



# **Parliamentary Debates**

**(HANSARD)**

THIRTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT  
THIRD SESSION  
2000

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 13 June 2000

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

## **ARTS EDGE**

*Statement by Minister for the Arts*

**MR BOARD** (Murdoch - Minister for the Arts) [2.01 pm]: I wish to inform the House of a partnership program between the Education Department and the Ministry for Culture and the Arts called Arts Edge. The Minister for Education and I jointly launched the project last month. Arts Edge aims to promote culture and the arts to Western Australian teachers and students right across the State. This initiative covers all aspects of the arts, from visual arts to music, film, dancing, acting and writing. Art is now one of the eight core curriculum areas, and it is vital that we provide students with as much access as possible to art practices, artists and their artwork, and art appreciation. Recent research demonstrates that the arts stimulate, foster and refine learning and creative skills, resulting in enhanced academic performance and a strong sense of self worth. The initiative had a very successful pilot year in 1999, and a commitment has been made by both agencies to fund the project for two more years. Arts programs in schools not only provide students with a creative outlet and a recreational pursuit but also provide life skills training and a channel for young people to become involved in their community.

Arts Edge is bringing together schools which are in need of arts training and resources, and artists and cultural organisations who are keen to share their skills. This program is a four-stage process which will involve, firstly, intensive workshops in the arts for teachers, and, secondly, teacher-artist classroom partnerships. This will lead on to students experiencing professional artworks and using these experiences to develop their own creative output. Last year's pilot program included artist-in-residence programs at Clarkson Community High School, Connolly Primary School and Jandakot Primary School. Two intensive workshops for teachers were also held in the April and July school holidays. Arts Edge activities planned for the next year include setting up an email group to facilitate communication among schools, educators, artists and Arts organisations; holding one-day workshops in drama, music, craft, media, visual arts and dance; and working with the Perth International Arts Festival to develop its schools program.

Arts Edge is just one of the programs that the Government is putting into place to link young people with the arts. Others include the development of the Youth Arts Network and an investigation into our own model of Victoria's Freeza program for all ages concerts. Arts Edge is an initiative which will ensure that art is accessible for all Western Australians to develop employment opportunities, larger arts audiences and better partnerships between artists and the community.

**[Questions without notice taken.]**

## **SWAN RIVER/BLACKADDER CREEK WETLAND**

*Petition*

Mr Pandal presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 76 persons -

To the Hon the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, we the undersigned petitioners call for the Swan River/Blackadder Creek wetland and 100 year floodplain at Midland to be retained and restored as a floodplain and wetland habitat, zoned Parks and Recreation; that recreational facilities, tourist amenities, and similar development, be limited to a small part of the floodplain already infilled near Marshall Park, and that for the remainder of the floodplain, there be allowed full and proper protection and rehabilitation of the wetland and floodplain environments for the safety, health and enjoyment of all of the community present and future.

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 119.]

## **TOKYU CORPORATION**

*Petition*

Mr MacLean presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 470 persons -

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

We the undersigned request that the Western Australian State Government support the immediate enforcement of all the terms and conditions of the 'Memorandum of Understanding' between the State Government of Western Australia and Tokyu Corporation. Also make available copies of the 'Memorandum of Understanding' and the recently signed 'Strategic Co-Operation Agreement' that the State Government of Western Australia and Tokyu Corporation have negotiated and signed.

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 120.]

### **EMBRYOS, RIGHTS**

#### *Petition*

Mrs Hodson-Thomas (Parliamentary Secretary) presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 299 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 commend to the attention of the House that:

1. embryos are living human beings from the moment of conception, having the right to full protection by the law;
2. the artificial production of embryos, and conduction of experiments on them, and discarding them to die is totally abhorrent, as it violates the dignity and rights of all human beings.

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 121.]

### **TAXI PLATES**

#### *Petition*

Ms MacTiernan presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 343 persons -

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

We the undersigned taxi drivers strongly object to Government plans to add an additional one hundred and fifty taxi plates into the system.

- The claim for the need for the new plates is based on the self-serving, uncorroborated evidence of a single taxi dispatch service who will benefit from the additional rank fees. The reality is that the excess demand occurs only between 11pm and 3am on Friday to Saturday nights.
- It has been acknowledged by the Taxi Review that only by working up to 70 hours a week, a driver is able to earn even a modest income. The one hundred and fifty extra plates will massively reduce our already pitiful incomes.
- We demand that the Government immediately withdraw these plates unless it is prepared to take other steps to cut drivers' costs to ensure that the position of the drivers and the long-term health of the taxi industry is not further jeopardised.

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 122.]

### **STATE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE**

#### *Petition*

Mrs van de Klashorst (Minister for Family and Children's Services) presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 12 persons -

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

To assist in the fact that the City of Swan is not entitled to sell the state equestrian centre on the grounds that it was a gift to the equestrian community and the people of Brigadoon.

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 123.]

### **BUS ROUTE 880**

#### *Petition*

Ms MacTiernan presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 104 persons -

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

We the undersigned call upon the Minister for Transport to restore the level of weekend bus services to bus route 880 to Canning Vale.

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 124.]

#### **BILLS - ASSENT**

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

1. Juries Amendment Bill 1998.
2. Rail Freight System Bill 1999.

#### **REVENUE LAWS AMENDMENT (ASSESSMENT) BILL 2000**

##### *Appropriations*

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

#### **BILLS - RECEIPT AND FIRST READING**

1. Restraining Orders Amendment Bill 2000.  
Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mrs Edwardes (Minister for the Environment), read a first time.
2. Liquor Licensing Amendment (Petrol Stations and Lodgers' Registers) Bill 2000.  
Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr Cowan (Deputy Premier), read a first time.

#### **BILLS - RETURNED**

1. Consumer Credit (Western Australia) Amendment Bill 1999.
2. Plant Pests and Diseases (Eradication Funds) Amendment Bill 2000.
3. First Home Owner Grant Bill 2000.  
Bills returned from the Council without amendment.
4. Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Amendment Bill 2000.  
Bill returned from the Council with amendments.

#### **BILLS - THIRD READING**

1. Guardianship and Administration Amendment Bill 1999.  
Bill read a third time, on motion by Mrs Edwardes (Minister for the Environment), and returned to the Council with amendments.
2. Acts Amendment (Evidence) Bill 1999.  
Bill read a third time, on motion by Mrs Edwardes (Minister for the Environment), and returned to the Council with an amendment.

#### **PROSTITUTION BILL 1999**

##### *Council's Amendments now Considered*

Message from the Council notifying that it acquainted the Assembly in reply to message No 49 from the Assembly with regard to the Prostitution Bill 1999 that it did not insist on its amendments Nos 15 and 17 to 21; that it did not insist on but proposed a substituted amendment for its amendment No 24, as set forth in the schedule annexed; that it insisted on its amendments Nos 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 23, 25 and 27 and further proposed consequential amendments as set forth in the schedule annexed; that it had agreed to the Assembly amendments substituted as new amendments for Council amendments Nos 10, 13 and 16; that it had agreed to amendments Nos 5, 6, 14, 28 and 30 as further amended by the Assembly; and that it had inserted a new clause, as set forth in the schedule annexed, now considered.

##### *Consideration in Detail*

The substituted and consequential amendments made by the Council were as follows -

#### **Amendment No 24**

Amendment not insisted on, but substituted the following amendment -

Clause 57, page 38, line 5 - To insert after the word "under" the following words -  
sections 10 and 23 (b) of

**Amendments Nos 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 23, 25 and 27**

Amendments insisted on with further consequential amendments as follows -

**Schedule 2**

Clause 1, page 46, line 9 - To delete the figures "9" and "17";

Clause 1, page 47 - To delete the item referring to section 17 of the *Prostitution Act 1999*; and

Clause 4, page 48 - To delete the items referring to sections 9 and 17 of the *Prostitution Act 1999*.

**New clause**

Page 44, after line 13 - To insert the following new clause -

**66. Expiry of Act**

This Act expires on the second anniversary of the day on which it comes into operation.

Mrs EDWARDES: The Government supports the amendments contained in Council message No 57, but before I move the first of the amendments to which we agree, I will make some comments on behalf of the Minister for Police. We have been waiting for many months now for members opposite to make up their mind about what amendments they want to incorporate, and after many months of indecision the Opposition has now insisted on a sunset clause that will make the legislation null and void after two years. The legislation that we brought into this House is good legislation. It solves the key problems of the prostitution industry; namely, streetwalking, kerb crawling and child prostitution. However, the Government will agree reluctantly to these changes in order to have this legislation passed by the House.

I move -

That substituted amendment No 24 made by the Council be agreed to.

Mrs ROBERTS: Prostitution is a big problem in this State and has been for many years. We have been calling upon the Government for some time to put in place some form of comprehensive prostitution legislation to regulate and control the prostitution industry. The member for Darling Range undertook when he was Police Minister to bring that legislation into the House in what he then termed the next session of Parliament; but of course history now records that he never did that. The current Minister for Police also promised on numerous occasions that he would do that.

This State operates under a containment policy which has been ridiculed by many people in the community, including the previous Minister for Police, who said that it should be repealed and proper legislation put in place. This Government has not had the wherewithal to bring into this House comprehensive prostitution legislation but rather has adopted a head-in-the-sand approach. Last year the Labor Party brought into this Chamber a Bill to deal with the problems of street prostitution and child prostitution, and, as a result, the Government was prompted into taking some action on this matter. We did so because of the dire problems that were being experienced in some of the streets of Northbridge, Highgate and East Perth. It was only then that the Government finally introduced this Bill. However, this is a very inadequate Bill that seems to be a grab bag of things out of the proposed police services or police powers Bill - or whatever is the Bill on which we are still waiting from the Minister for Police - and also some clauses that have been taken out of probably the eighth, ninth or tenth draft of the minister's more comprehensive prostitution legislation, which his party room will not support. That Bill was introduced in the last full sitting week of the Assembly last year.

I undertook on behalf of members of the Opposition not to delay this Bill, given the very tight time frame. I noted to the minister that I would not be present on the Wednesday night following the day on which he had introduced the Bill, which is when the Government called on the debate, and said that in any event we would give the Bill close scrutiny in the Council and would not delay it in the Assembly.

We were true to our word. Unfortunately, the Government has attempted to use that against us in trying to expedite the Bill. The original Bill contained some health provisions and other provisions which have not been the subject of wide community consultation; in fact, most people in the public health sector were aghast at the health provisions in the legislation. The Opposition, and, I am sure, the Government, received many deputations from people and lots of correspondence about those particular provisions.

In addition, the legislation contains some hefty police powers. The minister has agreed that police powers urgently need to be removed from a number of pieces of legislation and placed into a comprehensive police Bill, but that has not happened either. Late last year, three months were wasted while the Government sat on its hands and tried to decide what to do as a result of the amendments made in the upper House.

It was not until 29 February, a date I remember well, that we had another meeting with the minister and two other people. At that meeting he reiterated that he wanted to stick by both the health provisions and the police powers provisions. He did not indicate any room for compromise whatsoever. Some weeks after that, the minister offered the first sign of compromise. Over the past few weeks we have managed to get to a position of agreeing to proceed with this legislation. I am pleased that we have been able to do that and I am pleased that something, however inadequate, will be put in place today to protect those people who are putting up with the problem of street walking in Northbridge and thereabouts.

Ms WARNOCK: I will make a few comments about the issue of prostitution and the importance of eventually introducing into Parliament a comprehensive and proper Bill dealing with the entire issue. It is pleasing at last to have some sort of legislation dealing with the issues of streets soliciting and child prostitution, but it is a great pity that the Bill, firstly, is not better and, secondly, does not deal with the whole matter of prostitution. It is not an easy issue with which to deal. Any attempts will always be fraught with difficulties, and the relevant minister will always have to contend with widely differing opinions on prostitution. Any Government with a modicum of courage should realise that any further repression will not do away with the industry - that is an absurd suggestion, even though some people cling to that view - and that the best solution will be sensible regulation and control: Control, over where prostitution can take place, who can be involved and how the health and drug issues can be managed. The Opposition has supported this Bill because it agreed to assist the Government in getting a Bill through Parliament during this session and also because people in the inner-city areas are crying out for some sort of quick solution to the distressing problem of street soliciting in residential areas.

I note in passing that the Bill has very little, if anything, to do with brothels and massage parlours, which in any event do not, in general, cause similar problems for residents. I stress that in more than seven years as a member of Parliament I have had no complaints about the several houses of prostitution near my office, but a great many about street soliciting in residential areas nearby. It had become an extremely distressing problem for inner-city people whose lives were being made miserable by prostitution and drug taking occurring on their very doorsteps. The problem had become such an annoyance that the local council, the Town of Vincent, had to move in physical barriers to stop kerb crawling. This move has apparently worked but, obviously, cannot be a permanent solution. The Government has produced a Bill which is, frankly, pretty offensive in lots of ways and has rightly been criticised by large numbers of people in the community, the health community, women's groups and industry groups. For lack of a better Bill, the Opposition has agreed to support it with a large number of amendments.

The amendments and changes do seem to improve the Bill. However, Western Australians, even after we pass the Bill, will still be waiting for a decent solution to the problem of prostitution. My colleague, the member for Midland, alluded to some of those problems. Thank goodness the health provisions in the Bill have been removed and the police powers have been somewhat tempered, although I must say that I support the police in their desire to have some further and better means of controlling prostitution in, for example, the streets of inner-city Perth. For a number of years a great deal of responsibility has unfairly fallen on them to take charge of this problem. They have been the bunnies in the issues around prostitution, which the community has a great deal of difficulty trying to solve.

The sunset clause, which was insisted upon by the Opposition and which, mercifully, the Government has agreed to, is one of the few aspects of the Bill that leads me to believe we shall be able to see how this inadequate Bill will work. In a couple of years we might be able to find a better solution and perhaps a Government with more courage to deal with the entire issue of prostitution, rather than only the issues around the edges. Although street soliciting and kerb crawling are so offensive to the residents in the area I represent, I am pleased that we will at least have a Bill which will produce some kind of solution to the problem.

Ms MacTIERNAN: This has been a complex issue for the Australian Labor Party to come to terms with. We are sympathetic to the situation of the residents in the inner-city area but concerned about the erosion of civil liberties and about a regime of police powers that perhaps go beyond powers that are necessary or prudent to deal with the problem. However, those issues have been canvassed by my colleagues comprehensively.

I shall use this occasion to highlight one area of concern. In the past few months there has been an upsurge in the number of very young girls on the streets in that inner-city area. On several occasions I have been horrified to see police driving straight past girls as young as 14 years of age who have been clearly soliciting. A favourite trick of these girls when they see a police car, is to pop into one of the phone boxes and pretend to be making a call. However, a reasonably vigilant officer would see those girls coming out of that phone box a short time later and continue soliciting. I am concerned about that, particularly as powers currently exist in the child welfare legislation to enable the police to collect these young girls, and I am horrified that they fail to do so. I am perhaps not as concerned as other members are about many of the older girls who perform this kind of work. It is unpleasant for the local community. However, I do not believe all these girls are drug addicts and are forced into prostitution. Although it is true that some girls operate under menacing pimps, a number of them appear to undertake the work voluntarily. However, I am concerned about the number of girls as young as 14 years of age who are now on the streets. They are known by the other young kids in the area. It is common knowledge that they offer a more limited range of services than those offered by the older girls, because offences of carnal knowledge and statutory rape would come into play if they offered a full range of services. I urge whoever is the minister handling this legislation today to take up the matter with the Minister for Police or the Minister for Family and Children's Services, as it is wrong that the police are not taking the action they could take under child welfare legislation to get these young girls out of the risky position in which they are currently placing themselves.

Mr KOBELKE: It is pleasing that legislation will be in place to help deal with street prostitution. The great regret is that this legislation could have been in place six months ago when the Opposition introduced its own legislation, based on the Australian Capital Territory legislation, to provide additional powers to police. I will not go through the sorry affair of how the Government messed up the process by playing politics and being unable to effectively deal with the issue. The Government has now recognised that its original proposal was simply unworkable and that the Opposition and the wider community took issue with a whole range of provisions in the Bill. The Government has now come to a compromise. It is regrettable that was not done earlier.

I seek some guidance from the Chair or the minister about how the amendments will be handled. We are dealing with

message No 57, but this Bill has been back and forth between the Houses, and these amendments also relate to message No 33. I am not sure if we will deal with message No 33 in debate or if it will be dealt with in blocks, according to message No 57.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are dealing with substituted amendment No 24. After that, we will deal with amendments Nos 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 23, 25 and 27.

Mr KOBELKE: Will that be one vote?

Mrs Edwardes: I propose to move the amendments together as consequential amendments, and then move new clause 66.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the House supports it.

Mr KOBELKE: Will we have another vote on schedule 2?

Mrs Edwardes: Schedule 2 is dealt with through the consequential amendments. They will be voted on before new clause 66 is moved.

**Question put and passed; the Council's substituted amendment agreed to.**

**Amendments Nos 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 23, 25 and 27 -**

Mrs EDWARDES: I move -

That the consequential amendments to schedule 2 made by the Council be agreed to.

These sections relate to many of the comments made by the member for Armadale about the reason for needing the police powers in the first place, which was to give some assistance to the young people calling out for help.

Mrs ROBERTS: I support this amendment for a variety of reasons, particularly because the onerous health provisions will be removed. There are some quite simplistic arguments for a strict health regime involving testing and access to records. I can see the appeal of that for many people. However, it seemed that when these clauses were drafted, due consideration was not given to people who are far more expert in the area of public health and to a lot of members of Parliament and other people in the community. Australia has an enviable record of dealing with matters such as AIDS and HIV. We have a lower incidence of these diseases. Indeed, people from other parts of the world have looked at our model of public health on issues like AIDS and HIV as one which has proved to be very effective. Although mandatory testing and other stringent conditions have immediate appeal, sometimes on closer consideration we can find that other means are more effective in keeping the incidence of HIV, AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases to a minimum. I am pleased that we have been able to delete these health provisions from the legislation.

A further matter is that we will now have the opportunity to see over the next year or so whether this regime will work and how we might improve upon it. I am looking forward to the election of a Labor Government after the next election so we can put in place some comprehensive prostitution legislation to deal with a number of social issues which have been largely ignored by this Government in a responsible way after due consultation with the community.

**Question put and passed; the Council's consequential amendments agreed to.**

**New clause 66 -**

Mrs EDWARDES: I move -

That the amendment made by the Council be agreed to.

This is referred to as the sunset clause. Essentially, it will make this legislation null and void after two years. It is a real nonsense to include this type of clause in the Bill. Because members opposite do not like the Bill and what it will do, they have decided to dump it after two years and put the community in the same position as it is now. If they were really serious about the key problems of the prostitution industry - that is, the streetwalking, the kerb crawling and the child prostitution - they would not have insisted upon a sunset clause. The Labor Party's insistence on this and the removal of those health provisions are ironical because the health provisions are supported, but not in this legislation - they should be in the Health Act as part of the public health provisions. If that is the case, why were those provisions not supported in this legislation in the first instance? I reiterate: This is good legislation; it deals with those key elements. In an endeavour to pass this legislation and to give some support to the residents who have been under huge pressure for far too long as a result of the delays by the Opposition, we support the new clause.

Mrs ROBERTS: I took the time towards the start of today's proceedings to highlight how this had been handled by the Government. There is no question that all of the delays have been on the Government's part. It seems that the acting minister, as she is today and as she was for part of the time, has been inappropriately advised about the various timetable for matters. The member for Kingsley wrote me a letter suggesting that the Government had been waiting for two or three months for a response on the deletion of the health provisions and suggested that it had occurred some two or three months before March. The first meeting before the end of last year which I had with the Minister for Police was on 29 February - a day which I remember well. At that meeting the minister was still insistent on those health provisions, and there had been no movement. As soon as we had some word from the Government that it was prepared to concede those health provisions, it had a response from us within about a week. After the Government wasted months, I would have thought that a week or 10 days was not much time to waste; in fact, this Government has wasted years, having promised and promised prostitution legislation which was supposed to be comprehensive and to deal with the whole problem.

As regards the health provisions, the minister has placed some pretty misleading remarks on the record when she suggested that we support those health provisions and we need them in the Health Act. That is not the case. However, we would support discussion about the provisions. If we were to entertain any matters to do with health - we are certainly not proposing to support those clauses at all - we feel that those kinds of matters would be more appropriately dealt with in a public health Act. That is not to say that we support these health provisions which have been roundly criticised by people in the community, the sex industry and a whole area of public health, and experts in the area of sexually transmitted diseases, HIV and AIDS.

In relation to the expiry of the Act, we believe that in the circumstances, this is the most responsible action we can take. Surely every member in this Chamber must realise, unless a member lives in some kind of a cave, that we need some control regulation of the whole prostitution industry. Local government must have some powers and control over planning. I have detailed leaked memorandums and other papers in this House in the past couple of years which have shown that the prostitution industry in this State is completely out of control. The fact of the matter is that there has been a huge increase in the number of sex workers, and most prostitution takes place totally unregulated. I would have expected that most members, certainly metropolitan members, would deal with complaints from time to time on the operations of supposedly containment brothels, massage parlours and other premises set up to operate as brothels, massage parlours or the like outside of any containment policy, and also the problem of home occupation prostitution activity. The former Minister for Police, the member for Darling Range, recognised that something like over half the sex workers in this State work outside of brothels. Home occupation prostitution activity makes up an enormous percentage of the total industry.

Other pressing issues interrelate to crime, organised crime and the illegal drug industry that are flourishing because of this Government's failure to properly address the prostitution issue. There was no way that we would ever allow this legislation through as some kind of solution to the problem of prostitution in this State. It is imperative that whoever is in government after the next election gets on and puts together some comprehensive prostitution legislation that appropriately deals with streetwalking, child prostitution and the matters included in this Bill, and also prostitution occurring in brothels and other places.

Mr McGINTY: While in my office I heard the acting responsible minister speaking on this issue and I promptly came to the Chamber as it was the greatest lot of cant and humbug I have heard in my life. She suggested that the sunset clause under discussion was completely inappropriate. She ran the same line floridly produced by the Minister for Police some months ago in this Chamber. Both ministers seem to have short memories. I thought that the acting minister and the Minister for Police might remember their contributions to the debate on the Crime (Serious and Repeat Offenders) Sentencing Bill, which addressed a difficult issue in the community at the time. It was such a pressing issue that it involved a special recall of Parliament. The Liberal and National Parties were 100 per cent behind an 18-month sunset clause applying to the Crime (Serious and Repeat Offenders) Sentencing Act. If it is inappropriate to insert a sunset clause in criminal legislation dealing with major offences, which will involve people being incarcerated for an indefinite term, why was it appropriate to insert such a clause in that legislation? This is hypocrisy at its worst. We did not believe the Government, particularly the Minister for Police, when he said it was evil to have a sunset clause in a criminal statute when a few short years ago, when we were in government, members opposite supported the inclusion of a sunset clause; they even amended the provision to better suit their purposes.

A sunset clause is more appropriate in this case than it was with the juvenile offenders' legislation. This is no more than stop-gap legislation - it has never been purported to be anything else. The Government is totally incapable of dealing with a raft of quasi-moral-social issues in the community. Since the debate in this place two years ago on abortion, the Government has run for cover on every quasi-moral issue. The backbench will not allow the Government to legislate. The Government has been incapable of governing on such issues. This is stop-gap legislation. The Government can deal with child prostitution because that is dead easy from a moral and legislative point of view, and it can deal with streetwalkers because it was forced to do so by the reaction of people in areas such as Northbridge. However, the Government cannot deal with comprehensive issues like prostitution because its backbench will not let it do so. That is a fact.

A sunset clause is needed because this is not good legislation as it does not comprehensively deal with prostitution. I say to everyone listening to the debate: Only one party, when forming government, is capable of governing and legislating on these issues; that is, the Australian Labor Party. People opposite are incapable of producing comprehensive legislation to deal with the matter. When the Labour Government wins office in this State next year, there will be comprehensive legislation to deal with this matter. Members opposite are incapable of producing such legislation. We have heard promises for seven and a half years, but the Government could not deliver when it came to the crunch. The public are seeing increasingly that people on the other side of politics talk tough and deliver nothing. That is the case on such matters. The medical care for the dying matter was shelved, and a raft of issues, such as the equal opportunity provisions dealing with gender matters, cannot be dealt with by this Government. They are too hard. Members opposite continually want to put them into the too-hard basket.

Today is a great example of why members opposite should not be in government, as they are incapable of governing on these important issues. That is why we need a sunset clause. This legislation will ride into the sunset and be replaced before its time by Labor-introduced comprehensive legislation, which will do away with the nonsense of a containment policy law which is frequently flouted in this State. We need good and strong government.

Mrs EDWARDES: I cannot let those words pass without further comment. When members opposite were in government, they were big on talk but produced little action. I remember some of the action - it was photograph opportunities and putting signs in the ground. Members opposite speak about what they will do if they ever get into government again;



however, they will do again what they did in the previous 10 years they were in government. They will be all talk and no action. This is the first Bill since 1892 that provides for increased penalties for any person involved in street prostitution or child prostitution. This Government, not members opposite, brought in that first piece of legislation since 1892. They are all talk and no action in this matter. I would expect nothing more from them if ever they were to get back into government. This legislation could have been in place by last December if it had not been for the recalcitrant actions of members opposite. When people come in here and say what they would do or have done, it is an absolute nonsense.

*Question to be Put*

Mrs EDWARDES: I move -

That the question be now put.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that the question be now put.

Mrs Roberts: The member for Peel wants to speak.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, the minister has moved that the question be now put.

Mr McGinty: When?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: She moved it at the end of her speech.

Mr McGinty: Therefore, effectively she is applying the gag.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is exactly what she is doing. With the consent of the House, she could withdraw the motion. Does the minister want to withdraw it?

Mrs Edwarde: If the member for Peel has something to say that is important, we would like to hear from him.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

*Debate Resumed*

Mr MARLBOROUGH: The most endearing matter to come out of this Bill is the clause about which we are talking, which is the sunset clause. As indicated by a number of my colleagues on this side of the House, this Bill goes nowhere near answering the prostitution problems that exist in this State. The Acting Minister for Police said that it is the only legislation since 1892 which will increase penalties for prostitution, and she used it as an argument to indicate that the Liberal Party is actually doing something progressive. That highlights the tragedy of the way in which the Government is handling the prostitution issue. The reason that governments of all political persuasions in this State since 1892 have not increased penalties for prostitution is that they clearly recognised that increasing penalties does not work. This Bill attacks a certain section of the community in the traditional way that conservative Governments handle issues when faced with a problem concerning a section of the law; that is, by increasing the penalties on those individuals. It has not been necessary to increase penalties, because Governments with commonsense have had policies in place which to a degree, one could argue, have or have not worked.

Although the provisions to stop prostitution are contained in the Bill, it does not contain the removal by the Government of its containment policy. I am not hearing the minister say that as of today the containment policy on prostitution will not prevail. Therefore, I presume that there will be a hands-off policy for certain sections of the prostitution industry in this State, regardless of this Bill, unless the minister is willing to tell me that the Bill will now be applied, as it can be, to recognise brothels or those other services that are involved in the containment policy. I do not think the minister will say that. Therefore, we are faced with a Bill that will apply only to a narrow area of this industry. That area can be clearly defined and is recognised by most people. Child prostitution stands on its own as being a despicable crime against young people, and, as the member for Fremantle said, it is easily policed under present criminal laws. However, street prostitution in this instance mainly concerns young women who are predominantly affected by drugs. As such they cannot work in brothels. Any time they have there is short lived because they are harassed out of that part of the industry. They must feed a drug habit and they are on the street where they can ply their trade.

I am thankful that the issue arose in Northbridge affecting three or four streets because it at least caused the Government to take action. The truth is the Government has been in office for seven years, but has done nothing about it. Until recently, the Government has not been pressured into doing something about it; it only talked about it. The Northbridge situation created a boil on the posterior of the Liberal Party that needed severe surgery as quickly as possible. It has set about trying to remove the boil as quickly and as painlessly as possible.

No thought has been given to the industry and its future in Western Australia. It will certainly continue to have a future regardless of the laws we pass in here, some of which are the most draconian laws in the State. In some instances an offence will attract 20 years' imprisonment. Some penalties will apply to situations for which penalties have not previously applied. The advertising of prostitutes in newspapers will be caught by some of those penalties. They are totally inappropriate penalties and will be ineffective in dealing with the issue of prostitution in this State. It is imperative that the Bill include a sunset clause. I am sorry the sunset clause will not apply the week after the next state election.

Ms WARNOCK: In common with all my colleagues, I support this sunset clause; it is a very good idea. I am sorry the Government did not see fit to support the very good Bill the Opposition introduced at the end of last year, to which the

Government reacted extremely hastily by introducing this rather badly drafted Bill of its own. The Bill the Opposition introduced dealt solely with street and child prostitution, and was taken from a Bill in another State which the Opposition thought was a very good Bill. I am sorry the Government did not set aside its embarrassment and agree to support us on that matter.

It is a joke to suggest that members on this side held up the Bill. On the contrary, we waited for several years while the Government's backbench not only went on trips to the eastern States to examine the issue of prostitution to see whether they could find a solution, which was very sensible, but also had continual arguments in its party room about the proper solution. I well understand that this is not an easy issue. That is why members on this side of the House agreed to assist the Government. To then be accused of holding up the Bill while trying to make a better job of a Bill hastily introduced is rather rich.

I have been at the centre of this issue only in the sense that my office is in the middle of an area in which there are many houses of prostitution, massage parlours and so on. The streets in which soliciting and the annoying kerb crawling occurred were near my office. Indeed, my constituents have been greatly troubled by that behaviour. I was acutely aware of the problems which were occurring in our community. I, like everybody else in this place, wanted to find a solution. For that reason, the Opposition introduced its own Bill and, when that failed, it agreed to assist the Government, only to be presented with a truly dreadful Bill which we then had to try to improve in various ways. It has been improved slightly and I am glad that the Government has seen fit to amend it. I and my colleagues still say that it is not a good Bill. The Opposition believes, therefore, that the sunset clause is necessary. I hope that between us all - those of us who are here after the next election - we can sort out this issue and properly draft a new prostitution Bill which will cover the entire territory of prostitution and which will realistically face up to the fact that, whatever we say, prostitution will continue. We must find proper ways of regulating and controlling it which are not draconian, which take into consideration the health and drug problems of the people working in the industry, and at the same time take into account the concerns of the residents of an area who feel that they are being unfairly targeted by kerb crawlers and pimps.

Mr KOBELKE: In its previous passages in this place, this Bill has been handled by the Minister for Police. I, and I am sure all members on this side, join with the government members in wishing the minister well because he is not in good health at the moment. That is why the Minister for the Environment and Labour Relations is standing in as the acting minister to handle the Bill. The Minister for Police has a great knowledge of this area. He has prepared a number of drafts - which have not gone through the Liberal Party room - to try to deal with the prostitution problem. The Opposition would have liked to have taken up the issue with him personally. That is not possible, but we wish him a speedy recovery. Hopefully, he will resume his role as the Minister for Police and acting Minister for Justice in this Chamber in the near future.

The minister has adopted the government line that somehow the Labor Party is to blame for the matter being delayed for six months. The criticism of the Labor Party's motives is totally without foundation. The Government has been unable to act on prostitution for a number of years. Year after year, the Government has promised it will bring into Parliament legislation to deal with prostitution and it has failed. Last year, when it became embarrassing for the Government because it was revealed that juveniles were involved in prostitution on the streets of Perth, the Minister for Family and Children's Services said that she knew of only one case of child prostitution. However, the Attorney General in the other place said he had a report that 60 juveniles were involved. We do not know how many are involved. Even if only 30 juveniles are engaged in prostitution on the streets of Perth, for the Government to turn a blind eye, to say it is not interested and is doing nothing about it, and for the minister to get up in this House and say she has heard of only one case - which is to totally deny the reality of what is happening - indicates that this Government does not want to deal with the issue.

The Labor Party tried to embarrass the Government to get something done. It brought forward a very simple Bill that would have worked. It may not have been the best legislation, but it would have worked. That would have passed through Parliament over six months ago if the Government had accepted it. The Government said that it could not have the Opposition doing something to help the people in Western Australia; it would be too embarrassing, and it brought in its own Bill! For whatever reason - I cannot fathom it - it prepared a Bill that was unacceptable to the people of this State. It went through this Chamber in the last days of last year's sitting. Instead of the Government going through the normal process of holding legislation over so that the Opposition has time to examine it - that was not done in this case - it dispensed with that process and treated the Bill as urgent. We decided to consider it in the other Chamber, which we did.

The Opposition found that a range of public health issues contained in the Bill were unworkable. The advice from all of the professionals who work in the area was that this legislation will make the problem worse; it will not address the issues. Public health in these areas is very complicated. No ground is gained by waving a big stick and threatening people; they simply go underground and find other ways of engaging in improper or illegal activities. If the problem is not brought into the open to be dealt with, the problem will be compounded, not reduced. That was the advice the Opposition was getting from the experts in this area. For very good reasons, the Opposition could not agree with those aspects. The second area relating to police powers may be one of judgment, but no case was made for it to go as far as the Government was going. For those reasons, it seemed that a sunset clause, which we now have before us, was the best way to go.

We need comprehensive legislation to deal with prostitution. If we put aside the specific details of this Bill - whether they are good or bad, or how good or bad - and look at the Bill as narrow legislation dealing with street prostitution and some aspects of minors involved in prostitution, we see that it still will not work. It will not work if we do not take a holistic approach to the issue. These people will simply move to other suburbs and the form of prostitution and the means of soliciting will change.

This legislation will not work because it is an attempt to deal with just one aspect of the sex industry. It will not be a long-term solution even if it includes the best possible provisions to cover this area. For that reason, as well as others, the sunset clause makes sense. We must introduce comprehensive legislation. When it is introduced - with a Labor Government coming to power within the next year it will - there will be no need for this provision. The provision relating to this matter would be subsumed into the comprehensive legislation. However, the Government, in attacking the proposal for a sunset clause and finding it totally unacceptable, has clearly signalled it has found dealing with this issue too difficult. It wants this legislation up the flagpole so that it has something flying to deal with one aspect of the issue and because it cannot take on the real issues involved in legislating generally with regard to prostitution. That is what must be done; there is no other way to deal effectively with street prostitution. We cannot have effective legislation dealing with it as one part of the equation and do nothing to deal with the rest of the trade. It is a nonsense. The sunset clause makes good sense because the Labor Government will introduce a comprehensive Bill. The matters which should be covered and which are supposedly covered by this legislation will be subsumed into the broader legislation.

If the drafting process takes a little longer than the period allowed for in the sunset clause, it will be very easy to extend it even further to consider the issue. The Government has done that with a number of pieces of legislation in its current term. That happened with a minor issue affecting the Freedom of Information Act. This case involves more complex issues; the detail of the legislation required to deal with prostitution generally will take a great deal of consideration. We hope we can do that within the time allowed in the sunset clause. The provisions designed to deal with the same problems will be in that overarching Bill. If for some reason beyond comprehension the Labor Party is not returned to government at the next election, the pressure will be on the coalition Government to come up with a comprehensive solution. It will not be able to continue to sweep the matter under the carpet. With good reason, I am hopeful that the Labor Party will be in power and that we will have a proper solution to this very vexing problem.

Mrs ROBERTS: This afternoon we have seen from the Minister for the Environment a glimpse of how this Government would have behaved had this sunset clause not been included in the legislation. We have heard a great deal of selfpraise. The minister has praised her Government for introducing the first legislation to amend the prostitution provisions in the Police Act 1892. That praise is misplaced. I am sure that if the sunset clause did not exist and the coalition Government were returned to power at the next election - as the member for Nollamara suggested, that is beyond comprehension - it would rest on its laurels and suggest that it is the only Government since 1892 that has put in place prostitution legislation and that has dealt with the important matters of street prostitution and child prostitution, and that would be the end of it. That is the very attitude that motivated us to ensure that a sunset clause was put into this legislation. People in the community have quite a pragmatic approach to prostitution. Everyone knows that prostitution is the oldest profession in the world and will continue to exist irrespective of the laws we put in place. However, many innocent people in the community will be caught up in the effects of prostitution if we just adopt a head-in-the-sand approach. Many people in residential areas are being impacted upon by massage parlours and other businesses that are really brothels in disguise. Those matters must be dealt with comprehensively. Issues of police corruption and drugs have been just swept under the carpet. It is only by having a sunset clause that the issue of prostitution will be firmly on the agenda for whichever party is in government after the next election.

**Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.**

**The Council acquainted accordingly.**

#### **REVENUE LAWS AMENDMENT (ASSESSMENT) BILL 2000**

##### *Declaration as Urgent*

**MR KIERATH** (Riverton - Minister assisting the Treasurer) [3.52 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be considered an urgent Bill.

The reason for this motion is that this Bill was second-read in this House on 25 May this year and is two days short of the required three-week period specified under Standing Order No 168(1).

**MR KOBELKE** (Nollamara) [3.53 pm]: This motion does not need to be agreed to, but the Opposition will agree to it. The purpose of this legislation is to secure certain revenues to the State because of potential loopholes in the revenue laws. It will also fix up other matters, as we will discuss during the second reading debate. I make that comment to emphasise that this is important legislation because it involves reasonably large amounts of interstate revenue; therefore, it affects the people who will be paying those taxes through a range of stamp duties or levies. We will need some explanation from the minister about why this Bill needs to be rushed through this place. I understand that a case is in the courts that may have established some precedents and may have brought on this matter a bit faster than the minister had anticipated. However, we are being asked to deal with this matter after we have had only a short time to consider it.

As I have said, we will accept that to assist the Government and ensure that the revenue is not threatened by people finding loopholes in the revenue laws. It raises the question of whether this Government is being incompetent in its management of finances because it was not able to address this issue in a more timely way so that we could have the normal time to consider the Bill. As I have said, we consider the matter to be serious and we support the Government's intention and, on that basis, we will agree to the matter being considered urgent.

**Question put and passed.**

*Second Reading*

Resumed from 25 May.

**MR RIPPER** (Belmont - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [3.55 pm]: This Bill is a package of five changes. Three changes are proposed to the Stamp Act 1921 and two changes are proposed to the Land Tax Assessment Act 1976. The three changes proposed to the Stamp Act comprise two anti-avoidance measures and one concession. The two changes proposed to the Land Tax Assessment Act provide one concession and another change relating to the taxation of land held by statutory authorities.

The Labor Party supports this legislation, although it will be critical of previous pieces of legislation which are further amended by the Bill before the House. The first and most important change in this Bill relates to the stamp duty relief for corporate reconstructions, which was extended by this Government in 1996. The change was announced in the state budget of 1996-97. The argument put forward by the Government at the time was, in simplified form, that the Government should facilitate corporate reconstructions which provided for greater business efficiency when the corporate bodies involved were essentially owned by the same people. In relation to the corporate reconstruction exemption that was given on 29 August 1996, the second reading speech states -

The objective of the corporate reconstruction scheme contained in these amendments is to remove the stamp duty impediment to the achievement of a more efficient ongoing structure for a company group. The relief is intended, subject to certain conditions, to allow -

a corporation or group of companies to incorporate a holding company and transfer assets from certain subsidiaries to it;

a corporation to incorporate a new subsidiary and transfer assets to the new subsidiary;

the movement of assets between associated companies provided the companies were associated for three years; or

where the three-year test is not satisfied, the movement of assets between associated companies where the companies were associated at the time the transferor acquired the assets.

Companies were required to have a common shareholding and voting control of 90 per cent or more in order to be viewed as associated companies for the purposes of this stamp duty relief. These requirements were put in place because corporate reconstructions are not always carried out for positive purposes or to achieve greater business efficiency. Corporate reconstructions can be carried out for the purposes of stripping away the assets of a target company. Corporate reconstructions can also be carried out to package assets in a way which would make them more attractive for on-sale to another entity.

It is clear that the ambiguous nature of corporate reconstruction can lead to tax avoidance and, therefore, loss of revenue for the State. Although the Australian Labor Party formally supported the legislation in 1996, a number of members on this side of the House raised concerns about the corporate reconstruction stamp duty relief. Members on this side of the House observed a theme in the changes to taxation legislation being introduced by the then Minister for Finance, Hon Max Evans. It appeared to members on this side of the House that some people wanted to preserve the advantages of the corporate veil but, on the other hand, wanted to remove all the disadvantages that might apply, such as a liability for stamp duty or land tax.

Whenever consideration is given to extending tax concessions, it is important to understand that every concession imposes a burden on people who remain in the taxation base. Taxation concessions should be examined with the same ongoing scrutiny provided for taxation expenditure. Too often a taxation concession is extended by the Parliament and then largely ignored in a scrutiny of the Government's financial activities. We scrutinise much more the spending of \$1 000 in the Education Department than the possible forgoing of \$10m of revenue through a stamp duty or land tax concession. The Government provided an estimate of the cost in 1996 when it extended the corporate reconstruction stamp duty relief. In the second reading speech in 1996, the Government said -

Although difficult to quantify, it is estimated that the associated cost to revenue will be in the order of \$5m in 1996-97 and each year thereafter. An amount of stamp duty greater than this is expected to be exempted each year under the new arrangements. However, it should be recognised that a large proportion of these transactions would not proceed in the absence of this relief. Accordingly, those transactions will be given relief with no real cost to the revenue.

Four years ago the corporate reconstruction stamp duty relief was estimated to cost \$5m a year.

In 1997 further legislation was introduced to the Parliament which broadened the application of this form of stamp duty relief. The Government, in the second reading speech on that legislation, told the Parliament it would cost an additional \$2.5m a year. If one adds up the amount of revenue the Government estimated would be forgone in those two second reading speeches, the total is \$27.5m - one year at \$5m and three years at \$7.5m.

The actual outcome is considerably greater than that implied by the government estimate of \$27.5m over four years. According to the budget papers for this and previous years, the actual amount forgone over the four-year period is \$70m; in other words, the cost of this corporate reconstruction stamp duty relief is more than double what the Government told

us it would be in those second reading speeches in 1996 and 1997. That estimate was based on net figures. Page 154 of the *1999-2000 Economic and Fiscal Overview* describes how these net figures were calculated -

An exemption for transfers of property between commonly owned companies was introduced from 1 October 1996, as a business efficiency measure. The estimate of the tax expenditure is based on the value of claims for the exemption, and assumes that only one third of corporate reconstructions would proceed in the absence of an exemption (based on a somewhat arbitrary Commonwealth Grants Commission estimate).

Thus, the gross notional cost of this exemption is estimated to be \$33 million in 1998-99.

At that time, the Government said that the real net cost of the exemption was only \$11m. It is difficult to determine whether corporate reconstructions would have proceeded if the exemption had not been in the law; however, the Government admitted that its calculation of the net cost of the exemption was based on an arbitrary estimate. The real cost might be \$70m or another figure between \$70m and \$200m, which was the figure given in the second reading speech as the gross cost of the stamp duty relief for the 157 corporate reconstructions able to take advantage of the exemption.

There are a variety of reasons for corporate reconstructions. Some of those reasons are laudable, some are not. Trying to promote and allow for greater business efficiency in the operations of companies based in Western Australia is a valid objective, but promoting asset stripping or tax avoidance through the packaging of assets for on-sale to other entities is not a positive policy objective. That is one set of considerations. We should also consider the priorities for the use of scarce taxpayer resources. This money should be considered as expenditure on business efficiency and should be compared with the value of expenditure on health, policing or government schools. This Government has spent at least \$70m over four years to promote business efficiency. Might that money have been better spent on urgent community needs? The Government cannot provide suitable access to public hospitals for people waiting for operations, sufficient police for Kalgoorlie or a better police-to-population ratio in the Cannington police district. There are valid reasons to question the Government's priorities with stamp duty relief. The cost of the relief has been between \$70m and \$200m. Although some of that money would have gone towards a positive objective - encouraging business efficiency - some of it would also have gone towards not-so-positive objectives. It could be argued that in view of the urgent social priorities confronting this community, the money would have been better spent in health and education or on the Police Service.

Another comment which must be made is that every time a concession is introduced into taxation legislation, the possibility of tax avoidance is opened up. Every concession allows the opportunity for the smart lawyers and the smart accountants who practise in this area to find a way around the intentions of the legislation. That has happened in this case. We are now dealing with legislation to tighten this particular exemption and to head off the possibility that it will be exploited for the purposes of tax avoidance. We must be careful whenever we in this Parliament contemplate supporting stamp duty relief, taxation relief or other concessions in the legislation, particularly when those concessions are targeted at particular groups or particular ways of operating companies. We must be careful because the good intentions of the Parliament can be exploited by those people who make it their business and their livelihood to find ways around taxation legislation.

It is instructive to compare the optimistic tone of the 1996 second reading speech with the more critical tone of the speech for this legislation. There seems to be a real sense of disappointment, perhaps even betrayal, in the person who drafted the second reading speech for this legislation. It reads as though a lesson has been learnt. The tax practitioners did not behave with the integrity with which they led the Government to believe they would behave when the Government extended this stamp duty relief in 1996. That is the impression I gain from comparing the tone of the 1996 speech with that of the 2000 speech. Interestingly, the 1996 speech said that there would be a review of the corporate reconstruction stamp duty relief. It stated -

However, a number of other industry proposals, particularly concerning the scope of the relief being given and the limitations imposed by the various conditions which must be met, were not implemented. Nonetheless, a possibility exists that more flexibility could perhaps be incorporated into the scheme once its immediate effect and operation have been objectively assessed. Accordingly, the Government intends that a review of these provisions will be undertaken in two years in consultation with industry to ascertain where improvements can be made.

I am interested to know whether this legislation is the outcome of that review or whether it has arisen from some other process. Two years after 29 August 1996 would have been late 1998. I would like the minister to tell us whether the review which was contemplated in the legislation ever took place, and if so, what the conclusions of that review were. It seems as though industry had an ambit claim before the Government in 1996, which the Government could not go along with entirely, but which the Government held out some hope might be implemented at a later stage. In 2000 we find that things have gone more as the Opposition predicted than as the Government predicted in 1996, and we now need to head off tax avoidance and tighten up this legislation.

This Bill is said to tighten up the possibilities of avoidance with regard to this corporate reconstruction stamp duty relief. The Opposition has grave reservations about the whole concept of this form of stamp duty relief, but it supports the measures to prevent its being further exploited.

I note that there is a general anti-avoidance provision related to corporate reconstructions and the stamp duty that might be applied to them. I support that sort of general anti-avoidance clause. If that sort of clause is not in taxation legislation, State Revenue may always be playing a catch-up game, trying to respond to the latest device dreamed up by lawyers and accountants for the avoidance of taxation. Revenue departments need a fairly tough anti-avoidance power so that they can head off avoidance measures without having to wait for legislation to come to Parliament and go through the often slow

processes of this place to cope with the latest attack on the revenue base of the State from corporate smarties and their professional allies.

The next package of amendments deals with the power of the commissioner to reassess a taxation assessment so that more tax will be paid. Section 31 of the Stamp Act provides for the Commissioner when being required to do so by another person or on his own volition to express an opinion with respect to an executed instrument. When such an opinion is expressed the Commissioner is then to issue an assessment. Sub section 4 is quite clear it states "An instrument on which the duty has been assessed by the Commissioner shall not, if it is unstamped or insufficiently stamped, be stamped otherwise than in accordance with assessment of duty issued under sub section (2) in respect of that instrument". The words of section 31(4) and the case of *Venture Management Limited v Commissioner of State Taxation* made it quite clear that the Commissioner under a section 31 exercise cannot upwardly correct a stamp duty liability once an assessment has issued. The Commissioner however, has not relied on section 31. The Commissioner has been of the view that he makes assessments under section 23 and by using the power under section 23 he has reassessed upwards or downwards. Section 23 states:- "It is the duty of the Commissioner or any person required or authorised under this Act to impress stamps to determine whether any instrument produced for stamping or to have the stamp cancelled may be stamped, and the amount of duty payable, . . .". The case of *Superior Holding Ltd v Commissioner of State Revenue* brought it home to the Commissioner that where the Commissioner thought he was looking at a section 23 assessment in fact it was a section 31 assessment so the Bill provides for amendments to section 31 to enable the Commissioner to reassess and increase duty when reassessing.

This is a reasonable power for the commissioner to have. It raises some concerns that people might enter into arrangements, receive a tax assessment for those arrangements and proceed on their commercial way only to find that there has been a suggestion of an error, a changed assessment by the commissioner and a sudden and unexpected tax bill which must be met. I am concerned that that might be the case and that some individuals might be disadvantaged by that. The legislation provides for a five-year claw-back provision, but that can only operate prospectively. That means that at some time in the future the commissioner will be able to go back up to five years to correct an assessment that is seen to have been in error and to increase the assessment.

Briefings from State Revenue Department officers indicate that the commissioner will require a reason to look at an assessment; that is, the commissioner will not necessarily examine every assessment to see whether an error has occurred. Circumstances may arise in which an error is drawn to the commissioner's attention through other processes, and those cases would naturally tend to involve large amounts of stamp duty. Will the minister outline in the consideration in detail stage or in his response to the second reading debate exactly how the Government sees this enhanced power of the commissioner being used, and how it will protect people from arbitrary and unexpected changes to their circumstances as a result of errors in the State Revenue Department?

The third change to the Stamp Act is the extension of a concession. I made a few remarks casting doubts on, and outlining the dangers in, the propensity of Governments to continue to offer concessions to groups in taxation legislation. However, this concession appears to be reasonable and fair. It will provide exemption from stamp duty for certain modified motor vehicles. My understanding is that if a truck-trailer, for example, is purchased, and stamp duty has been paid on its purchase, but later the vehicle is modified to create two new vehicles of no greater value than the original vehicle, stamp duty will not be required to be paid on the licensing of the two new vehicles. That seems a reasonable course of action. The ownership and the total value of the vehicle has not changed. The owner modified the vehicle to improve its operations. For licensing purposes, the modification has technically created two new vehicles, for which, technically, stamp duty is payable on their licensing. However, the principles underlying the stamp duty scheme provide no reason for stamp duty relief not to be applied in those circumstances. Truck operators and owner-drivers would consider it unfair to pay stamp duty in the circumstances outlined. I have some sympathy with the difficult circumstances and extreme competitive pressures in that industry. They suffer enough competitive and commercial pressure without being harassed by the mechanism that this legislation seeks to overcome. Although I have concerns about concessions overall, about the ways in which they can be exploited for tax avoidance and the priorities which they represent, in this case I do not think a great deal of revenue will be lost. This seems to be fair, in particular to people involved in the transport industry.

The next set of changes relates to land tax. The Government is moving to apply land tax to land owned by port authorities from 1 July 2000. That will raise for the Government an additional \$3.2m a year. There are economic arguments for statutory authorities, such as port authorities, to pay land tax. Port authorities are essentially commercial operations. If the efficiency of publicly owned ports is to be benchmarked against the efficiencies achieved by privately owned ports, the publicly owned ports should be subject to the same imposts as privately owned ports. It is not necessarily a matter of providing for competition between publicly owned and privately owned ports in Western Australia; it is more a matter of allowing for adequate comparison and benchmarking of the commercial performances of publicly owned and privately owned ports.

If one has a scheme of competitive neutrality between publicly owned and privately owned ports, in the long run that allows for the possibility of competition. The possibility of competition helps to ensure that publicly owned operations are kept up to the mark in their efficiency and commercial performance. There are arguments for ports to be treated in a way which is competitively neutral. Nevertheless, that mechanism provides an increase in the revenue flowing to the Government. This Government has had an increase in revenue of 70 per cent since 1993. The land tax charge to the port authorities will be recovered essentially in port user charges. The \$3.2m increase in government revenue next year as a result of this change is a \$3.2m tax on port users in Western Australia. Therefore, although the economic theory says that we should go for

competitively neutral arrangements between public and private authorities, the practical outcome of the application of that economic theory is that port users in Western Australia will in effect be paying \$3.2m a year to the State Government. Had the Government introduced a \$3.2m a year tax on port users, I am not sure that the move would have met with the same lack of scrutiny as the \$3.2m land tax impost on port authorities. The outcome of the two proposals is the same. One proposal would have attracted a great deal of scrutiny and perhaps some opposition. The proposal that has been adopted does not attract that same degree of scrutiny.

Despite my reservations about the land tax impost on port authorities, it is clear that if we proceed with these arrangements to ensure competitive neutrality, those arrangements should have a rational basis. I am advised that the application of land tax to port authorities raised the question of the status of land not owned by the port authorities but vested in their control by the Crown. This legislation will clarify that crown land vested in the control of the port authorities is to be treated for land tax purposes as if it were owned by them. If we are to move towards a scheme of competitive neutrality we should be wholehearted about it. This amendment, which will not have a huge impact on duty received by the Government, should be supported.

Finally, the fifth change proposed in this legislation is another concession also supported by the Opposition. It will assist people in difficult circumstances at a most unfortunate stage in their lives and it is unlikely to cost very much. A concession is already extended on land tax for an owner's principal place of residence. I understand that exemption costs us about \$190m a year. In our society where we want to encourage and support home ownership, that concession has long been seen in this Parliament as justifiable.

In order to take advantage of principal place of residence exemption an owner must live in the principal place of residence as at 30 June, the date on which the land tax assessment is made. It is possible that as at 30 June an owner will not occupy that principal place of residence because a mortgagee has taken possession of the house pursuant to a right to sell. In other words, the owner could be one of the few people required to pay land tax in Western Australia on the principal place of residence when he is not occupying it on 30 June and the mortgagee is preparing to sell the property in order to meet the debts of the owner. It would add considerable insult to injury and add to his other financial woes if that person received a land tax assessment. However, I do not imagine many people will be in those circumstances. Someone must have complained to the Government about this. The legislation has probably been like this for years without that set of circumstances arising; nevertheless, it has been pointed out and it is clearly unfair, and the Opposition supports this change.

This taxation legislation tends to be extremely complex. It is difficult for the Parliament to deal with it in any detailed and critical way. The Opposition does not have available a battery of accountants and lawyers to advise its members on the technicalities of the legislation. We are of course equipped to debate the general principles. However, not many people in this Parliament, if any, are well equipped to dispute the advice of the professionals from the State Revenue Department on the technicalities of the legislation and whether they will prove to be effective in practice. That is a problem for the development of taxation legislation. This Parliament is neither large enough nor well resourced enough to enable proper scrutiny of proposals in complex commercial areas.

Nevertheless, we are able to state our position on the legislation. We have some reservations, as I have indicated, about the principle of stamp duty relief for corporate reconstructions and the priorities which that represents for government. Nevertheless, this legislation does not establish stamp duty relief for corporate reconstructions; it actually helps to constrain the possibility of that relief being exploited.

The other changes protect the revenue base of the State or extend concessions in circumstances in which very little revenue will be forgone, but manifest injustices will be overcome. The Opposition supports the legislation.

**MR KOBELKE** (Nollamara) [4.35 pm]: The Revenue Laws Amendment (Assessment) Bill 2000 seeks to amend the Stamp Act 1921 and the Land Tax Assessment Act 1976. Five different areas are dealt with by these amendments. One relates to corporate restructures; that is clearly a matter of revenue protection. Two matters could be generally said to be tidying up of administrative matters; one relates to the power to reassess upwards stamp duty liability. The other relates to the land tax application statutory authorities. Clearly revenue implications are involved. However, the matter is largely one of fixing up the way in which things are supposed to work. Two other matters provide some element of relief for people in particular sectors. One relates to duty on licencing for motor vehicles, the other is to provide relief for people who may become mortgage defaulters.

I turn firstly to the Stamp Act amendments, the first amendment being the changes relating to corporate restructures. In 1996, exemptions from stamp duty were provided for corporate restructures to enable more efficient corporate structures to be entered into provided there is little or no change in the underlying ownership. The circumstances are set out in detail in section 75JB of the Stamp Act. The policy behind the exemption was first to promote commercial efficiency, but at the same time, not to permit relief from stamp duty when the purpose is to strip assets from previously unrelated companies, or to package group assets for on-sale to unrelated parties. In 1999, an application for the predetermination of duty was made pursuant to section 31 of the Stamp Act. A difficulty with the wording of 75JB came to light. The loophole was discovered, thus a rather complex amendment to section 75JB is set out in the Bill.

