pandal interjected.

Mr RIPPER: As the member for South Perth points out, not so long ago in this Chamber the Deputy Premier was engaged in a similar exercise; he usually adopts this strategy at about the time of a National Party conference.

Madam Acting Speaker (Mrs Holmes), I am sure you and your colleagues would be only too well aware that he gives a speech at a conference of the National Party which makes a gesture towards popular criticism of the Government. He backs away from those remarks later or says that it has all been settled. However, from his point of view the political objective has been achieved: The National Party to some extent has been distinguished from the Liberal Party; the baggage of the Government has been left with the Liberal Party; and the National Party members have been painted as the good guys in the coalition, the ones that would be providing a better Government if they had a majority in the coalition.

Mr House: It is a bit like the left wing, the right wing, the centre left, the centre and all those other factions that you have in the Labor Party that do exactly the same things. However, I forgot that you don't have any conferences; therefore you don't have that opportunity. You have a conference about every decade.

Mr RIPPER: The Deputy Leader of the National Party, the leader's understudy, concedes the truth of my remarks and seeks to argue merely that people on the Labor side might do the same thing. At a later stage in the debate, if he thinks that is occurring on our side, he can try to find a few public statements to which he can point. The research task for us was not difficult. All we did was look at *The West Australian* for the past few months to find numerous examples. We also saw examples in country newspapers.

I do not want to dwell too long on the political strategy of the Deputy Leader of the Government and Leader of the National Party. I want to refer to something for which he has been responsible. Although he has painted himself as the accountable, sensitive, listening, pragmatic, sensible element of the Government, he has been responsible in his own portfolio for a series of decisions which are odd at the least. I want to deal with the Narrikup abattoir affair which received a significant degree of government financial support not only from the Deputy Premier's Department of Commerce and Trade, but also through the Employment and Training portfolio and the Main Roads department. The abattoir received \$5.2m in assistance from the Department of Commerce and Trade consisting of a \$2.7m infrastructure grant followed up with a \$2.5m interest-free loan. I understand that provided certain development conditions are met, that interest-free loan is convertible to a grant. Not content with that assistance, the Government, through the Main Roads department, also provided \$5.96m to widen and seal a road which will be used mainly by the Narrikup abattoir.

Mr House: That is not right.

Mr Prince: Are you suggesting that should not have been done? You have got to be kidding!

Mr House: You want to be careful on the advice given to you by your friend Hon Kim Chance. Are you aware of Hon Bob Thomas' comments about this abattoir?

Mr RIPPER: Let us look at what the budget papers say. The Main Roads' budget actually has a heading "Settlement Road" and underneath it says "Narrakup abattoir Project - Widen and Seal". Madam Acting Speaker, tell me that this road is not associated with the Narrakup abattoir project when the Government's own budget papers highlight the link!

Mr House: You hate to see money spent in the country, don't you? You really hate to see country people get anything. You can't help yourself.

Mr RIPPER: The Deputy Leader of the National Party believes that we on this side of politics hate to see money spent in the country. Here is the truth: We hate to see money wasted, whether it is wasted in the metropolitan area or wasted in the country. We want to see money spent on the community's priorities, not misspent on assistance to commercial projects for which it may not be justified. The last element of assistance to this project is the \$556 000 in training grants.

Mr House: You don't think we should train anybody either? Firstly you don't like roads; then you don't want business in the country to help people; now you don't want people trained.

Mr RIPPER: That assistance was revealed in an answer to Hon Kim Chance from the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Employment and Training. Three different types of assistance have been given to this project - \$5.2m from the Department of Commerce and Trade, \$5.96m from Main Roads for a road, and \$556 000 to date in training grants. At least two members of the Government seem to be alarmed by some of the things I am saying.

Mr House: We are not alarmed at all.

Mr Prince: We are alarmed by you.

Mr RIPPER: I am sure they will get to their feet and rebut what I am saying! The Government believes it has justification for this and will argue that there is \$46m worth of investment in the project. It claims that 400 jobs will be created as a result of the development of this project -

Mr House: Wouldn't that be terrible? You don't like that, do you? You don't like to think that investing money in the bush might create jobs.

Mr RIPPER: - and that there will be \$100m in annual exports.

Mr House: Is there something wrong with that?

Mr RIPPER: Anyone can claim there will be a flow on of economic benefits with the investment of government money. Several questions arise: Whether the benefit could occur anywhere else; whether it is the Government's best priority on which to spend its money; and whether any harm has occurred as a result of the expenditure. I will deal firstly with priorities. There are real needs in the bush. For example, this Government cannot provide sufficient teachers to staff country schools. There have been all year, and still are, vacancies in our country schools; that is a priority

Mr House: What don't you talk about road funding?

Mr RIPPER: I will talk about road funding. Contrary to the Premier's assurance, the Government is not spending on roads all of the money that it is receiving from the Federal Government from its collection of fuel levies. My colleague, the member for Armadale, will deal with that issue in more detail at a later stage.

I will deal now with the merits of the decision, apart from the question of priorities.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.00 pm

Mr RIPPER: I was speaking in support of an amendment moved by my colleague the member for Fremantle which, in part, criticises the Deputy Premier for his department's and other departments' support of the Narrakup abattoir decision. I outlined the levels of support from his departments, Main Roads and the Employment and Training portfolio for this project, and dealt with the question of whether this was proper use of government financial resources in terms of priorities. I now turn to the merits of the decision. It is noteworthy that this project is owned by an eastern States operator and competes against local operations. A decision has been made by the Government to support an eastern States operator against existing local projects.

Mr House: You think you can say anything that comes into your head.

Mr RIPPER: The Minister for Primary Industry can dispute what I have said.

Mr House: You are not telling the truth. Keep your argument on some sensible plane. Try to stick to the facts.

Mr RIPPER: The minister should listen to my next point if he is worried about that one. The project assistance also hinders or harms other producers. That is the key issue.

Mr House: What a joke. You know nothing about what you are talking about.

Mr RIPPER: The minister and Deputy Premier can shout all they like; why do they not listen to the arguments? I am not alone in thinking that. Naturally, the competitors of this abattoir complain.

Mr House: Who?

Mr RIPPER: I will tell members who has complained.

Dr Turnbull: Did they complain to you?

Mr RIPPER: Their complaint appeared in the newspaper.

Mr House: In *The West Australian* - that bastion of truth?

Mr RIPPER: Perhaps the minister regards that newspaper as not having reported accurately, but I do not see what he complains about. It is stated in *The West Australian* -

The international managing director of Metro Meats, Sandy Murdoch, said yesterday that he could not think of anyone else who would get any use out of the road.

Mr House: You are a joke, that is a Chinese company.

Mr RIPPER: I did not say he was a local; I said the Government had harmed existing operations. I repeat -

The international managing director of Metro Meats, Sandy Murdoch, said yesterday that he could not think of anyone else who would get any use out of the road.

"As far as I can see, the road will be solely dedicated to the abattoir," he said.

Again, the same man contests the defence of the Government about the amount of investment, jobs and exports. He said that the Government's defence was nonsense.

"Labour dollars depend entirely on how many sheep there are to process, not how many abattoirs," he said.

Mr House: Do you know how many sheep are processed in Western Australia each year?

Mr RIPPER: The figures for the processing of sheep indicate a decline in that industry. I want to get on with the argument and the Government can respond to my comments if it wants to. A large amount of money has been put into this operation - about \$11m - on the basis that it will create jobs and export income. However, that economic activity is taken from other abattoirs already in operation. Apart from this being a poor use of the money in terms of the priorities, the Government's money could harm the industry which it is trying to help because it could take business from existing operations. That is happening in a declining market. I have a letter written to my colleague Hon Kim Chance from the National Meat Association of Australia which states -

The W.A. Meat Processing sector has an under utilisation in regard to actual capacity apart from the capacity of Fletcher International

That is the operator of the Narrikup abattoir. It continues -

In the export area capacity utilisation would be in the order of 60%. We have export abattoirs at Katanning, Linley Valley, Waroona and Harvey with smaller exporters at Beaufort River, Tammin, Geraldton, Carnarvon and another at Narrogin, which has been built to export standards.

The letter continues -

Katanning, which employs 350 persons, has now been closed for 16 weeks even after a \$600 000.00 upgrade. Linley Valley approximately 300 employees have been operating on a casual basis for the past 10 weeks.

That letter is dated September 1998. I have outlined a statement from a competitor opposing the assistance provided by the Government because it will damage that operator's business. There is a statement from an industry association to the effect that there is already over-capacity and under-utilisation of the available industry capacity. Ministers knew that the government assistance would harm other abattoirs because that was part of the submission that went to Cabinet. I quote from material provided as supplementary information to the Legislative Council Estimates Committee. A question was asked by Hon Kim Chance, and was responded to by the department as follows -

The assessment which formed part of the recommendation to Cabinet for approval of assistance noted that smaller abattoirs exist in the Great Southern and the South West Regions and the development of the facility (the Narrikup abattoir) could lead to the demise of other abattoirs.

Mr House: You do not know what you are talking about.

Mr RIPPER: Government members are disputing my argument, and disputing that the assistance provided by the Government might harm competitors of the Narrikup abattoir.

Mr House: Because it is not factual.

Mr RIPPER: I have presented evidence from representatives of rival companies, evidence from an industry association and supplementary information provided by the Deputy Premier's department to the other place. That supplementary information notes that the development of the facility could lead to the demise of other abattoirs. The Government provided financial assistance to a facility that could, in the words of the Department of Commerce and Trade, "lead to the demise of other abattoirs". I am concerned about that sort of assistance because I do not think it is appropriate use of industry assistance;

it does not provide much benefit. I do not think it helps if economic activity and jobs are moved from one area to another and from one competitor to another. It is simply a distortion of the allocation of resources. It does not produce value for taxpayers' money and one must ask why the Government provided that assistance.

Mr Cowan: With respect to the supplementary information provided in response to the question asked in the Estimates Committee, was the paper delivered to the Cabinet or was the information expressed by someone verbally in response to a question and taken down by Hansard?

Mr RIPPER: I give the Deputy Premier the full quote -

The agency assessment of the assistance proposal recognised the existence of existing providers of sheep abattoir facilities in the state and the Great Southern and adjacent regions. In addition the evaluation noted issues relating to the supply of animals and production capacity.

The response then proceeded to the answer I quoted.

Mr House: Which agency provided that advice?

Mr RIPPER: It was the Department of Commerce and Trade, which was examined by the upper House Estimates Committee and questioned about the Narrikup abattoir. This was not the cabinet document, but the agency's description of the cabinet document to the upper House committee.

Mr Cowan: That was my very point: You tried to imply to the House that it was documentation supplied to Cabinet.

Mr RIPPER: I did not make that inference. I said that, according to the agency, this was the advice that Cabinet had received. We do not see cabinet minutes. If an agency tells an upper House Estimates Committee that Cabinet was advised in a certain way, we must take the word of that agency. It will be of interest to the Opposition if the Deputy Premier indicates that Cabinet was not given that advice. If the agency's advice is correct, Cabinet was aware that the assistance would be in breach of guidelines for the industry incentive scheme. Criterion 4 of the scheme, according to the agency, is as follows -

The project must relate to the establishment or development of an industry that has not benefitted significantly from State Government financial assistance and where the provision of incentives will not result in an unfair competitive advantage over existing Western Australian companies.

The agency said that Cabinet knew a negative effect would be felt by existing abattoirs, yet Cabinet went ahead and provided that assistance. We need to ask why the Deputy Premier, who otherwise portrays himself as an accountability saint, provided that level of assistance to the Narrikup abattoir.

MR HOUSE (Stirling - Minister for Primary Industry) [7.13 pm]: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition shows the danger of entering this Chamber ignorant of the facts. His speech demonstrates a couple of things. First, he picked up what he thought was a good political issue, as it was given a run in *The West Australian* this morning; albeit the facts were incorrect, the newspaper wrote the story anyway. Members may have noticed that the amounts of money involved have increased as the story has been told. Furthermore, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition outlined in his speech his absolute ignorance of the meat and sheep industry in Western Australia. If he stays in the Chamber, I will give him a lesson about the sheep industry.

This Government is very proud of attracting a business like Fletcher International Exports Pty Ltd to a regional area in this State with an investment of \$45m-odd and the creation of 400 jobs. It is a significant investment. I thought the Opposition would applaud the creation of 400 jobs. Hon Bob Thomas, who represents that area in the upper House, has given the Government some credit for the project, and applauded the people who work there. He has been very supportive. Opposition members in this Chamber are out of step with their colleague. I am pleased that Hon Bob Thomas supports the project.

Mr Ripper: If I was the member for the region, I would not mind government assistance coming to my region.

Mr HOUSE: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition wants two bob each way: It is all right if it is in his area in the city, but not all right in the bush. That is typical of the policies of members opposite. They do not want to see investment in the country, and say to hell with the bush. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is a hypocrite.

Mr Ripper: The overall principle is that you have given assistance to a project which has damaged competitors. What overall economic benefits have you achieved?

Mr HOUSE: Sit back and be quiet. The member made a couple of erroneous statements.

Mr Ripper: Metro Meat and other bodies seem to think they are the facts.

Mr HOUSE: I will correct their misconception about the deal too. There are two levels of abattoirs; namely, export and non-export. In other words, one level can kill only for delivery of meat in the State, and the other can export. International standards must be met. Until Fletcher arrived, one company had two export-standard abattoirs for mutton. Would members believe it was Chinese owned? The Government has attracted an Australian owner to build the facility in this State, yet the Opposition criticises the Government. That was the first mistake made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

The second point the member had wrong was talking about the demise of local abattoirs, which can kill only for the local market. Fletcher only exports to 63 countries and puts no meat onto the local market; therefore, it is not competing with the local abattoirs.

The third issue that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition got wrong was his saying that there was too much capacity for abattoirs in this State. When we came to government and made the decision to kill Robb Jetty, which was union controlled and run, and was costing the producer about \$11.50 per head kill, the record will show that people like the Deputy Leader of the Opposition screamed that the State did not have enough kill space. Hon Kim Chance, the mate of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, yelled the loudest and longest. The Government said it would attract someone to build a facility, for which the Opposition has criticised it since. We attracted an Australian owner to compete with a Chinese owner. Does the Deputy Leader of the Opposition support the live sheep trade?

Mr Ripper: Yes, but I would prefer obviously for the jobs to remain here.

Mr HOUSE: But it is supported?

Mr Ripper: If the jobs cannot be kept here, and we cannot market it, we have to support it.

Mr HOUSE: I am pleased to hear that, as that is exactly what the Government is trying to do. Does the Deputy Leader of the Opposition know how many sheep go out of Western Australia on boats every year?

Mr Ripper: Millions.

Mr HOUSE: Four and a half million sheep a year leave this State on boats. Like the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, we would like to see those animals processed in this State. For that reason, we attracted Fletcher International Exports here, which is killing about two million sheep a year. If we used every millimetre of abattoir space in this State, we would still need to send sheep on boats because of insufficient capacity. That was the fourth error made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. We make no excuse for attracting that abattoir space as it takes sheep off those boats and creates jobs in Western Australia. Fletcher creates 400 jobs, yet the Deputy Leader of the Opposition criticises it.

Mr Ripper: You are subsidising those jobs by \$500 000 for training experience.

Mr HOUSE: I was coming to that aspect. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition cannot bear to see successes and people trained. He cannot bear 400 people having jobs in the regions. He does not want to see people trained and young people take up jobs. He is frightened that some young people might be taken off the streets to reduce unemployment in the State - as the Government is doing - so the member criticises the project. Will his mates opposite put their hands up if they do not agree with training programs for young people? Who will support the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's policy of not training young people?

Mr Brown: He didn't say that.

Mr HOUSE: No-one wants to support him!

Mr Brown: You just misrepresented the position.

Mr HOUSE: I misrepresented nothing. I listened to every word carefully.

The five key issues raised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition have been scotched. Not much is left. The next issue raised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was roads. Would it not be terrible if the Government spent some money on roads in the country! The people in the country really would not be pleased! It is amazing. The Opposition wants to make a case for the bad job this Government is doing. We have tripled the amount of expenditure on roads in this State and we are trying to make them better and safer. We are trying to do everything we can to get as many good roads as we can so farmers can take their produce to market and tourists can travel around the State, and the Opposition wants to criticise us. I will tell members about Settlement Road. That is where this abattoir is located. It joins Albany Highway and what we know as the Lake Grace to Albany road - two major roads in this State that take a lot of produce to the port. All of those roads have had some money spent on them as a consequence of this abattoir. They carry two million tonnes of grain a year to the port of Albany. They carry a lot of logs to Albany and many cattle to the market. They also carry a lot of tourists and people who live and work in the area. For the Opposition to criticise the expenditure of \$5m on roads is almost unbelievable.

Mr Ripper interjected.

Mr HOUSE: It is part of the abattoir project; we are not denying that. It also serves -

Mr Ripper: Is it part of the abattoir?

Mr HOUSE: Of course it is.

Mr Ripper: The figures add up, don't they?

Mr HOUSE: It also serves a multitude of other purposes. The other assistance given to this abattoir by the Department of Commerce and Trade was to make sure that the headworks charges were addressed, because even the Labor Party would agree that some of those charges are too high. Those of us in the bush strongly support the Deputy Premier and the Government's program which has allowed some of those charges -

Mr Ripper: Is this assistance available to other abattoirs?

Mr HOUSE: Absolutely.

Mr Ripper: At this level?

Mr HOUSE: It is also available to other businesses.

We have dealt with six issues out of the three raised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. He spoke for 20 minutes, but he did not raise many issues. I will deal with the criticism by Sandy Murdoch, the manager of the Chinese abattoir. While Sandy Murdoch was being critical of this project, he was desperately trying to sell the abattoir for the Chinese. He had been hawking it all over the world for two years. He did not care about the farmers in this State; he could not give a damn about them. I will tell members some very pertinent stories about the prices that were paid to farmers for their product. We got another abattoir to provide some competition in the marketplace. Every farmer would be very pleased with the deal we did. They would not have any sympathy for Mr Murdoch, because anybody who wanted to defend the Chinese who ran Metro Meat would not get too far. Mr Murdoch does not have a proud record for what he paid farmers in this State for their product. I go so far as to say that most of us were damned pleased to see him go and are very pleased that abattoir is now being run by a cooperative. When the Deputy Leader of the Opposition moves these types of motions and wants to be critical of the Government for what it has done, first of all he must know and understand the business he is talking about, because he does not.

Mr Ripper: Do you know I have heard this sort of speech before?

Mr HOUSE: The member has not heard it from me.

Mr Ripper: I heard this sort of speech when I was a government backbencher and ministers were defending government assistance to particular companies against your attacks.

Mr HOUSE: I am glad the member raised that. I thought the members of the Opposition were trying to bury WA Inc. They do not want to talk about it, but now the Deputy Leader of the Opposition wants to talk about it. I am happy to accommodate him. The Opposition wasted \$1b of taxpayers' money. Their regard for country people is remarkable. I will tell members of another place where the Opposition has wasted money. It decided to sell the one selling complex that farmers owned in this State for \$400 000-odd. It did not ask anyone whether it should; there was no input as far as that was concerned. When we came to government, in order to secure it, we had to buy it back. For the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to say that he has heard these speeches before is unbelievable.

Mr Ripper: I have heard these speeches.

Mr HOUSE: The Opposition blew \$1b of taxpayers' money.

Mr Ripper: You can try to defend why you have given taxpayers' money to a private firm at the expense of other firms, but I have heard these speeches before. People always say there are jobs and investment, but what about the effect on the jobs of the people who work for the other companies?

Mr HOUSE: I have just demonstrated to the member that these programs are available to anyone. The member did not like the training. He said, "No, you should not train people." I have just demonstrated that those training programs are available to anyone, but he does not want to see people get jobs. I have demonstrated that the headworks charges -

Mr Ripper: Why don't you listen? A particular requirement for the ratio of trained employees to trainees has been suspended for 12 months for this company. It has something that no other company has.

Mr HOUSE: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition just hates to see someone being successful.

Mr Ripper: I hate to see someone with his hands in taxpayers' pockets unjustifiably.

Mr HOUSE: I have demonstrated clearly that we have trained young people and given them jobs, and the member does not like it. I have demonstrated that we now have competition in the export market, and he does not like that. I have demonstrated that the other companies are owned by the Chinese, and he does not like that. I have demonstrated that the roads are used by everyone, and he does not like that. Now he has decided to resurrect WA Inc, because he thinks that is better. The way he is going tonight, I agree with him: He probably would give a better speech defending WA Inc. However, I am not sure that some of his colleagues would love him for that. Let us talk about the money the Opposition wasted on WA Inc, because that is still inhibiting this State. The performance that the member put up as a caucus minister is still holding back this State because we had to find \$1b.

Mr Ripper: You are as bad as the Premier. You should deal with the issues.

Mr HOUSE: I am very pleased to be associated with the Premier. He has done an excellent job.

Mr Ripper: You should talk about the real issue, which is why you have given assistance to this particular company. Why is it so privileged?

Mr HOUSE: That assistance is available to anyone who comes along.

Mr Ripper: Not the training assistance.

Mr HOUSE: Yes.

Mr Ripper: Not on the same basis as it was given to this company.

Mr HOUSE: Headworks assistance is also available, and we will help them with roads around a business.

Mr Ripper: The grant and the interest-free loan are not available on the same basis.

Mr HOUSE: In the 10 years the Opposition was in government, it did not attract one regional project of this size to this

State. It was not capable of it; it could not do it. The Opposition did not have a training program for young people. Unemployment and state debt rose while it was in government. It was absolutely hopeless.

Mr Kobelke: You wouldn't have a clue what you are talking about.

Mr HOUSE: Now the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is being critical of people because they have done something. He does not like it; he cannot cop it. Now he wants to resurrect WA Inc. Now that he has resurrected it, we will be happy to accommodate him. Any time he wants to bring on a debate about the Opposition's financial management, we will accommodate him.

Mr Ainsworth: I can remember going to one of CSBP's chemical plants and I was told how embarrassed it was about the vacant block of land over the fence. They kept seeing their factory on television because there was nothing to show. You should go down and see whether there is an abattoir at Narrikup. You might find something.

Mr HOUSE: The Fletcher abattoir at Narrikup has just advertised for a second shift. It will be employing another couple of hundred people when it starts up again, if it did not start this week. It has had a couple of weeks off while it did maintenance. In addition to that, when the Fletcher abattoir gets the sheep component up and running at the speed it wants, it has committed to building a cattle component as a module for the export market. That is something that we, as a Government, support strongly. That will also increase the competition for cattle in this State and will lead to better prices for farmers, which is very significant. I repeat: In moving this motion, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has demonstrated that he does not know anything about the subject; in fact, he ran a risk doing it because he decided it was a good political issue to run. He obviously did not have anything else to run on so he decided to have a fly with that! *The West Australian* gave it a bit of a run this morning, like it usually does - a bit of a beat up because it did not have anything else with which to fill a column - so he came in here and went on with a lot of nonsense. We have demonstrated, firstly, that the member for Belmont knows nothing about the abattoir business; secondly, that he knows nothing about the sheep business, and I am very pleased he supports the live sheep trade, because that is good and positive -

Mr Osborne: It is a step forward.

Mr HOUSE: It is a significant step forward. He obviously does not like regional programs. He does not like road funding for country people. He does not like training programs. It is a bit sad, really, and the people of the regional areas of this State will remember him for a long time, because he has demonstrated tonight not only a lack of understanding of rural Western Australia but also a lack of compassion for it. We are creating jobs. We are providing people with opportunities. We are providing facilities. We are attracting investment. We are doing all the things that the Opposition was incapable of doing when it was in government.

Ms Anwyl: The gold royalty was a good National Party initiative!

Mr HOUSE: It was the Federal Labor Party that first introduced a gold royalty. Has the member for Kalgoorlie forgotten that? It will not be long before the member for Kalgoorlie is back over there where she belongs. They have just done a bit of a swap to make her look good.

Ms Anwyl: I do not need an education. You are the one who does.

Mr HOUSE: The people of the goldfields have not forgotten the member for Kalgoorlie, and were I the member for Kalgoorlie, come the next election I would be doing a bit of form-filling. The member for Kalgoorlie may need one of those training programs. It was the Federal Labor Government that first introduced that royalty.

Ms Anwyl: You will have abolished all the training programs because you have cut billions of dollars from the training sector.

Mr HOUSE: The member's deputy leader does not want it! We have just trained some young people, and he has said he does not want it!

Ms Anwyl: You are not too good at addressing the facts.

Mr HOUSE: It is obvious that the Government does not support this amendment.

MR BROWN (Bassendean) [7.31 pm]: I will make a few comments about the Narrikup abattoir issue. The Deputy Premier said in the Parliament on 12 August 1998 when he announced the financial assistance package that would be made available to Benale Pty Ltd, at page 82 of *Hansard*, that -

Assistance will be provided by way of a \$2.5m interest free loan and a \$2.7m grant for the establishment of the export abattoir near Albany.

He then explained how it would be paid and said -

This assistance is provided in recognition of the major economic development impact of projects of this nature in regional Western Australia. Furthermore, the project will enhance the State's capacity to add value to our rural produce and thereby improve the level of income to regional communities and the State as a whole. The investment that will be made by the Fletchers will strengthen the Western Australian industry's ability to increase its share of the international processed meat market and provide greater demand for livestock in the region, encouraging higher stocking levels.

I hope that in the course of this debate, the Deputy Premier and Minister for Commerce and Trade will outline in detail the

three reasons that he said the Government provided this financial assistance; that is, how it will have an impact on the region in the form of additional employment opportunities and economic growth, how it will add value to rural produce, and how it will strengthen the Western Australian industry's ability to increase its share of the international processed meat market, because no detail has been provided to this Parliament about those matters.

It is interesting that the minister did not say in his report to the Parliament that one of the prime reasons for providing this assistance was to set up a competitor against the Chinese owner. That is significant. I did not know that the Government determined its financial assistance packages in terms of the sort of people whom it did not want to operate in an industry. I did not know that this Government was anti-Chinese, but I know it now. I am sure that when the Premier of China comes to this State next time, he will be interested to read the Minister for Primary Industry's speech. The minister is anti-Chinese, wants to have a competitor in the industry to undercut the Chinese, and has said in this House that he would be glad when the Chinese were gone because he wanted them out of the place. That is interesting. I thought we had got rid of the racial vilification in this State, yet the Minister for Primary Industry is spurting it out all over the Parliament! The real motivation is that the minister is anti-Chinese. Now we know! It is interesting that it is not actually said in the minister's speech, but now we know.

I will outline the history of this matter. In 1993, members of the Government had some discussions with Fletcher International Exports Pty Ltd. We do not know which members of the Government, but we know that certain members of the Government had discussions with Fletcher -

Mr House: I did.

Mr BROWN: The Minister for Primary Industry has put up his hand and said he did.

Mr House: That would be a terrible sin!

Mr BROWN: Those discussions were ongoing, and they continued until finally, in 1997, the Department of Commerce and Trade became involved. We know that from what has been said in *Hansard*. In January 1998, Cabinet made a decision to provide financial support to Fletcher, and some six or seven months later, that Cabinet decision was reported to the Parliament. We do not know the reason for that delay in reporting to the Parliament. It is not clear from the record so far whether in the discussions between Fletcher and the Minister for Primary Industry or the Deputy Premier, prior to the Department of Commerce and Trade becoming involved, indications were given that financial support would be forthcoming. We do not know whether there was any wink-wink or nod-nod arrangement before the assessment was done. It is interesting that until such time as I started to raise these matters, the Minister for Primary Industry had not put up his hand and talked about the nature of the discussions that he had with Fletcher.

Mr House: I never made any secret of that at all.

Mr BROWN: In the minister's discussions prior to the involvement of the Department of Commerce and Trade, was any suggestion made that the State would provide financial support for Fletcher?

Mr House: I had a number of discussions with Fletcher. Let me tell you what your mob was doing at the time. You were calling for more abattoir space.

Mr BROWN: It is interesting that -

Mr House: You do not like the answer!

Mr BROWN: It is interesting that when the minister is put under -

Mr Cowan: Ask me!

Mr BROWN: I am asking the Minister for Primary Industry, and it is very telling that he will not answer the question.

Mr Cowan: Ask me!

Mr BROWN: It is a very simple question.

Mr House: I was answering it!

Mr BROWN: I ask the minister again: At any time prior to the involvement of the Department of Commerce and Trade, did the minister give an indication that financial support would be provided by the State?

Mr House: At the very time we were having discussions with Fletcher International Exports Pty Ltd, your mob was screaming and yelling for more abattoir space in this State; that is what you were doing.

Mr BROWN: I will return to the question, which is simple. Even the Minister for Primary Industry, if he listens hard, will understand this question. In the discussions that the minister had with Fletcher prior to the Department of Commerce and Trade becoming involved, was any question raised about the State providing financial assistance?

Mr House: Let me answer your question, and this time will you listen to it? When I started discussions with Fletcher, that was at the very time that you and other members of the Labor Party were calling for more abattoir space in this State. You were saying there was not enough abattoir space.

Mr Kobelke: Because you were shutting them down.

Mr BROWN: Hang on. Let him answer it.

Mr House: I went out to seek more abattoir space because I thought that was necessary. I told a number of people that there were government schemes that provided for headworks charges and those types of things. That is what I told them and that is exactly what they applied for, like any other company could.

Mr BROWN: I suggest to the minister that they got a lot more than the standards available under the headworks scheme. I am aware of the regional headworks scheme and the criteria used in relation thereto. Here we had \$5.2m worth of assistance. That is not available under the normal schemes. An examination of the guidelines and the limitations on grants that are available through the programs operated by the Department of Commerce and Trade will show that this type of program is a one-off.

Mr Cowan: No, it is not.

Mr BROWN: The minister should examine his own program statements, which are all on the Internet and which specify limits on the amount of money that will be made available under each program.

Mr Cowan: They do not set limits.

Mr BROWN: They specify limits under a range of programs. In any event, \$5.2m is a significant amount of money that has been made available for one project. In light of that, although the Minister for Primary Industry is a bit coy about it, it seems that certainly at some stage - maybe only when the Department of Commerce and Trade became involved - people were advised that more money was available in respect of this proposal. However, what are the criteria Governments use in the allocation of finances, because Governments of all political persuasions and in all States provide money to assist industry. The Commonwealth provides it and various State Governments of different political persuasions provide it. Therefore, it is not unusual to provide funds to assist business to start up and to do those types of things. The question is the criteria to be applied. If a person who wished to open a hairdressing salon in Bunbury asked for financial assistance of \$100 000, would someone sitting in an office just hand it out or would criteria be applied? Are there criteria which test the basis upon which funds are allocated?

There are criteria and they are well known. They are outlined in *Hansard* as a result of questions asked by my colleague in the other place. Page E827 of the estimates *Hansard* states -

Criterion 1. New product or service: The project for which the incentives are sought must relate to the establishment of a new industry which may involve the establishment of a new operation or the expansion of an existing operation.

It is interesting that the Minister for Primary Industry has told us tonight that all of the slaughtering that is done at Fletcher was not done anywhere else; it is all new. Did he not say that?

Mr House: No, I did not.

Mr BROWN: Okay. Therefore, some of the slaughtering that is done at Fletcher was done at other abattoirs. This is not completely new.

Mr House: You can only slaughter things once. Did you know that?

Mr BROWN: We can see why this fellow is a member of the National Party. This bloke is pretty quick; he is pretty good.

The minister has tried to say - of course, he does not want to say - that this money has been provided to this abattoir because it is providing a completely different product. It is providing a new service in Western Australia; it is doing something that other abattoirs did not do. My understanding is that some of the work - the minister can correct this - that Fletcher is doing is in competition with others and there has been a loss of work by others. I do not know whether that is true, but that is what I have been told.

Mr House: You would not have a clue.

Mr BROWN: Tell me that is wrong.

Mr House: If you listened to what I said -

Mr BROWN: Yes, I listened intently to what the minister said.

Mr House: If you listened to what I said, you would know you are wrong.

Mr BROWN: So far in this debate I have not received any answers. It is easy to have a go at me.

I will now deal with the Government's criterion 4, which states -

No previous assistance or unfair competition: The project must relate to the establishment or development of an industry that has not benefited significantly from State Government financial assistance and where the provision of incentives will not result in an unfair competitive advantage over existing Western Australian companies.

As the member for Avon will know, one of the tests when government financial assistance is provided is that competitors are not disadvantaged; it is provided to assist a new industry that will not disadvantage competitors. When I asked the Minister for Primary Industry whether it had disadvantaged any competitors, he would not answer the question; he obfuscated. He will not answer the question because it does disadvantage competitors. Answers were provided in the other House which make it clear that when this matter went to Cabinet for consideration, following a report by the Department of Commerce and Trade, it was stated that if this money was provided it would disadvantage other operators.

Mr House: Can I ask a question?

Mr BROWN: No. I have five minutes to go. In the supplementary information that was provided following the Council's estimates committees, the Government, not the Opposition, said -

The assessment which formed part of the recommendation to Cabinet for approval of assistance noted that smaller abattoirs exist in the Great Southern and the South West Regions and the development of the facility (the Narrikup abattoir) could lead to the demise of other abattoirs.

The situation is that either what was told to the other House is wrong and the Government has got it wrong again and has misled the other House, or it has told the truth. It is either one or the other. It is not Mickey Mouse or Donald Duck or the Minister for Primary Industry; it is either one or the other, and either the Government has told the truth, in which case Cabinet has made a decision to finance an abattoir which will have a detrimental effect on its competitors, totally contrary -

Mr House: Not one abattoir has closed.

Mr BROWN: Now he comes back and says that not one abattoir has closed, but has it had an effect on them?

Mr House: It is paying more to producers.

Mr BROWN: No. Has it had an effect on them? Once again the Minister for Primary Industry obfuscates and once again he will not answer the question. Has it had a negative effect on other abattoirs?

Mr House: It is unbelievable. It has had a positive effect on the industry. We are talking about the whole industry.

Mr BROWN: We can tell the other abattoir owners and shareholders that the establishment of Fletchers has benefited them! That is what the Minister for Primary Industry has said. He says that it has benefited the industry, but he does not say anything about the competitors. He does not say that because he knows it has not benefited them. He does not want to admit that. If he were to admit it, he would have to agree that the Government has provided this financial assistance contrary to its own guidelines. If the minister were to admit that - he does not have the courage to do so - it would raise the question: Why? Of course, after all the bluster from the minister, after all the rabbits have been chased down the burrows and all the red herrings have been drawn across the path, he has refused to answer the key questions. What does that tell members?

When opposition members ask difficult questions on notice, we know the response we will get - a non-answer. The Minister for Primary Industry is not bad in this regard. A member might ask: How much did the minister's department spend in the past month? He responds that there are too many resources -

Mr House: I have never said there were too many resources.

Mr BROWN: I meant not enough resources.

Mr House: You got it wrong again.

Mr BROWN: It is very interesting that when this Government does not want to answer a question, it provides a non-answer. That tells us something. If the Government were on firm ground, it would answer the questions. When it is on shaky ground, it cannot deal with the issues. Tonight we have seen a Government that cannot deal with the issues.

MR GRAHAM (Pilbara) [7.53 pm]: During my first four years in this Parliament, I sat on the other side of the Chamber. I must admit that I have bizarre memories of members then on this side of the House railing about the previous Government's assistance to industry and companies. I had intended to quote *Hansard*, but there are too many instances to cite. Members opposite went on ad nauseam about why the then Labor Government should not do exactly what this Government is now doing. What is that? It is not assisting an industry; it is funding one company in an industry to the detriment of other companies in the same industry. I had to sit and listen to that for the first four years of my political career.

I learned some lessons during that time: First - this remains entrenched in my mind - that the National Party believes in distributing taxpayers' funds to businesses. That was never clearer than when Hon Ian Taylor, the then Minister for State Development, introduced legislation to establish arrangements for a private restaurant in Kings Park. There was some argument that you, Mr Speaker, will remember about whether the arrangements should involve a 21-year lease with a 21-year option, a 42-year lease or some other variation. As usual, we had the unprincipled conservatives in this Parliament arguing vigorously that we should not have a private enterprise organisation running a private facility on public land. The Labor Party said that we should invite tenders, examine the responses and require the successful tenderer to meet certain conditions over 21 years. If the operator performed satisfactorily, the lease would be extended for a further 21 years. The National Party could not see anything wrong with giving the land to the private developers so they could get on with it. That was back in the good old days prior to the coalition's becoming the Government. We spent 15 or 16 hours debating that legislation.

Mr Trenorden: That is a slight misinterpretation of events.

Mr GRAHAM: No, it is not. The National Party's position was completely different from that of the Liberal Party -

Mr Trenorden: And yours.

Mr GRAHAM: - and the Labor Party.

The National Party's view was that the land should be excised from Kings Park and given to the developers to let them get on with the business. The State would have lost forever part of one of its greatest assets in the metropolitan area and the most exclusive business site in town.

I am confused. I sat and listened to all of that, and I have watched. The member for Avon will know, because he was the chairman, that the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee did an extensive study of assistance to industry. After a two-year investigation, it found that Governments should not do exactly what this Government has done. Our own Parliament's premier committee agrees with the view which I am putting and which this motion puts; that is, that Governments should not do what this Government has done. It came as a great surprise to me when the committee tabled its report that the Government agreed with that recommendation. I will deal with that later in another speech.

The current Government's response to a proposal about assistance to industry is that it should not be given to individual companies. It supports the principle that taxpayers' funds should be made available only to industries. Even then, the Government should make such assistance available only when it is part of a comprehensive industry policy. The Government also said that there was no need to act on the committee's other recommendations because a special cabinet subcommittee would be chaired - believe it or not - by the Deputy Premier, whose job it would be to develop an industry policy to deal with these issues. That was October 1996. Since that time, hundreds of millions of dollars have flowed from this Government to individual companies, and there is still no industry policy.

I will provide what I consider to be a good example - the Coflexip arrangements. It is interesting now Coflexip has been nobbled a tad that the rhetoric in government press releases, discussions and newspaper interviews is significantly different from that evident at the time of the announcement. On Saturday, 14 May 1994, while in Paris - not Fremantle - the Premier released the following statement -

Premier Richard Court and directors of the French Coflexip Group today signed a formal agreement which will bring 200 new jobs to Fremantle and create a major production plant to supply the international oil and gas industry.

The agreement sets out the terms and conditions of an \$8.5m State Government assistance package to help Coflexip establish the plant . . .

It goes on to outline a \$55m facility on a prime piece of real estate. It was described in the State Government's "Locate to Western Australia" strategy. The rhetoric in the Premier's press release was not just about these 200 jobs; the initiative was packaged as being 460 new jobs. The Premier's press release indicated there would be 200 new jobs for Coflexip, 460 new jobs from the other companies and, in addition, the employment of another 50 expatriates who would be accompanied by their families; that is, 710 jobs were being introduced to Western Australia where previously none existed, the Government claimed, for a cost of \$8.5m, and a \$55m facility. That press release is a load of codswallop and absolute nonsense! At no stage in the operations did the figure come close to that.

The company then got into a bit of bother, and the Government tried to pump it up. After that announcement, a series of press releases were put out by successive ministers saying what a wonderful job Coflexip was doing - it should have been; it was given a bucket of money to do it - and that it had won contracts here and there. A bit of pressure went on in the lead-up to the election in October 1996. Not only the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee but also the Industry Commission reported on the way Western Australia assisted business. The Government then commissioned a review - it was dressed up as a major independent review - by Deloitte Touche Tomatsu as consultants to the Government. That was codswallop, too - it was neither independent nor major. It was a justification by the Government that the Industry Commission was wrong, and that has been the Government's argument ever since. One of the projects sent to Deloitte to be assessed was that of Coflexip, and it was given a stamp of approval by the consultants in the employ of the Government and dressed up as an independent review.

Incidentally, it was criticised by the Auditor General. That project has never been referred to the Auditor General. Just last week the Government refused to make the changes necessary to allow the Auditor General to look at Coflexip, to see whether it used the money and the pay and conditions it was given by the State Government in the manner and for the purposes they were given. The Government refuses to allow the powers of change to enable the Auditor General to do that. I have no axe to grind with Coflexip - none whatsoever. I just object to Coflexip and the Narrikup abattoir and anyone else being given a bucket of money to compete with other Australian companies.

Quite frankly, the press release put out by the Premier from Paris was incorrect. At no stage did the Coflexip operations get anywhere near the employment figures projected by the Premier. At the time that arrangement was announced, 70 900 people were unemployed. This is an important point: The Government was not funding Coflexip because it thought it was a good industry, but as a measure against unemployment. Let me make this point: At that time in this State 70 900 people were unemployed. Under this Coflexip arrangement, based on this Government's means of attracting industry - that is, the job creation cost to Government of \$42 500 per job - the cost of settling unemployment in Western Australia was in excess of \$3b a year.

Coflexip was paid \$5m towards constructing the factory, \$2m towards building a heavy-lift crane on the north wharf at Fremantle and given free use for 10 years of three hectares of land adjacent to that wharf. That company has since wound down. The question that the Government must deal with is this: If the company has wound down, why not get the money back? Its side of the deal was to relocate to Perth and create employment; ours was to give the company the bucket of money. We gave it the money and now the company has gone. Why not get back the \$5m it was given in cash? Is it still getting free use of the three hectares at Rous Head? The questions raised through the Coflexip argument are the same as for the abattoir in Narrikup. If this arrangement is created to assist one company, as it is, to the detriment of others, which it is, how do we compensate the other companies when they come knocking on the Government's door? What answer do we give them? Do we tell them, no, we will not help them because we have helped some other company? Why help one and not another? Are we back in the business of helping every company which comes knocking on the Government's door? As

long as the National Party remains with its hands on these funds, the answer is simply yes; we are in that business. I reiterate: The cost of solving unemployment using the current processes of this Government is in excess of \$3b a year.

MR COWAN (Merredin - Minister for Commerce and Trade) [8.08 pm]: Perhaps I should deal with the comments of the member who has just resumed his seat about Coflexip Stena Offshore Asia Pacific Pty Ltd, and let the House know something he already knows, but which he quite conveniently omitted to include in his comments. Coflexip Stena is still operating in Western Australia and employs just under 200 people in this State. It is true that at the moment the flexible coil pipe manufacturing that Coflexip Stena operated is under care and maintenance, but that is not expected to be the situation for a long time. In fact, it has had that matter under review. As the oil and gas industry regains some of the buoyancy it used to have, Coflexip Stena is confident it will be able to reinstate the plant and bring it back into production. However, it must never be forgotten that that company has two arms. One is the services sector to the oil and gas industry, which is still employing some 200 people in this State. The other is the flexible pipe manufacturing facility and it is true that has been placed under care and maintenance. That is regrettable but there is a general view that the company will be able to reinstate it. The investment made in attracting this company to Western Australia as opposed to Singapore has also had a significant spin-off for the capacity of this State to provide maintenance and service facilities for the offshore oil and gas industry. A number of companies have decided to establish in Western Australia to ensure they maintain that level of maintenance. The best example would be probably Kaverer; it employs over 200 people in this State to provide services to the offshore oil and gas maintenance industry. It is through life maintenance or construction that most of the jobs will be made available to Western Australia in the resources sector. They will not be in the operation of the mines or the wells. The mining industry and resources sector is very efficient and does not effectively provide a great number of the jobs.

Fletcher International is an important issue about which a number of things need to be known. When I came to this position, I had the rather embarrassing responsibility of having to clean up some of the investments made by the Opposition when it was in Government. It offered money to failed companies. In the worst example, the then minister offered funds to a particular company in May 1992, the company received those moneys in August and went into receivership in February. That is just one example of the protocol adopted by the Opposition when it was in Government. Its task was always to bail out failed companies. It became a matter of routine that those companies still failed at some later stage. As a consequence, the taxpayers' dollars - which those on the Opposition benches want now to so piously protect - were wasted; they were just thrown away. I could give members more examples but that is probably the worst. Some \$600 000 or \$700 000 was offered to a company in May, the company received the money in August and failed in February.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Barron-Sullivan): Order!

Mr COWAN: I will now deal with the issue of Fletcher International Export Pty Ltd.

Mr Carpenter: You have given us a potted history. You missed out a couple of things. Tell us how you saved the State money with Global Dance.

Mr COWAN: I make the point that there were no rules, no guidelines and nothing published prior to 1993. When we came to Government, we established guidelines, we indicated that we would publish those guidelines and we have done that. The Parliament is given notification of every company which receives assistance through the Department of Commerce and Trade. That had never been done before. In this case, some of the information about Fletcher International was made available when the company made an application. In answer to the member for Bassendean's comments about the time lag, Cabinet approved the assistance at a particular time but I do not make proposals public until a company accepts the offer made to it. That is why there was a difference between Cabinet approving the assistance, the company's accepting it and my making the announcement to the Parliament.

Mr Brown: They must have accepted it some time in June because you paid the money in July.

Mr COWAN: When was the statement made in the Parliament?

Mr Brown interjected.

Mr COWAN: There we are. When was the Parliament convened for its first session? Members would find that I make information available to the Parliament within the most practical time after a company signs an agreement. That has always been the case. Let us deal with Fletcher International and try to - I say "try" because the Opposition will not accept this matter; it believes one thing and it does not matter how hard the Government tries, it will not change the Opposition's view -

Mr Ripper: Are we going to change your view?

Mr COWAN: No, the Opposition will not. Clearly, there is an industry incentive program operating in this State and there always has been. The difference is that since 1993 we have had guidelines which can be examined by a company; we can give them to a company.

Mr Ripper: You breached the guidelines in this case.

Mr COWAN: Let me get to that. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is so anxious to interject. A number of issues were important in this instance. The first was that because of the losses it endured on an annual ongoing basis, the Government had closed Robb Jetty. The Government did that because, as a Government, it could not withstand the loss. However, we stated that we would use our best endeavours to attract a private sector processor to Western Australia at that time. The Opposition said that was not good enough. It wanted the Government to build a new abattoir at taxpayers' cost. However,

Fletcher International indicated that it was prepared to spend \$46m on an abattoir in Western Australia. That was \$46m we did not have to find as a State as advocated by the Opposition. The Opposition said the Government should build that abattoir but we found a private sector company which was prepared to do that. Fletcher International knew there was a regional headworks fund and that any company seeking to have power, water, waste water or telecommunications connected to a site which had been selected for industrial or commercial purposes was eligible to receive from that fund up to 75 per cent of the cost of delivering headworks in that area. The cost of headworks for the company was in excess of \$3m for power, waste water, telecommunications and water. Fletcher International was eligible for 75 per cent of that cost under the guidelines; in fact, it was eligible for \$2.7m from the regional headworks fund. It is an open access scheme which is available to any company.

For the benefit of members opposite, two other meat processors have accessed that scheme. No-one has quibbled about that. One was in Harvey and the other was in the Shire of Kojonup at Beaufort River. These schemes are available for any commercial entity that seeks to have power, water, waste water or telecommunications provided or upgraded to a site.

Mr Kobelke: How many have received money besides Fletcher?

Mr COWAN: That question has been asked by one of the member's colleagues. I will provide a reference number and the member can look up the answer to the question. It is made public every year. Prior to the House rising for the summer recess I publish all the grants that are made available through the Department of Commerce and Trade.

Mr Kobelke: How many abattoirs are you talking about?

Mr COWAN: Three.

Mr Kobelke: Three have received money?

Mr COWAN: Yes, Fletcher International, E.G. Green & Sons Pty Ltd and Beaufort River Meats.

Mr Riebeling: Are these grants that you are talking about?

Mr COWAN: It depends entirely on the circumstances. They can be an interest-free loan or a concessional loan with a deferred payment system that is based on the establishment costs.

Mr Riebeling: This company had both.

Mr COWAN: No, this company received an interest free loan on the condition that if it met certain requirements, it would be converted to a grant.

The balance of the funds that were made available to Fletcher International included \$2.5m, which was based on the industry incentives scheme, the guidelines for which were quoted by the Opposition as having been contradicted. One of the things the Opposition did not raise is that in those guidelines Cabinet can make a decision about something which it is believed would be of benefit to Western Australia and for which the guidelines could not be met. That particular aspect should be looked at. This was an application by a private processor to establish an abattoir in a region in which there was no export abattoir to which the Government had already given a commitment of support.

Mr Brown: Did this have an effect on all the other abattoirs?

Mr COWAN: My personal view about that is no. There was only one other export abattoir operating at the time - another is now at Geraldton, which is also in foreign ownership -

Mr House: It is not UK accredited.

Mr COWAN: That is right, but it still has Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service approval for some exports.

My answer to that interjection is no. Robb Jetty was hopelessly inefficient. No private abattoir was ever required to demonstrate good, efficient management to the extent that it would put the necessary improvements into place. Members may care to ask Metro Meat, for example, for an indication of the cost of upgrading its works, bearing in mind that the operation at Katanning is now 25 years old. Linley Valley is even older.

Mr Kobelke: Is Linley Valley an export abattoir?

Mr COWAN: Yes.

Mr Kobelke: So it was competing with an existing abattoir?

Mr COWAN: Fletcher International proposed establishing an abattoir in a regional area where there was no other existing export abattoir; that is, Narrikup. It is good business for the Government to give a commitment to assist a private meat processor which would spend \$46m on an abattoir to come to Western Australia, particularly when one sees the number of jobs that has created. One of the things the Government seeks to do in applying the industry incentive scheme is identify the return to the State. Based on the payroll tax returns alone, the State will recover not only the \$2.5m industry incentive, but also the \$2.7m headworks fund in two and a half years. In two and a half years the Government has received a return on its investment.

I also want the House to know about the climate in which this support was given. Metro Meat had its abattoirs on the market. It was not prepared to invest to improve them to make them more efficient. It was not prepared to offer greater returns to primary producers while its returns were \$10 a head below the prices that were being paid for similar stock in the eastern States.

When considering the guidelines, we considered the regional benefit that Fletcher International would bring and the Government's commitment to provide additional abattoir space through a private investor - which saved the Government well in excess of \$40m. The Government also looked at the existing abattoir infrastructure and saw that there were only two other operators who had export status and Fletchers is a 100 per cent export-based abattoir. One of the other abattoirs was in Geraldton, the produce from which goes to a very specialised halal market - the Government did not think it would create much competition - and the other was Metro Meat which had abattoirs in Katanning and Linley Valley and was not prepared to invest any further. It wanted to put the abattoirs on the market and quit them as quickly as it could. As a consequence, Metro Meat was never able to process meat efficiently so that, when Fletchers began operating, it was unable to compete.

Mr Riebeling: It did not have the grants assistance.

Mr COWAN: It was eligible for assistance in the same way as the other company. I told Metro Meat at the time that if it wanted to improve, or if it had a requirement for more power or water at an extra cost, it would be eligible for assistance, but we did not get an application.

I make it very clear that the road funds are based on an assessment by Main Roads of the utilisation of the connecting road between Chester Pass Road and Albany Highway. When the plantation timber industry comes into operation - it is already being used now for that purpose - considerable tonnages of logs will be moved on that road. In fact, members can believe it or not, but transport of livestock will use that road less than plantation timber going to a chipper at the industrial site. The road was not just given to the abattoir; it is a regional planning matter that is very important to that area to service the industries which exist now or which will be increasing quite considerably in the future.

MR PRINCE (Albany - Minister for Police) [8.28 pm]: I will add a few remarks on this subject from a local point of view, although much has been covered by the Minister for Primary Industry and the Deputy Premier.

There was an abattoir in Albany that originated after the Second World War and was run by Thomas Borthwick and Sons (Australia) Pty Ltd. It was one of its worldwide string of abattoirs. Borthwick got out of that in the mid-1980s. The abattoir, which had been closed down, was for sale. I know that because a private client of mine, a very wealthy person, wanted to buy it. On his behalf I approached the Labor Government of the day seeking some minor assistance with a rebate on stamp duty to get the transfer through. It was refused.

This resulted in the abattoir being sold to the Metro Meat group, which was part of Adsteam before it went broke. It then, of course, wound up in the hands of a receiver-manager who had to get rid of the Albany abattoir, the Katanning abattoir and the Linley Valley abattoir. They were sold to a Chinese trading company with the acronym of CITIC for China International Trust and Investment Corporation. A term of the sale of the three abattoirs, and others in South Australia, was that the Albany abattoir was to be not only closed in 1993, but also gutted and demolished. It had export and halal slaughtering licences as well. It provided a significant amount of employment in the Albany area for many years. Granted, it was antiquated and needed a great deal of additional capital to make it proficient to compete with modern abattoirs, but it served the farmers and local community well.

Mr Kobelke: When was it sold?

Mr PRINCE: It was sold in 1993 to CITIC and it was demolished. It took hundreds of jobs out of the town and region in which I have lived for 25 years.

Mr Kobelke: That was through a decision of your Government.

Mr PRINCE: It was not a decision of this Government at all. It was owned by the then receiver-managers of Metro Meat who were part of the Adsteam group run from the eastern States effectively in the hands of the banker. It was sold to a Chinese trading group with the wherewithal to buy it. It wanted, particularly with sheep, to buy, kill, break down the meat, but not bone, and then send the protein to China. That was done. This was the vertical integration of a protein supply into the northern Chinese market. That was its *raison d'être*. The disappearance of the Albany abattoir took hundreds of jobs out of my area, and took a competitor out of the market. The Albany abattoir killed not only sheep, but also a great many cattle, and even goats and other animals. In more recent years it dealt with sheep only. Another significant loss of employment resulted.

We wound up with two export abattoirs; one in Katanning and another at Linley Valley outside Perth. Farmers in my area had a freight problem as their stock had to travel further than stock located closer to the abattoirs. It is a very good area for growing, particularly meat animals.

Mr Kobelke: How far is it to Katanning?

Mr PRINCE: It is 160 kilometres, which is not a long way. However, the jobs have gone and the freight differential makes it slightly less economic for farmers operating in my area. Many farmers have good flocks and herds bred particularly for meat over many years. When the proposition was made that an Australian abattoir operator, who operates internationally, with abattoirs in Australia and New Zealand, and who exports to 60-odd countries, was prepared to invest \$40m-odd in building an abattoir at Narrikup half way between Albany and Mt Barker, it was greeted with a great deal of joy, particularly by the people I represent and with whom I live. It was a flat greenfield site, and was to be a state-of-the-art operation. As it competes on the market, farmers are able to achieve a better price for their stock. It provides sustainable employment, which is hard to come by in regional areas. As the Minister for Primary Industry said, the operation is to move to two shifts. Hundreds of people, mostly young at that, are in employment. I have no problem with spending public money on training packages for people to enable them to be employed.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition did not indicate that Fletcher International is a non-union shed. Undoubtedly, that is one of the reasons members opposite do not like it. Nevertheless, a significant number of relatively young people in my area are in employment who were not employed before. It is good, sustainable employment in an export industry. A number of spin-offs have arisen. The Albany Port Authority has installed a large cold store, and shipments of meat have been made from the Albany port for the first time in 20 years as a result of the abattoir at Narrikup. I will not greatly stress that aspect as much of the meat from cattle killed at Narrikup is exported through Fremantle. However, the Albany Port Authority has put in money for a cold storage unit to accommodate shipments from Albany. More will happen. Obvious spin-offs will be in trucking, food supplies for workers, maintenance and so forth. It is a significant driver of the regional economy in the area in which I live.

The Deputy Premier rightly spoke about the road. Albany Highway is a busy road, and I fought for six years to have passing lanes provided at my end of the highway. It is positively dangerous. Two such lanes have been provided and more are coming. With the size of the vehicles entering and leaving the abattoir, the intersection of Middleton Road and Albany Highway would be damned near lethal without road widening and proper slip lanes to enable trucks to turn on and off the road without causing mayhem to all other road users. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition complains about \$5.9m for roadworks! He should be ashamed of himself. He should come down and I will show him the place so that he can see whether one dollar has been wasted.

As the Deputy Premier said, further work will run through to Chester Pass Road. The log chipper will be built and operating next year. Public money is to be spent to run a spur line to the chipper as well as in the port authority to reclaim part of the harbour to build areas in which chips can be stored, for a reclaimer and a loader. This is a new industry for my area. Trees are being grown in profusion and as fast as humanly possible. This is a great, new industry which requires road transport to take logs to the chipper, and the chips are then to be bailed to port. Settlement Road gives an east-west link, as much of the area allocated for trees is in the Green Range Mt, Manypeaks and South Stirling areas, which represents huge acreage. The logs can be taken to the chipper only by going in and out of Albany, which is stupid and a traffic hazard. To cut east-west down to the chipper, and to place chips on rail makes sense. To spend \$5.9m on a road, which was a narrow, bitumen road which became dirt, so it can handle freight trucks, which carry stock, frozen meat and logs to go to the chipper, is very good expenditure of public funds. The training money is in the same category. If the Government had not come up with money for the headworks, I doubt whether the abattoir would be there. No way in a fit was that not good expenditure of public money. This operation provides competition for farmers' stock, long-term jobs for people of my area and many spin-offs for people. For the lot opposite to criticise the project shows that they are ill-informed, do not give a damn about the facts, and, frankly, as the Opposition has only one member south of Brand, have no interest in representing anyone in the bush. The forest policy of members opposite is the final nail in their coffin in that area.

MR KOBELKE (Nollamara) [8.38 pm]: One can be absolutely certain that we have caught the Government out and found it to have done something wrong when all it can offer is abuse, half-truths and misrepresentation of arguments, as we heard from government speakers. The undertaking to attract a new private abattoir to the area was something the Deputy Premier said the Government had committed to. Nevertheless, this Government has not carried through on a range of commitments made by the Deputy Premier as Leader of the National Party. Why should this one be upheld when so many other promises were dispensed with by the Deputy Premier.

Of course, the Opposition wants industry in the area. It is a stupid misrepresentation of the Opposition's position to say it does not want the abattoir and safer roads. That is a weak argument which shows up the Government. We would all like new enterprises and factories in our electorates at which people find employment. Does the Government do it in an evenhanded and fair way to create jobs for the long term, or is it simply pork-barrelling? This is a clear case of pork-barrelling. For the government speakers to try to turn the debate onto our somehow not wanting the abattoirs is simply to try to hide from the facts and not take up the real issues. They relate to the level of subsidy and support given by the Government. Is the subsidy fair? To what extent has the subsidy interfered with fair competition in the market place? Those are the areas with which government speakers have totally avoided coming to grips. When earlier speakers were trying to raise those matters, government members were dragging so many red herrings across the Chamber, one would think that we were dealing with a fish factory rather than abattoirs.

When in Opposition prior to 1993, the National Party promised that it would keep Robb Jetty and upgrade it. It broke that promise. This Government broke a very clear promise about Robb Jetty. That had a follow-on effect which influenced the closure of the Metro and Albany meatworks about which the previous member spoke. During the term of this Government, those two abattoirs were closed down and jobs were lost. In that environment the Opposition called for the building of a new abattoir to create jobs and to replace that capacity. Yet we heard time and again from government members that we had called for new abattoirs. We did in 1993-94 when this Government was seeing them closed down. A lot of water has gone under the bridge since then. The Minister for Primary Industry suggested that Hon Bob Thomas, who resides in Albany, supported the project. He did in the light of creating jobs in the area but he does not support the way this Government has gone about it. All members want jobs in their electorates. Hon Bob Thomas certainly wants them. However, this Government twisted the truth by saying that somehow the process through which it has enabled very special support to be given to one company over others is supported by members on this side of the House, including Hon Bob Thomas.

As I said, a lot of water has gone under the bridge between 1993-94 when this Government closed abattoirs and its commitment in the past year or two to provide a large amount of money for Fletcher International Export Pty Ltd (NSW) to establish a new private abattoir. That is in the light of declining numbers in the sheep flock. I understand that in 1987 there were approximately 42 million sheep in this State. In 1992 that had declined to 28 million, and the current estimate is that it has declined to 26 million. Those figures mean that abattoirs are not able to work at full capacity. Our abattoirs

have an excess of capacity at a time when this Government has committed a huge amount of taxpayers' money to a new abattoir which will put further pressure on the existing operations.

The minister indicated that, at one stage, there were no export abattoirs - if I heard him correctly. We got out of the Deputy Premier that that was not the case and that the Metro Meat Katanning and Linley Valley operations are export abattoirs. This abattoir will clearly be in competition with two existing abattoirs, although I accept what the member for Albany said about the cost factor with transport. There is not a big distance involved when transporting sheep to Katanning. It would be a minor factor in providing a huge amount of government money to provide a competitor in the great southern region.

What is the situation with these abattoirs? The minister said that they were owned by the Chinese. I thought he was bordering on being racist when he suggested that somehow because the owners of the abattoirs were Chinese, it was worth pulling a bit of a rort to help an Australian company over companies owned by the Chinese.

Mr House interjected.

Mr KOBELKE: That is a clear indication from what the Minister for Primary Industry said. If the minister would pipe down for a minute we could talk some sense. Is it not true that those abattoirs are now owned by a new farmers cooperative?

Mr House: You have no idea what you are talking about. Don't you accuse me of being racist.

Mr KOBELKE: The minister said that there is no new farmers cooperative entering into the ownership of those abattoirs. The minister is rabbiting on. As I said at the outset, the minister cannot deal with the truth.

Mr House interjected.

Mr KOBELKE: The minister can call me names and abuse me, but that is what this minister does because he has been caught out and he cannot handle the facts. Unfortunately, that means we cannot enter into a rational debate with this minister.

As the minister does not want to clarify the matter, let me continue. My understanding is that in January 1998, Cabinet approved a package of \$5.2m. I am happy to be corrected if that is not right.

Mr Cowan: That would be right.

Mr KOBELKE: That fact was announced in the Parliament in August 1998. The Deputy Premier indicated there could be delays because the Government had to stitch the deal up having made the commitment.

Mr Cowan: Once Cabinet agrees, an offer is made to a company. The company decides whether it will go ahead or not.

Mr KOBELKE: I accept that. I am not taking issue with the Deputy Premier but I want to make sure that I have the facts right.

Mr Cowan: We did not have to stitch up a deal. All we had to do was offer what Cabinet had agreed to.

Mr KOBELKE: I am not suggesting anything untoward about the timing. Once the Government has made the offer, in this and all cases, often tying up the detail can take a little time. The matter was announced in August 1998. I do not know whether the deal was tied up in one or two weeks or one or two months. I am not worried about that. But there was an intervening period. There is nothing unusual about that.

The issue I want to take up is that given the decision was made in January 1998 and that it was public by August 1998, the 1998-99 budget introduced in the first half of that year contained no reference to any of it that I can find, unless the minister can point to a page. No mention was made of a commitment of \$5.2m to the Narrikup abattoir even though the Government had decided that it would be funded. The Deputy Premier might say that the budget papers were put together in March and the deal was still being tied up so there was doubt about it.

Mr Cowan: Because it comes from clearly designated funds to the industry incentive program and the regional headworks fund, the funds for those programs would include the total amount that was given to Fletcher International.

Mr KOBELKE: I accept that the money was in the budget. The point I am making is that it seems like there was undue secrecy, if this is a major initiative that the Government wants to herald, because no mention was made in the budget papers of the \$5.2m, which represents a large percentage of the Agriculture Western Australia budget or even of the Department of Commerce and Trade budget. I understand that the amount goes into sub-budgets, and that is right and proper, but the Government heralds in the budget and its associated papers programs what it is doing with projects that it thinks have merit. If the Government wants to hide anything, it does not put it into the budget papers. That amount was not put into the 1998-99 budget and no mention has been made of the \$5.2m in the 1999-2000 budget. If the deal is so good, why is it not mentioned in the budget papers? It seems that the Government was a bit wary of publicising that it was providing money in the way it has done.

Mr Cowan: That is nonsense. I made it public in the Parliament. The agreement between the Government and Benale Pty Ltd, which was the company of Fletcher International, was made public in a statement to this House. To talk about there being secrecy is absolute nonsense. Something cannot not be stated in the Parliament and then have someone say it is secretive.

Mr KOBELKE: I have said all that. The point I am making is that if the Government is really proud of the financing as opposed to the heralding of the project, I suggest that it would lay out in the budget papers where the money was coming from.

Mr Cowan: It was covered under existing programs. There was no special program initiated for this project.

Mr KOBELKE: All the existing programs that are not special delineate amounts of \$2m, \$3m, \$4m or \$5m. That is common practice. The way the Government approached it was not the common practice of stating where the money was coming from. I turn to the Deputy Premier's comments that this fitted in with the guidelines that Cabinet set itself for such funding. On page E827 of the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations of 1 to 4 June 1999 eight criteria are set out in answer to a question asking what they are. No criterion amongst the eight states that there is a let-out clause for the Cabinet that if it cannot fit in with the criteria it can do it anyway. That is what the Deputy Premier is saying. He is saying there is another criterion that the Government uses when it is stuck and cannot meet the guidelines. The Deputy Premier said the Government would do it anyway but it is not among the criteria in the answer given to the Parliament.

What is the real reason that the Government pulled this rort? Why has this Government set out to put in place a private operator to the disadvantage of existing companies that are processing meat through their abattoirs? I do not know -

Mr Cowan: You have demonstrated that.

Mr KOBELKE: It is possible that the Government wanted to intervene in the sheep market and to put in place a new player who might provide better prices to the producers. However, that has not been said.

Mr Cowan: Is there something wrong with that?

Mr KOBELKE: No, but I am asking the Deputy Premier to say why he has tilted the scales and provided special assistance to one operator over other operators. He has not answered questions asked by earlier speakers; he has avoided us, abused us and dragged red herrings through the place. He will not give us the facts. I am hypothesising because I do not know why he pulled this rort. It is possible that he was not happy with the way existing abattoirs were servicing the producers. Perhaps quality-wise and price-wise they were not doing it as well as he thought they could be. He said that the Narrikup abattoir was providing a better price.

Mr Cowan: It was.

Mr KOBELKE: I am trying to make sense of what the Deputy Premier said.

Mr House: That would be an impossible task, because you do not have the ability. If you were listening, you would have heard me say very clearly when I was speaking -

Mr KOBELKE: It would be difficult to make any sense of that which the Minister for Agriculture said. He gets abusive when he is caught out, and he was abusive tonight, so clearly he has been caught out in this case.

Mr House: I said clearly when I was speaking that we made no excuse for returning better prices to producers.

Mr KOBELKE: It is possible that the Government was intervening in the market place because it thought that action may be better for the primary producers, who clearly the National Party wishes to represent, but that is not what members opposite have stated. Perhaps this is a new form of intervention in the market place. If they said that, we would have criteria by which to judge, but that is not what was said. All we have had is attempts to avoid the issue and half truths. I refer to the way people are employed at Narrikup by the Fletcher Group and the comments by the minister about training when clearly he was clutching at straws by attacking the Labor Party and suggesting that we were not supportive of training.

Mr House: That will be interesting.

Mr KOBELKE: The Labor Party in government had a far superior record on training than this Government. Along with its Howard colleagues, it is causing training to go downhill. The figures support that. They were read out in this place during the budget debate. Apprenticeships have been severely reduced under this Government and training has generally gone backwards.

The Fletcher Group uses a labour hire company to provide its staff; they are not employed directly by the company. Due to the way those employees are treated, Narrikup has a high turnover of staff. Many workers do not stay long; they move on.

Mr House: That is not true.

Mr KOBELKE: Some workers in Albany would rather travel the extra distance to work at Katanning for the week and return to Albany because they do not want to work under the regime at Narrikup. Fletchers picked up \$560 000 for traineeships. That would have been great if the employees received any training. I was told about one person who, having worked in the meat industry for more than 10 years, was a very experienced hand. He was a qualified meat inspector, but he had hurt his back and was unable to continue working. On wishing to return to the work force he was finding it difficult to get work. He thought he would try to get work at Narrikup, but did not intend to say that he was a meat inspector. He was put on a traineeship so that Fletchers could receive the trainee subsidy for him. It was a rort that has been occurring there as it has at other companies, which has contributed to the Government's closing down many of the traineeships. The minister's comments on training were a lot of guff. He does not know what he is talking about. Fletchers used traineeships to subsidise the cost of its labour and has not provided adequate training to many of the people employed under the trainee scheme. A clear example is the one I just cited. When Fletchers found out that this person was highly qualified it tried to get him to provide training to the other employees while being paid the trainee wage.

We have seen the refusal of the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Primary Industry to address the issues. That is not unusual. They have gone from a situation in which they had some credibility in this Parliament to being a laughing stock.

They are not a laughing stock to their Liberal colleagues; they see their actions in a much more serious and sinister light. The Deputy Premier said that he did not agree with the Regional Forest Agreement because members had not been given the detailed maps. Suddenly when that caused a furore, the Deputy Premier backpedalled and said he had not read them properly. The National Party helped to sink the RFA the Government had signed by making statements -

Mr Cowan: I did not say that.

Mr KOBELKE: What did he say about the RFA initially? When the Deputy Premier was questioned he said that he was not given all the figures.

Mr Cowan: I said that it would have been appropriate for the reservations to have been published prior to the signing of the RFA. I don't know from where you get your embellishments.

Mr KOBELKE: Is the Deputy Premier blaming the media for misrepresenting him?

Mr Cowan: I am not blaming anyone; I am telling you what I said. If you do not have the intellect to understand clear English, that is your problem.

Mr KOBELKE: I happen to be among 99 per cent of the population who saw the Deputy Premier help sink the RFA, then turn around and say that it is okay, the National Party will go along with it. What about the statement at the National Party conference? He did not even have the guts to say it when the Premier was there; he waited until the day after the Premier had left to say that we must bring in a mini- budget.

Mr House: Don't pretend you care about timber workers.

Mr KOBELKE: The Deputy Premier, who sits on the budget subcommittee, dropped a bucketful on the Premier the day after the Premier left the conference -

Mr Cowan: You are far too gullible. At no stage during the weekend of the conference did I mention a mini-budget.

Mr KOBELKE: What did the Deputy Premier say? Does he want to change the words slightly? He created that impression through the media and then says that he did not say "mini-budget".

Mr Cowan: I never mentioned the words "mini-budget".

Mr KOBELKE: The Deputy Premier said he wanted a budget review to change priorities. He can play with words, but that does not change the fact that he dumped on the Premier. The Deputy Premier has a reputation for being a good footballer. I do not know whether he has a reputation for taking out players behind the play, but that is clearly what he did to the Premier.

Mr House: You would not have been game to run out on the field with him.

Mr KOBELKE: There are precedents for players taking out other players behind the play, but not for the vice captain to king-hit the captain. Behind the play the Deputy Premier king-hit the Premier and then said that it was all right, they were friends.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (17)

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

Noes (30)

Mr Ainsworth	Mr Cowan	Mr MacLean	Mr Prince
Mr Baker	Mr Day	Mr Marshall	Mr Shave
Mr Barnett	Mrs Edwardes	Mr Masters	Mr Sweetman
Mr Bloffwitch	Dr Hames	Mr McNee	Mr Trenorden
Mr Board	Mrs Hodson-Thomas	Mr Minson	Dr Turnbull
Mr Bradshaw	Mrs Holmes	Mr Omodei	Mrs van de Klashorst
Dr Constable	Mr House	Mr Pental	Mr Osborne (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr Court	Mr Johnson		

Pairs

Mrs Roberts	Mr Tubby
Ms MacTiernan	Mr Kierath
Mr Bridge	Mrs Parker

Amendment thus negatived.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

MR MARSHALL (Dawesville - Parliamentary Secretary) [9.01 pm]: In replying to the Governor's address on the opening of the third session of the thirty-fifth Parliament of Western Australia I take the opportunity to congratulate His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery, AC, MC, for his leadership to the State over the past six years. His Excellency has announced that he will retire in March 2000. He has been a hands-on Governor whose participation and professionalism in state matters has earned him the admiration of all Western Australians. His military training ensured he could communicate with people from all walks of life, especially our youth. By setting attainable goals and standards, His Excellency has inspired many youth to become more disciplined and to have pride in their community. Mrs Jeffery has given him wonderful support where necessary, and has been a tireless worker, particularly in charity work. On behalf of the constituents of my electorate of Dawesville, I wish them both a most enjoyable retirement.

Mr Pandal: The word around is that you might be the Governor's successor.

Mr MARSHALL: The member for South Perth gave us his vision of the future. He is a visionary backbencher in this House. The Governor's vision is about embracing taxation and competition policy, access to land and energy, primary industries, environment, public administration, community safety and security, health services, community service, and education and training. The Governor's vision is achievable if we work together in this House as a true team. That is the challenge I am delivering tonight.