When the issue came to light, the then Minister for Finance issued a media release. The Government made it clear that from the date of the media release, 25 October 1999, it intended to legislate to prevent this emerging area of tax avoidance. In that respect, the legislation is retrospective. It brings a smile to my face when I remember the past Labor Government and how often the then Opposition attacked us because there was some element of retrospectivity in a Bill. We now find the situation with this Government that almost every other Bill has an aspect of retrospectivity. This may in part be due to the

complexity of matters - I know that some of the retrospective elements in legislation have been due to the uniform legislation applied across Australia with which Western Australia has had to come into line. It may be that in state legislation, things move very quickly, and in order to close this loophole, the Government has had to act retrospectively. The Government may also be finding out far too often after the event that it should have dealt with something. The Government is using retrospectivity in that way as well.

The Opposition is not taking issue, but I raise it because, as I said, the Labor Party was so often attacked when it was in government if there was any element of retrospectivity in its legislation. There are times when retrospectivity is necessary, and this is one of those times. This Government has introduced many Bills containing retrospective provisions.

The Opposition understands that the retrospective application of this change catches one transaction. Reference is made in the second reading speech to that transaction, which involves \$730 000 in stamp duty. It is a corporate entity dealing with its own assets. No predetermination was sought, although an informal approach was made prior to the media statement. The procedure was undertaken notwithstanding the minister's media statement. The State Revenue Department is of the view that the restructuring in question occurred on a commercial basis in the knowledge of the media statement. The reference to retrospectivity is contained in proposed new section 75JDA(2), which provides that the "transitional period" is the period beginning on 25 October 1999. The Bill also provides for a general avoidance provision to deny the exemption when the transaction is for the purpose of avoiding duty.

I hope we might see some form of agreement between the States on the provisions relating to corporate restructures, stamp duty and related matters. It is a very complex area, but stamp duty is an important part of the States' revenue base. Clearly, a great deal of competition exists between the States. A current example of that is the loss of the Rally Australia event to Victoria. The right to host a high-profile media event has been contested between the States and one State has successfully stolen that event from another State. We also have that element of competition with stamp duty and taxation. A State can obtain a clear advantage in attracting the operations of financial services by providing concessions or relief from stamp duty. That is life, we accept that and we must do our best. However, if we end up in a downward spiral of tax collection because we must match every other State that seeks to lower taxes, we will further narrow our taxation base. The State's taxation base is already far too restricted to meet our obligations.

Now is not the time to discuss vertical fiscal imbalance, but it is a key issue. This is also not the time to discuss the goods and services tax, but it will also make commonwealth-state financial relationships worse and further limit the States' revenue-raising powers. Issues such as stamp duty may take a higher profile in revenue raising. If we continue to offer concessions such as the measure contained in this legislation, we will reduce the revenue available to attract efficient enterprises to this State.

A uniform system across Australia would perhaps be too rigid. States will have to move from time to time to meet the needs of industry and to try to establish better and more efficient ways of doing things. The situation will always be changing. We are caught between having the required flexibility to allow the State to meet the needs of and encourage industry and undercutting other States. However, if one State keeps undercutting others, all the States will lose out.

The reason for the amendment to stamp duty for corporate reconstructions is that the State had made a change to the law to try to assist companies to adopt a more efficient corporate structure; and that is certainly something we would want to do. However, that opened up loopholes and the State was losing revenue, which was never the original intention. This amendment seeks to address that matter.

The second amendment to the Stamp Act will allow the commissioner to reassess a stamp duty liability once an assessment has been issued. The reason for this amendment is that a deficiency has been found in the power of the commissioner to reassess upwards. Section 31 of the Stamp Act states that the commissioner shall, if required by another person, or may, of his own volition, express his opinion with reference to any executed instrument; and that having expressed such an opinion, the commissioner shall then issue an assessment of duty. Section 31(4) states -

An instrument on which the duty has been assessed by the Commissioner shall not, if it is unstamped or insufficiently stamped, be stamped otherwise than in accordance with the assessment of duty issued under subsection (2) in respect of that instrument.

The words of section 31(4) and the case of *Venture Management Limited v Commissioner of State Taxation* make it clear that the commissioner cannot, under a section 31 exercise, upwardly correct a stamp duty liability once an assessment has been issued. The commissioner, however, has not relied on section 31. The commissioner has been of the view that he makes assessments under section 23; and by using the power under section 23, he has reassessed upwards or downwards. Section 23 states -

It is the duty of the Commissioner or any person required or authorized under this Act to impress stamps . . . to determine whether any instrument produced for stamping or to have the stamp cancelled may be stamped, and the amount of the duty payable . . .

The case of *Superior Holdings Limited v Commissioner of State Revenue* brought home to the commissioner that when the commissioner thought he was looking at a section 23 assessment, he was in fact looking at a section 31 assessment. Therefore, the Bill provides for amendments to section 31 to enable the commissioner to increase a stamp duty liability when making a reassessment.

There is a clawback provision, but that will only operate prospectively; that is, the commissioner will only be able to make



a reassessment within five years of the original assessment. The commencement date of that change will be when the Bill receives royal assent. We support this provision, but we are concerned about how it may catch particular cases of hardship. I understand that a general hardship provision may cause a problem, because the commissioner has little discretion and must uphold the strict requirements of the statutes under which he operates; therefore, he cannot grant concessions on the basis of hardship. My advice is that when hardship does exist, the only avenue open to the commissioner is to provide some leniency on the terms of payment or to waive the interest rates or penalties that may apply to late payments. However, the commissioner cannot waive the requirement to pay just because the person responsible for the payment is in a difficult situation.

We are dealing here with a situation in which State Revenue had made an assessment and the person had proceeded to take the action which incurred the stamp duty, but it was then found that State Revenue had made a mistake; and, having made a mistake, under these amendments State Revenue would be able to reassess upwards and that person would then become liable to pay the extra stamp duty.

Two things follow from that. I hold the State Revenue Department in very high esteem. When I have gone to its officers with issues relating to my constituents or to seek advice, I have always found them very professional and very helpful. I have never had any reason to question that it is one of the most professional agencies in the State Government. I do not wish to suggest in any way that just because it makes mistakes I want to reflect adversely on the department; that is not the case at all. All agencies make mistakes from time to time. Although an agency may work very efficiently for some years, it sometimes may get off the pace a bit. In framing legislation, we need to be aware that agencies can make mistakes - sometimes quite bad mistakes.

If a person has sought to purchase some land and to transfer the title and has been given an assessment for duty, and then finds, when the transaction has gone through, that a mistake was made by the State Revenue Department and that he is now liable to pay additional money, I have concern that if that puts the person in a position of some hardship, the legislation does not give any "out" for the commissioner to consider. I am not suggesting that there should be a hardship provision for the overall Act. However, in relation to only this provision, which gives the commissioner the ability to reassess upwards and to do that for a period of up to five years, I am suggesting that the minister consider that if genuine hardship is created by a reassessment following an error by the State Revenue Department, there should perhaps be the ability not to proceed with that reassessment.

I am told that the possibility of someone actually being caught in such a scenario is very small, because many thousands of instruments attract stamp duty and it is highly unlikely that the State Revenue Department would be able to go back and reassess them and catch someone out over a small technical error made when the original assessment was given. This is totally outside a case in which there has been deliberate misrepresentation by the people involved in the sale or the stamping of a particular document that has been assessed for duty. We are ruling out those cases in which there is some form of fraud or misrepresentation by the parties involved. Clearly, in those cases, not only would the commissioner be able to reassess upwards, but also other action could be taken because of the attempt to defraud the department. We are dealing with cases in which a person has submitted an instrument for stamping, the department has incorrectly assessed the revenue, the matter has proceeded and the transfer of land or whatever has been concluded, and then it is found, on reassessment, that the department has made a mistake and extra payment is due to cover the stamp duty. That is a difficult situation, because in most cases I accept that if it is a genuine slip up, the duty should be paid. There could, however, be cases in which a person will face genuine hardship in finding the extra money to make the payment. It is my understanding that, under the current Act, there is no way of writing off that type of debt in order to cover the stamp duty. I ask the minister to think about that and to comment on whether a modicum of flexibility might be given to the commissioner with respect to the extra stamp duty that would occur due to such a reassessment upwards.

The third matter with respect to the Stamp Act relates to truck licensing. Division 4 of the Bill is to do with the exemption from duty on licensing of modified motor vehicles. The third schedule of the Stamp Act provides for exemptions. Division 4 amends the third schedule to provide for circumstances in which, as a result of modifying a motor vehicle, a new licence is required which is to be exempt from stamp duty. The example given in the second reading speech was with respect to a modification to an existing five-axle truck trailer, which is referred to as a dog trailer.

A modification of a vehicle may result in the creation of two distinct trailers, referred to as a dolly and a semitrailer. When a new licence for a semitrailer is required, the vehicle is treated as a new unit and stamp duty is chargeable on the market value of the semitrailer. This is considered to be unfair as the vehicle ownership has not changed, nor has the market value of the vehicle increased. That appears a fair arrangement to provide relief to an operator who may have to change the configuration of a truck to meet a new market or to simply remain viable in the area of trucking in which the owner is involved. When a vehicle is modified by the addition of a unit which requires licensing to be on the road, an exemption for payment of additional stamp duty is most reasonable and has the support of the Australian Labor Party.

I refer now to the two amendments proposed to the Land Tax Assessment Act. The first amendment intends to subject ports to land tax from the year of assessment commencing 1 July 2000. Assessment is based on the state of play as at 30 June 2000. The Bill seeks to deal with a technical doubt which arose about the statutory authorities currently liable for land tax which are listed on page 19 of the clause notes. The issue is ownership of land vested by the Crown in statutory authorities. Legal advice obtained by the Commissioner of State Revenue suggests that land does not vest in statutory authorities as owners but, rather, in a more limited sense for the purposes of management and control of that land. Previously, it was believed that statutory authorities were owners of vested land for land tax purposes and the relevant liable statutory authorities have been paying land tax on that basis. The amendments are to put beyond doubt that non-exempted statutory

authorities have a liability to pay land tax, in respect of both owned and vested land. Statutory authorities have been paying on that basis. To ensure that there is no argument, particularly with respect to any proposed refund, the Bill provides that the amendments will operate from 30 June 1995 and for the purposes of assessment and issue of taxation notices the year will commence on 1 July 1996. The significance of 1 July 1996 is that it was the first date on which a relevant authority was assessed for land tax. As I indicated at the outset, that appears to be an administrative matter between government agencies and I am unaware that it will have any real effect on revenue. Again, the minister may wish to correct me when he concludes this stage of the debate if any statutory authorities are recalcitrant or take a different line from that which is expected of them. However, I believe no problem exists and the amendment is to regularise and ensure the Act reflects the expectation of both the authorities and the State Revenue Department.

The final amendment which relates to the Land Tax Assessment Act provides exemption from land tax to the principal place of residence of an owner of land. This amendment gives relief particularly to an owner whose mortgagee has taken possession of, and is seeking to sell, the land. It is a beneficial provision to take care of a situation in which a person defaults on meeting mortgage payments and the mortgagee takes possession of the land to sell it. Because the person would not be residing on the land as his principal place of residence, that person would miss out on a land tax exemption. It is a bit rough on people to make them pay land tax when their home is being sold from under them as defaulting mortgagors. The Bill sets out conditions that the owner of the house is not to receive a principal place of residence exemption for another property into which that owner has moved and no rent or other income is to be derived from the land during the period it is required to be vacant. I am unsure how many people would be affected by the amendment; however, one hopes it will not become a major issue. From time to time there is a problem in the home mortgage market when interest rates increase, people lose their jobs and property values fall at the same time. In the past there has been a spate of mortgagee sales with people being forced out of their homes. Under the law currently, even though people have been forced out of their home which is being sold, are perhaps trying to avoid bankruptcy and have very little spare money, they would not receive a concession on that property as it is no longer their principal place of residence. In that situation, it seems harsh and unjust to require the person to also pay land tax on property he has basically lost, although the sale has not proceeded and he is still listed on the title as the owner. The amendments alleviate a potential injustice in the Act. Does the minister have any idea about the numbers involved?

Mr Kierath: One.

Mr KOBELKE: Is that currently or historically?

Mr Kierath: The problem is that only one case has been brought to our attention. We do not know that there are not others. It seemed inherently unfair.

Mr KOBELKE: I agree. It is prudent to ensure such things do not exist, even if they affect only one person. More people could be affected. Home ownership seems to be reasonably freely available. I do not know whether the minister has noticed that the home affordability index has not been looking good lately. For many years, Western Australia has recorded good numbers on the home affordability index, which is a mixture of interest rates and income. It is a guide to how easy it is for people to own homes in the particular economic climate. The latest report showed that the index was moving in the wrong direction. Hopefully, it is just a blip and things will turn around, although they might not if interest rates continue to rise, driven by inflation and other factors, or if the number of people in employment continues to fall. The Minister for Employment and Training has just sat down next to the Minister assisting the Treasurer. The unemployment figures released last week were concerning. In one month, 5 300 jobs were lost in Western Australia. The unemployment figure looked good because the participation rate fell. However, Western Australia had 5 300 fewer jobs. The employment figures jump from month to month, but this is the third successive month in which the number of jobs in Western Australia has fallen. Those factors are concerning. We are confident things will turn around, but if they do not turn around quickly, there could be a large number of mortgagee sales. This provision would then apply to more than one case. We hope that will not occur; that there will be an improvement in home affordability, increased employment and low interest rates. These things go in cycles and, from time to time, real pressure is placed on home owners with high mortgages, who are battling to make ends meet. There could be a sudden rush of mortgagee sales, and it is likely that some people will be caught in the situation. The amendment is a judicial provision to ensure that further injustice is not provided to those people who are already in the stressful situation of losing their homes. We strongly support the provision.

The Bill deals with five different areas. One is clearly only about revenue protection; that is, corporate restructures. The two administrative areas, which have some revenue implications, relate to the power to reassess upward stamp duty liability and the application of land tax on statutory authorities. The last two areas provide relief for a limited number of people; that is, the duty on the licensing of motor vehicles and relief for certain mortgage defaulters. The Opposition supports the Bill and would like the opportunity to gather more detail from the minister during the consideration in detail stage.

**MR KIERATH** (Riverton - Minister assisting the Treasurer) [5.04 pm]: I will try to answer some of the issues that have been raised as best I can. The member for Belmont asked whether the corporate reconstruction amendments arose from the two-year review of the provisions.

The answer to that is no. That review concluded in December last year. After consultation with industry, the amendments in this Bill were announced in October 1999, so it was ahead of it. We are still considering legislation as a result of that review, but it will be of a limited nature. Another taxation Bill will be introduced later in the year, and I will touch on that later. This was not as a result of that review; it was a result of the information we received and it was announced in October by the then minister.

The member also raised the issue of how the commissioner will use his power of reassessment. The power will be used to ensure that the correct amount of duty is paid. There is a five-year limit. However, if the commissioner becomes aware that an error has occurred during this period, he is obliged to ensure the assessment is corrected upwards or downwards. He may become aware of an error via a compliance activity, a court could decide that an instrument is insufficiently stamped or a person could simply draw the matter to the commissioner's attention. It is important to note that all of our other state revenue laws have that power of reassessment and it is not abused. All other States have this provision. It is interesting to know why it was not in there previously.

Mr Ripper: I think it was assumed that the commissioner had that power until it was shown by the courts that perhaps he did not. He did not have that power once the courts ruled that he did not.

Mr KIERATH: Exactly. It is to correct that. It is to reinstate the practice that has been around.

Mr Ripper: It raised in my mind the question of someone who undertakes a transaction in good faith, pays the tax and is suddenly hit with a bill three years later.

Mr KIERATH: That brings me to the point raised by the member for Nollamara about the hardship cases. The current law does not allow the commissioner to say who will pay and who will not pay; that is, if he likes a person's face, that person will not pay, but if he does not like a person's face, that person will pay. It does not give the commissioner that discretion. The commissioner has the power to allow people to pay by instalments or to delay the actual payment date. That can be done to overcome the hardship cases, but at this stage we do not want to introduce the ability for the commissioner to decide who will pay the taxes and who will not. That is not our intention. Hopefully, the taxation administration Bill will be introduced later this year. I am prepared to have another look at it again in relation to the comments made by the members. I do not want to get the members' hopes up, because there is a reluctance to give the commissioner that power to decide who will pay the tax and who will not. The legislation is fairly tight; if a person is liable to pay it, he or she must pay it. If there are hardship cases or difficult cases, there is some discretion; people can either pay by instalments or the date of payment can be delayed to take into account the individual circumstances.

The member for Nollamara also asked why we do not have more time to consider the Bill. The land tax provisions must be passed by 30 June to give people a degree of certainty. However, it was announced last October that a loophole must be closed, so we are caught between the devil and the deep blue sea. It is true that we could have limited this Bill, but we would have still had to deal with it before 30 June.

Mr Kobelke: The point is that it was announced in October. Why did it take it until 25 May before it was even second read?

Mr KIERATH: I am advised that the anti-avoidance provisions are very complex. I think the member made the point that they are extremely complex. We could have brought in some of the measures earlier, but we knew one Bill was going through. It has been the practice in the past to introduce a number of different Bills, which we try to bundle into one Bill to save the time of the House.

I will give some dates on cabinet approvals which show that at the back end, the Government has been very expeditious. On 15 March, Cabinet gave approval for the draft for the land tax for vested land. That was drafted, went back through the cabinet process, went through all the approval authorities and was introduced into the House in a very short time frame. I do not know of many Bills that would meet those sorts of time lines. The draft for the power to amend the Stamp Act was dealt with on 15 April, so that has been relatively recent. That draft had to go back to Cabinet for printing. In fact, the Bill was second read five weeks after the last cabinet approval for the draft was given. That gives an indication of how fast the Government has been trying to move. I am advised that the drafting of the anti-avoidance provisions took parliamentary counsel a fair degree of time to get right and to make sure that we were not creating any other loopholes in these complicated arrangements.

Mr Kobelke: Do you have the date of the cabinet approval for the minister's press release of 25 October?

Mr KIERATH: I probably do somewhere; I cannot find it readily to hand.

Mr Kobelke: I assume that there was cabinet approval before he made the announcement. Could you confirm that, if possible, and give us the date?

Mr KIERATH: I shall try to get the member that information.

Mr Ripper: You might also tell us how to find on the Government's media statement web site the press release of a minister who is no longer in Cabinet. It is rather as though he disappeared from history.

Mr KIERATH: I usually zip up to the Parliamentary Library, which has all the media releases from all sides of politics going back a long time. Sometimes I find the old technology works a bit better than the new technology.

Mr Ripper: Are you saying that the former minister has not disappeared from the library but only from the web site?

Mr KIERATH: I do not have an answer to why the press release is not on the web site. It should be there.

The media release of 25 October received cabinet approval on 19 October, so less than a week before the announcement, the press release went through Cabinet. It sounds almost as though it was a weekend press release. A recurrent theme from both the member for Belmont and the member for Nollamara was why corporate reconstruction relief was provided. The

relief was provided to enable various corporate groups to adopt an efficient, ongoing corporate structure. In the absence of relief, it was generally pretty cost prohibitive due to the stamp duty involved. Before we introduced these provisions, successive Governments were approached on a reasonably regular basis for an act-of-grace payment to offset stamp duty that arose from some reconstructions. When those provisions were introduced in 1996, it was to replace this arbitrary process with a transparent set of rules which everyone could understand. The usual types of transactions involved are one of a combination of three scenarios: The amalgamation of companies within a group when consolidation of the existing structure is desirable; the introduction of new subsidiaries into a group via incorporation when it is desirable to concentrate life assets or businesses into discrete corporate bodies rather than for them all to be held in a single entity or across a number of group entities; or the transfer of an asset from one group member to another to reflect the desired asset holding of each group entity. As I have said, the provisions try to seek to ensure that asset stripping or packaging cannot occur. The amendments will strengthen the commissioner's ability to ensure that that is so.

I could probably table this information on corporate reconstruction costings if the members are interested.

Mr Ripper: Yes.

Mr KIERATH: There were 18 transactions from October 1996 to June 1997 at a notional cost of \$8.8m; 55 transactions from June 1997 to June 1998 at a notional cost of \$33.7m; 48 transactions from June 1998 to June 1999 at a notional cost of \$30.5m; and 36 transactions from June 1999 to May 2000 at a notional cost of \$123.9m.

Mr Kobelke: Is that cost the value of the transaction or the duty?

Mr KIERATH: They are the notional costs, accepting that they all went through without the reconstruction provisions. The June 1999 to May 2000 figure includes one transaction of \$100.8m, if not for which the numbers would have fallen to around \$23.1m. That \$100.8m skewed the figures dramatically.

It was estimated that the actual cost of corporate reconstruction to revenue was \$11m in 1997-98 and \$10m in 1998-99. Those figures appeared in the *2000-01 Economic and Fiscal Outlook* budget document, with an estimated \$46m in 1999-2000. The large increase resulted from the single very large reconstruction.

Mr Ripper: Are you saying that the duty might have been payable, but the exemption on the single reconstruction amounted to over \$100m?

Mr KIERATH: Yes.

My explanation results from the question asked by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Estimates Committee: The difference between a notional cost and the estimate by the Treasury is that the notional cost assumes that all transactions would proceed in the absence of an exemption. Experience before the introduction of the exemption does not support this view; in fact, the opposite is the case. The basis of the Treasury tax expenditure estimate has previously been outlined in the past budget papers, particularly budget paper No 3. The member said that it did not appear in the papers, but I will explain the matter. The 1998-99 version states that the estimate of the tax expenditure is based on the value of claims for an exemption, and assumes that only one-third of corporate reconstructions would proceed in the absence of an exemption. That is a rather arbitrary figure from the Commonwealth Grants Commission's estimates. We do not agree. The figure for June 1999 to May 2000 involved 36 transaction with a notional cost of \$123.9m; however, one transaction was for \$100.8m, which accounted for about 85 per cent of the notional revenue. Obviously, the one-third estimate does not stack up in our experience.

Mr Ripper: Are you arguing that one-third is too high?

Mr KIERATH: One-third often bears no relationship to our experience; it is a notional figure from the Commonwealth Grants Commission document estimates, which I suggest involve many guesstimates. That is the advice provided to me. The member for Nollamara mentioned consistency between States in corporate reconstructions.

Mr Kobelke: I referred to States undercutting each other on stamp duty to encourage the various transactions to take place in a State because of the advantages which flow.

Mr KIERATH: Maybe I misunderstood the member. The case of hardship and assessment is covered.

Mr Kobelke: I do not say we should open up the power for the commission to deal with hardship generally. It is difficult and perhaps undermines the way things operate. In this area, where one is able to increase the duty based solely on error by the department, there may be limited room for hardship provision.

Mr KIERATH: We will look at that aspect in the tax administration Bill. I have been assured that the hardship cases can be taken into account by allowing payment by instalments, or by adjusting the time that payments fall due. Therefore, there is some flexibility to accommodate those circumstances.

The member for Nollamara asked me whether any statutory authorities were recalcitrant. The answer is no. The situation was sailing along beautifully until we became aware of some legal advice to the effect that, in the corporatisation of the port authorities, they may not be liable to pay land tax on land that is vested with them. As most other statutory authorities have been paying land tax since 1995, the provisions go back to 1995 to validate those land tax assessments, so that the Government does not have to pay back under those provisions. The provisions clarify that legal advice that port authorities may not be subject to land tax. It was obviously our clear intention that they should be, and this will ensure that happens.

There are no recalcitrant statutory authorities. I do not want to lead the member up the garden path. However, dealing with the mortgage exemptions, only one case has been brought to our attention. Other people may well have simply abided by the law. However, that matter was brought to our attention, and obviously those people had a degree of difficulty with payment. When we considered the matter, those provisions seemed inherently unfair, so they were modified. We are not saying that that is the situation for only one case, but that only one case has been brought to our attention.

Mr Ripper: Did someone write to the minister, or how did it happen?

Mr KIERATH: I think it was brought to the attention of the State Revenue Department. I think I have answered all the questions. If I have missed any, perhaps members will indicate by interjection. I said I would table that piece of paper, and I am happy to do so.

[See paper No 961.]

Mr Ripper: I did not ask this question, but I am interested in your estimates for the future of the cost of the corporate reconstruction stamp duty relief. Perhaps we could cover that matter in the consideration in detail stage.

Mr KIERATH: Exactly. I thank members for their comments and contributions.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

### *Consideration in Detail*

**Clauses 1 to 4 put and passed.**

**Clause 5: Section 75J amended -**

Mr RIPPER: This clause appears to extend the corporate reconstruction stamp duty relief to a situation in which a body corporate is involved but that body corporate is not a company. The clause notes give the Royal Automobile Club of WA as a possible example of the type of body that might be involved when corporate reconstruction stamp duty relief would be extended when it did not apply in the past. We have not discussed this matter either during the second reading debate or in the minister's response. What is the motivation for this? Have representations been made to the Government? Is it anticipated that this will expand the cost of corporate reconstruction stamp duty relief?

Mr KIERATH: It was raised by an industry practitioner as a potential issue. It came out of the review and we were prepared to include it in the legislation because it seemed reasonable at the time.

Mr RIPPER: Do you anticipate much cost will be involved?

Mr KIERATH: No.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 6: Section 75JB amended and transitional provision -**

Mr KOBELKE: I seek advice on subclause (5f) which reads -

If the relevant circumstances have occurred and, on or after 25 May 2000 and within 5 years after the execution of the instrument or the date of the relevant acquisition, the parent body — . . .

then —

(c) the parent body and B shall notify the Commissioner in writing in a form approved by the Commissioner within one month after the relevant event; and

(d) the claw-back applies.

I seek clarification on the placing of 25 May 2000 into the statute. It provides no flexibility. If I read it correctly, it places a requirement on certain parties to notify the commissioner in writing. I understand we need a starting date but will placing a date that has passed into the statute restrict flexibility that may be required in certain circumstances?

Mr KIERATH: That is the date of the second reading speech and these are prospective provisions that commence from that date and will exist for five years. Even though the date has passed, it is the date these requirements should apply. If we allowed it to be a later date it would create a loophole for people to do things that we may not want them to do.

Mr KOBELKE: I understand that from the briefing notes and thank the minister for putting that on the record.

We might be referring to only one case or a small number of cases. However, will it open up a potential legal problem in that this legislation will be passed by 30 June? I think the last sitting day of this session is 29 June. By the time it is dealt with in the other place it may not be proclaimed until 29 or 30 June. However, if the conditions under proposed subsection (5f)(a) and (b) were initiated, say on 26 May, they may be required to notify the commissioner within a month, which would be 26 June, and the statute would not be in place. Perhaps I have misconstrued the application of this proposed subsection. It seems to me that it will open up the potential for a problem if in an extreme case a company were required to fulfil a requirement before the Bill had been enacted.

Mr KIERATH: I refer the member to clause 6(2) which states -

... as inserted by subsection (1) taking place on or after 25 May 2000 and before this Act receives the Royal Assent, the notification required by section 75JB(5f)(c) of that Act is to be given within one month after this Act receives the Royal Assent.

Mr RIPPER: Proposed subsection (5a) states -

The claw-back under subsection (5) does not apply if A and B cease to be associated in circumstances where A has no assets or no assets other than cash or money in an account at call or on deposit with any person or a negotiable instrument.

I assume the clawback applies where a corporate reconstruction has been granted stamp duty relief and then the corporate entities fail to remain associated for the post-event qualifying period. If that happens, the commissioner can claw back the stamp duty that should otherwise have been paid. I cannot understand why this clawback does not apply in the circumstances that are listed in proposed subsection (5a). They seem to be precisely the types of circumstances in which some stamp duty might need to be clawed back, when all the assets have been removed from a company and it has become a cash box and it has then been dealt with in a way which means it ceases to be associated with the company that has the assets. They seem to be the types of circumstances in which a clawback of stamp duty might be required.

Mr KIERATH: I am advised that it cannot be done for the transferee, because that is where the assets have come from. If the assets have been transferred out and there is nothing to strip, it cannot be packaged.

Mr RIPPER: Why is it the case that the clawback does not apply when one of the companies is simply a cash box but it would apply if that company owned assets essentially other than cash? What is it about the cash-box status of company A that means that the clawback of stamp duty cannot apply?

Mr KIERATH: Company A, the assets of which have been transferred, probably has cash in it, but it has none of the other assets.

Mr RIPPER: All of the assets have been transferred to company B, company A has only cash, the companies have ceased to be associated, and the clawback does not apply.

Mr KIERATH: There is nothing to be stripped out of it and nothing can be packaged out of it; it has only cash.

Mr Kobelke: Cash is quite useful.

Mr RIPPER: Cash is very useful. I am making the point that presumably this clawback applies because the companies have ceased to be associated. It is not seen to be a genuine corporate reconstruction because it has not met the post-reconstruction qualifying period. Why does the clawback apply if the company has physical assets but not if it has cash assets?

Mr KIERATH: Obviously it does not apply to cash.

Mr Ripper: Is the point that there is no asset to transfer that would attract stamp duty?

Mr KIERATH: Yes.

Mr Ripper: There is no stamp duty on a cash transfer. If a company is left only with cash, there is no stamp duty implication in the disposal of its remaining assets. Is that interpretation correct?

Mr KIERATH: What the member has outlined is correct.

Mr RIPPER: This might be the appropriate time to ask whether the Government has revised estimates of the cost of corporate reconstruction stamp duty relief following these amendments. The original estimates have been far exceeded. Admittedly, there has been one very large transaction, but even on the Government's arbitrary assumption it has cost \$70m, not \$27.5m. Is there a revised estimate following the review completed at the end of last year?

Mr KIERATH: If the amount of \$100.8m is excluded, we are left with \$23.1m divided by three. If we apply the methodology used by Treasury and the Grants Commission, we have \$7.7m.

Mr Ripper: Is the minister arguing that if we exclude the single large transaction, the Government is on track with the estimate?

Mr KIERATH: Yes. No forward estimates are calculated. Once the figures are arrived at, it tends to involve an assessment of past transactions rather than future transactions.

Mr Ripper: Therefore, the Government does not have forward estimates for the cost of this exemption or for the cost of any exemption.

Mr KIERATH: No.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 7 put and passed.**

**Clause 8: Section 75JDA inserted and transitional provision -**

Mr RIPPER: This is the general anti-avoidance provision for the operation of corporate reconstruction stamp duty relief. Proposed subsection (4) states -

Despite subsection (3), if the Commissioner is required under section 75JC(5) to grant an exemption in respect of an instrument or a Part IIIBA statement, the exemption is to be granted even if the Commissioner considers that the instrument or statement relates or is likely to relate to a duty avoidance arrangement.

What is the rationale for this provision, whereby the commissioner is to grant the exemption even if he thinks that avoidance is being engaged in? If the commissioner thinks that avoidance is being engaged in, why not give him the power to knock off the arrangement?

Mr KIERATH: The member's colleague the member for Nollamara raised this issue. The reason is that this is a transitional provision. This proposed section does not compel the commissioner to grant a section 75JB exemption when a predetermination was made under section 75JC during the transitional period. Therefore, these provisions will not operate to overturn an exemption pursuant to a predetermination made prior to the transitional period even when a duty avoidance arrangement is involved. Basically it is a transitional arrangement to ensure that people who have made arrangements and have received their assessments are treated equitably.

Mr RIPPER: I seek an assurance from the Government that once we have gone through the transitional period, the commissioner will have a general anti-avoidance power to remove or not allow an exemption if he believes the corporate reconstruction relates or is likely to relate to a duty avoidance arrangement.

Mr KIERATH: I am advised that this is a transitional provision only and it will not apply after the transitional period has taken place.

Mr RIPPER: I gather from the second reading speech and the clause notes that industry was not entirely happy about this general anti-avoidance clause. We have, in fact, revisited an argument that arose at the time that the corporate reconstruction stamp duty relief was first introduced. At that time, elements of the Government wanted an anti-avoidance clause, and industry persuaded the Government that it was not necessary. It would seem as though bitter experience since then has shown that perhaps a general anti-avoidance clause is necessary and that the Government is now the wiser for the experience it has had over the past four years with this particular form of stamp duty relief. Can the minister indicate whether industry is still lobbying for this clause to not be in the legislation, or whether tax practitioners, accounting practitioners and business generally have accepted the need on the basis of the experience with this legislation?

Mr KIERATH: It is true to say that industry did not want this provision and the Government agreed to not proceed with it at the time. The Government is now of the opinion that it does need to be progressed but, fortunately, we have not lost any revenue as a result of it so far. Industry has not actually commented on the legislation as it appears before us, so I cannot answer that question for the member. I thought the provision had been made clear in the press release.

Mr KOBELKE: Has there been any process of consultation with industry on this Bill and, if so, at what stage was that consultation entered into and what was the form of the consultation?

Mr KIERATH: No. We do not usually consult on anti-avoidance provisions.

Mr Kobelke: The Bill as a whole.

Mr KIERATH: Parts of industry have been aware of some other provisions of the Bill but we have not consulted specifically on the anti-avoidance provisions. That is not the sort of thing on which we normally consult. The land tax issue has been discussed with the port authorities; there is no-one to discuss mortgagees with; the Stamp Act and corporate reconstructions are part of other reviews and consultations that were done last year; there have not been any consultations regarding truck trailers but the provisions were included as a result of approaches by some concerned people; and there have been no consultations regarding the power of reassessment.

Mr RIPPER: I understand there are anti-avoidance measures in other state taxation legislation. What is the commissioner's experience with the use of those sorts of clauses or is this the first general anti-avoidance measure?

Mr KIERATH: This is not the first anti-avoidance mechanism but it is the first one we are using with stamp duty.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 9 to 11 put and passed.**

**Clause 12: Sections 31AA, 31AB and 31AC inserted -**

Mr KOBELKE: My question relates to proposed section 31AC(3), as shown on page 13 of the Bill. I seek some explanation as it is a complex matter and I am not sure how this makes sense in the wider context. Proposed subsection (3) states -

If the full amount required to be paid under subsection (2) is not paid within the period required under that subsection, or within any period allowed under section 34C(2), the instrument shall, in addition to being charged with that amount, be charged with a fine equal to 20% of that amount or a fine of \$2, whichever is the greater.

That looks as though the maximum fine is \$2, but obviously it depends on the wider context. I would like an explanation of what the effect of that is.

Mr KIERATH: The clause states that it is a minimum fine of \$2 or a fine equal to 20 per cent of the full amount required to be paid, whichever is the greater.

Mr KOBELKE: What is the range of such fines in the current experience of the department? Is there an estimate of how much money will be involved in a financial year?

Mr KIERATH: We have no estimates but we have guidelines on the 20 per cent figure. I can provide those guidelines, called the commissioner's policy on remission, to the member later, which would be easier than trying to explain them now.

Mr RIPPER: My question may be difficult for the minister to answer. What types of mistakes most commonly occur, and how do those mistakes occur, in the State Revenue Department that must be rectified by this power?

Mr KIERATH: There are two main areas of errors. The State Revenue Department employs real people and real people make mistakes. Some are simple mathematical mistakes and others are mistakes associated with determining the type of instrument to be assessed.

Mr KOBELKE: I would like to comment on a statement made by the minister. In my contribution to the second reading debate I indicated that, from my interaction with the State Revenue Department, I hold it in high esteem. One of the aspects of the department I admire is its willingness to admit mistakes, which can then be addressed so that people know where they stand. Sometimes other agencies - I make no comment about the Parliament - a mistake may have been made but no-one will admit it and the matter continues. The professionalism of any agency can be measured by its willingness to admit the mistakes it makes, to put them on the record and to fix them. Obviously, this legislation addresses what will flow from certain types of errors. If those errors are out in the open, they are less likely to occur again. If the State Revenue Department and other agencies maintain their high levels of professionalism, there will be no problem with opening up the books to deal with a problem and moving on from there, rather than mounting a cover up and simply denying the reality of the problem.

Mr KIERATH: I am also happy to place on record my appreciation of the State Revenue Department. Much like the member for Nollamara, I remember that when in opposition I dealt with Homeswest. I have said, both in opposition and in government, that Homeswest was the best agency that I, as a local member, had dealt with. When mistakes and difficult issues arise, the State Revenue Department is in exactly the same light as Homeswest. I have been delighted to find, in letters that I have received from the department, open admissions of mistakes having been made with no attempt made to cover them up. When one considers the large number of transactions and the many different arrangements dealt with by the State Revenue Department, it is impossible to imagine it dealing with them without making mistakes. I agree with the member for Nollamara's comments: If a mistake has been made, the State Revenue Department is willing to open up and deal with it directly. That makes all the parties associated with the mistake much happier. We all agree that mistakes can be made, but if they are attended to and fixed up quickly, we are a lot more satisfied.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 13 to 15 put and passed.**

**Clause 16: Third Schedule amended -**

Mr KOBELKE: This clause relates to exemption from the stamp duty imposed on the licensing of modified motor vehicles. Are any figures available about how many modifications are likely to fall into this category each year and, therefore, the potential forgone revenue? Has this area been opened up because of a move in the transport industry to convert to large numbers of these vehicles, or is it a one-off case in which the minister has accepted that an injustice exists in the existing regime and is addressing that?

Mr KIERATH: Quite a few cases are involved because the effect on revenue is estimated at about \$100 000. I am advised that the trailer is a large one that is difficult to store, and must be used from time to time. A lot of people are going down the path of breaking the trailers into two component parts because that makes them easier to use and store. An engineering firm that performs the modifications has indicated that it expects to modify between 10 and 20 trailers a year. The average stamp duty cost for each component is \$350, resulting in forgone revenue of \$1 000. If the semitrailer is recertified and does not meet the existing exemption, the cost is likely to increase. However, it is not expected that the total cost of exemption will exceed \$100 000 a year.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 17 and 18 put and passed.**

**Clause 19: Schedule amended -**

Mr RIPPER: How much land tax is paid by public authorities? The *Budget Statements* reveal that the port authorities will pay \$3.2m in the next financial year, but other public authorities have been paying land tax for some time. What is the worth of that tax take?

Mr KIERATH: I do not have the figures with me, but I will attempt to provide them.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Title put and passed.**



*Third Reading*

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Kierath (Minister for assisting the Treasurer), and transmitted to the Council.

*Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.00 pm*

**TREASURER'S ADVANCE AUTHORISATION BILL 2000***Second Reading*

Resumed from 11 May.

**MS ANWYL** (Kalgoorlie) [7.00 pm]: I wish to make it clear that I am not the lead speaker on this legislation. The legislation provides for an advance of money that may be needed by the Government at some future time. Unfortunately, in this legislation, there is not much detail of what that advance might be needed for. The official mechanism, as I understand it, is given by way of this Bill, but another piece of legislation which will come before the Parliament at a later stage will provide some detail. That is as it should be because the operation of the Government's economic arm should be open to scrutiny. Indeed, we in the Opposition argue that it should be open to more scrutiny than it is currently. We are awaiting that. Therefore, in addressing the legislation, I cannot speak of the particular detail of items of expenditure. However, I can speculate with some certainty about what some of those expenditures may relate to, because there is a clear track record of all Governments in terms of the heads of spending that are most likely to run to some excess. It seems that the traditional three which most often run to some excess are Health, Education and Justice. When I say Justice, I am encompassing police and the administration of the Police Service inside that broad banner. What we have seen in recent times is a fairly large explosion in the amount of funds that are being directed towards the housing of prisoners, because they have increased in number quite exponentially. It would seem that the amount of money allocated to the Police Service - those dedicated men and women in uniform who are required to bring offenders before the law courts - has not expanded as exponentially. We are left in somewhat of a conundrum because clearly the Government is keen to ensure that an expanded number of beds are available for prisoners. I note that moneys are also spent in other areas such as court diversion and so forth.

However, when it comes to resourcing the very mechanism by which those offenders are to be apprehended and brought before the courts, it appears that the Government is falling down. One of the issues that arose in Estimates Committee A over which you, Mr Deputy Speaker, were presiding, was an amount of almost \$1m which will be provided for the transfer costs of police officers. Since about April, no transfers have been occurring in this State due to fiscal constraints on the Police Service. One of my major concerns is that while we have the mechanism of the Treasurer's advance, some of the very large departments and portfolio areas are behind the eight ball all of the time. For example the almost \$1m for the transfer costs of police officers must last until 30 June 2001. There is already a significant backlog of police officers awaiting transfer from one area to the next. It is quite likely that an advance authorisation will be used at some stage to supplement the existing Police Service budget. The cost of transferring police can be significant, given the distances involved in travel, the cost of the removal of furniture and the like and setting up in perhaps private commercial accommodation subject to the Government Employees Housing Authority, because the Government has moved in that manner.

We do not yet know how these moneys will be spent. In some ways it is as if as legislators we are being asked to authorise a blank cheque, because we do not know the precise amount. I am sure that more detail will be available with the next piece of legislation. I feel that it would be better to approach these matters fiscally by some definition at the time of bringing down the budget. If it is known, for example, that almost \$1m will be the cost of paying for police transfers, some which have not occurred since April, a sufficient amount needs to be provided in the next budget to avoid falling into that trap again. My concern is that will not occur.

Members of Parliament are always being made aware of different measures being taken by government agencies, many of which are designed to cut costs. No-one would argue with the need to be careful with money, to undergo public scrutiny and, where possible, to trim any excess or waste. However, if the degree of fiscal cuts is such that it impinges on the ability of an agency and its employees to carry out their job - the case to which I have referred is police officers - that is not desirable. I would have thought that as a matter of public policy it would be better to have a projected budget which would take care of those needs rather than deal with the matter by way of an advance authorisation Bill. I remember quite well that at this stage of the budget cycle last year, a number of heads of expenditure were detailed. Of course, that will happen in due course. We can be fairly sure that Health, Education and Justice, including the Police Service, will feature in those heads of expenditure.

One particular cost-cutting measure that is causing some ire in my electorate is the decision recommended by the Police Service internal review. The document was recently released for public comment with closure at the end of this month, which is not a terribly long time for interested members of the public, community groups and stakeholders to respond. It is headed "Western Australia Police Service's Regional Business Structural Review Project: Discussion Paper". It is of interest to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, as the paper outlines the amalgamation of the northern and central regions of the Police Service, which are two of the largest police regions in the world. Geraldton is situated within the northern region, obviously. To give a clear understanding of what is involved in geographical distance, the proposed northern district, if amalgamated, will take in the existing northern and central regions, with a total area of 2 319 570 square kilometres. It is a very large area, with a current estimated population of 188 971 people, although one can never be clear about population figures, particularly with the prevalence of fly in, fly out arrangements in mining towns.

I now break down that figure under various current police districts, without going into the mooted boundary changes. The Kimberley, which is a very large area of 448 165 square kilometres, has a population of 27 716 people. The Pilbara is 419 580 square kilometres with a population of 43 788 people. The mid west and Gascoyne region, which includes Geraldton, is 566 095 square kilometres with an estimated population of 58 100 persons. The goldfields, which is by far the biggest district, is 885 730 square kilometres, with the largest population of the four districts at 59 367 people.

It is interesting to consider the number of police per head of population in each of the police regions. I cite attachment 2 of the report to which I referred earlier. The police officer to head of population ratio for the Kimberley, which has the greatest distances to travel, notwithstanding that it is a smaller area than the goldfields district, is one officer to 197 people. The ratio for the goldfields-Esperance district is one officer to 273 persons. By metropolitan area standards, it could be argued that we are doing well in the country as we have more police per head of population than do city areas. Mr Deputy Speaker might shake his head, but I have this argument with city-based colleagues who say, "I don't know why you're whingeing; you're doing extremely well given your ratio of police officers per head of population." However, the distances to be travelled in the country districts are stupendous. Police officers may travel all day to attend an incident. This difficulty is compounded in the goldfields as the aeroplane previously controlled by the Police Service, for which a pilot was available at all times - for some reason the logic of which escapes me - sold by the Government. Therefore, the problem of distance has been even further compounded, because the cost of renting a commercial aeroplane must be met by the Police Service. I recognise that maintenance and other costs were associated with running the aeroplane under the control of the service. However, I cannot see how the decision to sell the aeroplane was an example of good fiscal management.

I return to the cost-saving measures in the proposed changes to the boundaries.

Mr Court: You have prepared this speech in collusion with the Deputy Speaker. This is a pincer movement!

Ms ANWYL: It may be a reflection of the fact that the Deputy Speaker and I spend so much time in this House. Perhaps country members like us must stick together, regardless of party lines, because our constituents are being squeezed by the pincer movement mounted by the Premier and his economic rationalist Cabinet. That is the simple truth of the matter.

Mr Court: No, that is not the case.

Ms ANWYL: Okay. In due course, I look forward to hearing the Premier's explanation for those cost-cutting measures that impact so heavily on my constituents.

I return to the point, which is whether at some stage there will be an advance concerning the police issue, because the whole cost-cutting aspect of the exercise of merging these regions completely loses sight of the very important work that is done as a result of there being a regional commander in a regional area. It is interesting to read the text of the review document because it states -

Whilst there are some attractions with locating Region Commanders in Police Headquarters, Perth, Executive Command believe that on balance the Northern and Southern Command groups should remain in the country area where they provide leadership and management to the staff who provide services to local communities.

I agree totally with that. I cannot believe that there was even a moment's contemplation about basing those commanders in Perth. That shows what a nonsense the whole situation is. The report redeems itself to some extent because it then recognises the point of having those regional commanders. I understood that the point of the Delta reforms was to provide autonomy to local areas. The report goes on to say -

Modern communication and transport facilities enable an element of flexibility but the distances over the State are vast and there is value in having Commanders in different areas of the State so that they can more readily assume operational command with major events where a combination of factors does not permit senior members of Command to travel from the Perth Metropolitan area.

That is an interesting paragraph, because there is an acknowledgment that senior members from the Perth office cannot always get to regional areas, yet there are significant and, I suggest, complex issues in those regional areas. The report further says -

The strategy of community policing operates best when services are distributed and located within communities. Whilst Region Commanders should not be directly delivering community policing, their presence in the country area does reinforce the policing strategy. Importantly, the locating of Regional Commanders in their respective areas of responsibility is not just a symbolic gesture, but reinforces the decentralisation and compliance with the Government's Regionalisation Policy.

At this time, Executive Command favour the locations of Geraldton for the Northern Regional Command and Mandurah or Bunbury for the Southern Regional Command. These locations are sufficiently close enough to allow for cost effective visits to the metropolitan area and ease of access to their respective commands. Given the aforementioned, Executive Command is cognisant that Geraldton is not the ideal location for intrastate travel by the Regional Commander to the outer extremities of his region, but these are not seen as insurmountable and can be appropriately managed at a local level.

How will this regional commander get from Geraldton to Warburton? Will he charter an aeroplane? It must be remembered that the goldfields police aeroplane has been sold, so he cannot use that. There might be an aeroplane in the mid west. I

see; an aeroplane might be waiting for Commander Power when he arrives at his newly appointed Geraldton office in the SGIO building, and he will be able to charter that to Warburton. I hope a plane is available, otherwise he will have to fly to Perth where he will have to catch another plane to Kalgoorlie and then another plane to Warburton. The commander's time is probably a bit too valuable for that. In all this cost cutting, I hope the use of a plane has been factored in for the commander. If not, I do not think he will be doing much flying because the time involved using commercial aircraft will make it impossible for him to be responsive.

I urge ministers present to take up this matter. I realise that the police minister is suffering from ill health and cannot respond to these issues. I am sure we all wish him a speedy recovery. However, this issue is affecting the entire mining and pastoral region and significant aspects of the agricultural region. I cannot stress enough that its implications will reach from Eucla to Kununurra.

The commander based in Kalgoorlie-Boulder has done an excellent job of improving police responses to public needs, which vary in complexity from the small population in the Eucla to the very remote Aboriginal communities. A lot of work has been put into fostering the sharing of resources between the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia.

My fear is that that same level of interaction will not occur if a superintendent has a huge area to manage. As I said earlier, the goldfields-Esperance region is by far the largest area. It is 885 730 square kilometres, a massive area for one person to cover. As I also said, many contacts occur across the border. That is one example of some false economies being practised by the Government. I suspect the decision has been made, but I hope some proper consultation will occur.

I was very interested to attend the Safer WA meeting in Kalgoorlie-Boulder only last week at which such a motion was moved. The police officers quite properly exempted themselves because they were not in a position to be part of the vote, and the balance of the committee voted unanimously that proper consultation should occur on this issue.

No provision has been made in the police budget for incentives. I expect that in due course the Treasurer will need to seek advance authorisation for some extra expenditure because it was made very clear in supplementary information sought during the Estimates Committee that provision has not been made for even one extra police officer. Some country areas have a significant problem with staffing. You have taken up this issue in your electorate, Mr Deputy Speaker. I think we have something in common because the main police stations in Kalgoorlie and Geraldton are each about 10 officers down. Kalgoorlie's complement is about 120 and Geraldton's is fewer than that. It is a significant issue for both of us, but you could argue, Mr Deputy Speaker, that your station is more severely affected by this shortage.

I was amazed when I got out of bed and read the *Kalgoorlie Miner* on 31 May, as I usually do, and saw a half-page advertisement by the Police Union (WA) headed "Missing Persons" with a photograph of a nice young constable. I thought many people had disappeared so I read on. The advertisement reads -

Seen any police officers lately? If you live in Kalgoorlie, probably not. Not because they're invisible, simply because there are so few of them available for operational patrolling. Similarly, many citizens' phone calls to police on 131 444 go unanswered - again, because there aren't enough police to take the calls.

That's because the Court Government is not adequately funding operational policing which puts cops on the street and provides officers to answer the public's phone calls. It has money for bell towers and convention centres but not for extra police.

Community protection for Kalgoorlie residents goes from bad to worse as the Court Government continues to deny the area sufficient police resources.

At the Police Union, we know from what our members tell us that the Government is not providing the police resources that Kalgoorlie needs and deserves.

Support your local police. Your support is vital if you want more police in your area. Show your support for your police and register your concerns with Premier Richard Court by phoning him on 9222 9888.

That advertisement is authorised by M. Dean of the Police Union (WA). I do not know whether this is happening all around Western Australia or whether it is something special that is happening in my electorate. A lot of people like to spend money on political advertising in my electorate. The Liberal Party has taken out full-page advertisements.

Mr Marlborough: The member for Geraldton has already made a public statement attacking the lack of police in Geraldton.

Ms ANWYL: He has, but I do not know whether the Police Union has had to put advertisements into the -

Mr Marlborough: I understand he is paying for new ads in Geraldton.

Ms ANWYL: That is a strong comment and I do not know whether that is correct, but Hansard will record it. I am serious when I say to the Premier that I do not know how many of these advertisements have been placed in publications around Western Australia.

Mr Court: Of course you know. They got the approval from your leader before they did it.

Ms ANWYL: Does the Premier have some evidence of that? Is the Premier saying that Mike Dean trots in to see the Leader of the Opposition and says, "Please, Geoff, can I put these ads in?" Are these advertisements appearing in Nedlands' local newspaper?

Mr Court: Those advertisements are appearing around the State.

Ms ANWYL: Is there a shortage of police officers at the Nedlands Police Station?

Mr Court: I do not know how many phone calls have come through, but I will check.

Ms ANWYL: That would be good to know.

The point of all this is that I do not want to be standing in this Parliament at a later stage and find that a massive amount of money has to be taken by way of advance authorisation to bail out the Police Service; it should not have to get to that. Proper amounts should be allocated in the budget. That has not occurred here. I gave the example of almost \$1m being allocated for transfers, but we know that no transfers have taken place since April. It is safe to assume that a large chunk of that \$1m will be swallowed up with the backlog of transfers. I do not know why the Government chooses not to fix this issue, but we have had examples from the Education Department and from the Minister for Education that went some way to resolving staffing issues.

On a federal matter, there have been declarations of areas of unmet need for general medical practitioners which has allowed for general practitioners to go to rural areas. Again, that is not an issue that is completely resolved, but at least there is some leadership from people in government to try to resolve these issues. In the case of the Western Australia Police Service, I do not see any sign from the State Government that anything will improve. For the people who live in my electorate, things will get worse because they will lose the opportunity to raise issues with a regional commander based in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

It will be a great loss for the goldfields-Esperance police district. Commander Balchin has taken proactive steps to combat some of the difficulties confronting those communities. One-officer police stations come to mind. Those officers are under tremendous pressure. Aboriginal police liaison officers also come to mind. They do an excellent job while doing back-to-back patrols to the central desert and dealing with incredibly complex matters across two systems of law. They deserve to be supported. However, most importantly, the people in the community deserve to be supported. An increasing number of burglaries and other serious offences are being committed in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. I do not see that situation improving because there is no will on the Government's part to ensure adequate staffing is provided.

**MR MARLBOROUGH** (Peel) [7.31 pm]: I will concentrate on a couple of areas on which the lack of government funding and accountability are impacting -

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not a general debate; it should relate specifically to the Bill.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: We are dealing with the budget.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, this Bill deals with an allocation of money.

Mr Court: It is the Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: This is the way the Government gets the money out of the Treasury without accounting for it in the budget. It then does not need to worry about accounting for it until next year. We have all done that; we just want to talk about how this Government is doing it. All Governments do it, but this Government has it down to a fine art.

Mr Court: Are you getting a taste from your Whip?

Mr MARLBOROUGH: No. It is precisely that area to which I will refer. A close appraisal of the budget demonstrates that the figures are based on very shaky principles and very little fact.

I cannot see any allocation in the budget for the impact of the goods and services tax on the Education portfolio. Apparently complying with the GST will cost the Education Department anywhere between \$7m and \$15m, but this budget has no provision to cover that cost. The budget simply lays down guidelines for each department to make savings. The Education and Health portfolios are a real problem for the Government. How does it expect those departments, when they must spend even more money to comply with this new tax, to be able to cope without affecting the services they provide to the community? In the Education Department alone, that cost could be up to \$15m. Although allowance has been made in the budget papers for the cost of implementing the GST, the Premier, the Minister for Education and the Treasury do not really expect that \$15m to be covered by savings. They know that the Education Department will be unable to cut \$15m out of its budget and maintain its current level of service. That shortfall will be advanced through the Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill. The cost of the GST to the Education Department will not disappear; that is a given. There may be some disagreement about the amount, but the GST cost component will have to be accommodated. The Government has said that it must be accommodated, but it has done nothing to ensure that this budget assists the department to accommodate it. It says that it will be accommodated by savings, but that is not realistic and the Premier knows it. Given that, the Premier and Treasurer is using this Bill to accommodate those costs.

I will relate that Education portfolio to my electorate. Eight of the 12 most heavily populated primary schools in Western Australia are in my area of Kwinana-Rockingham. The smallest of those schools has approximately 800 students, and the largest of those schools has approximately 1 100 students. Another interesting statistic is that East Waikiki, Koorana, Coolungup and Charthouse Primary Schools have more demountable classrooms than permanent classrooms. Those four schools have 38 permanent classrooms and more than 42 demountable classrooms. That puts a massive burden on the education system. Those demountables are not purpose-built classrooms that are designed to maximise educational outputs.

Many of the demountables in the Rockingham region are not the latest design that the Government has been putting out in the past two or three years but have been on site for at least 10 years. The member for Rockingham and I asked the Minister for Education to come to that region 14 months ago and endeavoured to convince him that in the Rockingham-Kwinana region, which is the State's most rapidly growing area, money needed to be spent not only on existing schools but also on new schools, and that we hoped to have a reduction in the number of demountable classrooms and, therefore, an improvement in the scope of education options that could be provided to the students in that region.

We were asking for that expenditure to occur in a budget that did not need to accommodate an extra \$15m of GST expenditure. We see in these budget papers a cost of up to \$15m attached to education, yet the best the Government can do is say that the Education Department must accommodate that GST cost by making savings within the department. We certainly do not want to see cutbacks in teaching staff in Rockingham and Kwinana. The Government has given a commitment to smaller class sizes, which indicates to me an inbuilt increase in education costs - not a decrease. None of the specialist education streams can be taken from existing schools. Over a number of years there have been fewer and fewer specialist teachers and support staff in music, language and English as a second language. The budget, and how the hidden cost of the GST impacts on education, does not give me confidence that the Government is committed to ensuring that the system stays on track and continues to be funded at an appropriate level, when, from 1 July, the amount it has to find to cover the cost of the GST has to be found from somewhere in the figures.

In relation to the police, the advertisements that were just shown to the Chamber by the member for Kalgoorlie are, as the Premier indicated, appearing all over the State. Although the Police Union has been active in supporting its members and the issue of law and order in this State for a long time, I have never seen, in my 14 years in this Parliament, such advertisements as we are now seeing in the newspapers. The Police Union is taking out half-page advertisements headed "missing person" with a picture of a police officer. The advertisement asks people in certain parts of the State, such as Kalgoorlie and Rockingham-Kwinana, which have the same problem with police numbers, whether they have seen one of these police officers. If they have, the Police Union wants to be told because it cannot find them on the beat! That is precisely the problem that we have. I know that the Deputy Speaker has already referred in the media to a similar problem in his seat of Geraldton. It cannot give him or me any joy to see that the GST component in the budget totalling millions of dollars is not accommodated by any extra funding in the Police budget and that cost will have to be absorbed by greater efficiencies made by the Police Service. We know from experience that law and order is continually in a state of flux. Unfortunately, for the past three or four years, break and enter, rape, stolen vehicles and violent crimes have Western Australia leading the nation in serious crime statistics. How, when the community is calling for a greater police presence on our streets, does the Government think it can get away with the pea and thimble trick of expecting the GST component in the Police budget to be met by greater efficiencies in the Police Service? For the past seven years, government departments such as Education, Police and Health have been asked by this Government to implement greater efficiencies. Now the Government is neglecting to pay for a new component in the budget, the GST. Every government department has been asked to make cutbacks in the past seven years. They have been told that the Government wants fewer people working in the Health Department, Westrail, and the Department of Transport, and if it cannot be achieved through natural attrition, the department will be privatised!

Mr Court: A Labor Government took most of the people out of Westrail. I am not arguing; they are the facts.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: It never ceases to amaze me that in the seven years the Government has been in office, it has continually tried to convince the people of Western Australia that the answer to their future is to look back 12 years. That is why the Government is behind in the polls. It should be saying to the people of Western Australia what it said when it came into government; that is, it would provide a social dividend to the people of Western Australia.

Mr Court: And 800 more police.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: I remind the Premier and Treasurer that the people of Western Australia are still looking for the social dividend. This Government has brought in the most draconian and severe laws in the nation on workers' rights. The Premier knows that the reason he had to remove the member for Riverton from the industrial relations portfolio was because people at the top end of the town, John Roberts of Multiplex and the construction industry in particular, were saying to him, "I am in the business of trying to run a real business in real Australia. I don't want a cowboy such as the member for Riverton as the Minister for Labour Relations, ruining my business and trying to impose on me some sort of law that I can't live with to run my business properly, so get him out of the way."

Mr Court: Do you believe we should scrap our industrial relations laws and our workplace agreements?

Mr MARLBOROUGH: Any industrial laws that are conditional on making Western Australian workers third-class citizens should be removed immediately.

Mr Court: So you would scrap our workplace agreements legislation?

Mr MARLBOROUGH: I am suggesting clearly -

Mr Court: Come on, tell us yes or no.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: The Premier touched on workplace agreements, and I am suggesting that the Government is clearly not proud of industrial relations legislation that establishes a strategy whereby the agreement between a worker and an employer is so closed to scrutiny that it is locked away for five years, otherwise why would it be secret for that period. If the legislation is as good as the Government tries to indicate it is, why is it not in the public arena and arbitrated in a court

of law such as the Australian Industrial Relations Commission? Of course it will not happen in that way. The Government's rhetoric in this place does not match the reality. The reality is that this Government has deliberately set about undermining at every level Western Australian workers' conditions.

Mr Court: It is the exact opposite of that. Pay levels and conditions have increased significantly.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: No, they have not.

Mr Court: Yes, they have. Unemployment has decreased.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: The Premier and I can have this debate later in the week. However, I remind him that the base wage for Western Australian workers is some \$30-odd behind their counterparts in any other State of Australia today. Those are the facts of life and the Premier cannot deny them. He should not try his smart interjections on me. I have been around a long time.

Mr Court: What is the average wage difference?

Mr MARLBOROUGH: I do not want to know the average wage difference.

Mr Court: I bet you don't.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: I will tell the Premier why; I do not mind answering his interjections. The average wage is based not on earnings between \$10 000 and \$50 000 a year, but on \$10 000 and what Michael Chaney earns running Wesfarmers. I am not interested in an average wage scenario. If the Premier wants to use average wage figures, that is his business. However, the people I represent do not look at an average wage scenario; they look at how they can put food on the table for their families each week. That is what they are interested in doing. They are not interested in average wage nonsense. I know the Premier got that idea from the present Minister for Labour Relations when she leaned over to the Premier to tell him to use that interjection. She did not disagree with just how far behind the rest of their counterparts in Australia are Western Australian workers on a basic wage. The real question to be asked is: Why, after seven years of a conservative Government, are we in that situation?

How can any Government say with pride that it has reduced the employment benefits and introduced workplace agreements? This Government says it can be proud of those things, even though workplace agreements are locked away and held in secret. No-one is allowed to look at or touch them for five years. How can the Government stand on that platform when it is underpinned by a rotten system that is based on the underpayment of Western Australian workers? Compared with workers in any other State, Western Australian workers are worse off at the base level.

Mr Court: I am sorry I interjected, because we have not heard the member for Peel speak for a few months. I will not interject again. You are not going to ask for an extension of time, are you?

Mr MARLBOROUGH: I will ask for an extension. I was not going to.

Mr Court: That is why I said that I should not have interjected.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: No, the Premier should not have interjected. I thought that between now and when an election is called, he would be trying to put his best foot forward. Since October last year, the Government, under the Premier's leadership, has been behind the Labor Party in the state and national polls. It is not a one-off occurrence but a trend, which should tell the Premier that the people of Western Australia are sick of him. They are not listening to the rhetoric anymore because they do not like what they hear. The people are telling the Premier they are sick of him. His personal attack on me about not speaking for months at a time is nonsense, nor is it worthy of him as a leader. It demonstrates what the people out there are beginning to realise: That he is amateurish and does not have a positive thought in his head; that he continues to attack people at a personal level; and that he does not want to get on with the job of making sure Western Australian workers are not treated like third-class citizens. He wants to continue to hide behind a corrupt industrial relations system and a workers compensation system that has prevented 98 per cent of workers being able to take their cases through a criminal law process when they suffer an injury for which they are not to blame. These people were injured at work. The Premier should not talk to me from a high moral position about how he is running the State or about the budget that is before us. The Premier has no legitimacy, and everybody is telling him that.

I turn to the goods and services tax and its impact on police, particularly in my electorate. The advertisements cannot be ignored. The Police Union is a responsible union. It is not a radical left-wing union of the sort the Premier tries to beat the public over the head with. The Police Union is an extremely competent and moderate union. It is now so concerned about the management of the Western Australia Police Service that it has gone to the extreme of publishing statewide advertisements calling on people support to send messages to the Premier and the Government to rectify this malaise. The article in this morning's newspaper about the creation of new police regions worried me.

The Town of Kwinana lies within the Fremantle police region and the City of Rockingham lies within the Peel police region, which has its head office in Mandurah. The head office for the Peel region operates out of Mandurah, which has a population of 40 000 people. Yet, 80 000 people live in Rockingham, which has no regional office. Under the present regime, Mandurah has approximately 72 police officers for 40 000 people, but in Rockingham, there are only 70 police officers for 80 000 people. This morning's newspaper indicated that new lines on the map will create a new southern district and that could mean the regional office will move to Bunbury. I would hate to see the impact that will have on Rockingham. I hope it is not a case of somebody simply drawing lines on a map.

Under the previous Commissioner of Police, all sorts of plans were supposed to bring to the people of Western Australia a better Police Force - one which was more efficient and which was in touch with the community. After five years of supposedly putting into place a new regime of management for the Police Force, the big V handed on the baton, went back to Victoria and is now working for a private detective agency. All police officers, particularly the front-line troops, know that they would be better served if more police officers were on the beat and there was a better ratio of police officers to population. They would rather that than the situation which exists in Kwinana-Rockingham, which has about 90 000 people with 85 or 86 police officers. Presently the police to population ratio is about 1:1 400. Mandurah has a ratio of one police officer to 500 residents. If members were police officers on the beat, where would they want to work? How long would they work in a situation in which there was one police officer for every 1 400 residents as against one police officer for every 500 residents? How long would they want to put themselves in that position, when they know the management capacity has been affected in some instances by not only questionable decision making, but also a lack of budget consideration.

Once again we see in the Police budget a lack of consideration for real police needs in the community. Although the Police portfolio has attached to it another hidden cost in the goods and services tax, the Government's answer in the budget papers is, "Let us address the hidden GST by more efficiencies." However, we will have a Police Force in which morale continues to drop, which does not see the leadership it deserves from the Government of the day and which believes that the Government of the day has no understanding of, nor is committed to, the community need for law and order. Its lack of commitment is shown by the figures I indicated earlier. WA leads the nation in break-ins, violent crimes, armed robberies, stolen vehicles and rape. It is of no credit to the Government that it continues to ignore these statistics while attempting to hide from Western Australians the real cost and the real money that is needed to put the police on the front foot. The call by this Government has been the same for the seven years it has been in power: "Greater efficiencies". What has changed this year is that added to the call for greater efficiencies is the hidden agenda of no budgeting allocation for GST costs. In all of the portfolios throughout the budget - I have touched on only Education and Police - the same scenario exists.

Where do we find provision for the goods and services tax? We do not find it in monetary terms. All of the efficiencies that have been needed in government departments over the past seven years have in the main been implemented. If the provision for the goods and services tax is not able to be met through efficiencies, this Bill will be the back doorway through which the Government will get money from Treasury and it will not have publicly to own up to the receipt of that money through this advance authorisation process. It will be able to hide the real costs of the GST across the whole of the budget during the run up to the next general election and some time into the distant future. It is not appropriate; it is more of this Government's continuing to hide behind rubbery figures that do not stand up to scrutiny. That is how the Government treats Western Australians. While it continues to do that, it will continue to be second in the polls and headed for defeat at the next state election.

**MR THOMAS (Cockburn)** [8.02 pm]: I wish to use the opportunity of this general debate to raise a matter that is affecting part of my electorate; that is, the implementation of the Fremantle Rockingham Industrial Area Regional Strategy. Members may or may not be aware that the Government has a redevelopment proposal for some of the sites in my electorate, specifically Wattleup, and the adjoining electorate of my colleague the member for Peel. Indeed, the Hope Valley-Wattleup Redevelopment Bill 2000 seeks to give effect to the Government's plans for the areas of Wattleup and Hope Valley. That strategy illustrates what is wrong with Liberal Governments; that they are uncaring and callous when they are dealing with people and that, as in this case, they put industry before people. It would have the effect of resuming people's homes and compensating them at an amount that will not allow them to purchase equivalent homes elsewhere. It would convert the area into an almost unbroken industrial estate, which is not necessary for industry in this State. The Bill is a quite callous way in which to treat people who live in that area.

My colleagues, the member for Armadale, as the Labor Party spokesperson on planning, and the member for Peel, whose electorate is also affected by this scheme, and I have already put some amendments on the Notice Paper. I wish to draw attention to four defects in the Bill which need to be addressed. The Government needs to withdraw the Bill, redraft it and bring it back in a form that treats people, not as items to be moved around at the whim of planners, but as citizens who have homes and who deserve to be treated properly. Put simply, it seeks to rezone a huge swathe of the south west corridor. Most of that land at present is zoned rural and is in need of rezoning for some sort of higher and better use. However, some is zoned residential, and the Government wishes to rezone that and over time redevelop it as a substantial industrial estate. The Opposition certainly wishes the State's needs for industrial land to be met and a higher and better use to be found for under-utilised land. However, there is no need to proceed in the way proposed under the Bill which is before the House, which has been the subject of a second reading speech by the minister.

Members may not be aware, and I have never heard the minister acknowledge the fact, that this is the largest redevelopment project in Australia. This proposal is bigger than the East Perth, Midland and Subiaco redevelopments. It will probably take 30 years, or at least 20 years, for the industrial land to be taken up and for the area to be ultimately redeveloped as the FRIARS report envisages. This is not only a land redevelopment proposal, as it also has substantial environmental and social implications. The plan is to close down a suburb and effectively throw people out of their homes and redevelop the area over some time. The Bill proposes that this job be undertaken by LandCorp. I am sorry that the responsible minister is not in the Chamber, as LandCorp does not enjoy the confidence of the people of the local community to manage their future. They want a redevelopment authority specifically dedicated to the problems that will arise in the area, some of which will be land development issues, as it is essentially a land development proposal. However, the redevelopment has substantial environmental and social implications. The local community believes that a separate redevelopment authority

should be established comprising representation from the local community, people with environmental interests and expertise, as well as people with land development interests. LandCorp is a land developer. As such, it does not enjoy the confidence of the people of those communities to be responsible for the management of their future.

The people of the area believe, and I agree with them - a deputation was in Parliament recently - that if redevelopment is to occur, it warrants a separate redevelopment authority in the same way that East Perth, Subiaco and Midland have warranted separate authorities. That is a reasonable and justifiable position. If it were necessary to have a separate redevelopment authority for East Perth, which is a relatively small area and a short-term project, such an authority is certainly necessary for this large redevelopment. The redevelopment is complicated by the fact that it traverses two local government authorities. Therefore, it is desirable to establish an authority which enjoys the confidence of the people of the area; that is, one which has its headquarters, offices and people in the area and has some degree of local representation. When the final edition of the FRIARS report was released some months ago, it presented the Government with a number of options, one of which was a dedicated authority. The minister, in his cavalier manner, decided to override the clearly expressed wishes of the people residing in the area, and said that he could not go with the notion of a separate redevelopment authority.

Also, the Bill contains a provision which would effectively delete that area from the metropolitan region scheme. LandCorp is directed to prepare a master plan for the redevelopment of the area, and it is absolutely amazing that the Bill gives no direction to LandCorp regarding the uses to which the land can be put. It is conceivable under the Bill - it is unlikely, of course - for LandCorp to decide to effectively rezone the area parks and recreation or leave it rural. It could produce any zoning it likes, which is absurd. The minister's second reading speech, taken in the context of the FRIARS report, to which the Bill gives effect, indicates the clear intention that the area be rezoned industrial. However, that is not good enough. There should be direction by the Parliament to LandCorp about the use to which that land should be put. One of the amendments that the Opposition has on the Notice Paper at the moment deals with the fact that none of that area should become a heavy industry area. Neither the Opposition nor the residents minds if some parts of it are zoned industrial. Only a relatively small proportion of that area - something of the order of 25 or 50 per cent - needs to be zoned industrial in order to have as much industrial land as the Perth metropolitan area will need for half a century. We are talking about fairly substantial areas of land. There should be some direction. There should not be any heavy industry in that area. The Fremantle Rockingham Industrial Area Regional Strategy report seeks to extend the heavy industry area of Kwinana into the adjoining suburb of Hope Valley; therefore, a portion of the FRIARS land will be a heavy industry area, part of which is in the electorate of my colleague the member for Peel. The Opposition believes that there should be no heavy industry in the FRIARS area. The reason is that it will bring the smokestacks closer to residential areas. The origin of the planning dilemma which resulted in the FRIARS report being produced is the fact that an airshed is around Kwinana, and new residential areas are not allowed to be opened there.

The SPEAKER: I ask the member for Cockburn to take his seat for a minute. When I took the Chair, I was wondering whether I should allow general debate. I am crosschecking Standing Order No 94. In a technical sense, general debates are allowed on four occasions: The Address-in-Reply, appropriation Bill No 1, appropriation Bill No 3 and a loan Bill. Of course, if the House were to give special leave, that would be appropriate. The difficulty is that the Bill with which we are dealing is an appropriation from the consolidated fund to the Treasurer's Advance Account, not expenditure from the Treasurer's Advance Account, which would be appropriation Bill No 3. Therefore, in summary, wrong speech, wrong Bill. I have allowed a bit of latitude. Obviously, members and I are very interested in the topic. However, there are limits on how flexible I can be, because it is my responsibility to ensure that the House adheres to the standing orders. I have given that explanation. I indicate to the member that a bit of latitude is left so that he can round off his comments, but then I will ask him to address the Bill, should he wish to do so.

Mr THOMAS: I used the term "general debate" at the beginning of my speech because I assumed that members were able to address any topic in the debate on this Bill. However, I understand that it is not specifically a general debate, in the sense that that phrase is normally understood. The basis upon which I seek to make my comments is this: Provision is made in the budget, under Planning and LandCorp, for acquisition of land in the Wattleup area. I was leading to the point that it is my contention that, to do that fairly, that is not enough, in which case there would have to be a draw on the Treasurer's Advance. Therefore, it is possible to debate that matter within this Bill. Perhaps I can demonstrate that -

The SPEAKER: I remind the member that we are talking about money being appropriated from a consolidated fund to a Treasurer's Advance Account - not expenditure. I am giving the member a small amount of discretion, and that will be the end of it.

Mr THOMAS: I am not trying to canvass the Speaker's ruling.

The SPEAKER: Do not, because I will have to take action.

Mr THOMAS: No, I am not. Perhaps when I get on to the next part of my speech, what I am relying upon will become obvious. If the Government intends doing something and insufficient funds are in the budget, it will be necessary for the Government to draw on the Treasurer's Advance. The Treasurer's Advance is for unforeseen or uncatereed for programs in which the Government might be involved. If the Government is to do its job properly, it must have that facility.

If the Government has its way and the suburb of Wattleup is rezoned industrial and the residents' homes are purchased by LandCorp they will be purchased at their present market value. However, that value is insufficient to allow them to buy an equivalent home in an equivalent suburb. They will have no choice but to sell, because Wattleup will have been rezoned as industrial; it will no longer be residential. The residences will be effectively resumed and factories will be built on the



land. If the land is purchased at present valuations the residents of Wattleup will suffer a significant diminution in their standard of living. The rezoning of that land will confer no benefit on those residents. Insufficient money has been provided in the budget to pay for the properties at adequate rates. Due to the provisions in the budget Bills, if they are to get justice - and I will certainly argue they should get justice - the Government must rely on the Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill. It is not fair that a whole suburb should be closed down in this unprecedented way, with the exception of Naval Base which is small in comparison.

I obtained some valuations from the City of Cockburn of properties in Wattleup and sought valuations of similar size houses in the adjoining suburb of Spearwood. The comparisons are valid because the houses were built at the same time. I will seek an extension of time, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I am not prepared to grant an extension. I will allow the member to have a bit of flexibility to round off his speech. However, it is my responsibility to pull the member into line and ask him to start talking about the Bill.

*Point of Order*

Mr BLOFFWITCH: Under Standing Order No 90 the member should not be discussing the Wattleup issue because a Bill dealing with that matter is before the House.

The SPEAKER: Standing Order No 90 reads -

A member may not anticipate discussion of any general business or order of the day that has already been noted for consideration by the Assembly.

The point of order has validity. Listed on the Notice Paper is the Hope Valley-Wattleup Redevelopment Bill; therefore, I am in double trouble if I let the member for Cockburn continue. I have been trying to give the member an opportunity to discuss this very important matter. However, after 15 minutes I must ask him to bring his remarks to a close. It appears that in the not too distant future he will get a chance to speak on the matter during debate on both the Hope Valley-Wattleup Redevelopment Bill and the Address-in-Reply when the Parliament opens after the recess. There will be a lot of opportunity. Unfortunately, the member has had a fair go. I have perhaps been too lenient.

Mr THOMAS: I wish to make a point. As I understand the provisions of the Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill, in the event that the Government is engaged in a program and insufficient money is provided for it in the budget, it is necessary to draw upon the funds that are appropriated in that Bill. I thought that it was therefore reasonable to address what I anticipate to be inadequate provisions in the budget.

The SPEAKER: It is not fair and reasonable that the member does that because every person in this place could stand and say that he or she anticipates a whole lot of things and then debate it. I have also had drawn to my attention a standing order and a technical point which is valid. I apologise to the member for Cockburn but I will not allow him to continue to debate this issue, as important as it is to him. Certainly the member can continue his speech, but it has to deal specifically with the Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill, which, as the House has been reminded, is the allocation of money from the consolidated fund, not to expenditure, but to the Treasurer's Advance Account.

Mr THOMAS: I am speechless. I know I am not able to canvass the ruling. With respect, Mr Speaker, the request that I made of you for an extension, which you indicated you were not prepared to grant, is not within your discretion. It is the practice of this House, if it is not in the standing orders, for members to have a 10 minute extension as of right and not as a matter on which you have some discretion.

The SPEAKER: The member will take his seat. I did not intend to let him use the 20 minutes. That is why he was not going to get an extension. I have made my ruling. Any further comment on this subject by him will canvass my ruling. If the member continues in that vein, I will be forced to formally call him to order, and if the member persists, I will act.

*Debate Resumed*

**MR McGOWAN** (Rockingham) [8.24 pm]: I rise to make a few remarks about the Bill. In doing so I will speak about some matters that relate to the expenditure of public funds in the budget and the transfer of funds from the budget to the Treasurer's Advance Account. By way of illustration, I will talk about people who reside in caravan parks. Four caravan parks sit within my electorate and some 500 to 1 000 people live in them. These people often do not have a great deal of financial resources. They are often retired and have no independent income. They are very concerned about their lifestyles and have very little means of raising further income for the remainder of their lives.

Many people chose to live in these places for lifestyle reasons and because it allows them not to tie up all their savings in premises that will cost them a great deal of money and time to maintain. This lifestyle also allows them freedom of movement; that is, they can maintain their park home or caravan and travel, often to the north of the State and around the country. This is a very independent way of life because residents can lock up their home and have their neighbours keep an eye on it while they are away. People pay anywhere between \$50 000 to \$100 000 or more for those premises. However, the cost of a house in a similar area is sometimes higher. One caravan park in my electorate is located on the beach. This is a cost-effective way of maintaining a residence near the ocean. I have a great deal of empathy for these people because when I was a boy I lived in a caravan park with my family. I enjoyed that time, so I understand why people live in these places and their reasons for being protective of that lifestyle.

I will bring to the attention of the House some of the changes that could be made to improve the situation for these people.

The problem is that they have no security of tenure. Residents do not own the land upon which a caravan or park home is situated. They might own a caravan around which they have created gardens, built pergolas and so on. However, the land upon which the homes are located belongs to the owner of the park. As such, there is limited opportunity to protect that investment. These residents have the same rights as other tenants under the Residential Tenancies Act, but at the expiry of the lease their right to retain their site is limited to receiving 60 days' notice from the landlord. At the expiry of that time, a resident can be forced to leave. There is no requirement for the landlord to prove that a tenant has committed any antisocial offence or the like. The security of tenure of such a person is very limited. These people deserve to be better protected than they are at the moment. Many of these people have invested over \$100 000 in the site on which they live. There is a major requirement for reform of the residential tenancy laws to provide security of tenure for these people. New South Wales has examined this issue because it has had such cases. A person in my electorate has lived in a local caravan park for five and a half years and has independent confirmation of the fact that he has never received any complaint against him. However, because he has had a disagreement with the owner of the park, he has been given notice to leave that park within 60 days. That person has put a home, a shed, a carport, a fence and a garden on his site and has lived in that park in harmony for a number of years, but because he has no title to the park home that he has built and has now been told that he must move out of those premises he is, therefore, being kicked out of his own home.

A fundamental injustice is taking place here, and this fundamental injustice has the potential to affect any resident of a caravan or park home in this State. New South Wales has examined this issue and said that a separate division should be put into the Residential Tenancies Act to apply to tenants of caravan parks and manufactured home estates to reflect the nature of modern park and estate communities. It proposes the establishment of a code of practice, dispute resolution and mediation between landlords and people who live in park home estates and caravan parks, and the provision of immunity from termination without good reason for people who live in such estates. Before a person can be forced to move from a caravan or park home, it should be necessary for the landlord to prove to a court or tribunal that the person has committed a misdemeanour, has been antisocial or has failed to pay the rent, because if people are forced to move out of a caravan park when that is their home, that is tantamount to taking away their home, yet that is the situation that currently exists in this State.

Mr Court: I share your concerns, because if we follow what has happened in the United States, where an increasing number of people are choosing to live in -

Mr McGOWAN: Trailer parks.

Mr Court: Yes, where they own the site as well as the home. That is happening here, too. People want to have a permanent base somewhere, but they then want to live in different places for a large part of their lives. In fact, I met a number of those people last week when I was up north. The issue is how can we give them security of tenure or, as you say, a system in which they are more permanent residents. Our regulations make things very difficult for the more permanent residents on those sites. I think we will have a growth in the number of people from all income levels who choose to have some flexibility in their living arrangements.

Mr McGOWAN: People from all sorts of suburbs will want to retire to electorates such as mine, and also to Mandurah, and live by the sea and enjoy that very harmonious way of life. I am heartened by the fact that the Premier is aware of this issue, but I return to my point that we must do something to provide protection for the 21 000 people in Western Australia and the 160 000 people across the country who live in this sort of environment. I am sure some owners of caravan parks would think that was anathema, because they own the land and should be able to do what they like with their land. However, that does not take account of the interests of people whose homes may be taken from them. They need to be provided with the opportunity, if consideration is being given to removing them from the premises, of having the matter adjudicated by a court or tribunal to find out whether they have committed some sort of misdemeanour, failed to pay the rent or not conducted themselves in a manner which would enable them to remain on the premises. There should be an arduous test before that is allowed to take place. In New South Wales there are moves to do something and I think we should be examining whether we can do something similar in this State. One also occasionally finds in a lot of park home estates and caravan parks that an acrimonious relationship has developed between the management and some residents. Some mechanisms for mediation should be put in place so that people can sort out their disputes whenever they live in close proximity to one another, particularly as people do in the park home kind of situation.

The other issue that concerns me is the application of the goods and services tax to the rentals of people who live in park home estates and caravan parks. The goods and services tax will be applied at the full rate of 10 per cent for the first 27 days of tenancy, after which they will pay at the rate of 5.5 per cent. Tenants will pay up to \$8 a week in GST on top of their rents. As I indicated earlier, a lot of these people do not have a great deal of money and they are often on fixed incomes. This is, therefore, a great imposition. The reason it is so unfair and unjust on these people is that no other renters will pay GST on their rent. If someone rents a \$2m house in Peppermint Grove they will not pay GST on the rent. If someone rents a park home in the Cee and See caravan park or the Palm Beach caravan park in Rockingham, GST will be paid on the rent at the rate of 5.5 per cent. That strikes me as an absolutely unjust application of the goods and services tax which will affect 21 000 West Australians - and up to 1 000 people in my electorate - and it needs to be addressed by government. It should be rolled back by government because a fundamental injustice is being perpetrated against these people. From now on, I will be advocating that we take up this issue and get it dealt with by the Federal Government with the aim of removing this unfair imposition on the living arrangements of these people.

Another issue is that recently, the valuations on caravan parks for rating purposes were increased by 200 per cent and that will flow through to rents. People who live in these environments will again feel the pinch. We need to address this sort

of issue by giving these people the right to have some sort of action taken by government to try to make their lives a little easier. In addition, I would like to see a code of practice put in place to govern the living arrangements of residents in caravan parks.

The SPEAKER: The member for Rockingham has fallen foul of the same standing order. I indicate to the House that I am aware of discussions that have been held unofficially behind the Chair. Within standing orders there is the capacity to allow flexibility because members can seek leave to allow a more general debate to occur. However, that did not happen. Therefore, as much as I am interested in the member for Rockingham's speech, as I was in the member for Cockburn's, I have allowed almost 15 minutes of flexibility, which is more than enough, and I will, therefore, ask the member to speak specifically to the Bill otherwise he will have about a minute to wrap up his speech.

Mr McGOWAN: I thank you, Mr Speaker, for your forbearance. I have been avoiding your gaze.

The SPEAKER: You have not been looking me in the eye.

Mr McGOWAN: I have been avoiding your gaze, Mr Speaker, for the past 14 minutes. Although you said I had 15 minutes, the Premier took up at least two of those 15 minutes with his interjection. I thank you for your forbearance and I will wrap up what I have to say.

Mr Thomas: Have you sought an extension?

The SPEAKER: The member is not getting an extension.

Mr Thomas: You have no authority to say no to that request.

The SPEAKER: Order! I indicated to the member for Cockburn that he would not get an additional 10 minutes and I thought I explained it clearly. The member for Cockburn is correct in saying that under the standing orders a member is entitled to ask for an extension and will be given it. However, I implied to the member for Cockburn that he would not get 10 minutes as I was going to sit him down. I suggest to the member for Cockburn that he let the matter drop.

Mr Thomas: I asked you twice.

The SPEAKER: The member for Cockburn did not get his 20 minutes, he did not get an extension and that is where it stands.

Mr Thomas: You have no right to do that.

The SPEAKER: I formally call the member for Cockburn to order for the first time.

Mr McGOWAN: Mr Speaker, I will wind up my remarks. However, in doing so I point out that a major assessment must be made of how government addresses the issue of people who live in these estates. Caravan park owners and park home estate owners have legitimate concerns about the difficulties they have had in getting their facilities approved under current planning processes. I also raise a concern about the application of a luxury car tax on caravans and park homes which is another anomaly that should be removed by the Federal Government. People who live in these places deserve much better treatment and more consideration than they have received to date.

**MS McHALE** (Thornlie) [8.41 pm]: I have been listening to your guidance -

The SPEAKER: Advice.

Ms McHALE: I have been listening to your advice or guidance, Mr Speaker, with great interest. In order to prepare for the debate tonight I went back through *Hansard* to look at the nature of the debate on a Bill such as this. It is interesting to see the way in which members have used the Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill in previous years to raise various points, either unrelated to the exact nature of the Bill but arguing that their issues were relevant to the budget process as a whole, or even back in the early 1990s for explicit political purposes. Nevertheless, I wish to talk about the Bill before us tonight. I will talk exclusively about the Bill and, hopefully, not deviate into matters that you, Mr Speaker, may consider not entirely relevant.

This Bill comes before Parliament every year. There is nothing remarkable about its structure, nature or even purpose. However, it is interesting to note the opportunities it has given members in previous years to raise a number of matters. It is also interesting to note the quantum being sought in the Bill. This Bill enables the Treasurer basically to spend more money than has been appropriated in the budget papers and then, at the end of the financial year, to come back and tell Parliament how the Government has spent it, in this instance \$300m.

The concern is that over the past four or five years, the trend has been for the Government to ask not only for the advance but also for money for the preceding financial year, because it has spent more money than it had appropriated. This Bill is somewhat different from the trend of the past few years, which is worrying. At least in the past, the Government admitted that it did not appropriate enough money. An extra \$160m was required in 1999-2000 because of budget blowouts. As the opposition spokesperson for Health, I find it interesting that this Bill is purely an advance authorisation Bill and does not reflect on the budget blowouts in a number of hospitals over the past financial year. It became clear during the estimates committee hearings that the hospitals do not have sufficient funds to meet the expected out-turns. There is no appropriation for that in this Bill. I am concerned that, as a result, the hospitals are being squeezed financially and will have to find ways of finishing the financial year with some form of a balanced budget or else will have to carry over a real

deficit into the next financial year. If there is no supplementation for the 1999-2000 budget of the hospitals, the deficit will carry over, and the \$300m in this Bill will make up part of that. They are only hypotheses but, based on the recent history of the advance authorisation Bills, they are reasonably substantiated.

The Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill 1996 appropriated \$200m, but the Government appropriated a further \$210m retrospectively, of which \$97m was for Health. The Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill 1997 again appropriated \$200m, but another \$100m was needed for retrospective appropriations. In 1998, the advance authorisation increased to \$300m for the first time, but the Bill also retrospectively appropriated \$350m, of which \$45m was for Health. There was a \$300m appropriation in 1999-2000, as well as a retrospective appropriation of \$160m, including \$70m for the hospitals. The quantum of the advance authorisation appropriations has dramatically increased over the past four years, as have the retrospective authorisation appropriations. A significant portion of those retrospective appropriations was allocated to hospitals. In this Bill we see a \$300m advance authorisation, but no reconciliation of the budget blow-out or deficits that the hospitals are clearly facing. That is of great worry, because no doubt there will be a carryover of those deficits into the 2000-01 budget or, worse, the hospitals will have to cut corners and do more of what they have had to do - that is, close wards - to come up with a balanced budget.

On the face of it, this is not an unusual Bill. It is very much part of the budget process and is a Bill that Governments of both persuasions bring in. However, this year and for the past couple of years the quantum has significantly increased. In the early 1990s it was \$200m and it remained so from 1991 to 1997. Then, in 1998, we saw a significant increase in the quantum. I am greatly concerned that the under funding of our hospitals has not been adequately addressed and that a significant portion of this \$300m will go towards topping up the hospital budgets or, if not, we will see a further squeeze on the hospitals and the services they provide.

Again, looking back through the debates in *Hansard*, generally speaking there has been an argument from one side or the other about what is considered an unexpected or unanticipated expenditure, and Governments have tried to justify certain expenditure as being unanticipated. An example might be the establishment of a new department during the financial year when there would not have been an appropriation during the budget process because there was no entity as such. That could be considered to be a legitimate unexpected expenditure. However, in Health, the justifications for the retrospective authorisations have not been unexpected; they have been budget overruns or, to put it in another language, the under funding of our health system. My fear is that we will see that this year. There is a great deal of latitude in defining what is funded and how this \$300m is allocated. In view of your advice and guidance earlier tonight, Mr Speaker, I will not stray into matters that are unrelated to the Bill.

The SPEAKER: In my view the member's speech has been entirely relevant.

Ms McHALE: I thought that as well.

There is some benefit in reading *Hansard*, even though most people would not think so. However, one can learn a great deal. I think members like to use the opportunity when they are on their feet to advance the cause of their electorates; that is what we are here for. It is not the first time in the debate tonight that members have tried successfully or otherwise to expand the definition of "relevance". As I say, a great deal of latitude has been given in the past, when members have perhaps broadened the boundaries of relevance.

I conclude by once again saying that it is what is not written in this Bill that concerns me about the funding of our health system and hospitals. We will be watching very carefully every utterance and line about health funding in the advance authorisation and subsequently when the Government comes to justify the 1999-2000 advance authorisation of another \$300m.

**MR CARPENTER** (Willagee) [8.56 pm]: Like my colleagues, I support the passage of this Bill. I have no problem in doing that whatsoever. I will take the opportunity to make a few remarks about what I perceive to be potential pressures on the budget which pertain to my portfolio responsibilities of Education and Family and Children's Services, and in particular the drug policy as it impacts on the budget.

The Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill 2000, as we have heard once or twice this evening, authorises the Treasurer to make payments or advances to a limit of \$300m. Of course, we have all been focusing on the figure of \$300m when referring to our portfolio areas and electorates. We all believe that in the areas of government activity in which we take special interest there may be some reason for departments to go back to Treasury to access funds over and above those which have been allocated in this budget.

Education is one of the major spending areas of any State Government. In this year's state budget, the Education allocation was in the vicinity of \$1.4b. Some very interesting information came out about the allocation of that funding during the estimates proceedings in which we took part in this House two weeks ago. I asked whether the Education budget was likely to be sufficient, bearing in mind that in at least the previous three years, the Minister for Education and the department have gone back to Treasury to seek additional funds. Off the top of my head, the advisers at this year's estimates hearing indicated that in the current financial year, the Education Department sought supplementary funding of about \$26m or \$27m to make up the amount of money it required. The Minister for Education, the member for Cottesloe, said there had been no surprise in the fact the Education budget had been short of some \$26m or \$27m; in fact, it was consistent with previous years when similar amounts had been sought as supplementary allocations by the department.

Last year something like \$30m was sought and obtained by the Education Department for its budget. In the year prior to

that it was in the vicinity of \$22m, as I recall the figure that the minister gave. There is no reason to believe that figure will not be consistently in that vicinity again in the forthcoming financial year. When we consider there are other significant potential pressures on the state budget looming in the Education portfolio, it may well be that a figure of between \$20m and \$30m, which has been consistently the amount required in supplementary funding over the past few years, will need to be exceeded in the forthcoming financial year.

Those pressures relate primarily to wages as about 75 per cent of the Education Department's budget comprises wages for teachers and other staff. Teachers in the government system are currently negotiating a new enterprise bargaining agreement and a significant pay rise. The Government is offering a 3 per cent increase in the forthcoming financial year, with another 3 per cent in the following year. Teachers in their negotiating position are seeking a 7.5 per cent wage increase in the forthcoming year, followed by another 7.5 per cent. The significance of those pressures can be better understood by determining how a 3 per cent increase in wages will impact on the Education budget. Every percentage point teachers receive as a pay rise will incur a cost of approximately \$10m in state government funding. If the department is successful in negotiating the 3 per cent wage increase, one can anticipate a \$30m increase in the wages budget. If teacher are successful in negotiating a figure close to 7 per cent, which they hope to be, the department faces an approximate \$70m increase in the wage budget. Bearing in mind the minister's comment that \$30m is in the Education budget for the wages increase -

Mr Barnett: It is 3 per cent plus 3 per cent in the budget.

Mr CARPENTER: Therefore, the pressure is definitely on the Government to maintain its budget position to keep teachers to the 3 per cent wage increase. In other words, if teachers are successful in increasing the pay rise percentage they negotiate with the department and the Government, it will cost the department roughly another \$10m for every percentage point of pay rise increase above 3 per cent in each financial year. The Government will not be able to maintain its 3 per cent position. I might be wrong, but I believe that the wage rise is likely to be a couple of percentage points higher. The department and the minister probably also anticipate that that will be the case. Therefore, the Education Department budget is already under some pressure. Consistently over the past two to four years the additional funds sought by the Education Department have been in the vicinity of \$20m or \$30m above the anticipated budget. It would be surprising to everybody concerned if a similar scenario were not to occur in the forthcoming financial year.

Mr Barnett: The so-called overruns were in no way a surprise to me or to the Education Department. They were known before the financial year began.

Mr CARPENTER: The minister made that point during the Estimates Committee, and I accept that position. Maybe I should have asked this question during those hearings: Will the minister explain by way of interjection why the overruns were not a surprise?

Mr Barnett: Many of them arose from the removal of barriers to promote two-year or three-year trained teachers. Barriers in the system stopped them making normal progress. It was removed, but was not fully accounted for in the budget. We knew the teachers would progress through normal annual increments in positions and salaries. That was the principal reason for the budget figure being exceeded in salaries. Education, unlike Health, is very predictable. We know how many children, how many schools and how many teachers, and that is 90 per cent of the spending.

Mr CARPENTER: I understand that point. I fail to see why that figure was not incorporated in the original budget figures.

Ms MacTiernan: That is right. If it was anticipated, why wasn't it in the budget? Let *Hansard* record that the minister shrugged his shoulders.

Mr CARPENTER: There is no better way to predict something than with hindsight. That brings me to the next stage of my interesting analysis of the budget figures.

Mr Barnett: It is fascinating.

Mr CARPENTER: I am glad the minister is here, because it makes the debate more interesting. As well as that anticipated pay rise of a minimum of 3 per cent - it is more likely to be a couple of percentage points higher than that, which, as I said, is likely to produce its own pressures on the budget - I understand that there is a factor similar to that just mentioned by the minister; that is, pay increases over and above the enterprise bargaining agreement negotiated marks are expected or anticipated for those already in the system. I refer particularly to the anticipated increase in the number of level 3 teachers. I think that the number of level 3 teachers is expected to increase by about 100.

Mr Barnett: That sounds about right.

Mr CARPENTER: Yes. Unfortunately, I do not have the figures available, but I think level 3 teachers are paid, on average, around \$52 000, and the teachers on a grade below that are paid below \$50 000. Again, there is a wage pressure simply because of structural changes and the removal of impediments to improved status and salary conditions to which the department has already committed. Will the minister tell us whether that has already been factored into the anticipated growth in wages; alternatively, although that has not happened, is it something that the minister anticipates, and does he expect that he will be required to go back to Treasury to obtain extra funds for it?

Mr Barnett: In the past couple of years, I think there has been a disagreement between the Education Department and Treasury about the full effect of some of that bracket creep of employees through the system. It has been shown that the Education Department was probably right. It better anticipated what the effect of that would be. That has explained most,

but not all, of that so-called overrun. I am confident that this year's budget figure for the Education Department is valid in every respect. I have more confidence in the presentation of the budget and its achievement this year than I have had in the past two years.

Mr CARPENTER: I have not done an analysis of the years back to 1994-95 and 1995-96. However, I am unaware of any year in which the Education budget has come in under budget or on budget; I do not think it has.

Mr Barnett: It is unlikely. There are demands on schools and education. An area that is growing rapidly in genuine need is children with disabilities. Areas like that are growing. Any education minister will always spend every dollar he can in the budget, as he should.

Mr CARPENTER: I am grateful for that. Basically, I am making an argument that Education will absorb a significant amount of the available funding - I am not saying it is anything like the \$300m, obviously - under the Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill. Apart from those wage pressures that come through the system, other pressures come to bear as one education year ends and another begins. We have discussed in debate a number of times the very point mentioned by the minister; that is, children with special educational needs. There is a huge demand for assistance and places in special education centres, language development centres and so on. The demand for places is significantly greater than the supply. All Governments respond to those kinds of pressures. This Government would be no exception. Assuming that this Government is back in office at the beginning of next year, there would have been the usual pressures at the end of this school year, across the holiday period and leading up to the beginning of the next year from parents who know very well that their children meet the criteria for special assistance because of learning difficulties, intellectual or physical disabilities and so on, and more particularly in the case of parents of children with learning difficulties who have been analysed or assessed as meeting the criteria for special assistance entry into language development centres and so on, but who cannot get their children into those centres. A couple of times during the past two years, the minister has provided figures that show the demand for those places as opposed to the supply of places. There is an increase in this year's budget over and above that of last year. If the ratio of demand to supply is not 2:1 it is pretty close. A large number of children meet the criteria for special educational assistance, language development centre admissions and so on.

Mr Barnett: That ratio is a little misleading. I readily acknowledge that demand is greater than available places, but more students are being serviced by outreach programs.

Ms MacTiernan: How effective are they?

Mr Barnett: They are probably better for the less acute students because it allows them to stay in the classroom in the normal situation. Taking services into schools is probably more effective for many students. However, more serious cases need to go into a specialist centre.

Ms MacTiernan: The teachers also need support to keep up the program, and that is not happening.

Mr Barnett: I acknowledge it is an area of demand that we have only partly met by increased allocations in this budget.

Mr CARPENTER: I am aware of the point made by the minister that provision has been made for additional support for children with special needs who, for one reason or another, stay in the general school environment.

Mr Barnett: Most parents prefer that.

Mr CARPENTER: However, access to speech pathology services in the general school environment and in the language development centres is a significant issue. It is very difficult for parents of children in either environment to get access to sufficient speech pathology services. This is a development in education that has accelerated considerably in recent years as parents have become aware of the critical importance of addressing these issues at the developmental stage. Many more parents are aware of this critical need than was the case in the past. They are prepared to, and do, lobby strongly and successfully on occasions to gain access for their children to these specialist services.

Governments of any political persuasion must see this issue as increasingly important with every year that passes. Parents are more aware not only of the need to have their children's learning difficulties addressed at an early age - I am referring to children with autism and other developmental difficulties and disabilities - but also of the ramifications of not having access to the required specialist services; that is, their children will almost invariably struggle desperately to maintain a desirable level of education. All sorts of social and economic ramifications flow from that, which Governments all over the place, including in Western Australia, must now address. It is a matter of finding the resources initially to prevent costs to individuals, their families and society later if those problems are not addressed at an early age.

Both sides of politics are already under considerable pressure to find more money to make available specialist assistance for children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

I would be very surprised if there were not a need to find additional funds over and above those funds which have been allocated in this budget. The minister is aware, because he travels around to a lot of the schools, that there is a huge demand for capital expenditure in schools. I was surprised by the Government's decision to reduce the allocation for capital expenditure in this year's Education budget, even though I have heard the minister's explanation that there has been a large amount of development of new schools and redevelopment of old schools in the past couple of years and that, in a sense, the budget is coming off a peak. I have looked back through the budget figures of previous years and there is no doubt that in the past two or three years there has been a significant growth in capital works expenditure. I am sure that when the minister visits schools he appreciates as well as anybody that that demand has not subsided, and is just of a different nature.

Numerous schools in Western Australia which were developed in the 1960s and 1970s for children from the baby-boom period are dilapidated and require urgent capital works and have not had specific allocations provided for them in the budget papers. Again, allocations in the forward estimates are not assigned to any particular project.

Bearing in mind we are in an election year, there will be great pressure on both sides of the political spectrum to find extra funding for capital works for a range of schools. We have already seen indications of that breaking out in the Chamber - although to be fair to the members to whom I refer, they have talked about funding for years down the track. As we move into an election climate, the pressure will be on every member of Parliament to try to get guarantees of extra funding for works on schools in their electorates. As recently as last week, I was with a few of my colleagues in Geraldton. I took the opportunity to look at the two Geraldton secondary education campuses. There is no doubt that although the change in structure is a very interesting one and is producing some interesting, if not necessarily successful results, the initial equation ignored the requirement for some capital works.

Mr Barnett: I think I made that point in answer to a question the member asked of me a few weeks ago. I agreed with what the member was saying.

Mr CARPENTER: I was pleased to go to Geraldton to see that the Minister for Education was correct.

Mr Barnett: I am sure the member acknowledges that.

Mr CARPENTER: It is interesting that when significant changes in the human structure is made to the schools, it seems necessary to have alongside that a major capital works program to accommodate those changes. The member for Geraldton is not in the Chamber just now, but he is a loud and often-heard member and he would agree with me about the two high school campuses in Geraldton which we visited.

I also took the opportunity to visit Dongara on the way back from my trip with the member for Rockingham. We were a male version of Thelma and Louise and we sped across the country looking at various physical structures as we went, slowing down at critical points.

Mr Sweetman: You could not manage the same result!

Mr CARPENTER: We missed the cliffs. I took the opportunity while the member for Rockingham restocked his stomach of inspecting the school at Dongara. From all accounts the school has had very successful outcomes. It has very committed and dedicated staff, a very good principal and a supportive parent organisation. I do not know whether the minister has visited that school.

Mr Barnett: Yes, I have.

Mr CARPENTER: It is in need of some capital works. The original school site was developed for two classes. There are now several hundred students at that school up to district high school level. It is running very good programs. However, the big shortcoming is the physical condition of the school. There will be a new member for that electorate after the next election, and I would not mind betting London to a brick that one of the first things he promises when in government is extra funding for Dongara.

We then ventured inland and took in the sites. We eventually found our way to Moora.

Mr Barnett: Did you still have your mate with you?

Mr CARPENTER: The member for Rockingham is a great animal lover. He insisted that we slow down to a snail's pace every time we got near any animal. Of course, in that part of the world there are many animals and it was a long trip. We eventually reached Moora by nightfall and attended our community meeting. Among other things, we discussed the education facilities in the town. The town has a technical and further education campus on the drawing board, but the townspeople are very concerned about education facilities generally. That is true in all country towns. It is important to note that in country areas these facilities are not only social and educational considerations, but also an economic issue. They must be of a standard to ensure that people do not leave to access better resources.

In previous weeks, as the minister knows, I have visited Northam, Kalgoorlie, Bunbury, Busselton and Collie. The same story is heard in many locations; that is, increased capital works expenditure is needed everywhere. The Government in office early in the 2001-2002 financial year will find itself under enormous pressure to increase the capital works moneys available to the education sector.

I expect that whoever is responsible for the Education portfolio - whether it is a conservative member, a Labor member, the current minister, me or another member - will be confronted with very compelling arguments that Education must have access to some of the funds available through the Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Act.

Mr Barnett: Whoever it is, the then Minister for Education will be opening many schools in the first half of next year.

Mr CARPENTER: If it is me, I will invite the member along.

Mr Barnett: The thought of that has spoilt my evening.

Mr CARPENTER: The minister and I could undertake a very entertaining tour.

Dr Turnbull interjected.

Mr CARPENTER: I do not hesitate to give praise where it is due. I am sure I can find something about which I can praise the Government and not cause unnecessary offence.

Dr Turnbull interjected.

Mr CARPENTER: I have spoken about the situation in Collie. The member should be ashamed of herself for allowing such a deterioration of educational facilities in her electorate.

The Minister for Family and Children's Services will find herself under considerable pressure as a result of some of the public commitments she has made, especially about the provision of accommodation and crisis support for the homeless in Western Australia, and the budget allocation of funds to meet those needs. Tragically, the budget allocation for that very important area of activity was reduced, not only in real terms but also in notional terms. This Government and the one that follows it will be faced with huge pressure to provide extra funding for people in crisis.

Moora is one of the most pleasant places I have visited recently. There was no sign of flood damage when we visited, but it has experienced two significant floods in the past 12 to 18 months, and emergency funding has had to be provided.

Apart from those one-off natural disasters, the ongoing crisis in the provision of services for people in Western Australia who are homeless or in financial or domestic difficulty will grow and not decline, and that will put increasing pressure on government. Although I know that the GST is close to the heart of many people on the other side of this Chamber, the GST will not alleviate the load that is bearing down on people on fixed and low incomes but will make their life even more difficult, if that is possible, after 1 July this year, and the call on the State Government's purse will be greater than ever. I assure all members that as a result of the imposition of the GST, they will experience an increase in the number of people contacting their office to seek additional support. With regard to the relevance of the GST to the Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill, the *Economic and Fiscal Outlook* outlines the anticipated savings - in other words, cuts - that departments are being told to make as a result of the imposition of the GST, and we will find that the departments that are unable to make those savings will ask Treasury for additional funds.

**MS MacTIERNAN** (Armadale) [9.26 pm]: I will speak on some aspects of the Transport and Main Roads' budgets that may give rise to the need for those departments to avail themselves of the facilities that are provided by the Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill. It is traditionally the case in these portfolio areas that if the money runs out, certain projects are dropped off the agenda. The Government has shown a great propensity to do that. The Government has promised rail lines to the northern suburbs and to the south west metropolitan area, and super trains to Northam and Kalgoorlie. However, if the budget gets tight, the Government just drops them off the agenda and does not bother about the pre-election and post-election promises it has made to those communities. That has been the Government's *modus operandi* in these portfolio areas. These are not the sorts of areas that are found within the Ministry of Education, where it is not as easy to defer expenditure.

The first area where I believe problems will emerge is the so-called purchase of transport services by the Department of Transport from Westrail. I am referring here to what is described as Fastrak; that is, the metropolitan rail system. These budget papers reveal a disgraceful manipulation of accounts to basically disguise massive holes in the budget. However, it will not be possible for the Government to continue this process for too long, particularly if Westrail is sold.

What in fact has been happening here is that the cost of the services purchased by the Department of Transport from Westrail have been substantially written down each year. The contract is supposed to be on a cost recovery basis, so the Department of Transport pays Westrail for whatever it costs Westrail to deliver the services. What really has been happening is that as the Department of Transport's budget has been slashed each year, it has asked Westrail to provide the same level of service for a significantly reduced amount of money. Given that both agencies are under the control of a single minister, the Minister for Transport, this has been easy to do. In order to cover the decrease in recurrent appropriation, Westrail has had to undertake a massive borrowing program to disguise this slicing back of its recurrent expenditure. There is absolutely no way that one could logically argue that Westrail has been able to provide an increased number of transportation services, while having its budget slashed.

In 1998-99, Westrail was paid \$104m for the provision of the metropolitan rail service. At that stage it was providing approximately 27 million passenger boardings. This financial year, its payment has been slashed to around \$98m, resulting in about \$6m being pared from its budget although it actually provided services for about 28 million passengers. Westrail increased its service delivery with a reduction in funding of about 6 per cent! This is all occurring in an environment of increasing costs. There will be, and there were, increases in wages and fuel costs over that period. That is not the end of it. During this current year, another \$8m has been lopped off the compensation paid to Westrail for providing urban passenger services, yet it is anticipated that an additional one million passengers will make use of Westrail's services. It is bizarre to expect Westrail to provide an increasing number of services, while its costs, particularly the significant costs of labour, parts and fuel, are all increasing substantially, and there is a massive reduction in Westrail's budget. That has been explained by the Director General of Transport as being the result of some good discussions and negotiations between the Department of Transport and Westrail. We all know that is a euphemism for the minister is in trouble and the Department of Transport's budget has a great big hole in it and it wants Westrail to help the Government fill it. It will do that by using a range of accounting manoeuvres that are not subject to parliamentary scrutiny. Now that massive government expenditure in Westrail through the Department of Transport is being warehoused, Westrail is not available for scrutiny. It does not have to come into this place and answer questions about its budget. Therefore, we have no way of checking the veracity and appropriateness of the figures that are listed in the Department of Transport's budget.



However, it stands to reason that this is a giant fiddle. These cuts in the Department of Transport's payments to Westrail are basically being funded by borrowings which do not appear in this budget as they are borrowings funded by Westrail. Under this Government not a single kilometre of rail has been built in this State, very little has been bought in the way of rolling stock and now there is a massive escalation in Westrail's debt; that has not been obvious due to the creative accounting that has been going on. If the Government gets to the point of selling Westrail freight and the track infrastructure, it will have a far more limited capacity to indulge in the sort of dodgy accounting that we see in this Transport budget, and the real cost of providing a metropolitan transport system will have to be accounted for. The Treasurer's Advance authorisations will then come into play profoundly in the Transport budget. I suspect there will also be a further blow-out in the costs claimed by the private bus operators.

Members will recall the findings of the Auditor General that these privatised bus monopolies, which have been granted to four companies in the metropolitan area at vast expense to the taxpayer, are effectively cost-plus contracts. The private operators had an advantage over MetroBus during the initial tendering phase, in that they were able to use antiquated Transport Workers Union of Australia awards which had not been updated for many years; whereas MetroBus was operating under a Public Transport Union award which offered a fairer remuneration to those drivers. Having obtained the advantage of being able to use the alternate award, these companies are now finding themselves under siege from the Transport Workers Union and their employees who are, understandably, seeking to have their wages and conditions restored to those they had prior to the privatisation. We have all seen the very substantial industrial relations actions taken in the past 18 months by the employees, particularly TWU members, as they fight for these increases.

Like so many of this Government's privatisations, because the privatisation of Westrail freight is at no risk to the supposed entrepreneur and all risks are held by the Government, those costs will be passed on to the taxpayer. Therefore, the private operators have contracts in which basically every line item is renegotiable and the taxpayers will be liable to pick up any increase in award payments. Because the drivers have a very understandable desire to return to the wages and conditions they had in 1997 and 1998, substantial upward pressure will be applied to the private bus operators to provide incomes and conditions at that level to them. That will mean allocated amounts of money will expand, notwithstanding that little will be provided by way of additional bus services.

There is another area where we might start to see cost blow-outs but, again, it is impossible to be sure of this because of the flimsy nature of the budget. However, we know already that three of the Main Roads' term network contracts have been let, which are purported to be fixed-price contracts that will lock these large multinational consortia into fixed price contracts for 10 years for the maintenance and minor construction of roads in their monopoly areas.

Although this Government does not allow us to see those contracts, I understand they contain considerable capacity for additional claims. If this does not become obvious in the first year - 2000-01 - it will certainly become evident in future years once Main Roads is completely dismantled and we are at the mercy of the private consortia who are living on taxpayer dollars. When Main Roads has lost most of its senior and skilled people - indeed any people with practical experience in road building and maintenance - the budgeted costs will bear little resemblance to the actual costs. Those areas of the Transport budget will obviously require appropriations from the Treasurer's Advance authorisation.

The extent of the advance authorisation is enormous when considered as a percentage of the overall budget. It is hard to see how this Government can justify advances of this size. It must be an acknowledgement that its budgeting process is fairly haphazard and, in many instances, simply a case of plucking figures out of the air.

**MRS ROBERTS (Midland) [9.42 pm]:** I am keen to make a few comments on the Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill because, although the Premier will deny it, many members are aware of the problems the Police Service has with its operational funding. It is interesting to note the purpose of the advance authorisation Bill when the Police Service is underfunded and is stalling in a number of areas that have already run out of funds. The budget for police transfers had run out by April this year. When the Commissioner of Police appeared before Estimates Committee A, he acknowledged that there is now a huge backlog of transfers. Regional areas of Western Australia have a dire need for those positions to be filled. I was in Geraldton last week, where it was confirmed that the Geraldton police station has 10 unfilled positions. The station is undermanned by 10 police officers. A well-meaning group of individuals organised a meeting with the Leader of the Opposition and me to present some good ideas on law and order and policing. One of those ideas was to recruit eight police cadets to fill those positions. Surely the first priority would be to immediately put in place 10 real police officers. A month or so ago I was in Kalgoorlie, where the story is similar. The shortage that week in Kalgoorlie was about 10 or 12 officers. Since January, the number of unfilled positions there has been between eight and 15 officers.