I mention a true team because the behaviour of parliamentarians in question time in this House last week was deplorable. That includes the Leader of the Opposition. I was ashamed. I had invited a student parliamentarian from Coodanup High School and her mother to sit in the Speaker's Gallery. When I spoke with them after question time I had to apologise and say that that sort of behaviour did not happen all the time and this is not what true parliamentarians are about. We must work together so that Western Australia continues to be a great place in which to live.

Mr McGowan: So none of your members does this?

Mr MARSHALL: Is the member for Rockingham listening? The member for Rockingham is young, and I want him to listen to this because somewhere in his past he missed out on the requirement to observe and listen when someone talks to him. If we are to work together so that Western Australia continues to be a great place in which to live, we must give credit where it is due.

Dr Constable: That is just what the member for South Perth tried to do earlier today.

Mr MARSHALL: I complimented the member for South Perth. Just because the member for Rockingham is in opposition he should not be negative all of the time.

Our friends in the Press should be part of this team too. They can create or destroy a State's confidence with selective headlines, pictorials or quotations. I have always marvelled at the different approach between sporting and political journalists. Sporting journalists promote optimistic observation while their political colleagues seem to be a touch pessimistic. For instance, at Alan Border's cricket testimonial the commentary of a sporting commentator might go like this: There is Alan Border, briskly walking to the crease, wearing that battered green and gold cap that has seen so much of international playing arenas. What a captain he has been for Australia; Border self-consciously waves back to the sell-out crowd. On the other hand, a political report might say this: There is Alan Border, sheepishly walking to the crease. He is wearing a crumpled green and gold cap that should have been dry-cleaned for the occasion. He certainly has had his ups and downs as an Australian captain; Border arrogantly waves to the crowd. The difference is that sporting reporters are much closer to the action and they have been around for a long time. They know the players intimately and they respect the game. However, political journalists are generally much younger. Often their brief is just a stepping stone to a promotion.

I realise that the Press have a role to critically analyse what the Government does. It also has a duty to help promote the positive achievements and goals of this Government for the benefit of all Western Australians.

The reason that I am up in arms about teamwork is that I was in Melbourne last weekend, and on Friday night I went to see the *The Boy from Oz*. The lead performers are Todd McHenry and Jill Perryman, both from Western Australia, and both wowed the audience. I have some trivia for the educated show goers: Jill Perryman's married name is Jill Johnson. Her son Todd Johnson reads the weather for Channel 9 and Todd McHenry was named after Todd Johnson. On Saturday night I saw the Australian Pops Orchestra's *Spirit of Ireland* in which the singer Emma Matthews, who won the 1996 Remy Martin Australian Opera Award and who graduated with a Bachelor of Music from the Western Australian Conservatorium in 1992, was one of the stars.

In Victoria I listened to everyone praise Jeff Kennett. Incidentally, the cabbies call him "Jeff" as though he is one of their mates. They say that everything great happens in Victoria. However, the two shows and the MCG footy game that I attended when the Bulldogs played Richmond all had Western Australians in leading roles. We are doing things right in this State but, somehow, the message is not getting out. Are we frightened of success? I am not.

There has been a lot of discussion about the proposed belltower, convention centre and maritime museum. I am in favour of all three projects. The belltower has been scorned by the Opposition, but in reality it will become a focal point linking the city and the Swan River. It will become a landmark in Western Australia. Members should think about it. If we go to Paris what do we take a photograph of? The Champs Elysées, L'Arc de Triomphe and the Eiffel Tower. The Eiffel Tower is an amazing thing.

Mr Bloffwitch: The belltower will not be as glamorous as the Eiffel Tower.

Mr MARSHALL: Just a minute. The Eiffel Tower was a winning entry in a competition to design a monument for the 1889 World Fair in Paris and now it is part of history. If we go to London we take photographs of Big Ben and Trafalgar Square; if we go to New York it is the Empire State Building; if we go to Sydney it is the Harbour Bridge or the Opera House. If people come to Perth, what do they take a photograph of? The waterways from Kings Park. Thankfully, Lord Forrest had the vision of putting something aside for the public of Western Australia and prevented the aristocrats and wealthy people from taking over the best viewing place in Western Australia.

Mr Riebeling: A fair bit of the river has been reclaimed there.

Mr MARSHALL: I am getting interjections from the other side of the House. However, I reiterate that we must support this vision and not be negative or against it. As a youth of 21 or 22 years of age, I travelled the world. It was an adventure then. One had to be pretty game to go away as it was by ship in those days. However, by playing tennis I met many successful people. One person said, "Buy a piece of real estate every year of your life and you'll never look back." Another one said, "Buy real estate by the water and you'll never look back." Therefore, as a youth back in Perth, the first piece of land I bought was real estate that I thought would be on the water as three doors down from my block lived the then Leader of the Opposition, Hon John Tonkin. I wondered why a man as astute as he was had bought land overlooking bush on the foreshore of East Fremantle. I wondered what would happen when the bush was cleared. I then looked four doors to the left of the block of land that I was going to buy and Merv Cowan, the town clerk of East Fremantle, had just bought a block. I then looked six blocks down from his block and the president of East Fremantle council, Roy Corbett, had just bought a block. I thought I was getting warm with the information I had received on my tours of Europe to buy land by the river so I bought my block of land. In those days blocks of land in East Fremantle were £1 000 and I paid £2 000 for mine. When my father looked at it - I will never forget his comment - he said, "How much did you pay for this, son?" I am talking about a truck driver on the wharf, the type of person whom some Opposition members have never experienced meeting. I said to my father, "£2 000, dad." He said, "Who do you think you are, the King of England?" If I had bought 30 of those blocks I would be the King of England right now and would not be here trying to educate members about life.

We need a convention centre, we need a multi-purpose soccer-rugby arena and we need a nautical museum in Fremantle. John Tonkin and I took the chance of buying those blocks of land in 1958 and 1960 and now values have gone out of this world. The same thing will happen for Western Australia when we develop this infrastructure. With responsible state budgets, new projects can be achieved without affecting the core areas such as health, education and law and order. I have great faith that this coalition Government can achieve this. As members know, all of these projects will draw tourists to WA and put us on the map.

Mr McGowan: You would rather have the belltower before the Peel football club.

Mr MARSHALL: The member for Rockingham should stick around for 15 minutes more as he is in for a helluva a shock when I tell him what is coming up.

Mr McGowan: I can hardly wait.

Mr MARSHALL: As I said, we need this infrastructure and I must declare an interest. The member for Rockingham is sitting on the edge of his seat. It is well documented that Mandurah is the State's most attended one-day destination. With all our overseas visitors visiting Perth and Fremantle, it is natural to assume that their next excursion will be to Mandurah. I have no doubt that the Peel Region has the attractions to draw those visitors to give them the thrill of a lifetime.

In my electorate the Court Government has embarked on major infrastructure projects which will enhance employment opportunities. The extension of the Kwinana Freeway, in addition to the introduction of flyovers, will ensure free flowing traffic from Perth to Mandurah, while the proposed rail link in 2007 - subject to the sale of AlintaGas - and the building of the 500-pen marine will put Mandurah well and truly on the map. Mandurah is the fastest growing regional city in Australia. By 2010 it is expected to have a population of 70 000. A rapid transit rail system is therefore essential. This Government has planned well for the future. The south west metropolitan rail project, estimated to cost \$1b, is no exception. The service will run from Perth to Kenwick, moving along the eastern outskirts of Rockingham, terminating at Allnutt Street in Mandurah. The trip from Mandurah to Perth will take 60 minutes which will be magical for the local residents. The recommendation that a rail loop should go through Rockingham city centre is foolhardy.

Mr McGowan: Is this the one for which I am waiting on the edge of my seat?

Mr MARSHALL: The member for Rockingham is awake! To divert through Rockingham would add another \$120m to the project and defeat the project's main aim of safe, rapid and direct transport from Mandurah to Perth. Anyone who thinks otherwise is extremely selfish and immature. It would be sensible to have a bus service to link passengers from the Rockingham station to its suburbs.

Mr Bloffwitch: Why don't you take the rail to Rockingham and get a bus service to Mandurah?

Mr MARSHALL: Once it is established we can then think about the link. The member for Geraldton has made a suggestion and I usually back him in his opinions. However, as he is from Geraldton, which is a minor provincial city of this State, he does not know of the increased population in Mandurah, that it is providing a large majority of employment for the Rockingham area and that therefore, the direct link will be very important.

The \$220m Mandurah ocean marina will provide a world-class facility, catering for both professional and recreational boating and fishing participants, with a four-boat launch ramp. In addition, there will be 500 pens, fuel facilities, trailer parking, fishing platforms and emergency water rescue facilities. It will be magical and the envy of all the people around the State who will all come to Mandurah to be part of it. It will also have commercial marine outlets, fishing and boat shops,

a Mandurah offshore fishing club, the Mandurah yacht club and restaurants. The marina will be built in the dolphin pool and will complement the boardwalk facilities.

Mr McGowan: How much will it cost in public money?

Mr MARSHALL: Government money will be backing this project. I know the member for Rockingham is envious; however, the last time I saw him was at a cricket game in Halls Head at which people asked, "Who is this bloke?" I said, "He is the member for Rockingham." They said, "I think he's up there. What's he doing down here?" I say to the member for Rockingham that as soon as this marina is built, even if he is not a boating man, I will take him out and show it to him. We will team together, I will take him crabbing and show him what the big smoke down there is all about.

Mr McGowan: In 18 months' time you'll have plenty of time on your hands.

Mr MARSHALL: This marina will complement the facilities which have been built in the past three years - the boardwalk, the performing arts centre, the Reading cinema complex, the Peninsula Hotel refurbishment, Cicerello's and Dome restaurants. Any member who has not visited Mandurah recently is in for a big surprise. I challenge them to move out of their electorates and become enlightened. More than 18 restaurants have opened up in Mandurah in the past 12 months. The canal blocks at Waterside are nearly all sold. The blocks at Port Mandurah subdivision 1 were filled three years ago. The blocks at Port Mandurah subdivision 2 were opened up two years ago and are nearly 85 per cent sold out. I compliment my friends in the Opposition for their foresight on the wonderful development at Port Bouvard on the Dawesville Channel. It saved the waterways of Mandurah by taking on one of the biggest nautical engineering feats and challenges of our lifetime in Western Australia and pulled it off. I often wrack my brains about what else the Opposition did south of the river in the 10 years it was in office and I believe it can hang its hat on the Dawesville Channel. It estimated the cost to be \$75m and the coalition Government built it for \$55m. Looking after accounts is another thing; we differ there. I congratulate the Opposition for having the vision to create the Dawesville Channel which has opened up urban development, and recreational fishing, and has saved the estuary waterways. As members well know, the estuary waterways are three times the size of the Swan River. We have a jewel in our waterways which the Dawesville Channel will be able to exploit. I now return to the Port Bouvard development. The canal development is nearly sold out, the development has changed hands and the new developer sold 80 blocks in one month, which is "nothing happening". The last canals will be constructed at Creary. I assure members that a price increase is imminent for owners of canal blocks.

However, there is one major problem. I record my concern about the bottleneck which develops at the Mandurah bridges on weekends which is caused by traffic travelling to and from the south west. It is estimated that 7 500 cars use the Old Coast Road daily and 5 100 use the South West Highway as my friend, the member for Murray-Wellington, is well aware. The solution is simple. The Peel deviation is a well-planned road, construction of which must be brought forward by Main Roads Western Australia. The officials say this road will not be needed for 10 years but I am convinced that it should be a priority project. Accidents, near-misses and fatalities will continue to occur if action is not taken immediately. In conclusion, this is a get together and team night where we are teaching the youth and the next ambassadors of our State, youngsters who have no families and no responsibilities but are still learning in life. As this is a get together and we are a team, I remind members on both sides of the House how important it is for us to work together. Western Australia is a place of which we should be proud and it is up to all of us to tell the world of the assets we have here.

MR AINSWORTH (Roe) [9.21 pm]: Following the member for Dawesville's positive speech, I will talk about the way we should be working together to promote a positive outlook for our State. In his speech, the Governor referred to some of the problems in country areas but also, on a positive note, outlined what was being done to overcome those difficulties and to look to a more optimistic future. Unfortunately, I cannot say the same about our media. Recently I have been very distressed by the media's misreporting of country issues and its impact on country areas. The first example which comes to mind occurred about a year or so back when an unfortunate accident occurred at the Gnowangerup Agricultural School. A student was killed when he fell off the back of a utility during some farm operations. Smelling a good story, people from one of the television stations raced down there and did a story on the school. Members have heard me say in this place before that the Gnowangerup Agricultural School offers a second opportunity to young boys who have failed in the mainstream education system. It gives them a second chance to learn hands-on skills, it keeps them off the streets and, in 95 per cent of cases, jobs are waiting before the students finish the two-year course. The school has a long and positive history of achieving results but instead of promoting it in that positive fashion, the television station gave the impression that this was a school in which young ratbags from the city were being placed and it is no wonder someone was killed because they were all skylarking in the paddock and the whole program was a big joke. That was a total misrepresentation of the facts.

Mr Riebeling: When was that?

Mr AINSWORTH: This was recently. The television station was taken to task over its report and those involved realised they had made a fundamental error. To give the people from the television station credit, they returned to the school and put to air a story about how good the school was, which rectified that problem. I congratulate the station for that.

Mr Riebeling: Didn't they do one just recently on that?

Mr AINSWORTH: They could have done so. The example I gave occurred a couple of years ago and more recent stories could have been reported. I do not have much time to speak about this but I could spend half an hour telling members how good the agricultural school is and why three government reports have recommended we establish another. I want one to be established at the partially-used research station at Salmon Gums. However, that is a different story, but another positive one.

More recently there were the floods at Esperance at Christmas time. Certainly that was newsworthy; we had 200 millimetres or eight inches of rain over three or four days. Such a volume of rain at that time of the year was totally unheard of and it created some problems. It cut the South Coast Highway in two places and created some local flooding in the town for a short time. It also did quite a lot of damage to vegetation along creek and river lines which farmers were trying to protect. It was fine for that issue to be reported in the way it was. However, every day for a couple of weeks the television reports showed the same picture of a street in the Esperance township which was flooded for about six hours. That picture was aired day after day at the height of the tourist season. The people who saw that picture decided there was no point in going to Esperance because the road was cut and they were told there was no way into Esperance. Madam Acting Speaker would know that the road from Kalgoorlie to Esperance was open all the time. There may have been a bit of water over it but people could still get through and there are other roads. Esperance lost significant tourist dollars at the height of the tourist season because of laziness and irresponsibility on the part of some media outlets which were not prepared to present the facts as they were. It took a great deal of effort to change that. The situation was so bad that at Border Village some of the quarantine inspectors - who had received their information from the wrong source - told people returning to Esperance who pulled up at the checkpoint that there was no point in going to Esperance because they could not get through. This was a fortnight after the flood. That did an enormous amount of damage to the tourist operators who rely on the flush of summer visitors to make their cream, average out their incomes over the year and remain viable.

That was a bad situation, but it pales into insignificance when compared with what we saw on the front page of *The West Australian* last weekend. We saw dramatic headlines about some suicides in Esperance over the past 12 to 18 months. There was also a two-page spread about this in the middle of the newspaper. I am not suggesting for one moment that one should not publicise a problem in a proper way or that an issue should be swept under the carpet and no-one should do anything about it. I would not say that for a minute.

A week or two ago a small article appeared in *The West Australian* on the same issue. A female reporter wrote an article about suicide in Esperance and how there had been a number of cases. She then started talking about Esperance, the south west and rural towns in decline, implying there might be a connection between these things. The article then talked about the loss of jobs in the timber industry. Members would all be aware that Esperance is nowhere near the south west; it is in the south east and is 400 kilometres from anywhere that could be considered to be in the south west. It is a town which is growing rapidly, probably at a rate above the state average. It is a positive place which is moving ahead in leaps and bounds. People cannot say that it is a town in decline. In addition, it is not within a bull's roar of the timber industry which is perhaps suffering some potential job losses and a downturn in confidence because of changes to the forestry industry policy. To put all that in one article and make it sound like this was causing some problems in Esperance is ludicrous. It showed how little proper research that journalist had done.

At least in the case of *The West Australian* of Saturday, 14 August, the reporter knew where Esperance was and had been there before. I am sure members have seen the article. The dramatic headline says "Shadow of Death: One Small Town's Heavy Burden" and talks about suicide. It is highly irresponsible to put that sort of emotive headline on the front page of any newspaper. A series of reports and two sets of media guidelines I have found say that should not be done. A package called "Reporting of Suicide" is available to the media as part of the national mental health strategy. It was put out by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. This is a comprehensive guide for the media about how to deal with this emotive and sensitive issue. The first item on the media quick reference card on suicide states in block capitals -

POSITION THE RELEVANT STORY ON THE INSIDE PAGES OF A NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINE, JOURNAL, IN THE SECOND OR THIRD BREAK OF TV NEWS, OR FURTHER DOWN THE ORDER OF RADIO REPORTS RATHER THAN MAKING IT A HEADLINE, FRONT PAGE OR TOP OF THE BULLETIN PIECE.

The opposite approach was adopted with these articles with dramatic headlines and sensational stuff like "One small town's heavy burden". Two pages outlined the personal detail of the people left behind. *Australian Press Council News* of 2 May 1996 spent some time on the subject of how the media should deal with material which is potentially damaging if misreported or reported in a sensational or incorrect manner. The Australian Press Council itself, to its credit - as it states in the newsletter - "convened a round table seminar, involving mental health professionals, community groups and the media, to discuss the reporting of suicide". This three-page newsletter touched on a number of areas relating to suicide. Importantly, it covered youth suicide. Under the heading "Reports Linked to Suicide", the report quoted an American sociologist, although the same thing has been said at the local level, as follows -

... suicide increased immediately after a suicide story was publicised in newspapers. ... First, the more publicity devoted to a suicide story, the larger the rise in suicides thereafter, and, secondly, the rise in suicides was restricted mainly to the area in which the story was publicised.

This information was distributed by the Australian Press Council to its members. I assume that the reporter in question and *The West Australian* receive such guidelines. That reporting was a gross breach of that guideline, which unfortunately is not a firm rule. It was flagrantly broken in this case.

Tony Barrass of *The West Australian* is part of the so-called writers' group, which is a self-proclaimed elite, or whatever one may call it, at *The West Australian*. By giving themselves that name, somehow it gives people the impression that they are a better class of journalist, and that what they write is accurate. A series of articles from the same gentleman related to country towns. Some items in those articles were accurate. However, they gave the impression that the majority of country towns are in steep decline as a result of bank closures and population drifts, among other things. My electorate covers centres like Esperance with 12 000 people, to towns with a handful of people. Apart from one or two towns which are

stagnant rather than declining, other towns, especially the small to medium ones, find it difficult to meet the rate of expansion people want. These towns have a shortage of land, caused partly by native title and partly by the inability to provide basic resources like power and water quickly enough. Also, people cannot get industrial land.

Newdegate, which is a relatively small town, had a problem with sewerage in the days of the previous Labor Government. The town's growth stalled because the septic tanks were not working, and ground conditions were causing raw sewage to float to the surface of the blocks. Then minister Ernie Bridge saw the problem and solved it by providing a sewerage plant. The next problem was a lack of a water supply, which was rectified by the current Government. The town is growing rapidly, but has a shortage of industrial land on which small businesses can operate. That side of the picture was not presented by this reporter, who gave people the wrong impression about what is happening in country towns. It is not all doom and gloom. Many places are bursting at the seams and held back only by the inability to provide the facilities to meet the demand.

Returning to the issue of suicide, Tony Barrass headed an article "A town named hope fights toll of despair". Of course people are upset by what is happening, as I am. Families and friends of those who commit suicide feel the tragedy very deeply. However, to say that the whole town is in despair gives the impression that we have thrown up our hands in horror, do not know what to do and can see no light at the end of the tunnel. This article relates to Esperance, which is one of the most progressive and positive towns in Western Australia. Ask anyone who has been there in recent months.

I now take issue with you, Madam Acting Speaker (Ms Anwyl), and it is a pity you are not on the floor so you can respond to my comments. You are not aware of what has been happening behind the scenes on this issue, as it has not been publicised. I did not go front page on the local paper, which would not have printed it if we had tried, because we know that adverse publicity is negative to our cause; namely, an improvement in the situation with suicide. The media release of the member for Kalgoorlie stated that the Government and the National Party, and me in particular, had not been doing enough and had not provided money to the local Suicide Prevention Task Force. The member is misinformed.

A constituent of mine who works at the local hospital had seen people overdose on drugs or involved in some other activity which was believed to be an attempt to commit suicide. These people were presenting at hospital. This person said to me about 12 months ago, "I am concerned. As a community we need to do something to try to turn the situation around." I agreed wholeheartedly with that approach. I asked my research electorate officer to research all available literature on suicide in rural areas, particularly youth suicide. Although youth suicide is a great tragedy, most Esperance people who have committed suicide were in the 25 to 40 years age group. My research officer contacted a range of people, including the youth suicide prevention unit. As a result, Jenny Cugley from that unit visited Esperance to coordinate the gatekeeper course. As Madam Acting Speaker is aware, this is a counselling training course for educators and community members instigated by the Education Department. The lady conducting research on my behalf, along with another electorate officer, met with Jenny Cugley and relayed my concern about what was happening in Esperance. She said that we should set up an interagencies meeting, and that she would pass on my name to a lady in Esperance from Family and Children's Services. The lady agreed to take on a coordinating role at a public meeting to get the gatekeeper course running. My office helped in the organisation of the public meeting run by Allan Huggins, who was referred to in the press release from the member for Kalgoorlie. I met him following the public meeting. By that stage, we were making our own investigations anyway.

My research officer has been a member, on my behalf, of the local Suicide Prevention Task Force from day one. As she is able to attend every meeting - I cannot do so when in Perth and around my electorate - she keeps in touch with that organisation on a personal day-to-day basis. She assures me that although the task force has investigated funding sources, and made some initial contacts, no funding application has been refused for the local task force.

We are looking at putting some positives in place. We are getting together the various organisations that one would expect to deal with personal problems, be it the mental health unit, church groups, or whatever, and seeing whether we can get a more coordinated approach to make the best use of the very good people who are in place at the moment, and also to find some new ideas. One idea that has come forward was mentioned in a follow-up article that appeared in *The West Australian* on Monday and that was far more balanced than this article. That idea is a mentor program, which will use people in the community in a similar age group to those who are unfortunately committing suicide. We never know who will commit suicide, but if a person has a friend who is going through a bad time because this, that or the other has happened to him, a network of people - not professionals, and not people with a mental health tag attached to them, which unfortunately in our society is a negative - who can relate to others will be available to talk to that person. Those people will not come along and ask, "Are you thinking of committing suicide?", because that is totally the wrong approach, but they will be able to draw those people out of themselves and perhaps help them to overcome some of their difficulties. I do not believe we will ever find a simple prescription to prevent suicide, because it is a bit like saying we can prevent road accidents or cancer by one broad brush approach. It will not happen. However, we can minimise and reduce the effect, and that is what we are all trying to do.

A lot of that has not been made public in the media, because the more we talk about it, as these press guidelines clearly state, the more damage we can do inadvertently. However, this sort of reporting does immense damage. Firstly, it suggests to anyone who does not know our town that the problem there is even worse than it is, we do not know how to handle it, and the whole town is in a state of despair. It is not. Secondly, it talks about some of the individual cases, and while it uses only the first names of the people involved, for heavens' sake, every one in a small town knows of the people involved, if not the people personally, so the facts cannot be disguised by putting in only the first names. It also talks about some fairly delicate and intimate family situations, which may or may not be accurate; and, in one case, it is the point of view of one member of that family. However, even if it is accurate, it is not the public's business. It is the business of the family to deal with it in its own way, and it is the people who are left behind after a person has committed suicide who bear the brunt of that

emotional hurt and who undergo a huge trauma themselves. It does not help at all when this irresponsible journalist from *The West Australian* put this rubbish in the paper in this fashion. I am not saying in my attack on this journalist that all of the things he has put in this article are untrue. Of course, a lot of it is true. I am criticising the method that he has used and some of the things he has done, which are a breach of the code to which most decent journalists adhere. I know that the local media in my town adhere to that code strictly because of the reasons set out in that code. It is regrettable that this journalist has chosen to behave in this fashion, particularly under a banner that suggests he is somehow a better class of journalist than the average journalist by referring to himself as part of "the writers' group", whatever that may mean, rather than as a journalist from *The West Australian*. It is reprehensible for a person to behave in that fashion, and it does nothing to deal with the problem of suicide and mental health generally.

Unfortunately, mental health in this country has a bad stigma attached to it. It is a taboo subject for many people, particularly for males in rural areas. One of the sad things about our society is that many men believe it is not the done thing to express emotion, to cry, to not be on top of the world, and to not be in control of one's life without any support. That is absolute rubbish. I asked the journalist from *The West Australian* to whom I was speaking how many times he had met a male friend or acquaintance and asked him, "How are you?" and that person had responded, "Well, I am not really feeling that great today. I am having a bit of difficulty handling a few things and am feeling a bit low." We rarely hear that. We get the stock answer, "I am good", or, "I am fine." We do not tell the truth and we are not honest with each other about our state of mind - our mental health, if we want to put it in that way. We need to be more honest with each other about individual problems and not see a problem as being a fault which makes a person somehow less of a person. We need to realise that all people at some stage in their life experience depression at whatever level it may be, whether only fleeting or long lasting. We need to treat that as part of life and as normal rather than as something that makes those people different. If we can get that message across to the community, we may get somewhere with the sorts of things that are happening not only in rural communities but all over the country and the world. We need a change of attitude, and I commend the people who have done something positive about this matter. Advertisements on television are saying that it is all right to have a mental illness, and a mental illness is just another form of illness. No-one condemns a person who has tetanus or cancer, but if a person has a mental illness, somehow it is as if he has the plague and is contagious! What rot! There are problems. We are addressing them, and we need as much help as we can get, and if money will help to solve the problem, we need that too. However, it is not a case of money alone. In fact, it is not a case of money at all. It is a case of getting the right people and of getting support from people within the community rather than experts from outside. That can be done with the local approach that we are taking now, with outside support and expertise to help that along, but it is not being helped by this rubbish in *The West Australian* from a writer who promotes himself as being somehow superior. He has let himself and his newspaper down by not adhering to the code that is clearly printed and available for any decent journalist to use.

DR EDWARDS (Maylands) [9.46 pm]: I will raise in this debate the issue of genetically modified food. It is timely that I do so and it is an issue on which this Parliament should have an opinion.

Mr Bloffwitch: You are not against it, are you?

Dr EDWARDS: No, but I will argue that there should be much more debate in the community about this matter. Genetically modified food and the future of agriculture have been very much in the spotlight in the past few weeks. On the one hand, scientists are telling us that we have a revolution that in some ways will be greater than the Industrial Revolution. On the other hand, we have very graphic images, particularly from Britain and New Zealand, of the so-called eco warriors who are ripping out crops. It is timely to make some comments about this issue and to ask that all members give it some thought and that the Parliament also look at this issue.

The notion of molecular biology is a new field of science which did not come into its own until the 1980s, and which since then has changed rapidly. When molecular biology first started, people did not know a lot about genes, and in retrospect they did not have the advanced tools that we have today to forward their science. Molecular biology can benefit medicine, and some new and very good oral vaccines are coming out as a result of molecular biology. It can also benefit the environment. However, the focus at the moment is well and truly and fairly and squarely on genetically modified food. An editorial in *The Australian* made the valid comment that gene researchers point out that humans have been eating genetically modified food for thousands of years. Australia developed rust resistant wheat by cross-breeding various strains of wheat and building on genes in other grasses such as rye-grass. Things like that are a reminder that these sorts of processes have stood the test of time and that when we eat food like that we do not turn into the food that it came from and it does not necessarily have a dramatic impact on us. It was Australian scientists who developed the gene that is inserted into potatoes to prevent them from turning brown when they are bruised or cut. Similarly, Australian scientists have done work with apples, lettuce, sugar cane, pears and bananas. We have developed disease-free potatoes, weevil-resistant peas and virus-resistant clover. Therefore, in agriculture, molecular biology, including some of this work with genes, has benefited the Australian community. Modification of pasture grasses is now taking place, and it is estimated that if work on white clover is successful, it will save the grazing industry \$100m a year. Therefore, it has a big impact on those who are directly affected. Similarly, at the moment a sulfur-rich gene from sunflower is being added to feed lupins, and it is hoped that it will boost wool and meat production in the animals concerned.

However, probably the best known genetically modified product is Bt cotton. A gene is inserted into this cotton, which is called Ingard cotton, which makes it produce a natural biopesticide. Cotton is most likely to be eaten by a type of caterpillar, but cotton that has this gene naturally emits the pesticide that kills the caterpillar. This variety of Ingard cotton, as it is known, is in its third year of commercial production, and it is claimed that it has resulted in 50 to 70 per cent less pesticide use in Australia. This has been developed by Monsanto International Pty Ltd, and it is not without some controversy. However, I will say more about Monsanto and its controversies later.

Recently I attended a seminar run by the professor of agribusiness at the Muresk Institute of Agriculture. He pointed out that we are in the middle of a wave of genetic improvement. He defined the wave in which we are at the moment as being one of concentration on agronomic traits, and he gave as an example insect or herbicide-resistant plants and incorporating Roundup resistance into plants. He predicts, though, that within a year or so we will have differentiated crops, and he pointed to some work that Du Pont (Australia) Ltd is doing whereby it has genetically engineered corn to produce more oil so it is of more value to the farmer. Therefore, the aim with the differentiated crops is to enhance the output and help create value for farmers. He believes that from this we will get what he defines as functional foods, so there will be foods that have a higher nutritional value but will also have been modified to grow well in particular areas. Therefore, farmers will have choices to go to crops which they know will grow well in their area and which produce a more valued product. He predicts that by 2005, plants will be genetically altered to such an extent that they will be much more energy efficient and environmentally friendly, and they will be referred to as biofactories. His message all the way through was that this area is changing. Biotechnology and information technology are catching up with each other and a huge industry is emerging.

There is no doubt that this is big business. We have seen in the past few years the emergence of global corporations that are looking at this area with a real eye to developing it. For example, Novartis Pty Ltd, which is one of the big players, is the combination of Sandoz Australia Pty Ltd and CIBA Speciality Chemicals Pty Ltd, which are a pharmaceutical company and an agricultural products-type company. It is now the second largest health care company in the world and the largest agribusiness company in the world.

Similarly, Du Pont started in 1802 making explosives. As that industry matured, it went into the chemical and energy side. However, recently Du Pont has totally divested itself of its fuel and energy concerns and it is now a life science company. Therefore, Du Pont sees a huge opening, which it is examining. Monsanto has spent \$8b in the past two years acquiring other companies in the United States to build itself into the giant corporation that it is. Its research and development budget for 1997 was \$1.3b. Therefore, Monsanto is serious about needing to get a profit from all the money it has put in. Equally, if it is spending \$1.3b on research and development, it will come up with some amazing outcomes. All of these life science companies are combining agricultural products and agricultural know-how with know-how about food and nutrition and the pharmacological bases. They are putting them all together and they are becoming significant players.

Four issues arise from these developments; that is, food safety, environmental safety, the role of farmers and the potential role of corporate behaviour and strategies. I turn first to food safety. Monsanto has developed a genetically modified soya bean that is resistant to its best-selling weed killer, Roundup. This has been labelled a gene bean, and it means that Roundup can be sprayed on this crop, killing all the weeds around it without affecting the soya crop. That sounds a reasonable idea if one is growing soya beans, but the difficulty is that Monsanto now allegedly wants to increase the allowable amounts of Roundup residues in its soya beans up to 200 times more than the current limits. When this is going on, one must ask questions about food safety. As a community, we need to have this debate to be reassured that food safety is being examined in sufficient detail. Unfortunately, this may involve a span of time. To look back to pharmacological research, the problems with thalidomide were evident to midwives who were delivering deformed babies, but scientists took a lot longer to do their trials, to catch up and to say that was the problem.

Mr Prince: Were they familiar with the cause of it and the connection to thalidomide?

Dr EDWARDS: No, probably not. This is the difficulty with science. One can work out the association but it can be hard to prove.

Mr Prince: One does not know what is the cause.

Dr EDWARDS: Yes. Moving on to environmental issues, the whole issue of Roundup feeds into an environmental concern. It has now been proved that when the Monarch butterfly in North America eats the pollen from genetically engineered Bt corn, it is lethal to that butterfly's larvae. Therefore, there is an impact on the ecosystem of which people were not aware when they started growing that corn. There are now fears and perceptions in the community, which I think are unfounded, that this could happen in Australia if genetically engineered food were produced on a large scale. An article I was reading today dealt with kookaburras. There is no evidence of anything influencing kookaburras, but perception and fear campaign -

Mr Prince: They are nasty, feral creatures. They do not belong in this State.

Dr EDWARDS: We will put them in Albany.

Mr Prince: They knock off the little birds. They are visitors to this State. Did you see *Landline*?

Dr EDWARDS: No, I did not.

Mr Prince interjected.

Dr EDWARDS: Dealing with the environment and genetically modified food, we potentially have problems with herbicide resistance, and almost certainly we have a problem of not knowing the true impact on other ecosystems.

I turn now to my third concern, which relates to farming. In an article in *The Australian Financial Review* earlier this year, Mr Trevor Flugge, who is the chairman of AWB Limited, pointed out that there were problems with this issue. He said that there needed to be rationalisation of the technology firms in Australia and that a critical mass was needed to negotiate properly with the life science groups. He named Monsanto, Agrevo and Du Pont. His argument was that they own much of the intellectual property. Referring to the negotiating, Mr Flugge said -

If we don't do that, in the long term - five, 10, 15 years - we will be at the mercy of the multinationals as to what technology is available and, secondly, as to what you pay for it," . . .

The issue to which he is referring is who owns the plant rights. Who owns the rights will determine power. There may well be power over farmers about what seed they can use, when they sow it, what price they get, how they use it and how it is marketed. Big issues need to be confronted by farmers before the multinationals start to move in and take over.

The fourth issue on which I want to touch briefly is that of corporate behaviour. In the literature of people who are opposed to genetically modified food, they say the most controversial development is the so-called terminator gene, which is inserted into crops and which makes sterile the seed from which the next crop grows. By modifying the DNA, one can insert a gene that prevents the seed produced as the crop matures producing seeds itself. Obviously, that is very serious for farmers and others engaged in agriculture. We need to know there are controls on corporations to ensure this is not happening, and that the welfare of communities, farmers and others who use the seeds is also protected.

A lower level more practical example is the price companies are charging. Some are charging more for genetically modified grain in the developed world than in other parts of the world.

[Leave granted for speech to be continued.]

Debate thus adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.01 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

TOURISM, DUTY FREE SHOPPING

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

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Tourism Council of Australia submission to the Federal Government on duty free and tourism shopping?
- (2) Has the Minister/State Government taken an interest in this matter?
- (3) Does the Government support the position taken by the Tourism Council?
- (4) Does the Government intend to make any presentations to the Federal Government in support of the submission?
- (5) If so, when?
- (6) If not, why not?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Minister and the State Government take an interest in all matters that have the potential to impact on tourism visitor numbers.
- (3) This Government made a submission to the Senate Select Committee on the new tax system but no specific mention was made of the tourism sector. The thrust of the submission was on the Commonwealth being mindful of the State's tax base in its deliberations on a GST package.
- (4) This Government does not intend, at this stage, to make a presentation to the Federal Government in support of the submission.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) The Tourism Council Australia's (TCA) submission was seen as an appropriate private sector initiative supporting the sectorial interests of the tourism industry. It was not appropriate on a purely sectorial basis for the Government to support what was one of many submissions from industry lobby groups within the GST debate.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEVEL TWO EMPLOYEES

27. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Planning; Employment and Training; Heritage:

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?

Mr KIERATH replied:

Ministry for Planning

- (a) 36
- (b)
 - (i) 27
 - (ii) 5
 - (iii) 4

Office of the Ministry for Planning - Planning Appeals

- (a) 1
- (b)
 - (i) Nil.
 - (ii) 1
 - (iii) Nil.

East Perth Redevelopment Authority

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.

Subiaco Redevelopment Authority

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.