There are similar problems in Mandurah and in other areas which have police stations that are operating well under their authorised levels. That is not because the transfers have not come through. It is simply because our Police Service has run out of money to do those transfers. It is an absolute disgrace that areas of need such as Geraldton, Kalgoorlie and other areas around the State are going without police officers. It is interesting to also note the lack of accountability to this Parliament for the policing level at those police stations which emerged during the estimates committee process. I asked a couple of specific questions about the level of policing provided at specific police stations on weekends and at some given moments in time. The advice was that it is not the Police Service's practice to give out that kind of information. It may have called it operational for some other reason. However, there was some suggestion that part of the justification for not releasing part of that information was that people of evil or malicious intent might utilise that information in some way. I have met with police officers the length and breadth of this State. There are stations in which the staff are embarrassed because they can put only one car on the road sometimes. That is the case in the member for Geraldton's area. There are nights when only one car can be put on the road, and regularly only one or two cars can be put on the road depending on

the staff available at the station. It is not an acceptable situation. It is not an acceptable way to run our Police Service. This Government has run down our Police Service.

It is my calculation that over 100 police officers are missing throughout the Police Service; that is, we are currently operating at well below the sworn strength. The Government is conning us by saying that it has a certain number of officers when in fact those officers are not on the ground in the various police districts and offices. In fact, there has been a huge number of vacancies. When I questioned the minister about this during the Estimates Committee, it was acknowledged that the Police Service had problems with the police transfer system. The Commissioner of Police advised me that there was about \$900 000 extra in the budget to deal with the transfer problem. However, given that this problem has been occurring for year after year, and given that it appears to be at its worst level ever, a lot of that money will be consumed by fixing up last year's budget black hole in transfers. Although some of those transfers will start occurring in July, they are last year's transfers, some of which have been waiting since April and others since May and other dates. The officers in charge of stations like Geraldton and Kalgoorlie have on their books a list of officers for whom they have been waiting for some months. It is plainly not acceptable. It is not the way to do policing in this State. There is only one group of people to blame for the situation we are in: This Government has starved the Police Service of operational funding. It must be noted, as part of the comments I am making on the number of police officers, that we were given conflicting information during the Estimates Committee. I asked the Minister for Police what the average cost was of employing a police officer in Western Australia, including salary and other staffing costs. He gave the estimated average cost of a police officer on an accrual basis.

The Minister for Police said that the figure was \$80 700 per annum calculated on the current authorised sworn strength of 4 698 officers. I understand those figures were given to him by Mr MacDonald who prepared that paper. Later in the Estimates Committee there was a further response on police numbers when Mr Frame, on behalf of the minister, said the authorised sworn strength is 4 813 officers. If that is not fudging the books, I do not know what is. It is either 4 698 or 4 813 officers. I expect that 4 813 officers is the figure the Government uses when it wants to compare our strength with that of other States. However, I believe the number of police officers who are on the books and available to do work currently is 4 698. On that basis we are 115 officers down. Maybe that is where the member for Geraldton can find the 10 officers missing from Geraldton police station and the member for Kalgoorlie can find the 10 officers missing from Kalgoorlie.

If 115 positions are unoccupied, why is that so? Why have officers not been appointed to those positions? Is it because of the transfer system and the fact that there is no money to transfer officers from the metropolitan region to Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Mandurah, Bunbury or anywhere else around the State? I see one of the members opposite shaking his head. He is right; it is not only because of that. The Police Service is going without 115 police officers currently, so that it can use the money which should be paid to police officers to patch up operational areas because operational areas and frontline policing have been starved of funds by this Government. It stands out so clearly that that is how our Police Service has been forced to operate. There is a huge range of problems with operational funding. In the course of the past year the numbers of police officers on afternoon and evening shifts have had to be restricted so that overtime is not payable. It has meant restrictions on the number of patrols undertaken. It has meant petrol rationing, and a whole range of difficulties for our frontline police officers.

Mr Bloffwitch: If the Opposition in the other place had not held up the passage of the Court Security and Custodial Services Bill which dealt with transferring prisoners, four of my officers would not be tied up transferring prisoners.

Mrs ROBERTS: That is an interesting point, is it not? It highlights the con the Premier tried to perpetrate on the people of Western Australia when he misled people in an article in the *Sunday Times* a few weeks ago by suggesting there would be 100 more police officers. During the Estimates Committee the Minister for Police said that the Premier did not mean 100 extra police officers, but that he was referring to the 94 police officers the Government expects to be released from court duties.

I have spoken to senior police officers and others who say that nowhere near 94 police officers will be released to other duties.

Mr Bloffwitch: What about all the jails and the transfers undertaken from north to south? That is absolute rubbish.

Mrs ROBERTS: The people to whom I have spoken are in a better position to know than is the member for Geraldton. Where are the other 115 officers? We have an authorised strength, yet 115 officers are missing. This is apart from the notional 94 officers who will be released. If the Government were dinkum about the 94 positions - which I am told do not exist - where will they be allocated? How many extra officers will be in Geraldton, Kalgoorlie or Rockingham?

Mr Bloffwitch: There will be six or seven of them who will not be guarding station cells.

Mrs ROBERTS: Another matter that may be of interest to the member for Geraldton is the fact that 87 police officers were stolen from districts throughout the State to be assigned to the computer-aided despatch system upon which the police are working. This includes staff stolen from Geraldton. I do not criticise that project or suggest it is not worthwhile; I simply state as a matter of fact that 87 officers who could be on front-line work are now busy on the CADCOM project.

It is simple when one starts to add these numbers together to work out why we have a Police Service which, despite its best efforts, finds it difficult to respond to public demand. I have highlighted certain problems numerous times in Parliament this year. We know, for example, that 30 000 telephone calls a year are unanswered as a result of a shortage of police

officers. The report I presented to this House indicated clearly that it would be easy to cascade the telephone calls from a local station to a 24-hour police station and then on to VKI. It would be simply in terms of cost and technology to cascade the calls to the police operations centre or the VKI. That is not done because the police acknowledge that staff resources at VKI are not available to answer 30 000 extra calls a year. The unanswered calls average 80 calls a day, which do not come in at regular times as more calls are received on key parts of the evening and on weekends. Therefore, probably 120 or so calls are made daily on the weekend, not 80. This problem arises not from the computer system, but from a shortage of police officers in our service. It is a disgrace.

Funding provided to the Police Service to put police officers in positions has had to be used for operational policing areas which have been badly underfunded. The operational police budget has been cut effectively over each of the past three or four years. The budget has not kept pace with the consumer price index or population growth. In addition, the Police Service has had to carry a number of other cost burdens which are effectively budget cuts. For example, this Government, in a change to its accounting procedures, makes the Police Service pay for many services for which it previously did not pay. Although numerous examples could be cited, people most readily identify with the payment of vehicle registrations. Only three or four years ago the Police Service was not charged for the registration of all of its vehicles. However, because of new budgetary methods, with which I do not have any argument - they are probably a much more sensible way to go - the Police Service now has to fork out the money to pay for all those vehicle registrations. In those circumstances, I thought that the Police budget would be increased to compensate for that additional expenditure.

I have highlighted tonight a couple of the key points. One of my overriding concerns is that the minister and his Government do not want to be accountable for the operations of the Police Service in this State. They should be accountable for them. If, as has been reported to me, there are situations in which shortages in the Police budget mean that front-line policing is suffering, the Government should act to address that issue. That should be raised with the commissioner. Unfortunately, all we seem to get from the Government are assertions that things have never been better in the Police Service. One can speak to any police officer in this State to get a different story.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Kobelke.

*House adjourned at 10.01 pm*

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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

**INTERNET ACCESS, WEST PILBARA REGION**

1716. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to the statement made by the Minister on 26 October 1999 in relation to telecommunications, in particular Internet access or lack thereof, in the West Pilbara Region and ask -

- (a) will Telstra, as part of the implementation of this project, be using the fibre optic cabling which runs the length of the coastline;
- (b) if Telstra does use the fibre optic cabling, will this cabling be extended throughout each town;
- (c) how will Telstra ensure Internet users will gain Internet access and response times equivalent to the performance delivered to private users such as large mining companies who have the capacity to pay for their own fibre optic cabling;
- (d) with regards to satellite access for remote communities, who will be providing the satellite receiver, installation and maintenance of such equipment for the remote communities;
- (e) does Telstra have a strategic plan, together with operational objectives and outcomes for the continuous updating and improvement of its services to Western Australia;
- (f) how will these objectives and outcomes continuously improve all Western Australian's access to quality telecommunications/data transfer; and
- (g) where does the STEP (Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Programme) project sit within the scope of such a strategic plan and operational objectives and outcomes on behalf of rural and remote community member and organisations?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (a) Telstra will use whichever parts of its backbone network it considers appropriate to connect the sites of those Government agencies with which it has signed contracts under the Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Program (STEP). The STEP contracts specify service levels, not the technologies to be used to achieve them.
- (b) Telstra may extend its fibre optic cabling if there is a business case based on likely public and private sector demand. However, other technologies now available to both Telstra and its competitors may be more cost-effective than optic fibre. These include XDSL, which enables wide bandwidth over existing copper wires for short distances and new wireless technologies which are effective over longer distances. Even in Perth, Telstra ceased its wideband cable rollout (a combination of coaxial cable and optic fibre) after completing only 30 of Perth's 300+ suburbs.
- (c) This question should be properly addressed to Telstra. Telstra has not advised the Government of whether or how it will deliver Internet access to private citizens to the same standard as its large corporate clients. STEP is not designed to deliver universal Internet access to private citizens. STEP is a procurement arrangement for government telecommunications, designed to stimulate the growth of competitive telecommunications services in regional areas. A flow on benefit of STEP is that Internet Service Providers now have a choice of carriers from which to purchase their long distance data service.
- (d) A separate project to STEP, designed to extend Internet access throughout the Pilbara region, is being implemented by the State Government in collaboration with the Pilbara Development Commission and the Commonwealth Government. A Request for Tenders for the Internet access component of this project is currently being drafted. It is not possible to answer this question until contracts have been let.
- (e)-(g) A consequence of the increasingly competitive marketplace is that Telstra treats its strategic plans for Western Australia as confidential and has not provided them to the Government.

**MINISTRY OF FAIR TRADING, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

1724. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Fair Trading:

- (1) Did the Auditor General's Public Sector Performance Report No. 7 of November 1999 find that the Ministry of Fair Trading had a significant variation between the published and audited financial statements for 1997-98?
- (2) In what way did the published financial statement, which would have appeared in the tabled annual report, vary from the audited financial statements signed off by the Auditor General?
- (3) What was the reason for this variation?

- (4) What action has been taken to ensure that the Ministry of Fair Trading does not again place itself in such an embarrassing situation?

Mr SHAVE replied:

I am advised:

- (1) The Auditor General's Public Sector Performance Report No 7 of November 1999 identified two exceptions in respect to the Ministry of Fair Trading's 1997/98 financial statements. The Public Sector Performance Report did not comment on the significance of the variations between the published and audited financial statements.
- (2) The published financial statement included typographical and transpositional errors that did not appear in the audited financial statements.
- (3) The errors occurred at the printing stage. The Ministry provided the printer with the audited version of the financial statements however, when the data was transferred into the publishing software system, errors occurred that were not detected during proof reading.
- (4) A range of quality checks were successfully implemented for the 1998/99 Report resulting in no findings being made by the Auditor General for the year ended 30 June 1999 in respect of the Ministry's financial statements.

#### EDUCATION, INTERNET 2

1732. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) What action has the Government taken on-

- (a) promoting; and
- (c) developing,

Internet 2 to provide a high-speed research and education network for the delivery of courses across networks, collaborative networks searches, digital libraries and remote access?

- (2) What resources has the Western Australian Government allocated to this task?
- (3) What progress has been made to date?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) None. Internet2 refers to a network project in the United States of America, separate from the Internet, created to assist the academic and research requirements of universities and other research organisations. The Australian equivalent to Internet2 is the Australian Academic Research Network 2 (AARNet2) which is a network separate from the Internet. The original AARNet, AARNet2's predecessor, began Australia's access to the Internet in 1989. Escalating costs resulted in the network infrastructure being passed to Telstra in 1995 to become Telstra Internet services. Telstra is now only one of a number of organisations providing access to the Internet in Australia. AARNet, which operates AARNet2, has a key objective to deliver a world-class academic and research network. It has reached agreement to collaborate and interconnect with Internet2. Internationally there are numerous other Internet2 equivalent organisations such as CA\*Net3 (Canada). AARNet2 provides high capacity services between eight state and territory Regional Network Organisations (RNOs), 37 universities and the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). The Western Australian component of AARNet2 is the Perth Academic Regional Network (PARNET) and consists of UWA, Curtin, Edith Cowan and Murdoch Universities and the CSIRO. The Western Australian Government through the Department of Commerce and Trade has not taken any action in promoting or developing AARNet2, as that is the role of AARNet.
- (2) Nil.
- (3) Not applicable.

#### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX, COMPLIANCE COST REPORT

1734. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Small Business:

- (1) Is the Government aware of a report by Arthur Andersen that predicts the compliance cost burden of the Goods and Services tax could be double the outlay for the year 2000 bug?
- (2) Has the Government examined the report?
- (3) Does the Government accept the findings of the report?
- (4) If not, in what respects does the Government disagree with the findings of the report?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) I am aware of press reports that referred to a prediction by Arthur Andersen to this effect. Although contact has been made with Arthur Andersen, I have been unable to ascertain that there is in fact a report on the issue. I am therefore unable to comment on the validity of the prediction.

- (2) No.
- (3)-(4) Not applicable.

#### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX, SMALL BUSINESSES

1735. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Small Business:

- (1) Is the Government aware of a report prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics which revealed an increasing number of businesses indicate (in the survey) that their businesses were likely to be adversely effected by the Goods and Service tax changes?
- (2) Has the Government examined that report?
- (3) If so, does the Government accept that this is a likely outcome of the introduction of the Goods and Services tax?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) I am aware that the results of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' survey of Australian Business Expectations for the March 2000 and December 2000 quarters, noted that an increasing number of businesses were concerned about the potential adverse affects to profits of taxation reform in general. The survey did not specifically address Goods and Services Tax issues.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Not applicable, see 1 above.
- (4) See 1 above.

#### GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD, LABELLING

1737. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What action has the Government taken to ensure that genetically modified food being sold in Western Australia is properly labelled?
- (2) What action does the Government plan to take in this regard?
- (3) Is the Minister prepared to give consumers in Western Australia a guarantee that all food sold in this State that has been genetically modified is properly labelled so that consumers are aware of what they are purchasing?
- (4) Does the Government intend to vigorously pursue the policy of ensuring genetically modified food is labelled?
- (5) If so, what action does the Government intend to take in this regard?
- (6) If not, why not?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Western Australian representatives participate on the Inter Governmental Task Force on the Labelling of Genetically Modified Foods. This Task Force was established by Health Ministers comprising the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Council (ANZFSC). Through the Task Force Western Australia contributes to the development of the specific standard in the National Food Standards Code, which relates to labelling of genetically modified food.
- (2) The recommendations of the Task Force will be formally considered at the next ANZFSC meeting on 29 July 2000. Prior to this meeting, the recommendations and Draft Standard will be considered by Commonwealth, State, Territory and New Zealand Cabinets. The Standard for Food Produced Using Gene Technology, once approved, will be incorporated into the Food Standards Code and adopted in Australia and New Zealand.
- (3)-(5) The details of the labelling requirements are being considered by the ANZFSC and are not yet finalised.
- (6) Not applicable.

#### GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD, LABELLING

1738. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What action has the Government taken to ensure that genetically modified food being sold in Western Australia is properly labelled?
- (2) What action does the Government plan to take in this regard?
- (3) Is the Minister prepared to give consumers in Western Australian a guarantee that all food sold in this State that has been genetically modified is properly labelled so that consumers are aware of what they are purchasing?
- (4) Does the Government intend to vigorously pursue the policy of ensuring genetically modified food is labelled?

(5) If so, what action does the Government intend to take in this regard?

(6) If not, why not?

Mr DAY replied:

Please see response to question 1737.

#### BUSHPLAN

1744. Mr BROWN to the Minister for the Environment:

(1) Is the Minister aware of Bushplan?

(2) Is it true that some of the Bushplan sites have been cleared or partially cleared?

(3) Does the Government intend to take any immediate action to prevent the clearing of all Bushplan sites?

(4) If not, why not?

(5) If so, when?

(6) What interim measures will the Government take to protect all Bushplan sites?

(7) What is the nature of the interim protection measures that will be taken?

(8) When will those measures be taken?

(9) How many Bushplan sites have been affected by unauthorised clearing?

(10) When did the clearing take place (approximate months)?

(11) What action did the Government take to try and prevent the clearing?

(12) Has the Government now taken action to prevent any further clearing of Bushplan sites?

(13) If so, what action?

(14) If not, why not?

(15) Will the Minister give an absolute guarantee that no further clearing will take place on Bushplan sites?

(16) If not, why not?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

(1)-(2) Yes, see (10).

(3)-(5) The prospect of statutory protection will be considered following the endorsement and release of the Final Bushplan report.

(6) All owners have been informed of the Bushplan proposals in relation to their land and Government has made clear its desire to discuss the Bushplan proposals with owners during and following the public comment process. This approach is intended to facilitate improved understanding of the Bushplan process, the values of their land and options available to owners, leading to an agreed implementation outcome. Through this approach I understand that most owners have contacted the Ministry for Planning and followed appropriate approvals processes.

(7) The interim protection is seeking to engage owners so that they follow due process and also applying the provisions of the Soil and Land Conservation Act for land zoned rural.

(8) These measures have been adopted from the time that Draft Bushplan was released (November 1998).

(9) In total some degree of clearing is known to have occurred on 10 Bushplan Sites - out of 280 Sites. It is considered that most of these will regenerate in time and will not be removed from Bushplan.

(10) Most of the clearing took place in the period between early and mid 1999.

(11) Officers of the Department of Environmental Protection, Ministry for Planning and Agriculture WA (variously) visited each of the sites when they became aware of the clearing to discuss the issue and requirements of the Soil and Land Conservation Act and implementation approaches. This was generally followed by a letter from the Commissioner for Soil Conservation, advising that no further action should be taken that could potentially damage the land or intended conservation landuse.

(12) Action has been taken to address concerns in the Southern River area, where the main concentration of clearing occurred.

(13) The Ministry for Planning has initiated a Structure Plan with Local Government for the Southern River area, which was the main focus for clearing. This approach has sought to protect the Bushplan Sites and establish other open space and water management features within a coordinated plan for the development of this area, which is

recognised as having significant development constraints because of wetlands and high groundwater levels. As a result owners have been able to see how their concerns would be addressed as part of a broader planning framework for the area.

(14) Not applicable

(15)-(16)

As discussed above, it is considered that the measures taken have restricted clearing and addressed the area of most concern, but there are currently no statutory mechanisms to guarantee absolutely that there will be no further clearing.

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND TRADE, SOUTH WEST MOTOR COMPLEX FUNDING

1755. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Under what funding program did the Department of Commerce and Trade, through the South-West Development Commission, make available financial assistance to the motoring complex in the south-west?
- (2) Are funds available through the Department of Commerce and Trade to support other sporting venues?
- (3) What criteria is used to determine if funds will be provided for that purpose?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) The Regional Initiatives Fund. Funding was provided in accordance with grant criteria recognising the development of the Collie Motoring Complex provides a stimulus to tourism, the hospitality industry and driver training.
- (2) Yes. Subject to meeting the Regional Initiatives Fund guidelines.
- (3) The Regional Initiatives Fund guidelines are as follows:

The project must have the potential to lead to:  
 (a) significant economic development; or  
 (b) job creation opportunities.

Applicants need to demonstrate a high level of commitment to the project through either in-kind support and/or a financial contribution.

Applicants must demonstrate that they have thoroughly investigated alternative sources of funding and that the project cannot access moneys through other funding channels.

The project should promote partnerships, ie across regions, between community/business sector and government or across the tiers of government.

Priority will be given to projects which have substantial flow-on effects and demonstrate a high degree of innovation. Limited funding is available which is allocated annually on a first come first serve basis.

#### ALINTAGAS MAGAZINE, BUNNINGS ADVERTISING

1796. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the numerous positive references to Bunnings in the 1999 Summer edition of "Advantages"; the AlintaGas magazine for residential customers?
- (2) What financial or other benefits does AlintaGas receive for accepting Bunnings advertising in its publication?
- (3) If AlintaGas receives no monies from Bunnings, why is Bunnings receiving positive references in AlintaGas publications?
- (4) Did the opportunity exist for all private sector businesses to use the "Advantages" publication for commercial gain?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) AlintaGas received no financial benefits from Bunnings.
- (3) References to Bunnings on page 5 of *Advantages* were in relation to the product offer and were factual as opposed to "positive".
- (4) Opportunity exists for all private sector businesses to be considered for inclusion in *Advantages*. The marketing and promotional activities of AlintaGas are determined by the Executive and management.



## ENERGY PROJECTS, SOCIAL IMPACT STUDIES

1799. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Does the Government carry out or require to be carried out a social impact study where major projects may impact on the town or settlement close to the project?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If so, who is responsible for carrying out social impact studies?
- (4) Does the Government intend to forecast what social impact large projects may have on towns/regions and if so, take steps to minimise that impact?
- (5) If so, what steps does the Government intend to take?
- (6) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(3) During the project approvals phase the government and the project proponent consult with local authorities and communities to ensure that any social impact issues are identified and addressed. Social impacts may also be considered as part of the environmental assessment process for some projects. The government's statutory planning process also includes consideration of social implications of projects for towns and communities.
- (4)-(6) Any identification or forecasting of social impacts would be done on a case by case basis, if needed. This would depend on the project, its location and on the form of the social impact. In looking at project proposals the government considers how the project would affect the local community and takes steps to ensure that any increased demand for land, housing, infrastructure or services can be accommodated.

## PETROCHEMICAL PLANT, PILBARA

1803. Mr GRILL to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) What progress has been made in respect to the development of a Petrochemical Plant in the Pilbara?
- (2) Has the feasibility study for the project been completed as yet?
- (3) What is the attitude of the proponents of the plant towards the likelihood of its establishment?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Stage 1 of a proposed 2 staged feasibility study was completed in April 1999. The study concluded that a world scale ethane based petrochemical plant might be feasible and would require 800,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) of ethane as feedstock. A number of issues need to be resolved before proceeding to Stage 2 of the feasibility study, including:
  - (a) the availability and price of ethane at the required feedstock quantity; and,
  - (b) the provision of Government funds for multi-user infrastructure and resumption of land for industrial development in the Pilbara region.

The Department of Resources Development (DRD) is currently addressing those issues that require Government input.

- (3) The Proponent is progressing the Pilbara Petrochemical Project (PPP) with a view to resolving points (a) and (b) above. Its request for an extension to the Term of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been granted to 30th June 2000. At the Proponent's request, DRD is working on the documentation required to extend the MOU term for a further 12 months, i.e. to the 30 June 2001.

## REGIONAL TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS, FUNDING OF VISITOR SERVICING

1806. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Further to question on notice No. 318 of 1999, is it true that one of the performance criteria under the terms of agreements between the Western Australian Tourism Commission (WATC) and Regional Tourism Associations (RTA) is that they need to "support and facilitate an appropriate level of visitor servicing" in their region?
- (2) Does the WATC monitor the financial contribution made by each RTA to support visitor servicing in the region?
- (3) How does the WATC judge whether the performance criteria is being met?
- (4) What contribution was made by each RTA in-
  - (a) the 1998-99 financial year; and
  - (b) the 1999-2000 financial year,
 to supporting an appropriate level of visitor servicing?

- (5) What amounts are paid or are proposed to be paid by each RTA to each tourism bureau in their region to support visitor servicing in-
- (a) the 1998/99 financial year; and  
(b) the 1999-2000 financial year?
- (6) With respect to Tourism South West, how much was spent/allocated in the last two financial years (including wages, rent, services, travel etc) on the promotion of regional tourism, interstate and internationally?
- (7) Is there any research that shows that expenditure was justified and cost effective?
- (8) If so, what research?
- (9) What funds were provided by Tourism South West to individual tourist information centres to support an appropriate level of "visitor servicing"?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. The reporting system from each Regional Tourism Association (RTA) to the Western Australian Tourism Commission (WATC) provides details of payments made to each relevant tourist bureau by the respective RTA on either a quarterly, six monthly or annual basis.
- (3) The current reporting mechanism ensures that each RTA covers off the necessary requirement under the terms of each agreement.

(4)-(5) Tourist Bureau	1998/99	1999/2000
KIMBERLEY REGION		
Broome	\$19,545	\$19,545
Derby	\$16,795	\$16,795
Kununurra	\$19,645	\$19,645
PILBARA REGION		
Port Hedland	\$6,000	0
Karratha	\$6,000	0
Tom Price	\$4,000	0
Roebourne	\$4,000	0
Newman	\$4,000	0
GASCOYNE REGION		
Exmouth	\$13,000	0
Carnarvon	\$18,000	\$11,000
Shark Bay	\$9,500	0
MID WEST REGION		
Dongara/Denison	\$1,929	\$1,929
Geraldton	\$16,348	\$16,348
Kalbarri	\$16,351	\$16,351
Northampton	\$3,343	\$3,343
HEARTLANDS REGION		
Beverley	\$4,675	\$4,673
Brookton	\$1,247	\$1,246
Chittering	\$8,586	\$8,586
Hyden	\$5,633	\$5,633
Merredin	\$5,732	\$5,732
Northam	\$13,320	\$13,320
Wagin	\$225	\$225
York	\$8,699	\$8,699
GOLDFIELDS REGION		
Kalgoorlie/Boulder	\$20,436	0
Coolgardie	\$15,782	\$15,782
Norseman	\$15,782	\$15,782
Kambalda	\$4,000	\$4,000
ESPERANCE REGION		
Ravensthorpe	\$6,500	\$6,500
GREAT SOUTHERN REGION		
Albany	\$400	\$218
Denmark	\$15,150	\$7,421
Mount Barker	\$12,450	\$6,451
Kojonup	\$2,500	\$1,250
SOUTH WEST REGION		
Bunbury	\$13,000	\$7,800
Collie	\$9,868	\$5,921
Donnybrook	\$9,006	\$5,404
Harvey	\$13,000	\$7,800
Dunsborough	\$6,500	\$3,900
Busselton	\$6,500	\$3,900
Manjimup	\$1,991	\$1,195
Pemberton	\$13,000	\$7,800
Walpole	\$4,008	\$2,405
Boyup Brook	\$7,961	\$4,777
Bridgetown	\$10,835	\$6,501
Nannup	\$2,178	\$1,307
Northcliffe	\$6,207	\$3,724

PEEL REGION		
Mandurah	\$12,225	0
Dwellingup	\$7,800	0
Pinjarra	\$8,858	0
Serpentine/Jarrahdale	\$708	0

- (6) The WATC provided \$248,298 in 1998/99 to Tourism South West and a similar amount in 1999/2000, for the purposes outlined in the agreement between WATC and Tourism South West. The agreement provides for Tourism South West to identify and undertake promotion and marketing priorities for the region in the appropriate markets as decided by its membership.
- (7) Tourism South West does have its own Performance Criteria which it applies to each marketing activity. The marketing sub-committee of the Tourism South West Board meets to assess the success or otherwise of each activity against the criteria to ascertain whether they will be repeated.
- (8) As above – answer 7.
- (9) As above – answer 4.
1810. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Forest Products. (See page 8667.)

#### INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, WORK-RELATED FATALITIES

1813. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Labour Relations:

For each work-related fatality for 1997-98, what was –

- the name of the worker killed;
- the cause of the fatality;
- the industry in which the employee was engaged;
- the date of the accident or event that caused the fatality; and
- the locality of the accident or event that caused the fatality?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

(a)-(e) See below -

#### WORKSAFE WESTERN AUSTRALIA WORK RELATED FATALITIES 1997/1998

(a)Name of Worker	(b)Cause of Fatality	(c)Industry	(d)Date of Accident	(e)Location
KNOTT Raymond John	Rock fall	Mining gold ores	10/7/97	Forrestonia
WALKER Maxwell James	Crushed by bulldozer	Agriculture	18/7/97	Donnybrook
BERRY Anthony Lawrence	Struck by falling forklift	Wholesale trade	1/8/97	Balcatta
EVERETT Kerry Desmond	Rock fall	Mining nickel ores	1/9/97	Kambalda
VODDEN Clinton	Rock fall	Mining nickel ores	1/9/97	Kambalda
CHRISTENSEN Keith Gary	Struck by forklift	Transport & Storage	17/9/97	Karratha
Kevin	Asphyxia by drowning	Agriculture, fishing	25/9/97	Hopetoun
BEALE Barry Roy	Struck by helicopter rotor	Mining exploration	10/10/97	via Geraldton
LAWRENCE Steven	Struck by falling tree	Services to mining	16/10/97	Boddington
CAMPBELL Bruce Arthur	Struck by grass slasher	Agriculture/forest/fish	19/10/97	Mundijong
HOPKINSON Antoni	Fall from height off ladder	Transport & Storage	28/10/97	Kwinana
DONOHUE Shane Patrick	Asphyxia by drowning	Recreational diving	29/10/97	via Broome
VISWANATHAN Bharathi	Electrocution by ice machine	Construction other trades	3/11/97	Exmouth
DOWD Russel Francis	Rock fall	Mining nickel ores	20/11/97	Kambalda
ABU BAKER Abdul Razak	Heat exposure	Mining exploration	1/12/97	Gascoyne Junction
MURRISH Clive	Caught between auto irrigation	Agriculture	11/12/97	Manjimup
CILEMANOFF Vlado	Asphyxia by smoke inhalation	Retail trade	11/12/97	Northam
STEPHEN Peta Marie	Crushed by remote loader	Mining gold ores	8/1/98	via Meekatharra
STEVENS Fiona	Crushed by reinforcing mesh	Mining gold ores	31/1/98	via Norseman
GARCIA Gary	Asphyxia by oxygen deficiency	Non metal manufacturing	19/3/98	Margaret River
HILL Michael James	Struck by door in explosion	Mining gold ores	19/3/98	Kambalda
CHRISTIE Andrew David	Crushed by remote bogger	Mining gold ores	3/5/98	via Leinster
GRUBB Francis	Fell down disused mine shaft	Mining gold ores	16/5/98	Cue
CONSTABLE Lloyd Sylvester	Fall from height in heat exchanger	Construction	18/5/98	Collie
SUZUKI Toshio	Caught in skid steer loader	Mining construction material	11/6/98	Nowergup
BELLOMBRA Vincenzo	Caught between vehicle/ramp	Agriculture	12/6/98	Mettricup
MOSCARDINI Ivo				

TOTAL = 26

#### WORKERS COMPENSATION, REFERRALS TO REHABILITATION PROVIDERS

1815. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Labour Relations:

For each quarter commencing from the quarter finishing 31 March 1998 up until the present, what has been for all Western Australian workers' compensation cases -

- the average time from the occurrence of an injury to the referral of the injured workers to a rehabilitation provider;
- the number of cases in that quarter referred to a rehabilitation provider; and
- the lost time injury rate for that quarter?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- Time to referral from date of injury (Average Days) has been calculated to March 1999. System data post that date will be provided when available.

1998 (April, May, June)	109.9
1998 (July, August, September)	94.4
1998 (October, November, December)	92.5
1999 (January, February, March)	78.4

- (b) Cases referred to vocational rehabilitation
- |                                    |      |
|------------------------------------|------|
| 1998 (April, May, June)            | 1504 |
| 1998 (July, August, September)     | 1429 |
| 1998 (October, November, December) | 1298 |
| 1999 (January, February, March)    | 1042 |
- (c) Lost time injury rate ( number of injuries per million hours worked)
- |                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1998 (April, May, June)            | 5.3 |
| 1998 (July, August, September)     | 5.4 |
| 1998 (October, November, December) | 5.2 |
| 1999 (January, February, March)    | 5.3 |

#### ATLAS COMPOSTING, CALINGIRI

1819. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) What is the date and the form of licence for the Atlas composting operation at Calingiri?
- (2) How many tonnes of non-organic waste have been stockpiled on the Atlas farm as a by-product of Atlas's Calingiri composting operation?
- (3) Does the composting licence place any conditions on the stockpiling of such inorganic waste at Calingiri, if so what are these conditions?
- (4) Has any of the inorganic waste that is the by-product of the composting operation been removed from the Calingiri site and if so, where has it been deposited?
- (5) Has the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) been notified of any of the non-organic waste being deposited to a land fill site from the Calingiri property?
- (6) What, if any, land fill levy has been paid for the non-organic waste from at the Calingiri site?
- (7) What proportion of the municipal waste transported by Atlas to the Calingiri site is classified as inert?
- (8) Have officers of the DEP inspected the actual site for storage or disposal site(s) for the inert waste at Calingiri?
- (9) Has any of the "soil improver" which is the product of the decomposition at Atlas's Calingiri site been removed from the Atlas farm and deposited on other farming properties?
- (10) If so, then what volume has been distributed to other farms and what is the number of such other farms?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) A Licence was issued under the provisions of Part V of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, for these premises that commenced on 10 November 1999 and expires on 9 November 2000.
- (2) Unknown, it is not a requirement for Atlas to weigh this non-organic waste.
- (3)-(5) No.
- (6) No land fill levy has been paid or is expected to be paid when the screened waste from the compost operation is disposed of.
- (7) Unknown, this information is not required to be collected.
- (8) Yes.
- (9)-(10) I am advised that compost trials have only been undertaken on Atlas premises.

#### INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION, DIRECTIVE ON STATISTICAL INFORMATION

1821. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Was a direction given within the Western Australian Industrial Commission on or about Thursday, 3 June 1999, that there was to be no statistical information of any form provided by the Commission to any external source?
- (2) If so, did that directive also include the Minister for Labour Relations?
- (3) Is this ban on the provision of statistical information still in place and if not, when did it end?
- (4) What was the reason for the embargo on the provision of statistical information from the Commission?
- (5) Was any statistical information deleted from the records of the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission as a result of this embargo?

- (6) If so, what was the nature of the information that was deleted from the records of the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) No. The Registrar advised staff in December 1999 that no statistics were to be provided externally without approval from the Commission. Statistics are provided in the Annual Report and on other occasions when the Commission approves.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.
- (4) There was no embargo.
- (5) No.
- (6) Not applicable.

#### GERALDTON POLICE STATION, STAFF

1852. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) What are the current staffing levels at the Geraldton Police Station?
- (2) Have any changes taken place in the past twelve months with respect to staffing levels?
- (3) Are any changes proposed to staffing levels?
- (4) If so, what changes are proposed?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1)-(5) Please refer to answer to Question No 1851.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ONSITE CHILD CARE

1856. Mr BROWN to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

- (1) What departments and agencies under the Deputy Premier's control offer or provide on-site childcare facilities for employees?
- (2) What is the nature of the facilities offered?
- (3) Are any departments or agencies under the Deputy Premier's control giving consideration to offering such on-site childcare facilities?
- (4) If so, what departments and agencies?
- (5) Do any departments and agencies under the Deputy Premier's control have the plans to offer or provide on-site childcare facilities to employees?
- (6) If so, when?
- (7) What is the nature of the facilities that will be provided?

Mr COWAN replied:

Department of Commerce and Trade

- (1) The Department of Commerce and Trade provides employees with access to a Family Room.
- (2) The Family Room was established to assist employees care for immediate family members as a last resort when normal care arrangements have broken down or cannot be used. The room contains sufficient furniture and equipment to enable the employee to undertake normal duties and care for the family member.
- (3)-(7) The Department of Commerce and Trade is neither considering nor planning to offer or provide any other form of on-site childcare facility to employees.

Other Agencies

- (1)-(7) No other agencies provide on-site childcare facilities.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

1877. Mr BROWN to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

- (1) Has each department and agency under the Deputy Premier's control assessed the degree to which the Goods and Services tax will effect all -
- (a) charges;
- (b) fares;

- (c) tariffs;
- (d) other costs; and
- (e) fees,

charged to consumers, clients, users etc of each department and agency?

(2) What -

- (a) charges;
- (b) fares;
- (c) tariffs;
- (d) other consumer charges; and
- (e) fees,

of each department and agency will be effected by the Goods and Services tax?

(3) What -

- (a) charges;
- (b) fares;
- (c) tariffs;
- (d) other consumer charges; and
- (e) fees,

will increase a consequence of the Goods and Services tax?

(4) What will be the percentage and monetary amount of the increase?

(5) What -

- (a) charges;
- (b) fares;
- (c) tariffs;
- (d) other consumer charges; and
- (e) fees,

will decrease as a result of the introduction of the Goods and Services tax?

(6) In percentage and monetary terms, what will be the amount of the decrease?

Mr COWAN replied:

Department of Commerce and Trade

(1) (a)-(e) Yes.

(2) (a)-(e) Nil. The Department of Commerce and Trade is not responsible for levying any State statutory taxes, fees or charges.

(3) (a)-(e) Nil.

(4) Not applicable.

(5) (a)-(e) Nil.

(6) Not applicable.

Small Business Development Corporation

(1) (a)-(e) Yes.

(2) (a) Workshops and publications.  
(b)-(e) Not applicable.

(3) (a) Cost of workshops and publications for sale.  
(b)-(e) Not applicable.

(4) Workshop attendance charge will rise by \$3.00 which is equal to 10% increase. Existing stock publications will rise by 10% to accommodate GST. New stock publications will rise by up to 10% by applying the GST to new wholesale and revised margin calculations as applicable.

(5) (a) None.  
(b)-(e) Not applicable.

(6) Not applicable.

International Centre for Application of Solar Energy (CASE)

(1) (a)-(e) Yes.

(2) (a)-(d) Not applicable.  
(e) Consultancy Fees – Fees for service.

(3) (a)-(d) Not applicable.  
(e) Consultancy Fees – Fees for service.

- (4) 10% of nett fee amount.
- (5) Not applicable as no wholesale sales tax is charged.
- (6) Not applicable.

#### Gascoyne Development Commission

- (1) (a)-(e) Yes.
- (2) The Gascoyne Development Commission charges rent for office space let to external parties.
- (3) The rents charged will increase as a result of the GST.
- (4) The percentage increase is 10% with a value of \$1040.
- (5) (a)-(e) Nil.
- (6) Not applicable.

#### Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission

- (1) (a)-(e) Yes.
- (2) (a) Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme application fee and sale of 'Investing the dream' video.  
(b)-(e) Nil.
- (3) (a) Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme application fee and sale of 'Investing the dream' video.  
(b)-(e) Nil.
- (4) Percentage increase 10% - RSMS \$25 per application, Video \$3.
- (5) (a)-(e) Nil.
- (6) Not applicable.

#### Great Southern Development Commission

- (1) (a)-(e) Yes.
- (2) (a)-(e) Nil.
- (3) (a)-(e) Nil.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) (a)-(e) Nil.
- (6) No applicable.

#### Kimberley Development Commission

- (1) (a)-(e) Yes.
- (2) (a)-(e) Nil.
- (3) (a)-(e) Nil.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) (a)-(e) Nil.
- (6) Not applicable.

#### Mid West Development Commission

- (1) (a)-(e) Yes.
- (2) (a)-(c) Nil.  
(d) Sale of publications (including CD-ROMs); and charges for attendance at some Commission run conferences/seminars; charge for share of office accommodation.  
(e) Nil.
- (3) (a)-(c) Nil.  
(d) Publications, attendance at Commission conferences/seminars and the contribution made by WATC towards the cost of office.  
(e) Nil.
- (4) Publications - Stocks (if any) at 30 June 2000 will increase in price by 10%.  
Geraldton Horticulture Precinct Study – current price \$35/GST inclusive price \$38.50.  
Business Capability & Services Directory CD-ROM – current price \$25/GST inclusive price \$27.50.  
"Give Me Geraldton Any Day" stickers – current price \$70 per box/GST inclusive price \$77 per box.  
Mid West Mining Register – current price \$35/GST inclusive price \$38.50.

New publications produced and sold post 30 June 2000 will have to be sold at a higher price to include GST. The exact amount will be determined by the extent of embedded sales tax savings realised on production costs. Savings will result in the overall increase being less than 10%.

Conferences/seminars - Fees for attending Commission run conferences/seminars post 30 June 2000 will attract a GST charge of 10% which will be passed on to the consumer but the overall price increase will be determined by the extent of embedded sale tax and may be less than 10%.

Share of Office Accommodation - It is anticipated that the increase to WATC will be around 10%.

(5) (a)-(e) Nil.

(6) Not applicable

Peel Development Commission

(1) (a)-(e) Yes.

(2) (a) Promotional videos.

(b)-(e) Not applicable.

(3) (a)-(e) Nil.

(4) Not applicable.

(5) (a)-(e) Nil.

(6) Not applicable.

Pilbara Development Commission

(1) (a)-(e) Yes.

(2) (a) Fees levied for the Regional Migration Scheme, sale of publications, conference/seminar fees and recoup of expenses for projects/activities.

(b)-(e) Nil.

(3) (a) Fees levied for the Regional Migration Scheme, sale of publications, conference/seminar fees and recoup of expenses for projects/activities.

(b)-(e) Nil.

(4) Fees levied for the Regional Migration Scheme will increase by 10%, unless fees charged are based on full cost recovery. Fees levied for the sale of publications will increase by 10%, unless fees charged are based on full cost recovery. Fees levied for conference/seminar fees will increase by 10%, unless fees charged are based on full cost recovery. Recoup of expenses for projects/activities will increase by 10% if there is a consideration for a supply, unless recoups are based on full cost recovery.

(5) (a)-(e) Nil.

(6) Not applicable

South West Development Commission

(1) (a)-(e) Yes.

(2) (a)-(e) The South West Development Commission does not apply a charge to services provided by the Commission. A lease arrangement currently under negotiation with the Water Corporation will attract GST.

(3) GST will result in an increase in lease payment by the Water Corporation to the South West Development Commission.

(4) 10%. On an annual basis this will equate to \$3,212.

(5) (a)-(e) Nil.

(6) Not applicable.

Wheatbelt Development Commission

(1) (a)-(e) Yes.

(2)-(3) Nil.

(4) Not applicable.

(5) (a)-(e) Nil.

(6) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, REGIONAL BUYING COMPACT

1898. Mr BROWN to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

(1) Is the Premier committed to ensuring all departments and agencies under the Premier's control implement the Regional Buying Compact?

(2) Have chief executive officers of all departments and agencies under the Premier's control been instructed to apply the Regional Buying Compact?



- (3) What processes does each department and agency under the Premier's control implement to ensure that work to be put out to tender in regional Western Australia is packaged in tenders capable of allowing local business to compete for such contracts?
- (4) Does each department and agency under the Premier's ensure, when preparing tenders for work in regional Western Australia, that such tenders are not of a size that preclude regional business from tendering for the contract?
- (5) In preparing and allocating tenders for work in regional Western Australia, does each department and agency, wherever possible and within the financial constraints imposed by the Regional Buying Compact, ensure that -
  - (a) tenders for work in regional Western Australia are allocated to local business in the region; or
  - (b) where tenders are not allocated to a local business, the successful tenderer uses local business to fulfil the contract to the maximum extent possible?
- (6) What procedures does each department and agency use to ensure -
  - (a) all tenders are prepared in such a way as to give local regional businesses a fair opportunity to compete; and
  - (b) contracts allocated to non-regional businesses are properly monitored to ensure maximum regional local content?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) The Regional Buying Compact is applicable to all public authorities, including all government departments, agencies and trading concerns.
- (2) Chief Executive Officers are to ensure that Government policies are complied with and that they fully support local industries and regional economic development.
- (3)-(4) The structure of contracts is a decision for each Government department. However, in designing contracts, the Regional Buying Compact encourages departments to package the purchase of goods and services in appropriately sized contracts to enable regional suppliers to participate.
- (5)
  - (a) Chief Executive Officers are accountable for the conduct of the buying function in their agency and are expected to focus on structuring tenders on a regional basis, where possible, to encourage regional suppliers to participate in government buying.
  - (b) A preference is provided to encourage non-regional tenderers to maximize the regional content within their bid.
- (6)
  - (a) It is the responsibility of Chief Executive Officers to ensure that buying practices, procedures and specifications do not disadvantage local suppliers.
  - (b) Procedures for monitoring contract requirements are undertaken as part of the relevant Public Authorities Contracts Management process. Guidelines for the establishment of contract management processes are available to agencies in The State Supply Commission's Policies and Guidelines Manual. Public authorities, as part of the ongoing contract management process, should ensure that commitments such as regional content in the delivery of the service, are fulfilled throughout the contract term.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, REGIONAL BUYING COMPACT

1899. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Is the Premier committed to ensuring all departments and agencies under the Premier's control implement the Regional Buying Compact?
- (2) Have chief executive officers of all departments and agencies under the Premier's control been instructed to apply the Regional Buying Compact?
- (3) What processes does each department and agency under the Premier's control implement to ensure that work to be put out to tender in regional Western Australia is packaged in tenders capable of allowing local business to compete for such contracts?
- (4) Does each department and agency under the Premier's ensure, when preparing tenders for work in regional Western Australia, that such tenders are not of a size that preclude regional business from tendering for the contract?
- (5) In preparing and allocating tenders for work in regional Western Australia, does each department and agency, wherever possible and within the financial constraints imposed by the Regional Buying Compact, ensure that -
  - (a) tenders for work in regional Western Australia are allocated to local business in the region; or
  - (b) where tenders are not allocated to a local business, the successful tenderer uses local business to fulfil the contract to the maximum extent possible?

- (6) What procedures does each department and agency use to ensure -
- (a) all tenders are prepared in such a way as to give local regional businesses a fair opportunity to compete; and
  - (b) contracts allocated to non-regional businesses are properly monitored to ensure maximum regional local content?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) The Regional Buying Compact is applicable to all public authorities, including all government departments, agencies and trading concerns.
- (2) Chief Executive Officers are to ensure that Government policies are complied with and that they fully support local industries and regional economic development.
- (3)-(4) The structure of contracts is a decision for each Government department. However, in designing contracts, the Regional Buying Compact encourages departments to package the purchase of goods and services in appropriately sized contracts to enable regional suppliers to participate.
- (5)
  - (a) Chief Executive Officers are accountable for the conduct of the buying function in their agency and are expected to focus on structuring tenders on a regional basis, where possible, to encourage regional suppliers to participate in government buying.
  - (b) A preference is provided to encourage non-regional tenderers to maximize the regional content within their bid.
- (6)
  - (a) It is the responsibility of Chief Executive Officers to ensure that buying practices, procedures and specifications do not disadvantage local suppliers.
  - (b) Procedures for monitoring contract requirements are undertaken as part of the relevant Public Authorities Contracts Management process. Guidelines for the establishment of contract management processes are available to agencies in The State Supply Commission's Policies and Guidelines Manual. Public authorities, as part of the ongoing contract management process, should ensure that commitments such as regional content in the delivery of the service, are fulfilled throughout the contract term.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, REGIONAL BUYING COMPACT

1900. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

- (1) Is the Premier committed to ensuring all departments and agencies under the Premier's control implement the Regional Buying Compact?
- (2) Have chief executive officers of all departments and agencies under the Premier's control been instructed to apply the Regional Buying Compact?
- (3) What processes does each department and agency under the Premier's control implement to ensure that work to be put out to tender in regional Western Australia is packaged in tenders capable of allowing local business to compete for such contracts?
- (4) Does each department and agency under the Premier's ensure, when preparing tenders for work in regional Western Australia, that such tenders are not of a size that preclude regional business from tendering for the contract?
- (5) In preparing and allocating tenders for work in regional Western Australia, does each department and agency, wherever possible and within the financial constraints imposed by the Regional Buying Compact, ensure that -
  - (a) tenders for work in regional Western Australia are allocated to local business in the region; or
  - (b) where tenders are not allocated to a local business, the successful tenderer uses local business to fulfil the contract to the maximum extent possible?
- (6) What procedures does each department and agency use to ensure -
  - (a) all tenders are prepared in such a way as to give local regional businesses a fair opportunity to compete; and
  - (b) contracts allocated to non-regional businesses are properly monitored to ensure maximum regional local content?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The Regional Buying Compact is applicable to all public authorities, including all government departments, agencies and trading concerns.
- (2) Chief Executive Officers are to ensure that Government policies are complied with and that they fully support local industries and regional economic development.
- (3)-(4) The structure of contracts is a decision for each Government department. However, in designing contracts, the

Regional Buying Compact encourages departments to package the purchase of goods and services in appropriately sized contracts to enable regional suppliers to participate.

- (5) (a) Chief Executive Officers are accountable for the conduct of the buying function in their agency and are expected to focus on structuring tenders on a regional basis, where possible, to encourage regional suppliers to participate in government buying.
- (b) A preference is provided to encourage non-regional tenderers to maximize the regional content within their bid.
- (6) (a) It is the responsibility of Chief Executive Officers to ensure that buying practices, procedures and specifications do not disadvantage local suppliers.
- (b) Procedures for monitoring contract requirements are undertaken as part of the relevant Public Authorities Contracts Management process. Guidelines for the establishment of contract management processes are available to agencies in The State Supply Commission's Policies and Guidelines Manual. Public authorities, as part of the ongoing contract management process, should ensure that commitments such as regional content in the delivery of the service, are fulfilled throughout the contract term.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, REGIONAL BUYING COMPACT

1905. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Planning; Heritage; Minister assisting the Treasurer:

- (1) Is the Premier committed to ensuring all departments and agencies under the Premier's control implement the Regional Buying Compact?
- (2) Have chief executive officers of all departments and agencies under the Premier's control been instructed to apply the Regional Buying Compact?
- (3) What processes does each department and agency under the Premier's control implement to ensure that work to be put out to tender in regional Western Australia is packaged in tenders capable of allowing local business to compete for such contracts?
- (4) Does each department and agency under the Premier's ensure, when preparing tenders for work in regional Western Australia, that such tenders are not of a size that preclude regional business from tendering for the contract?
- (5) In preparing and allocating tenders for work in regional Western Australia, does each department and agency, wherever possible and within the financial constraints imposed by the Regional Buying Compact, ensure that -
  - (a) tenders for work in regional Western Australia are allocated to local business in the region; or
  - (b) where tenders are not allocated to a local business, the successful tenderer uses local business to fulfil the contract to the maximum extent possible?
- (6) What procedures does each department and agency use to ensure -
  - (a) all tenders are prepared in such a way as to give local regional businesses a fair opportunity to compete; and
  - (b) contracts allocated to non-regional businesses are properly monitored to ensure maximum regional local content?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) The Regional Buying Compact is applicable to all public authorities, including all government departments, agencies and trading concerns.
- (2) Chief Executive Officers are to ensure that Government policies are complied with and that they fully support local industries and regional economic development.
- (3)-(4) The structure of contracts is a decision for each Government department. However, in designing contracts, the Regional Buying Compact encourages departments to package the purchase of goods and services in appropriately sized contracts to enable regional suppliers to participate.
- (5) (a) Chief Executive Officers are accountable for the conduct of the buying function in their agency and are expected to focus on structuring tenders on a regional basis, where possible, to encourage regional suppliers to participate in government buying.
- (b) A preference is provided to encourage non-regional tenderers to maximize the regional content within their bid.
- (6) (a) It is the responsibility of Chief Executive Officers to ensure that buying practices, procedures and specifications do not disadvantage local suppliers.
- (b) Procedures for monitoring contract requirements are undertaken as part of the relevant Public Authorities Contracts Management process. Guidelines for the establishment of contract management processes are

available to agencies in The State Supply Commission's Policies and Guidelines Manual. Public authorities, as part of the ongoing contract management process, should ensure that commitments such as regional content in the delivery of the service, are fulfilled throughout the contract term.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, REGIONAL BUYING COMPACT

1906. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

- (1) Is the Premier committed to ensuring all departments and agencies under the Premier's control implement the Regional Buying Compact?
- (2) Have chief executive officers of all departments and agencies under the Premier's control been instructed to apply the Regional Buying Compact?
- (3) What processes does each department and agency under the Premier's control implement to ensure that work to be put out to tender in regional Western Australia is packaged in tenders capable of allowing local business to compete for such contracts?
- (4) Does each department and agency under the Premier's ensure, when preparing tenders for work in regional Western Australia, that such tenders are not of a size that preclude regional business from tendering for the contract?
- (5) In preparing and allocating tenders for work in regional Western Australia, does each department and agency, wherever possible and within the financial constraints imposed by the Regional Buying Compact, ensure that -
  - (a) tenders for work in regional Western Australia are allocated to local business in the region; or
  - (b) where tenders are not allocated to a local business, the successful tenderer uses local business to fulfil the contract to the maximum extent possible?
- (6) What procedures does each department and agency use to ensure -
  - (a) all tenders are prepared in such a way as to give local regional businesses a fair opportunity to compete; and
  - (b) contracts allocated to non-regional businesses are properly monitored to ensure maximum regional local content?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) The Regional Buying Compact is applicable to all public authorities, including all government departments, agencies and trading concerns.
- (2) Chief Executive Officers are to ensure that Government policies are complied with and that they fully support local industries and regional economic development.
- (3)-(4) The structure of contracts is a decision for each Government department. However, in designing contracts, the Regional Buying Compact encourages departments to package the purchase of goods and services in appropriately sized contracts to enable regional suppliers to participate.
- (5)
  - (a) Chief Executive Officers are accountable for the conduct of the buying function in their agency and are expected to focus on structuring tenders on a regional basis, where possible, to encourage regional suppliers to participate in government buying.
  - (b) A preference is provided to encourage non-regional tenderers to maximize the regional content within their bid.
- (6)
  - (a) It is the responsibility of Chief Executive Officers to ensure that buying practices, procedures and specifications do not disadvantage local suppliers.
  - (b) Procedures for monitoring contract requirements are undertaken as part of the relevant Public Authorities Contracts Management process. Guidelines for the establishment of contract management processes are available to agencies in The State Supply Commission's Policies and Guidelines Manual. Public authorities, as part of the ongoing contract management process, should ensure that commitments such as regional content in the delivery of the service, are fulfilled throughout the contract term.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, REGIONAL BUYING COMPACT

1907. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Premier committed to ensuring all departments and agencies under the Premier's control implement the Regional Buying Compact?
- (2) Have chief executive officers of all departments and agencies under the Premier's control been instructed to apply the Regional Buying Compact?
- (3) What processes does each department and agency under the Premier's control implement to ensure that work to

be put out to tender in regional Western Australia is packaged in tenders capable of allowing local business to compete for such contracts?