Western Australia Department of Training

- (a) 92

- (b) (i) 58
(ii) 8
(iii) 26

Central Metropolitan College of TAFE

- (a) 60
(b) (i) 51
(ii) 7
(iii) 2

West Coast College of TAFE

- (a) 48
(b) (i) 38
(ii) 4
(iii) 6

South East Metropolitan College of TAFE

- (a) 49
(b) (i) 38
(ii) 3
(iii) 8

South Metropolitan College of TAFE

- (a) 78
(b) (i) 53
(ii) 10
(iii) 15

Midland College of TAFE

- (a) 29
(b) (i) 18
(ii) 4
(iii) 7

Central West Regional College of TAFE

- (a) 17
(b) (i) 4
(ii) Nil.
(iii) 13

Great Southern Regional College of TAFE

- (a) 12
(b) (i) 2
(ii) 2
(iii) 8

Hedland College

- (a) 22
(b) (i) 8
(ii) Nil.
(iii) 14

Karratha College

- (a) 19
(b) (i) 12
(ii) 0
(iii) 7

South West Regional College of TAFE

- (a) 31
(b) (i) 6
(ii) 3
(iii) 22

Heritage Council of Western Australia

- (a) 6
(b) (i) 4
(ii) 1
(iii) 1

CORAL BAY, TOURIST AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

- (1) Has the Government approved the development of a tourist and residential development in Coral Bay?
- (2) When was the approval granted?
- (3) What is the nature of the approval?
- (4) Has the Government supported a tourist and residential development in Coral Bay?
- (5) What is the nature of the support?

- (6) On what date did the Government decide to support the development?
- (7) What is the nature of the development the Government supports?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) Coral Bay is a townsite under the jurisdiction of the Shire of Carnarvon and has a number of tourist and residential developments that have been built over a number of years.
- (2)-(3) Over time, approvals have been given for various developments in this area, in line with town planning needs as Coral Bay has grown.
- (4) Governments over the years have supported various tourist and residential developments.
- (5) Planning support has been given through Town Planning Schemes.
- (6) This has been ongoing over many years.
- (7) Appropriate development as permitted under approved Town Planning Schemes.

CONSULTANTS, NUMBER, PURPOSE AND COST

- 81. Mr BROWN to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:
- (1) How many consultants are currently engaged by each department and agency under the Deputy Premier's control?
- (2) What is the name of each consultant?
- (3) What is the purpose or the nature of the consultancy?
- (4) What is the cost of the consultancy?
- (5) What is the anticipated completion date of the consultancy?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 2988. The following answer was correct as at 7 July 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

Department of Commerce and Trade

The Department of Commerce and Trade defines consultants as any individual or corporate entity that provides professional, technical or management advice and is not under the direct supervision of the department.

- (1) 34
- (2) Conlan and Associates
The Strategy Centre
Ernst and Young
Swale Hynes Consulting
Macquarie Bank Ltd
Atticus Communications Ltd
Halpern Glick Maunsell
PPK Environment & Infrastructure
Sinclair Knight Merz
Economic Research Associates
Douglas Partners Pty Ltd
Jackson & McDonald
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
Hardcastle & Richards
Associate Professor Anthony Sorensen
Synectics Creative Collaboration
Quin Argo
Right Marketing Australia Pty Ltd
Amos Aked Swift Pty Ltd
Australia Pacific Projects Pty Ltd
James Christou Architects
Peter Cala & Associates
Ralph Beattie Bosworth
McMullen Nolan
Ove Arup & Partners
Electrical Technology Consultants
BLA
Hutchinson Associates
Urban Thresholds
Department of Contract & Management Services
Gray & Lewis
Environmental Management Solutions
Pullinger Stewart
Deakin Consulting Pty Ltd

- (3)-(5) Conlan and Associates -
To identify project opportunities and promote the capabilities of Western Australian industry to international aid agencies.
\$66,000 per annum
November 2000, with an option for extension by one year.
- The Strategy Centre -
Development of a business plan to assist in determining the most appropriate management option for the permanent visitor centre in Karijini National Park.
\$24 200
30 June 1999.
- Financial and structural review of Aboriginal Western Australia, an Indigenous controlled art retailing enterprise operating in Fraser Avenue, Kings Park.
\$8 650 for Stage 1; \$11,650 for Stage 2
16 July 1999 for Stage 1.
- Ernst and Young -
Study of the feasibility of, and design for, the Northbridge Aboriginal Cultural Precinct.
\$30 000 contribution by Department of Commerce and Trade
28 May 1999.
- Working with the Department of Commerce and Trade to identify strategic barriers to electronic commerce and the delivery of services online.
\$69 000
July 1999.
- Swale Hynes Consulting -
Provision of advisory services with respect to the procurement and presentation of information on additional premises in AMP Building and subsequent inspections thereof for the department. Procurement and review of leases, inspections, cashflow analysis, measurement of premises and review and preparation of all correspondence and leasing proposal for 170 St George's Terrace.
\$105 per hour plus disbursements.
Anticipated completion is September 1999.
- Macquarie Bank Ltd -
Financial advice during Expressions of Interest evaluations for Jervoise Bay Project.
\$60 000
26 November 1999.
- Atticus Communications Ltd -
Community consultation and preparation of newsletters.
\$19 000
30 June 1999.
- Halpern Glick Maunsell -
Wave modelling studies for Jervoise Bay Project
\$9 790
12 June 1999.
- Environmental and geotechnical consultants engaged on the design and construction of the Marine Skills Training & Research Centre
\$23 300
August 2000.
- PPK Environment & Infrastructure -
Completion of Environmental Management Plans for Jervoise Bay Project
\$37 790
24 June 1999.
- Sinclair Knight Merz -
Marine engineering advisory services to Jervoise Bay project office
\$141 200
26 November 1999.
- Consulting engineers engaged on the Coogee Redevelopment Project - Two
Approximately \$4000
August 1999.
- Economic Research Associates -
Update on economic benefits of the Jervoise Bay Project
\$2 000
4 June 1999.
- Douglas Partners Pty Ltd -
Geotechnical data for earthworks and dredging for Jervoise Bay Project
\$341 655
4 June 1999.
- Jackson & McDonald -
Legal advice during Expressions of Interest process for Jervoise Bay Project
\$20 000
16 July 1999.

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu -
 Probity Auditor consultancy services during the Expressions of Interest process for Jervoise Bay Project
 \$60 000
 30 June 1999.

Hardcastle & Richards -
 Design and tender documents for the forward works contract for Jervoise Bay Project
 \$206 550
 27 August 1999.

Associate Professor Anthony Sorensen -
 Reviewing draft technical paper on "Assessing the Benefits of Regional Development in Western Australia"
 \$2 400
 15 June 1999.

Synectics Creative Collaboration -
 Research into Capacity Building Initiatives for Regional Development in Western Australia
 Original fee agreed \$41 320. The project has been terminated and the fee payable for work completed still being negotiated.
 Not applicable.

Quin Argo -
 Brokering information on the Regional Development Policy process into Aboriginal media outlets.
 Hourly rate of \$125 plus costs up to a total of \$10,000
 10 September 1999.

Right Marketing Australia Pty Ltd -
 The consultant has been engaged to undertake a market survey of Western Australian Research & Development organisations to determine the nature and form of suitable educational courses for Research & Development managers.
 \$43,980
 10 August 1999.

Amos Aked Swift Pty Ltd -
 Development of contracts with telecommunications carriers and service providers, as part of the Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Program.
 Estimated cost \$50,000
 June 1999.

Australia Pacific Projects Pty Ltd -
 Project Manager engaged on the design and construction of the Marine Skills Training & Research Centre
 \$110,000
 August 2000.

James Christou Architects -
 Architects and designers engaged on the design and construction of the Marine Skills Training & Research Centre
 \$340,000
 August 2000.

Peter Cala & Associates -
 Landscape architects engaged on the design and construction of the Marine Skills Training & Research Centre
 \$60,500
 August 2000.

Ralph Beattie Bosworth -
 Quantity surveyors engaged on the design and construction of the Marine Skills Training & Research Centre
 \$77,000
 August 2000.

McMullen Nolan -
 Surveyors engaged on the design and construction of the Marine Skills Training & Research Centre
 \$9000
 August 2000.

Ove Arup & Partners -
 Civil & structural engineers engaged on the design and construction of the Marine Skills Training & Research Centre
 \$123 800
 August 2000.

Electrical Technology Consultants -
 Electrical consultants engaged on the design and construction of the Marine Skills Training & Research Centre
 \$57 700
 August 2000.

BLA -
 Mechanical consultants engaged on the design and construction of the Marine Skills Training & Research Centre
 \$52 000
 August 2000.

Hutchinson Associates -
 Hydraulics consultants engaged on the design and construction of the Marine Skills Training & Research Centre
 \$33 100
 August 2000.

Urban Thresholds -
 Art coordinator consultants engaged on the design and construction of the Marine Skills Training & Research Centre
 \$100 000
 August 2000.

Department of Contract & Management Services -
 Contract managers engaged on the design and construction of the Marine Skills Training & Research Centre
 \$70 000
 August 2000.

Gray & Lewis -
 Urban planners engaged on the design and construction of the Marine Skills Training & Research Centre
 \$5000
 August 2000.

Environmental Management Solutions -
 Environmental management systems consultants engaged on the Wool Washing Relocation Project
 \$13 790 - Department of Commerce & Trade is contributing one third of this cost with the wool washing industry meeting the balance
 31 July 1999.

Pullinger Stewart -
 Solicitors engaged on the Coogee Redevelopment Project
 Approximately \$40 000
 Mid 2001.

Deakin Consulting Pty Ltd
 Preparation of an Information Management Strategic Plan for the department
 \$44 600

Small Business Development Corporation

- (1) Four.
 - (2) Ernst and Young
 David Stenning and Associates
 McMillan Shakespeare
 Patterson Market Research
 - (3)-(5) Ernst and Young -
 Regulatory review Business Approvals package (Department of Contract and Management Services (CAMS) is the principal contractor).
 \$52 580
 July 1999
- Regulatory review project (CAMS is the principal contractor)
 \$48 000
 August 1999
- David Stenning and Associates
 Software development for regulatory review. (CAMS is the principal contractor).
 \$138 053
 July 1999
- McMillan Shakespeare
 Salary packaging (panel contract).
 \$6 000
 August 1999, with ongoing advice on an as required basis
- Patterson Market Research
 Customer satisfaction surveys.
 \$20 155
 July 1999

International Centre for Application of Solar Energy (CASE)

- (1) One.
 - (2) Dr Marc Saupin.
 - (3)-(5) Dr Saupin is working as a consultant economist working on commercial projects undertaken by CASE, and is assisting on market development and promotion activities in selected countries.
- Monthly cost is \$6250 of which part is recovered from contract payments received by CASE.
 Current contract is under review but may be extended for 6-12 months.

Technology Industry Advisory Council (TIAC)

- (1) TIAC currently has engaged two (2) consultants.
- (2) S H Algie & Associates
 Institute for Research into International Competitiveness, Curtin University of Technology

(3)-(5) S H Algie & Associates -

Development of a report titled "Western Australia's Minerals and Energy Expertise: How can it be optimised - Growing the R&D Sector"
\$42 500
July 1999

Institute for Research into International Competitiveness, Curtin University of Technology -

Development of a report titled "In an International Context: Is there a case for positive assistance programs, within a policy framework, for the Western Australian Manufacturing Industry?"
\$64 000 00
September 1999

Gascoyne Development Commission

(1) Five

(2) Doug McGhie & Associates
Beale Telecommunication Solutions
ECLAT
Amanda Lin
Andrew Forte
Coralie Harper

(3)-(5) Doug McGhie & Associates -
To develop a management strategy for the Lower Gascoyne Catchment.
\$10 000
31 August 1999

Beale Telecommunication Solutions
To conduct an audit of the current communications situation in the Gascoyne and identify actions and strategies for improving the infrastructure and use of telecommunications.
\$10 000
31 July 1999

ECLAT -
To conduct a comprehensive assessment of aged care needs across the region.
\$2 000
30 June 1999

Amanda Lin -
To develop a horticulture on line system and to instruct growers on its use.
\$7 000
30 November 1999

Andrew Forte -
To develop a marketing strategy for the Learmonth Airport.
\$15 000
15 August 1999

Coralie Harper -
To reorganise and implement the GDC records management system.
\$5 000
31 August 1999

Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission

(1) One.

(2) Flame Consultant.

(3)-(5) Flame Consultant -
To act as Adviser for the Industry Development Centre
\$100 000. Partnership contribution of \$50 000 each from the GEDC and the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce.
9 May 2000

Great Southern Development Commission

(1) Four.

(2) Coney Stevens, SPACE Consultants
Steve Meyrick & Associates
John Skillecorn Consulting
Murray Jorgensen Consulting

(3)-(5) Coney Stevens, SPACE Consultants -
Master Planning of water based infrastructure and tourism development sites in and around Albany's waterways - Vancouver Waterways.
\$120 000
December 1999

Steve Meyrick & Associates -

To examine the viability of establishing a Containerisation service through Portland (Victoria), Albany and Bunbury -Regional Containerisation Study

\$64 800 -Regional Containerisation Study (this cost is being shared by six agencies; Great Southern Development Commission, South West Development Commission, Albany Port Authority, Bunbury Port Authority, Glenelg Shire Council (Victoria), Portland Port Authority.

June 1999

John Skillecorn Consulting -

To establish a trans-national company processing wool tops in Katanning - Wool Processing Plant.

\$25 000 (funded by Federal Department of Education, Workplace Relations & Small Business).

June 1999

Murray Jorgensen Consulting -

To assist with the regional opportunities audit.

\$20 000

June 1999

Kimberley Development Commission

(1) One.

(2) Kathy Wallace Consulting.

(3)-(5) Kathy Wallace Consulting -

A Road User Analysis of the Gibb River Road and the access roads to the Mitchell Plateau.

\$19 372

August 1999

Mid West Development Commission

(1) Two.

(2) Boshe Pty Ltd.

ERM Mitchell McCotter.

(3)-(5) Boshe Pty Ltd -

Geraldton Slipway Feasibility Study

\$30 000

May 1999

ERM Mitchell McCotter -

Mt Magnet Infrastructure Study

\$19 400

May 1999

Peel Development Commission

(1) Two.

(2) Gibson Quai & Associates

Shearman Communications

(3)-(5) Gibson Quai & Associates -

Telecommunications Infrastructure

\$20 643

10 June 1999

Shearman Communications

Mandurah Ocean Marina public relations

\$5 000

12 February 2000

Pilbara Development Commission

(1) One.

(2)-(5) Woodhead International

The design, preparation of the interpretive display, documentation and contract management, of the construction of the Karijini Visitors Centre.

Up to a total of \$800 000

mid 2000

South West Development Commission

(1) Seven.

(2) Barraclough & Co.

Spence Management Services

Economics Consulting Services, Data Analysis Australia and Complete Marketing Solutions.

The Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Curtin University and Tourism co-ordinates.

GHD Pty Ltd

SMEC Australia Pty Ltd

SPACE Consultants

(3)-(5) Barraclough & Co. -

Living Windows Business Development Plan

\$41 300

1 December 1999

Spence Management Services
Industry Development Adviser
\$87 000 pa
1 June 2000

Economics Consulting Services, Data Analysis Australia, and Complete Marketing Solutions -
Research Value of Tourism to the South West
\$29 750
21 June 1999

The Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Curtin University and Tourism Coordinates -
Develop the concept of the South West Industrial Heritage Trail Project
\$29 450
25 August 1999

GHD Pty Ltd -
Engineering/project supervision
\$37 890
31 December 1999

SMEC Australia Pty Ltd
Coastal, Civil engineering
\$154 794
30 September 1999

SPACE Consultants
Landscape design
\$58 260
30 September 1999

Wheatbelt Development Commission
(1) Two.

(2) Arkad Consulting Services
Stott and Hoare Business Computers

(3)-(5) Arkad Consulting Services -
Website Maintenance
\$900 (\$30/hour - average 30 hours/month)
Arkad Consulting is engaged until further notice

Stott and Hoare Business Computers
Computer consultancy
\$80/hour when required

Stott and Hoare Business Computers are engaged on an as required basis and it is anticipated their engagement will be completed by June 2000

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RESEARCH PROJECTS

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

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

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3010. The following answer was correct as at 2 July 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

Department of Commerce and Trade

- (1) Yes. The Department of Commerce and Trade is conducting a number of research projects. The requested information is provided for each project below.
- (2) Western Australian Food and Beverage Export Guide.
Basic Desktop research to produce a guide to assist Western Australian food and beverage manufacturers in their efforts to export.
- (3) Australian Institute of Export (WA) Inc.
- (4) Cost \$9500.
- (5) 30 June 1999.
- (2) Regional Price Index.
Research by survey to determine the relative prices in 21 towns in nine regions, relative to the metropolitan area of a specified bundle of goods.

- (3) Project implementation and supervision carried out within the department. BSD Consultants were commissioned to carry out two surveys and prepare a preliminary report.
- (4) External Costs: Consultancy costs \$110,950, Australian Bureau of Statistics, \$22,490.
- (5) Anticipated completion is November 1999 but may be extended after a joint review by Regional Development Commissions and the Department of Commerce and Trade.
- (2) Regional Economic Indicators.
Research to develop a set of regional economic indicators for nine Western Australian regions from existing and new data sources.
- (3) The project is being carried out by Regional and Communities Strategies team, Department of Commerce and Trade.
- (4) No external costs.
- (5) The results of this research project are currently being reviewed. The expected completion date is June 1999.
- (2) Global Incentives for Regional Industry.
Scans of government incentive programs offered in Australia, North America and Europe and reviews of their implications for regional Western Australia.
- (3) The project is being carried out by the Regional and Communities Strategies team, Department of Commerce and Trade.
- (4) No external costs.
- (5) Anticipated completion date is June 1999.
- (2) Exporting to Africa study.
At the suggestion of the Western Australian Trade Advisory Council, the Department of Commerce and Trade is project managing a study to identify exporting opportunities to Africa.
- (3) The Department of Commerce and Trade is managing the project and research is likely to be undertaken by the Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University and the Indian Ocean Centre, Curtin University of Technology.
- (4) The work undertaken by the Asia Research Centre and the Indian Ocean Centre forms part of the agreement to undertake research work for the Department as part of the funding provided to these research centres.
- (5) No date has been determined for the completion of this project as the scope of the research is still being determined.
- (2) An Electronics Industry Study to Determine a Profile of the Electronic Industry in Australia
- (3) The Australian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers Association.
- (4) The Western Australian Government contribution is \$5,000.
- (5) 30 June 1999.
- (2) Annual Client Survey 1998/99
- (3) Research Solutions (WA) Pty Ltd.
- (4) Cost \$46,800.
- (5) Mid July 1999.
- (2) Internet Availability Survey
Research to update information obtained mid-1998 to identify towns which have local call Internet access, and for towns which do not, to determine the telephone charging distance to the nearest Internet Service Provider.
- (3) Ericsson Asia Pacific Consulting.
- (4) Cost \$6,900.
- (5) 30 June 1999.
- (2) Community and Business Attitudes Toward Using Online Services
- (3) Bowtell Clarke & Yole.
- (4) The survey forms part of marketing and awareness contract which has a total value of \$250,000.
- (5) 9 July 1999.
- (2) Business and Investment Embassy (website)
Market research to evaluate what prospective users of the Embassy want in terms of content.
- (3) Pretzel Logic
- (4) \$8,405
- (5) 30 July 1999

Small Business Development Corporation

- (1) Yes. Two.
- (2) Conduct of opinion surveys and customer satisfaction surveys.
- (3) Patterson Market Research is conducting both projects.
- (4) Opinion Surveys - \$38 300; Customer Surveys - \$20 155.
- (5) Opinion Survey - November 1999; Customer Satisfaction Survey - June 1999.

International Centre for Application of Solar Energy (CASE)

- (1) No research projects are being undertaken by CASE.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.
- (5) No.

Technology Industry Advisory Council (TIAC)

- (1) Yes. Two.
- (2)
 - (a) Development of a report titled *Western Australia's Minerals and Energy Expertise: How can it be optimised - Growing the R & D Sector.*
 - (b) Development of a report titled *In an International Context: Is there a case for positive assistance programs, within a policy framework, for the Western Australian Manufacturing Industry?*
- (3)
 - (a) S H Algie & Associates.
 - (b) Institute for Research into International Competitiveness, Curtin University of Technology.
- (4)
 - (a) \$42 500
 - (b) \$64 000
- (5)
 - (a) July 1999.
 - (b) September 1999.

Gascoyne Development Commission

- (1) Yes. Four.
- (2) Doug McGhie & Associates
- (3) To develop a management strategy for the Lower Gascoyne Catchment
- (4) \$10 000.
- (5) 31 August 1999.
- (2) Beale Telecommunication Solutions
- (3) To conduct an audit of the current communications situation in the Gascoyne and identify actions and strategies for improving the infrastructure and use of telecommunications.
- (4) \$10 000.
- (5) 31 July 1999.
- (1) ECLAT
- (2) To conduct a comprehensive assessment of aged care needs across the region.
- (3) \$2 000.
- (4) 30 June 1999
- (2) Andrew Forte
- (3) To develop a marketing strategy for the Learmonth Airport.
- (4) \$15 000.
- (5) 15 August 1999.

Great Southern Development Commission

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Vancouver Waterways: Determining the best configuration of planning and resources to optimise the development of tourism attractions, services and water based infrastructure support in and around the Albany waterways.
- (3) Coney Stevens Project Management Pty Ltd, 72 Melville Parade, South Perth, WA 6151.
- (4) \$120 000.
- (5) 31 January 2000.

Kimberley Development Commission

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Kimberley Economic Development Strategy - Update on the general economic conditions and development issues in the region.
- (3) The Kimberley Development Commission staff.
- (4) Approximately \$8 500.
- (5) June 2000.
- (2) Aboriginal Component of the Kimberley Economy - Update on earlier research to quantify the Aboriginal component of the regional economy.
- (3) The Kimberley Development Commission - researcher not finalised.
- (4) \$15 000 plus staff time.
- (5) December 1999.
- (2) Kimberley Input-Output Table - Construction of a regional input-output table to facilitate project social and economic impact analysis.
- (3) The Kimberley Development Commission - researcher not finalised.
- (4) \$25 000 (including sponsorship).
- (5) March 2000.
- (2) Gibb River Road Project - Road user analysis of the Gibb River road and the access roads to the Mitchell Plateau relevant to a major planning exercise.
- (3) Kathy Wallace Consulting.
- (4) \$19 373
- (5) August 1999.
- (2) Kimberley People and Population - Research for a publication on the population and demographics of the region.
- (3) The Kimberley Development Commission - KDC staff and DCT staff.
- (4) \$2 200 approximately plus staff time.
- (5) July 1999.

Mid West Development Commission

- (1) Two.

Geraldton Slipway Feasibility Study

- (1) Boshe Pty Limited.
- (2) \$30 000.
- (3) May 1999.

Mt Magnet Infrastructure Study

- (3) ERM Mitchell McCotter.
- (4) \$19 400
- (5) May 1999.

Peel Development Commission

- (1) Yes. Three.
- (2) Tourism market research.
- (3) WATC/TAFE with Peel Development Commission facilitation.
- (4) Under \$500.
- (5) Ongoing.
- (2) Skills audit.
- (3) Coastal Area Consultative Committee.
- (4) \$6 000.
- (5) Mid June 1999.
- (2) Leadership audit.
- (3) Peel Development Commission in house.
- (4) \$2 000 (Peel Development Commission staff resources).
- (5) 30 June 1999.

South West Development Commission

- (1) Yes. One.
- (2) Value for Tourism - To evaluate the worth of tourism to the South West economy.
- (3) Data Analysis Australia, Complete Marketing Solution and Economics Consulting Services.
- (4) \$30 000.
- (5) Middle of July 1999.

Wheatbelt Development Commission

(1) Yes. Three.

(2) Collaborative Research Program into Salt Lake Biota

The WDC is facilitating research into the commercial potential of salt lake biota. This project follows on from considerable research undertaken into the feasibility of a *Parartemia*-based industry for Western Australia. *Parartemia* species are an indigenous brine shrimp with considerable potential as an aquafeed: to meet the growing demand of the world aquaculture industry. The Commission has played a lead role in the development of a *Parartemia* industry over the past three years. The project is now focused on establishing a cooperative and multi-disciplinary research program into other indigenous salt lake biota and their potential application in the aquaculture and pharmaceutical industries. The research project is based on four staged and coordinated PhD projects:

- resource-based identification - intensive biology;
- sustainable industries - trials using saline and heated water;
- GIS modelling - mapping and 4D modelling of saline water resources and salt lake dynamics;
- market feasibility - linking the findings of the above to market opportunities, the development of market potential.

To date, the Commission has coordinated collaboration between Curtin University, UWA and government agencies to develop the project proposal and prepare a funding application to instigate the research program. The funding application is being processed at the present time.

(3) The project is being facilitated by the Wheatbelt Development Commission. The research program itself will be undertaken collaboratively by Muresk Institute of Agriculture, Curtin University of Technology, the University of Western Australia, with input from the Water and Rivers Commission. It is intended that other research institutions and government agencies will become involved as the research progresses.

(4) A funding application has been submitted to the Australian Research Council, Strategic Partnerships with Industry Research and Training Scheme, (SPIRT) for the four PhD projects. The total cost is \$249,864. The Wheatbelt Development Commission has coordinated an application for \$50,000 to the Regional Cooperative Research Fund administered by the Department of Commerce and Trade. At the time of providing this answer the success of this application was not known.

(5) The Collaborative Research Program into Salt Lake Biota is due to start in the near future, with preliminary salt lake survey work, to be undertaken over the coming four years.

(2) Manufacturers Survey

The WDC has partnered with the WARM to conduct research into manufacturers in the Wheatbelt. A five month survey process is currently nearing completion. Surveys of 70 individual businesses scattered throughout the Wheatbelt region and some surrounding areas including Katanning, Gnowangerup and Albany have been completed. The results have produced a body of information on business types in the region, equipment used and products produced, as well as identified a number of issues affecting the industry. These include restricted access to skilled and stable labour pools, limited knowledge on export markets, uncertainties about intellectual property issues and minimal awareness of government assistance packages for the industry.

(3) The project is being conducted by WARM as part of a State-wide survey of manufacturing businesses. The WDC has contributed to the Wheatbelt section of the survey with the allocation of a research officer to assist data collection and preliminary analysis, the development of database software to house the data and use of a Commission vehicle as required.

(4) The overall cost of the State-wide survey of manufacturing businesses is estimated at \$12 200. The estimated in-kind contribution by the WDC in the completion of the Wheatbelt section of the survey is \$2830.

(5) The Wheatbelt section of the manufacturing survey is expected to be completed in the next month.

(2) Export Development

The WDC plays a role in promoting the comparative advantages of the Wheatbelt to attract investment, expand business and encourage export development. The Commission has conducted research into overseas grain handling export opportunities over the past 6 months in order to provide information to regional businesses that may wish to take advantage of these opportunities. Commission staff have used a number of information resources in collating information about grain handling opportunities. These include the Department of Commerce and Trade, overseas Trade Offices, AgWest Trade and Development and CBH. The data collated is being matched with regional information sources to facilitate export development activity.

(3) The project is being undertaken solely by the WDC, with assistance mainly from the overseas Trade Offices.

(4) The estimated cost of the project to date is \$7160, which mainly accounts for staff time. As the project develops, it is anticipated that funding may be sourced to assist further work, however this is to be determined.

(5) The project is working towards a series of outcomes for this calendar year, including coordination of a trade mission from the region to a potential overseas market, facilitation of seminars on exporting and the establishment of an exporters forum. However, export development, and associated market research will be a continuing focus for the WDC.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RESEARCH PROJECTS

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

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

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) Yes.

Ministry for Planning:

- (2) (a) Country Land Use Survey Program (Bunbury, Albany, Esperance, Kalgoorlie/Boulder, Mandurah/Murray). Arising from proposed regional planning and Country Land Development exercises, Bunbury, Albany, Esperance, Kalgoorlie/Boulder and Mandurah/Murray have been identified as areas needing land use surveys. At the lot level the surveys will collect both Single Residential Vacant Lot information and all Commercial and Industrial activity (Trade names, land use, employment, both occupied and vacant floor space and land area) to be incorporated into the Ministry's Geographical Information System (GIS). This will be used for forecasting.
- (b) State and Local Government Area Population Projections. After the release of 1996 Census results (June 1997) and the January 1998 release of 1996 Estimated Resident Population (ERP) the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC)/Ministry for Planning is committed to the review of population and dwelling projections at State, Statistical Division, Planning Region (all to 2031), and local government levels (to 2021) by age and sex.
Three reports are envisaged —
 - (i) Population Projections for Local Government Areas in Western Australia (including State, Statistical Division, Planning Region projections).
 - (ii) Dwelling Projections for Western Australia (including State, Statistical Division, Planning Region projections).
 - (iii) Migration Trends in Western Australia.
- (c) Future Perth Indicators (Previously Quality of Life Indicators). This Indicators study provides statistical information to inform discussion relating to the review of *METROPLAN* (1990) known as *Future Perth*. This study proposes a set of indicators which may form the basis of measuring policy outcomes, benefits and performance of policy and its implementation arising from the *Future Perth* project. These indicators measure the change in both the Region and its surrounding environs in relation to the social, economic and environmental activity inhabiting these areas.
- (d) Land Monitoring. The Ministry has a central role in monitoring land requirements for its strategic plans and also the Perth Metropolitan Development Program and continues this role in 1998/99. Land monitoring is achieved through the production of monthly/quarterly reports on residential subdivision statistics, use of data in forecasting models, ongoing examination into the efforts of other agencies in this field, and surveys on an as needed basis.

 Developers' Intentions Survey: The Developers' Intentions survey is the first component of the Ministry's Metropolitan Development Program (MDP). This survey provides the baseline data which is used by the Infrastructure Coordination Branch to build the MDP and commit the Ministry and its partner agencies to support a five year program of development through the appropriate provision of infrastructure.

 Lot Activity: Provides workflow monitoring with regard to the Commission's statutory land subdivision process. The statistics have a role in the wider community as an economic indicator and land development descriptor.

 Development Indicators: This is a quarterly report which draws together information in both government and the wider community on the issues which drive the land development industry.
- (e) Metropolitan Land Use Forecasting System (MLUFS). MLUFS is the Ministry for Planning/WAPC small area forecasting tool for population variables and is currently only in application over the Perth Metropolitan Region and the adjacent local government areas of Mandurah and Murray. The small area forecasts support Structure Planning work, Transport Planning agencies, other government agencies in modelling, policy formulation and decision making. The private sector is also a user of outputs from MLUFS. Further enhancement and development of the model will disaggregate employment forecasts.
- (f) Journey to Work (JTW). Tabulations from the Census on the demography of employment in the Metropolitan Region are used to produce a Journey to Work trip matrix. With the rising currency of

transport issues and their impact on the environment the Ministry will provide the 1996 JTW results in a high quality format. The new proposed Journey to Work report will see the 1996 data reported in full along with extensive analysis of the changing trends in JTW; including mode of travel, self sufficiency, linkages with car ownership trends, and employment sector change.

- (g) Industrial Land Use Survey (Metropolitan). The purpose of the Industrial Survey is to provide quality information on industrial land to support the Ministry's strategic planning process. The survey builds upon surveys done in 1985, 1990, and 1993. This monitoring of land in industrial areas allows the Ministry to see developments of land usage and take up in industrial estates so as to plan appropriately for future industrial land requirements. Information captured in the surveys include; business name, land use, employment, floor space, land area, and parking. The most recent survey completed in 1997 was recently published.
- (h) Commercial Land Use Survey (Metropolitan). The rationale for this survey parallels that for the Industrial Land Use Survey. The fieldwork for the Perth Commercial Survey was completed in January 1998. The data is used to support the Metropolitan Centres Policy formulation and monitor changes in land use relating in Commercial Centres.

(3) (a)-(h) Ministry for Planning

- (4) (a) \$70,400 (1998/99 budget)
- (a) \$10,000 (1998/99 budget)
- (a) \$10,000 (1998/99 budget)
- (d) \$17,000 (1998/99 budget)
- (e) \$16,400 (1998/99 budget)
- (f) \$12,400 (1998/99 budget)
- \$ 2,853 (1997/98 budget)
- \$12,400 (1998/99 budget)
- \$76,890 (1997/98 budget)
- \$18,000 (1998/99 budget)

- (5) (a) Fieldwork for data capture finished. Different completion dates for each location; all reports expected to be finalised by December 1999.
- (b) Report 1: September 1999
- Report 2: November 1999
- Report 3: January 2000
- (c) Completed June 1999
- (d) Ongoing program of research.
- (e) Ongoing program of research.
- (f) December 1999
- (g) Completed May 1999
- (h) August 1999

Western Australian Department of Training:

- (2) (a) Study of School Leavers not in Employment, Education or Training on a Full-time Basis. The research aims to assist in developing pathways to facilitate the effective transition for young people from school into the workforce.
- (b) Why Stay or Leave? Attrition from Traineeship Programs in Western Australia. The research aims to provide an understanding of the level of attrition and factors which lead to attrition from traineeship programs.
- (c) Trends in Employment-Based Training. The research aims to provide an overview of the trends in apprenticeships and traineeships in order to improve the level of knowledge within the vocational education and training sector and other stakeholders about the changes that have, are and will occur in the employment based area of training.
- (d) Alternative Pathways to Australian Qualifications Framework Level 3 (AQF3) Qualifications. The project is being undertaken to develop practical advice pertaining to the design and implementation of alternative pathways to AQF3 qualifications in traditional trade occupations.
- (e) Development of strategies to identify and address language barriers that impede access to services provided by the Western Australian Department of Training.
- (f) Literature Review and Implications for VET and Employment of mature-aged people in Western Australia.
- (g) Skill Requirements of Western Australia Resource Development and Infrastructure Projects 1999 - 2003. Provides a quantitative assessment of the expected skill and labour demand associated with new/planned resource development and infrastructure projects and the associated implications for vocational education and training. The project is for 12 months, which includes 3 updates of the resource development project database at four-month intervals.
- (h) Kimberley Training Needs Project. Research and consultation based study to identify key factors, trends and industry developments expected to contribute to future employment and economic growth within the Kimberley region and the associated priorities for vocational education and training.
- (i) Great Southern Training Needs Project. Research and consultation based study to identify key factors,

trends and industry developments expected to contribute to future employment and economic growth within the Great Southern region and the associated priorities for vocational education and training.

- (j) Vocational Education and Training Needs of the Western Australian Public Administration Sector Into the 21st Century. Research and consultation based study to identify trends and developments impacting on the Western Australian public administration sector and the associated implications for vocational education and training.
- (k) Western Australian Employment and Economic Forecasts. Provides economic and employment projections for Western Australia through to the year 2006/07. Contract is for 12 months and involves provision of this information in two six month instalments.
- (l) Skill Requirements of Western Australia's Resources Development Sector Examples of International Models. Will identify international models that have been put in place by Government to gain a commitment from resource development companies to training and skilling local people in return for access to natural resource wealth and infrastructure.

Western Australian Automotive Industry Regional Training Priorities and Industry Preferred Delivery Strategies. Research and consultation based study to identify regional skill and training priorities for Western Australia's automotive industry, with a particular emphasis on the identification of industry-preferred models of access to training.
- (n) Wine Tourism Industry. To determine the job and skills projections of wine tourism enterprises in Western Australia. This will assist the Western Australian Department of Training in providing information about wine tourism job opportunities and required skills/behaviours. Training providers will be provided with a clear statement of the skills required by the wine tourism industry.
- (o) EnviroWorks. To identify employment opportunities within the environmental sector and assist interested job-seekers obtain employment placement.
- (p) Industry Youth Policy (Learning Organisations). To examine industry youth employment and training policies and identify best practice examples of approaches by industry to youth employment and training. By learning more about industry's approach to youth employment, best practice models can be promoted and replicated to industry sectors where no such initiatives currently exist.
- (q) Non-English Culture and Language Services Module for Traineeships and Apprenticeships. To investigate the development of a learning module that will enable people from culturally and linguistic backgrounds to more effectively utilise their cultural and linguistic skills within the workplace.
- (r) Pre-apprenticeship and Pre-vocational Training Research Program. The purpose of the project is to evaluate industry demand of pre-vocational and pre-apprenticeship training programs within Western Australia.
- (s) Multivariate Analysis of Module Load Completion Rate. The purpose of this study is to develop a better understanding of the factors that influence module completion by students. The study will consider such factors as student demographics, module and course characteristics and training provider. The findings from the study will assist in the ongoing development of outcome based training purchasing arrangements.
- (t) Key Drivers of Student and Graduate Satisfaction. The purpose of this study is to undertake a statistical analysis of the Student Satisfaction Census (1998, 1997) and the Graduate Satisfaction and Destination Surveys (1998, 1997 and 1996) to determine the key drivers of satisfaction, significant benchmarks and identify areas for improvement. Results from the study will assist in the identification of opportunities for improvements in VET which directly address key student concerns.
- (u) State Performance Report. The purpose of this study is to identify the key characteristics of VET students and to identify the statistical trends associated with these groupings. The study will pull together information on students from a number of sources and will provide stakeholders with information to assist in operational and strategic decision making.
- (v) 1999 Graduate Destination and Satisfaction Survey - Private Providers. The purpose of this study is to obtain information on the training outcomes achieved by graduates from publicly funded private providers of VET in West Australia. The study is being undertaken as part of the 1999 National Graduate survey (TAFE students only, see below) with the additional costs being met by the Department.
- (w) Qualitative research into the Overseas Qualification Unit's (OQU) Business Arm activities in relation to client servicing, existing and potential products and services and cost effectiveness.
- (x) Occupational research into the needs of overseas trained/skilled Care Workers seeking assessment of their qualifications and skills through the recently introduced training packages and the subsequent development of a simplified assessment and training model.
- (y) Research into the development needs of migration professionals and the potential for the OQU to develop training materials for subsequent delivery.

- (z) Research into the comparative standing of overseas gained cooking qualifications in the hospitality and tourism industry.
- (3) (a) Western Australian Department of Training and consultant (yet to be selected)
 (b) Western Australian Department of Training and Donovans Research
 (c) Western Australian Department of Training
 (d) Western Australian Department of Training and Miles Morgan Pty Ltd for Australian National Training Authority
 (e) Culture and Language Services (Carmela Brigulio) and Anne Butorac Consultancy Services
 (f) Maitland Consulting Group Pty Ltd
 (g) Worley Limited
 (h) Nomadic Management and Kimberley Consulting
 (i) Miles Morgan Pty Ltd
 (j) Torque Holding Pty Ltd
 (k) Centre of Policy Studies Impact Project, Monash University
 (l) Institute for Science and Technology Policy, Murdoch University
 (m) Automotive Training Australia (Western Australia)
 (n) Nexus Consultants
 (o) David Annandale, Murdoch University.
 (p) Expressions of interest are currently being sought
 (q) Yet to be offered for tender
 (r) A request for quotation has been circulated to seven consultants
 (s) The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)
 (t) Market Equity
 (u) Performance and Audit Directorate
 (v) AC Nielsen
 (w) P Consulting Services
 (x) OQU and the Community Services, Health and Education Industry Training Council
 (y) West Consultancy Services
 (z) OQU and Hospitality and Tourism Industry Training Council
- (4) (a) \$30,000
 (b) \$20,500
 (c) Conducted inhouse
 (d) National project (ANTA) funds of \$142,000
 (e) \$18,275
 (f) \$4,500
 (g) \$50,000
 (h) \$50,000
 (i) \$43,500
 (j) \$30,000
 (k) \$50,000
 (l) \$29,274
 (m) \$30,000
 (n) \$15,000
 (o) \$42,000
 (p) \$15,000
 (q) Estimate \$15,000
 (r) Estimate \$15,000 - \$20,000
 (s) \$15,000
 (t) \$13,300
 (u) Conducted inhouse
 (v) \$16,600
 (w) \$7,000
 (x) \$15,000
 (y) \$8,670
 (z) \$2,500
- (5) (a) February 2000
 (b) July 1999
 (c) July 1999
 (d) November 1999
 (e) July 1999
 (f) June 1999
 (g) March 2000
 (h) August 1999
 (i) August 1999
 (j) September 1999
 (k) June 2000
 (l) July 1999
 (m) August 1999
 (n) Completed
 (o) mid June 1999
 (p) August 1999
 (q) August 1999
 (r) 13 August 1999
 (s) July 1999
 (t) July 1999
 (u) July 1999
 (v) November 1999
 (w) July 1999
 (x) June 1999
 (y) August 1999
 (z) September 1999

Central Metropolitan College of TAFE

- (2) (a) Student Satisfaction Survey
 (b) Staff Satisfaction Survey
 (c) Employer (industry) Satisfaction Survey
 (d) Student Attitude Survey
 (e) Training Trends Analysis
 (f) The development of customised virtual reality training and accident reconstruction scenarios for the Western Australian mining and oil and gas industries
- (3) (a) Quality Management Australia
 (b) Quality Management Australia
 (c) Quality Management Australia
 (d) Market Equity
 (e) Cyber Research
 (f) Central Metropolitan College of TAFE
- (4) (a) \$13,000
 (b) \$10,000
 (c) \$7,000
 (d) \$13,000
 (e) \$3,000
 (f) \$150,000 per annum over three years
- (5) (a) July 1999
 (b) August 1999
 (c) December 1999
 (d) July 1999
 (e) July 1999
 (f) June 2002

West Coast College of TAFE

- (2) (a) Identification and Development of Competencies for Courseware Writers (Joondalup's Edge). Identification and development of competencies required for course writers, including understanding of Adult Learning principles, Joondalup Charter and philosophy. Model for the professional development of future courseware writers. Understanding of the Action Learning model of workplace learning and problem solving.
- (b) Literacy Numeracy Problem Identification (Upfront Assessment). Identifying students in vocational education courses who have literacy and numeracy problems. Providing ongoing support for these students.
- (c) Exploring Assessment Requirements of Training Packages (Assessment Anywhere). Explore assessment strategies suitable for non-traditional situation. Address issues arising from the new assessment requirements of Training Packages.
- (d) National Centre for English Language Teaching and Research (NCELTR) Special Projects. Task development and professional development for AMEP assessment. To develop a bank of assessment tasks for different proficiency/competency levels.
- (e) First Byte - A Teacher Development Program. Professional development for lecturers to develop competence and confidence in the area of Computer Assisted Language Learning.
- (f) CGEA @ WEB. Development of CGEA materials for Level 1 and Level 2 students. Design a web site.
- (g) Information Technology Meets Literacy. Project aims to meet the needs of Information Technology (IT) training personnel whose trainers have language, literacy and numeracy difficulties. A Professional Development Program will be produced which will provide trainers with awareness of the issues, and skills to assist these learners.
- (3) (a) QRD Consulting, West Coast College of TAFE
 (b) QRD Consulting, West Coast College of TAFE
 (c) QRD Consulting, West Coast College of TAFE
 (d) NCELTR, Adult Migrant English Service (AMES-WA), other Adult Migrant Education Program (AMEP) providers
 (e) AMES-WA, West Coast College of TAFE
 (f) AMES (VET Unit), West Coast College of TAFE
 (g) AMES (VET Unit), West Coast College of TAFE
- (4) (a) \$10,000
 \$10,000
 \$10,000
 Nil cost to West Coast College of TAFE - All costs to be met by Commonwealth through NCELTR.
 \$10,000
 \$11,890
 \$11,764
- (5) (a) August 1999
 (b) August 1999
 (c) August 1999
 (d) December 1999

- (e) August 1999
- (f) September 1999
- (g) September 1999

South Metropolitan College of TAFE

- (2)
 - (a) Development of aquaculture techniques for West Australian Dhufish (*Glaucosoma hebriacum*).
 - (b) Visual development in the West Australian dhufish
 - (c) Demonstration of seaweed nutrient stripping for aquaculture wastewater
 - (d) Clay wicket research - working with the Curator at the Western Australian Cricket Association (WACA) to try and solve the problem of the clay wicket at the WACA ground cracking
- (3) (a)-(d) South Metropolitan College of TAFE
- (4)
 - (a) \$1,009,437
 - (b) \$36,626
 - (c) \$315,150
 - (d) \$2,000
- (5)
 - (a) June 1999
 - (b) June 1999
 - (c) December 2000
 - (d) February 2000

Hedland College

- (1) (a) Regional CDEP (Community Development Employment Program) projects – to develop strategic plans for the CDEP of three remote Pilbara-based Aboriginal communities.
- (b) Workplace Language and Literacy Program – to ascertain the language and literacy requirements of CDEP participants in the East Pilbara.
- (c) Professional Development Support Program – to research and develop appropriate teaching strategies for educators of Indigenous adults in remote North-Western Australia.
- (d) Port Hedland Social Profile – compile statistical socio-demographic data on Port Hedland based on the ABS census data.
- (3) (a)-(d) Hedland College Social Research Centre.
- (4)
 - (a) \$40,000
 - (b) \$10,739
 - (c) \$30,000
 - (d) \$5,000
- (5)
 - (a) June 1999
 - (b) June 1999
 - (c) August 1999
 - (d) June 1999

Heritage Council of Western Australia

- (2) Assessment of the heritage significance of places.
- (3) Various independent consultants are commissioned to research and report.
- (4) The fees charged by consultants for heritage assessments vary from \$1,000 to \$5,000 depending on the size, urgency and whereabouts of places concerned.
- (5) Heritage assessments are generally completed within 3 to 6 months of contracts being signed. The heritage assessment program is ongoing.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CONTRACTS OVER \$ 50 000

- 90. Mr BROWN to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:
- (1) How many contracts of \$50,000 or more (excluding employment contracts) has each department and agency under the Deputy Premier's control entered into between 1 April 1999 and 31 May 1999?
- (2) What was the amount of each contract?
- (3) What is the name of each person/entity with whom the contract has been entered into?
- (4) What is the nature of the work or service required by the contract?
- (5) What is the completion date of each contract?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3032. The following answer was correct as at 5 July 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

Department of Commerce and Trade

- (1) The Department of Commerce and Trade entered into two such contracts in that period.

- (2) Online WA Single Window Phase 1 - \$180 000.
Online Services Marketing and Awareness - \$250 000.
- (3)-(5) Dow Digital - Working with the Department of Commerce and Trade to develop a "single window" to Western Australian information and services using the Internet and telephone access.
December 1999.

Bowtell Clarke & Yole - Working with the Department of Commerce and Trade to raise awareness of electronic commerce and the delivery of service online through the State. This includes working with communities, businesses and State and local government agencies and organisations throughout Western Australia. Awarded a one year contract with a one year option in February 1999. The contract will be reviewed in February 2000. At that time a decision will be taken whether to exercise a further one year option.

Small Business Development Corporation

- (1) None.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

International Centre for Application of Solar Energy (CASE)

- (1) The International Centre for Application of Solar Energy has entered into one contract exceeding \$50 000 since 1 January 1999. It should be noted this is a contract in which CASE receives payment to undertake project activities in Indonesia.
- (2) The amount of the contract entered into is \$249 780.
- (3) The contract was awarded by the Commonwealth of Australia, via the International Greenhouse Partnership Office of the Department of Industry Science and Resources (DISR).
- (4) CASE is to manage a project in Ujung Pandang-Indonesia which reduces greenhouse gas emissions through Landfill Resource Recovery utilising gas for power production and organic material for composting.
- (5) Project is scheduled for completion end of June 2000.

Technology and Industry Advisory Council (TIAC)

- (1) None.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Gascoyne Development Commission

- (1) None.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Great Southern Development Commission

- (1) Two.
- (2) Vancouver Waterways - \$120 000.
Regional Containerisation Study- \$64 000.
- (3)-(5) Coney Stevens Project Management Pty Ltd: Master planning and project management of a tourism infrastructure and development potential analysis of the Albany waterways and foreshores.
31 January 2000.

Steve Meyrick & Associates: To examine the viability of establishing a regional containerisation service through Portland (Victoria), Albany and Bunbury.
June 1999.

Goldfields Esperance Development Commission

- (1) None.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Kimberley Development Commission

- (1) None.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Mid West Development Commission

- (1) One.
- (2) \$50 000.
- (3) Shearman Communications.
- (4) Public relations contract Geraldton Marina/Museum Project.
- (5) January 2000.

Peel Development Commission

- (1) None.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Pilbara Development Commission

- (1) None.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

South West Development Commission

- (1) None.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Wheatbelt Development Commission

- (1) None.
(2)-(5) Not applicable.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COORDINATION COMMITTEE, MEMBERSHIP

99. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Who are the members of the Co-Ordination Committee on Science and Technology?
- (2) What are the qualifications and experience of each member in science and technology?
- (3) What are the terms of reference of the Committee?
- (4) On how many occasions has the Committee met to date?
- (5) What are the five main issues that the Committee is considering?
- (6) Has there been a budget allocation for the Committee?
- (7) If so, what is that allocation?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3079. The following answer was correct as at 7 July 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

- (1)-(2) The Coordination Committee on Science and Technology comprises heads of agencies with significant investment and/or interest in science and technology; the Chairman of the Technology and Industry Advisory Council; and a representative nominated by the Higher Education Council. There are two categories of membership:
- Full Member - These members attend meetings of the CCST
 - Affiliate Member - These members receive the papers for each meeting for comment but do not attend meetings unless there is an issue of particular significance to their organisation.

FULL MEMBERS

Mr Richard Muirhead
Chief Executive Officer
Department of Commerce and Trade

Dr Graeme Robertson
Chief Executive Officer
Agriculture Western Australia

Dr Jim Limmerick
Chief Executive Officer
Department of Resources Development

Dr Bryan Jenkins
Chief Executive Officer
Department of Environmental Protection

Mr Lee Ranford
Chief Executive Officer
Department of Minerals and Energy

Dr Colin Branch
Chairperson
Minerals and Energy Research Institute of Western Australia

Mr Ian Hill
Chief Executive Officer
Western Australian Department of Training

Mr Steve Wood
Deputy Director General
Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet

Mr Alan Bansemer
Commissioner of Health
Health Department of Western Australia

Mr Peter Rogers
Chief Executive Officer
Fisheries Western Australia

Dr Syd Shea
Executive Director
Department of Conservation and Land Management

Mr Ron Mance
A/Director General
Education Department of Western Australia

Dr Paul Schapper
Chief Executive Officer
Department of Contract and Management Services

Mr John Thompson
Chair
Technology and Industry Advisory Council (TIAC)

Professor Michael Barber
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research)
University of Western Australia

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Mr Andrew Reeves
Director
Western Australian Museum

Mr Colin Hyde
Chief Executive Officer
Perth Zoo

Mr David Eiszele
Managing Director
Western Power Corporation

Mr Mike Daube
Chief Executive Officer
Office of Youth Affairs

Dr Steve Hopper
Chief Executive Officer
Kings Park and Botanic Gardens

Dr Les Farrant
Co-Ordinator of Energy
Office of Energy

Mr Robert Fisher
Director General
Family and Children's Services

Mr Peter Browne
Chief Executive Officer
Department of Education Services

Members are appointed by virtue of their positions as the Heads of the represented agencies.

- (3) **TERM OF REFERENCE 1.0:** The committee will provide advice to the Western Australian Government through the Cabinet Standing Committee on Science and Technology to implement the purpose of the Science and Technology Policy:

"To create and apply advances in science, technology and engineering which provide economic growth and social and environmental benefits for all Western Australians. The implementation of this policy will lead to further development of current industries, the establishment of new industries and an improvement in the social well-being of Western Australians within the context of a sustainable natural environment."

TERM OF REFERENCE 2.0: In pursuing Term of Reference 1.0 the committee will sponsor and develop new science and technology policy initiatives that: -

- * Assist in building a culture of innovation that supports socially and environmentally sustainable outcomes.
- * Support the development of new and existing industries, based on advances in science and technology, in areas of the State's comparative advantage.
- * Assist in the development of human resources for science and technology to:
 - meet the science and technology skills needed by Western Australian industry;
 - maintain Western Australian capabilities in science and technology at levels at least equal to, if not leading, advances in the fields of science and engineering; and
 - ensure the community appreciates, understands and supports the Government's objectives for science and technology.
- * Ensure that the State Government:
 - responds appropriately to community views when considering changes driven by advances in science and technology;
 - agencies adopt advances in science and technology, where cost effective and appropriate;
 - promotes community awareness of the need to apply science and technology in advancing the standard and quality of living in Western Australia;

- agencies manage high quality, cost effective research in support of their core activities;
- maximises commercialisation of Government research and development outcomes in order to provide a financial return to the community of Western Australia;
- encourages increased investment by Western Australian industry in market-focussed research and development;
- establishes world-class science and technology infrastructure in areas of strategic advantage to Western Australia in order to support industry development and attract international educators and researchers, and encourages the Federal Government to support increased science and technology development in Western Australia;
- assists in identifying and addressing impediments to research and development and the commercialisation of innovation in Western Australia; and
- maximise opportunities for science and technology to promote development in regional Western Australia.

TERM OF REFERENCE 3.0: The committee shall comprise:

* The Chief Executive Officer of the following agencies:
 Department of Commerce and Trade (Chair)
 Agriculture Western Australia
 Fisheries Western Australia
 Department of Resources Development
 Health Department of Western Australia
 Department of Environmental Protection
 Department of Conservation and Land Management
 Department of Minerals and Energy
 Education Department of Western Australia
 Western Australian Department of Training
 Department of Contract and Management Services
 Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet
 The Chair of the Minerals and Energy Research Institute of Western Australia (MERIWA)
 The Chair of the Technology and Industry Advisory Council (TIAC)
 A representative of the State's Universities selected by the Higher Education Council.

TERM OF REFERENCE 4.0: The following agencies shall be deemed affiliate members and be provided with copies of the agenda and background papers prior to meetings. These agencies may also attend meetings where the Chair deems there are issues of significant importance to that agency:

Western Australian Museum
 Kings Park and Botanic Gardens
 Perth Zoo
 Office of Energy
 Western Power
 Department of Education Services
 Family and Children's Services
 Office of Youth Affairs.

(4) Four times.

(5) The Coordination Committee on Science and Technology has determined that three criteria will be applied to identify cross Government initiatives in science and technology:

- they must contain measurable rewards;
- they are achievable by the CCST; and
- require collective action by CCST members.

Examples of current projects conforming to these criteria include: -

- The collation of science and technology activities being conducted by members and affiliate member of the Coordination Committee under the four key focus areas of the Science and Technology Policy.
- The establishment of a web based newsletter to promote awareness of agencies' research activities. The web page will include proposed research activities to facilitate identification of collaborative projects.
- The preparation of the science and technology Budget paper "*Budget 2000 - Securing Our Future - Science and Technology*".
- Assumption of responsibility for the ongoing implementation of the findings of the Marine Research Taskforce.
- Initiatives to increase Commonwealth and industry expenditure on research and development in Western Australia.

(6) Yes.

(7) \$80 000 per annum.

TOURISM COMMISSION, MARKETING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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

(1) Will the Minister explain the nature of the -

- (a) challenges; and
- (b) opportunities,

that are referred to in the third dot point appearing in page 1380 of the 1999-2000 Budget Statements, Volume 3?

(2) What resources have been allocated to meet these challenges and opportunities?

(3) Under what item of recurrent expenditure do these resources fall?

(4) Who are the co-operative partners referred to in the fifth dot point on page 1380?

(5) How much has been allocated to advertising in the 1999-2000 financial year in each of the following core international markets, namely -

- (a) United Kingdom;
- (b) Germany;
- (c) Singapore;
- (d) Malaysia; and
- (e) Japan?

(6) What amount has been allocated to television advertising in each market?

(7) What amount has been allocated to other advertising (please specify)?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

(1) (a)-(b) Relates to electronic mediums.
Challenges: Global competition. Need to be "ahead of the game".
Opportunities: Global access to markets, customer database, electronic bookings.

(2) Have spent a total of approximately \$750,000 to date. Budget for 1999/2000 is \$840,000.

(3)	Output 1:	National Marketing -	\$775,000
	Output 3:	International Marketing	\$ 65,000

(4) In relation to the Eastern States market, cooperative partners are not yet finalised, although discussions have been held with both airlines, the major coach tour operators and Great Southern Rail. In regard to the Intrastate market, again, cooperative partners are not yet finalised but potentially they could include a range of major and small operators.

(5)	(a)	United Kingdom	Gross	\$2,050,660
	(b)	Germany	\$	248,975
	(c)	Singapore	\$	700,675
	(d)	Malaysia	\$	332,575
	(e)	Japan	\$	821,175
				\$4,154,060
			Less Revenue	\$1,213,505
				\$2,940,555 net

(6) (a) United Kingdom – The media schedule has not been finalised, however, it is anticipated the spend on television placement will be in the vicinity of £420,000 to £470,000. Based on the current exchange rate this equates to \$1,025,000 - \$1,146,000.

(b) Germany – There is no television advertising planned.

(c) Singapore – It is not planned to be on television until March 2000 and the media strategy has not yet been developed.

(d) Malaysia – There is no television advertising planned.

(e) Japan – The WATC's commitment of ¥32,000,000 (\$399,500) will go to the ATC's television campaign.

(7) Could the member please explain what information he is seeking. Does he require the information by activity type or a lump sum by market?

TOURISM, AIR TRANSPORT SEATS INTO WA

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

(1) In the 1999-2000 Budget Statements, Volume 3 page 1382, is reference made to airline access and airfares continuing to be a major issue?

(2) Does the Western Australian Tourism Commission intend to try and increase air transport seats into Western Australia from other states of Australia?

(3) If so, what is the target increase set for the 1999-2000 financial year?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Whilst the decision to increase air capacity or reduce airline pricing to WA from other States of Australia is made purely on commercial grounds by both airlines, the WATC raises these issues with both airlines regularly to endeavour to work with them to grow the consumer demand. It is worthy noting, that effective 1 July, 1999, Qantas has announced it will increase its domestic air capacity by 8%. Until scheduled details are released, it is not possible to quantify the total impact on WA although it is known that there will be an additional service from Melbourne to Perth and that 747 aircrafts will be used on some domestic flights between Sydney and Perth.
- (3) Not applicable.

TOURISM, TOKYO AND OSAKA ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

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

- (1) With respect to the 1999-2000 Budget Statements, Volume 3 page 1393, at the first dot point, will the Minister advise if the \$5.16 million campaign featuring television and print run in Tokyo and Osaka used the Elle Macpherson television commercials?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) With respect to major initiatives for 1999-2000, also referred to on page 1393, will the Minister explain what amount of money the Government/Western Australian Tourism Commission (WATC) will commit to the joint Australian Tourism Commission destination campaign featuring Western Australia on Tokyo and Osaka television?
- (4) With respect to the fifth dot point under the heading previously referred to, what airlines has the Government/WATC developed a relationship/association with to obtain additional direct airline services to Western Australia from -
 - (a) Japan;
 - (b) Singapore;
 - (c) Malaysia;
 - (d) Taiwan;
 - (e) China; and
 - (f) the Middle East?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) The television and print campaign to run in Tokyo and Osaka will not use the Elle Macpherson television commercials.
- (2) As the Australian Tourist Commission (ATC) is the principal funder, they have determined to use television commercials produced by the ATC specifically for this campaign. Two commercials are being used - one of 15 seconds that is dedicated to Western Australia and a 30 second generic Australian one that features Western Australian images drawn from the 15 second commercials. In addition, the Western Australian Tourism Commission does not have the rights to use Elle Macpherson in Japan.
- (3) In 1999/2000 the Western Australian Tourism Commission has committed 32 000 000 Yen (which converted to \$399 500 at the time of forward purchase) to the ATC campaign in Tokyo and Osaka.
- (4)

(a)	Japan	-	Qantas
(b)	Singapore	-	Singapore Airlines
(c)	Malaysia	-	Malaysia Airlines
(d)	Taiwan	-	EVA Airlines
(e)	China	-	China Southern Airlines
(f)	Middle East	-	Emirates

TOURISM, CHINESE MARKET

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

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared in *The West Australian* on 24 April 1999 under the heading of "Flight to key tourist boom"?
- (2) Did the article report the Elle Macpherson advertising campaign will not be used in China to attract tourists to Western Australia?
- (3) Has the Government/Western Australian Tourism Commission (WATC) decided to adopt a wait and see attitude in relation to the Chinese market?
- (4) Has the Government/WATC decided to let the Australian Tourism Commission spend big on general advertising before moving to directly advertising the market?
- (5) Why has the Government taken this approach?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

(1)-(2) Yes.

- (3) The Government, through the WATC is active in the China market, so it is not accurate to state that it is merely adopting a "wait and see" attitude. The WATC has appointed a Sales Manager, Future Markets Asia based in Singapore that has amongst its responsibilities, development of the China market. The Government's immediate efforts through the WATC has been to focus on trade development. It has been establishing relationships, which are critical in the China market, and educating the trade by participating in all the major Retail Training Programmes and Travel Missions conducted by the Australian Tourist Commission (ATC). In addition to trade development, the WATC will be targeting the consumer through participation in the ATC's Visiting Journalists Programme. Participation in this programme is expected to increase now that Approval Destination Status has been granted. To achieve significant visitor numbers out of China, however, it is important that there are direct air services, preferably non-stop, between China and Perth. Currently, all services operate into the east coast. In this regard, the WATC is working with China Southern Airlines in an endeavour to have it establish such air links.
- (4)-(5) It is the ATC's role to promote Australia in international markets and as they have a significantly larger budget than the WATC, it has been a sound policy of the WATC to work with the ATC in all markets. In particular, in new markets such as China, the WATC endeavours to leverage the activities of the ATC whilst they build an overall awareness of Australia. This will involve doing specialised activities as outlined in (3) above.

SUPREME COURT BUILDING, BLACK BOX STRUCTURE

151. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Planning:

I refer to the landscaping improvements made in the public space between the Supreme Court and Council House in Stirling Gardens and ask -

- (a) on whose authority and with whose approval was the "black box" built immediately opposite the entrance to the Supreme Court Building;
- (b) is it correct that this "black box" contains an entry point to the underground car park built below the space between the Supreme Court Building;
- (c) does the Minister consider it appropriate for a public agency to allow the erection of such a structure directly in front of a building which symbolises and houses Western Australia's legal system, and which building is an important heritage place;
- (d) will the Minister take steps to determine who took the decision to allow such a visual blight on a heritage building, with the view to removing it forthwith, and relocating it to a more heritage-sensitive position; and
- (e) if the answer to (d) above is no, why not?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (a) The "black box" is an emergency exit point from the car park below Council House and incorporates a plant room and air conditioning/ventilation duct. The car park beneath Council House and the landscaping above the car park was proposed by the City of Perth and approved by the Western Australian Planning Commission.
- (b) The plant/air-conditioning room contains an exit staircase from the car park beneath Council House.
- (c) The plant room and air conditioning ventilation duct is an integral safety structure associated with the underground car park and was required under building regulations.
- (d) No.
- (e) The plant room and escape stair was approved in accordance with the required statutory procedures and was required to be provided under building regulations.

NEWCASTLE STREET, FUTURE PLAN

154. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) What is the plan for Newcastle Street under the East Perth Redevelopment Authority's (EPRA) new plan for the area?
- (2) Is the street to become a "Boulevard" or will it remain a 4-lane carriageway?
- (3) Does the EPRA have an anticipated population growth for the Northbridge Redevelopment area?
- (4) When will the plans for urban renewal be revealed to the public?
- (5) How much has been spent so far on consultants working on the urban renewal project?
- (6) Specifically, how much has been paid to Creating Communities?
- (7) Why was the decision made to employ the EPRA to manage the project?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1)-(2) Traffic studies have indicated that Newcastle Street will need to operate with one lane of traffic each way during off peak periods and two lanes each way during peak periods. Extensive streetscaping is proposed in Newcastle Street as part of the Northbridge Urban Renewal Project.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) In approximately August 1999.
- (5) \$339 258 in 1998/99 financial year whilst the East Perth Redevelopment Authority has been involved with the project.
- (6) \$4 563.
- (7) To use the experience and expertise in urban renewal gained by the East Perth Redevelopment Authority in the successful East Perth Redevelopment Project.

CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, SHORT LIST

163. Mr CUNNINGHAM to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) When does the Minister expect to announce the short-list of consortia bidding for the proposed Convention and Exhibition Centre?
- (2) How many consortia will be on the short-list?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) In August 1999.
- (2) Up to three.

CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, VIABILITY OF BIDDERS AND PROJECT

164. Mr CUNNINGHAM to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) What action (if any) has the Minister taken to ensure that the various consortia bidding to develop the proposed Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre are financially viable?
- (2) What action (if any) has the Minister taken to ensure that the project itself will be fundamentally viable and not an ongoing financial burden on Western Australian taxpayers?
- (3) With respect to the answer to (2) above, will the Minister give an assurance that the financial viability of both bidders and the project are the foremost issues in considering the proposals and if not why not?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) The Taskforce sought information from all applicants to ensure their consortium bid had the financial capacity and experience to undertake a project of this scale. The material, once submitted was evaluated by a panel with experience in these selection processes, including representatives from the Crown Solicitor's Office, Treasury, Western Australian Tourism Commission and Arthur Andersen. A copy of the Assessment Criteria is tabled. [See paper No 80.]
- (2) As with the previous answer, Applicants were requested to respond to a number of questions. I will also table the Selection Criteria for the member. Their responses are being evaluated by panels of eminent persons with experience in a range of disciplines.
- (3) Yes.

CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, RESPONSIBILITY AND INCENTIVE PACKAGE

165. Mr CUNNINGHAM to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) With respect to the proposed Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre is it correct that the Minister has responsibility for this proposed development?
- (2) If not, where does the responsibility lie?
- (3) What is the nature of the \$100 million incentive package that has been made available by the Government?
- (4) Does the incentive package include support for a soccer stadium?
- (5) If the answer to (4) above is no, were the applicants expected to include a soccer stadium in the proposal?
- (6) If not, why not?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) It is up to \$100 million as a cash or in kind contribution to the successful Applicant.
- (4)-(6) The proponents were asked to consider the possibility of complementary ancillary facilities, such as retail, leisure, accommodation and a soccer/rugby stadium within their proposals. Based on these responses, the Government will consider whether or not to include a rugby/soccer stadium in the next stage of the process – the “Request for Proposal”.

DOMESTIC TOURISM, COMMONWEALTH INITIATIVES

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

- (1) Does the State Government intend to make a contribution to the Federal Government initiative which seeks to increase domestic tourism?
- (2) Of the \$4 million to be contributed by State Tourist Commissions, how much does the Western Australian Government intend to contribute?
- (3) Does the Western Australian Government agree with some of the initiatives that have been suggested so far which include -
 - (a) a cooperative advertising campaign;
 - (b) a national online tourism network for all domestic tourism products;
 - (c) a national events strategy; and
 - (d) enhanced research effort?
- (4) What position does the Western Australian Government intend to promote in relation to each of these policy issues?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The WATC will contribute a total of \$432,000 over three years with \$54,000 committed in the 1999/00 financial year, \$216,000 in the 2000/01 financial year and \$162,000 in the 2001/02 financial year. The WATC's contribution of 10.8% is based on an agreed market-share formulae with the other States contributing the following percentages:

NSW	28.2%
QLD	25.8%
VIC	21.2%
SA	6.6%
TAS	3.0%
NT	2.4%
ACT	2.0%

- (3)-(4) WA has agreed to the following six initiatives -

Regional Touring Initiative
 New Market Development Program
 Travel Industry Program
 Marketing Communications Campaign
 Research and Development Program
 Australian Holiday Data Warehouse

- (4) WATC has agreed to the six initiatives as outlined in (3).

ELLE MACPHERSON ADVERTISEMENTS, THIRD SERIES

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

- (1) Have any plans been made to film a third series of Elle Macpherson commercials?
- (2) When is the third series planned?
- (3) Are different locations for the third series being examined?
- (4) If so, what locations will be included in the third series?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) Not at this point in time, although as tourism is a dynamic marketing business, the WATC needs to always be ready to adopt strategies to meet market demands. The WATC has the right to utilise the images of Elle Macpherson until March 2002. While the WATC has not considered its position beyond March 2002, there is strong support amongst the tourism industry for the WATC to continue utilising Ms Macpherson as the tourism ambassador for the State. Ms Macpherson has always indicated a willingness to discuss an ongoing relationship with the WATC beyond 2002.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

ROADS, DISPLAY OF TOURIST ATTRACTION SIGNS

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

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

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) I am not aware this is a significant problem since signage guidelines have been in the marketplace since 1995. While we cannot have visual pollution, there are straightforward guidelines to follow.
- (2) Queensland has adopted guidelines similar to WA, as has Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia.
- (3) Currently there is a national focus on developing a set of national tourism signage standards. This has been spearheaded by the Australian Standing Committee on Tourism (ASCOT) which WA currently chairs, and the working party is currently formulating a recommendation for action. The WATC's stance has always been to develop signage standards that are consistent not only throughout WA but across Australia as well, using symbols wherever possible and not words, and particularly the use of internationally recognised symbols wherever possible. This is a timely question. Only recently, I wrote to my Ministerial colleague, the Hon Murray Criddle, seeking the participation of Main Roads WA to work together to develop a statewide Brand WA signage strategy to be applied to all levels of entry signs in WA be they state, regional, local government area or town. Once again, WA will lead the way in showing how a well considered Brand signage strategy can enhance the visitor experience of Western Australia through consistent signage as the visitor travels from region to region and town to town. To foster the implementation of such a project, the WATC has allocated \$100 000 each year over the next three years to a Signage Booster Program. I will first await the outcome of ASCOT's decision on developing a national set of signage standards. At that time I will consider the implications of the outcome on WA and the formation of a properly resourced multi-agency working group to work on revising tourist signage policies in WA.
- (4)-(5) Not applicable.

TOURIST MAPS, COORDINATION OF PRODUCTION

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

- (1) Has the Government given any consideration to consolidating and co-ordinating arrangements under which various departments produce tourist maps?
- (2) Will the Government give consideration to such an initiative?
- (3) If so, when?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) Yes, but currently there is a growing trend for this activity to be undertaken by the private sector.
- (2)-(4) No. There are several private sector organisations producing tourist maps for the market place and it is appropriate that it becomes a private sector matter.

TOURISM, TRAVEL BAG

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

- (1) Does the Western Australian Tourism Commission (WATC)/Government have any relationship with an English travel operator called Travel Bag?
- (2) What is the nature of that relationship?
- (3) Is the English travel operator Travel Bag the company that obtains the bookings resulting from the Elle advertising campaign?
- (4) Did Travel Bag or anyone else associated with the campaign stipulate that Western Australian operators participating in the campaign were to provide accommodation on the basis of a three night stay and pay for two, plus pay a 20% commission to the travel agent?

- (5) How many tourism operators were -
 - (a) recommended by Travel Bag; and
 - (b) obtained bookings through Travel Bag?
- (6) Is it true that tourism operators that agreed to participate in the campaign agreed on the basis they would provide three nights accommodation with payment for two plus 20% to the travel agent?
- (7) If not, what was that arrangement?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) Travelbag is a major direct sell Australian specialist tour operator based in the United Kingdom. They are one of a number of key tour operators and wholesalers that the WATC works with to increase visitor numbers to Western Australia from the UK.
- (2) The WATC has worked closely with Travelbag to have it include Western Australian tour product within its Australian tour programme and has also participated in cooperative marketing programmes aimed at achieving incremental business to WA. Travelbag was a major financial partner, contributing 100,000 pounds sterling to the tactical component of the first Brand WA Campaign in the UK in September 1997.
- (3) As the participating tour operator in the cooperative tactical campaign component of the September 1997 Brand WA Campaign in the UK, Travelbag's phone number and contact details were featured in all the tactical television and press advertising "call to action". As a result, Travelbag would have received the bulk of the bookings generated from the campaign. The British Airways/Qantas fare that was on offer throughout the campaign was not, however, exclusive to Travelbag. It was available through the British Airways and Qantas network which includes 19 retail outlets and British Airways Holidays.
- (4) No.
- (5)
 - (a) Travelbag has a total of 15 contracted WA tourism operators, as well as national operators with WA product on their database which is a significant number for a UK tour operator.
 - (b) It is not possible, through Travelbag, to determine what specific operators received bookings.
- (6)-(7) The WATC was not involved in the rate negotiation as this is a commercial arrangement between the tourism operator and Travelbag. To the best of the WATC's knowledge, all the tourism operator had to provide was its contracted rate to Travelbag.