- (4) Does each department and agency under the Premier's ensure, when preparing tenders for work in regional Western Australia, that such tenders are not of a size that preclude regional business from tendering for the contract?
- (5) In preparing and allocating tenders for work in regional Western Australia, does each department and agency, wherever possible and within the financial constraints imposed by the Regional Buying Compact, ensure that -
  - (a) tenders for work in regional Western Australia are allocated to local business in the region; or
  - (b) where tenders are not allocated to a local business, the successful tenderer uses local business to fulfil the contract to the maximum extent possible?
- (6) What procedures does each department and agency use to ensure -
  - (a) all tenders are prepared in such a way as to give local regional businesses a fair opportunity to compete; and
  - (b) contracts allocated to non-regional businesses are properly monitored to ensure maximum regional local content?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) The Regional Buying Compact is applicable to all public authorities, including all government departments, agencies and trading concerns.
- (2) Chief Executive Officers are to ensure that Government policies are complied with and that they fully support local industries and regional economic development.
- (3)-(4) The structure of contracts is a decision for each Government department. However, in designing contracts, the Regional Buying Compact encourages departments to package the purchase of goods and services in appropriately sized contracts to enable regional suppliers to participate.
- (5)
  - (a) Chief Executive Officers are accountable for the conduct of the buying function in their agency and are expected to focus on structuring tenders on a regional basis, where possible, to encourage regional suppliers to participate in government buying.
  - (b) A preference is provided to encourage non-regional tenderers to maximize the regional content within their bid.
- (6)
  - (a) It is the responsibility of Chief Executive Officers to ensure that buying practices, procedures and specifications do not disadvantage local suppliers.
  - (b) Procedures for monitoring contract requirements are undertaken as part of the relevant Public Authorities Contracts Management process. Guidelines for the establishment of contract management processes are available to agencies in The State Supply Commission's Policies and Guidelines Manual. Public authorities, as part of the ongoing contract management process, should ensure that commitments such as regional content in the delivery of the service, are fulfilled throughout the contract term.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, REGIONAL BUYING COMPACT

1910. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Family and Children's Services; Seniors; Women's Interests:

- (1) Is the Premier committed to ensuring all departments and agencies under the Premier's control implement the Regional Buying Compact?
- (2) Have chief executive officers of all departments and agencies under the Premier's control been instructed to apply the Regional Buying Compact?
- (3) What processes does each department and agency under the Premier's control implement to ensure that work to be put out to tender in regional Western Australia is packaged in tenders capable of allowing local business to compete for such contracts?
- (4) Does each department and agency under the Premier's ensure, when preparing tenders for work in regional Western Australia, that such tenders are not of a size that preclude regional business from tendering for the contract?
- (5) In preparing and allocating tenders for work in regional Western Australia, does each department and agency, wherever possible and within the financial constraints imposed by the Regional Buying Compact, ensure that -
  - (a) tenders for work in regional Western Australia are allocated to local business in the region; or
  - (b) where tenders are not allocated to a local business, the successful tenderer uses local business to fulfil the contract to the maximum extent possible?
- (6) What procedures does each department and agency use to ensure -

- (a) all tenders are prepared in such a way as to give local regional businesses a fair opportunity to compete; and
- (b) contracts allocated to non-regional businesses are properly monitored to ensure maximum regional local content?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

- (1) The Regional Buying Compact is applicable to all public authorities, including all government departments, agencies and trading concerns.
- (2) Chief Executive Officers are to ensure that Government policies are complied with and that they fully support local industries and regional economic development.
- (3)-(4) The structure of contracts is a decision for each Government department. However, in designing contracts, the Regional Buying Compact encourages departments to package the purchase of goods and services in appropriately sized contracts to enable regional suppliers to participate.
- (5)
  - (a) Chief Executive Officers are accountable for the conduct of the buying function in their agency and are expected to focus on structuring tenders on a regional basis, where possible, to encourage regional suppliers to participate in government buying.
  - (b) A preference is provided to encourage non-regional tenderers to maximize the regional content within their bid.
- (6)
  - (a) It is the responsibility of Chief Executive Officers to ensure that buying practices, procedures and specifications do not disadvantage local suppliers.
  - (b) Procedures for monitoring contract requirements are undertaken as part of the relevant Public Authorities Contracts Management process. Guidelines for the establishment of contract management processes are available to agencies in The State Supply Commission's Policies and Guidelines Manual. Public authorities, as part of the ongoing contract management process, should ensure that commitments such as regional content in the delivery of the service, are fulfilled throughout the contract term.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, REGIONAL BUYING COMPACT

1912. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is the Premier committed to ensuring all departments and agencies under the Premier's control implement the Regional Buying Compact?
- (2) Have chief executive officers of all departments and agencies under the Premier's control been instructed to apply the Regional Buying Compact?
- (3) What processes does each department and agency under the Premier's control implement to ensure that work to be put out to tender in regional Western Australia is packaged in tenders capable of allowing local business to compete for such contracts?
- (4) Does each department and agency under the Premier's ensure, when preparing tenders for work in regional Western Australia, that such tenders are not of a size that preclude regional business from tendering for the contract?
- (5) In preparing and allocating tenders for work in regional Western Australia, does each department and agency, wherever possible and within the financial constraints imposed by the Regional Buying Compact, ensure that -
  - (a) tenders for work in regional Western Australia are allocated to local business in the region; or
  - (b) where tenders are not allocated to a local business, the successful tenderer uses local business to fulfil the contract to the maximum extent possible?
- (6) What procedures does each department and agency use to ensure -
  - (a) all tenders are prepared in such a way as to give local regional businesses a fair opportunity to compete; and
  - (b) contracts allocated to non-regional businesses are properly monitored to ensure maximum regional local content?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The Regional Buying Compact is applicable to all public authorities, including all government departments, agencies and trading concerns.
- (2) Chief Executive Officers are to ensure that Government policies are complied with and that they fully support local industries and regional economic development.
- (3)-(4) The structure of contracts is a decision for each Government department. However, in designing contracts, the Regional Buying Compact encourages departments to package the purchase of goods and services in appropriately sized contracts to enable regional suppliers to participate.

- (5) (a) Chief Executive Officers are accountable for the conduct of the buying function in their agency and are expected to focus on structuring tenders on a regional basis, where possible, to encourage regional suppliers to participate in government buying.
- (b) A preference is provided to encourage non-regional tenderers to maximize the regional content within their bid.
- (6) (a) It is the responsibility of Chief Executive Officers to ensure that buying practices, procedures and specifications do not disadvantage local suppliers.
- (b) Procedures for monitoring contract requirements are undertaken as part of the relevant Public Authorities Contracts Management process. Guidelines for the establishment of contract management processes are available to agencies in The State Supply Commission's Policies and Guidelines Manual. Public authorities, as part of the ongoing contract management process, should ensure that commitments such as regional content in the delivery of the service, are fulfilled throughout the contract term.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, REGIONAL BUYING COMPACT

1913. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Is the Premier committed to ensuring all departments and agencies under the Premier's control implement the Regional Buying Compact?
- (2) Have chief executive officers of all departments and agencies under the Premier's control been instructed to apply the Regional Buying Compact?
- (3) What processes does each department and agency under the Premier's control implement to ensure that work to be put out to tender in regional Western Australia is packaged in tenders capable of allowing local business to compete for such contracts?
- (4) Does each department and agency under the Premier's ensure, when preparing tenders for work in regional Western Australia, that such tenders are not of a size that preclude regional business from tendering for the contract?
- (5) In preparing and allocating tenders for work in regional Western Australia, does each department and agency, wherever possible and within the financial constraints imposed by the Regional Buying Compact, ensure that -
  - (a) tenders for work in regional Western Australia are allocated to local business in the region; or
  - (b) where tenders are not allocated to a local business, the successful tenderer uses local business to fulfil the contract to the maximum extent possible?
- (6) What procedures does each department and agency use to ensure -
  - (a) all tenders are prepared in such a way as to give local regional businesses a fair opportunity to compete; and
  - (b) contracts allocated to non-regional businesses are properly monitored to ensure maximum regional local content?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1)-(6) See answer to Question 1912.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, REGIONAL BUYING COMPACT

1914. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Premier committed to ensuring all departments and agencies under the Premier's control implement the Regional Buying Compact?
- (2) Have chief executive officers of all departments and agencies under the Premier's control been instructed to apply the Regional Buying Compact?
- (3) What processes does each department and agency under the Premier's control implement to ensure that work to be put out to tender in regional Western Australia is packaged in tenders capable of allowing local business to compete for such contracts?
- (4) Does each department and agency under the Premier's ensure, when preparing tenders for work in regional Western Australia, that such tenders are not of a size that preclude regional business from tendering for the contract?
- (5) In preparing and allocating tenders for work in regional Western Australia, does each department and agency, wherever possible and within the financial constraints imposed by the Regional Buying Compact, ensure that -
  - (a) tenders for work in regional Western Australia are allocated to local business in the region; or

- (b) where tenders are not allocated to a local business, the successful tenderer uses local business to fulfil the contract to the maximum extent possible?
- (6) What procedures does each department and agency use to ensure -
  - (a) all tenders are prepared in such a way as to give local regional businesses a fair opportunity to compete; and
  - (b) contracts allocated to non-regional businesses are properly monitored to ensure maximum regional local content?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) The Regional Buying Compact is applicable to all public authorities, including all government departments, agencies and trading concerns.
- (2) Chief Executive Officers are to ensure that Government policies are complied with and that they fully support local industries and regional economic development.
- (3)-(4) The structure of contracts is a decision for each Government department. However, in designing contracts, the Regional Buying Compact encourages departments to package the purchase of goods and services in appropriately sized contracts to enable regional suppliers to participate.
- (5)
  - (a) Chief Executive Officers are accountable for the conduct of the buying function in their agency and are expected to focus on structuring tenders on a regional basis, where possible, to encourage regional suppliers to participate in government buying.
  - (b) A preference is provided to encourage non-regional tenderers to maximize the regional content within their bid.
- (6)
  - (a) It is the responsibility of Chief Executive Officers to ensure that buying practices, procedures and specifications do not disadvantage local suppliers.
  - (b) Procedures for monitoring contract requirements are undertaken as part of the relevant Public Authorities Contracts Management process. Guidelines for the establishment of contract management processes are available to agencies in The State Supply Commission's Policies and Guidelines Manual. Public authorities, as part of the ongoing contract management process, should ensure that commitments such as regional content in the delivery of the service, are fulfilled throughout the contract term.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, REGIONAL BUYING COMPACT

1915. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Is the Premier committed to ensuring all departments and agencies under the Premier's control implement the Regional Buying Compact?
- (2) Have chief executive officers of all departments and agencies under the Premier's control been instructed to apply the Regional Buying Compact?
- (3) What processes does each department and agency under the Premier's control implement to ensure that work to be put out to tender in regional Western Australia is packaged in tenders capable of allowing local business to compete for such contracts?
- (4) Does each department and agency under the Premier's ensure, when preparing tenders for work in regional Western Australia, that such tenders are not of a size that preclude regional business from tendering for the contract?
- (5) In preparing and allocating tenders for work in regional Western Australia, does each department and agency, wherever possible and within the financial constraints imposed by the Regional Buying Compact, ensure that -
  - (a) tenders for work in regional Western Australia are allocated to local business in the region; or
  - (b) where tenders are not allocated to a local business, the successful tenderer uses local business to fulfil the contract to the maximum extent possible?
- (6) What procedures does each department and agency use to ensure -
  - (a) all tenders are prepared in such a way as to give local regional businesses a fair opportunity to compete; and
  - (b) contracts allocated to non-regional businesses are properly monitored to ensure maximum regional local content?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1)-(6) See answer to Question 1912.



## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, REGIONAL BUYING COMPACT

1916. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Is the Premier committed to ensuring all departments and agencies under the Premier's control implement the Regional Buying Compact?
- (2) Have chief executive officers of all departments and agencies under the Premier's control been instructed to apply the Regional Buying Compact?
- (3) What processes does each department and agency under the Premier's control implement to ensure that work to be put out to tender in regional Western Australia is packaged in tenders capable of allowing local business to compete for such contracts?
- (4) Does each department and agency under the Premier's ensure, when preparing tenders for work in regional Western Australia, that such tenders are not of a size that preclude regional business from tendering for the contract?
- (5) In preparing and allocating tenders for work in regional Western Australia, does each department and agency, wherever possible and within the financial constraints imposed by the Regional Buying Compact, ensure that -
  - (a) tenders for work in regional Western Australia are allocated to local business in the region; or
  - (b) where tenders are not allocated to a local business, the successful tenderer uses local business to fulfil the contract to the maximum extent possible?
- (6) What procedures does each department and agency use to ensure -
  - (a) all tenders are prepared in such a way as to give local regional businesses a fair opportunity to compete; and
  - (b) contracts allocated to non-regional businesses are properly monitored to ensure maximum regional local content?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

- (1)-(6) See answer to Question 1912.

## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, REGIONAL BUYING COMPACT

1917. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is the Premier committed to ensuring all departments and agencies under the Premier's control implement the Regional Buying Compact?
- (2) Have chief executive officers of all departments and agencies under the Premier's control been instructed to apply the Regional Buying Compact?
- (3) What processes does each department and agency under the Premier's control implement to ensure that work to be put out to tender in regional Western Australia is packaged in tenders capable of allowing local business to compete for such contracts?
- (4) Does each department and agency under the Premier's ensure, when preparing tenders for work in regional Western Australia, that such tenders are not of a size that preclude regional business from tendering for the contract?
- (5) In preparing and allocating tenders for work in regional Western Australia, does each department and agency, wherever possible and within the financial constraints imposed by the Regional Buying Compact, ensure that -
  - (a) tenders for work in regional Western Australia are allocated to local business in the region; or
  - (b) where tenders are not allocated to a local business, the successful tenderer uses local business to fulfil the contract to the maximum extent possible?
- (6) What procedures does each department and agency use to ensure -
  - (a) all tenders are prepared in such a way as to give local regional businesses a fair opportunity to compete; and
  - (b) contracts allocated to non-regional businesses are properly monitored to ensure maximum regional local content?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

I refer the member to my answer given to Question on Notice 1899.

## SCHOOLS, RETENTION RATES

1920. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What was the retention rate to Year 12 for all individual State high schools in West Australia for the years-

- (a) 1992;
- (b) 1993;
- (c) 1994;
- (d) 1995;
- (e) 1996;
- (f) 1997;
- (g) 1998; and
- (h) 1999?

- (2) What were the retention rates for boys and girls in all individual state high schools over the same period?
- (3) What scholarships, if any does the State Government offer to attract people into teacher training courses?
- (4) What is the value of each scholarship?
- (5) How many of each scholarship type are offered?
- (6) How many of each scholarship type were taken up in 1999, 2000?
- (7) How many Aboriginal students graduated from Year 12 at each individual State Government High School in 1999?
- (8) What schools did they graduate from?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(6) [See paper No 959.]
- (7)-(8) This information is not readily available but should be able to be provided to the member by the beginning of term three.

#### COMMITTEES AND BOARDS, REGISTER

1927. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

- (1) Will the Premier provide an updated electronic copy of the Register of Government Boards and Committees?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes. However, please note that each board member's occupation as listed was as at the time of appointment. [See paper No 957.]
- (2) Not applicable.

#### PROSTITUTION LEGISLATION, MEDICAL RECORDS

1935. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is it proposed that Police will have the power to seize medical records under the Government's current prostitution legislation?
- (2) If so, why?
- (3) If not, what is the case and what has been done to allay concerns in this regard?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Police currently have the power under the Criminal Code to take out a search warrant to search and seize medical records should they be relevant and required for a current investigation. This power has always been available to police, and has not been subject to regular complaint from the public when it has been used. As such no level of concern from its practical use has been identified. It is a necessary tool for collecting evidence.

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE CENTRE

1936. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Which substantive positions at the Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC) are not currently filled?
- (2) When it is expected that these positions will be filled?
- (3) Is it expected that the next budget will enable all substantive positions at SARC to be filled?
- (4) If not, which positions are not expected to be filled?

- (5) With the elimination of the Sexual Assault Prevention Program (SAPP) what preventative aspects of SARC's services remain?
- (6) Given that part of SARC's Mission Statement is to "decrease the prevalence of sexual assault and sexual abuse in Western Australia" how is SARC resourced to meet this objective?
- (7) How many people are currently on the wait list for services from SARC?
- (8) What is the breakdown of this waitlist for each referral centre including Subiaco?
- (9) How does the length of the wait list translate into the time each person is expected to wait at each of the referral centres?
- (10) What changes have been put forward with respect to the efficiency and effectiveness of SARC's operations resulting from the internal review which was expected to be completed at the end of 1999?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Due to a review and restructuring of SARC services some positions are either temporarily filled or vacant. Once the new structure is finalised all positions will become substantive. The new structure allows for a Senior Clinical Psychologist 4 days a week. This position was recently advertised. There is one Clinical Psychologist working 2 days a week. The Senior Social Worker's position is currently vacant. The person normally in the position works two and a half days a week. This person is currently acting in the manager's position and has no clinical load.
- (2) The timeline set by the SARC Steering Committee is for agreement to be reached on a structure and all positions within that structure to be substantiated and implemented by 1 July 2000.
- (3) Yes. Of the above stated vacant substantive positions, it is proposed to have a full-time Psychologist, a full-time Manager and sufficient counselling positions to service client need.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) SARC has an ongoing commitment to serving male clients and to establishing preventative programs for all its clients.
- (6) The budget for SARC has been increased in specific areas that have been regarded as core business. The current review is partly about establishing equity across service areas so that clients can receive maximum benefit. The current review of SARC is considering the establishment of Outreach services where clients can access services closer to their homes. This would also support an increase in education and awareness for clients and other major stakeholders (e.g Police, GPs etc). Currently SARC has seven Outreach Centres and the future vision is to establish more and commit more resources to these areas when funding has been established. The Health Department provides funding through the Commonwealth Women's Health funds and State funds for SARC services in the rural sector. Services in the rural sector are based in Kalgoorlie, South Hedland, Geraldton, Mandurah and Bunbury. All rural service providers undertake community education and prevention programs including education in schools targeting specific at risk groups in the community and the provision of health information. Geraldton and Bunbury also receive funding from Family and Children's Services for Child Sexual Assault services.
- (7) There are no waiting lists for crisis counselling. However there are 55 people on wait lists for ongoing counselling in the Metropolitan area and 29 in rural areas. All those on the waiting lists are clinically assessed prior to being placed on the list and if required crisis counselling is available and clients are re assessed based on need.
- (8)-(9) CASE ALLOCATION:12.5.2000

CLIN PSYCH (INTERNAL)	5	Between 5 & 17 weeks
CLIN PSYCH (EXTERNAL)	4	Between 4 & 16 weeks
SUBIACO	35	Between 1 & 6 weeks
GOSNELLS	16	Between 4 & 7 weeks
ROCKINGHAM	4	Between 4 & 10 weeks
KWINANA	3	Between 1 & 5 weeks
HEATHRIDGE	7	Between 1 & 8 weeks
MIDLAND	No Clients Waiting	
MIRRABOOKA	3	14 weeks
SOUTH HEDLAND	No Clients Waiting	
GERALDTON	No Clients Waiting	
KALGOORLIE	No Clients Waiting	
MANDURAH	3	Between 3 & 6 weeks
BUNBURY	15	Up to 12 weeks
BUSSELTON	11	Up to 12 weeks (Services are only provided 1 day a week)
- (10) The internal review is scheduled for completion in June 2000, by which time all recommendations from the internal audit report will have been addressed and implemented. This includes a review of SARC's processes, some of which have been amended and changed to reflect current practice, while others are still in progress. A report identifying proposed efficiencies for SARC is currently under consideration.

GOLDFIELDS GAS PIPELINE, TRANSMISSION COSTS

1946. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) Is there widespread concern about the cost of gas transmission on the Goldfields Gas Transmission pipeline?
- (2) Is the cost of gas transmission higher than originally anticipated when the pipeline was conceived?
- (3) If so, what has pushed the cost up?
- (4) Has the cost of gas transmission increased or decreased since the pipeline has been in operation?
- (5) By what percentage has the transmission cost increased or decreased?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Decreased.
- (5) By around 25 per cent.

FLY-IN FLY-OUT OPERATIONS, KALGOORLIE

1951. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Has the Government undertaken research into the economic impact of fly-in/fly-out operations in the Kalgoorlie/Esperance region?
- (2) When was the research undertaken?
- (3) Who carried out the research?
- (4) Is the research publicly available?
- (5) If not, why not?
- (6) Has the research been completed?
- (7) If not, when is it expected to be completed?
- (8) Does the Government plan to implement the recommendations from the research?
- (9) If so, when?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) The Goldfields Esperance Development Commission conducted a survey into: the number of companies using fly-in/fly-out staffing practices in the region; the number of employees using fly-in/fly-out on a regular basis.
- (2) February 1998.
- (3) The Goldfields Esperance Development Commission.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) Not applicable.
- (8) No recommendations were made from the report as it was for statistical information.
- (9) Not applicable.

MUNGARI INDUSTRIAL PARK

1961. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) What plans does the Government have to facilitate development of strategic industry at the Mungari Industrial Park?
- (2) What resources has the Government allocated towards achieving these plans in the 1999/2000 financial year?
- (3) What amounts have been allocated for this purpose in the forward estimates?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) The Goldfields Esperance Development Commission is ready to respond to any potential enquiries and industry development suitable for the Mungari Industrial Park.
- (2) The Goldfields Esperance Development Commission has allocated staff resources as required to achieve these plans in the 1999/2000 financial year.
- (3) Nil.

#### KALGOORLIE, WILSON STREET DEVELOPMENT

1967. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Does the Government have any plans to develop Wilson Street in Kalgoorlie as a feature promenade from the Railway Station to Hannan Street?
- (2) What plans does the Government have in this regard?
- (3) What amount has been allocated in the 1999/2000 budget or in the forward estimates for this project?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) None.
- (3) Nil.

#### ENERGY STRATEGY, KALGOORLIE-ESPERANCE

1969. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) Does the Government have a 10 or 20 year strategy on how electricity and gas infrastructure can be upgraded to meet future demands in the Kalgoorlie/Esperance region?
- (2) Is the Government in the process of developing the strategy?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) When is it envisaged that a strategy will be produced?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No formal strategy statement exists. In general the private sector needs to be actively involved in devising and investing in such infrastructure.
- (2) Government is in continuing liaison with industry on the infrastructure needs across the State.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) No formal strategy statement is proposed.

#### PAINTBALL, LEGISLATION TO LEGALISE

1974. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the sport of Paintball and ask-

- (a) why has paintball not been legalised in Western Australia;
- (b) when will paintball be legalised in Western Australia;
- (c) is the Government drafting legislation to legalise paintball;
- (d) when will the Government be introducing such legislation;
- (e) does the Government believe that legalising paintball will boost tourism and economic activity; and
- (f) does the Minister support legislation?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (a) The Government is not aware of the reasons why this matter has remained an illegal activity in Western Australia, particularly since the enactment of the *Firearms Act 1973*.
- (b) The Government has endorsed the legalising of paintball activities in Western Australia and has commenced the drafting of a Bill for this purpose. However, this Bill is only one of many for which I am responsible. Other pieces of legislation currently being worked upon involve matters such as the administration of the Police Service, crime solving through use of DNA, classification of simple offences and criminal investigations and procedures.

From the perspective of the Government, these bills are of a greater priority than the paintball bill and, accordingly, will determine its progress.

- (c)-(e) Proponents of the paintball game contend that it will enhance tourism and economic activity. While this view is not disputed, the Government did not rely on this particular factor in its decision to support the activity.
- (f) Yes.

#### ATHLETICA, FUNDING

1975. Mr McGOWAN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the article in *The West Australian* on 14 March 2000 in which Olympic gold medallist Shirley de la Hunty and other leading local athletic coaches were critical of Athletica?
- (2) What is the amount of money received annually by the Western Australian Institute of Sport from the State Government?
- (3) How much money was granted to Athletica in 1998/99 by the State Government?
- (4) How many athletes were registered with Athletica in 1998/99?
- (5) How much money was granted to the Little Athletics Association in 1998/99 by the State Government?
- (6) How many little athletes were registered with the Little Athletica Association in 1998/99?
- (7) How much money was spent by WAIS on athletics in 1998/99 including athletes, coaches, staff and testing?
- (8) Is it true that WAIS financially supports athletes living interstate?
- (9) If yes, how many?
- (10) Who owns the premises in which Athletica are located?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) \$3 million per annum. A special allocation of \$250,000 per annum has been provided in addition to this to prepare athletes for the Sydney Olympics. For the 2000/01 Financial Year, a special allocation of \$70,000 has been made.
- (3) \$150,000.
- (4) 15,957.
- (5) The State Government does not fund subsidiaries of State Sporting Associations
- (6) 5,065.
- (7) The total cash component of the WAIS Track and Field budget was \$281,309. This comprised \$115,000 of Federal and Athletics Australia funding and \$166,309 of WAIS funding. The WAIS contribution included funding for travel, coaching, equipment and a part-time coordinator. WAIS total allocation to the sport in 1998/99 was:

Program Costs	\$166,309
Individual Scholarships (11 athletes)	\$29,500
Sport Science	\$42,000
TOTAL	<u>\$237,809</u>

- (8) It is correct that WAIS supports athletes who are living interstate if:
  - (a) appropriate training program cannot be offered to the athlete in WA.
  - (b) appropriate training facilities cannot be offered in WA.
  - (c) the athlete wishes to maintain his/her allegiance to WA. (eg: Alison Inverarity)

There is a reciprocal arrangement between all State Institutes and Academies to facilitate this situation, as it occurs in every State.

- (9) Two. Lauren Poetschka and Alison Inverarity. (Both Track and Field).
- (10) AthleticA rents office accommodation from the owner of the building Para Property Management Pty. Ltd.

#### CONSUMER CREDIT LEGAL SERVICE, FUNDING

2001. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Does the Government intend to provide funds to the Consumer Credit Legal Service?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) If not, why not?

- (4) Does the Government accept that the Consumer Credit Legal Service has the reputation as an effective, professional and appropriate consumer credit service provider?
- (5) Does the Government accept that it is in the public interest for consumers to have the benefit of such a credit legal service?
- (6) If so, will the Government guarantee the Service continued funding?
- (7) If not, why not?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

- (1)-(7) While the Consumer Credit Legal Service is considered to be providing a valuable service to the community, it does not fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Attorney General, Minister for Justice. However, at a more general level, several options for contributing to the funding of Community Legal Centres are being explored by the Ministry of Justice.

#### WEST KIMBERLEY ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, COMMUNITY SERVICE OBLIGATION PAYMENT

2006. Mr GRILL to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) If Western Power awards a contract for the supply of electricity for the West Kimberley to a gas proponent, what level of Community Service Obligation (CSO) payment from the State to Western Power is likely to result?
- (2) If fossil fuel prices continue to rise, what is the forecast level of CSO payments over the next 10 and 18 year periods?
- (3) Have similar calculations been made for the CSO obligations resulting from the Tidal energy proposal?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) If after the contract for supply to Western Power commences, Western Power continues to incur a shortfall between its sales revenue and the cost of supply (including distribution of electricity to its customers), the Government will consider a CSO payment to cover that shortfall. The level of any possible CSO payment from the State to Western Power is a matter that is still to be determined. Any such payment might need to change from time to time to reflect revenue and cost movements in a particular area.
- (3) Not applicable. Refer to answer above.

#### STATEWIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM, SUBJECT CHOICES IN REMOTE SCHOOLS

2010. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Since seeking requests for a proposal for the Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Program, (STEP), what greater subject choices in remote schools have been provided under the program?
- (2) In what locations have those choices been provided?
- (3) Exactly what has been provided?
- (4) What has been the cost of providing that choice/those choices?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1)-(4) Most agencies have not completed implementation of the necessary measures to enable them to take advantage of the enhanced telecommunication capacity provided by Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Program (STEP). The timing of increased subject choices is a matter for the Education Department to decide. However, I am aware that the Education Department is conducting trials prior to making a decision on whether to select Optus or Telstra, or a combination of both, for its country data services. Improved education outcomes will be enabled in part by the improved telecommunications arrangements.

#### STATEWIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM, SERVICE RESPONSE TIMES

2011. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Since the request for a proposal for the Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Program, (STEP), what action has been taken to shorten the response time for existing services by converting paper based processes into electronic ones?
- (2) In what departments and agencies has this occurred?
- (3) What is an estimate of the savings achieved to 31 December 1999?
- (4) What is an estimate of the degree of efficiency that has been achieved through this process?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) Most agencies have not completed implementation of the necessary measures to enable them to take advantage of the enhanced telecommunication capacity provided by Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Program (STEP). The conversion from paper based processes to electronic ones occurs at the initiative of each agency. Many agencies are moving suitable paper based processes to online delivery to enhance services to customers. This will be assisted by the Single Doorway Portal which will simplify electronic access by the public to Government services. This initiative was launched in May 2000.
- (2) Each agency is responsible for its own service delivery improvements. However, I am aware that many agencies have recognised the benefits of using electronic processes. For example, the Department of Land Administration makes a number of its formerly paper based processes available online. The Ministry of Justice, the Police Service and Department of Transport have initiated a project to convert some high volume paper based processes into electronic application-to-application processes. Improved telecommunications access will enable agencies to offer more services to regional areas.
- (3)-(4) The monitoring and assessment of cost savings and efficiency attributable to process conversion is a matter for individual agencies to address. Implementation has not reached the stage where a sound assessment could be made.

#### STATEWIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM, ACCESS TO SERVICES

2012. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Since the request for a proposal for the Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Program, (STEP), has the Government provided improved access to state services?
- (2) If so in what way (please describe)?
- (3) Has STEP resulted in direct and affordable access to new telecommunications infrastructure and services?
- (4) If so, in what locations has direct access to new telecommunications infrastructure and services been provided?
- (5) Has more affordable access been provided as a result of the STEP program?
- (6) In what locations has more affordable access been provided?
- (7) To what extent have costs been reduced as a result of the STEP program?
- (8) In what locations have the costs been reduced?
- (9) To what extent have costs being reduced?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) Most agencies have not completed implementation of the necessary measures to enable them to take advantage of the enhanced telecommunication capacity provided by Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Program (STEP). However, some agencies such as the Police Service have improved access to services.
- (2) Improvements in Police services have occurred in 91 regional and remote communities. The new reliable high speed data links between country Police Stations and Police Headquarters provide faster and more effective support to country Police than has previously been possible
- (3) Yes.
- (4) As a result of the competition introduced by STEP, businesses in all communities throughout Western Australia can now contract directly with Optus for other long distance services provided by Optus in addition to the high speed data services similar to those now available to Government agencies.
- (5) An objective of STEP is to enable Government agencies to transmit the much greater volumes of data associated with electronic service delivery without proportional cost increase. This is being achieved for the Police Service, the first agency which has contracted with Optus. It is also anticipated that Telstra will respond to this competition by reducing prices.
- (6) See (4).
- (7) The Department of Commerce and Trade does not monitor expenditures by other agencies. It is anticipated that as a result of STEP agencies will be able to transmit the much greater volumes of data associated with electronic service delivery without proportional increase.
- (8) See (4) & (5).
- (9) See (7).



## STATEWIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM, RANGE OF SERVICES

2013. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Has the Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Program (STEP) resulted in a broader range of services being available to regional Western Australia such as-
  - (a) video;
  - (b) image; and
  - (c) multi-media?
- (2) In what locations has the STEP program resulted in a broader range of services being provided?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1)-(2) The first stage of the Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Program (STEP) was to attract telecommunications carrier competition and then to build on the resulting wider range of delivery options to facilitate affordable availability of a broader range of services to regional Western Australia.
- (a) The Department of Commerce and Trade, through the Department of Contract and Management Services, will shortly call tenders for videoconferencing management services and equipment to assist government agencies and Telecentres. On payment of the appropriate charges businesses and individuals will be able to conduct or participate in videoconferencing using the public access equipment in all telecentres.
- (b) Rapid image transfer is now available anywhere in the State for those agencies and businesses that contract for the appropriate Optus service. This has been one of the significant benefits for Police.
- (c) Multimedia services can be added as they are developed.

## STATEWIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM, DATA SERVICES

2014. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Has the Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Program (STEP) program resulted in high quality, secure, robust data services for the state, business and communities?
- (2) In what locations have achievements been made in this regard?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) At this early stage STEP has resulted in high quality, secure, robust data services for those agencies which have contracted under STEP. It has done this by using the aggregated buying power of government agencies to attract a second carrier (Optus) into the market for supplying high speed data services for government agencies for their country offices. Its contracted satellite solutions provide high throughput secure and robust services whose performance and price are independent of distance.
- (2) See information provided in answers to Question 2018 and 2029.

## STATEWIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM, ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

2015. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Has the Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Program (STEP) had the effect of enabling regional businesses to adopt electronic commerce?
- (2) In what locations has STEP enabled this to occur?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) Yes. STEP has done this by attracting a second telecommunications carrier for provision of data services in country Western Australia. Businesses and their Internet Service Providers throughout Western Australia can now contract with their choice of Optus or Telstra, or a combination of both, for the data services on which electronic commerce depends. The two carriers offer quite different technologies, performance, options and pricing, thus broadening the opportunity for businesses to find the best fit for their needs.
- (2) It is possible in any location in Western Australia where businesses or agencies choose to purchase internet services. While a number of companies are currently in discussion with carriers, the improved services have not yet commenced.

## STATEWIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM, SIGNING OF HEADS OF AGREEMENT

2018. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Under the request for the proposal for the Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Program, (STEP), was it a requirement that infrastructure and data network services roll out to be completed within 15 months of the Heads of Agreement being entered into, with priority one locations being completed within 3 months of signing of the heads of agreement?

- (2) When was the Heads of Agreement signed?
- (3) What locations were covered by the Heads of Agreement?
- (4) Was the infrastructure and data network services roll out in priority one areas completed within 3 months of the date from which the Heads of Agreement was signed?
- (5) Will the infrastructure and data services network in priority two areas be completed within 15 months of the date of the signing of the Heads of Agreement?
- (6) What is the estimate of completion date in each priority 2 area?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) Yes. The Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Program (STEP) Request for Proposal (RFP) was developed in conjunction with major agencies which indicated their needs and time frames during that process. Those needs and time frames were embodied in the RFP. Respondents were required to show they had the capacity to achieve those targets. The "proposal" method was chosen instead of "tender" in order to elicit innovative proposals, the details of which could then be negotiated to contract. This proved successful with two quite different solutions being accepted. The terms and conditions of the head agreements provide a panel contract framework for Western Australian Government agencies to purchase telecommunication services throughout country Western Australia. As against the RFP, the STEP contract provides agencies with choice as to which supplier and which services they require. The agencies themselves determine rollout timetables for projects depending on their requirements.
- (2) Head of Agreement with Optus Networks Pty Ltd was signed on 26 October 1999. Head of Agreement with Telstra Corporation Ltd is expected to be signed shortly.
- (3) All of Western Australia except the Perth metropolitan area.
- (4)-(6) The STEP contract provides agencies with choice as to which supplier and which services they require and the agencies themselves determine rollout timetables for projects. Rollout is in accordance with the needs of each agency as embodied in the agreement between each agency and its selected carrier. The rollout of those agencies which have so far selected Optus have been met or are on schedule. To date Optus has installed satellite equipment at ninety-one (91) WA Police Service sites and One (1) Ministry of Justice site and has commissioned the new central high throughput hub.

#### WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS, POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

2021. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared in *The West Australian* on 16 December 1997 under the heading "US Boom Goes Bust for Poor"?
- (2) Is the Minister also aware the article reported that poverty in the United States is growing despite the booming economy and low unemployment?
- (3) Is the Minister also aware the article reported that many of those in need are families with children whose problems stem from low pay and that the nations biggest hunger relief organisation, Second Harvest, said 26 million people relied on soup kitchens and food pantries each month.
- (4) Given that some 85% of Americans in the work force do not have their terms and conditions of employment regulated by collective agreements and have to rely on the vagaries of the market and individual bargaining, will the Minister explain why individual bargaining arrangements in Western Australia will not have a similar result to that being experienced in the United States of America?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(3) Yes.
- (4) Western Australian employees are protected by the provisions of the Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993.

#### SPECIALISED CONTAINER TRANSPORT, EXPENDITURE

2022. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Of the \$3 million allocated to the specialised container transport in the 1999-2000 State Budget, how much was spent by 29 February 2000?
- (2) What is expected to be spent for the remainder of the financial year?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) \$3,000,000.
- (2) Not applicable.

## STATEWIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM, NEW SERVICES

2029. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) What new services to the State's most isolated communities have been delivered by the Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Program?
- (2) What isolated communities have benefited from the Program?
- (3) Have each of these isolated communities been provided with the technology and infrastructure to provide tele-health, new education and training programs, video conferencing and affordable Internet access?
- (4) Which isolated communities have yet to benefit from the Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Program?
- (5) Does the department have any plans which indicate when those isolated communities will receive tele-health, video conferencing and affordable Internet access through the Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Program?
- (6) What is the expected date that each remote community will have the infrastructure available to provide these services?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) Most agencies have not completed implementation of the necessary measures to enable them to take advantage of the enhanced telecommunication capacity provided by Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Program (STEP). However, STEP has created the framework for service expansion. It has done this by using the aggregated buying power of government agencies to attract a second carrier (Optus) into the market for supplying high speed data services for government agencies for their country offices. Its contracted satellite solutions provide high throughput secure and robust services whose performance and price are independent of distance. The benefits so far include:

improved services by those agencies which have selected Optus (the only carrier which has currently signed its Head Agreement and Development Deed) and implements measures to take advantage of the Optus services.

the availability to businesses of a second carrier (Optus) now seeking to deliver country services. Such services can go beyond the services contracted by government agencies but were enabled by the major hub installed by Optus as a result of the government contract arrangements.

It is expected that Telstra will sign its Head Agreement and Development Deed shortly. Additionally the attention drawn by STEP to the growing country data services market has been instrumental in attracting new carriers such as Bincom Satellite Systems and Heartland Communications to this market, giving country subscribers even greater choice. They state they will be launching their systems this year.

- (2) 91 country Police stations now have telecommunications operational under the STEP agreement. These communities will benefit further and additional communities will benefit, as other agencies sign agreements under STEP.
- (3) Trials and planning are progressing towards delivery of such services by the agencies concerned. See 5 below.
- (4) The new hub mentioned in (1) provides the opportunity for all communities to benefit.
- (5) Responsibility for implementation of the Telehealth project resides with the Health Department, which is well advanced in planning telehealth pilot projects. The Department of Commerce and Trade through the Department of Contract and Management Services will shortly call tenders for videoconferencing management services and equipment to assist agencies and Telecentres. Affordable delivery of sufficiently high resolution videoconferencing beyond the limited coverage terrestrial network is a difficult technical challenge. Affordable Internet access is the subject of a major strategy currently being finalised. It has been assisted by the infrastructure provided by Optus and Telstra as a direct result of STEP, and by Commonwealth funds available from the sale of Telstra. The current status of local call Internet access has been published in the Internet Availability Survey available on the Department of Commerce and Trade web site at [www.commerce.wa.gov.au/technology/oic/oicfr.htm](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/technology/oic/oicfr.htm)
- (6) The timetable will depend on the service agreements reached with the carrier(s) chosen by each agency. The major infrastructure elements such as the hub referred to in (1) (b) are now in place and user terminal installation will be in accordance with agency agreements.

## ON-LINE SERVICE DELIVERY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

2030. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) What on-line service delivery demonstration projects have been implemented?
- (2) What is the nature of each demonstration project?

- (3) Where is each demonstration project?
- (4) What is the cost of each demonstration project?
- (5) What is the purpose of each demonstration project?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) (a) Online Electronic Commerce Centre.
- (b) The Business and Investment Gateway (BIG.WA), which was launched on 19 January 2000.
- (2) (a) The Online Electronic Commerce Centre is an Internet web site managed by the Office of Information and Communications Division, within the Department of Commerce and Trade. The web site aims to provide education and information to the public concerning the emerging world of e-commerce; what it is and how it is used.
- (b) The Business and Investment Gateway (BIG.WA), demonstrates a single entry point to Western Australian Government business services.
- (3) (a) The Electronic Commerce Centre is hosted at the Department of Commerce and Trade; the address is [www.ecommercecentre.online.wa.gov.au](http://www.ecommercecentre.online.wa.gov.au)
- (b) The Business and Investment Gateway (BIG.WA) is hosted by the managing contractor, Pretzel Logic. The address is <http://www.business.wa.gov.au>
- (4) (a) The cost of design and implementation was \$1 800. Enhancement of site content and maintenance costs approximately \$5 000 per month.
- (b) The Business and Investment Gateway project (BIG.WA) cost \$260 000 in development costs between 1997-98 and 31 December 1999. Since 1 January 2000 it has cost \$8 000 per month to maintain and enhance content.
- (5) (a) This project is primarily for the dissemination to the public of information concerning developments in the use of electronic commerce.
- (b) The Business and Investment Gateway provides access to the breadth of the Western Australian Government support services for business establishment, business growth, regional location and investment attraction in Western Australia.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, TECHNOLOGY RATIONALISATION INITIATIVES

2031. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) What technology Nationalisation initiatives in State Government departments and agencies have been taken since 1 July 1999?
- (2) What savings have been made as a result of these initiatives?
- (3) What is the nature of each initiative that has been taken?
- (4) What is the nature of each saving arising from the initiative?
- (5) How is the saving being calculated?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) The Department of Commerce and Trade has undertaken the following technology rationalisation initiatives since July 1999:
    - (a) Finalising the Strategic Standards and Guidelines for Effective Information Technology Management;
    - (b) Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) Proof of Concept Model piloted at Contract and Management Services (CAMS); and
    - (c) Finalising the Business Case Guidelines for Information and Communications Systems and Projects.
  - (2) (a) No savings can be identified before the Guidelines have been implemented.
  - (b) The Proof of Concept TCO Model, in its pilot implementation, created a comparable industry benchmark. This benchmark will provide a point of comparison to measure savings when the TCO model is fully implemented in CAMS in the future.
  - (c) No savings can be identified before the Guidelines have been implemented.
  - (3) (a) The Western Australian Government has adopted a Technology Rationalisation Policy to increase the effectiveness of the Government investment in technology. The Strategic Standards and Guidelines for Effective Information Technology Management give effect to that policy.
  - (b) The objective of the Proof of Concept TCO Model is to measure direct and indirect lifecycle costs within the scope of a distributed computing environment.
  - (c) The Business Case Guidelines provide a framework of issues to be addressed in business for Information and Communications projects.
- (4)-(5) See (2).

## INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY, PROGRAMS

2032. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) What new initiatives and programs have been implemented to further the development of the Western Australian Information, Communication and Technology Industry?
- (2) What is the nature of each-
  - (a) initiative; and
  - (b) program?
- (3) How much has been allocated to each –
  - (a) initiative; and
  - (b) program?
- (4) How much has been spent on each new –
  - (a) initiative; and
  - (b) program?
- (5) What entities have been assisted by the State Government under these initiatives and programs and how much has been provided to each entity?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) The Office of Information and Communications, within the Department of Commerce and Trade, listed amongst its major initiatives 1999/00, published in the budget papers:

Completion and implementation of new initiatives and programs for the development of Western Australia's Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) industry as outlined in the ICT industry strategy.

In addition to its ongoing activities, the department has commenced the following programs and initiatives as a result of developing the Information and Communications Technology Industry (ICT) Strategy "Get a Good Thing Growing":

The Interactive Virtual Environment Centre  
Enabling Technologies Strategy  
The Partnerships for Development Program  
Building on IT Strengths (BITS) Program

- (2)
  - (a) The Interactive Virtual Environment Centre is a specialist centre that will provide high-end computing and visualisation technologies for use in industries such as resources and energy, manufacturing, film and television, engineering design and architecture. The Enabling Technologies Strategy will identify actions for Government to undertake to support the adoption and use of information and communications technologies by Western Australian industry to enhance competitiveness.
  - (b) The Partnerships for Development Program is a Commonwealth Government program aimed at generating IT industry development outcomes from the sales to government of IT goods and services by multinational corporations. The operation of the program in Western Australia generates benefits and growth opportunities for local IT firms. The Building on IT Strengths (BITS) Program is a new Commonwealth Government program aimed at supporting the establishment of technology incubators in each state. The BITS incubator in Western Australia will support the growth and development of newly formed Western Australian IT companies.
- (3)
  - (a) The Interactive Virtual Environment Centre has secured funding of \$1 million in this financial year and a further \$1 million for 2000/01 through the budgetary process. These funds will be matched by \$1 million from the Commonwealth Government and \$2.1 million from tertiary institutions and the private sector. Funding allocations for 2000/01 have not yet been confirmed for the Enabling Technologies Strategy but staff resources of the Department of Commerce and Trade have been expended in planning processes for these initiatives.
  - (b) Support for the BITS program has been demonstrated by a commitment of up to \$45,000 to assist applicants with the costs of applying for program funding from the Commonwealth Government. Funding allocations have not yet been confirmed for the Partnerships for Development Program but staff resources of the Department of Commerce and Trade have been expended in planning processes for these programs.
- (4)
  - (a) \$60,000 has been expended on planning studies for the Interactive Virtual Environment Centre.
  - (b) No expenditure has been incurred on any of the other new initiatives and programs yet.
- (5) Not applicable.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS, REMOTE COMMUNICATIONS

2033. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) What is the nature of the technology that is being used to provide enhanced data services, video conferencing, and affordable Internet access to remote communities?
- (2) Is the same technology being used across the State?
- (3) What is the nature of the technology that is being used in each of the areas covered by the different development commissions?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) For Government services under the Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Program (STEP), the Government specified service levels, not technologies. It is the responsibility of the contracted carriers to select the most suitable technologies and to update them. The principal technology selected by Optus is satellite which enables equal high performance anywhere in Western Australia. Telstra continues to use terrestrial technologies for the bulk of its service. These typically comprise:

optic fibre cable to link exchanges;  
copper wire to connect from exchanges to most customers; and  
a radio system called Digital Radio Concentrator System (DRCS) to connect from exchanges to isolated customers such as those on pastoral properties.

The extent to which the capacity of the optic fibre links is used depends on the equipment installed in the Telstra exchanges. Data speeds on the ordinary telephone network over copper are typically up to 28.8kb/s within 5km of an exchange and 9.6kb/s beyond 5km. The exception is DRCS where the speed is typically 2.4kb/s. Higher speeds using ISDN circuits are available on demand. Telstra offers an asymmetric (one way terrestrial, one way satellite) service for remote customers seeking 64kb/s data speed. Other carriers are expected to enter the satellite service market.

- (2) Optus Yes.  
Telstra No. See (1).
- (3) See (1).

## ATHLETICA, MR PETER BACICH

2038. Mr McGOWAN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I refer to the answer to question on notice No. 1015 of 2000 regarding Mr Peter Bacich and ask-

- (a) is AthleticA a State Government agency; what is the constitutional relationship between AthleticA and the Government;
- (b) what is the constitutional relationship between AthleticA and the Government;
- (c) who appoints the AthleticA Board members;
- (d) who appointed Mr Bacich to the Board;
- (e) how long has this arrangement existed with AthleticA and how much longer will it exist;
- (f) why does the Minister have the responsibility for appointing AthleticA Board Members which in effect disenfranchises the membership of AthleticA;
- (g) who elected Mr Bacich as Chairperson; and
- (h) who are the current Board Members?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

- (a) AthleticA is not a State Government agency and there is no constitutional relationship between AthleticA and the Government.
- (b) None, the Government recognises AthleticA as the peak body representing the sport in WA.
- (c) The AthleticA Board after calling for nominations publicly in the press.
- (d) The AthleticA Board.
- (e) No arrangement exists.
- (f) In the transition phase from AAWA to AthleticA, the Minister made appointments to the board. The Minister no longer has the power to make appointments.
- (g) The AthleticA Board.
- (h) Con Regan, Phil Badock, Wendy Ryan, Peter Bacich, Rod Carter and Stephen McMahon.

## MEDICATION PRESCRIBING RIGHTS, PHYSIOTHERAPISTS, PODIATRISTS AND NURSES

2046. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it correct that consideration is being given to extending medication prescribing rights to physiotherapists, podiatrists and nurses?
- (2) If so, what is the rationale behind such a move?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) No. However, in relation to nurses the Government has endorsed the recommendations of the Remote Area Nurse Practitioner Project Report, which recommends a new category of registered nurse, a nurse practitioner. A nurse practitioner will be able to supply limited medication.
- (2) Not applicable.

## METROPOLITAN HEALTH SERVICE BOARD, ABOLITION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITIONS

2058. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

With reference to Question on Notice 398 –

- (a) with whom did the Metropolitan Health Service Executive conduct its internal and external consultations and information gathering which consequently led to the decision to abolish the positions of Executive Director – Medicine, Executive Director – Nursing and Executive Director – Corporate Services at King Edward Memorial and Princess Margaret Hospitals;
- (b) on what dates did these consultations take place;
- (c) what was the substance of the information gleaned from the internal and external consultations and information gathering; and
- (d) why were the three Executive Director positions abolished before Mrs Helen Hardcastle was engaged as a facilitator and before the results of her enquiries regarding the future organisational arrangements of executive functions were complete?

Mr DAY replied:

- (a) Shortly after his arrival, the King Edward Memorial/Princess Margaret Hospital (KEM/PMH) Chief Executive, Mr Michael Moodie, had a number of discussions with KEM/PMH staff regarding a revised management structure. His proposed changes were endorsed by the Metropolitan Health Service Board in May 1999.
- (b) Between February and May 1999
- (c) As indicated in previous responses to this question, it became apparent that the functions of these positions could be more realistically and cost effectively performed by directors within clinical care units operating under the organisation's devolved management structure. Many of these functions had already been delegated under this structure which had been introduced gradually since 1995.
- (d) The positions were not abolished until the employment contracts expired at the end of 1999. It is true that Helen Hardcastle was engaged in June 1999 after the decision to abolish the positions was made. However, she was engaged to facilitate discussions and collect information on the future organisational arrangements of executive functions within the hospitals, not the past.

## KWINANA MOTORSPORT COMPLEX, UTILISATION STUDIES AND COSTS

2067. Dr CONSTABLE to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Have any studies been undertaken to determine the projected public utilisation rates of the Government's proposed \$16 million Kwinana motorplex?
- (2) If the answer to (1) above is yes,, how many people does the Government expect will utilise the facilities?
- (3) Why has a licence been granted to the developers of the motorplex rather than a lease?
- (4) What conditions, financial or otherwise, apply to the grant of the licence to the licensees?
- (5) What will be the estimated annual cost of running the motorplex and who will pay those costs?
- (6) How will the Government recoup its investment in this development?
- (7) How does the Government propose to cater for public transport to and from the motorplex?
- (8) How will the Government ensure standards of public safety for motorplex attendees given the proposed sites location in a heavy industrial area?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Based on current attendances at the Claremont Speedway and Ravenswood Raceway and allowing for other activities which will be conducted at the Motorplex, the annual utilisation is expected to be approximately 300,000 users per annum.
- (3) A non exclusive licence to operate speedway events, drag racing events and associated activities is currently being negotiated with the current operators of Claremont Speedway and Ravenswood International Raceway. It should be noted that the current operators of Claremont Speedway and Ravenswood International Raceway are not the developers of the Motorplex but have assisted Government in the design and specifications for the venue based on their practical experience in operating such facilities. A licence is being negotiated rather than a lease as it provides for greater control over the performance of the licence in terms of its specified activities and obligations and enables the WA Sports Centre Trust to utilise the venue for other activities.
- (4) The licence will specify a range of conditions including:
  - . The term of the licence;
  - . The licence fee schedule, dates and hours of operation of activities specified in the licence;
  - . Responsibilities and obligations of the licensee as detailed in the Kwinana Motorplex Management Strategy.
- (5) The estimated annual running costs of the Motorplex, exclusive of the licensee's operating costs, will amount to approximately \$440,000 including allowance for depreciation. These costs will be met from the revenue from the licensee and income generated from other activities at the Motorplex.
- (6) It is not the intention for the Government to recoup its investment in the establishment of the Motorplex on a commercial basis. The Government made a decision to fund the establishment of the Motorplex for the benefit of the Motorsports industry, which has a substantial following in Western Australia and generates substantial employment and economic impact. It is anticipated that an operating surplus will be generated from the Motorplex and this surplus will be returned to the motorsport industry.
- (7) A traffic management plan will be developed as part of the overall Kwinana Motorplex Management Strategy. The traffic management plan will address public transport to and from the Motorplex.
- (8) The WA Sports Centre Trust has established a Kwinana Motorplex Management Committee to oversee the establishment and implementation of a Kwinana Motorplex Management Strategy. The Management Strategy will include amongst other things:
  - . An emergency response plan
  - . A noise management plan
  - . A traffic management plan
  - . An environmental management system
  - . An operational procedures monitoring system

#### ETHANOL, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

2069. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) Given that the aims of Western Australian Energy Policy include the fostering of secondary processing and economic development by exploiting and developing synergies between energy and other industries, what action has been taken by the Government to promote the production and use of ethanol as a fuel supplement for the transport industry?
- (2) Given that ethanol from cellulose feedstock may be produced for between 28 and 34 cents per litre does the Minister acknowledge that this compares very favourably with the cost of petrol production?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) How much funding has been provided for research and development projects for ethanol as a transport fuel supplement in -
  - (a) 1997;
  - (b) 1998; and
  - (c) 1999?
- (5) What was the nature of the projects for which funding was provided?
- (6) How much funding has been provided for research and development projects for biofuels in -
  - (a) 1997;
  - (b) 1998; and
  - (c) 1999?
- (7) What was the nature of the projects for which funding was provided?



- (8) Is the Minister aware that trials undertaken in New South Wales to evaluate the exhaust emissions of diesohol have found a significant reduction in smoke levels of, on average, 50.7%?
- (9) Does the Minister agree that the reduction of smoke levels in the order of 50% from diesel vehicles has significant implications for reducing emission particulates?
- (10) If not, why not?
- (11) Does the Minister agree that a reduction of 50% in particulate emissions from diesel vehicles would have significant benefits for human health?
- (12) If not, why not?
- (13) Will the Minister be actively promoting the need for a feasibility study of diesohol in Western Australia?
- (14) If not, why not?
- (15) What subsidies are extended to the fossil fuel industry on a sector by sector basis each year since 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The Minister for Energy has no direct involvement in the consideration of ethanol for the transport industry in this State.
- (2)-(3) The comparative cost varies substantially as the price of oil moves on the world market and as its limited substitution around the world demonstrates, ethanol production from crops has trouble competing with petrol.
- (4)-(5) I am not aware of any funding that has been provided in WA for R&D for ethanol as a transport fuel supplement. Extensive R&D on ethanol has already been carried out overseas and a considerable amount of information on technical and economic aspects is publicly available. The Commonwealth has partnered with NSW to fund an ethanol research project and these results may be more directly translatable to WA. A number of other Commonwealth grants have recently been awarded for ethanol research by institutions in the Eastern States.
- (6) (a)-(c) I am not aware of any funding that has been provided specifically for R&D of biofuels in WA.
- (7) Not applicable.
- (8) Yes. The diesohol trials were carried out in 1994 by the NSW Environment Protection Authority for the Australian Capital Territory Internal Omnibus Network (ACTION). Transperth was involved in this trial. The figure quoted of 50.7% reduction in smoke levels was for steady-state conditions, the more realistic figure being a 40.0% reduction which was achieved during transient conditions.
- (9)-(10) While the results achieved under these tests showed considerable promise, the report concluded that a more rigorous and accurate testing procedure needed to be developed before the benefits could be confirmed. It should be noted that some of the test results were negative; for example carbon monoxide emissions were 20% higher, power was down about 10% and fuel consumption increased by 6%.
- (11)-(12) Yes, if there are no other associated disbenefits such as an increase in other emissions, such as aldehydes, which are not evidenced by smoke.
- (13) I understand that Transperth is continuing to monitor developments in this area.
- (14) Not applicable.
- (15) The State does not categorise any of its subsidies on a sectoral basis. Industry support is provided on a project by project basis through a range of agencies and is generally determined based on regional, employment and a range of other impacts.

#### TRAFFIC LIGHTS, REPLACEMENT WITH ROUNDABOUTS

2096. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Further to question on notice No. 1561 of 2000, does Main Roads Western Australia have under consideration other intersections in the metropolitan area where traffic lights can be replaced by roundabouts?
- (2) What intersections are under consideration in the eastern suburbs?
- (3) Has Main Roads Western Australia identified the benefit of installing roundabouts rather than traffic lights?
- (4) What are those benefits?
- (5) Does the Government/Main Roads Western Australia accept that there are strong traffic management, environmental and other reasons for replacing traffic lights with roundabouts?
- (6) If so, is Main Roads giving full attention to this option?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) Main Roads has two intersections under consideration and they are Read Street and Patterson Road, Rockingham and Bulwer Street and Brisbane Street, Perth. Most intersections that could be considered for roundabouts are under the control of Local Government authorities. Main Roads encourages Local Government to consider roundabouts as an option to traffic signals when they are examining traffic management issues in their areas.
- (2) No locations in the eastern suburbs are being considered for funding at the present time.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Roundabouts provide improved efficiency of traffic movement during off peak periods and can reduce the severity of crashes. Over a period greater than ten years they can reduce operational costs.
- (5)-(6) Main Roads recognises the traffic management and environmental benefits of roundabouts. Roundabouts provide a safe and efficient means of intersection control and encourage lower speeds on local and distributor classes of roads. Roundabouts are an appropriate solution to some traffic management problems, however, roundabouts are not the best solution in all situations.