TOURISM, BLACKWOOD RIVER REGION

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

- (1) What initiatives does the Western Australian Tourism Commission (WATC) intend to undertake to promote the Blackwood River Valley in the next 12 months?
- (2) Does the WATC intend to encourage visiting TV crews, journalists and travel consultants on promotion and familiarisation tours to visit the Blackwood River region?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) The WATC does not undertake promotions for specific towns or regions in isolation, but rather works in partnership with the State's regional tourism associations to promote regional areas. The WATC has no initiatives planned that specifically promote the Blackwood River Valley but encourages operators to participate in its cooperative marketing programs. The WATC offers tourism operators at a regional or town level, opportunities to participate in a number of co-operative marketing programs which are outlined in the WATC's publication "Partnership to Success". Two specific programs that would be relevant to this region are the Winter Breaks program and the new web site www.westernaustralia.net. There is detailed information about the Blackwood River Valley section of the new web site that has been provided by both Tourism SouthWest and the WATC. To capitalise on opportunities presented by this information, tourism businesses in this area are encouraged to subscribe to the web site so interested consumers can access detailed product information that is unique to this area.
- (2) The WATC continues to match the experience sought by TV crews, journalists and travel consultants with those offered by different regional areas and holiday experiences. Channel 7's program Our WA and Channel 9's program Postcards have featured stories on this area of the State in the last two years and there have been small groups spend time in this region, including some of the WATC's international representatives.

OVERSEAS TRADE OFFICES, COSTS

198. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) What is the cost of operating each of the Western Australian trade offices overseas?
- (2) In dollar terms, what level of exports has each of the trade offices been responsible for in the following financial years -

- (a) 1996-97;
- (b) 1997-98; and
- (c) 1998-99?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3264. The following answer was correct as at 2 August 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

- (1) The Department of Commerce and Trade has responsibility for the Western Australian Trade Offices in India, China, Malaysia and Indonesia and employs Trade Advisers through Austrade in Thailand and the Philippines. An Adviser has just commenced in Taiwan, working through the Australian Chamber of Industry office in conjunction with Agriculture WA. The Western Australian Trade Offices in the United Kingdom, Japan and South Korea are administered by the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet. In 1998-99, the cost of providing this representation, excluding salaries, was:

India:	\$407 685.00
China:	\$484 890.45
Malaysia:	\$157 937.35
Indonesia:	\$176 028.94
Thailand:	\$ 92 550.15
Philippines:	\$101 298.34
Taiwan:	no cost for 1998-99 financial year as the trade Adviser was appointed in July 1999.

- (2) It is not possible to directly attribute Western Australian exports to the overseas offices. The value of this overseas representation can be measured through total exports from Western Australia to each market and the number of clients serviced by each office:

Exports

India
 1996-97 \$195 786 841
 1997-98 \$421 321 501
 1998-99 \$398 389 121 (10 months to end April 1999)

China
 1996-97 \$1 197 846 765
 1997-98 \$1 499 759 450
 1998-99 \$1 291 015 822 (10 months to end April 1999)

Malaysia
 1996-97 \$425 204 714
 1997-98 \$333 024 783
 1998-99 \$238 015 290 (10 months to end April 1999)

Indonesia
 1996-97 \$798 957 758
 1997-98 \$742 669 723
 1998-99 \$409 077 860 (10 months to end April 1999)

Philippines
 1996-97 \$115 444 695
 1997-98 \$ 94 692 529
 1998-99 \$ 91 861 541 (10 months to end April 1999)

Thailand
 1996-97 \$383 527 842
 1997-98 \$210 404 956
 1998-99 \$174 742 668 (10 months to end April 1999)

Number of Clients Serviced

India
 1996-97 Western Australian: 474 Local: 1038
 1997-98 Western Australian: 239 Local: 325
 1998-99 Western Australian: 357 Local: 487
 (1998-99 covers the period July 1998 to end April 1999)

China
 1996-97 Western Australian: 152 Local: 148
 1997-98 Western Australian: 176 Local: 222
 1998-99 Western Australian: 142 Local: 132
 (1998-99 covers the period July 1998 to end April 1999)

Malaysia
 1996-97 Western Australian: 155 Local: 56
 1997-98 Western Australian: 159 Local: 54
 1998-99 Western Australian: 80 Local: 128
 (1998-99 covers the period July 1998 to end April 1999)

Indonesia
 1996-97 Western Australian: 666 Local: 470
 1997-98 Western Australian: 279 Local: 360
 1998-99 Western Australian: 138 Local: 203
 (1998-99 covers the period of July 1998 to end April 1999)

Thailand
 1997-98 Western Australian: 186 Local: 85
 1998-99 Western Australian: 82 Local: 115
 (1998/99 covers the period July 1998 to end April 1999)

Philippines
 1998-99 Western Australian: 24 Local: 27
 (1998-99 covers the period 15 September 1998 to end April 1999)

REGIONAL TRADE OFFICERS

199. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Do all the regional development commissions have one or more people appointed to the position of Regional Trade Officer?
- (2) If not, what development commissions do not have such officers?
- (3) Why is it considered appropriate that such commissions do not have such officers?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3265. The following answer was correct as at 5 July 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

- (1) No.
- (2)-(3) The Department of Commerce & Trade has a Regional Trade Office in Bunbury which provides all trade facilities to the Regional Development Commissions. In addition the Mid West and Great Southern Development Commissions have used their own resources, in partnership with Austrade to establish TradeStart Offices to facilitate export programs. The Mid West TradeStart Office employs 1.3 FTE and the Great Southern employs two Trade Advisers in its TradeStart Office.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, IN EXCESS OF \$50 000

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

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

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3270. The following answer was correct as at 7 July 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

Department of Commerce and Trade

- (1) Five.
- (2)-(5) Research Solutions (WA) Pty Ltd -
 - \$140 000 if all extension options are exercised (\$46 800 per annum)
 The department has engaged a contractor to develop and undertake its annual customer survey to meet its reporting requirements. The contract is for an initial 12 months commencing 12 May 1999 with two one year extension options available.
- Strategic Computer Solutions Pty Ltd
 - \$64 598
 Supply, installation, testing, maintenance and training associated with the acquisition of a new electronic Ministerial correspondence processing and tracking system for the department. The contract is for a two year implementation and maintenance period commencing from 20 May 1999.
- Harvest Road Communications Pty Ltd
 - \$84 132
 Design and development of a webservice that will link Western Australian regional communities throughout Western Australia and the world. The contract was awarded on 7 May 1999. The framework to be launched by the end of August, which can be regarded as the completion date.
- Pretzel Logic
 - \$81 035 over four stages
 Development, implementation, maintenance and hosting of the Western Australian Telecentre Extranet. This facility is designed to provide an efficient internet-based medium for accessing information and services of common use and for communications between all 66 Telecentres in the Western Australian Telecentres network and the Department of Commerce and Trade's Telecentre support unit. The first

stage is to be completed by July 1999. If Pretzel's work for the first stage is accepted, the department will then engage Pretzel for the second, third and fourth stages. The fourth stage is due to be completed by 20 July 2000.

DR Edwards Pty Ltd; R S Lickfold; BSD Consultants Pty Ltd; Bettison Consulting; Goodal Business and Resource Management; P S McIntyre; Arthur Andersen; Economic Consulting Services.

- Panel contract no fixed amount. The contract provides a panel of service providers able to undertake commercial assessments and analysis of applications for financial assistance under selected schemes including: Industry Incentive Scheme, Prefeasibility Study Funding Program, Industry Relocation Scheme and Regional Headworks Development Scheme. The contract is for an initial 12 months with the option to extend for two further 12 month periods.

Small Business Development Corporation

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

International Centre for Application of Solar Energy (CASE)

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

Gascoyne Development Commission

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

Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission

- (1) One.
- (2) \$100 000. Partnership contribution of \$50 000 each from the Goldfield-Esperance Development Commission and the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce.
- (3) Flame Consultants.
- (4) To act as Adviser for the Industry Development Centre.
- (5) 9 May 2000.

Great Southern Development Commission

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

Kimberley Development Commission

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

Mid West Development Commission

- (1) One.
- (2) \$2.6 million.
- (3) North Coast Holdings.
- (4) The work required by the contract is for infrastructure installation and breakwater repairs in the Batavia Coast Marina.
- (5) November 1999.

Peel Development Commission

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

Pilbara Development Commission

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

South West Development Commission

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

Wheatbelt Development Commission

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

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, IN EXCESS OF \$50 000

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

- (1) How many contracts of \$50 000 or more (excluding employment contracts) has each department or agency under the Minister's control entered into between 1 January 1999 and 31 March 1999?
- (2) What was the amount of each contract?
- (3) What is the name of each person/entity with whom the contract has been entered into?

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

(5) What is the completion date of each contract?

Mr KIERATH replied:

PLANNING

Western Australian Planning Commission

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

Ministry for Planning

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

East Perth Redevelopment Authority

- (1) One.
- (2) \$221 123
- (3) Water Corporation of WA.
- (4) Headworks Contributions for water, sewerage and drainage services.
- (5) 18 June 1999.

Subiaco Redevelopment Authority

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

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Western Australian Department Of Training

- (1) Three
- (2)-(3) \$73,100 - Miles Morgan Australia Pty Ltd
\$56,680 - Computing People Express
\$110,281 - CDM Australia Pty Ltd
- (4)-(5) Miles Morgan Australia Pty Ltd - Alternative Pathways to Australian Qualification Framework Level Three Qualifications. November 1999.
Computing People Express - Database Administrator Services. November 1999. CDM Australia Pty Ltd - Purchase two Intel based Servers. Completed.

Central Metropolitan College Of TAFE

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

West Coast College Of TAFE

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

South East Metropolitan College Of TAFE

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

South Metropolitan College Of TAFE

- (1) One.
- (2) \$52,281
- (3) Heaton Enterprises.
- (4) Cleaning.
- (5) June 2002.

Midland College Of TAFE

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

South West Regional College Of TAFE

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

Great Southern Regional College Of TAFE

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

Central West College Of TAFE

- (1) One.
- (2) \$186,000
- (3) Glenfield Lawn Mowing and Gardening Services.
- (4) Gardening.
- (5) July 2002.

Hedland College

- (1) Two.
- (2)-(3) \$173,897 - Transfield
\$59,272 - Western Welding Services
- (4)-(5) Transfield - Cleaning services. 10 April 2002.
Western Welding Services - Supply of welding equipment. 21 June 1999.

Karratha College

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

HERITAGE

Heritage Council of Western Australia

- (1) Nil.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CONTRACTS OVER \$ 50 000

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

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

Mr SHAVE replied:

I am advised that:

Western Australian Electoral Commission

- (1) None.
(2)-(5) Not applicable.

Ministry of Fair Trading

- (1) Two.
(2) (a) \$86,020.
(b) \$300,000.
(3) (a) Platinum Technology.
(b) Oracle Corporation.
(4) (a) Detailed design of the Real Estate Management Information System.
(b) Design, development and implementation of a Bonds Management System.
(5) (a) August 1999.
(b) December 1999.

Department of Land Administration

AMOUNT OF CONTRACT	NAME OF PERSON/ENTITY WITH WHOM CONTRACT HAS BEEN ENTERED INTO	NATURE OF WORK OR SERVICES REQUIRED	COMPLETION DATE OF CONTRACT
\$120,000	Whelans and Fugro Survey Pty Ltd	Processing of digital cadastral survey data relating to the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline Corridor	January 2000
\$1,354,664	Ideal Contractors WA Pty Ltd	Provisions of roads, drains, sewer, water and power at Harvey residential development	1 September 1999
\$116,336	GATEWAY 2000 Pty Ltd	Provision of personal computers	14 November 1999
\$600,000	Bruno Zimmermann Colour Photographic Laborites-Group 1,3,4. Kevron Aerial Surveys-Group 2	Provision of photographic services for a period of two years with one year extension	3 May 2001 (with option to 3 May 2002)

LandCorp

- (1) 16.

AMOUNT	NAME OF CONTRACTOR	NATURE OF WORK	COMPLETION DATE
\$184,471	G & G Drainage	Civil Works Bunbury	30 June 1999
\$63,469	City of Bunbury	Local Authority Bonding	30 May 1999
\$95,950	Western Power Corporation	Subdivision Costs North Fremantle	30 September 1999

\$238,381	Landscape Development	Landscaping Works Atwell	30 July 1999
\$62,644	Western Power Corporation	Power Supply Atwell	21 July 1999
\$75,000	Media Decisions	1998/1999 Media Bookings	30 June 1999
\$58,632	Wesville Contractors	Subdivisional Works	28 May 00
		Canning Vale	
104,800	Residential Fencing	Construction of Estate Walls	12 June 1999
\$127,660	Water Corporation	Water Corporation	31 August 1999
		Headworks	
\$568,342	CSR Limited	Construct Sea Wall	31 May 1999
		Mandurah	
\$120,000	Oracle Systems (Aust) Pty Ltd	Computer Consulting	30 June 1999
\$167,546	Landscape Australia	Landscaping Mt Claremont	7 May 1999
\$71,243	Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council	Tipping Fees	19 April 1999
\$63,347	Halpern Glick Maunsell	Contract Supervision	1 April 1999
3,909,747	Bricon Pty Ltd t/a Brierty Contractors	Civil Works Joondalup	26 November 1999
\$85,300	Gutteridge Haskins and Davey Pty Ltd	Civil Engineering Fees	31 December 1999
		Joondalup	

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CONTRACTS OVER \$ 50 000

211. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

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

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) One.
- (2) \$400 000.
- (3) Analabs Pty Ltd
Amdel Laboratories
Genalysis Laboratory Services Pty. Ltd.
- (4) Provision of chemical analysis of surface sediment samples as required for a 36 month term.
- (5) 18 April 2002.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CONTRACTS OVER \$ 50 000

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

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

Mr PRINCE replied:

Police

- (1) Two.
- (2) (a) \$80,000.
(b) \$232,220.
- (3) (a) Recherche Pty Ltd.
(b) Tyco Services.
- (4) (a) Supply and installation of Firearm Cabinets.
(b) Supply of Hazard Warning Light systems.

- (5) (a) 8 April 2001.
(b) 1 June 2001.

Emergency Services

- (1) None let during this period.
(2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CONTRACTS OVER \$ 50 000

215. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

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

Mr MARSHALL replied:

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

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND TRADE, OVERSEAS TRAVEL

220. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

In relation to the trip to Europe last year by two Commerce and Trade officials and consultant Bruce Sutherland -

- (a) can the Minister confirm that Commerce and Trade guidelines on overseas travel state that travel proposals must be submitted to the Minister a minimum of two weeks prior to the travel;
(b) on what date did the proposal for Mr Sutherland to fly overseas come to him;
(c) was the proposal set out on the correct travel proposal form;
(d) if not, how was it presented to him; and
(e) on what date did he give his approval for Mr Sutherland to travel?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3299. The following answer was correct as at 11 August 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

- (a) Yes.
(b)-(e) Prior to the decision on the appointment of the successful contractor as Jervoise Bay Project Director being made, I had discussed with the Chief Executive Officer the option of the person appointed accompanying the Chief Executive Officer on the visit to Europe. I was advised by the Chief Executive Officer on 8 April 1998 that he had accepted CP Resources' recommendation that Gunn Sutherland be appointed to the contract and gave verbal approval for the travel.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND TRADE, OVERSEAS TRAVEL

221. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

In relation to the Minister's verbal approval for consultant Mr Bruce Sutherland to fly to Europe last year (Question on Notice 2795) -

- (a) has the Minister given "verbal" approval to any officer, or consultant, apart from Mr Sutherland to fly overseas?
(b) if yes -
(i) who was given approval; and
(ii) when was it given?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3300. The following answer was correct as at 6 July 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

- (1) (a) No.
(b) Not applicable.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND TRADE, OVERSEAS TRAVEL BY MR BRUCE SUTHERLAND

222. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

With reference to an answer to a question seeking details on the total cost of consultant Mr Bruce Sutherland's trip to Europe in April/May last year (Question On Notice 2795) -

- (a) will the Minister confirm that his answer was \$8668;
- (b) if the answer to (a) above is yes, will the Minister explain why this cost was reported as \$11,821 in the "Report of Overseas and Interstate trips" recently tabled by the Premier in the House; and
- (c) will the Minister also explain if either cost includes all -
 - (i) credit card expenditure;
 - (ii) internal flights; and
 - (iii) travel allowance?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3301. The following answer was correct as at 2 August 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

Mr Sutherland was engaged as a contractor under the Department of Commerce and Trade's contract with CP Resourcing Pty Ltd and was not engaged by the department as a consultant.

- (a) Yes.
- (b)-(c) During investigations to determine the reason for the difference between the two figures, officers of the Department of Commerce and Trade became aware that expenditure for significant internal travel in Europe had not been included in the response to either question on notice 2795 or in the report tabled by the Premier. These costs had been incurred by the London based Office of the Agent General, an office of the Ministry of Premier and Cabinet, and the Department of Commerce and Trade was later invoiced. Additional costs were incurred due to flight delays and cancellations encountered during the European leg. The total cost of Mr Sutherland's trip was \$13 002.02 including all flights and train travel in Europe, international flights, daily incidentals allowance and credit card expenditure. The cost of \$11 821 given in the "Report of Overseas and Interstate trips" recently tabled by the Premier in the House did not include the costs incurred by the Office of the Agent General. Also the cost of the airfare included was the amount originally quoted by Qantas and not the amount ultimately invoiced and paid.

The answer of \$8 668 given as the total cost of Mr Bruce Sutherland's trip to Europe in April/May 1998 (question on notice 2795) omitted costs incurred by the Office of the Agent General as mentioned, but also incorporated another incorrect amount for the airfare.

In answer to part (c) of question on notice 2795 it was stated that no travel allowance was paid to Mr Sutherland. This is also incorrect as an incidentals allowance of \$30 per day was paid for the eleven days of the trip. This total of \$333.00 was paid in accordance with public sector guidelines as outlined in the contract under which Mr Sutherland's services were provided.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND TRADE, OVERSEAS TRAVEL

223. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Will the Minister table the itinerary for the trip undertaken by Mr Muirhead, Mr Marshall and Mr Sutherland to Europe in April 1998?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3302. The following answer was correct as at 26 July 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

- (a) Yes. [See paper No 81.]
Note that due to fog and a pilot's strike on 30 April the group was forced to make alternative travel arrangements which involved travelling from Stord (Norway) to Newcastle via Oslo, Amsterdam and London. However all appointments were kept.
- (b) Not applicable.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND TRADE, CP RESOURCING CONTRACT

225. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

In relation to the contract CP Resourcing had with the Department of Commerce and Trade to provide a Project Director for the Jervis Bay Project, the Minister said CP Resourcing were paid \$163,452 for the contract and that they in turn paid Gunn Sutherland Corporate Pty Ltd \$143,969 to carry out the contract (Q 2305 and Q2793) -

- (a) will the Minister explain what work CP Resourcing actually performed to earn a commission of \$19,500;
- (b) did the money paid to CP Resourcing for the services of Mr Sutherland cover all Mr Sutherland's expenses (Credit Cards, Accommodation, Travel Allowance, Phone Bills etc); and
- (c) if no, what was the total cost of these additional expenses?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3304. The following answer was correct as at 11 August 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

- (a) The department had a contract with CP Resourcing Pty Ltd to provide specialist professional services. CP Resourcing Pty Ltd in turn had a contract with Gunn Sutherland Pty Ltd to provide such services. The negotiated rate paid by the department included on-costs (payroll tax, public liability insurance and professional indemnity insurance) incurred by CP Resourcing Pty Ltd in employing the contractor and its administration/management fee for the recruitment and management of the contractor over the life of the contract. The \$19 500 difference between the total amount paid to CP Resourcing Pty Ltd and amount it paid to Gunn Sutherland Pty Ltd represents the on-costs and management fee.
- (b) No.
- (c) For the period of the 12 month contract all additional business related expenses totalled \$23 222.68.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND TRADE, CP RESOURCING CONTRACT

226. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) When does the CP Resourcing contract to supply specialist professional services to the Department of Commerce and Trade expire?
- (2) Will the Department be advertising a similar contract after that expiry date?
- (3) If yes, when will the advertising commence?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3305. The following answer was correct as at 7 July 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

- (1) The CP Resourcing contract to supply specialist professional services to the Department of Commerce and Trade expired on 30 June 1999. However, a three month extension has been sought through the Department of Contract and Management Services. This extension has been sought on a month to month basis.
- (2) No. A public tender has already been called and a decision on the successful tenderer has not been finalised.
- (3) Not applicable.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND TRADE, CP RESOURCING CONTRACT

227. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

In relation to the contract signed with CP Resourcing in April 1998 for "Provision of Events Management Services" -

- (a) how many events have been staged under this contract; and
- (b) what is the total amount paid, to date, under this contract?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3306. The following answer was correct as at 7 July 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

- (1) 50.
- (2) \$57 690.37

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND TRADE, CREDIT CARDS ISSUED TO PRIVATE CONTRACTORS

228. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

In relation to the government credit cards provided to each of the following private contractors employed in the Department of Commerce and Trade -

- (a) Mr M Bettridge;
- (b) Ms J Davies;
- (c) Mr B Louvell;
- (d) Mr H Nelson;
- (e) Mr M Obyrne;
- (f) Ms D Rice;
- (g) Ms T Rogers;

- (h) Mr D Scherr; and
- (i) Mr P Walker -
 - (i) when was the card issued;
 - (ii) why has the contractor been issued with a card; and
 - (iii) what is the total expenditure, to date, on the card?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3307. The following answer was correct as at 29 July 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

- (a)
 - (i) 17 February 1998
 - (ii) For a variety of reasons including operational expediency and financial accountability.
 - (iii) \$28 488.95
- (b)
 - (i) 17 April 1998
 - (ii) For a variety of reasons including operational expediency and financial accountability.
 - (iii) \$5 632.68
- (c)
 - (i) 10 September 1998
 - (ii) For a variety of reasons including operational expediency and financial accountability.
 - (iii) \$2 807.37
- (d)
 - (i) 17 April 1998
 - (ii) For a variety of reasons including operational expediency and financial accountability.
 - (iii) \$16 677.75
- (e)
 - (i) A card had been issued on 8 August 1997 but was cancelled on 30 January 1998 when the officer departed the Department of Commerce and Trade. A second card was issued when the officer returned to the department as a contractor on 2 July 1998 but was cancelled on 16 March 1999 as it was no longer required.
 - (ii)-(iii) Not applicable.
- (f)
 - (i) 17 February 1998
 - (ii) For a variety of reasons including operational expediency and financial accountability.
 - (iii) \$8 946.76
- (g)
 - (i) 17 February 1998
 - (ii) For a variety of reasons including operational expediency and financial accountability.
 - (iii) \$1 928.12
- (h)
 - (i) 16 September 1998
 - (ii) For a variety of reasons including operational expediency and financial accountability.
 - (iii) \$196.25
- (i)
 - (i) 5 March 1999
 - (ii) For a variety of reasons including operational expediency and financial accountability.
 - (iii) \$6 384.92

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND TRADE, CP RESOURCING CONTRACT

229. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Were the details of private consultants employed by the Department of Commerce and Trade under the contract they had with CP Resourcing included in the six monthly report of government consultants which is tabled in Parliament?
- (2) If no, will the Minister explain why?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3308. The following answer was correct as at 8 July 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

- (1) No.
- (2) Private consultants are not employed through CP Resourcing Pty Ltd. The relevant State Supply Commission purchasing guidelines are followed for the engagement of private consultants. Details of all private consultants engaged by the Department of Commerce and Trade are included in the six monthly report of government consultants.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND TRADE, CP RESOURCING CONTRACT

230. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

In relation to the Department of Commerce and Trade's use of CP Resourcing to supply in excess of \$5 million worth of professional services over the past two years -

- (a) is the Minister satisfied that public sector guidelines relating to selection processes have been adhered to by this company;
- (b) if no, will he outline his concerns and provide instances where employment guidelines were ignored; and
- (c) can he outline what monitoring process is in place to ensure that this company, and similar recruiting agencies, meet their responsibilities in this regard?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3309. The following answer was correct as at 26 July 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

- (a) As the contract specialists provided to the Department of Commerce and Trade were employed by CP Resourcing and not the Department of Commerce and Trade, the selection of these persons was not subject to public sector employment guidelines. Notwithstanding this fact, the department has, since early November 1998, adopted an operating procedure whereby:
 - the engagement of any contract specialist where the total charge is likely to exceed \$5000 or period of engagement extend beyond four weeks must result from advertising in the "West Australian" newspaper and be a merit based selection process; and
 - no extensions to the period of engagement of the contract specialist for future engagements is permitted unless the original advertisement provides for such extensions.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) CP Resourcing provides a monthly return to the department identifying individual contract appointments, their start and completion dates and charge rates. A departmental Contract Manager has been specifically assigned to monitor the conduct of this contract. In addition, the department requires CP Resourcing to ensure that timesheets are maintained for each specialist contractor.

EAST PERTH POWER STATION WORKING GROUP

231. Mr BROWN to the Deputy Premier:

In relation to the East Perth Power Station Working Group -

- (a) who is the chairperson of the Group;
- (b) when was the chairperson appointed;
- (c) who appointed the chairperson;
- (d) is there any remuneration associated with the position; and
- (e) if so, what is it?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3310. The following answer was correct as at 2 August 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

- (a)-(c) Part of Mr Sutherland's duties under the contractual arrangement with the Minister for Commerce and Trade which commenced on 4 September 1997, was to convene the East Perth Power Station Working Group and chair the meetings as appropriate.
- (d)-(e) The total cost of the services provided by Mr Sutherland for work related to this project between 4 September 1997 and 21 January 1998 was \$9 825.

GUNN SUTHERLAND, EAST PERTH POWER PROJECT CONSULTANCY

232. Mr BROWN to the Deputy Premier:

In relation to the consultancy which Gunn Sutherland had with the Minister for work on the East Perth Power project can the Minister explain why this consultancy ceased on 21 January 1998?

Mr COWAN replied:

The East Perth Power Station project consultancy ceased on 21 January 1998 after the working group had prepared a Cabinet submission containing its recommendations to Cabinet.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, REGIONAL ACCESS PLANS

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

In relation to the Government's election commitment that all Government agencies will develop and publish an affirmative action program (the Regional Access Equity Plan) to improve delivery of services to regional Western Australia will the Minister table the Regional Access Plans that have been published by agencies for which they are responsible?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3319. The following answer was correct as at 26 July 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

On July 7 1999 a draft Regional Development Policy for Western Australia was released for public comment. The draft policy includes strategies to ensure equitable access to an appropriate range and mix of services across the regions. The draft policy will require government agencies to include as part of their reporting requirements details of their achievements in delivering services to regional customers. This reporting would be consolidated under the Government's Customer Focus Policy. In addition, the draft policy suggests the development of a State of the Regions report that would include information on all aspects of regional living including levels of service delivery, economic performance, demographic details and quality of life measures. The draft policy is open for public comment until 3 September 1999. Implementation of these initiatives will meet the Government's commitment to monitoring the level of service delivery to regional Western Australia.

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES, LOW INTEREST LOANS

271. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Will the Minister provide a list of the various types of low interest loans available to Aboriginal communities who wish to become involved in private enterprise ventures?
- (2) For each of these types of loans, will he also indicate how they can be accessed?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3350. The following answer was correct as at 7 July 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

- (1) The Department of Commerce and Trade does not offer a program providing low interest loans. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) provides such loans. On 1 March 1999, ATSIC introduced its Business Development Program which provides loans, grants and/or guarantees. This program replaced the Business Funding Scheme and the Indigenous Business Incentive Program. The mix of loans, grants/guarantees and interest rate will vary depending upon the viability of the business proposal submitted.
- (2) Loans may be accessed by contacting the Manager, Commercial Unit, ATSIC, 256 Adelaide Terrace, Perth (Tel 9220 3211; Fax 9220 3284). However, the department can provide advice to clients on ATSIC's Business Development Program.

TOURIST NUMBERS

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

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an Australian Bureau of Statistics news release dated 21 May 1999 which revealed tourist accommodation takings reached \$1 billion for the first time during the December quarter 1998?
- (2) Is the Minister also aware the news release referred to falls in the number of markets, most notably Korea (down 56%), Indonesia (down 26%), Malaysia (down 20%), Singapore (down 12%) and Japan (down 10%)?
- (3) Is it true the massive reduction in the number of Korean visitors to Australia has impacted far more significantly on New South Wales and Queensland than Western Australia?
- (4) Is it also true that the huge reduction in Korean visitors has resulted in either negative growth in those two states compared to Western Australia?
- (5) Does the Minister accept that comparisons between different states of Australia on inbound tourism numbers are significantly affected by the economic conditions in different countries?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1)-(3) Yes.
- (4) Yes. In the 12 month period ending December 1998, international visitor numbers to NSW decreased by 10.2% and to Queensland by 8.7% whilst WA achieved a growth of 5.0%
- (5) Yes. However, I would advise the member that economic conditions are just one of a number of determining factors.

BELLTOWER, TOURIST DRAW

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

- (1) Did the Minister say in a radio interview in May 1999 that tourists from around the world would be impressed with the bell tower?
- (2) Will the bell tower draw additional international visitors to Western Australia?
- (3) What percentage or number of additional tourists does the Minister expect to be drawn to Western Australia once the bell tower is completed?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) Yes. The Swan Bells will provide a new dimension to the State's tourist attraction base and will be of interest to domestic and international visitors.
- (2)-(3) It is estimated that between 1,500 and 2,000 people per day will visit the Swan Bells. It is not possible, however, to provide an estimate of the additional international visitors to Western Australia who will be attracted by the Swan Bells only. Obviously, visitors will want to see more of Western Australia than simply the Swan Bells. The Barrack Square redevelopment and the Swan Bells in particular will be featured prominently in future promotional activity interstate and overseas and will therefore become a major tourism icon. Several day tour operators have already expressed an interest in including the Swan Bells in their tour packages.

EXMOUTH, TOURIST MARKETING CAMPAIGN

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

- (1) What is the nature of the marketing campaign the State Government intends to undertake to re-invigorate interest in Exmouth as a tourist destination?
- (2) What is the nature of the campaign?
- (3) What funds have been allocated towards the campaign?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1)-(2) The WATC has developed and implemented a marketing campaign to assist the tourism industry in Exmouth in a recovery program to boost visitor numbers following Cyclone Vance. A three week radio campaign covering both regional WA and the Perth metropolitan area was conducted in June. To complement the radio campaign, a three week television campaign ran in the Perth market in June/July. This involved the use of the WATC Brand WA commercial featuring Elle Macpherson at Ningaloo Reef. Selected tourism operators provided specific tourism product which was 'tagged' onto the Brand WA commercials. I should point out that the Onslow tourism industry has also been promoted in the wake of cyclones Elaine and Vance.
- (3) The Cyclones Elaine and Vance Trust Fund Committee has made an allocation of \$100,000.

TOURISM, ABORIGINAL TOURISM INITIATIVES IN REGIONAL AREAS

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

- (1) Since 1 January 1997 what has the Government done to develop Aboriginal tourism initiatives in regional areas?
- (2) How much was allocated to each initiative?
- (3) What new initiatives does the Government intend to take in the 1999-2000 financial year?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) The WATC works in partnership with several agencies facilitating Aboriginal involvement in tourism. At present there are some 35 initiatives that have received Tourism Commission professional support and I table a list of these projects. [See paper No 82.]
- (2) The WATC accounts for these projects in several programs within the Tourism Product and Industry Development output group in its Program Budgeting and as such is unable to provide specific amounts for each and every project assisted.
- (3) It is intended that existing programs detailed in (1) above will be continued. In particular the WATC is working in partnership with CALM to develop the Balga Mia Village at Yanchep National Park as a benchmark Aboriginal tourism product. The total cost of this project over four years is \$250,000 of which the WATC is providing \$34,000 over two years to assist with product development, promotion, marketing and training.

TOURISM, ADVENTURE PRODUCTS INITIATIVES IN REGIONAL AREAS

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

- (1) Since 1 January 1997 what has the Government done to develop adventure products tourism initiatives in regional areas?
- (2) How much was allocated to each initiative?
- (3) What new initiatives does the Government intend to take in the 1999-2000 financial year?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

TOURISM INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

- (1) The Government through the WA Tourism Commission has and will develop adventure tourism products in regional areas as follows -

The Nature Based Tourism Strategy was launched in September 1997 with an allocation of \$500,000 over three years. Several activities since undertaken will foster adventure tourism. The sinking of the Swan Dive Wreck in Geographe Bay and its subsequent development as a dive site is one example. A video has also been produced to provide the domestic and overseas travel trade with imagery of many of Western Australia's dive opportunities.

- (2) The cost of the "Dive WA" video was \$27,600. Costs associated with the sinking of the Swan Dive Wreck were incurred by other agencies such as the Australian Navy. The WATC acted as the project manager.
- (3) The Government has bid to secure HMAS Perth as a second dive wreck, and if successful, the WATC will act as lead agency to progress this project. Within the Nature Based Tourism Strategy a product development group has been formed to develop 'soft adventure' product associated with the Bibbulmun Track. Partnership agreements with each of the State's Regional Tourism Associations will identify adventure tourism product opportunities. The member would be aware that the WATC has staff positioned throughout the State, actively developing product, including adventure tourism, for regional WA.

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL SALES AND MARKETING DIVISIONS

- (1)-(3) As indicated above, since 1997, the WATC has conducted a marketing campaign under the banner of Brand WA, which has been and continues to be a "Nature based" tourism strategy. By definition nature based tourism is adventure tourism.

Brand WA has been an integral component of all WATC marketing campaigns and, through this adventure products and experiences have been featured. For example, of the 14 Brand WA television commercials that have been produced, 11 of these feature regional nature or adventure based tourism product or destinations. Nature or adventure based tourism and product continues to be a focus of the WATC's marketing activities particularly in the international marketplace. It is estimated that in excess of 70 – 80% of the international marketing funds would focus on this style of product. Specific activities since January 1, 1997 include:

The Australian Outback Adventure Workshop (AOAW) conducted in conjunction with the Northern Territory Tourist Commission held at Eco – Beach in May 1997. This event showcased dedicated WA adventure product to influential international buyers of tourism product. This bi-annual event cost is \$120,000 with funding by the WATC to the amount of \$40,000. The balance is funded by the NTTC and industry.

Produced a nature-based publication, "Western Australian Nature Holidays" in May 1997 as support collateral for the inaugural AOAW. Cost \$40,000 for 30,000 copies with additional \$24,000 raised through industry support.

Produced a promotional video featuring adventure experiences across the State.

Undertaking an extensive international media and trade familiarisation programme that has an annual budget of around \$280 – 300,000. Of the familiarisations that are conducted, nature or adventure tourism product or destinations would be featured in approximately 60 – 70%.

A \$200,000 campaign on the east coast promoting camping and caravanning in WA. WATC funds accounted for \$100,000.

Specific activities planned in 99/00 include:

Australian Outback Adventure Workshop planned for May 2000. Total budget is \$120,000. WATC funding is \$40,000

Brand WA Campaign in the UK in September 1999 will use an Elle Macpherson television commercial featuring WA as a nature based destination. The majority of product in the programme will be nature/adventure based product as this is what the UK market is looking for. Total budget is approximately \$1,300,000 of which \$700,000 is WATC funding.

BOOT Dive Show in Germany which positions WA as a desirable dive destination. Total budget is \$10,000. WATC funding is \$5,000.

Production of a Dive product brochure for distribution in the Japan market. Cost is \$3,800.

Proposed Adventure campaign in the UK market November, 1999. Total budget \$50,000. WATC funding \$25,000.

Two editions of the WOZ newsletter. A trade publication with a distribution to the UK trade. WOZ features primarily nature/adventure based tourism product. Total budget is \$54,000. WATC funding \$28,000.

Participation at major trade shows such as the International Tourismus Borse (ITB), Berlin, World Travel Market (WTM), London, Oztalk (UK, Germany and the USA), Borsa Internazionale del Turismo (BIT), Milan. And Travel Australia Business Seminar (TABS), Perth. Theme and product presentation at these influential forums is mainly about nature/adventure based tourism consistent with the overall positioning of WA. Total budget in the trade show area is \$717,500. WATC funding \$562,500.

Attendance with regional travel associations at eastern state's caravan and camping and 4WD shows to promote WA as a nature/adventure based destination. Total budget is \$87,800. WATC funding \$15,500.