#### DAMPIER-BUNBURY GAS PIPELINE, PUBLIC RELEASE OF MATERIAL

2101. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) Has AlintaGas requested the Gas Access Regulator to keep material related to the role of the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline secret?
- (2) If so, when and why?
- (3) If not, will the Minister advise the Gas Access Regulator that he has no objection to the public release of this material?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) Will the Minister direct AlintaGas to withdraw this request?
- (6) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No. AlintaGas has requested the Regulator to release each of the three submissions it has made so far concerning Epic Energy's proposed Access Arrangement for the Dampier to Bunbury Gas Pipeline.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3)-(4) The State, the Gas Corporation and Epic Energy agreed at the time of the sale of the DBNGP to maintain confidential some information relating to the sale. The State is honouring this agreement and expects Epic Energy and AlintaGas to do likewise.
- (5)-(6) Not applicable.

#### DAMPIER-BUNBURY GAS PIPELINE, PUBLIC RELEASE OF MATERIAL

2102. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) Will the Minister table any document or document extract in which the State Government has agreed to keep material related to the sale of the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline secret?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) I am advised that the documents are themselves confidential to the parties.

#### DAMPIER-BUNBURY GAS PIPELINE, PUBLIC RELEASE OF MATERIAL

2103. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Energy:

Has Epic Energy requested the Gas Access Regulator to keep material related to the sale of the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline confidential?

Mr BARNETT replied:

I understand that Epic Energy has identified to the Regulator that some of the information it has included in confidential submissions to the Regulator is confidential and should not be released by him.

## ALINTAGAS PRIVATISATION, PUBLIC RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS

2104. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) Will the Minister give a commitment that all documents related to the privatisation of AlintaGas will be publicly released following the conclusion of the privatisation process?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) It is impractical to conduct a sale to private sector interests in which commercially sensitive material related to the ongoing commercial interests of the business are not safeguarded.

## MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION

2106. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health

I refer to the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association and ask-

- (a) does the State Government provide funds to the MND Association;
- (b) is how much per annum;
- (c) has the Minister received a submission from the MND Association;
- (d) if so on what date;
- (e) has the Minister determined a view on the submission;
- (f) if so, what is that view; and
- (g) if not, when will the Minister be determining a position on the submission?

Mr DAY replied:

- (a)-(g) Please refer to response to Question on Notice 2130.

## HEALTH, CLINICAL STREAMING

2108. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Western Australian model of clinical streaming based on clinical streaming in other jurisdictions in Australia and/or other countries and if so, which ones?
- (2) How will clinical streaming improve the quality of care and what evidence exists to support clinical streaming?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) *Clinical streaming* is a generic term that has been used to cover a range of models for the organization and management of clinical services. What they all have in common is that they seek to get better integration between services and improved continuity of patient care through bringing together groupings of similar or complementary services into *streams*. Models of *clinical streaming* have been introduced in the following jurisdictions:

Central Sydney Area Health Service  
 Western Sydney Area Health Service  
 Southern Health Care Network, Victoria  
 Winnipeg, Canada  
 Montreal, Canada  
 Leeds, United Kingdom  
 Lothian, Scotland  
 Leicester, United Kingdom

The Western Australian model, termed *Integrated Clinical Services*, will give clinicians an opportunity to take responsibility for the operational planning, management and delivery of designated suites of health services. One of the hallmarks of this model will be the ability of the Integrated Clinical Service to think and plan at a metropolitan-wide level, but for clinicians to operate at a local level.

- (2) One of the major thrusts of the Metropolitan health plan, *Health 2020*, is to improve access to health services for people living in the rapidly growing outer suburbs of Perth. The Integrated Clinical Services will provide the vehicle for ensuring that an appropriate level of care is available to all Perth residents regardless of where they live and that this care is of uniformly high quality. There is considerable evidence available about the benefits of better service integration and about the need to involve clinicians more centrally in the decision-making process. Both have been found to be important determinants of the quality of health care. The introduction of clinician-led *streams* in Central Sydney has enabled the Area Health Service to successfully manage significant changes in health services within an extremely tight budget environment while maintaining or improving the quality of health care.

## HEALTH, METROPOLITAN MATRIX

2109. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What definition of the term metropolitan matrix has been adopted by the Department of Health and/or the Metropolitan Health Services Board?
- (2) Has this concept been adopted in any health services in the metropolitan area?
- (3) If yes, in which clinical areas?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) In the Metropolitan Health Service Plan, *Health 2020*, the word *matrix* refers to services or groups of services, which are separate but interactive. This concept is illustrated in Figure 18 on page 33 of *Health 2020*.
- (2) The Metropolitan Health Service intends to introduce the system of Integrated Clinical Services over the next 2 to 3 years in consultation with clinicians, with the first three, that have already been agreed, commencing during the first year.
- (3) Not applicable.

## HOSPITALS, BUDGETS

2110. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Are individual metropolitan hospitals responsible for the management of their own budgets?
- (2) If yes to (1) above, what level of control is exercised over individual hospital budgets by the Metropolitan Health Services Board?
- (3) If no to (1) above -
  - (a) who is responsible for these budgets;
  - (b) where is the management of these budgets centralised; and
  - (c) how many FTEs have been taken out of which metropolitan hospitals to deal with the management of these budgets?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Yes, the Chief Executives of the tertiary hospitals and the General Managers of the non teaching hospitals and health services are responsible for the management of their budgets.
- (2) The Metropolitan Health Service Board negotiates funding and activity levels with the HDWA and prepare a global budget for the Board as a whole and for each hospital / health service. Budget parameters are set for individual hospitals and health services following which individual hospitals / health service budgets are prepared by them. The separately prepared budgets are compared and an agreed position determined for approval by the Board. Performance against approved budgets is monitored by hospitals / health services management each month and also by staff at the Metropolitan Health Service who prepare summary reports for oversight management by the Board.
- (3) Not applicable.

## HOSPITALS, CORPORATE RESTRUCTURING

2112. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Metropolitan Health Services Board approved a program of corporate restructuring in metropolitan hospitals?
- (2) If yes to (1) above -
  - (a) what are the details of this restructuring;
  - (b) what is the anticipated impact on clinical services; and
  - (c) what consultations -
    - (i) were undertaken with clinicians in hospitals or
    - (ii) are planned, before these reforms were/are initiated?
- (3) Has corporate restructuring begun in any hospitals?
- (4) If yes to (3) above, in which hospitals and to what extent has corporate restructuring begun?
- (5) Which corporate areas in which hospitals have been restructured or are undergoing restructure?
- (6) What savings, if any, are anticipated from corporate restructuring?
- (7) How many FTEs, if any, will be saved with corporate restructuring?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) No, however planning for Corporate Reform is under way.
- (2) (a) Project Teams have been established for the areas under review, Finance, Human Resources/Industrial Resources, Facilities Management, Supply, Hotel Services, Information Technology and Public Relations.
- (b) More resources for clinical service delivery.
- (c) (i) Each Project Team is overseen by a Steering Committee which includes senior hospital clinician representation.
- (ii) All the proposed changes will be considered by the Steering Committees.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) None.
- (6)-(7) This will depend on how the corporate services under consideration are ultimately configured.

#### SHENTON PARK REHABILITATION HOSPITAL, VALUATION

2115. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

With regard to the Rehabilitation Hospital at Shenton Park -

- (a) what is the most recent valuation of this property;
- (b) who commissioned the valuation; and
- (c) who carried out the valuation?

Mr DAY replied:

- (a) Valuation in June 1999 was \$75,350,000, which comprises a land valuation of \$14,700,000 and a Replacement Capital Valuation (RCV) of \$60,650,000 for improvements.
- (b) The Health Department of Western Australia (HDWA).
- (c) The Valuer General's office carried out the Land Valuation. The Health Department and Department of Contract and Management Services carried out the Replacement Capital Valuation of improvements.

#### SHENTON PARK REHABILITATION HOSPITAL, WARD CLOSURES

2116. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Which wards at the Rehabilitation Hospital at Shenton Park are currently closed?
- (2) How long has each ward been closed?
- (3) When will each ward be re-opened?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Wards 3 (31 beds) and 7 (18 beds) are currently closed.
- (2) Ward 3 was last open from approximately June to December 1995, when it was used by Medical Specialties Division following the devolvement of beds from Mt Henry Hospital. It has only been used since then for accommodation, when other wards were being refurbished. Ward 3 is used for accommodation for independent participants of the residential ankylosing spondylitis (AS) program as required. Ward 7 was last open from 3/3/98 and closed on 22/3/98.
- (3) There are no plans to re-open Ward 3, except for the continued use as accommodation for the AS program participants. Ward 7 will be opened by Medical Specialties Division in June 2000 as part of the Hospital's winter bed management plan, for approximately 3 months.

#### MIDWIFERY TRAINING COURSE, KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

2119. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

I refer to question on notice No. 1782 regarding training in midwifery and ask-

- (a) when will the last training course for midwives run by King Edward Memorial Hospital be completed;
- (b) how many nurses are expected to complete this course;
- (c) if the last training course will finish before 2003, what is the anticipated shortfall in trained midwives in Western Australia;
- (d) how does the government intend to address this shortfall during the transition; and

- (e) what role is anticipated for King Edward Memorial Hospital when the training of midwives comes under universities?

Mr DAY replied:

- (a) March 2001.  
 (b) 14.  
 (c) With the introduction of midwifery education at Edith Cowan University, it is anticipated there will be no shortfall in trained midwives.  
 (d) Not applicable.  
 (e) King Edward Memorial Hospital will remain the primary placement area for midwifery students to obtain clinical experience.

#### MIDWIFERY TRAINING COURSES, KEMH AND UNIVERSITIES

2120. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many nurses are expected to graduate as midwives from the KEMH training program in 2000?  
 (2) How many nurses graduated from this course in each of the last four years?  
 (3) How many nurses are expected to graduate from midwifery courses at universities in 2000?  
 (4) How many graduated from universities in each of the last four years?  
 (5) What is the cost to the student for training at KEMH?  
 (6) What is the cost to the student of midwifery courses run at universities in Western Australia?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) 28 (March 2000 – 14; October 2000 – 14)  
 (2) 98/99 – 27  
 97/98 – 27  
 96/97 – 23  
 95/96 – 25.  
 (3) The current enrolment of students at Curtin University in midwifery is 65. It is anticipated that 25 of these students will complete their course at the end of 2000. The balance are part-time students and will complete their training in 2001.  
 (4) 28 per year.  
 (5) There is no cost to the student, they are employed at ANF level 1.2. Rural students are sponsored by HDWA scholarships and their rural health service for \$26 000 per annum.  
 (6) \$8000. Edith Cowan University has indicated that they will commence midwifery training in 2001 and that the cost is yet to be determined.

#### MIDWIFERY TRAINING COURSE, SAVINGS FROM CLOSURE AT KEMH

2121. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

What annual savings will be realised when the midwifery training course closes at KEMH?

Mr DAY replied:

The annual savings to KEMH will be \$670 000.

#### KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, INQUIRY

2123. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

With regard to the recent inquiry at King Edward Memorial Hospital conducted by Dr Andrew Child and Professor Pauline Glover -

- (a) who initiated this inquiry;  
 (b) on what dates were Dr Child and Professor Glover first contacted regarding this review;  
 (c) how much were they paid;  
 (d) who determined the terms of reference of the inquiry;  
 (e) has the Minister received the report of the inquiry;  
 (f) if yes to (e) above, when did the Minister receive the report; and  
 (g) if no to (e) above, when does the Minister expect to receive the report?

Mr DAY replied:

- (a) The inquiry was initiated by the Chief Executive, Princess Margaret Hospital/King Edward Memorial Hospital, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer and endorsed by the Metropolitan Health Service Board.
- (b) 25 January 2000.
- (c) \$10 000.
- (d) Metropolitan Health Service Board.
- (e) Yes.
- (f) The Minister received a copy of the report on 7 April 2000.
- (g) Not applicable.

#### MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION, FUNDING

2130. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association and ask -

- (a) does the State Government provide funds to the MND Association;
- (b) if so, how much per annum;
- (c) has the Minister received a submission from the MND Association;
- (d) if so, on what date;
- (e) has the Minister determined a view on the submission;
- (f) if so, what is that view; and
- (g) if not, when will the Minister be determining a position on the submission?

Mr DAY replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) \$89,960 in 1999/2000.
- (c) A draft submission has been submitted to the Health Department of Western Australian (HDWA).
- (d) The draft was received by the Department on 28 February 2000.
- (e) Not as yet. Officers from the HDWA met with the Chief Executive of the Motor Neurone Disease Association of WA (MNDA) on 7 March 2000. As a result of this meeting, MNDA is in the process of revising some sections of the plan prior to submitting the document for consideration in the 2000/01 purchasing process.
- (f) Not applicable.
- (g) The merits of the revised submission, when received from the MNDA, will be considered in relation to the Department's Purchasing Intentions for 2000/01.

#### DAMPIER-BUNBURY NATURAL GAS PIPELINE, SECRECY REQUEST

2135. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) Has the Minister or any agency for which he is responsible requested the Gas Access Regulator to keep material related to the sale of the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline secret?
- (2) If so, what agency, or agencies, when and why?
- (3) Will the Minister withdraw the request(s)?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Office of Energy has advised the Gas Pipeline Access Regulator in January 2000 that some material he has received in submissions may be covered by confidentiality commitments made at the time of the sale of the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline (DBNGP).
- (3) No.
- (4) The State, the Gas Corporation and Epic Energy agreed at the time of the sale of the DBNGP to maintain confidential some information relating to the sale. The State is honouring this agreement and expects Epic Energy and AlintaGas to do likewise.

#### AUSTRALIND BYPASS LAND, PURCHASE BY MR LEN BUCKERIDGE

2140. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Regional Development:

- (1) On how many occasions has the Minister met with Mr Len Buckeridge and discussed with him matters relevant

to the purchase by his company, BGC, of land on the Australind Bypass near Bunbury owned by the South West Development Commission?

- (2) What were the dates of all such meetings?
- (3) On how many occasions has the Minister held telephone conversations with Mr Len Buckeridge and discussed with him matters relevant to the purchase by his company, BGC, of land on the Australind Bypass near Bunbury owned by the South West Development Commission?
- (4) What were the dates of all such telephone conversations?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1)-(2) I have not met with Mr Buckeridge to discuss any matters relevant to the purchase of this land.
- (3) Three.
- (4) 22 December 1998, 15 March 1999, 19 April 1999.

#### SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, PAYMENTS TO GREG ROWE AND ASSOCIATES

2141. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Regional Development:

- (1) What is the total amount of all payments since the start of 1998 made to Greg Rowe and Associates by the South West Development Commission for planning or other services?
- (2) For each payment made to Greg Rowe and Associates over this period, what was -
  - (a) the amount paid;
  - (b) the date of payment;
  - (c) the service or work for which the payment was made; and
  - (d) the date on which the contract or assignment of such work was made to Greg Rowe and Associates?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) \$6,112.50.
- (2)
  - (i)
    - (a) \$1,800.
    - (b) March 19, 1999.
    - (c) Planning services.
    - (d) January 25, 1999.
  - (ii)
    - (a) \$4,012.50.
    - (b) June 11, 1999.
    - (c) Planning services.
    - (d) January 25, 1999.
  - (iii)
    - (a) \$300.
    - (b) September 13, 1999.
    - (c) Planning services.
    - (d) January 25, 1999.

#### ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL, CLEANING CONTRACT

2145. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) I refer to the cleaning contract at Royal Perth Hospital and ask the Minister, which company currently provides a cleaning service to Royal Perth Hospital?
- (2) When was the contract issued?
- (3) What is the value of the contract?
- (4) On what date is the contract to be renewed?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Royal Perth Hospital has contracts to provide cleaning services as follows:
 

Wellington Street Campus -	Spotless Services Limited
Shenton Park Campus -	Tempo Services Limited
- (2) The contracts were awarded as follows:
 

Spotless Services Limited	- November 1995
Tempo Services Limited	- August 1999
- (3) Total estimated value in actual dollars of the Spotless contract over the 5 year term is \$8.1M. Total estimated value of the Tempo contract over 5 years (2 year fixed term plus 3 x 1-year options) is \$3.5M. Note that the contract at Shenton Park includes ground maintenance, security and orderly services.
- (4) The Wellington Street contract will be re-tendered prior to expiry of the existing contract on 19 November 2000. The Shenton Park contract will be retendered prior to August 2004, subject to exercise of the 3 x 1-year options at the end of the 2-year fixed term.



## ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL, CLEANING CONTRACT

2146. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the company Health Safe Australia been contracted to undertake a review of the cleaning contract at Royal Perth Hospital?
- (2) If no, has any other company been contracted to do so?
- (3) If yes, how much will be paid to Health Safe Australia in total?
- (4) What is the precise nature of the review?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Healthsafe Australia has been engaged by RPH to provide expert technical input to preparation of tender documents for a new contract to replace the existing cleaning contract at Wellington Street Campus when it expires on 19 November 2000. The first stage of this process is a review of the existing contract document. In addition to this, Healthsafe has been engaged to conduct a series of independent expert audits of the standard of cleaning services provided by existing contractors at Shenton Park and Wellington Street Campuses.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Royal Perth Hospital has committed a total of \$20,700 for provision of these services.
- (4) The estimated value at current price levels of a new cleaning contract at Wellington Street Campus is estimated is \$9M over a five-year term. Due to the critical nature of cleaning in a hospital, expert assistance has been engaged to improve the standard of documentation in the next contract. This will reduce the cost to RPH of managing the contract while at the same time ensuring high levels of service are maintained. Along similar lines, independent third party auditing of cleaning standards has been introduced at RPH so that performance of cleaning contractors at each campus can be benchmarked against each other and against industry best practice.

## WOOROLOO PRISON HOSPITAL, CLOSURE

2149. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) I refer to Wooroloo Prison Hospital and ask the Minister, if a decision has been made to close Wooroloo Prison Hospital?
- (2) If so, on what date will it close?
- (3) If not, what are the Government's intentions in regard to this hospital?
- (4) What is the annual budget allocation for Wooroloo Prison Hospital?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Cabinet has approved the change management plan which was jointly developed by the Health Department and the Ministry of Justice for the phased transition of health services for community clients at Wooroloo prison hospital to community based care and the transfer of responsibility for prisoner health services from the Health Department of Western Australia to the Ministry of Justice.
- (2) Inpatient services at Wooroloo prison hospital will cease on the 20 May 2000 and outpatient services will continue to be provided from 8 am to 8 pm seven days a week.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The current annual allocation funded by Ministry of Justice and Health Department for Wooroloo Prison hospital is \$560,000.

## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ADVERTISING ON CHANNEL 31

2153. Mr BROWN to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

- (1) Has each department and agency under the Deputy Premier's control actively looked at placing Government advertising on Channel 31?
- (2) What amount of advertising does each department and agency plan to place with Channel 31 over the next six months?
- (3) Has each department and agency under the Deputy Premier's control spoken to Market force or any other Government advertisers about using Channel 31?
- (4) If not, will each department and agency have such discussions?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr COWAN replied:

Department of Commerce and Trade

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Department of Commerce and Trade is planning to spend at least \$15 000 on advertising on Channel 31. This includes expenditure for the Western Australian Industry and Export Awards and the Single Doorway to Government project.
- (3) Departmental officers have discussed the use of Channel 31 for advertising with representatives of MarketForce and Bowtell, Clarke and Yole (BCY).
- (4)-(5) Not applicable.

Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC)

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Small Business Development Corporation is planning to place further advertising with Channel 31 over the next few months. Advertising to the value of \$1 040 has been booked and further amounts will be placed as part of GST implementation and SBDC service promotion.
- (3) Yes.
- (4)-(5) Not applicable.

#### NURSES (KALGOORLIE-BOULDER HEALTH SERVICE) ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT

2174. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Government/Health Department/Northern Goldfields Health Service – Boulder Childcare Health Service entered into an enterprise agreement known as the Nurses (Kalgoorlie-Boulder Health Service) Enterprise Agreement 1999?
- (2) On what date did the enterprise agreement come into force?
- (3) Did the enterprise agreement provide for a wage increase?
- (4) Was the wage increase made retrospective?
- (5) From what date did the retrospective component for the wage increase operate from?
- (6) Did the Government agree to the retrospectivity?
- (7) If so, what were the reasons for agreeing to the retrospectivity?
- (8) Were nurses employed by the Northern Goldfields Health Service – Boulder Child Health Service after the certification of the enterprise agreement on the 4 August 1999 paid the wage increase and the retrospective component of the wage increase?
- (9) Are all nurses in the health service required to perform similar duties?
- (10) As at January 1999, was there any difference between the duties carried out by any nurses?
- (11) What were the differences in duties?
- (12) Did/does the difference in duties warrant a different pay rate?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) August 4, 1999.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Yes to existing employees only.
- (5) January 1, 1998.
- (6) Retrospectivity was awarded through the Consent Arbitration process.
- (7) Refer to 6.
- (8) Yes (If they were still employed with the Kalgoorlie Boulder Health Service on August 4, 1999).
- (9) No. (Different positions require the utilisation of generic and specialist skills. For example Infection Control Registered Nurse, Child Health Registered Nurse, Generalist Registered Nurse etc).
- (10) Yes. Refer to 9.

- (11) Refer to 9.
- (12) Pay rates are established as per years of experience and position grading.

#### KWINANA FERTILISER BLENDING PLANT, SOUTH AFRICAN WORKERS

2177. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared in *The Sunday Times* on 26 March 2000 concerning South African workers being engaged to build a Kwinana fertiliser blending plant?
- (2) Was the Department of Commerce and Trade, or any other State Government department, consulted about allowing South African workers to carry out this work?
- (3) What were the nature of the consultations?
- (4) Did the State Government, the Department of Commerce and Trade or any other Government Department express support for approval being given for the South African workers to carry out that work?
- (5) What was the nature of the support provided?
- (6) Is the Government aware of any reason why the work in question can not be carried out by Western Australian Workers?
- (7) If so, what is that reason?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am not aware of any consultations.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The Department of Commerce and Trade did not express support for approval being given for the South African workers to carry out the work. I am not aware of any other government department that did so.
- (5)-(7) Not applicable.

#### LOTFUS STREET WIDENING CONTRACT, COMPLAINTS

2179. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has Main Roads received any formal complaints over the awarding of the contract for the widening of Loftus Street?
- (2) If yes –
  - (a) who made these complaints;
  - (b) what were the basis of these complaints;
  - (c) when were the complaints lodged;
  - (d) did Main Roads take any action over these complaints;
  - (e) what action did Main Roads take; and
  - (f) what was the outcome of that action?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)
  - (a) Highway Construction Pty Ltd.
  - (b) Complaint alleged breach of contract tendering procedures.
  - (c) September 1998.
  - (d) Yes.
  - (e) Main Roads investigated the complaint. An independent review of the award process was also initiated by the Honourable Minister for Transport and undertaken by CAMS with the assistance from the State Supply Commission. It is understood that this review found no fundamental flaws in the assessment and recommendation process.
  - (f) The contract was awarded to the recommended tenderer.

#### DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND ENERGY, EXPENDITURE ON FUTURE ACT TITLE APPLICATIONS

2188. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

For the last five years, what has been the Department of Minerals and Energy's annual expenditure on -

- (a) mediation and negotiation of future act title applications; and
- (b) litigation in relation to future act applications?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (a) Expenditure by the Department of Minerals and Energy on mediation and negotiation of future act title applications in the last five years has been as follows:

1998/99 -	\$1 525 000
1997/98 -	\$1 390 000
1996/97 -	\$1 200 000
1995/96 -	\$ 300 000
1994/95 -	\$ 54 000

- (b) Nil. The Department of Minerals and Energy has a very limited involvement in litigation, which is handled on behalf of the Government by the Crown Solicitor's Office.

#### NATIVE TITLE APPLICATIONS, GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIONS

2190. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) How many native title applications in Western Australia are before the Federal Court for a determination?
- (2) In each case, is the State Government contesting the application?
- (3) If so, for each case what is the basis for the State's objection to the application?
- (4) Has the Government budgeted for this litigation and if so what amount and from what source?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) 151 native title determination applications are currently before the Federal Court.
- (2) Yes, and for each application the State Government applies its "General Guidelines, Native Title Determination Agreements" of March 2000.
- (3) Generally the State requires satisfactory proof of native title and that any such native title has not been extinguished.
- (4) The budget for the Crown Solicitor's Office on native title litigation for 2000/2001 is \$3,090,000.

#### NATIVE TITLE, MINES FUTURE ACT MATTERS

2199. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What is the total number of mines future act matters, for which the right to negotiate applies, on which negotiations have not yet commenced?
- (2) What is average time lapse between the determination that the right to negotiate applies and the start of negotiations?
- (3) What is the total number, and what percentage, of matters involved in the right to negotiate process have exceeded the minimum period of six months good faith negotiations and of these -
  - (a) how many have been resolved by negotiation;
  - (b) how many have been resolved by arbitration; and
  - (c) how many remain unresolved?
- (4) At 30 June for each financial year since 1994 -
  - (a) how many matters subject to the right to negotiate process remained unresolved;
  - (b) what is the breakdown of these in terms of mining, exploration or other types of applications;
  - (c) how many had yet to commence negotiations;
  - (d) what is the breakdown of these in terms of mining, exploration or other types of applications;
  - (e) how many had been negotiated in good faith for in excess of six months; and
  - (f) what is the breakdown of these in terms of mining, exploration or other types of applications?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) As at 30 April 2000 there were 4281 applications for mining and petroleum tenements on which negotiations involving the Department of Minerals and Energy (DME) had not yet commenced. All of these were advertised under section 29 of the Native Title Act and the closing period to lodge a claim had elapsed.
- (2) The information sought will involve an individual examination of each of 263 tenement applications currently the subject of good faith negotiations. I will arrange for this information to be provided to the Hon Member when an examination of the relevant files has been completed.
- (3) As at 30 April 2000 there are an estimated 4096 applications for mining and petroleum tenements in the right to negotiate process where there has been a period of at least six months from the section 29 advertising date. DME is currently involved in good faith negotiations on 263 of these tenements. Information requested for 3(a) (b) and (c) since commencement of the Native Title Act is as follows:

- (a) 360 mining tenements have been granted after agreement was reached between the parties and a State Deed was executed and lodged with the National Native Title Tribunal (Tribunal);
- (b) The Tribunal has resolved the outcome of 43 tenements through Determinations made under Section 35 of the Native Title Act;
- (c) There are approximately 130 titles that are currently under negotiation and that have exceeded the 6 month period of negotiations in good faith. This accounts for approximately 49% of the total of 263 tenements in negotiation.

(4)	Year (as at 30 June)	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
(a)	Subject to RTN (unresolved)	0	0	603	395	2466	2961
(b)	Exploration Licence	0	0	11	63	294	352
	General Purpose Lease	0	0	6	34	82	944
	Miscellaneous Licence	0	0	0	0	30	5
	Mining Lease	0	0	580	269	1981	1467
	Prospecting Licence	0	0	6	29	73	186
	Exploration Permit (Petroleum)	0	0	0	0	6	7
(c)	Yet to commence RTN	0	0	Not Available	Not Available	2326	2716
(d)	Exploration Licence	0	0	"	"	277	288
	General Purpose Lease	0	0	"	"	70	934
	Miscellaneous Licence	0	0	"	"	30	1
	Mining Lease	0	0	"	"	1876	1308
	Prospecting Licence	0	0	"	"	73	185
	Exploration Permit (Petroleum)	0	0	"	"	0	0
(e)		0	0	"	"	Not Available	120
(f)	Exploration Licence	0	0	"	"	Not Available	40
	Mining Lease	0	0	"	"	"	76
	Prospecting Licence	0	0	"	"	"	1
	Exploration Permit (Petroleum)	0	0	"	"	"	3

Notes: Historical data is not available for (c) (d) (e) and (f) as statistical data is not kept regarding these information categories.

The 1999 figure quoted regarding category (e) is an estimation only.

#### NATIVE TITLE APPLICATIONS, KINGSTREAM RESOURCES

2200. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) When did the Minister first become aware that Kingstream Resources was funding native title applications?
- (2) What steps did the Minister take to discourage this abuse of the native title process?
- (3) Has the Minister received representations from Kingstream Resources, its employees or office holders in relation to native title issues?
- (4) If so, when did these occur?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) In March 2000 following media reports.
- (2) The Government has consistently called for amendments to the Native Title Act not only to address issues of workability, but also to discourage divisions and disputes between claimant groups arising directly as a result of the flawed right to negotiate process.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.

#### NATIVE TITLE, PANDAWN AND MULLEWA-WADJARI CLAIMANTS

2201. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

How many future act applications remain subject to the right to negotiate with the -

- (a) Pandawn native title claimants; and
- (b) Mullewa-Wadjari native title claimants?
- (c) what is the breakdown of these applications in terms of mining, exploration or other types?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) (a) Nil.
- (b) 16.

- (2) The 16 applications referred to in 1(b) above comprise 9 exploration licences, 2 general purpose leases and 5 mining leases.

#### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, INQUIRY PROCEDURE

2211. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister of Education:

- (1) How does the Director-General choose whether to use a 135/136, 86A or a 7c inquiry procedure (from the Education Act 1928)?
- (2) Would a Primary School teacher ever be requested to work and/or teach at a high school level when they did not request to do so?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The Director-General considers the individual circumstances in exercising his decision-making powers to identify and apply the appropriate regulation in accordance with the 1928 Education Act and Regulations.
- (2) This situation may arise in a district high school. Although a teacher may have been appointed to a district high school as a primary teacher, the Principal may request the teacher to teach some time in the secondary area.

#### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, INQUIRIES BY MR KEN TRAINER

2212. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many 7c inquiries did the Education Department ask Mr Ken Trainer to do for them in 1998/99?
- (2) What are his qualifications?
- (3) How much has he been paid for each case?
- (4) Is his stated business phone number also his home phone number and do his children answer the phone?
- (5) What time frame was he initially given to complete the inquiry in each case?
- (6) How long in each case did he take?
- (7) If one case was more than 10 months, why was this so?
- (8) How much did this case cost or has it cost to date?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Six.
- (2) BA (Hons).  
LLB (2 units to complete).  
Economic units at UWA.  
Senior Industrial and State Secretary of employee organisations.  
Independent Inquirer and Industrial Advocate since 1987.  
Registered industrial agent pursuant to Industrial Relations Act 1979.  
Registered inquiry agent pursuant to Security and Related Activities (Control) Act 1996.  
Member of Independent Inquirers' Panel constituted by the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards.
- (3) Case    A:        \$ 731.25  
             B:        \$1 057.50  
             C:        \$2 500.00  
             D:        \$2 238.75  
             E:        \$2 943.75  
             F:        \$1 792.50
- (4) (a) Mr Trainer's home telephone number is one of three business telephone numbers.  
(b) Mr Trainer's adult children answer the home telephone number.
- (5) The Director-General includes in the letter of appointment a time frame for completion of a Disciplinary Inquiry. So far as is possible, the Inquirer is expected to meet the time frame established by the Director-General. The Director-General accepts that time frames are estimates, and for numerous reasons, time lines need to be extended. In the above cases Mr Trainer was given the following time frames:
- Case    A:        5 working days  
             B:        11 working days  
             C:        25 working days  
             D:        8 working days  
             E:        19 working days  
             F:        11 working days
- In each case, Mr Trainer advised of delays in his Inquiries.
- (6) Case    A:        approximately 4 months  
             B:        approximately 4 months  
             C:        approximately 6 weeks

D: approximately 13 months  
 E: approximately 4.5 months  
 F: approximately 3 weeks

- (7) Mr Trainer's appointment and commencement of Inquiry was 23 December 1998. Due to the summer vacation, Mr Trainer was unable to interview the employee, Principal, other staff, parents and students for an extended period. For 5 months the employee involved refused to be personally interviewed by Mr Trainer. Further time delays were experienced due to the matter being conducted through a third party – the employee's representatives.
- (8) \$2 238.75.

#### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, DR ZELKO MUSTAC

2217. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many times has the Education Department used Dr Zelko Mustac to provide information and opinions on Education Department employees, in workers compensation claims, in the last 10 years?
- (2) How much has he been paid in total since he began providing reports for EDWA?
- (3) In how many instances has he found in favour of the Education Department employee in the claims?
- (4) What percentage does this represent?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) RiskCover, (and previously the State Government Insurance Commission [SGIC], the Education Department's insurer, has used Dr Zelko Mustac on 326 occasions in the past 10 years to provide information and opinions relating to workers' compensation claims involving Department employees. Dr Mustac is not contracted by the Education Department.
- (2) \$125 725 has been paid to Dr Mustac by RiskCover and SGIC in the 10 year period for information and opinions relating to workers' compensation claims involving Education Department employees.
- (3)-(4) I am not prepared to agree to a dedicated resource retrieving 326 files (many in archives) to manually extract opinions and information to determine, if it is possible, whether Dr Mustac has found in favour of the Education Department employee.

#### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, REMOVAL OF FOLIOS FROM PERSONAL FILES

2218. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does each employee in the Education Department have a personal file?
- (2) Are folio's ever removed from it?
- (3) If so, by whom and what is the procedure to show folio's have been removed?
- (4) Are there instances where these procedures have not been followed and why?
- (5) How much money is allocated to schools by the Education Department for Professional Development Purposes?
- (6) Do schools allocate each teacher some of this money for their own professional development use and choice of development?
- (7) Who is responsible for monitoring the way each school uses their Professional Development Days, both in content and the money spent?
- (8) Did Deanmore Primary School use some of the first day of Term 3, 1998 to teach the staff to play the gambling game of Black Jack?
- (9) If so, was the District Director, Ms Jan Little, aware of this?
- (10) Is the Education Department aware of this, and what if anything, has been done about it?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes. Current employees of the Education Department have individual personal files.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Folios are removed by authorised personnel. A note or a form is inserted in the file to indicate why the folios were removed.
- (4) There are no recorded instances of procedures not being followed.
- (5) The total amount for professional development and training allocated in this financial year was \$7.1 million.

- (6) Each school allocates professional development funds to individual staff members, teams or departments and for whole school professional needs.
- (7) The Principal has the responsibility for monitoring, planning and evaluating the effectiveness of whole school professional development days.
- (8) Deanmore Primary School planned an extensive professional development program for the first day of Term 3 1998. All staff participated in planning and reviewing major Education Department of Western Australia initiatives and their impact on the Deanmore Primary School teaching and learning program. As a midway break from the intensity of the day alternative activities were planned. Games were planned as icebreakers and as a change to the routine of the presentations. The card game was included in those relaxation activities.
- (9) Ms Jan Little, District Director of Perth Education District, was not aware of the detail of each icebreaker activity planned for this day. It was a Deanmore Primary School Professional Development Day planned and implemented to meet the professional development needs of the school staff members and aligned to their School Plan.
- (10) The Education Department of Western Australia is not aware of the detail of each of Professional Development day, which each school plans and implements according to their individual School Plan. Each Principal, and indeed each staff member, is responsible for their participation in the planning and implementation of appropriate professional development days. The purpose of each Professional Development day is to work together on gaining new knowledge, skills and understandings to achieve improved student learning.

#### SCHOOL, BINNINGUP

2219. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Education Department aware of the growth in population and the latest subdivision at Binningup?
- (2) How many primary school and pre-primary school children are currently bussed from Binningup to school?
- (3) Has any investigation, or study, been undertaken recently into the need for a primary school at Binningup?
- (4) If yes, what was the conclusion?
- (5) If no, will the Education Department undertake a survey to establish whether there is a need, or not, for a primary school at Binningup?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The Education Department is aware of relatively steady growth in the Binningup area and has noted an increase of 20 students over the last four years being bussed from Binningup to school.
- (2) The school bus from Binningup to Parkfield Primary School in Australind currently carries a total of 80 pre-primary and primary students to the following schools:
  - 69 students to Parkfield Primary School;
  - 9 students to Leschenault Catholic Primary School;
  - 1 student to Australind Primary School; and
  - 1 student to Unity Christian School.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) At this stage there is no need to undertake a survey as the number of students being bussed from Binningup is insufficient to warrant the establishment of a new school. Should it be necessary, the provision of transportable classrooms is expected to enable Parkfield Primary School to serve Binningup for the foreseeable future.

#### ROADS, NOISE BARRIERS

2220. Mr PENDAL to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the product "Plexiglas Soundstop" barriers - the transparent, curved clear plastic barriers manufactured by the Western Australian company Camerons Select Products to reduce noise pollution?
- (2) Has there been any decision made from the discussion of the proposal by Camerons Select Products with Main Roads to use the transparent noise barriers?
- (3) Considering the increasing traffic utilising the Kwinana Freeway, will the Minister consider trials to use this noise reduction product as part of the road development?
- (4) Are such noise pollution prevention schemes, similar to those used in Europe, Asia and in the eastern states, being considered in future road developments such as the Reid Highway?



Mr COWAN replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)-(3) Noise modelling forecasts carried out for the Narrows Bridge Duplication project have predicted that there will be negligible increase in noise levels currently experienced at this location. On this basis, noise reduction measures are considered unnecessary at this time. However, noise measurements will be undertaken at the completion of the project to confirm these predictions and should the testing show that noise has increased significantly, appropriate measures will be adopted by Main Roads.
- (4) Yes. Noise impact studies are undertaken for new road projects near residential areas and suitable noise prevention schemes are included where required.

#### OFFENDER REHABILITATION, EXPENDITURE

2225. Dr CONSTABLE to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) What has been the annual expenditure on offender rehabilitation for each year since 1992?
- (2) What effort has the Government made to evaluate the effectiveness of rehabilitation program(s) in preventing future offences?
- (3) What new initiatives, if any, has the present Government introduced for the rehabilitation of repeat offenders?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Ministry of Justice was formed on July 1 1993 and financial data prior to this date is not available from the current financial management information system. The annual expenditure on offender rehabilitation for each year is based on best available figures owing to various changes in accounting systems and processes, as follows:

(1)	Prison Services*	Juvenile Custodial	Community Based**
	1993/94 \$2,821,155	\$1,752,378	\$166,000
	1994/95 \$3,596,382	\$2,865,800	\$256,000
	1995/96 \$3,989,116	\$2,707,500	\$273,000
	1996/97 \$5,808,016	\$2,027,860	\$1,183,432
	1997/98 \$8,119,159	\$2,019,820	\$2,154,090
	1998/99 \$7,953,600	\$2,402,431	\$2,614,493
	1999/00 \$8,134,769***		

\*Offender rehabilitation includes expenditure for sex offender treatment, substance use, alternatives to violence, and education and vocational training programs.

\*\*Community Based Services expenditure does not include the rehabilitation component of the daily work of field Juvenile Justice Officers and Community Corrections Officers. It does include Warminda, Domestic Violence Programs, and the Court Diversion Service.

\*\*\* (Expenditure to 30 April 2000)

- (2) There have been five reviews of program effectiveness of the Sex Offender Treatment Programs over the past five years. Professor Greenburg will be commencing an extensive review of the Sex Offender Treatment Program, including a recidivism study, during May 2000. The Skills Training for Aggression Control Program is currently being evaluated and will be completed late 2000. Reviews took place of:  
Camp Kurli Murri Work Camp  
Treatment of Juvenile Sex Offenders  
Effectiveness of Individual Psychological Intervention  
Victim-offender Mediation Unit (1997)  
Fremantle Police Diversion Project (1998) - vulnerable offenders eg Intellectually/psychiatrically challenged.  
Young Offenders Act 1994 - Juvenile Justice Teams (1998)  
Warminda Intensive Intervention Centre (1998)  
Aboriginal Family Supervision Program (1998)  
Release Planning Unit (ex PCTP) (1998)  
Community Based Supervision of Remote area Aboriginal Offenders (1999)  
Case Management Options for CCOs (1999)
- (3) There are no specific prison programs for repeat offenders. However, where appropriate repeat offenders are given priority for existing programs. A cognitive skills program has recently been purchased that will have direct application for repeat offenders. Introduction of the program for prisoners will commence during January 2001. Banksia Hill Detention Centre's design, environment and program initiatives meet high standards for the management of young people in custody. Programs at the Centre include:  
Integrated Case Management for all young offenders  
Educational Programs  
Vocational Training Programs  
Work Programs  
Life Skills and Health Programs  
Therapeutic Programs  
Recreational Programs

Core Skills Programs  
 Reparation Programs  
 Day Release Program

Warminda Intensive Intervention Centre was opened on 28 February 1997 for persistent offenders in the 16-21 year old age group. The Aboriginal Family Supervision Program was introduced in 1996/7. The program aims to reduce the re-offending rate among young Aboriginal people between the ages of 16 and 21, by encouraging families to assist young offenders. The Release Planning Unit was introduced in March 1997 whereby Senior Community Corrections Officers are based in prisons to target high risk offenders to assist prisoners' transition from prison to the community. Extension of the Rural Placement Program diverts young offenders 16 – 21 provides opportunities for young offenders to gain supervised work experience on pastoral stations. Community Based Services introduced an intensive management regime for 'Special Risk' offenders aimed at strict and intrusive intervention. They are the subject of co-ordinated planning with other key agencies in the criminal justice system. An accommodation program for frequent offenders is a joint agency initiative which offers furnished emergency accommodation.

LIVING WATERS LUTHERAN SCHOOL, WARNBRO

2227. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister for Education:

I refer to the Living Waters Lutheran School in Warnbro and ask -

- (a) how many loans under the low interest loans scheme has the School applied for;
- (b) which loans have not been approved as yet;
- (c) which loans have not been passed on to the School as yet;
- (d) when will these loans be passed on to the School;
- (e) what is the value of these loans;
- (f) what has been the reason for any delay;
- (g) what is the future of the low interest loan scheme for private schools;
- (h) how much is budgeted for the 1999/2000 financial year for the low interest loan scheme; and
- (i) will the Government be continuing with the low interest loan scheme?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (a) Three loans: \$525 000 for site purchase and Stage 1; \$305 000 for Stage 2; \$906 000 for Stage 3.
- (b)-(c) Loans for Stages 2 and 3.
- (d) The funds for Stage 2 will be provided in July 2000, subject to completion of the project assessment. It is not known when the funds will be provided for Stage 3; this is dependent on the availability of sufficient funds.
- (e) \$305 000 for Stage 2; \$906 000 for Stage 3.
- (f) The assessment for both projects has not been finalised and is dependent on the provision of further cost details by the school.
- (g) The future of the Low Interest Loan Scheme is assured in the 2000/2001 budget and in the budget estimates for the outyears.
- (h) \$26.5 million.
- (i) Yes.

HOSPITALS, COMMUNITY BASED MIDWIFERY PROGRAM

2228. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Which public hospitals participate in the community based midwifery program, offering back up support if a program midwife needs to admit their client to hospital?
- (2) Are there any plans under consideration to expand this program?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Woodside Hospital, as part of Fremantle Hospital and Health Service, and Armadale Health Service participate in the community based midwifery program, which includes admission of the prospective mother to hospital, by their general practitioner, for the delivery if necessary. At the time of admission, the care of the prospective mother is taken on by staff employed by the Hospital, who may or may not be the midwife who has been providing community based care.

- (2) The program was initially established in 1996 from the Alternative Birthing Service Program, a Commonwealth initiative. The program was limited to 70 home births in the South Metropolitan area. In 1999 the State funded an expansion of the program from 70 births to 150 home births. This has enabled Community Midwives Inc. to expand the program to other suburbs in the metropolitan area. The State funding to expand this program recognises the need to offer women and their families birthing choices. The funding will continue in 2000/01.

#### REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, RELOCATION FEASIBILITY SCHEME

2247. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Regional Development:

- (1) What is the purpose of the Relocation Feasibility Scheme?
- (2) What was the total budget expenditure for the Relocation Feasibility Scheme for the following financial years –
- (a) 1996/97;
  - (b) 1997/98;
  - (c) 1998/99; and
  - (d) estimate for 1999/00?
- (3) What are the forward estimates for the Scheme for the following three financial years –
- (a) 2000/01;
  - (b) 2001/02; and
  - (c) 2002/03?
- (4) Since 1996, have any Perth businesses relocated to regional Western Australia as a result of the Scheme?
- (5) If the answer to (4) is yes –
- (a) will the Minister provide a list of the businesses that have relocated;
  - (b) on what date did the businesses relocate;
  - (c) to which towns or regions did the businesses relocate;
  - (d) what was the cost to the Scheme of each business that has relocated as a result of the Scheme; and
  - (e) how many jobs have been created as a consequence of the relocation?
- (6) If the answer to (4) is no, why not?
- (7) Has there been any evaluation of the Scheme, and if so –
- (a) by whom;
  - (b) on what date;
  - (c) what were the findings of the evaluation; and
  - (d) will the Minister table this report?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) The aim of the Regional Relocation Feasibility Scheme is to provide financial assistance to existing manufacturing, value adding, advanced technology or service based businesses wishing to investigate the feasibility of options to:
- Totally relocate operations from Perth to a regional area as defined in the Regional Development Commissions Act (1993); or  
partially relocate operations from Perth to a regional area; or  
expand operations by establishing a new regional facility as opposed to the expansion of their current Perth premises.
- (2) (a) \$665.00  
(b) \$709.73  
(c) \$10,978.36  
(d) \$57,464.53
- (3) (a) \$52,000  
(b) \$52,000  
(c) \$52,000
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) After examining the feasibility of relocating the companies, it was decided it was not commercially viable, or in their best interests, to do so.
- (7) No.

#### REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, INDUSTRY RELOCATION SCHEME

2248. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Regional Development:

- (1) What is the purpose of the Industry Relocation Scheme?

- (2) What was the total budget expenditure for the Industry Relocation Scheme for the following financial years –
- 1996/97;
  - 1997/98;
  - 1998/99; and
  - estimate for 1999/00?
- (3) What are the forward estimates for the Scheme for the following three financial years –
- 2000/01;
  - 2001/02; and
  - 2002/03?
- (4) Since 1996, have any Perth businesses relocated to regional Western Australia as a result of the Scheme?
- (5) If the answer to (4) is yes –
- will the Minister provide a list of the businesses that have relocated;
  - on what date did the businesses relocate;
  - to which towns or regions did the businesses relocate;
  - what was the cost to the Scheme of each business that has relocated as a result of the Scheme; and
  - how many jobs have been created as a consequence of the relocation?
- (6) If the answer to (4) is no, why not?
- (7) Has there been any evaluation of the Scheme, and if so –
- by whom;
  - on what date;
  - what were the findings of the evaluation; and
  - will the Minister table this report?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) The Industry Relocation Scheme aims to provide financial incentives to existing manufacturing, value adding, advanced technology or service based businesses wishing to:
- totally relocate operations from Perth to a regional area as defined in the Regional Development Commissions Act (1993); or
- partially relocate operations from Perth to a regional area; or
- expand operations by establishing a new regional facility as opposed to the expansion of their current Perth premises.
- (2) (a)-(c) Nil.  
(d) There has been no expenditure to date.
- (3) Future expenditure for the Scheme will depend on the number of applications and the level of assistance sought by eligible applicants. As assistance is provided on a case by case basis, it is not possible to provide reliable forward estimates.
- (4) One company has relocated from Perth to Wooroloo.
- (5) As the legal agreement with the company is still being finalised, this information cannot be released at this time. Details of the assistance provided will be tabled in Parliament at the appropriate time.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) No.

#### REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

2249. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Regional Development:

- (1) Apart from the Relocation Feasibility Scheme and the Industry Relocation Scheme, does the Government have any special programs to assist businesses to relocate from Perth to regional areas?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is yes –
- what is this program;
  - on what date was the program established;
  - what is the program's budget allocation for the 1999/00 financial year; and
  - what are the forward estimates for the program for each of the following financial years –
- 2000/01;
  - 2001/02; and
  - 2002/03?
- (3) Have any businesses relocated to regional Western Australia as a result of the program?
- (4) If the answer to (3) is yes –

- (a) will the Minister provide a list of the businesses that have relocated;
- (b) on what date did the businesses relocate;
- (c) to which towns or regions did the businesses relocate;
- (d) what was the cost to the program of each business that has relocated as a result of the program; and
- (e) how many jobs have been created as a consequence of the relocation?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE CENTRE, CRISIS CARE

2251. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Health:

- (1) With respect to the core business objectives of the Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC), how is crisis defined?
- (2) Does an advocacy role fall within SARC's definition of crisis care?
- (3) If yes to (2), how is this advocacy role implemented in the context of crisis care from first contact with the client?
- (4) In quantitative terms, how does SARC differentiate between -
  - (a) contemporaneous sexual assault;
  - (b) recent sexual assault; and
  - (c) past sexual assault?
- (5) Given that Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is defined within the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV (DSMIV), does the delayed onset of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder resulting from past sexual assault fall within SARC's definition of crisis?
- (6) If not, why not?
- (7) If yes to (5), what specific services does SARC offer such clients?
- (8) Does the Minister accept that the reluctance of some victims of past sexual assault to disclose their circumstances contemporaneously is often a symptom of the psychological damage sustained and a defence against the abuse experienced?
- (9) If not, why not?
- (10) With respect to clients who have suffered past sexual assault, what was -
  - (a) the shortest waiting time;
  - (b) the longest waiting time; and
  - (c) the average waiting time;
 for clients to access the services of SARC's Clinical Psychologist in -
  - (i) 1998; and
  - (ii) 1999?
- (11) With respect to clients who have suffered recent sexual assault, what was -
  - (a) the shortest waiting time;
  - (b) the longest waiting time; and
  - (c) the average waiting time;
 for clients to access the services of SARC's Clinical Psychologist in -
  - (i) 1998; and
  - (ii) 1999?
- (12) With respect to clients who have suffered contemporaneous sexual assault, what was-
  - (a) the shortest waiting time;
  - (b) the longest waiting time; and
  - (c) the average waiting time;
 for clients to access the services of SARC's Clinical Psychologist in -
  - (a) 1998; and
  - (b) 1999?
- (13) What limits are placed on the services of SARC's clinical psychologist for victims of-
  - (a) past sexual assault;
  - (b) recent sexual assault; and
  - (c) contemporaneous sexual assault?
- (14) What proportion of the inquiries to SARC related to -

- (a) contemporaneous sexual assault;
- (b) recent sexual assault; and
- (c) past sexual assault,

in -

- (i) 1998; and
- (ii) 1999?

(15) What proportion of SARC's counselling services related to -

- (a) contemporaneous sexual assault;
- (b) recent sexual assault; and
- (c) past sexual assault,

in -

- (i) 1998; and
- (ii) 1999?

(16) What proportion of the services provided by clinical psychologists in SARC related to -

- (a) contemporaneous sexual assault;
- (b) recent sexual assault; and
- (c) past sexual assault,

in -

- (i) 1998; and
- (ii) 1999?

(17) What proportion of SARC's clients diagnosed as having been the victims of -

- (a) past sexual assault;
- (b) recent sexual assault; and
- (c) contemporaneous sexual assault,

have received crimes compensation?

(18) What services do SARC offer to victims of -

- (a) past sexual assault;
- (b) recent sexual assault; and
- (c) contemporaneous sexual assault,

who want to apply for crimes compensation?

(19) How many of SARC's medical staff are qualified to diagnose mental disorders arising from or relating to sexual assault?

(20) What proportion of time did medical staff spend with victims of -

- (a) past sexual assault;
- (b) recent sexual assault;
- (c) contemporaneous sexual assault;

in -

- (i) 1998; and
- (ii) 1999?

(21) What proportion of victims of -

- (a) past sexual assault;
- (b) recent sexual assault; and
- (c) contemporaneous sexual assault,

applied for inclusion in SARC support groups in -

- (i) 1998; and
- (ii) 1999?

(22) What proportion of victims of -

- (a) past sexual assault;
- (b) recent sexual assault; and
- (c) contemporaneous sexual assault,

participated in SARC support groups in -

- (i) 1998; and
- (ii) 1999?

- (23) Are SARC's support groups run by a Clinical Psychologist?
- (24) If not, why not?
- (25) Are SARC support groups that are not run by a Clinical Psychologist considered to be-
  - (a) therapeutic; and/or
  - (b) treatment?
- (26) When did SARC last redefine its working definition of 'crisis'?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) SARC offers medical, forensic and counselling services. In medical and forensic terms, a crisis response is made in relation to a client who has been sexually assaulted in the last 10 days. In counselling terms, crisis is defined in response to the needs of the client. A client in crisis may have been recently sexually assaulted, may be suffering severely from the delayed onset of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or have other psychological disturbances.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) From first contact, people who have recently been sexually assaulted are provided with information about appropriate medical and forensic services, to allow choice. They are offered immediate short term counselling and advocacy in legal and practical matters. Other people in crisis in relation to sexual abuse / assault can access the 24 hour telephone counselling service and individual counselling / psychotherapy.
- (4) (a)-(c) The counselling service assesses the needs of clients in relation to their experiences of childhood sexual abuse and the sexual assault they may have experienced or, on rare occasions, may still be experiencing as adults. SARC does not use the term 'contemporaneous sexual assault' and assumes that this is the situation the term alludes to. SARC keeps statistical records of the issues of childhood sexual abuse and adult sexual assault for which clients are seeking services.
- (5) It may do. Some clients may be experiencing the delayed onset of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and not have such a severe psychological disturbance to be considered in crisis.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) SARC offers an immediate response. Clients can access the 24 hour telephone counselling service and individual counselling / psychotherapy. Group programs are also available.
- (8) Yes.
- (9) Not applicable.
- (10)-(12) Of the clients who saw a clinical psychologist between 1 July 1999 and 31 March 2000 and for whom waitlist data is available
  - (a) the shortest waiting time was less than one week
  - (b) the longest waiting time was 20 weeks
  - (c) the average waiting time was 5.6 weeks

Separate waitlist data is not available for the three categories of clients articulated in each of these questions. The clinical psychologist almost always sees victims of past sexual assault.
- (13) SARC offer a time limited service so that the clinical psychologist can see the maximum number of clients. The length of service depends on the client need.
- (14) From July 1999 – March 2000 there were 11,253 phone inquiries taken by the SARC duty counsellors. The proportion of these calls relating to (a), (b) and (c) were not recorded. Some of the calls were from other professionals and other agencies. There are no figures that can be validated prior to July 1999.
- (15) An internal survey was done in Nov 1999 to provide a snapshot of the number of counselling clients in relation to the different issues for which they were presenting. This survey included clients attending SARC from January 1999 to November 1999, 90% of counselling staff participated.  
 21% presented with both childhood sexual abuse and sexual assault issues  
 42% presented solely with childhood sexual abuse issues  
 37% presented solely with sexual assault issues
- (16) The clinical psychologist almost always sees victims of past sexual assault. If this was to be determined in percentages it would be somewhere in the region of 97% past sexual assault, 3% recent sexual assault. These 3% include persons with severe issues relating to earlier sexual trauma.
- (17) SARC is not officially notified if clients receive compensation. SARC understands that in all cases where a conviction is recorded against a perpetrator, compensation is awarded. In 1998, 37 Criminal Injuries Compensation Reports were completed. In 1999 to date, 30 were completed.

- (18) SARC doctors, counsellors and the clinical psychologist complete assessments and prepare reports as appropriate. This may entail the client attending up to three sessions specifically to prepare this report. Clients as defined above, (a), (b) and (c) have not been recorded separately.
- (19) All SARC doctors are either presently working in or have considerable past experience in General Practice. The diagnosis and management of psychiatric illness (including appropriate referral to specialists) is a significant part of a General Practitioners routine work.
- (20) In 1998, past sexual assault 12%  
                     recent sexual assault 83%  
                     non-clinical 5%  
       In 1999, past sexual assault 19%  
                     recent sexual assault 76%  
                     non-clinical 5%
- (21) (i) 18.5% (278 people out of 1500)  
       (ii) 4.2% ( 69 people out of 1644)
- (22) (i) 18% (270 people out of 1500)  
       (ii) 4.1% ( 67 people out of 1644)
- (23) No.
- (24) Because the staff member who conducts the groups is a skilled and experienced group facilitator in the areas of sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse.
- (25) The groups are considered to have a treatment focus in the sense that they are run for a limited number of sessions and have a set program. The groups can have therapeutic implications for some of the people who attend. Clients are eligible to use other services at the end of the group program if they wish.
- (26) Within the current review process the definition of 'crisis' is dynamic. In the medical service 'crisis' is seen as time limited, and that is driven by the demands of the collection of forensic evidence. In the counselling service, 'crisis' is specifically related to the psychological / emotional needs of the client.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, TRIBUNALS AND BOARDS WITH ADJUDICATIVE FUNCTIONS

2253. Mr RIPPER to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

- (1) Will the Deputy Premier identify each of the tribunals and boards with adjudicative functions under the Deputy Premier's portfolios?
- (2) For each tribunal and board –
- who are the current members;
  - how much remuneration is each member paid;
  - how many matters did it adjudicate on in 1999;
  - how many matters has it adjudicated on in 2000;
  - how long is the waiting list for matters to be adjudicated;
  - does it have any non-adjudicative functions; and
  - if yes to (f), please list these non-adjudicative functions?
- (3) For each tribunal and board, what was the total budget expenditure for the financial years–
- 1996/97;
  - 1997/98;
  - 1998/99; and
  - estimate for 1999/00?
- (4) For each tribunal and board, what are the forward estimates for each of the next three financial years?
- (5) Do any of these tribunals and boards have the power to hear cases in regional and remote areas?
- (6) If the answer to (5) is yes –
- which boards and tribunals have this power; and
  - for each of these boards and tribunals, which towns and areas are they able to visit?
- (7) If the answer to (5) is no, why not?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) There are no tribunals or boards with adjudicative functions within the Commerce and Trade portfolio.
- (2)-(7) Not applicable.



## WEED SPRAY CONTAINING CHEMICAL 245T, HEALTH EFFECTS

2274. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does the Health Department have any information or research on the effects of people constantly using and/or exposed to weed spray containing the chemical 245T?
- (2) Does this information or research identify the health effects of using this chemical and the weed spray containing it?
- (3) What are the health effects so identified?
- (4) Has the use of this chemical in weed spray programs contributed to the ultimate death of some individuals?
- (5) If so, what were the circumstances?
- (6) If not, is it capable of causing -
  - (a) disability; and/or
  - (b) death?
- (7) Does the Health Department have information or research on the health effects of using weed sprays?
- (8) What are the general conclusions of that research in terms of the type of sprays that cause or may cause -
  - (a) a disability of some type; and/or
  - (b) death?
- (9) Is there any research that supports the view that a person constantly using weed spray may be susceptible to some form of illness and/or disability?
- (10) What is the nature of that research and what are the findings?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) 2,4,5-T is moderately toxic. Signs of poisoning include: eye, skin and respiratory tract irritation; headache; dizziness; nausea; muscular pain; fatigue; dyspnoea; nervousness and irritability. Decreased libido and intolerance to cold have also been reported after an industrial accident. Ingestion can cause gastroenteritis and injury to the central nervous system, muscle, kidney and liver. Chloracne has been reported both after acute intoxication and longer term exposure.
- (4) No. I am not aware of any deaths in Western Australia directly or indirectly associated with the use of this chemical in weed spray programs.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) Yes. As with a large number of chemicals, accidental or intentional poisoning can cause adverse health effects, including death. However, it can be used safely if used in accordance with the registered label.
- (7) Yes. Information is available from the published scientific literature and assessment of manufacturer's research submitted to the National Registration Authority (a Commonwealth instrumentality) in support of registration. Each registered herbicide (weed spray) has a registered label, which contains, *inter alia*, a classification of the hazardous nature of the herbicide and information on conditions for use, application rates, any requirement for protective clothing and first aid and safety directions, all based on the scientific research.
- (8) Herbicides can be used safely provided they are used according to the registered label instructions. If the instructions are not followed, the risk of harm increases depending on how much one deviates from the instructions.
- (9) Yes. The registration process considers any potential adverse effects from continued use of pesticides. If adverse effects are identified, the chemical may not be registered or may be registered conditional on appropriate safety measures being taken during use and application, which would be reflected in the information on the registered label.
- (10) Research includes chemical, toxicological and epidemiological studies. The findings, in general, are that adverse effects depend on the nature of the chemical, the amount to which one is exposed, the duration and nature of exposure, and, in some cases, the characteristics of the person or animal exposed.

## REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT, TOURISM PROJECTS

2286. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

Will the Minister advise of the current status of the following tourism projects announced as part of the Regional Forest Agreement -

- (a) \$2 million for a tourist attraction in the Donnelly River Valley;
- (b) \$2 million for three eco-lodge camping and chalet sites;
- (c) \$1 million for a scenic drive in Pemberton;
- (d) \$1 million for tourism development at Wellington Dam; and
- (e) \$2 million for sealing Mowen Road between Nannup and Margaret River.

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (a) A public ideas competition has been conducted seeking suggestions for the forest icon project. A judging panel has reviewed more than 70 submissions. An announcement of winners is expected by the end of May. The ideas submitted will be incorporated into an expressions of interest currently being developed.
- (b) A study has been undertaken for the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) and the Western Australian Tourism Commission (WATC) into public expectations of eco accommodation. The findings of that research are guiding the identification of potential sites.
- (c) Work has commenced on the forest drive. Upgrading of visitor facilities has been undertaken at Beedelup National Park and planning for upgrading Warren National Park is in progress. The public consultation process is continuing and will assist in determining the final route to be taken through the attractions.
- (d) Arrangements are being pursued to establish the Wellington National Park. A planning process will be initiated for visitor facilities once management arrangements are finalised.
- (e) Construction work has commenced on the road which will be progressively upgraded under the management of the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River with assistance from the Nannup Shire

#### STAMP DUTY ON TRUCK SALES

2296. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

What stamp duty did the State collect from truck sales in the -

- (a) 1997/98 financial year;
- (b) 1998/99 financial year; and
- (c) 1999/2000 financial year (so far)?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a) \$574 605.00
- (b) \$235 500.00
- (c) \$104 562.40

Figures are based on trucks being heavy rigid vehicles or prime movers with a Mass Rating for Charging greater than 4 500 kilograms.

#### ABC SHORTWAVE SERVICE, SALE

2297. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Federal Government is contemplating transferring or selling the ABC shortwave service to remote areas that was vacated some five or six years ago?
- (2) Is the Minister/Government aware of any attempts by World Radio Missionary Fellowship or any other like group to acquire this shortwave service?
- (3) Has that Fellowship or any other like or similar organisation had any discussions with the State Government or any of its members about the possibility of this shortwave service being acquired by it?
- (4) What organisations have been involved?
- (5) What is the nature of the representations that have been made to the State Government?
- (6) What is the nature of any understanding/agreement/negotiation between that entity and the State and Federal Governments?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) I am aware that the transmitters located at Hamersley, which were used for the ABC shortwave service to remote areas, have been dismantled. I have also been informed that the Commonwealth is attempting to sell a transmitter in the Northern Territory that was used by Radio Australia.
- (2) No.
- (3)-(6) Not applicable.

## LOCKRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLEANING CONTRACT

2298. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Government let a contract to clean the Lockridge Primary School?
- (2) On what date was the contract let?
- (3) What is the contractor's name?
- (4) On the date that the contract was entered into, what was the contract price?
- (5) Has the contract price altered since that date?
- (6) If so on-
  - (a) what dates, and
  - (b) by what amounts?
- (7) Has the contract been altered since it was entered into?
- (8) What is the present contract price?
- (9) When does the contract expire?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Awarded 28 September 1996.
- (3) Western Office Pty Ltd.
- (4) \$65 620.47
- (5) Yes.
- (6) (a) 28 September 1998.  
(b) Commercial-in-Confidence.\*
- (7) No. The contract is for three years and was reviewed at the end of the second year. Provision for this is included in the contract terms.
- (8) Commercial-in-Confidence.\*
- (9) 27 September 2000.

\* Not released due to contractual obligation and State Supply Commission Policy.

## CONSUMER CREDIT LEGAL SERVICE, FUNDING

2304. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Fair Trading:

- (1) Has the Minister received a letter from the Salvation Army (Morley Citadel Corps) supporting the Government providing stable, recurrent funding to the Consumer Credit Legal Service?
- (2) In that letter did the Salvation Army state that the Consumer Credit Legal Service had for many years provided a critical service for customers of credit and meets an important community need to access effective legal assistance for credit, banking and financial matters?
- (3) Did the Salvation Army also point out that in its financial counselling it received advice and support from the Consumer Credit Legal Service and on many occasions it would not be able to help such people without access to this type of legal assistance?
- (4) In light of this representation and others, will the Minister ensure that the Consumer Credit Legal Service is provided with stable, recurrent funding to enable it to operate?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1)-(3) Yes.
- (4) The Ministry of Fair Trading has a service delivery agreement with the Consumer Credit Legal Service (CCLS) which is due for renewal at the end of May this year. I understand that the Chief Executive of the Ministry has already made arrangements to meet with the Principal Solicitor of the CCLS to discuss the issues surrounding renewal of the agreement for a further 12 months. I am keen to ensure that the CCLS secures sufficient funding to provide for its future existence. I have therefore asked the Ministry to examine ways in which the CCLS could secure appropriate funding.
- (5) Not applicable.

## JOONDALUP HEALTH CAMPUS, CHEMOTHERAPY SERVICES

2307. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does the Joondalup Health Campus provide public patients diagnosed with cancer access to chemotherapy at Joondalup Health Campus?
- (2) If yes, is this free or are patients billed for the life saving treatment?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Public patients are not billed for chemotherapy services provided in the hospital.

## PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, HYDROTHERAPY POOL

2308. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the hydrotherapy pool at Princess Margaret Hospital and ask -

- (a) what staff positions are attached to this pool;
- (b) are these positions substantively filled;
- (c) is it true that the incumbent has resigned;
- (d) will the position be filled;
- (e) if so, when;
- (f) how many patients use the pool weekly; and
- (g) what else is the pool being used for?

Mr DAY replied:

- (a) The position of Physiotherapy Assistant is the only position attached to the hydrotherapy pool and complex. (PMHKEMH Position number 000110).
- (b)-(d) Yes.
- (e) As soon as the recruitment process is complete.
- (f) 30-35 PMH patients.
- (g) Staff and patients of Stubbs Terrace Hospital  
Antenatal exercise classes through KEMH  
Swimming lessons for infants  
Swimming lessons for disabled children  
  
It is also being used by:  
- The Blind Association  
- Red Cross  
- Subiaco Football Club.

## HOSPITALS, COUNTRY AND METROPOLITAN SERVICES, FUNDING

2310. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

Of the budgeted funds for capital expenditure for 1999-2000 how much is allocated for -

- (a) Country Health services; and
- (b) metropolitan hospitals?

Mr DAY replied:

- (a) \$45,683,548
- (b) \$19,441,452

Note: \$10.0M of cash flow has been carried over to 2000/01 as a contribution for the West Australian Centre for Oral Health. The adjusted budget outturn for 1999/2000 is \$65,125,000.

## KIMBERLEY HEALTH SERVICES, MENTAL HEALTH BEDS AND DIETICIANS

2314. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many authorised mental health beds exist in the Kimberley Health Services?
- (2) How many dieticians positions are there in the Kimberley region?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) The only two sites for rural Western Australia with Mental Health beds authorised under the Mental Health Act are Bunbury and Albany. In the Kimberley, the focus of mental health service development has been to ensure adequate primary and secondary mental health treatment services in order to minimise the number of patients who need to be treated on an involuntary basis. Comparing the 1996 and 1998 calendar years, data has demonstrated an approximate 65% drop in North West Mental Health Services consumer transfers to Perth hospitals.
- (2) The Kimberley Health Service has a qualified nutritionist based in Derby and working directly with communities. A hospital based dietician service is available at the Port Hedland Regional Hospital and provides expert advice for the Kimberley Health Service hospitals on a needs basis. This avoids expensive duplication of services in North West hospitals and enables the Kimberley Health Service to dedicate resources to improving nutrition in the wider community rather than simply by trying to impact during short hospital stays.

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SUPPORT PROGRAMS IN THE KIMBERLEY

2315. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) What Government funded support programs exist in the Kimberley region specifically designed to help children of victims of family/domestic violence?
- (2) Which programs are they?
- (3) How much funding is allocated to each program?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

- (1) Services are provided within the *Supported Accommodation Assistance Program* and the *Rural and Remote Domestic Violence Initiative*, which is funded through the Commonwealth Partnerships in Domestic Violence Initiative and administered in Western Australia by Family and Children's Services. Within both of these programs, the services funded assist women and their accompanying children who are subject to and victims of family violence.

- (2)-(3) There are eight crisis accommodation/support services funded through SAAP in the Kimberley. Total funding amounts to \$1.7 million per annum. The services are:

##### Refuge/Accommodation Services

Marnja Jarndu Women's Refuge, Broome - \$314,455 pa  
 Derby Family Healing Center, Derby - \$236,951 pa  
 Gawooleng Yawoodeng Aboriginal Corporation Crisis Centre, Kununurra \$332,307 pa  
 Jardamu Women's Group Aboriginal Corporation Crisis Centre, Wyndham \$257,061 pa  
 Ngarinnga Ngurra Aboriginal Corporation Crisis Centre, Halls Creek \$221,511 pa  
 Marnwarntikura Women's Shelter, Fitzroy Crossing - \$ 216,318 pa

##### Outreach Services

Marnja Jarndu Mobile Outreach Service, Broome - \$91,299 pa

##### Youth Support

Burdekin Youth in Action, Broome - \$77,593 pa (service for young people aged 12-18 years)

A total of \$284,000 per annum has been allocated to family safety initiatives in the Kimberley through the Rural and Remote Domestic Violence Initiative:

Derby Domestic Violence Information and Referral Centre - \$100,000 pa

An additional \$184,000 per annum has recently been allocated toward the development of family safety initiatives in five remote Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley. \$94,000 of these funds is Commonwealth and \$90,000 State. These services are expected to be operating in the next financial year.

In addition the Kimberley Zone of Family and Children's Services provides significant direct support services to children who have been victims of family violence by the provision of counselling, intensive family support, debriefing and family group conferencing. There is also provision for accommodation through placement support facilities, group homes, fosters carers and extended family placements where it is assessed that a child cannot remain with their immediate carers.

#### PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, SOCIAL OR SEMI-SOCIAL ADMISSIONS AND DEATHS

2316. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many patients were admitted to Princess Margaret Hospital classified on a "social" or "semi social" basis for each of the following years -
  - (a) 1995-96;
  - (b) 1996-97; and
  - (c) 1998-99?
- (2) For each of the years above how many of those patients have died whilst in-patients?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) (a)-(c) Princess Margaret Hospital does not formally classify patients as “social” or “semi-social”. This term is only used in doctors’ notes and this information is therefore not collated in a register or database for reporting purposes.
- (2) Because “social” or “semi-social” information on the number of in-patients is not collated in a register or database for reporting purposes, it is not possible to state how many patients whose social environment has been a factor in the decision to admit, have died whilst they were inpatients.

#### ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL, SHENTON PARK, HYDROTHERAPY POOL

2317. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the hydrotherapy pool at Royal Perth Hospital Shenton Park and ask -

- (a) when did it close for routine maintenance;
- (b) what is the cost of the maintenance required;
- (c) is this maintenance being undertaken;
- (d) how many staff are employed to manage the pool;
- (e) what is happening to them when the pool is closed;
- (f) has the pool re-opened;
- (g) if so, on what date; and
- (h) if not, why not?

Mr DAY replied:

- (a) 9 November 1999. Note this is not routine maintenance. The work was initiated after a major leak in the pool was discovered.
- (b) The estimated cost is in the vicinity of \$150,000. An exact figure will not be available until current works in progress reveal the full extent of the problem have been completed and firm tenders for repair works obtained.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) One Hydrotherapy Supervisor  
Two Patient Care Assistants.
- (e) Hydrotherapy Supervisor coordinates and arranges for Royal Perth Hospital patients to attend hydrotherapy at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and the Arthritis Foundation. He also provides clinical assistance at these offsite sessions.  
Patient Care Assistant 1 is seconded to Transport and Orderly services.  
Patient Care Assistant 2 is backfilling a vacant physiotherapy assistant post on the Neurosurgery Ward.
- (f) No.
- (g) Not applicable.
- (h) Work is currently in progress. The estimated date for completion is 3 July 2000, subject to the extent of remedial work required.

#### HEALTH, PROGRAMS IN BUNBURY

2318. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

On 19 April 2000 the Minister issued a press statement claiming that funding for community health programs in the Bunbury region had increased and I ask -

- (a) what are these programs; and
- (b) what is the funding allocation for each program?

Mr DAY replied:

- (a) Additional community health services in the South West region include child health programs, parenting programs, capacity building to enhance community involvement in health service delivery and professional education.
- (b) The funding allocations for 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 for each program are:

	1999/2000	2000/2001
Child & School Program	\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000
Health Enhancement	\$ 38,200	\$ 78,000

Capacity Building & Infrastructure Develop Partnerships/Coordination Early Intervention Programs Coordinated Parenting Approaches With other agencies	\$ 62,500	\$125,000
Capacity in Schools Positive Parenting Programs Depression Program Community Workshops/Forums	\$ 38,000	\$ 75,000
Professional Education	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Diabetes Integration	\$220,000	\$220,000
Yet to be allocated	\$ 62,000	

In addition there have been new services purchased from the GP Division in Bunbury in collaboration with a number of other agencies which include a primary and secondary cardiovascular prevention program for the Greater Bunbury area.

#### HEALTH SERVICES, BUNBURY

2319. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

In relation to the Minister's recent statement that \$6.3 million worth of additional funding was provided to new health services in Bunbury I ask -

- (a) what are these services;
- (b) who provides these services;
- (c) what is the cost of each service;
- (d) when was the money provided; and
- (e) when did these services commence?

Mr DAY replied:

The \$6.3m additional funding is for the expansion and introduction of health services in the South West Region. See below for further detail -

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d) & (e)
Aged and Continuing Care	Bunbury Health Service	\$200 000	1998-99
Community/Allied Health		\$200 000	1998-99
Palliative Care subcontract		\$ 38 300	1998-99
Professional Education		\$100 000	1998-99
Additional Orthopaedic activity		\$240 000	1999-2000
Emergency Department increased activity		\$370 000	1998-99
Intensive Care increased activity		\$670 000	1998-99
Medical Oncology	St John of God Health Care Bunbury	)	1997
Palliative Care		)\$1 338 000	1999
Renal Dialysis		)	1999
Colorectal Screening	GP Division of Bunbury	\$125 000	1998-99
Cardiovascular Disease		\$100 000	1998-99
Pain Management Program		\$ 80 000	1998-99

Integrated Diabetes Program		\$220 000	2000
Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Program	University of Western Australia	\$ 50 000	1998-99
Medical Backs Review Research Project	Curtin University of Technology	\$ 50 000	1999
Community Based Palliative Care	Vasse Leeuwin Health Service	\$ 38 000	1999-2000
Community Health Programs		\$110 000	1999-2000
Community Health Programs	Warren Blackwood Health Service	\$ 38 000	1999-2000
Community Health Programs	Harvey Yarloop Health Service	\$ 25 000	1999-2000
Community Health Programs	Wellington Health Service	\$ 38 200	1999-2000

Recurrent funding implications for 2000/01 will result in an additional allocation of \$275,000 to Health Services for expanded Community Health programs across the region. Planning is underway for the commencement of Rehabilitation services at Bunbury Regional Hospital and designated hospitals in the South West. It is anticipated that these services will commence by December 2000. The indicative allocation for this service is \$1m. The phased introduction of ICU services to Level 4 at Bunbury Regional Hospital will be completed in 2000/01 and will require an additional allocation of funds to meet the increased activity. The level of funding required will be negotiated between HDWA and the health service. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in renal dialysis services to be provided for public patients by SJOG. This increased activity and associated funds have been factored into the budget allocation for 2000/01.

Further purchasing of services in the South West will continue in 2000/01 in keeping with the directions set out in the South West Health Services Strategic Plan 1998-2006. These services will be funded from the additional funds available for the South West.

#### PRISON OFFICERS, SECONDMENTS

2321. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) What is the longest period any of the Senior Prison Officers currently acting, has acted in Public Service positions or projected positions in total?
- (2) What were those positions?
- (3) When were these officers promoted to the rank of Senior Prison Officer?
- (4) What is the total amount of time these officers have spent working in any prison as a substantive Senior Officer?
- (5) Is there a Senior Officer Brian Rankin?
- (6) What is the total amount of time this officer has spent working in any prison on a normal Senior Officer's roster?
- (7) When was this officer appointed as a permanent Prison Officer?
- (8) To which prison was he first posted?
- (9) During the period between him being appointed as a permanent Prison Officer and a substantive Senior Prison Officer was he seconded to any position other than in one of the prisons?
- (10) What position was he seconded into?
- (11) What is the total period of time this officer spent seconded into other positions whilst he held the substantive rank of Prison Officer?
- (12) Are any Senior Prison Officers a Justice of the Peace?
- (13) Of the Senior Prison Officers who are a Justice of the Peace -
  - (a) when was each appointed a Senior Prison Officer;
  - (b) when was each appointed a Justice of the Peace; and
  - (c) was the Justice of the Peace appointment made while any officer was holding the substantive rank of Senior Prison Officer?
- (14) Were these officers appointed to the position of a Justice of the Peace (JP) for Ministry purposes?



- (15) What were these purposes?
- (16) On how many occasions have these officers been called upon to fulfil the obligations of a JP for Ministry purposes?
- (17) How many substantive Senior Prison Officers' positions are there within the Ministry of Justice?
- (18) Are all holders of substantive Senior Officer positions eligible to be appointed to a position of Justice of the Peace for Ministry purposes?
- (19) If yes, why?
- (20) If not, why not?
- (21) What distinguishes those Senior Prison Officers who have been appointed a Justice of the Peace from other Senior Prison Officers?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply.

Explanatory note; There is no position titled "Senior Prison Officer". There is a substantive rank of "Senior Officer" and the following responses are provided on that basis.

- (1) Five Senior Officers are currently acting, the periods being as follows:  
 SO1 – Since 10 August 1998  
 SO2 – Since 20 October 1995  
 SO3 – Since 22 January 1999  
 SO4 – Since 9 August 1999  
 SO5 – Since 17 July 1995
- (2) SO1 – Project officer  
 SO2 – Coordinator staff resources/Assistant Superintendent/Project Manager  
 SO3 – Deputy Superintendent/Superintendent/Assistant Director  
 SO4 – Project officer  
 SO5 – Superintendent/Manager
- (3) SO1 – 18 January 1997  
 SO2 – 10 June 1993  
 SO3 – 29 November 1990  
 SO4 – 21 February 1991  
 SO5 – 19 October 1987
- (4) SO1 – 19 months  
 SO2 – 28 months  
 SO3 – 93 months  
 SO4 – 74 months  
 SO5 – 92 months
- (5) Yes.
- (6) 92 months.
- (7) 26 July 1982.
- (8) Canning Vale Prison.
- (9) Yes.
- (10) Instructor, Metropolitan Emergency Operations Unit. Initially at Prison Officer level , then as Acting Senior Officer.
- (11) 2 years and 5 months.
- (12) Yes, one person with the substantive rank of Senior Officer is a Justice of the Peace.
- (13) (a) September 1987  
 (b) November 1997  
 (c) Yes.
- (14) Yes, in part. The appointment was made on the understanding that the person would carry out the duties required of all Justices of the Peace, if required, and serve the community, in particular at the present locality of either his residence or employment.
- (15) To undertake the standard duties of any Justice of the Peace.
- (16) Justices of the Peace are not required to record or provide information of this nature.
- (17) 201
- (18) No.

- (19) Not applicable.
- (20) The current policy is that no Prison Officers below Assistant Superintendent rank, are appointed as a Justice of the Peace for Ministry purposes.
- (21) In the case of the Senior Officer appointed as a Justice of the Peace, the application was approved after it was established that there would be no conflict of interest and that the service provided would be of assistance to the community at which the person resides, as well as the Ministry.

#### PRISON OFFICERS, OVERPAYMENT

2322. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has a substantive Senior Prison officer ever been overpaid whilst acting in a public service position?
- (2) If so, on how many separate occasions did an overpayment occur?
- (3) What is the total amount of overpayment?
- (4) What arrangements are in place to recover the overpayment?
- (5) How did the overpayment come to light?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1) A thorough search of our records has not revealed that any Senior Prison Officers were overpaid whilst acting in a public service position for financial years 1998/99 and 1999/2000.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

#### MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

2324. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is there an Internal Investigations Unit or unit responsible for internal investigations?
- (2) What is the name of that unit?
- (3) What tasks does it perform?
- (4) What is the classification and designation of the person in charge of that unit?
- (5) Who does that person report to, in terms of the chain of command?
- (6) Does that person have control over the activities of the Internal Investigations Unit?
- (7) Is that person charged with the responsibility of ensuring the unit is complying with the Public Sector Management Act 1994, Public Sector Standards, Code of Ethics?
- (8) Are there measures or systems in place to monitor and ensure such compliance by the unit?
- (9) Has the unit at all times complied with the Act, standards and codes of ethics?
- (10) If not, on how many occasions has there been a breach?
- (11) What is the nature of each breach?
- (12) What is the name and rank/level of individuals with the authority to authorise the unit to conduct an investigation?
- (13) Does the Manager of the unit have the authority to commence investigations without authorisation from some other person or authority?
- (14) Has the Ministry issued any guidelines or other written advice that may assist staff in the necessary procedures that are to apply should it become necessary to have an investigation commenced?
- (15) What Ministry documentation or guidelines are in existence that may assist staff in the necessary procedures that are to apply should an investigation be conducted by members of the Internal Investigations Unit?
- (16) Do members of the unit when conducting investigations inform staff and persons of their rights prior to commencing an interview?
- (17) Are any of substantive officers of the unit former police officers and if so, how many of the unit's total staff are former police officers?
- (18) Are they special constables?
- (19) Do they have the authority to conduct investigations into matters that have been identified as criminal behaviour or activities?

- (20) Do members of the -  
 (a) unit; or  
 (b) the Intelligence Analysis Section,  
 have the authority to conduct investigations or surveillance operations on premises or areas not controlled by or belonging to the Ministry of Justice?
- (21) Who has control over the listening devices and other surveillance equipment that is held, or used, by the unit or Intelligence Analysis Section?
- (22) Do any members of the unit or Intelligence Analysis Section have the use of Government cars outside normal working hours?
- (23) Do any of these cars have private plates?
- (24) What is the classification level of those officers who drive or use these private plated Government cars outside of normal working hours?
- (25) Were any of these cars authorised to have private plates so they may be used in the general community for activities associated with investigations or surveillance?
- (26) Has the Director General of the Ministry of Justice been made aware of, or become aware of, any breaches of the Public Sector Management Act 1994, Public Sector Standards or Code of Ethics that have allegedly been committed by Officers working within the unit?
- (27) Did the Director General of the Ministry of Justice, in the last annual report submitted, report fully and accurately the extent to which Public Sector Standards, Code of Ethics and any relevant Code of Conduct, were complied with?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Internal Investigations Unit.
- (3) The Internal Investigations Unit conducts investigations into Prison Services on the following matters, deaths in custody, hostage situations, escapes, riots, explosions, fires, the drawing of firearms, incidents of serious self harm, serious misconduct, serious breaches of discipline and preliminary inquiries only for the purpose of determining the validity of a complaint or the veracity of information relating to criminal offences.
- (4) Manager Internal Investigations Unit, Level 8
- (5) Executive Director Offender Management Division.
- (6)-(8) Yes.
- (9)-(11) One potential breach of the Code of Ethics is being investigated.
- (12) The Director General, The Executive Director Offender Management and the Investigations Review Committee.
- (13) In some circumstances requiring urgency, procedures allow for investigations to commence without prior approval, but they require ratification by the Investigation Review Committee.
- (14)-(15) These are being developed.
- (16) Yes.
- (17) Yes, five (5)
- (18) No.
- (19) See 3.
- (20) (a) Yes.  
 (b) No.
- (21) There are no listening devices used by the Internal Investigations Unit. Internal investigators at the Internal Investigations unit have control of surveillance equipment. The Information Analysis Section does not hold listening devices or other surveillance equipment.
- (22) (a) The Internal Investigations Unit have the use of cars outside normal working hours in accordance with their employment.  
 (b) Yes, the Manager of the Information Analysis Section only.
- (23) (a) Yes all vehicles attached to the Internal Investigations Unit have private plates.  
 (b) None of the vehicles attached to the Information Analysis Section have private plates.

- (24) (a) One Level 8 Manager and four Level 6 Internal Investigators and two Level 5 Internal Investigators.  
(b) Not applicable to the Information Analysis Section.
- (25) Yes for the Internal Investigations Unit.
- (26)-(27) Yes.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, OPERATIONAL STANDARDS

2328. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Are there such things as “Operational Standards” in the Ministry of Justice?
- (2) What are they?
- (3) If not, were there such things as Operational Standards or an Operational Standards Directorate?
- (4) When did they cease to apply?
- (5) Have there ever been Operational Standards in the Ministry of Justice or any of its predecessors?
- (6) If so, when did they cease to apply?
- (7) Has it ever been proposed to have Operational Standards in the Ministry of Justice?
- (8) When was it proposed?
- (9) Did it come about?
- (10) If not, why not?
- (11) Were any resources spent on developing the Operational Standards?
- (12) What resources, in terms of cost, were allocated/spent on developing/updating the Operational Standards?
- (13) In the -
  - (a) 1997-98;
  - (b) 1998-99; and
  - (c) 1999-2000,
 financial years, or in any one or more of those financial years, was there a budget allocation for Operational Standards?
- (14) Are any administrative or other officers/employees in the Ministry of Justice responsible for Operational Standards?
- (15) If so -
  - (a) how many; and
  - (b) what are their classifications and duties?
- (16) What is the nature of the tasks that are presently undertaken on Operational Standards?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The standards were developed as part of the Request For Proposal (RFP) for Acacia Prison that has been tabled in Parliament. Operational standards are embedded in the *Prisons Act 1981*, Prison Regulations 1982 and Director General’s Rules.
- (3) An Operational Standards Directorate was formed in March 1997.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) See (2).
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7)-(9) See (2).
- (10) Not applicable.
- (11) Yes.
- (12) Ministry officers developed the Acacia Prison standards as a part of their duties and a consultant was also involved between August and November 1998 to assist develop the RFP. The cost of engaging the consultant was \$36,599.
- (13) 1997-98 - \$326,000, 1998-99 - \$362,000. In 1999-2000 the newly created Planning and Policy Directorate took over responsibility for standards.

- (14) Yes.
- (15) (a) 2.  
(b) These duties are carried out by a Level 8 Manager Policy and a Level 7 Principal Policy Officer as part of their broader duties.
- (16) Providing an accurate delineation of the policy context for imprisonment within Western Australia with specific reference to the various national and international treaties, covenants, conventions, instruments and declarations that impact upon the treatment and conditions of persons in custody.

#### CASUARINA PRISON, UPGRADE OF INDUSTRIES

2330. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Further to question on notice No. 527 of 1999, what was the amount of the funds diverted away from the upgrade of the Casuarina prison industries?
- (2) Is it intended that the amount diverted away from the upgrade of the prison industries will be restored?
- (3) If so, when?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) To what extent has the diversion of funds effected the skills training and programs available at Casuarina Prison?
- (6) Has there been any reduction in programs or skills training due to the funds being diverted?
- (7) If so, what is the extent and nature of that reduction?
- (8) How many prisoners -  
(a) were held in Casuarina Prison (average) in the months of January, February, March and April 2000; and  
(b) how many are involved in full time work or full time programs?
- (9) Are all prisoners involved in constructive work?
- (10) If not, why not?
- (11) What number of prisoners are not involved in constructive work?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply.

- (1) \$1.25M.
- (2) This will be dependent upon the outcome of a current review of the requirements for Prison Industries within the overall Prison System. This review is expected to be complete later this year. \$900,000 has been allocated in the 2000/2001 financial year to fund priorities identified by this review.
- (3)-(4) See (2 above).
- (5)-(6) Minimally. The funds were for capital works with minimal impact on programs or skills training. The proposal was submitted prior to the dramatic increase in the prison musters that started in 1998. Different strategies are being developed to accommodate new muster projections also taking into account new facilities including Acacia.
- (7) Not applicable.
- (8) (a) 

Month	Average Daily Muster
January	568
February	618
March	615
April	585

  
(b) 397 of a total muster of 609 as at 5/5/00
- (9) No.
- (10) Some prisoners are unable to work through incapacity or sickness or other necessary commitments such as visits, courts and special handling situations etc.
- (11) 181 prisoners do not have full time work or programs. Approximately 70 of these prisoners have part time education or programs.

#### MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, FUNDING ALLOCATION

2331. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice:

- (1) Further to question on notice No. 1001 of 1999, what amount was allocated to -

- (a) head office;
- (b) health;
- (c) programs;
- (d) special operations unit;
- (e) prison asset management costs; and
- (f) each adult prison,

in the following financial years-

- (i) 1996-97;
- (ii) 1997-98; and
- (iii) 1998-99?

- (2) What are the ten major costs under the head office allocation?
- (3) Was any allocation made for the establishment of the purchaser/provider model?
- (4) What was the amount of the allocation in each of the financial years from the 1996-97 financial year to date?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

(1)		1996/97 \$,000's	1997/98 \$,000's	1998/99 \$,000's
(a)	Head Office	7,464	9,555	6,883
(b)	Health	7,281	8,665	9,841
(c)	Programs	6,762	8,737	8,706
(d)	Special Operation Unit (includes officer training)	6,553	3,826	5,403
(e)	Prison Maintenance	3,005	3,249	3,860
(f)	Albany	6,539	6,860	7,152
	Bandyup	2,914	3,586	3,956
	Broome	2,587	2,836	3,274
	Bunbury	5,445	6,031	6,383
	Canning Vale	11,896	12,503	12,719
	CW Remand	5,950	6,590	6,577
	Casuarina	14,849	16,520	18,631
	Eastern Goldfields	3,013	3,246	3,382
	Greenough	4,442	5,455	6,131
	Karnet	4,332	4,587	4,782
	*Nyandi			336
	*Pardelup	1,767	1,837	2,044
	**Riverbank		48	1,761
	**Roebourne	4,755	5,066	5,450
	**Wooroloo	4,508	4,794	4,890
	* Commissioned in late 1998/99 (six months) for adult prisoners			
	** Commissioned in late 1997/98 for adult prisoners			

- (2) Head Office includes – Director, Sentence Calculation Unit, Prisoner Placement and Prison Improvement Programs. The ten major costs are -

Wages and Salaries Costs  
 Prison Officer Transfer Costs  
 Prison Officer Uniform Costs  
 Freight and Storage Costs for Prison Officers  
 Computer and Information Service Costs  
 Telecommunication Costs  
 Workers Compensations Insurance Costs  
 General Insurance and Motor Vehicle Insurance Costs  
 Energy Costs  
 Rental Accommodation Costs

- (3) No.
- (4) No funds were allocated.

#### CASUARINA PRISON, SECURITY UPGRADE

2332. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Further to question on notice No. 1005 of 1999, what was the reason for the time taken to approve the security upgrade at Casuarina Prison?
- (2) Was the time taken to approve the security upgrade related to -
  - (a) absence of a permanent appointment to the position of Director General;
  - (b) a view of the Minister's or within the Ministry that there was no urgency for the work to be done; and/or
  - (c) inadequate processes?
- (3) When was the first tender let for the security upgrade?

- (4) Was this over five months after the Christmas Day riot at Casuarina Prison?
- (5) Was it acceptable to have prisoners not involved in the riot locked down for an extended period of time due to the failure of the security upgrade to be carried out earlier?
- (6) Has the Minister made it clear to the community that prisoners not involved in the riot were locked down for this extensive period of time due to the Government being tardy in having the security upgrade carried out without delay?
- (7) If not, why not?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply.

- (1) Following the major disturbance on Christmas Day it was necessary to identify and review major initiatives for upgrading security at Casuarina Prison. A working group including senior prison staff identified five key security and containment initiatives as being required at Casuarina. The cost of this upgrade was \$2M.
- (2) (a)-(c) No.
- (3) Following the finalisation of the scope of works by the Director General on 9 March 1999, the first tender was:  
Publicly advertised on 20 March 1999.  
Tender submissions closed 15 April 1999.  
First tender was let 3 May 1999.
- (4) No.
- (5) The restricted regime was not implemented to punish prisoners, remand or sentenced, but to enable security and safety issues to be addressed. As these issues were addressed, the prison gradually returned to a more normalised regime. I suggest you look at other jurisdictions, such as the United Kingdom, where the restricted regime is the standard regime and an even more restricted regime applies to maximum security prisons.
- (6) The changes were carried out expeditiously. The real criticism should be of the former government who spent an excessive amount in building Casuarina, took an inordinate time to build it and still didn't get it right.
- (7) See 5.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, MS LISA BAKER

2333. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Further to question on notice No. 531 of 1999, does Lisa Baker -
  - (a) have a permanent position with CAMS; and
  - (b) have her salary and other conditions of employment paid by CAMS?
- (2) If not, with what department does she have a permanent position and what department meets her salary and other costs?
- (3) Do (or did) any of the personnel mentioned in question on notice No. 531 of 1999 -
  - (a) have a government vehicle;
  - (b) have an allowance for providing a vehicle; or
  - (c) were previously provided with -
    - (i) a Government vehicle; or
    - (ii) an allowance for providing a vehicle?
- (4) If so, will the Minister provide the complete details, including the period or periods of time the vehicle or allowance was provided?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1) (a) No. Lisa Baker does not have a permanent position with Government. She has a 5 year SES contract with CAMS.  
(b) CAMS pays her fortnightly salary and recoups this cost from the Ministry of Justice. CAMS funds her other conditions of employment.
- (2) See 1(a) and (b). In addition, the Ministry of Justice meets her car costs.
- (3) (a) Lisa Baker (yes)  
Barry Cram (yes)  
Hugh Cowan (yes)  
Evan Jones (no);

- (b) Lisa Baker (no)  
Barry Cram (no)  
Hugh Cowan (no)  
Evan Jones (no);
- (c) (i) Lisa Baker (yes)  
Barry Cram (yes)  
Hugh Cowan (yes)  
Evan Jones (no);  
(ii) No
- (4) Barry Cram had home garaging privileges for a vehicle during the period 23 April – 27 August 99.  
Hugh Cowan has had home garaging privileges for a vehicle since 29 July 1999.  
Lisa Baker has had a Ministry vehicle as part of the SES package since 17 August 1998.

#### ACACIA PRISON, COMPLETION DATE

2335. Mr McGINTY to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

I refer to the Acacia Prison Project and ask -

- (a) what was the construction completion and/or hand-over date specified in the construction contract;
- (b) what is the current expected completion date and hand-over date;
- (c) what was the date specified in the management contract for the receipt of first prisoners;
- (d) what is the current expected date for the receipt of first prisoners;
- (e) does the management contract with Corrections Corporation of Australia (CCA) specify or indicate how many prisoners were to be transferred to Acacia Prison in its first year of operation;
- (f) if so, what was the envisaged monthly admission rate;
- (g) what is the currently expected monthly admission rate in the first year of operation;
- (h) what is the currently contracted design bed capacity for -
  - (i) single occupancy cells;
  - (ii) double occupancy cells; and
  - (iii) multiple occupancy cells?
- (i) how long after the receipt of first prisoners will it take for the prison to reach an occupancy rate approaching its full design bed capacity;
- (j) is the Minister aware of reports that Corrections Corporation of America, which has a 50% stake in CCA, is experiencing severe financial difficulties and may be on the verge of collapse;
- (k) if so, is the Minister concerned about the implications such a collapse might have on the ability of CCA to deliver on the Acacia Prison contract;
- (l) will the Minister confirm that CCA has appointed a person from interstate to run the Acacia Prison;
- (m) if so will the Minister advise -
  - (i) why Western Australian applicants were not given the opportunity to apply for the position;
  - (ii) the name and professional background of the appointee;
  - (iii) their position prior to the Acacia project; and
  - (iv) whether the Minister was satisfied that the appointee has the experience and personal attributes necessary for such an important role?
- (n) is the Minister aware that the senior officer from CCA who managed the company's bid for the Acacia Prison contract, left the company to take up a senior position in the Queensland Department of Corrective Services before the management contract for the prison was awarded to CCA; and
- (o) in the absence of the officer, will the Minister provide an assurance that CCA is still able to meet its full contractual obligations for the Acacia Prison?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (a) 20 September 2000.
- (b) As at 30 May 2000 extensions of time totalling 27 business days had been granted.
- (c) The Commencement Date (the date on which the first prisoners may be accepted at Acacia Prison) is defined in the Acacia Prison Services Agreement which was tabled in Parliament on 12 April 2000.
- (d) The first prisoners will be received at Acacia Prison on the Commencement Date.
- (e) Yes.



- (f) Options for a 6 month, 9 month or 12 month Transition Period (admission rate) are identified in the Service Agreement.
- (g) A decision has not yet been made on the Transition Period (admission rate).
- (h)
  - (i) 710 single occupancy cells of which 70 (35 pairs) are interlinked “buddy” cells.
  - (ii) nil.
  - (iii) 10 four bed dormitory cells.
- (i) See (f) and (g).
- (j)-(k) The Minister is aware of reports that Prison Realty Trust, the current head company of the Corrections Corporation of America has sought and obtained a new partner.
- (l) CCA has nominated a person from interstate to run the Acacia Prison.
- (m) Not applicable.
- (n)-(o) Yes.

#### TAXIS, PLATE BUY-BACK SCHEME

2336. Mr PENDAL to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does the Government have any intention to “buy-back” taxi plates?
- (2) Would such a scheme be implemented in such a way that it complies with National Competition Council policy guidelines so as to cushion the effects on people who purchased licences in good faith under the old system?
- (3) Will the Government ensure fair compensation for licence holders affected by such a scheme?
- (4) Will the Minister give any assurance to current holders of taxi licenses that there will be no scheme to “buy-back” plates in the near future for the taxi industry?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(3) The Government does not intend to buy-back taxi plates.
- (4) See response to (1) above.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, FACILITIES MANAGERS

2342. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) What departments and agencies under the Attorney General’s control -
  - (a) have appointed; or
  - (b) have under consideration for appointment,
 a Facilities Manager or Managers?
- (2) What are the names of the Facilities Managers so appointed?
- (3) What is the scope of work undertaken by each Facilities Manager?
- (4) To what extent do Facilities Managers ensure that purchases/contracts are let in regional areas for regional work?
- (5) Do Facilities Managers ensure that the Regional Buying Contract is adhered to in relation to any purchases or contracts they manage?
- (6) Will the Attorney General name the departments and agencies under the Attorney General’s control that have under consideration the appointment of one or more Facilities Managers?
- (7) What is the nature of the work proposed to be carried out by that Facilities Manager or Managers?

Mr PRINCE replied:

Ministry of Justice

- (1) The Ministry of Justice has not appointed nor does it have under consideration the appointment of a Facilities Manager or Managers.
- (2)-(7) Not applicable.

Solicitor General: The Solicitor General’s Chamber has not appointed nor has under consideration for appointment a facilities manger.

## Director of Public Prosecutions

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

Office of the Information Commissioner: These questions on notice request details of agencies under the control of the Attorney General, which does not include this office as the Information Commissioner reports directly to Parliament. Therefore, we do not come within the scope of these questions for the coordinated reply.

## Legal Aid

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

## Equal Opportunity Commissioner

- (1) The Commissioner for Equal Opportunity has not appointed and is not considering appointing a Facilities Manager or Managers.  
 (2)-(7) Not applicable.

## Crown Solicitor's Office

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

## Law Reform Commission

- (1)-(7) The Law Reform Commission has not appointed, and is not considering appointing a Facilities Manager.

## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, FACILITIES MANAGERS

2346. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) What departments and agencies under the Minister's control -  
 (a) have appointed; or  
 (b) have under consideration for appointment,  
 a Facilities Manager or Managers?
- (2) What are the names of the Facilities Managers so appointed?
- (3) What is the scope of work undertaken by each Facilities Manager?
- (4) To what extent do Facilities Managers ensure that purchases/contracts are let in regional areas for regional work?
- (5) Do Facilities Managers ensure that the Regional Buying Contract is adhered to in relation to any purchases or contracts they manage?
- (6) Will the Minister name the departments and agencies under the Minister's control that have under consideration the appointment of one or more Facilities Managers?
- (7) What is the nature of the work proposed to be carried out by that Facilities Manager or Managers?

Mr SHAVE replied:

## LandCorp

- (1) (a) No Facilities Managers are currently engaged by LandCorp.  
 (b) LandCorp is considering facilities management for the prospective Jervoise Bay development.

(2)-(5) Not applicable.

(6) LandCorp.

(7) Management of the proposed Jervoise Bay Southern Harbour common use facility.

## Department of Land Administration

- (1) (a) DOLA has appointed a Facilities Manager through the Department of Contract and Management Services' Facilities Management of Major Government Buildings contract.  
 (b) Not applicable.

(2) CJJP Pty Ltd.

(3) Provision of a building management service and management of the delivery of building related services.

(4) DOLA has signed a Facilities Management Service Agreement with Contract and Management Services affecting purchases/contracts in regional areas. DOLA invites quotations or tenders when goods and services are required and preference is given to local suppliers.

(5) Yes.

(6)-(7) Not applicable.

## Ministry of Fair Trading

- (1) (a) No Facilities Managers are currently engaged by Ministry of Fair Trading.  
 (b) No Facilities Managers are under consideration.

(2)-5) Not applicable.

(6) None.

(7) Not applicable.

Western Australian Electoral Commission

(1) The Western Australian Electoral Commission has not appointed a facilities manager and has no intention of doing so.

(2)-(7) Not applicable.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, FACILITIES MANAGERS

2355. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

(1) What departments and agencies under the Minister's control -

- (a) have appointed; or
- (b) have under consideration for appointment,

a Facilities Manager or Managers?

(2) What are the names of the Facilities Managers so appointed?

(3) What is the scope of work undertaken by each Facilities Manager?

(4) To what extent do Facilities Managers ensure that purchases/contracts are let in regional areas for regional work?

(5) Do Facilities Managers ensure that the Regional Buying Contract is adhered to in relation to any purchases or contracts they manage?

(6) Will the Minister name the departments and agencies under the Minister's control that have under consideration the appointment of one or more Facilities Managers?

(7) What is the nature of the work proposed to be carried out by that Facilities Manager or Managers?

Mr BARNETT replied:

(1) (a)-(b) Department of Minerals and Energy.

(2) The Department of Minerals and Energy (DME) has a small in-house Facilities Management Branch, currently headed by Mr Ray Smith.

(3) DME outsources most of its Facilities Service needs through CAMS to private firms such as:  
CJJP Pty Limited  
Transfield Maintenance Pty Ltd  
CAMS Country Services

CJJP is responsible for Mineral House, Chemistry Centre, Morley site and Dianella site:

- Breakdown Repairs
- Preventive Maintenance
- Minor Works – Recurrent Funded
- Minor Works – Capital Funded
- Property Services – Cleaning etc.

Transfield is responsible for Carlisle, Bentley, Waterford and Baldivis sites:

- Breakdown Repairs
- Preventive Maintenance
- Minor Works – Recurrent Funded
- Minor Works – Capital Funded
- Property Services – Cleaning etc.

Cams Country Services is responsible for all DME regional offices:

- Breakdown Repairs
- Preventive Maintenance
- Minor Works – Recurrent Funded
- Minor Works – Capital Funded
- Property Services – Cleaning etc.

(4) In every case where there is a reliable and reputable supplier.

(5) Yes.

(6) Already appointed see (1) and (2).

(7) Not applicable.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, FACILITIES MANAGERS

2357. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

(1) What departments and agencies under the Minister's control -

- (a) have appointed; or
- (b) have under consideration for appointment,

a Facilities Manager or Managers?

- (2) What are the names of the Facilities Managers so appointed?
- (3) What is the scope of work undertaken by each Facilities Manager?
- (4) To what extent do Facilities Managers ensure that purchases/contracts are let in regional areas for regional work?
- (5) Do Facilities Managers ensure that the Regional Buying Contract is adhered to in relation to any purchases or contracts they manage?
- (6) Will the Minister name the departments and agencies under the Minister's control that have under consideration the appointment of one or more Facilities Managers?
- (7) What is the nature of the work proposed to be carried out by that Facilities Manager or Managers?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

Main Roads Western Australia

- (1) Main Roads.
- (2) Metropolitan area – Spotless Services Pty Ltd (formerly P and O Facilities Management) Regional areas – Contract and Management Services (partial - some facilities management services for regional offices are still coordinated by Main Roads).
- (3) Provision of building related services such as cleaning, waste disposal, security, ground maintenance, utility management, breakdown repairs, preventative maintenance etc.
- (4) CAMS and Main Roads follow the State Supply Commission guidelines as outlined in the Regional Buying Compact.
- (5) Yes.
- (6)-(7) Not applicable

The Department of Transport

- (1) (a) Transport.  
(b) Not applicable.
- (2) Serco Australia Propriety Limited.
- (3) Common user infrastructure management for Transperth bus stations.
- (4) Not applicable. The Facilities Management contract is for Transperth bus stations which are in the Perth Metropolitan area.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) See 1(b).
- (7) Not applicable.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, FACILITIES MANAGERS

2358. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) What departments and agencies under the Minister's control -
  - (a) have appointed; or
  - (b) have under consideration for appointment,
 a Facilities Manager or Managers?
- (2) What are the names of the Facilities Managers so appointed?
- (3) What is the scope of work undertaken by each Facilities Manager?
- (4) To what extent do Facilities Managers ensure that purchases/contracts are let in regional areas for regional work?
- (5) Do Facilities Managers ensure that the Regional Buying Contract is adhered to in relation to any purchases or contracts they manage?
- (6) Will the Minister name the departments and agencies under the Minister's control that have under consideration the appointment of one or more Facilities Managers?
- (7) What is the nature of the work proposed to be carried out by that Facilities Manager or Managers?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION.

(1)-(7) The Western Australian Tourism Commission does not have a Facilities Manager.

ROTTNEST ISLAND AUTHORITY.

(1) (a) Rottnest Island Authority.  
(b) Not applicable.

(2) Transfield Pty Ltd.

(3) As defined in the Facilities Management Agreement, the provision of a utilities management service, an operations management service, and other services to support the utilities management and operations management. These include:

- power production and distribution;
- water production and distribution;
- waste water treatment;
- waste management;
- delivery services;
- cleaning services;
- building maintenance;
- jetty maintenance;
- airport maintenance;
- vehicle maintenance;
- gas and fuel supplies;
- recreation areas and public facilities maintenance; and
- emergency services.

(4)-(5) The Facilities Management Agreement provides for the observance by Transfield Pty Ltd of State Supply Commission policies and principles.

(6)-(7) Not applicable.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, FACILITIES MANAGERS

2360. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

(1) What departments and agencies under the Minister's control -

- (a) have appointed; or  
(b) have under consideration for appointment,

a Facilities Manager or Managers?

(2) What are the names of the Facilities Managers so appointed?

(3) What is the scope of work undertaken by each Facilities Manager?

(4) To what extent do Facilities Managers ensure that purchases/contracts are let in regional areas for regional work?

(5) Do Facilities Managers ensure that the Regional Buying Contract is adhered to in relation to any purchases or contracts they manage?

(6) Will the Minister name the departments and agencies under the Minister's control that have under consideration the appointment of one or more Facilities Managers?

(7) What is the nature of the work proposed to be carried out by that Facilities Manager or Managers?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

I refer the member to my answer given to Question on Notice 2342.

#### SOUTH WEST HEALTH SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN 1998-2006

2364. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

In relation to the Minister's announcement on 19 April, 2000 of a health plan titled 'The South West Health Services Strategic Plan 1998-2006' -

- (a) will the Minister explain why he is now announcing a 'plan' which according to its title is two years old;
- (b) when was the plan finalised;
- (c) when was it submitted to the Minister;
- (d) why has the 'plan' included items which according to the Minister have already been realised; and
- (e) will the Minister table the 'plan'?

Mr DAY replied:

- (a) The development of the South West Health Services Strategic Plan 1998-2006 commenced in 1996 with the objective of planning services for the period 1998-2006 and taking into account the development of the South West Health Campus in Bunbury. The South West Plan was the first of three major strategic planning exercises to be completed. The announcement of the Plan in April is an endorsement of the strategic directions outlined within it. These certainly encompass the major redevelopment of the hospital and health services in the regional centre of the South West. Importantly however, the Plan also maps out a number of other strategies which are being implemented at the present time and will continue to be developed over the next six years.
- (b) The Plan was documented in December 1998.
- (c) The Minister for Health was fully briefed on the Plan in early 1999. It was submitted along with the Norhealth Position Paper and the Health 2020 Plan to Cabinet in December 1999.
- (d) It is important that all elements of health service strategic development in the South West be documented in the planning record. This will enhance progress reviews and ongoing planning for the longer term. The cornerstone of health service development in the South West is the investment in the South West Campus and the subsequent service enhancements which are taking place at the present time and will continue for the life of the current strategy.
- (e) The Plan is a public document.

#### HUDSON ROAD HEALTH SERVICES, BRUNSWICK JUNCTION RESIDENTS

2365. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Are residents of Brunswick Junction allowed to use the services offered to the public of Bunbury at the Hudson Road Health Services?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) Are publicly funded health support groups operating in the Bunbury area permitted to take clients from areas outside Bunbury?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Yes the residents of Brunswick Junction are allowed to use the services offered to the public of Bunbury at the Hudson Road Health Services.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Yes the publicly funded support groups operating in the Bunbury area are permitted to take clients from areas outside Bunbury.
- (4) Not applicable.

#### ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL, REPORT ON CONFLICTS ON SHARED PATHS

2376. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport

I refer to the Road Safety Council Report of 1998 "Conflicts on Shared Paths" which contained 16 recommendations and I ask:

- (a) will the Minister provide details of how each of the 16 recommendations have been implemented; and
- (b) will the Minister provide details of how the implementation of the 16 recommendations have contributed to the avoidance of "Conflicts on Shared Paths"?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a) (1) Develop Codes of Conduct for all Shared Path Users and communicate to current and potential users: Bikewest in consultation with the Office of Road Safety and other relevant agencies and community groups produced the brochure 'Using Shared Paths With Safety and Courtesy' which was distributed widely. (see answers to Recommendations 2 and 3).
- (2) Develop a community education campaign to target all shared path users: Bikewest promotes and distributes the 'Using Shared Paths With Safety and Courtesy' brochure through the following avenues:  
 Included in the Bikewest display units which are located in Local Government offices and libraries;  
 Bicycle retail outlets; and  
 Special events:  
 Bikeweek

Specific event initiatives and invitations  
 Transport work site Cycling presentations  
 School visits  
 Vacation bicycle safety education courses  
 Newspaper advertisements  
 Individual requests for information and advice.

- (3) Include 'Share the Path' information in school based road safety programs: Bikewest provides substantial resource support to two school based bicycle safety education programs, which both include path usage safety as a significant component:

the Police Bike-Ed program (a section of Police Road Safety); and  
 two road safety education centres; one at Armadale and the other at Midvale.

The Police Service brochure 'Bicycles, Cyclists – the Law' also addresses path sharing.

The Education Department's 'Kids and Roads' (Years 4 to 7) bicycle section of the road safety resource kit includes discussion and lesson activities on shared path use.

The Safe Routes to School program run by RoadWise also addresses the issue of safe and correct use of various travel modes to and from schools – including use of footpaths and shared paths.

- (4) Carry out promotional activities and targeted campaigns such as free bike bells and discourage use of audio headsets: Bikewest in conjunction with the police bicycle section handed out 1 000 loud sounding bells in association with bike related events and police patrols on shared paths.

The 'Using Shared Paths with Safety and Courtesy' brochure has a page devoted to "leaving the headphones at home". As detailed above, this brochure has been widely disseminated.

- (5) Police to undertake highly visible enforcement campaigns timed to coincide with community education campaigns: Police on bicycles have undertaken regular patrols of shared paths. These patrols are part of an ongoing program and errant path users are educated by Police Officers as required.