ROTTNEST ISLAND AUTHORITY, ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

286. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Who is the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Rottneest Island Authority?
- (2) Was the Acting Chief Executive Officer of Rottneest Island Authority previously employed by the Ministry of Justice?
- (3) Whilst employed by the Ministry of Justice, was the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Authority responsible for human resource management and/or financial management of the Ministry or part of the Ministry?
- (4) Did he have this responsibility during the period when David Grant was the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Justice?
- (5) To what extent was his experience in the Ministry of Justice in that capacity taken into account in awarding him the position of Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Rottneest Island Authority?
- (6) Was the same person responsible for or influential in framing a public sector enterprise agreement whilst engaged in the Ministry of Justice?
- (7) Was the implementation of that enterprise agreement successful?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) Mr John Mitchell.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes, consistent with his position of Executive Director Corporate Services.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) His experience in the Ministry of Justice was not given particular weight.
- (6) Mr Mitchell had a role in respect of an enterprise agreement at the direction of the CEO and Corporate Executive.
- (7) This matter should be referred to the Attorney General as the responsible Minister.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE

289. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) What strategic infrastructure for the development of the State's industry has the Government made a financial commitment to provide?
- (2) What strategic infrastructure has the Government identified as being important to the development of industry in the State that is currently not funded or provided for in the forward estimates?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3368. The following answer was correct as at 2 August 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

This question is very broad. If a specific question is asked that falls within the Minister's portfolio of Commerce and Trade then a response can be provided.

COMMERCE AND TRADE, INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS AND EXPORT CAPABILITY

290. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Is it a priority of the Government to improve the capacity of enterprises to become -
 - (a) internationally competitive; and
 - (b) export capable?
- (2) What -
 - (a) initiatives; and
 - (b) funds
 will be provided to achieve these objectives in the 1999-2000 financial year?
- (3) Under what programs will these initiatives/funds be provided?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3369. The following answer was correct as at 2 August 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

Department of Commerce and Trade

- (1) Assisting Western Australian enterprises to become internationally competitive and export capable is a priority for the government.

- (2) (a) The Government has a number of existing policies and programs in place to promote industry competitiveness and export orientation. These include:
- Infrastructure initiatives to develop specialist industry precincts and parks such as the Jervoise Bay precinct which will assist the capabilities of the shipbuilding industry and fabrication industry for the oil and gas sector;
 - Science and Technology initiatives, including funding for Centres of Excellence and support for Cooperative Research Centres; funding for industry assistance schemes that promote research and development; and funding for the continued implementation of the State Science and Technology Policy and Public Sector Intellectual Property Management Policy;
 - Information and Communications initiatives to ensure that Western Australia achieves the maximum benefits from advances in new technologies; the development of electronic commerce; and ensuring that the State is a world class information manager for the benefit of local companies;
 - Industry sector and trade development initiatives to attract investment into new and growing businesses; funding to assist companies to develop new export development opportunities; and promotion of business through the provision of information, including on-line services;
 - Regional development initiatives to support regional businesses, community groups, educators and others to access contemporary information technology and telecommunications services; and assistance to Regional Development Commissions to promote economic and social development in regional areas;
 - Aboriginal enterprise development initiatives to encourage the development of Aboriginal owned and operated enterprises through assistance with business planning, management and marketing; and support for encouraging joint ventures between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal interests.

(b) Funds allocated to Commerce and Trade in 1999-2000 include:

- \$24.387 million for grants, subsidies and transfer payments; and
- \$69.450 million for capital works.

A significant proportion of these funds is directed towards creating an environment in which Western Australian enterprises can improve their international competitiveness and export orientation. The funds also include direct assistance to industry and industry associations.

(3) Funding for the grants and capital works programs for 1999-2000 comprises:

Grants, subsidies and transfer payments:

	\$'000
Scitech Discovery Centre Support Agreement	\$ 2 500
WA Innovation Support Scheme	\$ 1 060
Centres of Excellence Support Scheme	\$ 5 822
Science and Technology Policy Implementation Grant Initiatives	\$ 410
ASI Groyne Buyback Agreement Rental Subsidy	\$ 410
Regional Headworks Development Scheme	\$ 2 170
Industry Development Incentives	\$ 3 000
Export Market Support Scheme	\$ 266
Industry Sector Association Executive Officer Support Program	\$ 345
Aboriginal Enterprise Development Grant Schemes	\$ 879
Online WA Grant Initiatives	\$ 752
Regional Development Grant Schemes	\$ 1 894
WA Telecentres - Development and Support Schemes	\$ 1 948
Exmouth Development Trust Fund	\$ 600
Networking Nation Initiatives	\$ 900
Other	\$ 1 431

TOTAL \$24 387

	\$'000
Capital works program	\$ 5 000
Communications Pipeline	\$ 2 000
Woolscour Project	\$ 20 600
CSIRO Relocation - Implementation	\$12 850
Jervoise Bay Infrastructure	\$26 000
Marine Industry Technology Park	\$ 3 000
Southern Precinct	\$69 450
Specialised Container Transport	
TOTAL	

Small Business Development Corporation

(1) (a)-(b) Yes.

(2) (a)-(b) An export development program for business women seeking to export for the first time. The program will provide networking functions, workshops, and an export coaching service to assist them to access

existing export assistance programs where the entry cost for a small business is too prohibitive. \$35 000 has been allocated for this initiative in 1999-2000. Export aspirants are also eligible to apply for dollar for dollar financial grants of up to \$5 000 under the Small Business Improvement Program for business planning, marketing strategy development, business assessments and e-commerce business strategies. \$750 000 has been allocated for this program in 1999-2000.

- (3) Women in Export Program and the Small Business Improvement Program.

COMMERCE AND TRADE, STATE-WIDE INDUSTRY POLICY

292. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Does the Government have a commitment to develop a State-wide industry policy?
 (2) When will such a policy be produced?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3371. The following answer was correct as at 11 August 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

- (1) The Western Australian Government has been active in developing specific, targeted policies related to industry development. These complementary policies have been developed according to the priorities of the Government and collectively address improving Western Australia's international competitiveness and export capabilities. A number of policies relating to the development of industry within the State have been produced. These include:

- A State Science and Technology Policy which coordinates science and technology and research and development initiatives across agencies and focuses on short and long term efforts that promote innovation, research and development and the uptake of new technology to create an innovative culture that maximises the international competitiveness of the State's enterprises;
- An Information and Communication strategy which provides a whole-of-State approach to taking advantage of advances in information technology and telecommunications to increase the international competitiveness and capabilities of business and substantially alter the manner in which Government delivers services to the community;
- A Regional Development Policy, released in draft form in July 1999, which seeks to maximise the contribution of country areas to the State's economic development through diversification of regional economies, improved community development and greater access to business and community services;
- A Trade Extensions Strategy which positions the State's enterprises to maintain export markets in Asian countries most affected by the Asian economic downturn and diversify export markets by improving access to other markets;
- A Trade Through Aid Strategy through which Western Australia is improving its track record in winning international aid-funded projects, building international relationships and promoting the export of specialist goods and services; and
- An Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy which is assisting Aboriginal communities, families and individuals to identify and plan economic development opportunities.

In addition, 10 industry sector development strategies have been produced by the Department of Commerce and Trade in conjunction with industry covering the State's major manufacturing and service sectors. These include:

- Oil and gas services;
- Mining services;
- Marine;
- Building and construction;
- Environment management;
- Commercial business services;
- Cultural industries;
- Education and training services;
- Food, beverage and fibre; and
- Defence.

It is proposed to develop a more comprehensive policy for the manufacturing and services sectors as a whole.

- (2) Not applicable.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MADE AND OWNED SYMBOLS AND GOODS AND SERVICES, PROMOTION

293. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) In the 1998-99 financial year how much was -

- (a) allocated; and
 (b) spent

promoting the "WA Owned" and "WA Made" symbols and/or West Australian goods and services?

- (2) How much has been allocated for this purpose in the 1999-2000 financial year?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3372. The following answer was correct as at 26 July 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

- (1) (a) \$30 000
 (b) \$27 300
- (2) No funds have been allocated for this campaign for 1999-2000 but explanatory brochures and bromide sheets are provided free of charge to eligible parties.

DARLING RIDGE SHOPPING CENTRE, VIABILITY OF RETAILERS

297. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Small Business:

- (1) Further to question on Notice 1855 of 1998, is the Minister aware the viability of retailers in the Darling Ridge Shopping Centre has now been threatened by approval being given for the construction of a new nearby shopping centre?
- (2) Given the inadequacy of the planning laws protecting the interests of small business retailers, will the Minister insist the Government change the planning process so that the approval process for new shopping centres must take into account the way in which nearby retail businesses will be affected by such developments?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) I am aware that approval has been given for the construction of a small shopping centre in the vicinity of the Darling Ridge Shopping Centre. I understand that the Council's decision to approve the development was based on its view that the proposal is an ancillary use that will not compete with the Darling Ridge Shopping Centre and represents a logical rounding off of commercial development along Morrison Road, both existing and planned.
- (2)-(3) The decision to approve this, or any other development, requires the relevant local government authority and other agencies involved in the process to be open and transparent in satisfying themselves that proper planning, building and other considerations have been fully taken into account. The Council's planning obligation is to ensure that opportunities for development occur in a controlled manner to supply surrounding residential needs. In this instance, the Council considered the viability of the Darling Ridge Shopping Centre and other local retail centres in making a decision to approve the new development. It would be inappropriate for government to consider altering planning legislation or policies that would restrict the rights of local authorities to make decisions that they judge to be in the interests of their local communities.

TOURISM, FRAMEWORK TO MEASURE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF MAJOR EVENTS

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

- (1) Has a standardised framework for measuring the economic impact generated by major events in Australia been completed?
- (2) If so, is the framework publicly available?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) When will the framework become publicly available?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) This project is being conducted primarily by Edith Cowan University in conjunction with EventsCorp. The two organisations made a joint submission for Federal funding. Donald Getz, the Canadian academic and the leading world authority on event tourism, is also involved in creating the framework. The co-operation of other event agencies around Australia is being sought. This project is not yet complete.
- (2) Inquiries to whether and when the framework will be available should be directed to Edith Cowan University's School of Marketing and Tourism in the Faculty of Business.
- (3) Not applicable
- (4) Inquiries as to when the project will be completed should be directed to Edith Cowan University.

TOURISM, NORTHCLIFFE

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

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the need to establish a range of winter attractions in the Northcliffe area?
- (2) Is the Minister also aware of the potential of Lane Poole Falls to provide such a winter attraction?
- (3) If so, is the Minister also aware that to create Lane Poole Falls as an attractive tourist destination that steps will need to be taken to stop logging on the Muirillup 3 and 4 coupes?

- (4) Will the Minister make representations to his Cabinet colleague, the Minister for the Environment, to preserve the Muirillup 3 and 4 coupes?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) Yes. Each year the Western Australian Tourism Commission conducts a highly successful campaign known as Winter Breaks which encourages Western Australians to take a short break within areas of the South West, such as Northcliffe. It is important that these visitors have access to a range of winter attractions to ensure their stay is enjoyable.
- (2) Yes, Lane Poole Falls is attractive all year round.
- (3)-(4) I would be happy to bring this issue to the attention of my Cabinet colleague, the Hon Minister for the Environment.

TOURISM, COST OF ADVERTISING ON WA TOURISM COMMISSION'S INTERNET SITE

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

- (1) Is the Minister aware that some small tourism operators have expressed reservations about advertising on the Western Australian Tourism Commission Internet site due to the high cost of doing so?
- (2) How did the Government arrive at the cost of \$685 per accommodation operator?
- (3) Is that cost designed to -
 - (a) recoup some or all the funds spent on developing the Internet site; and
 - (b) provide an income stream for the Commission/Government?
- (4) Does the Government expect to recoup some or all of the cost of developing the Internet site?
- (5) If so, what percentage of the amount spent does the Government expect to recoup?
- (6) Apart from the \$685 charge, does the Commission/Government expect to receive an income stream or indeed any income from the Internet site?
- (7) If so, how will that income be realised?
- (8) In dollar terms, how much is expected to be realised?
- (9) Is the Minister prepared to open up the site to every operator who wishes to use it without cost or without any upfront cost?
- (10) If not, why not?
- (11) Does the Minister accept that -
 - (a) some small tourism operators will not use the Internet due to the cost involved; and
 - (b) tourism dollars will be lost if potential tourists are not provided with a the broadest choices over the Internet?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) Yes. As a result of industry feedback, the WATC is considering introducing a third subscription level of \$185 (gross) which will provide smaller operators with the opportunity to include their business name, contact details and brief description about their business.
- (2) In September 1998, Ernst and Young developed the price structure in consultation with the Regional Tourism Associations (RTA). The WATC and the RTAs then jointly agreed on a cost level that met the objectives of the cost revenue model established by Ernst & Young. The WATC only receives 20% of the subscription fees, with 80% retained in the regional areas by the RTAs and tourist bureaux for their roles in the decentralised management of the system.
- (3)
 - (a) The revenue is designed to provide the RTAs and tourist bureaux with an additional source of revenue in order for them to continue to meet their marketing and visitor servicing obligations.
 - (b) 20% of the subscription fee that is returned to the WATC covers the annual operating costs and partially funds future enhancements.
- (4) No. Although, if the WATC was to receive all projected revenue, the total development costs would be recouped in 2003.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) In addition to subscription fees, revenue is generated from selling banner advertisements and other sponsorship opportunities on the web site at commercial rates.

- (8) As previously indicated in (2), Ernst and Young developed a cost revenue model in consultation with the RTAs which predicted the total revenue. The total revenue was estimated at \$282,800 from PowerTOUR subscription fees. Other income from alternate Web site Advertising opportunities was estimated by Ernst and Young at \$67,200. Of this revenue, the split will be:
- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------|
| (a) | Western Australian Tourism Commission | \$150,160 |
| (b) | Tourist Bureaux (including Metropolitan Tourism Associations) | \$141,400 |
| (c) | Regional Tourism Associations | \$ 58,440 |
- (9) No.
- (10) The WATC has a role to play in promoting Western Australia as a tourist destination. It also has a philosophy that where businesses are being promoted via WATC activities and receive a commercial benefit, that operators have an obligation to fund part of the cost associated with the activity.
- (11) (a) The WATC views its new web site as an essential tool in the world wide distribution of tourism information and product, and is satisfied that the introduction of the third subscription level of \$185 (gross) is sufficient to allow every operator the opportunity to participate.
- (b) No. The WATC is increasing the number of subscribers on the web site daily, broadening the choice of tourism product.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING, FACILITIES FOR YOUTH IN REGIONAL AREAS

317. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) As a matter of policy, does the Government support young people in the regions being provided with training opportunities that enable them to acquire new skills in or near the region in which they live rather than having to travel and live in the metropolitan area to acquire such skills?
- (2) Is the Minister aware research shows that young people living in the regions are keen to stay in the regions providing they can get access to training opportunities?
- (3) Given the potential employment opportunities the tourism industry has to offer young people in the South West, will the Minister ensure TAFE bids for and delivers courses in Manjimup and Bunbury on tourism related subjects ie tourism guides and the course recently approved by the Outdoor Recreation Council of Australia?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) Yes. The Government has focussed on improving training opportunities for young people in regional areas by increasing the level of delivery in rural locations. This is evidenced by a 13.7% expansion in contracted regional training from 1998 to 1999. The total share of State-wide training delivery in regional areas has also grown, from 24.9% in 1998 to almost 25.9% in 1999. A good example of the Government's commitment to regional training was the establishment in 1998 of plumbing and gasfitting programs in the Great Southern and South West, delivered by the Plumbing and Painting Industry Skills Technology and Training Centre. Prior to this initiative, plumbing and gasfitting training was not available in these regions. Young people now have the opportunity to train locally, rather than travelling to Perth for their training. The Government's commitment to regional training is also demonstrated by the substantial commitment to capital works in regional areas. Some examples of such works include:

- the development of a marine and fishing education and training centre in Geraldton;
- new TAFE centres in Katanning and Moora;
- redevelopment and expansion of TAFE facilities in Broome
- redevelopment of trades, science and engineering facilities at the Bunbury TAFE Campus

The Government supports the introduction and expansion of youth employment and training initiatives within regional Western Australia to provide young people with opportunities to acquire new skills within their local environment. The Department of Training and Employment is currently trialing the Cyber Job Link program in the Wheatbelt region as part of the State Government's youth initiative, Access All Areas. The Cyber Job Link program has been designed to provide opportunities for people in remote or rural locations to access training courses and employment assistance over the Extranet and available through the local Telecentre network. Other Access All Areas initiatives that have been implemented into regional Western Australia include; the expansion of the You Unlimited: Income Generating Lifestyles program which has been designed to provide the skills necessary to explore the new world of work; and the Aboriginal School Based Traineeship which has proved to be highly successful in assisting young Aboriginals in the transition from education to employment within the Fitzroy Crossing, Port Hedland, Goldfields, Albany, Bunbury and Kwinana regions.

- (2) Yes. I am aware that research conducted at the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia Conference 'The New Millennium: What About Young People?' shows that many young Western Australians wish to remain in the regions. The State Government is providing opportunities for these people to access employment and training opportunities in their local regions through the TAFE Regional College Network and the developments currently being made by West One with the services provided through the Telecentres. It is also important to note that this research failed to assess the desires of young people who have previously left the regions to obtain employment. Regional employment and training initiatives should not be solely based upon assisting young people wishing to

stay within their local areas. As such the state government is currently supporting youths in obtaining employment or training placements throughout the state with the use of the Job Link assistance agencies.

- (3) A significant proportion of funding for training by the South West Regional College of TAFE is provided by way of an annual Delivery and Performance Agreement with the Department of Training and Employment. In 1999 the College has been funded via this agreement to deliver tourism programs to approximately 190 students in 4 separate locations: Bunbury, Busselton, Nannup and Manjimup. The programs cover a broad range of curricula such as tour guiding, eco-tourism, heritage and cultural tourism, tourism operations, sales and marketing. The importance of tourism to regional development in the South West has been recognised by the fact that tourism training comprises approximately 5% of the funded training effort at South West Regional College, with only 6 of a total of 40 industry groupings achieving higher levels of effort.

TOURIST CENTRES, FUNDING

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

- (1) Have any tourist centres/bureaus expressed reservations or opposition to the lower funding levels to be provided the 1999-2000 financial year?
- (2) Have all tourist centres/bureaus that receive Government funding expressed support for the change in the funding formula?
- (3) What is the rationale for changing the funding formula for tourism centres/bureaus?
- (4) Have all tourist centres/bureaus that receive government funding secured alternative funding so that such centres will be able to remain open with paid staff for at least the same number of hours a week as such centres used to open before funding levels started to decline?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1)-(3) Prior to 1997/98, the WATC had a Regional Tourism Policy which provided a mechanism to fund both the State's Regional Tourism Associations and the tourist bureau network. Since 1997/98, the WATC has had in place signed agreements with the ten Regional Tourism Associations whereby all the funds that were previously allocated to both the RTAs and tourist bureaux are now paid to the RTAs only. In all cases the tourist bureaux and local government authorities signed letters of approval accepting the new direction for regional tourism funding in WA. The agreements are designed to provide greater autonomy to the RTAs and regional tourism in general. One of the performance criteria under the terms of the agreements between the WATC and RTAs is that they need to "support and facilitate an appropriate level of visitor servicing" in their region. Essentially it is up to the individual RTA to determine what level of support, including financial, would be given to each tourist bureau in the region. The WATC has no involvement in determining the level of financial support paid by each RTA to their respective tourist bureaux.
- (4) The WATC is currently not privy to information about alternative funding sources that individual tourist bureaux have secured in WA.

TOURISM, NORTHCLIFFE

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

- (1) Is the Minister prepared to meet with Northcliffe tourism operators to discuss the future of the tourism industry in the town and surrounds?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) Will the Minister travel to Northcliffe to speak to the tourism operators?
- (4) If so, when?
- (5) If not, why not?
- (6) Given the importance to old growth forests to the tourism industry in Northcliffe, will the Minister prevail on his Cabinet colleague, the Minister for the Environment to visit the town and meet with tourism operators at the same time as the Minister?
- (7) If not, why not?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) The Minister is prepared to meet with tourism operators from Northcliffe and representatives from Tourism South West and the Western Australian Tourism Commission. Tourism South West is the recognised regional tourism association for this region and is responsible for the marketing interests of the region.
- (2)-(7) Prior to the establishment of a meeting time, the Minister will request Tourism South West and a representative from the WATC to discuss the issues that are concerning operators in Northcliffe and provide a summary of the key issues.

TOURISM, NORTHCLIFFE

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

- (1) Does the Government/Western Australian Tourism Commission give the same exposure to the Northcliffe area as the Margaret River region?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) What action does the Government/Western Australian Tourism Commission intend to take to give greater focus to the Northcliffe area?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) The role of the WATC is not to promote particular towns but rather generic tourism experiences that are unique to Western Australia. In each region there is a Regional Tourism Association, which is supported by a number of town based associations. From the WATC's perspective, Tourism South West (TSW) is the recognised regional tourism association for the South West. The WATC provides the same opportunity for all RTAs, towns and tourism operators in every region to participate in its cooperative marketing programs. Any additional exposure that is gained by Margaret River results from the financial contributions that are being made by individual tourism businesses in the Margaret River area and the cooperative manner in which Margaret River works with the RTA.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The WATC encourages tourism operators in the Northcliffe area to forge a stronger alliance with TSW and would encourage all of its operators to participate in some of the WATC's key marketing initiatives such as Winter Breaks. The same cooperative opportunities are offered to each tourism operator and these are outlined in the WATC's recently released document *Partnership to Success*.

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, BUDGET

324. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission (GEDC) budget for 1998-99 and ask the Minister -

- (a) why has the amount of \$150,000 allocated to Intermodal Freight Facility remained largely unspent;
- (b)
 - (i) will the unspent balance of \$110,168 be rolled over to the current year budget; and
 - (ii) if not, why not;
- (c) what is the GEDC's current strategy in relation to the development of the Intermodal Freight Facility;
- (d) why has the amount of \$100,000 allocated to the Mungary Heavy Industry Estate remained unspent;
- (e)
 - (i) will the unspent balance of \$150,000 be rolled over to the current year budget; and
 - (ii) if not, why not; and
- (f) what is the GEDC's current strategy in relation to the development of the Estate?

Mr COWAN replied:

This question was previously asked as PQ 3403. The following answer was correct as at 22 July 1999, on which it was sent to the member's Electorate Office.

- (a) The \$150 000 was allocated to seek Expressions of Interest to 'Build, Own and Operate' an intermodal freight handling facility in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The selection process consisted of three phases. The Expression of Interest phase, request for Proposal phase and contract negotiation and execution with the successful bidder. The Expression of Interest document was released in June 1998. At the 31 July 1998 closing date two companies - Toll Group and Asea Brown Boveri (ABB) had submitted proposals. The Toll Group submission indicated that its preferred site was within the existing Westrail managed West Kalgoorlie Freight terminal site. The ABB proposal did not nominate a site. The Evaluation Committee recommended that both companies proceed to the 'Request for Proposal' (RFP) phase. Prior to the conclusion of the RFP phase on 30 October 1998, Toll advised that it would not be proceeding to submit an RFP proposal and has already finalised a three year lease agreement with Westrail in relation to the same site at West Kalgoorlie that it had advanced in the EOI phase. The RFP proposal submitted by ABB was deemed 'non-conforming' by the Evaluation Committee in that it failed to adequately address the Selection Criteria. As there was no other 'live' proponent left in the EOI process, the process was terminated. As the process was not completed only \$39 832 out of the \$150 000 had been expended.
- (b)
 - (i) Yes.
 - (ii) Not applicable.
- (c) GEDC and Transport are keeping a watching brief on developments to see if there is any future interest in a common user facility by the private sector.
- (d) The \$100 000 was allocated to complete a study costing the extension of gas to the Mungari Heavy Industry Estate. The Mungari Advisory Board researched this issue and was advised that most gas providers can estimate the cost. Based on the distance, \$65 000 per kilometre was given as the estimated cost to extend the gas pipeline to Mungari. Supplied with this information, the Advisory Board decided not to proceed with a study.

- (e) (i) Yes.
(ii) Not applicable.
- (f) The original Mungari Advisory Board was appointed for a two year period, which expired in June 1999. A new Advisory Board will be announced within the next couple of months. GEDC and the Industry Development Centre is continuing to promote the Mungari Heavy Industry Estate to potential developers.

REGIONAL HEADWORKS DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

328. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to the Regional Headworks Development Scheme and ask the Minister -

- (a) what was the primary nature of business / trade / manufacture of each of the 44 recipients of funds during the -
(i) 1998-99; and
(ii) 1999-2000;
- (b) if the grant was made to facilitate a variety of commercial matters, will the Minister provide a brief description of those;
- (c) what, in each such grant, was the particular utility or service for which assistance was sought; and
- (d) what other steps are being taken to facilitate or subsidise headworks charges in regional Western Australia?

Mr COWAN replied:

Twenty-three projects received funds in the 1998-1999 financial year. As indicated in the response to (a)(ii), one of these projects has also received funding, and one project is expected to receive funding, in the 1999-2000 financial year. To date, only six projects have been funded in 1999-2000. As shown in the response to (a)(ii), another fourteen applications that have been approved for funding in this financial year and are currently in various stages of pre-payment processing. There is currently doubt about whether another three proponents, which have received funding approval, will proceed with their project. In addition to these, the Scheme's Advisory Panel has assessed nine applications. I will consider the Advisory Panel's Assessment Report on these applications shortly. Information on future approved applications will be available at an appropriate time.

- (a) (i) Funded Applicant: Town of Port Hedland Cattle Sale Yards (Town of Port Hedland)
Primary Nature of Business: Local Government Authority (Cattle Sale Yards) Service: Power
- Funded Applicant: All Quip Engineering
Primary Nature of Business: Timber Mouldings and Agricultural Implement Manufacturer
Service: Power
- Funded Applicant: Notre Dame Kimberley Centre
Primary Nature of Business: Regional Campus, Private University
Service: Power
- Funded Applicant: Indian Ocean Café
Primary Nature of Business: Café and Commercial Premises
Service: Water, Sewerage, Telecommunications
- Funded Applicant: I & T Peirce, Duranillin
Primary Nature of Business: Lakeside Camping Site on Farm
Service: Power
- Funded Applicant: North Midlands Contracting
Primary Nature of Business: Concreting, Backhoe Hire, Earthworks, Concrete Products
Service: Power
- Funded Applicant: General Engineering and Maintenance Services
Primary Nature of Business: Mobile Engineering Service
Service: Power
- Funded Applicant: Tammin Air Conditioning and Refrigeration
Primary Nature of Business: Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Service
Service: Power
- Funded Applicant: Camena Management Pty Ltd
Primary Nature of Business: Marron Farm Component of a Diversified Rural Business
Service: Power
- Funded Applicant: Beaufort River Meats
Primary Nature of Business: Meat Processing
Service: Power
- Funded Applicant: Yamatji Media Aboriginal Corporation
Primary Nature of Business: Radio Broadcasting
Service: Power
- Funded Applicant: AAA Egg Company
Primary Nature of Business: Egg Hatchery
Service: Power

Funded Applicant: Donnelly Timber Company
Primary Nature of Business: Timber Mill and Kiln
Service: Power

Funded Applicant: Porongurup Winery
Primary Nature of Business: Winery
Service: Power

Funded Applicant: Fairbridge Western Australia
Primary Nature of Business: Youth Services Facility
Service: Water, Sewerage

Funded Applicant: HNH Grazing
Primary Nature of Business: Caravan Bays, Chalets, Aquaculture (Diversified Farm)
Service: Power

Funded Applicant: Drummond Cove Holiday Park
Primary Nature of Business: Caravan and Chalet Accommodation
Service: Water

Funded Applicant: Modern Holdings Pty Ltd
Primary Nature of Business: Mineral Processing Equipment Manufacturer
Service: Power

Funded Applicant: Hyden Business Development Pty Ltd
Primary Nature of Business: Community Cooperative for the Provision of Work Space
Service: Power

Funded Applicant: Gascoyne Gold
Primary Nature of Business: Cooperative Tomato Processing/Packaging Facility
Service: Power

Funded Applicant: City of Albany
Primary Nature of Business: Local Government Authority (Commercial Centre)
Service: Power, Water, Sewerage

Part-Funded Applicant: Shire of Merredin
Primary Nature of Business: Local Government Authority (Airfield)
Service: Power

(ii) Six enterprises have been funded so far this financial year:

Funded Applicant: Hyden Tourist Development Company
Primary Nature of Business: Tourist Facilities including Airfield
Service: Power, Water

Funded Applicant: Ningaloo Lodge
Primary Nature of Business: Tourist Accommodation
Service: Water, Sewerage

Funded Applicant: Indian Ocean Café
Primary Nature of Business: Café and Commercial Premises
Service: Power

Funded Applicant: Shire of Corrigin
Primary Nature of Business: Local Government Authority (Industrial Subdivision)
Service: Power, Water

Funded Applicant: Dazabel Pty Ltd
Primary Nature of Business: Vineyard and Winery
Service: Power

Funded Applicant: SS & SA Brindal
Primary Nature of Business: Cattle Feedlot & Vermiculture (Farm)
Service: Power

Fourteen applications have been approved for funding and are currently in various stages of pre-payment processing:

Part-Funded Applicant: Shire of Merredin
Primary Nature of Business: Local Government Authority (Airfield)
Service: Water

Applicant: Cambinata Yabbies
Primary Nature of Business: Yabby processing
Service: Power

Applicant: Lal Pty Ltd
Primary Nature of Business: Tourist Accommodation (Part of Diversified Business)
Service: Water, Sewerage

Applicant: Great Southern Regional Cattle Sale Yards (City of Albany and Shire of Plantagenet Joint Venture)
Primary Nature of Business: Local Government Authorities (Cattle Sale Yards)
Service: Power, Water, Sewerage, Drainage, Telecommunications

Applicant: Shire of Goomalling
 Primary Nature of Business: Local Government Authority (Industrial Estate)
 Service: Power, Water, Drainage

Applicant: Shire of West Arthur
 Nature of Business: Local Government Authority (Health & Resource Centre)
 Service: Power, Telecommunications

Applicant: Ferngrove Vineyards
 Primary Nature of Business: Vineyard & Winery
 Service: Power

Applicant: E.G. Green & Sons
 Primary Nature of Business: Tourist Accommodation
 Service: Power, Water, Sewerage, Drainage

Applicant: Avonmore Holdings Pty Ltd
 Primary Nature of Business: Diversified Business including Tourist Accommodation, Prawn Trawling, Property & Land Development, Crocodile Farm
 Service: Power, Water, Sewerage

Applicant: APBT Australia Pty Ltd
 Primary Nature of Business: Primary Canola Oil Processing
 Service: Power, Water, Sewerage

Applicant: Southern Wire Pty Ltd
 Primary Nature of Business: Wire Products Manufacturer
 Service: Power

Applicant: Western Resources Recovery
 Primary Nature of Business: Liquid Waste Management, Resource Recovery, Recycling
 Service: Power, Water

Applicant: Shire of Narembeen
 Primary Nature of Business: Local Government (Industrial Estate)
 Service: Power, Water

At this stage, there is some uncertainty about whether the following applicants will proceed with projects for which funding has been approved:

Applicant: Bayside Abalone
 Primary Nature of Business: Aquaculture
 Service: Power

Applicant: GCM Engineering
 Primary Nature of Business: Diversified Business including General Engineering, Structural Steel Fabrication & Erection, Mining Maintenance & Construction, Wharf Construction, Pipeline & Tank Construction, Stainless Steel & Aluminium Fabrication
 Service: Power, Water

Applicant: Junction Caravan Park
 Primary Nature of Business: Tourist Accommodation
 Service: Water

- (b) Funding has been approved on the basis that applicants undertake the commercial purposes as described in their applications. All projects listed in (a)(i) and (a)(ii) have had services connected for purposes that closely relate to the primary nature of the applicant's business. Possible variations are indicated in parenthesis. The member should be aware that service extensions funded through the Scheme may enable subsequent connections by other businesses. A purpose of the Scheme is to extend the regional infrastructure so that other existing or future commercial or industrial development can be facilitated.
- (c) Refer (a) above.
- (d) The Department of Commerce and Trade, in conjunction with the Water Corporation, has investigated options for providing assistance to alleviate the high cost of connecting essential services for residential developments. I have received a report and am currently considering the matter. Through the operation of Community Service Obligations, the Water Corporation provides assistance to regional businesses that reduces the cost of headworks charges based on the full cost recovery of providing a service.

MINE CLOSURES

330. Ms ANWYL to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

I refer to question No 3128 of 1999 and ask the Minister -

- (a) how many of the mines listed in Tabled Paper No. 1019 have been closed;
- (b) does the Department of Minerals and Energy receive advance notice of projected closures; and
- (c) if so, what economic forecasting has been done referring to the closures referred to the answer to (a) above?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (a) Tabled Paper No. 1019 shows a list of 40 companies that paid gold royalty in 1998/99 in relation to 49 gold royalty projects. Nine of these gold royalty projects have been closed.
- (b) Yes. Under Section 42 of the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994*, prior notice of the suspension or abandonment of mining operations must be given by the manager or the principal employer at a mine to the District Inspector of Mines.
- (c) The Department of Minerals and Energy estimates future gold production making use of projections provided by companies and prevailing economic and industry indicators.

COLLEGES OF TAFE, TOURISM TRAINING AND EDUCATION COURSES

332. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) What tourism training and education courses are conducted by Technical and Further Education (TAFE)?
- (2) Approximately how many students undertook such courses in -
 - (a) 1996;
 - (b) 1997; and
 - (c) 1998?
- (3) What was the percentage of students who attended such courses -
 - (a) interstate; and
 - (b) overseas,
 for the following years -
 - (i) 1996;
 - (ii) 1997; and
 - (iii) 1998?
- (4) What is the total number of students enrolled for such courses this year?
- (5) What is the percentage of students enrolled in such courses from -
 - (a) interstate; and
 - (b) overseas?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) AVTS Tourism Traineeship
 Certificate II in Aboriginal Cultural Instruction and Tour Guiding
 Certificate II in Tour Guiding
 Certificate III in Tourism
 Certificate III in Tourism (Managing And Guiding)
 Certificate I in Tourism (Tourist Attractions)
 Certificate II in Tourism (Tourist Attractions)
 Certificate III in Tourism (Tourist Attractions)
 Certificate III in Tourism (Tourist Information Services)
 Certificate II in Aboriginal Cultural Tourism
 Certificate II in Aboriginal Cultural Tourism
 Certificate II in Tourism (Indigenous)
 Certificate I of Tourism (Retail Travel/Wholesale Operations/Info Services/Attractions/Meetings)
 Certificate II of Tourism (Retail Travel/Wholesale Operations/Info Services/Attractions/Meetings)
 Certificate III of Tourism (Attractions, Information Services, Wholesale Operations: Dom/Inbound)
 Certificate IV of Tourism (Attractions, Information Services, Wholesale Operations: Dom/Inbound)
 Diploma of Tourism (Attractions, Information Services, Wholesale Operations Dom/Inbound)
 Advanced Diploma of Tourism (Attractions, Information Services, Wholesale Operations: Dom/Inbound)
 Certificate III of Tourism (Meetings)
 Certificate IV of Tourism (Meetings)
 Diploma of Tourism (Meetings)
 Certificate of Tourism
 Certificate III in Heritage and Interpretive Tourism
 Certificate of Retail Tourism
- (2) (a) 554
 (b) 933
 (c) 1056
- (3) (a) This information is not available.
 (b) 1996 0%
 1997 2.7%
 1998 5.6%
- (4) (a) 754

- (5) (a) This information is not available.
 (b) 4.5%

TOURISM QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM, FUNDING

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

- (1) How much was allocated to the Tourism Quality Assurance Program in -
 (a) 1996-97;
 (b) 1997-98; and
 (c) 1998-99?
- (2) How much has been allocated to the Tourism Quality Assurance Program in the -
 (a) 1999-2000 budget estimates; and
 (b) the forward estimates of the 1999-2000 State budget?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) \$300,000 over three years was provided to Tourism Council Australia (TCA) to assist in developing and implementing a Quality Assurance Program for Western Australia. This was with the expectation that the program would go national, via the local branch of TCA.
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.
- It is the Government's expectation that the TCA and its members will develop the program to self-sufficiency through implementation in the private sector.

TOURISM FORUMS

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

- (1) Is a forum of all tourism regions within Western Australia held regularly to advise the Western Australian Tourism Commission on marketing initiatives for intra state tourism?
- (2) How many of these forums were held -
 (a) in 1998; and
 (b) will be held in 1999?
- (3) What was the nature of the advice provided by each forum?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) Yes, known as the Regional Marketing Advisory Council (RMAC), it works in partnership with the WATC to discuss all aspects of marketing and regional tourism. The RMAC is the formalisation of the Regional Tourism Association's (RTAs) Marketing Manager Group which had been meeting for over two years.
- (2) In both 1998 and 1999, quarterly meetings have and will be held.
- (3) The RMAC provides an excellent opportunity for the RTAs to meet on a formal basis to discuss and advise on marketing issues for the Intrastate, Interstate and International markets as they impact on regional tourism.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING, PROMOTION OF CASUAL WORK

342. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Does the Minister endorse the active promotion of casual work as an alternative to traditional patterns of employment for young people, as advocated by the Western Australian Department of Training in several recent publications?
- (2) Is it misleading to suggest that casual rates of pay received for three days employment equal five days wages in a full-time job when casual rates include pro rata compensation for leave and other entitlements?
- (3) On the basis of research and the expertise available to the Western Australian Department of Training is the Minister or his department able to suggest examples of alternative employment other than the outsourcing of domestic duties such as ironing and lawnmowing?
- (4) Do the various pronouncements by the Minister and his Department convey disjointed, confusing and contradictory messages?
- (5) If so, when is the Government going to develop an employment strategy which addresses the issues of employment and unemployment in an integrated manner?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) No. The Minister does not necessarily endorse the promotion of casual work as an alternative to traditional patterns of employment for young people. However, the current labour market is characterised by an increasing

casualisation of the workforce. It is incumbent upon the Western Australian Department of Training to prepare young people entering the workforce for the current conditions. It is important that young people, and for that matter older people who have recently become unemployed, understand the current labour market and how to manage within it. If they are offered part time work they need to use the jobs to build on their skills and enhance their employability with a view to eventually moving to the type of employment they are seeking.

- (2) It has not been suggested that casual, full-time or contract working arrangements are the same or equal in terms of either remuneration or conditions. However, in today's world it is necessary to consider all options when trying to make a living. Often it is necessary to package work from a number of sources in order to meet life style and income needs.
- (3) The Western Australian Department of Training has at no stage advocated the outsourcing of domestic duties such as ironing and lawnmowing as the sole range of alternative employment options. Some of the other employment growth areas that have been cited in recent statements include call centres, animation and web site design, recreation and leisure related jobs.
- (4) No.
- (5) See above, therefore not applicable. However, regarding the 'development of an employment strategy', the labour market activities undertaken by the Western Australian Department of Training that address the issues of employment and unemployment are carried out in a coordinated and integrated manner. For example Access All Areas has been designed with the specific intent of increasing employment and training places for young people and promoting a more positive message about the range of options available in Western Australia. A very good example of the Government's integrated approach to employment is in the area of Home Based Business. The Department of Training undertook research which identified that a staggering one in eight households in Western Australia accommodates a Home Based Business. By working cooperatively with Local Government employment service providers, local business organisations, Small Business Development Corporation etc the employment capacity of these businesses is being promoted. A pilot project in Mandurah saw 120 new employees, including 16 trainees, placed into Home Based Businesses over a three month period. The employment services providers admitted that prior to the pilot they had not explored this growing market sector for new job placements. This is typical of the approach being taken through all the Government's employment initiatives. These include:
 - Apprenticeships and Traineeships
 - Mature Aged Employment Strategy
 - State Employment Assistance Strategy, including Joblink and Aboriginal Economic and Employment Development Officer Program
 - Landcare Training Initiative
 - the increasing involvement of industry in the provision of Vocational Education and Training
 - other Access All Areas initiatives

All these initiatives involve an integrated approach from an extensive range of organisations from the three tiers of government, industry and the non-government sector.

DEPARTMENT OF TRAINING, REFURBISHMENT

343. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Employment and Training:

For the 1998-99 financial year -

- (a) what was the total estimated cost to refurbish the premises occupied by the Western Australian Department of Training at 151 Royal Street, East Perth;
- (b) how much has been spent to date;
- (c) are there any outstanding accounts still to be finalised; and
- (d) is the refurbishment complete?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (a) \$633,000
- (b) \$560,898
- (c)-(d) No.

COLLEGES OF TAFE, MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCILS

344. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Employment and Training:

For each college established under the Vocational Education and Training Act 1996 -

- (a) what are the names of, and positions held by, members of the governing council;
- (b) what was the commencement date and expiry date of each member's position;
- (c) what is the remuneration, or fee, paid for each position?

Mr KIERATH replied:

CENTRAL METROPOLITAN COLLEGE OF TAFE

(a)-(b)

	Position	Appointment	Expiry
Mr Terry SMITH	Chairperson	01/01/98	31/12/99
Ms Therese TEMBY	Deputy Chairperson	01/01/98	31/12/99
Prof Michael GRANT	Member	01/01/98	31/12/99
Ms Ann POUBLON	Member	01/01/98	31/12/99
Ms Ann McBETH	Member	01/01/98	31/12/99
Mr Stewart KEY	Member	01/01/98	31/12/99
Mr Paul KRISTENSEN	Member	15/06/98	31/12/99
Dr Yit-Seng YOW	Member	13/07/98	31/12/99
Mr Brian PATERSON	Managing Director	ex officio	

(c) Nil

WEST COAST COLLEGE OF TAFE

(a)-(b)

Name	Position	Appointment	Expiry
Mr Terry TYZACK	Chairperson	01/10/97	31/12/99
Prof Leonie STILL	Deputy Chairperson	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr Keith LINGARD	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Christine SMITH	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr Angus SLATER	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr Francis ZHU	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Jan STEWART	Member	14/06/99	31/12/01
Ms Deborah WHITE	Member	14/06/99	31/12/01
Mr Ralph DAWSON	A/Managing Director	ex officio	

(c) Nil.

SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN COLLEGE OF TAFE

(a)-(b)

Name	Position	Appointment	Expiry
Dr Maureen SMITH	Chairperson	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr Robert ISAACS	Deputy Chairperson	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mrs Kerry HARDWICK	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr Hugh BEGGS	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Victoria MORGAN	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Jeanette McQUEEN	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr Stefano GISMONDI	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Angela ALLEN	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr Brian COURTNEY	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Dr Geof GALE	Managing Director	ex officio	

(c) Nil.

SOUTH METROPOLITAN COLLEGE OF TAFE

(a)-(b)

Name	Position	Appointment	Expiry
Commodore Clem LITTLETON AO (Rtd)	Chairperson	01/01/98	31/12/99
Mr Donald EDWARDS	Deputy Chairperson	01/01/98	31/12/99
Ms Jenny ARCHIBALD	Member	01/01/98	31/12/99
Ms Sandra HILL	Member	01/01/98	31/12/99
Ms Diana NEWMAN AM	Member	01/01/98	31/12/99
Mr Kim BAILEY	Member	01/01/98	31/12/99
Ms Carmela BRIGUGLIO	Member	01/01/98	31/12/99
Ms Margaret WATROBA	Member	01/01/98	31/12/99
Mr Michael JAKINS	Member	05/10/98	31/12/99
Mr Malcolm GOFF	A/Managing Director	ex officio	

(c) Nil.

MIDLAND COLLEGE OF TAFE

(a)-(b)

Name	Position	Appointment	Expiry
Mr John STEFANELLI OAM	Chairperson	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Anne FERGUSSON- STEWART	Deputy Chairperson	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr Bruce CULLAM	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Kate LAMONT	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Dr Ron GODDARD	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Shelley PIKE	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr John ELLERY	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Dr Nic GARA	Managing Director	ex officio	

(c) Nil.

SOUTH WEST REGIONAL COLLEGE OF TAFE

(a)-(b)

Name	Position	Appointment	Expiry
Mr Dan PERKINS	Chairperson	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Roseanne PIMM	Deputy Chairperson	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr Ross MARSHALL	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr Conor LAGAN	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Denise JENKINS	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr Ron MacLEAN	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr Domonic FIGLIOMENI	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Jan SPRIGGS	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Melissa HYDER	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Jan PEDERSEN	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr Don PUNCH	Member	03/05/99	31/12/01
Mr Ian PIGOTT	Member	03/05/99	31/12/01
Mr Robert SMILLIE	Managing Director	ex officio	

(c) Nil.

GREAT SOUTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE OF TAFE

(a)-(b)

Name	Position	Appointment	Expiry
Mr Christopher PARR	Chairperson	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Annette McGREADY	Deputy Chairperson	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr Len SMITH	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Valerie MILNE	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Ainslie EVANS	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Marilyn SMITH	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr John WAUTERS	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr Robert EMERY	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Lidia ROZLAPA	Managing Director	ex officio	

(c) Nil.

CENTRAL WEST REGIONAL COLLEGE OF TAFE

(a)-(b)

Name	Position	Appointment	Expiry
Dr Chris COOPER	Chairperson	10/11/97	31/12/99
VACANT	Deputy Chairperson		
Mr Scott de KRUIJFF	Member	10/11/97	31/12/99
Mrs Debbie O'TOOLE	Member	10/11/97	31/12/99
Mrs Linda GUTHERIE	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr David RICHARDS	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr David I'ANSON	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr Jan ROFF	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Sheila FLANAGAN	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Georgina PITT	Member	06/04/98	31/12/99
Mr Wayne COLLYER	Managing Director	ex officio	

(c) Nil.

HEDLAND COLLEGE OF TAFE
(a)-(b)

Name	Position	Appointment	Expiry
Mr John WOOLFREY	Chairperson	01/01/98	31/12/99
Mrs Jean AGALE	Deputy Chairperson	01/01/98	31/12/99
Mrs Anita GRACE	Member	01/01/98	31/12/99
Mr John JAKOBSON	Member	01/01/98	31/12/99
Mr Daryl CALVERT	Member	01/01/98	31/12/99
Mr Kevin CLARKE	Member	01/01/98	31/12/99
Ms Cheryl MACKAY	Member	01/01/98	31/12/99
Ms Mary NEALON	Member	22/03/99	31/12/01
Ms Joyce DRUMMOND	Member	22/03/99	31/12/01
Ms Vanessa KINSELLA	Member	22/03/99	31/12/01
Mr Ian LOWTH	A/Managing Director	ex officio	

(c) Nil.

KARRATHA COLLEGE OF TAFE
(a)-(b)

Name	Position	Appointment	Expiry
Mr Graeme ROWLEY	Chairperson	06/07/98	31/12/99
Assoc. Prof William COOPER	Deputy Chairperson	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Judie PETTITT	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr Peter LONG	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Peta NOTTLE	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr Lloyd KAPITZKE	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Mary BUTTERWORTH	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Doreen BLUM	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Mr William SWETMAN	Member	01/10/97	31/12/99
Ms Jessica WORRALL	Member	22/02/99	31/12/2001
Dr Peter SMITH	Managing Director	ex officio	

(c) Nil.

LABOUR MARKET INDEX, PUBLICATION

345. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Employment and Training:

What is the frequency of publication of the new Labour Market Index developed by the Centre for Labour Market Research and the Western Australian Department of Training?

Mr KIERATH replied:

Quarterly.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING, QUALITY ENDORSED TRAINING ORGANISATIONS

346. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) How many private training organisations have applied to become a quality endorsed training organisation under the Western Australian Quality Endorsed Training Organisation (QETO) System?
- (2) How many private training organisations have been endorsed as a quality endorsed training organisation under the Western Australian QETO system?
- (3) What are the names of all the private training organisations registered as Quality Endorsed Training Organisations under the Western Australian QETO system?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) 25
- (2) 21 (includes community based and not for profit training organisations)
- (3) Listed below are the names of the 21 private training organisations to achieve QETO status:

3CM Pty Ltd
 Albany Worklink Inc
 Aragon and Associates
 Asstock Pty Ltd (trading as Oceans and Regional Training Services)
 Australian Institute of Management
 Australian Training Institutes
 College of Retail Training
 Dillon Whitelaw & Associates
 Driver Training and Education Centre
 Edwards College Pty Ltd
 Green Skills Inc
 Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention
 KETE Inc
 Logistics Training Australia
 Meerilinga Young Children's Foundation Inc (trading as Meerilinga Training College)
 Murray Job Link Inc
 Perth Institute of Business and Technology
 STEPS Inc
 TRACMIN
 Westnet Employment Services
 WesTrac Training Centre, WesTrac Equipment Pty Ltd

HERITAGE FUND

347. Ms McHALE to the Minister representing the Minister for Heritage:

How much money is in the Heritage Fund as at 30 June 1999?

Mr KIERATH replied:

The Heritage Council of Western Australia's operating account at 30 June 1999 was \$917 894.

HERITAGE FUND

384. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Heritage:

(1) How much money was held within the Heritage Fund as at 30 June 1999?

(2) For each of the following financial years, how many entries have been removed from the State Register, and how many of these had been registered on a permanent basis -

- (a) 1991-92;
- (b) 1992-93;
- (c) 1993-94;
- (d) 1994-95;
- (e) 1995-96;
- (f) 1996-97;
- (g) 1997-98; and
- (h) 1998-99?

(3) For each of the following financial years, how many places were subject to Ministerial direction that they not be registered, in accordance with Section 52 of the Heritage Act 1990 -

- (a) 1992-93;
- (b) 1993-94;
- (c) 1994-95;
- (d) 1995-96;
- (e) 1996-97; and
- (f) 1997-98?

Mr KIERATH replied:

(1) \$917 893.75

(2) (a) 0
 (b) 1 interim
 (c) 1 interim
 (d) 0
 (e) 1 permanent
 (f)-(g) 0
 (h) 1 interim

(3) (a) 1
 (b)-(f) 0

WEDGE ISLAND, COASTAL HERITAGE VILLAGE

423. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of a submission by the Wedge Island Protection Association Incorporated concerning the proposal for a Coastal Heritage Village at Wedge Island?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that the Association proposal for Wedge Island would see individual cottages remaining along with other tourist and recreational uses managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management?
- (3) Does the Minister agree the implementation of the Association proposal would have a substantial heritage and recreational benefit?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1)-(2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.

NORTHERN GOLDFIELDS HEALTH SERVICE BOARD, APPEAL ON FINNERTY LANE UNITS

487. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Planning:

I refer to the appeal lodged in relation to the intention of the Northern Goldfields Health Service Board ("the Board") to build units at Finnerty Lane at Hannans and ask -

- (a) has the Minister made public comment to the effect that the Minister intends to uphold the appeal unless alternative building sites are found that are acceptable to the Board;
- (b) is (a) above a correct summary of the Minister's intentions;
- (c) what media releases has the Minister or the Minister's office prepared on this issue;
- (d) what process has the appeal been through to date; and
- (e) is it the Minister's usual behaviour to prejudge an appeal in the media?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (a) No.
- (b) It is not appropriate for the Minister to disclose the actions taken in the context of an appeal which has not been determined.
- (c) None.
- (d) A member of the Town Planning Appeal Committee has investigated the appeal by inspecting the site, meeting with the parties to the appeal and conferring with those who have raised objection to the proposed development. A report has been prepared for my consideration. No decision has yet been made.
- (e) No.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

URANIUM MINES

52. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Does the minister stand by his comment that up to 11 uranium mines could be operating in Western Australia within five years?
- (2) Does the minister also stand by his statement that Western Australia could be host to an international nuclear waste storage facility if it became an exporter of uranium?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No, I will not. I do not stand by that comment because I never said that.

Dr Gallop: What did you say?

Mr BARNETT: That comment was made by the Leader of the Opposition; it has never been made by me. There is not a snowball's chance in hell that 11 uranium mines will be operating in Western Australia. It is sheer nonsense. In the next 10 years Western Australia may well see the development of a uranium mine, but certainly not 11.

- (2) This is farcical.

Dr Gallop: I am glad you think it is farcical. The people of Western Australia do not.

Mr BARNETT: No, the question by the Leader of the Opposition is farcical. With respect to uranium mining and the issue of waste storage, the only comment I have ever made, and which I stand by, is that Australia has about 30 per cent of the world's uranium reserves, and currently produces about 10 per cent of the world's uranium. This country and this State have significant uranium reserves and probably in the future some of those reserves will be developed. Therefore, we have an economic, social and regional responsibility to be part of the debate about the safe use and disposal of waste from uranium. That is as far as I have ever gone or ever intend to go.

It is very easy for members opposite to run around talking about Pangea; that company has never spoken to me and has never sought to speak to me. I have no idea who they are. The nuclear power industry is a significant global industry and as a first world developed nation, we would be irresponsible to put our heads in the sand and say we have nothing to say about uranium, its safe use and its disposal.

Dr Gallop: We need say only one word - no.

Mr BARNETT: The position of the Opposition is to try to scare the community rather than have the sense to recognise that it is a real issue for the world into the next century.

Dr Gallop: We know where you are coming from. A Barnett Liberal Party will bring a nuclear waste dump to Western Australia. That is what you just told this Parliament.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr BARNETT: Normally, I would not bother, but this is a serious issue. I request the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw that totally false statement, as everyone knows that I said nothing like that.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! For goodness sake.

Questions without Notice Resumed

SOUTH WEST HEALTH CAMPUS, DOCTOR SHORTAGE

53. Mr OSBORNE to the Minister for Health:

Weekend news reports on ABC television programs spoke of a doctor crisis at the South West Health Campus. Will the minister outline the reality of the situation which has given rise to this unbelievable media story and give an assurance that patient services have been improved across the board since the opening of the new health campus in Bunbury?

Dr Gallop: It is not just a doctor crisis; it is a doctor crisis, bed crisis, nursing home crisis, privacy crisis and staff crisis.

The SPEAKER: Order! I am being terribly lenient with the Leader of the Opposition.

Dr Gallop: You are, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I think many members are wondering why.

Dr Gallop: Because I am a good bloke!

The SPEAKER: That may be so, but the Minister for Health is trying to answer the question and he will be given the opportunity.

Mr Omodei: He is like Sam Newman's dog.

The SPEAKER: Order, minister!

Mr DAY replied:

I am aware of a report in the weekend media about a supposed doctor crisis in Bunbury which has been linked to changed arrangements for access to the plaster room at the new South West Health Campus. I have sought advice about the issue, and I can only come to the conclusion that such a report has been initiated by someone with rather mischievous intent.

Mr Riebeling: They interviewed the doctors on television.

Mr DAY: So what?

Mr Riebeling: They must all be mischievous because they all said the same thing.

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister will continue his answer.

Mr DAY: I am advised that 14 doctors from Dr D. Foster and Associates have withdrawn, effective from 31 August, clinical privileges from Bunbury Regional Hospital in medicine, psychiatry and pediatrics. However, I am also advised that they wish to retain clinical privileges in obstetrics, anaesthetics and procedures; therefore, they have not withdrawn all their activities at Bunbury Regional Hospital. Two partners and two associates from the practice have chosen to retain all their clinical privileges at the hospital. The doctors stated in the letter of advice to the hospital of withdrawal of some of their services that the main reason for their action was to focus on their practices and to see more patients in their rooms. To that extent, any move to increase patient access in the Bunbury area to practitioners in their practices is a positive step and is

welcomed. I understand that the hospital has made arrangements with various medical specialists to cover any patients who arrive at the hospital and have no local doctor with clinical privileges. No reduction in service to the public is anticipated by the hospital. Services substantially expanded with the development of the South West Health Campus in Bunbury - such as chemotherapy, palliative care, an increased range of mental health services, surgical services and renal dialysis - are continuing, and have been well received by the residents of the south west region. The Government is proud to have put money where its mouth is and to have provided the services.

WHITTAKERS MILL, GOVERNMENT POLICY

54. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Resources Development:

I refer to a report in today's *The West Australian* which refers to his meeting yesterday with Australian Workers Union officials.

- (1) Was the Minister stating government policy when he told the meeting that it was not unreasonable to grant any new operators of the former Whittakers mill at Greenbushes access to 10 000 cubic metres of karri?
- (2) Was the meeting and the minister's reported comments a further attempt to both undermine the Minister for the Environment and stake the Minister for Resources Development's claim for the forests portfolio in the forthcoming cabinet reshuffle?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) We have another fanciful question. The Australian Workers Union sought to talk to me yesterday about the forests. I doubt members of that union will want to spend too much time with the Labor Party. AWU representatives, people working in the timber industry and business people I know through my previous role in the Chamber of Commerce and Industry came to see me. I am conscious of the impact of these changes on businesses in those towns. Among a range of issues affecting the forest issue, and extending to other associated matters, they made a case to me about the allocation of timber for the former Whittakers mill. I said that their case had some merit; however, it was an issue for which the Minister for the Environment has responsibility - end of story.

Mr Ripper: At the moment!

Mr BARNETT: Members opposite seem to imply that members of the community, particularly communities under stress, should feel somehow they cannot talk to any member of Parliament. That is not what this Parliament is about. I have responsibility for the agreement Acts which relate to the timber industry and for education in those areas. Also, I have a long-term interest in the business community in the south west and other regional areas. People can come and talk to me. I wish they would talk to more members of Parliament.

WHITTAKERS MILL, REPRESENTATIONS

55. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Resources Development:

Does the minister intend to make representation to the Minister for the Environment and Cabinet on this issue?

Mr BARNETT replied:

If I wish to speak to the Minister for the Environment, she is sitting next to me. I will not work through the Leader of the Opposition.

Dr Gallop interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I thought I had gently reminded the Leader of the Opposition not to slow down question time. I now remind him more forcefully. I do not want to, but I will formally call people to order if I must.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES, CHILD SAFETY

56. Mrs van de KLASHORST to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

I refer to articles in *The West Australian* on 16 and 17 August commenting on the action taken by Family and Children's Services in relation to the safety of a boy child. As major community concern exists over this issue, is the minister satisfied that her department has taken all appropriate steps to address concerns for the safety of this boy?

Mrs PARKER replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. At the outset, I do not believe in publicly debating specific cases involving children at risk of abuse. However, the Opposition has gone public on a case that is before the Family Court. I will answer a range of issues that have been raised in the media about the involvement of Family and Children's Services. In particular, the impression has been created that Family and Children's Services has failed to take action "to keep a mother from having unsupervised contact with her young son, despite having serious concerns that she could sexually abuse him". I will make a couple of points. The specific case referred to in *The West Australian* has been the subject of an ongoing custody dispute before the Family Court. At a recent hearing, the Family Court made a range of orders to ensure the safety of the boy after taking into account submissions made by Family and Children's Services. Having listened to those concerns expressed by the department, the Family Court addressed them through a range of orders that it feels appropriate to protect the safety of the boy and, through those orders, the mother is not allowed to have unsupervised access to the child. I ask

the Opposition to be very careful when using emotional tragedies for the purpose of political point scoring. The job Family and Children's Services must do in the context of dealing with Family Court disputes is hard enough without the additional burden of political interference.

UCHTENHAGEN, PROFESSOR AMBROSE

57. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

I refer to the minister's claim in question time last Thursday that handwritten notes by her staff confirm her statement that Professor Ambrose Uchtenhagen, who runs a Swiss heroin program in Zurich, had told her that he was under enormous political pressure to come up with a positive report and positive results. Is it not a fact that the two references cited by the minister make absolutely no mention of pressure to produce positive results, but refer purely to time pressures for reporting in comparison with a trial being done in the Netherlands? Do the two references cited by the minister confirm 100 per cent Professor Uchtenhagen's assertion that the only pressure he referred to was a pressure of time, and contradict 100 per cent her claim that he was under political pressure to produce a positive result? Has the minister set out, yet again, deliberately to mislead Parliament?

Mrs PARKER replied:

I stand by my comments.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Carpenter: They make no reference to political pressure at all.

Mrs PARKER: I have a clear recollection that Professor Uchtenhagen related to me the enormous political pressure he was under from the Swiss Government to come up with positive results on the trial. Copies of the notes I presented confirmed that references were made during that meeting. Again I say that, in the political climate of Switzerland at the time of the introduction of the controversial initiative of a heroin trial by the Government to address the drug abuse issue, it is not surprising that there was political pressure to come up with positive results.

WATER, PERTH'S SITUATION

58. Mrs HODSON-THOMAS to the Minister for Water Resources:

Given the recent rainfall we have had, can the minister update us on the current water supply situation?

Mr Brown: Does the Government take credit for the rain?

Dr HAMES replied:

I thought I would relate to my Aboriginal connections and take some credit for the rain that we have had recently. It has certainly provided an excellent boost to the water supplies in our dams. In the past day there has been a two million kilolitre run in the dams. They have gone from 164 million kilolitres one week ago to 174 million kilolitres now. That is a 10 million kilolitre increase. Last year we needed to get up to 250 million kilolitres in the dams. However, because we have accessed further underground water supplies, we do not need quite so much this time. To avoid further restrictions during the summer period, we need to get to 230 million kilolitres. The good news is that just about every bit of rain that we get now is running into the dams. The way the hydrology of the Darling scarp works is that, particularly with the vegetation on it, the soil acts like a huge sponge and sucks every bit of water underground. As that water level builds up, eventually the water starts to run off, so we have a hill of water -

Mr Thomas: You would make a great geography teacher!

Dr HAMES: That water does not run over the ground but runs under the ground to the lowest point, that being the dams, and because of that, the dams are filling rapidly every time we get a drop of water. It is good news. It does not mean we can be complacent; we have a long way to go. However, predictions have been made of high levels of rain for the remainder of the year in Western Australia, particularly the south west of Western Australia, so with a bit of luck we will make it without further restrictions.

HEROIN OVERDOSE DEATHS, STATISTICS

59. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) Can the minister confirm that almost 100 people aged between 14 and 45 years died from heroin overdoses in the 12 months to 30 June 1999?
- (2) Can the minister confirm that this is approximately 20 more than is shown by the official figures for the same period?
- (3) Is the Government's Drug Abuse Strategy Office coordinator, Mr Terry Murphy, correct when he attributes the difference to suicide by overdose not being counted in the figures?
- (4) Can the minister guarantee to the Parliament that the Government is not manipulating the overdose statistics for political purposes?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1)-(4) I thank the member for the question. I state absolutely that the Government is not understating the heroin toll in Western Australia, and I reject completely any suggestion to that effect. A comment was made about playing politics with these figures. I ask: Who is playing politics here?

I will give some background. In Western Australia, the number of suspected heroin-related overdoses is monitored continually on a daily basis, with figures provided by the police coronial inquiry section. This provides an up-to-date list of all deaths suspected by police of being due to heroin overdose. The number of heroin-related deaths can be finalised only after coronial determination, which usually occurs between three and six months after the death, but sometimes can take up to two years. There is a small difference between the police numbers and the coronial determination numbers; for example, to quote the figures for the latest year that is available - 1997 - the police estimated 83 deaths, and the coronial determination identified 76 deaths. We find consistently that the information from the police coronial section is higher than what is determined by the coroner. As the police coronial inquiry section is the most up-to-date and provides the best year-to-year comparison prior to coronial determination, it is used for continuous monitoring and comparisons. These figures are provided in Western Australia in good faith and are the most reliable figures that we can use. They are confirmed after that coronial determination. Western Australia and, to my knowledge, Victoria are the only States that provide that material in full. The Opposition is not helping in this debate. If there are some deaths by suicide, which the coroner determines are deaths due to a heroin overdose, that number will be picked up in the coronial determination. However, consistently, the figures provided by the police coronial inquiry section are higher than those that are determined by the coroner. Therefore, I completely and confidently reject that anything is hidden or altered in the way this Government reports suspected heroin-related deaths and also in the way we confirm those coronial determinations.

HEROIN OVERDOSE DEATHS, STATISTICS

60. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

Were there 100 heroin deaths in the past year or not?

Mrs PARKER replied:

I have a list of opiate-related deaths for 1997-98 which I am prepared to table.

Mr Ripper: What about 1998-99?

Mrs PARKER: We wait until the coronial determination information is available. I am quite happy to table the list.

[See paper No 85.]

Mr Kobelke: You do not have the figures for the past financial year?

Mrs PARKER: For the purpose of comparison, we do not calculate the figures in financial years but calendar years. The list will confirm that there is a very clear and open reporting strategy in this State, unlike most other States. The coronial determination information tends to be less than that which we provide on a daily basis from the police coronial section.

MARINE AND FISHING INDUSTRY, TRAINING CENTRE

61. Mr BLOFFWITCH to the Minister for Employment and Training:

Recently the Central West College of TAFE and the Department of Training have announced a training centre for the marine and fishing industry. Will the minister provide me with further details on how it will affect my electorate?

Mr KIERATH replied:

As the member for Geraldton will be aware, the midwest, and particularly Geraldton, is the base for some 50 per cent of the State's fishing fleet, which contributes \$200m a year to the economy, mainly through rock lobsters, scallops, prawns, abalone and fin-fish species. There is also an established aquaculture and mariculture industry, farming pearls, freshwater crays and other products. A recent study indicated that about 2 560 people are employed in the fishing industry. Each job creates two in other industry areas. The Department of Training and Central West College have collaborated with key industry participants and have identified current and future training needs, and strong local support has been expressed through a feasibility study. There will be extensive community consultation especially regarding the location of the facility, which is the question attracting most interest at the moment. We have given a nominal allocation of some \$3.9m with construction to start in 2001 subject, of course, to a suitable site being found. It is possible that the facility will be collocated with a marine education and training industry resource centre. Either would be beneficial for the region. We on this side of the House are pleased to initiate yet another project that will enhance the employment potential in the region because this Government does realise the importance of regional development and employment in particular. I hope that the regional developmentally-challenged member for Pilbara has been taking notes.

POLICE SERVICE, OFFICER'S IDENTITY

62. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the Police Service's decision to counsel but not charge the officer found to have accessed the criminal record of a candidate in recent City of Perth elections and to the refusal by the Police Service to reveal the identity of the officer, and ask -

- (1) What is the name and rank of the officer?
- (2) Why was the officer counselled?
- (3) What explanation did the officer give for his actions?
- (4) Did the officer pass information accessed through the police computer to anyone else; and, if so, to whom was the information provided?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1)-(4) First, I congratulate the Leader of the Opposition for at last recognising that there is a portfolio called Crime Prevention and for awarding it in his recent reshuffle to the opposition spokesperson on police matters. On this side of the House, of course, we have known that crime prevention and policing go together, and have done for the past six and a half years. I say well done; welcome to the twentieth century. We are about to move into the next one.

With regard to this matter, many disciplinary matters are dealt with within the Police Service - not the most serious matters. They are dealt with in accordance with all the normal procedures and practices. They have always been dealt with in this way. They are dealt with in confidence and they are not made public. I am not prepared to prejudice a process that has been working well for relatively minor disciplinary matters by answering and giving the information the member seeks, because as a result of inquiries made by the police - the member knows that the Anti-Corruption Commission was also involved - the matter has been dealt with by the proper disciplinary processes within the Police Service, and it is neither appropriate nor proper that the details be made public.

DAIRY INDUSTRY AUTHORITY SERVICES, CORPORATISATION

63. Mr MASTERS to the Minister for Primary Industry:

I have received strong support in my electorate for the corporatisation or privatisation of the Dairy Industry Authority of Western Australia's laboratory and other services to dairy farmers. Will the minister please advise whether the Government is considering the corporatisation of DIA's services; and, if so, when will such considerations be concluded so that dairy farmers and the public can be informed and provide comment to the Government?

Mr HOUSE replied:

About 18 months ago the Victorian Government, in consultation with the dairy industry in Victoria, decided that it would deregulate its industry to take away the quota and farm gate price system that has underpinned the dairy industry across Australia for a long time. As a consequence of that decision - Victoria produced over 60 per cent of the total milk produced in this nation - Pat Rowley, the president of the Australian Dairy Farmers' Federation Ltd, pulled together all of the industry leaders to try to come up with a position regarding deregulation which would suit all the States and which would be taken to the Federal Government.

After 12 months of discussion, they have now come up with a position about which they are reasonably united and which has been put to the Federal Government. That includes a compensation package that the Federal Government would have to fund. To this time, the Federal Government has not made a decision about that package, although I understand the talks are progressing satisfactorily. This State's position is that it has given an undertaking to be part of the federal arrangements; that is, this State will not go outside what will be agreed federally. As a consequence of that, I am not in a position to answer the member's question, except to say that no legislation will be introduced to this Parliament concerning the dairy industry unless the dairy farmers come to me with a solidly united position asking me to do that, and that includes the future of the Dairy Industry Authority.

TEACHING HOSPITALS, BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

64. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Have the 1999-2000 budget allocations for Perth teaching hospitals been finalised?
- (2) If yes, what is the total allocated to each teaching hospital for the 1999-2000 financial year?
- (3) How does this compare with the amount sought by each of the teaching hospitals for the current financial year?
- (4) What was the total expenditure by each of those hospitals in the 1998-99 financial year?

Mr DAY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(4) The budget allocations for the teaching hospitals have not yet been finalised. I expect that will occur over the next month or so. The expenditure by each of the hospitals in 1998-99 to the nearest million dollars is as follows: Royal Perth Hospital \$317m; Fremantle Hospital \$162m; King Edward Memorial Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital for Children \$172m; and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital \$241m. These figures are unaudited and have been calculated on an accrual basis.

It is important to recognise that there has been a substantial increase in the Health budget over the seven years of the coalition Government, such that there is an annual growth rate of about 6.9 per cent, including a \$63m increase

in this financial year and a \$149m increase in the previous year. The next point it is essential to recognise is that substantial changes are occurring in the system so that services are being provided, wherever possible, much closer to where people live, and that is leading to an increased range and quantity of services being provided in places such as Armadale, which certainly benefit the constituents of the member who asked the question, Joondalup, Peel, Broome, Swan District Hospital and also the South West Health Campus. That change in location of activity will certainly be expected to have some impact on the activity in our teaching hospitals; however, overall, the system has expanded substantially.

KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION, OVERPASSES

65. Mr MARSHALL to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

Part of the proposed extensions of the Kwinana Freeway to Mandurah are the overpasses along the southern part of the freeway. Employment necessitates that a huge proportion of Mandurah's population use the freeway daily. For the purposes of speed and safety these overpasses are a priority. Can the minister inform the House whether there has been a delay in commencing the construction of these overpasses and when they will be constructed?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response: Yes. The design and construction of the Kwinana Freeway interchanges and extension have been delayed due to the Government's decision earlier this year to locate the south-west metropolitan railway in the freeway median strip on the section south of Berrigan Drive to north of Anketell Road. Main Roads WA expects to award the two-year contract in November this year. Consequently the construction of all the interchanges in the extension are programmed to be completed by November 2001. The interchanges at Berrigan Drive and Beeliar Drive-Armadale Road will be completed approximately six months ahead of the remainder of the works

HEALTH FUNDING

66. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the minister confident that the level of funding provided to the Western Australian health system in the 1999-2000 financial year is adequate to cover the full financial year?
- (2) If he is not, when will he be injecting extra funds into the health system, and why did the minister not provide the necessary funds at the time of the state budget?
- (3) If yes, will the minister lift the current freeze on the employment of new staff and give a guarantee that there will be no ward closures, staff cuts, further freezes on hiring or other attempts to exclude patients and that the hospitals will be adequately funded to meet their needs?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1)-(3) There has been a substantial increase in the amount allocated by this Government to the health budget in every year that it has been in government. There has been an average annual growth of 6.9 per cent, which is substantial by any standards. I am confident that the amount that has been allocated for this financial year will allow us to expand the system further and provide a broad range and quantity of services in a very high standard way. The management of the Metropolitan Health Service is not undertaken by me directly; there is a chief executive officer and a board and any issues regarding the engagement of staff are for them to determine. I have not put any freeze in place. There has not been any attempt to exclude patients.

HEALTH FUNDING

67. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

As a supplementary question, will the minister guarantee that there will be no ward closures or extension of the freeze on staff recruitment?

Mr DAY replied:

Issues relating to the engagement of staff are for the management of the Metropolitan Health Service. It is not for me to give any guarantee about any particular course of action. As I just explained, significant changes are occurring in the system so that services are provided closer to where people live. That will certainly cause changes in arrangements in teaching hospitals in the central part of the metropolitan area. That is very good for people who live in electorates like Thornlie, Armadale, Joondalup, Wanneroo, Midland, Darling Range, Swan Hills and many others around the outer parts of the metropolitan area because they will travel less in order to get the treatment that they need. We are overcoming 10 years of neglect by the Labor Government by building such projects as the Armadale hospital.