- (6) Encourage higher speed cyclists to use roads and Principal Transport Routes: Bikewest established Bicycle User Groups (BUGS) and a BUGS manual for the purpose of developing the Perth Bicycle Network (PBN), with an emphasis on 'on-road' routes for commuter cyclists. The BUGs are encouraged to promote responsible user behaviour to the wider community. Bikewest produces the Perth Bike Maps for both recreational and commuter cyclists, which show both paths and recommended road routes, which, are recommended for commuter cyclists. Main Roads also encourages faster cyclists to use roads and the Perth Bicycle Network on road routes through its standards and guidelines. Local Government promotion of bicycle routes includes commuter type cyclists.

- (7) Encourage local councils to provide purpose built recreation facilities for small-wheeled vehicle users: Provision of this type of facility is an ongoing issue and is undertaken by local councils in accordance with community desires and when funds permit. There have been a number of major high quality facilities built in the metropolitan and regional country areas, eg. Belmont, Victoria Park, Bunbury.

- (8) Apply centre lines to all Shared Paths (2.5 metres or more): Main Roads standards specify centre lines for all shared paths. Local Government is undertaking this action on a transitional basis. The majority of paths are now completed with centre lines. In a number of locations separate pedestrian and cycle paths have been constructed such as at South Perth and Melville where high usage was leading to an increased level of conflict between path users.

- (9) Ensure that existing and future hand rails associated with shared paths comply with Austroads Part 14: Main Roads generally conforms to Austroads Part 14 for the provision of handrails. Local Government is working towards the new standard.

- (10) Undertake regular surveys of paths with high usage. Where usage exceeds an acceptable level, alternative solutions, which may include the separation of path users, to be adopted. Increase width of Shared Paths to accommodate the growing number of users: Bikewest has, in the past, commissioned the Perth Bicycle routes cordon counts on high usage path access routes to the City. Main Roads also undertakes regular surveys of high usage paths. A 3 metre width has been adopted as standard, which exceeds the Austroads Part 14 standard width. Local Government undertakes surveys on a needs basis.

- (11) Develop and implement Level of Service guidelines for shared paths to assist in future planning: Main Roads has developed Level of Service guidelines for on and off road bicycle routes. Implementation has commenced.

- (12) Promote adherence to standards and guidelines in the provision of shared paths: All Main Roads contracts specify adherence to MRWA standards and guidelines, or in the absence of such, adherence to Austroads Part 14 standards. Bikewest funding for Local Government cycling facilities is contingent on adherence to approved construction standards.

- (13) Undertake safety audits and surveys of usage as required: Main Roads undertakes safety audits and usage surveys as part of normal business. See answer to Recommendation 10 for surveys of path usage.

- (14) Define Legal Liability within the context of “shared path user” definitions of the Road Traffic Code and/or the Australian Road Rules. A process is being put in place which will allow Local Government to ban cycling and/or small wheeled vehicles on certain paths when the Australian Road Rules are introduced.
- (15) Review parts of the Road Traffic Code that relate to “shared use paths” (old dual use paths): Transport is responsible for the implementation of the Australian Road Rules which are expected to be introduced later this year. Consultation was undertaken with relevant agencies and community groups. An extensive community education campaign will ensure that all Western Australians are adequately informed about the Australian Road Rules, including any changes that affect shared path users.
- (16) Review collection of crash data: Bikewest provided a free call 1800 number over the last year for cyclists to ring in and report crashes and near misses. This was designed to ascertain the level of crashes, gauge the level of previously unreported bicycle crashes and highlight any locations of significant concern to cyclists. The police bicycle section also worked directly with community bicycle groups to encourage reporting of crashes including unacceptable behaviour of other road users. Although, the collection of crash statistics relating to cyclists in Western Australia is considered to be one of the most thorough in Australia, it is under constant review to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of the road safety community. Hospital reported crashes are held by the Health Department and Police reported road crashes are held by Main Roads in conjunction with the Police. There are differences between these databases as they serve different purposes and this issue is well understood by those who make use of them.
- (b) The recommendations were focused on:
- educating and raising the awareness of the community to the issue of sharing the use of paths; and  
improving the safety and quality of paths

There has been significant improvement due to the actions identified in the answers to Part (a) above.

#### LOFTUS STREET, TRAFFIC LEVELS

2377. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has Main Roads or the Minister received any complaints regarding increased traffic levels on Loftus Street during peak hours since the opening of the Graham Farmer Freeway (GFF)?
- (2) Has Main Roads undertaken any assessments of traffic levels on Loftus Street since the opening of the GFF?
- (3) If yes, what was the result of these assessments?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) Traffic signals have been adjusted to optimise traffic flows. Main Roads will continue to monitor traffic operation at these locations. However, some degree of congestion can be expected on Loftus Street at peak hours.

#### TIMBER ROYALTIES

2381. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Forest Products:

How much revenue was collected as royalties from the harvesting of-

- (a) jarrah first and second grade sawlogs;  
(b) karri first and second grade sawlogs;  
(c) jarrah other sawlogs;  
(d) karri other sawlogs;  
(e) marri other sawlogs;  
(f) jarrah charlogs;  
(g) karri chiplogs; and  
(h) marri chiplogs,

for the financial years ending-

- (i) 30 June 1993;  
(ii) 30 June 1994;  
(iii) 30 June 1995;  
(iv) 30 June 1996;  
(v) 30 June 1997;  
(vi) 30 June 1998; and  
(vii) 30 June 1999?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The following information has been extracted from CALM's computer based logging Operations Information System (LOIS) and covers logs delivered to CALM buyers during financial year periods to 30 June each year.



(a)	(i)	\$ 9,451,884
	(ii)	\$10,727,161
	(iii)	\$12,031,389
	(iv)	\$13,141,839
	(v)	\$13,329,157
	(vi)	\$11,650,586
	(vii)	\$11,246,662
(b)	(i)	\$5,088,042
	(ii)	\$7,089,055
	(iii)	\$7,751,052
	(iv)	\$7,306,528
	(v)	\$6,528,661
	(vi)	\$8,165,002
	(vii)	\$8,647,870
(c)	(i)	\$229,539
	(ii)	\$354,182
	(iii)	\$467,977
	(iv)	\$431,881
	(v)	\$523,481
	(vi)	\$450,300
	(vii)	\$1,006,784
(d)	(i)	\$224,537
	(ii)	\$291,808
	(iii)	\$263,141
	(iv)	\$226,847
	(v)	\$171,998
	(vi)	\$213,305
	(vii)	\$355,703
(e)	(i)	\$377,420
	(ii)	\$189,147
	(iii)	\$126,680
	(iv)	\$121,752
	(v)	\$99,057
	(vi)	\$100,610
	(vii)	\$173,560
(f)	(i)	\$326,769
	(ii)	\$302,411
	(iii)	\$572,180
	(iv)	\$556,009
	(v)	\$712,401
	(vi)	\$580,120
	(vii)	\$451,001
(g)	(i)	\$2,486,093
	(ii)	\$2,295,206
	(iii)	\$2,461,142
	(iv)	\$2,688,134
	(v)	\$2,884,905
	(vi)	\$3,626,077
	(vii)	\$3,822,948
(h)	(i)	\$6,244,428
	(ii)	\$5,694,434
	(iii)	\$7,529,853
	(iv)	\$8,297,387
	(v)	\$8,137,803
	(vi)	\$8,101,133
	(vii)	\$6,287,776

#### SECUREFORCE INTERNATIONAL, CONTRACT WITH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

2383. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport

I refer to the Department of Transport's contract with Secureforce International and ask -

- (a) what bus stations are covered by this contract;
- (b) how many security officers are rostered at each of these stations;
- (c) will the Minister outline the range of responsibilities of the company under this contract;
- (d) will the Minister confirm that on 16 November 1999 only Mirrabooka and Morley stations had security officers and that these officers left after only 2 hours of duty;
- (e) will the Minister confirm that on 17 November 1999 there was only one officer on duty at both Morley and Rockingham stations; and

- (f) will the Minister confirm that on both 18 and 19 November 1999 there were no security officers at all bus stations except for a mobile patrol?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a) The bus stations covered by the contract are the City Busport, Wellington Street Bus Station, Mirrabooka Bus Station, Morley Bus Station, Rockingham Bus Station, Kwinana Bus Station, Booragoon Bus Station and Murdoch Park 'n' Ride.
- (b) The number of static officers on duty at bus stations can vary between one and three. The contract requires a total of 580 hours coverage to be provided each week. The hours provided to an individual station may be varied according to the assessed needs of that station. The hours of coverage are agreed between the Department of Transport's Common User Infrastructure Management Contractor (Serco Australia Pty Ltd) and Secureforce at the commencement of each week. There is also an additional requirement for a total of 195 random visits per week to be made by mobile patrols. These normally comprise three visits per station per weekday and up to six visits per day on the weekend but again these may be varied according to the assessed needs of an individual station.
- (c) The contracted responsibilities are to provide a security presence for the travelling public. This can be in either static presentation or mobile patrols or both. The primary purpose of the security contract is to reduce the level of graffiti, harassment of passengers, fights, drug abuse, verbal misbehaviour, car break-ins, theft and any other anti-social behaviour detrimental to the safety and comfort of passengers.
- (d) On 16 November 1999, security officers were on duty at all stations. The officers at Mirrabooka and Morley stations did not leave after two hours of duty.
- (e) On 17 November 1999, only one officer was on duty at the Rockingham and Morley bus stations. This was due to staff shortages caused through sickness.
- (f) On 18 November 1999, security officers were stationed at Rockingham, Mirrabooka and Wellington Street bus stations. Murdoch, Morley and Mirrabooka were also supplemented with mobile patrols. No coverage was provided at Booragoon. The above arrangements were required due to staff shortages caused through sickness. On 19 November 1999, security officers were stationed at Rockingham, Murdoch, Booragoon and Wellington Street bus stations. Morley and Mirrabooka were covered with mobile patrols. The above arrangements were required due to staff shortages caused through sickness.

#### TIMBER RAILWAY SLEEPERS, VOLUME

2386. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Forest Products:

- (1) What was the last year in which the CALM Annual Report gave the figure for the volume of hardwood railway sleepers produced in WA?
- (2) For each year since the CALM Annual Report last gave that figure, will the Minister state how many cubic metres of hardwood railway sleepers were produced?
- (3) For each of those years does the Minister know what species of hardwood were used to produce the railway sleepers?
- (4) If yes to (3), for each year will the Minister state the volume of each species used?
- (5) Is the Minister aware that the Westrail specifications for timber railway sleepers clearly state that the timber must be first grade?
- (6) Does the Minister acknowledge that even where third grade sawlogs are used, the timber for sleepers must be first grade?
- (7) Does the 'suspension date' of July 1999 set by the Government for the production of timber railway sleepers apply to first grade timber sleepers cut from third grade sawlogs?
- (8) Is the Minister aware that Bunnings/Sotico's sawmill at Deanmill, which buys only first grade sawlogs, cut railway sleepers as recently as January 2000?
- (9) Having set a 'suspension date' of July 1999 for the production of timber railway sleepers, how will the Government know that all of the 30,000 cubic metres of timber sleepers claimed to have been cut prior to July, which can still be bought by Westrail, were in fact cut before that date?
- (10) How will Westrail establish that any first grade timber it buys as sleepers does not have a higher value-added use, such as furniture?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1) 1995-96.

- (2) 1996-97 16,824 cubic metres sawn  
1997-98 22,180 cubic metres sawn  
1998-99 not available.

CALM collected data on sleeper sawn production from six monthly summaries of sawmill operations submitted by sawmillers until 30 June 1998. Since that time sleepers are not recorded as a separate item. The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource economics (ABARE) does publish railway sleeper production statistics, page 36 of the December quarter 1999 edition of the Australian Forest Products Statistics produced by ABARE is attached. The data are derived from purchased information provided by the public and private rail authorities throughout Australia. [See paper No 958.]

- (3) Yes.
- (4) 1996-97 13,125 cubic metres Jarrah; 3,699 cubic metres Karri.  
1997-98 16,367 cubic metres Jarrah; 5,813 cubic metres Karri.  
1998-99 not available.
- (5) Sleepers purchased by Westrail must meet a detailed technical specification. The specification allows for certain levels of defects in the sleepers. The specifications can tolerate low quality timber defects which would not normally be acceptable in most structural timber grades. There is no reference to first grade timber in Westrail specifications.
- (6) Grading logs is not the same as grading sawn timber sleepers. Grading logs is based on assessing the proportion of millable timber whilst the log is in the round form. The proportion that is millable is then processed into a range of sawn timber products based on dimension, wood quality and the various specifications of sawn timber grades. Railway sleepers processed must meet specifications.
- (7) The 'suspension date' applied to all sleepers supplied to Westrail and produced from first and second grade Western Australian native hardwoods.
- (8) I understand that Sotico recently supplied sleepers to a South Australian buyer. Sotico also exports sleepers overseas. When a log is processed in a sawmill, internal faults may be discovered which were not obvious at the time the tree was harvested. Many sleepers are produced from these portions of logs, which meet the sleeper specification. This timber would otherwise be wasted or used for other low-grade uses. High value end products are concurrently produced from the sound portion of these logs. The proportion of sawn output cut to sleepers by Sotico's Deanmill is very low. Only two to three percent of output was not a "value added timber product" from this mill.
- (9) The sleepers were purchased from known Westrail timber suppliers. CALM's timber inspectors, before inspecting the sleepers, requested advice from the suppliers that the sleepers were cut prior to the suspension date.
- (10) The suppliers were required to provide a declaration that the sleepers were cut from those logs or parts of logs which have no higher value added use in accordance with the Westrail's sleeper supply policy and the agreed industry standard definition.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAMS

2394. Mr RIEBELING to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

For all government departments and agencies under the Deputy Premier's control, will the Deputy Premier provide the following information-

- (a) does the department or agency maintain an internal audit program, and if not, why not;
- (b) is this internal program undertaken by an outside contractor;
- (c) if yes-
- (i) who is the outside contractor;
  - (ii) on what date were they contracted;
  - (iii) when does the contract expire;
  - (iv) were tenders called for the contract, and if not why not;
  - (v) what is the total value of the contract;
  - (vi) if the contractor charges an hourly rate, what is that rate; and
- what was the value of the contract in 1998-99?

Mr COWAN replied:

Centre for Application of Solar Energy

- (a)-(b) Yes.

- (c) (i) Panell Kerr & Forster (PKF)  
(ii) 2 December 1999  
(iii) 2 December 2000

- (iv) Price negotiated with PKF to achieve value for money outcome. When first appointed, PKF costs were extremely competitive and continuity was considered important, due to the fact that CASE had to appoint a new accountant.
- (v) Total value of contract is \$7,800.00
- (vi) Not applicable.
- (vii) Value of contract in 1998-99 is \$6,480.00

## Department of Commerce &amp; Trade

(a)-(b) Yes.

- (c)
  - (i) Pricewaterhouse Coopers
  - (ii) 1 October 1997
  - (iii) 14 October 2000
  - (iv) Yes
  - (v) \$167,291.50
  - (vi)
    - \$72 per hour – Compliance audit and reviews
    - \$81 per hour – Attendance at Audit Committee meetings
    - \$81 per hour – IT system based audit reviews
    - \$72 per hour – Activity based audit reviews
    - \$72 per hour – Audits at overseas offices
    - \$72 per hour – Annual review of strategic/operational audit plans
  - (vii) \$47,704.50

## Gascoyne Development Commission

(a)-(b) Yes.

- (c)
  - (i) Kevin Johansen
  - (ii) May 1997
  - (iii) There is no formal contract
  - (iv) Yes
  - (v) There is no formal contract
  - (vi) \$50 per hour
  - (vii) \$1,250 in 1998/99

## Goldfields Esperance Development Commission

(a)-(b) Yes.

- (c)
  - (i) RSM Bird Cameron
  - (ii) 27 April 1999
  - (iii) 31 March 2000
  - (iv) No, an expression of interest was advertised
  - (v) \$5,500
  - (vi) Not applicable
  - (vii) \$4,096

## Great Southern Development Commission

(a)-(b) Yes.

- (c)
  - (i) Wheatcroft Enterprises
  - (ii) 2 August 1999
  - (iii) 31 July 2000
  - (iv) Yes
  - (v) \$2,500 per annum
  - (vi) \$40 per hour
  - (vii) \$150.00

## Kimberley Development Commission

(a)-(b) Yes.

- (c)
  - (i) Bird Cameron Chartered Accountants
  - (ii) 2 December 1996
  - (iii) 20 September 1999
  - (iv) Yes
  - (v) \$6,600
  - (vi) Not applicable
  - (vii) \$2,400

## Midwest Development Commission

(a)-(b) Yes.

- (c)
  - (i) BDO Nelson Parkhill
  - (ii) Use of the contractor is based on a tender call in 1997
  - (iii) Not applicable
  - (iv) Yes, for 1997 internal audit.
  - (v) The service costs were \$2,500 per annum plus travel and other disbursements
  - (vi) Not applicable
  - (vii) \$3,164 including travel and other disbursements

## Peel Development Commission

(a)-(b) Yes.

- (c)
  - (i) BDO Nelson Parkhill

- (ii) 1 December 1998
- (iii) 30 November 2000
- (iv) Yes
- (v) \$6,222
- (vi) Not applicable
- (vii) \$2,945

Pilbara Development Commission

(a)-(b) Yes.

- (c)
  - (i) Sampey & Co
  - (ii) 12 April 2000
  - (iii) For this calendar year only and specifically the internal audit for 1999/2000
  - (iv) Yes
  - (v) \$3,500
  - (vi) \$100 per hour
  - (vii) \$3,474.60

Small Business Development Corporation

(a)-(b) Yes.

- (c)
  - (i) Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
  - (ii) 16 February 2000
  - (iii) 30 June 2000
  - (iv) Tenders were not called because of the value of the contract, but a quotation was obtained in accordance with purchasing policy guidelines.
  - (v) \$4,800
  - (vi) Not applicable
  - (vii) \$6,400

South West Development Commission

(a)-(b) Yes.

- (c)
  - (i) SW McLeod & Associates
  - (ii) 4 December 1998
  - (iii) 30 June 2001
  - (iv) Yes
  - (v) The total value of the contract over three years is \$16,480
  - (vi) The contract has the annual fee fixed. Additional work is charged at either \$120 per hour for a senior partner or \$85 for an auditor.
  - (vii) \$6,230

Wheatbelt Development Commission

(a)-(b) Yes.

- (c)
  - (i) For 1999/2000 RSM Bird Cameron Partners
  - (ii) 22 May 2000
  - (iii) On completion of internal audit report for 1999/2000
  - (iv) No. Value under \$5,500 therefore not required according to State Supply Commission guidelines.
  - (v) \$1,650
  - (vi) Not applicable
  - (vii) Value of internal audit services in 1998/99 was \$4,111.80 paid to Pannel Kerr and Forster (PKF)

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAMS

2396. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

For all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control, will the Minister provide the following information-

- (a) does the department or agency maintain an internal audit program, and if not, why not;
- (b) is this internal program undertaken by an outside contractor;
- (c) if yes-
  - (i) who is the outside contractor;
  - (ii) on what date were they contracted;
  - (iii) when does the contract expire;
  - (iv) were tenders called for the contract, and if not why not;
  - (v) what is the total value of the contract;
  - (vi) if the contractor charges an hourly rate, what is that rate; and
 what was the value of the contract in 1998-99?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Education Department of Western Australia

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The audits of Information Systems and audits of schools are contracted out.

- (c) (i) For the Information System audit, Andros Consulting Pty Ltd was the contractor. For school audits, each year a number of contract auditors are selected to undertake audits. School contract auditors are yet to be selected for 2000.  
(ii) In the case of Andros Consulting Pty Ltd – 3 October 1999.  
(iii) 2 October 2002.  
(iv) Yes.  
(v) Andros Consulting Pty Ltd – up to \$150 150, over three years.  
School audit contracts total approximately \$165 000 per annum.  
(vi) \$65 per hour for Information System audits.  
The Department pays school contract auditors a site amount depending upon the size of the school.  
(vii) Andros Consulting Pty Ltd - \$41 161  
School contract auditors - \$166 840

## Curriculum Council and Department of Education Services

(a)-(b) Yes.

- (c) (i) G Hubbard & Associates and Yeelanna Pty Ltd who submitted a joint quotation for the contract.  
(ii) 22 February 1999.  
(iii) 21 February 2000, however, the contract has been extended for a further year with approval from the State Supply Commission. The new expiry date is 21 February 2001.  
(iv) No. The value of each of the original and continuing contracts was below \$20 000. With approval from the State Supply Commission in December 1998, quotations were called.  
(v) For 1999/2000, \$6 000 each in the budgets of the Curriculum Council and the Department of Education Services.  
(vi) \$40 per hour.  
(vii) \$3 800 for the Curriculum Council and \$4 573 for the Department of Education Services from the commencement of the contract in February 1999 to 30 June 1999.

## Country High School Hostels Authority

(a)-(b) Yes.

- (c) (i) Haines Norton, Chartered Accountants.  
(ii) 16 March 2000.  
(iii) On completion of audit on 31 May 2000.  
(iv) Yes.  
(v) \$10 900 for the audit of CHSHA residential colleges in Albany, Esperance, Geraldton, Katanning, Merredin, Moora, Narrogin and Northam.  
(vi) Not applicable.  
(vii) \$10 900

## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAMS

2397. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

For all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control, will the Minister provide the following information-

- (a) does the department or agency maintain an internal audit program, and if not, why not;  
(b) is this internal program undertaken by an outside contractor;  
(c) if yes-  
(i) who is the outside contractor;  
(ii) on what date were they contracted;  
(iii) when does the contract expire;  
(iv) were tenders called for the contract, and if not why not;  
(v) what is the total value of the contract;  
(vi) if the contractor charges an hourly rate, what is that rate; and  
what was the value of the contract in 1998-99?

Mr HOUSE replied:

## Agriculture Western Australia:

(a) Yes.

(b) The internal audit program is partially undertaken by 'outside' contracting firms.

- (c) (i) Morgan & Banks Pty Ltd and Audit West Pty Ltd.  
(ii) Two contracts with Morgan & Banks issued 13 March 2000 and 20 March 2000, and one contract with Audit West issued 6 December 1999.  
(iii) The contracts expire on 26 May 2000 and 30 June 2000 for Morgan & Banks, and 30 June 2000 for Audit West.  
(iv) Tenders were not called because the value of each contract is less than \$50,000.  
(v) \$14,600, \$15,400 and \$36,168 respectively, total value \$66,168.  
(vi) The values are \$35, \$45 and \$68.50 per hour respectively.  
(vii) The total value of contracts for 1998/99 financial year was \$125,072.36

Fisheries Western Australia:

(a)-(b) Yes.

- (c)
- (i) Stanton Partners
  - (ii) 6 October 1997
  - (iii) 5 October 2000
  - (iv) Yes
  - (v) \$139,000 over 3 years based on the fixed price contract for a specified internal audit program
  - (vi) Only additional work required by the Agency is charged at an agreed hourly rate. The hourly rates are dependent on the type of audit and are as follows:  
                     Financial/ Compliance audits - \$68.00 / hr  
                     Operational audits - \$90 / hr  
                     IT audits - \$75 / hr
  - (vii) \$58,033 (inclusive of additional work requested by the Agency)

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAMS

2399. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

For all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control, will the Minister provide the following information-

- (a) does the department or agency maintain an internal audit program, and if not, why not;
- (b) is this internal program undertaken by an outside contractor;
- (c) if yes-
  - (i) who is the outside contractor;
  - (ii) on what date were they contracted;
  - (iii) when does the contract expire;
  - (iv) were tenders called for the contract, and if not why not;
  - (v) what is the total value of the contract;
  - (vi) if the contractor charges an hourly rate, what is that rate; and
 what was the value of the contract in 1998-99?

Mr SHAVE replied:

Department of Land Administration

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The internal audit program is resourced partly by inhouse staff resources and partly by contracted resources.
- (c)
- (i) Ernest & Young.
  - (ii) 23/2/1999.
  - (iii) 30/6/2000.
  - (iv) Yes.
  - (v) \$190,000
  - (vi) \$86 per hour for operational audits and \$94 per hour for information systems audits.
  - (vii) \$90,000.

Western Australian Electoral Commission

- (a)-(b) Yes.
- (c)
- (i) Price Newman and Associates
  - (ii) 1990
  - (iii) ongoing
  - (iv) No. Annual amount under tender limit requirements
  - (v) Variable year to year depending on audit program requirements
  - (vi) \$40 - \$70 depending on consultant – average \$50
  - (vii) \$15,500

LandCorp

(a)-(b) Yes.

- (c)
- (i) PricewaterhouseCoopers
  - (ii) 28 February 1997
  - (iii) 30 June 2000
  - (iv) Yes
  - (v) \$105 800
  - (vi) \$80 per hour
  - (vii) \$18 900

Ministry of Fair Trading

In respect of the Ministry of Fair Trading and the Real Estate and Business Agents Supervisory Board, Settlement Agents Supervisory Board, Finance Brokers Supervisory Board, Motor Vehicle Dealers Licensing Board, Land Valuers Licensing Board, the Charitable Collections Advisory Committee, the Retail Shops Advisory Committee, the Consumer Products Safety Committee and the Home Buyers' Assistance Advisory Committee:

- (a) Yes.

- (b) No.
- (c) Not applicable.

In respect of the to Builders Registration and Painters Registration Boards and the Building Disputes Committee:

- (a) Neither the Builders' Registration Board or the Painters' Registration Board are subject to any legislative requirement to maintain an internal audit program. Notwithstanding this, the financial records of both agencies are audited by an external independent auditor on an annual basis. Both agencies are in the process of developing internal compliance systems.
- (b)-(c) Not applicable.

Note: The accounts for the Builders' Registration Board and Painters' Registration Board are undertaken by an external auditor approved by the Minister (Refer Section 23A Builders' Registration Act).

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAMS

2400. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Police; Emergency Services:

For all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control, will the Minister provide the following information-

- (a) does the department or agency maintain an internal audit program, and if not, why not;
- (b) is this internal program undertaken by an outside contractor;
- (c) if yes-
  - (i) who is the outside contractor;
  - (ii) on what date were they contracted;
  - (iii) when does the contract expire;
  - (iv) were tenders called for the contract, and if not why not;
  - (v) what is the total value of the contract;
  - (vi) if the contractor charges an hourly rate, what is that rate; and
 what was the value of the contract in 1998-99?

Mr PRINCE replied:

Police

- (a) The Western Australia Police Service maintains a risk based internal audit program consisting of both system and performance examinations.
- (b) The internal audit program is undertaken by the Management Audit Unit of the Professional Standards Portfolio. Occasionally, and only when internal expertise is not available, external contractors are engaged to assist with performing specific aspects of the program.
- (c)
  - (i) KPMG
  - (ii) September 1998
  - (iii) December 1998
  - (iv) Yes
  - (v) \$60,300
  - (vi) Project fixed fee.
  - (vii) \$60,300

Fire and Emergency Services Authority

- (a)-(b) Yes.
- (c)
  - (i) Pannell Kerr Forster
  - (ii) 30/03/1998
  - (iii) 26/03/2001
  - (iv) Yes
  - (v) \$87,000 per financial year
  - (vi) Not applicable
  - (vii) \$87,000.

WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office

- (a) Yes, as part of Family and Children's Services up to 30 June 2000.
- (b) No.
- (c) Not applicable.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAMS

2401. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Planning; Heritage; Minister assisting the Treasurer:

For all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control, will the Minister provide the following information-



- (a) does the department or agency maintain an internal audit program, and if not, why not;
- (b) is this internal program undertaken by an outside contractor;
- (c) if yes-
  - (i) who is the outside contractor;
  - (ii) on what date were they contracted;
  - (iii) when does the contract expire;
  - (iv) were tenders called for the contract, and if not why not;
  - (v) what is the total value of the contract;
  - (vi) if the contractor charges an hourly rate, what is that rate; and

what was the value of the contract in 1998-99?

Mr KIERATH replied:

Ministry for Planning [Includes Office of the Minister for Planning (Appeals)]

(a)-(b) Yes.

- (c)
  - (i) Arthur Andersen
  - (ii) 3 December 1997
  - (iii) 1 July 2000
  - (iv) 3 quotes as total contract was below tender limit
  - (v) \$19 717 (equates to \$6 573 per annum)
  - (vi) Not applicable - fixed quote
  - (vii) \$6 435

Western Australian Planning Commission

(a)-(b) Yes.

- (c)
  - (i) Arthur Andersen
  - (ii) 3 December 1997
  - (iii) 1 July 2000
  - (iv) 3 quotes as total contract was below tender limit
  - (v) \$19 718 (equates to \$6 573 per annum)
  - (vi) Not applicable - fixed quote
  - (vii) \$6 435

East Perth Redevelopment Authority

(a)-(b) Yes.

- (c)
  - (i) Price and Newman
  - (ii) July 1999
  - (iii) August 2000
  - (iv) Yes
  - (v) Approximately \$20 000 per annum depending on hours
  - (vi) \$60 per hour
  - (vii) \$12 000

Subiaco Redevelopment Authority

(a)-(b) Yes.

- (c)
  - (i) Arthur Andersen
  - (ii) March 1995
  - (iii) 30 June 2000
  - (iv) Yes
  - (v) \$36 500
  - (vi) Agreed annual fixed charge based on the audit program
  - (vii) \$7 000

Midland Redevelopment Authority

(a) No. The Midland Redevelopment Authority is currently seeking advice from the Office of the Auditor General to assist in the engagement of suitably qualified internal audit consultants.

(b)-(c) Not applicable.

Heritage Council of Western Australia

(a)-(b) Yes.

- (c)
  - (i) Stanton Partners
  - (ii) 18 February 2000
  - (iii) 30 November 2000
  - (iv) The original tender for internal audit services was administered by the Ministry for Planning and included the Heritage Council. The current contract is an extension of that tender. The Heritage Council has continued to use Stanton Partners taking into account their satisfactory performance of the internal audit and the continued competitive pricing for their internal audit services.
  - (v) \$4,250
  - (vi) Not applicable.
  - (vii) \$4,000

## State Revenue Department

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No.
- (c) Not applicable.

## Valuer General's Office

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No.
- (c) Not applicable.

## Government Employees Superannuation Board

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The major portion of the program is undertaken by an outside contractor, with the balance of its program and its management undertaken by an internal staff member.
- (c)
  - (i) Arthur Andersen
  - (ii) 15 June 1999
  - (iii) 30 June 2000 with the option of extending for a further 2 years
  - (iv) Yes
  - (v) The estimated value for the first year is \$98 800. The contract value varies according to the hours contracted.
  - (vi) Hourly rates are \$75 for Performance Audits; \$70 for Internal Control Audits and \$80 for Information Systems Audits.
  - (vii) Not applicable.

## Insurance Commission of Western Australia

- (a)-(b) Yes.
- (c)
  - (i) PricewaterhouseCoopers
  - (ii) 1 January 1998
  - (iii) 31 December 2000
  - (iv) Yes
  - (v) Estimated at \$700 000 (for three years)
  - (vi) \$76.20 per hour fixed
  - (vii) \$213 787

## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAMS

2402. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

For all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control, will the Minister provide the following information-

- (a) does the department or agency maintain an internal audit program, and if not, why not;
- (b) is this internal program undertaken by an outside contractor;
- (c) if yes-
  - (i) who is the outside contractor;
  - (ii) on what date were they contracted;
  - (iii) when does the contract expire;
  - (iv) were tenders called for the contract, and if not why not;
  - (v) what is the total value of the contract;
  - (vi) if the contractor charges an hourly rate, what is that rate; and

what was the value of the contract in 1998-99?

Dr HAMES replied:

## Aboriginal Affairs Department:

- (a)-(b) Yes.
- (c)
  - (i) Stamfords.
  - (ii) 3 November 1999.
  - (iii) 3 November 2000.
  - (iv) Yes.
  - (v) \$73,655.00 per annum.
  - (vi) Average rate per hour is \$58.00.
  - (vii) \$100,000.00.

## Ministry of Housing:

- (a)-(b) Yes.
- (c)
  - (i) Ernst & Young.
  - (ii) The contract commenced 1 July 1999. KPMG contract ceased 30 June 1999.
  - (iii) Contract expires 30 June 2002.

- (iv) Yes.
- (v) \$900,000.00 is the cost of the three year contract period.
- (vi) Averaged at \$60.00 per hour (hourly rate differs between EDP audits and compliance reviews).
- (vii) \$468,117.00 (previous contractor KPMG)

Office of Water Regulation:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The internal audit program forms part of Service Level Agreement the Office of Water Regulation has with the Water and Rivers Commission.
- (c) Not applicable.

Water and Rivers Commission:

- (a)-(b) Yes.
- (c)
  - (i) Arthur Anderson.
  - (ii) 9 June 1999.
  - (iii) June 2001.
  - (iv) Yes.
  - (v) \$33,800.00.
  - (vi) Not applicable.
  - (vii) \$11,050.00.

Water Corporation:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No.
- (c) Not applicable.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAMS

2406. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Family and Children's Services; Seniors; Women's Interests:

For all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control, will the Minister provide the following information-

- (a) does the department or agency maintain an internal audit program, and if not, why not;
- (b) is this internal program undertaken by an outside contractor;
- (c) if yes-
  - (i) who is the outside contractor;
  - (ii) on what date were they contracted;
  - (iii) when does the contract expire;
  - (iv) were tenders called for the contract, and if not why not;
  - (v) what is the total value of the contract;
  - (vi) if the contractor charges an hourly rate, what is that rate; and
 what was the value of the contract in 1998-99?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

- (a) The department does maintain an internal audit program.
- (b) The internal audit program is undertaken by both staff (Principal Internal Auditor and the Senior Internal Auditor) and outside contractors.
- (c)
  - (i) The outside contractors are RDMS (Susan Whittle), ML Goulden & Associates (Margaret Goulden), Grace Gow and Diversified Resources Pty Ltd (Alison Doran).
  - (ii) Date of contracts -  
RDMS - 23 April 1999  
ML Goulden & Associates - 23 April 1999  
Grace Gow - 5 November 1999  
Diversified Resources Pty Ltd - 19 April 1999
  - (iii) Contracts expire -  
RDMS - 22 April 2001  
ML Goulden & Associates - 22 April 2001  
Grace Gow - 30 June 2000  
Diversified Resources Pty Ltd - 31 March 2000
  - (iv) Tenders  
RDMS - Yes  
ML Goulden & Associates - Yes  
Grace Gow and Diversified Resources Pty Ltd - Written quotations were obtained as the value of each contract was less than \$50,000

- (v) Total value  
RDMS - \$110,000  
ML Goulden & Associates - \$110,000  
Grace Gow - \$35,000  
Diversified Resources Pty Ltd - \$25,000
- (vi) Hourly rate  
RDMS - \$38 per hour  
ML Goulden & Associates - \$38 per hour  
Grace Gow - \$35 per hour  
Diversified Resources Pty Ltd - \$38 per hour
- (vii) Value of contract in 1998/99  
RDMS - \$59,634.92  
ML Goulden & Associates - \$55,540.95  
Grace Gow - nil  
Diversified Resources Pty Ltd - \$18,748

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAMS

2407. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Works; Services; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

For all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control, will the Minister provide the following information-

- (a) does the department or agency maintain an internal audit program, and if not, why not;
- (b) is this internal program undertaken by an outside contractor;
- (c) if yes-
  - (i) who is the outside contractor;
  - (ii) on what date were they contracted;
  - (iii) when does the contract expire;
  - (iv) were tenders called for the contract, and if not why not;
  - (v) what is the total value of the contract;
  - (vi) if the contractor charges an hourly rate, what is that rate; and

what was the value of the contract in 1998-99?

Mr JOHNSON replied:

Contract and Management Services

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes in part. CAMS Internal Audit Program is managed by the CAMS Manager, Internal Audit. The bulk of the work is completed by an outside contractor. There have been two (2) contracts since the services were contracted out.
- (c)
  - (i) KPMG is the current contractor.
  - (ii) The current contract commenced on the 27 July 1999.
  - (iii) The current contract expires 26 July 2001. It has two (2) one year optional extensions.
  - (iv) Yes – public tenders were called.
  - (v) Approximately \$400,000.00 over the initial 2 year term of the current contract.
  - (vi)
 

Type of Audit	Position	Hourly Rate
Information Systems	Partner	\$210
	Senior Manager	\$175
	Consultant	\$42
Internal Control	Partner	\$200
	Senior Manager	\$100
	Consultant	\$35
Performance/Operational	Partner	\$210
	Senior Manager	\$138
	Consultant	\$42
- (vi) \$314,917.68.

Office of Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes, as part of Department of Contract and Management Services contract.
- (c)
  - (i) KPMG.
  - (ii) 27 July 1999.
  - (iii) 26 July 2001, with two one year options for CAMS to extend.
  - (iv) Yes.
  - (v) \$10,000 is the portion of the two year CAMS contract attributable to this agency.
  - (vi) In accordance with the following rates:
 

Type of Audit	Position	Hourly Rate
Information Systems	Partner	\$210
	Senior Manager	\$175
	Consultant	\$42

Internal Control & Compliance	Partner	\$200
	Senior Manager	\$100
	Consultant	\$35
Performance/Operational	Partner	\$210
	Senior Manager	\$138
	Consultant	\$42
(vii)	\$4,600.	

## State Supply Commission

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes. State Supply Commission internal audit program is managed by the Manager Financial and Support Services. The bulk of the work is completed by an outside contractor.

- (c)
- (i) Bentley MRI Chartered Accountants is the current contractor.
  - (ii) The current contract commenced on 11 May 2000.
  - (iii) The current contract expires on the 30 June 2000. It has two (2) one year option extension.
  - (iv) Yes – request for quotation were called.
  - (v) Total value of contract is \$11,000 for 1999/2000 financial year and approximately \$12,500 for 2000/2001 and approximately \$13,000 for 2001/2002.
  - (vi)

Type of Order	Position	Hourly Rate
Audit Plan		\$2000 in total
MYOB Accounting System	Partner	\$240.00
	Manager	\$150.00
	Senior	\$110.00
	Support Staff	\$70.00
Internal Control	Partner	\$240.00
	Manager	\$150.00
	Senior	\$110.00
	Support Staff	\$70.00
Performance/Operational	Partner	\$240.00
	Manager	\$150.00
	Senior	\$110.00
	Support Staff	\$70.00
  - (vii) \$34,747.00.

## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAMS

2408. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

For all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control, will the Minister provide the following information-

- (a) does the department or agency maintain an internal audit program, and if not, why not;
  - (b) is this internal program undertaken by an outside contractor;
  - (c) if yes-
    - (i) who is the outside contractor;
    - (ii) on what date were they contracted;
    - (iii) when does the contract expire;
    - (iv) were tenders called for the contract, and if not why not;
    - (v) what is the total value of the contract;
    - (vi) if the contractor charges an hourly rate, what is that rate; and
- what was the value of the contract in 1998-99?

Mr BARNETT replied:

## Department of Minerals and Energy

(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Not applicable.

## Coal Industry Superannuation Board

(a) No. Due to the size of Agency staff at two, internal audit has been exempted due to segregation of duties.

(b)-(c) Not applicable.

## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAMS

2409. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

For all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control, will the Minister provide the following information-

- (a) does the department or agency maintain an internal audit program, and if not, why not;
- (b) is this internal program undertaken by an outside contractor;

- (c) if yes-
- (i) who is the outside contractor;
  - (ii) on what date were they contracted;
  - (iii) when does the contract expire;
  - (iv) were tenders called for the contract, and if not why not;
  - (v) what is the total value of the contract;
  - (vi) if the contractor charges an hourly rate, what is that rate; and
- what was the value of the contract in 1998-99?

Mr COWAN replied:

Office of Racing, Gaming and Liquor

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No.
- (c) Not applicable.

WA Greyhound Racing Association

- (a)-(b) Yes.
- (c)
  - (i) John C Bingham, Chartered Accountant
  - (ii) 1 August 1994
  - (iii) 31 July 2000
  - (iv) Yes
  - (v) \$9,811 per annum (currently). The original contract was broadened in 1997 to include the Northam operations which commenced racing 12 months earlier.
  - (vi) Not applicable
  - (vii) Contract value in 1998/99 was \$9,811

Burswood Park Board

- (a)-(b) Yes.
- (c)
  - (i) David Coote, Chartered Accountant
  - (ii) 8 May 2000
  - (iii) 30 June 2003
  - (iv) Yes
  - (v) \$10,560 (3 year contract)
  - (vi) Not applicable, fixed yearly lump sum charged.
  - (vii) \$3,200

Totalisator Agency Board

- (a)-(b) Yes.
- (c)
  - (i) Hall Chadwick
  - (ii) August 1996
  - (iii) July 2000
  - (iv) Yes
  - (v) \$104,850
  - (vi) \$57 (August 1996 - July 1999) - \$62 (August 1999 - July 2000)
  - (vii) \$25,650

WA Lotteries Commission

- (a)-(b) Yes.
- (c)
  - (i) Pricewaterhouse Coopers
  - (ii) 23 July 1998
  - (iii) 30 June 2001 with a 12 month option to extend to 30 June 2002
  - (iv) Public tenders were called
  - (v) Approximately \$500,000 over the 3 years
  - (vi) Hourly rates are fixed for duration at \$75 1998/99; \$76 1999/2000 and \$80.75 2000/2001
  - (vii) \$181,000

#### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, NON-TEACHING STAFF POSITIONS

2421. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many non-teaching staff positions (in FTE's) were there in the Education Department of Western Australia at the level five grading and at each level above this at 30 June 1997?
- (2) How many non-teaching staff (in FTE's) were on the payroll of the Education Department of Western Australia at the level five grading and at each level above this as at 30 June 1997?
- (3) How many non-teaching staff positions (in FTE's) were there in the Education Department of Western at the level five grading and at each level above this as at 1 January 1998?
- (4) How many non-teaching staff (in FTE's) were on the payroll of the Education Department of Western Australia at the level grading and at each level above this as at 1 January 1998?

(5) Are Education Officers included in each of the above?

(6) If not, what are the number of FTE's for Education Officers comparable to level five grading and above?

Mr BARNETT replied:

(1) The figures below show the number of non-teaching staff positions (in FTEs) in the Education Department of Western Australia at the level five grading and at each level above this as at 30 June 1997.

Level	FTE
5	77.75
6	57.1
7	34
8	80.2
9	9
Class 1	1
Class 2	6
Class 3	0
Class 4	1
Director-General	1
Education Officer 1	9.4
Education Officer 2	132.79
Education Officer 3	76.45

(2) The figures below show the number of non-teaching staff (in FTEs) on the payroll of the Education Department of Western Australia at the level five grading and at each level above this level as at 30 June 1997.

Level	FTE
5	77.75
6	53.1
7	32
8	76.2
9	8
Class 1	1
Class 2	6*
Class 3	0
Class 4	1
Director-General	1
Education Officer 1	9.4
Education Officer 2	127.79
Education Officer 3	74.45

\* Note: One person at this grading was receiving a temporary special allowance.

(3) The figures below show the number of non-teaching staff positions (in FTEs) in the Education Department of Western Australia at the level five grading and at each level above this level as at 1 January 1998.

Level	FTE
5	110.3
6	75.1
7	56
8	40
9	42.6
Class 1	1
Class 2	5
Class 3	1
Class 4	1
Director-General	1
Education Officer 1	2
Education Officer 2	70.09
Education Officer 3	25.7

(4) The figures below show the number of non-teaching staff (in FTEs) on the payroll of the Education Department of Western Australia at the level five grading and at each level above this level as at 1 January 1998.

Level	FTE
5	109.3
6	73.1
7	54
8	34
9	42.6
Class 1	1
Class 2	5
Class 3	3*
Class 4	1
Director-General	2 **
Education Officer 1	2
Education Officer 2	69.09
Education Officer 3	23.7

\* Note: Two additional people were paid at this grading because the incumbent was on paid leave and being relieved, and one person was receiving a temporary special allowance.

\*\* Note: Two people were paid as Director-General because the incumbent was on paid leave.

(5) Yes.

(6) Not applicable.

#### DOCTORS, COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS

2423. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

(1) Did the recent determination of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on doctors' collective agreements include doctors at the public facility of Joondalup Health Campus?

(2) If yes, what are the implications of the ACCC's determination on HCOA's ability to meet the contractual obligations with the Health Department?

(3) Is there currently a collective agreement between the Health Department and non-metropolitan visiting medical practitioners working on a fee for service?

(4) If yes, does this breach the ACCC's guidelines?

Mr DAY replied:

(1) To the best of my knowledge the ACCC has not yet issued any determination or reached any conclusion on doctor's collective agreements at Joondalup Health Campus.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) No.

(4) Not applicable.

#### SCHOOLS, CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

2425. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

(1) What was the total capital expenditure for each of the following schools during the past nine financial years-

- (a) Churchlands Senior High School;
- (b) City Beach Senior High School;
- (c) Floreat Primary School;
- (d) City Beach Primary School;
- (e) Kapinara Primary School;
- (f) Wembley Primary School;
- (g) Wembley Downs Primary School;
- (h) Woodlands Primary School; and
- (i) Churchlands Primary School?

(2) What specific capital projects were the funds allocated to?

Mr BARNETT replied:

(1)-(2) (a)	Churchlands Senior High School	
	1993/94 Administration Upgrade, Music Facilities,	\$ 1 813 000
	1996/97 Medical Centre, Sewer Connection	\$10 433 000 (estimate)
	Total Fire Replacement and Upgrade	\$12 246 000
(b)	City Beach High School	Nil
(c)	Floreat Primary School	
	1997/98 Purchase of and Additions to Pre Primary	\$ 564 000
	Total	\$ 564 000
(d)	City Beach Primary School	
	1996/97 Conversion for Toilets	\$ 198 000
	Conversion for Pre Primary	\$ 73 000
	1999/00 Covered Assembly Area	\$ 345 000 (estimate)
	Total	\$ 616 000
(e)	Kapinara Primary School	
	1996/97 Conversion for Pre Primary	\$ 55 000
	1999/00 Administration Upgrade, Covered Assembly Area	\$ 508 000 (estimate)
	Total	\$ 563 000
(f)	Wembley Primary School	
	1995/96 Pre Primary Transportable	\$ 113 000
	1999/00 Additions and Upgrade	\$ 1 210 000 (estimate)
	Total	\$ 1 323 000



(g)	Wembley Downs Primary School		
	1996/97	Covered Assembly Area	\$ 228 000
		Pre Primary Transportable	\$ 129 000
	Total		\$ 357 000
(h)	Woodlands Primary School		
	1992/93	Conversion for Pre Primary	\$ 74 000
	1994/95	Administration Upgrade, Sewer Connection	\$ 245 000
	1996/97	Covered Assembly Area	\$ 250 000
	Total		\$ 569 000
(i)	Churchlands Primary School		
	1993/94	Administration Upgrade, Classroom Additions	\$ 765 000
	1994/95	Library Resource Centre, P&C funded Music Room	\$ 285 000
	1997/98	Pre Primary Transportable	\$ 127 000
	1998/99	Covered Assembly Area	\$ 330 000
	Total		\$ 1 507 000

## SCHOOLS, MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE

2426. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

What was the total maintenance expenditure for each of the following schools during the past nine financial years -

- (a) Churchlands Senior High School;
- (b) City Beach Senior High School;
- (c) Floreat Primary School;
- (d) City Beach Primary School;
- (e) Kapinara Primary School;
- (f) Wembley Primary School;
- (g) Wembley Downs Primary School;
- (h) Woodlands Primary School; and
- (i) Churchlands Primary School?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (a) Churchlands Senior High School
 

1992/93	\$ 51 444
1993/94	\$ 112 155
1994/95	\$ 111 289
1995/96	\$ 143 960
1996/97	\$ 223 906
1997/98	\$ 432 299
1998/99	\$ 174 506
1999/00	\$ 74 024 (year to date – April 2000)
Total	\$1 323 583

Note: 1997/98 expenditure includes some fire damage clean-up costs.

- (b) City Beach Senior High School
 

1992/93	\$ 20 617
1993/94	\$ 29 518
1994/95	\$ 110 162
1995/96	\$ 121 763
1996/97	\$ 126 892
1997/98	\$ 115 375
1998/99	\$ 105 524
1999/00	\$ 69 788 (year to date – April 2000)
Total	\$ 699 639

- (c) Floreat Park Primary School
 

1992/93	\$ 11 915
1993/94	\$ 18 750
1994/95	\$ 32 197
1995/96	\$ 57 201
1996/97	\$ 24 777
1997/98	\$ 42 761
1998/99	\$ 50 246
1999/00	\$ 16 048 (year to date – April 2000)
Total	\$ 253 895

- (d) City Beach Primary School
 

1992/93	\$ 7 284
1993/94	\$ 10 874
1994/95	\$ 18 686
1995/96	\$ 52 893
1996/97	\$ 53 428
1997/98	\$ 119 062
1998/99	\$ 38 402
1999/00	\$ 27 647 (year to date – April 2000)
Total	\$ 328 276

Note: 1997/98 expenditure includes asbestos roof replacement.

(e) Kapinara Primary School

1992/93 \$	5 027
1993/94 \$	6 345
1994/95 \$	8 920
1995/96 \$	21 908
1996/97 \$	42 850
1997/98 \$	20 656
1998/99 \$	28 288
1999/00 \$	36 636 (year to date – April 2000)
Total \$	170 630

(f) Wembley Primary School

1992/93 \$	17 343
1993/94 \$	25 666
1994/95 \$	16 362
1995/96 \$	62 421
1996/97 \$	61 622
1997/98 \$	38 455
1998/99 \$	31 420
1999/00 \$	20 381 (year to date – April 2000)
Total \$	273 670

(g) Wembley Downs Primary School

1992/93 \$	11 864
1993/94 \$	19 985
1994/95 \$	29 985
1995/96 \$	13 852
1996/97 \$	30 008
1997/98 \$	236 161
1998/99 \$	14 786
1999/00 \$	20 924 (year to date – April 2000)
Total \$	377 565

Note: 1997/98 expenditure includes asbestos roof replacement.

(h) Woodlands Primary School

1992/93 \$	15 571
1993/94 \$	22 591
1994/95 \$	27 437
1995/96 \$	33 536
1996/97 \$	39 576
1997/98 \$	36 639
1998/99 \$	39 237
1999/00 \$	17 651 (year to date – April 2000)
Total \$	232 238

(i) Churchlands Primary School

1992/93 \$	8 166
1993/94 \$	26 550
1994/95 \$	30 261
1995/96 \$	27 834
1996/97 \$	43 167
1997/98 \$	31 305
1998/99 \$	25 680
1999/00 \$	25 472 (year to date – April 2000)
Total \$	218 435

Note: Expenditure includes breakdown repairs, preventive maintenance, roof replacement but minor works, grounds maintenance, furniture repairs.

#### PERRY LAKES STADIUM

2431. Dr CONSTABLE to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Which level of Government will fund the relocation costs of rugby, basketball and athletics facilities from Perry Lakes Stadium to an alternative site?
- (2) Will the sports be relocated to a site within the Town of Cambridge's boundaries?
- (3) Who paid for the construction of the Perry Lakes Stadium prior to the 1962 Commonwealth Games?
- (4) How much money does it cost to maintain Perry Lakes Stadium each year?
- (5) Who owns the site on which Perry Lakes Stadium is located?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

- (1)-(2) The sporting facilities located at Perry Lakes are owned by the Town of Cambridge. Any relocation of any one or more of these facilities will be determined by the Town of Cambridge and on-going discussion in this regard is taking place with the State Government.

- (3) The cost of the Stadium was mainly funded by the City of Perth (sale of endowment land) with financial assistance being received from State and Federal governments.
- (4) The Town of Cambridge advises that it requires \$927,200 composed of \$455,900 for maintenance and \$471,300 for depreciation.
- (5) The Town of Cambridge.

#### SUBIACO OVAL, FUNDING OF UPGRADE

2432. Dr CONSTABLE to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) What is the total amount of funding that has been spent on the upgrade of Subiaco Oval and its facilities?
- (2) Who paid for the upgrade of Subiaco Oval and its facilities?
- (3) Who owns the site on which Subiaco Oval is located?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

- (1) The recent upgrade of Subiaco Oval undertaken in 1999/2000 by the West Australian Football Commission (WAFC) comprised building and ancillary works, including the new electronic scoreboard at a total cost of approximately \$42 million.
- (2) The cost of this facility has been met by the WAFC with the assistance of the State Government, which has committed to contributing \$1.5 million p.a. for each of 20 years.
- (3) Subiaco Oval is a Crown reserve, vested in the City of Subiaco and leased to the WAFC by Deed of Lease, due to expire in 2090.

#### MOBILE PHONES, SATELLITE SERVICE

2433. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister for Regional Development:

- (1) How is the \$500 000 to be spent to enable affordable mobile telephone coverage through a satellite mobile phone service?
- (2) Will all commonly used mobile phones have access to this service?
- (3) When can State wide coverage be expected?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) The fund will be used to subsidise the purchase price of satellite mobile phone handsets. Details of the subsidy scheme are still being finalised. However, it is expected that the subsidy will be available for small businesses or individuals located in areas never likely to be served by a conventional land based mobile phone system. This encompasses over 90% of the land area of Western Australia.
- (2) No. The commonly used mobile phones are designed only for land-based services which are short range, typically 30 – 50km from a base station. Only satellite phones give coverage over the whole of Western Australia. Services of this kind are Optus Mobilesat which is a vehicle mounted set, Telstra Minisat which is a briefcase set and Vodafone Globalstar which is a hand held set slightly larger than the commonly used mobile phones.
- (3) Statewide coverage has been available on Optus Mobilesat and Telstra Minisat for several years, but few remote area residents considered them affordable. The new Vodafone Globalstar service which commenced on 1 May 2000, is considered to be much more affordable. The subsidy is intended to close the affordability gap further. Vodafone Globalstar uses a gateway station situated at Meekatharra.

#### MIDLAND WORKSHOPS SITE, HERITAGE COUNCIL REPORTS AND MINUTES

2436. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Heritage:

- (1) Will the Heritage Council release all its reports on the Shell Annexe at the Midland Workshop site?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) Will the Heritage Council release its minutes and discussion on the matter at its meeting of 14 April 2000?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Not applicable.

## TEE PAPERS, ERRORS

2441. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many errors were found in the 1999 TEE exam papers?
- (2) How many were found before the exam took place?
- (3) How many were detected after the examination?
- (4) What is the explanation for any errors that occurred?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Twenty seven errors were identified in the 33 exam papers.
- (2) Eight. The errors detected in the examination paper prior to the exam were communicated to the examination supervisor via an errata sheet. These were announced to all candidates prior to them sitting the examination.
- (3) Nineteen. The errors located were minor typographic and printing errors and would not have affected students answering the question correctly. For example, omitting to print the marks available for a question.
- (4) Some of the errors originated in the text prepared by the examiners and some of the errors were caused by the printing process. There is an extensive checking process of the examination paper prior to its submission to the printer. Once the proof copy is available from the printer a member of the examining panel who is independent of the Curriculum Council Secretariat makes a final check. In view of time constraints and security needs, only 48 hours is available for this check. Given that there are 1 050 pages, human error is possible at this stage.

## SOUTH WESTERN HIGHWAY, OVERTAKING LANES BETWEEN WAROONA AND BUNBURY

2443. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

How many overtaking lanes are to be constructed in the 2000/2001 financial year on the South Western Highway between Waroona and Bunbury?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

Main Roads is currently working on a plan to construct four overtaking lanes on the section of the South Western Highway between Roelands and Bunbury. Subject to the completion of land acquisition, pre-construction and design, Main Roads intends to undertake construction of the overtaking lanes during 2000/01.

## WA LAND AUTHORITY, EMERY AND ASSOCIATES' CONTRACT

2444. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Further to question on notice No. 264 of 1996-
  - (a) what payments have been made by the Western Australian Land Authority to Emery and Associates; and
  - (b) on what date has each payment occurred?
- (2) Are Emery and Associates still engaged as consultants by the Authority?
- (3) If not, when did this contract cease?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) (a)-(b) The following payments have been made to Graham Emery by the Authority:

Date	Amount
31-AUG-1993	6,880.00
30-SEP-1993	5,672.00
30-SEP-1993	12,340.80
31-DEC-1993	4,993.36
31-MAR-1994	6,512.00
31-AUG-1994	3,232.00
31-JAN-1995	8,466.00
31-MAR-1995	7,093.60
31-JUL-1995	1,600.00
30-SEP-1995	8,000.00
30-NOV-1995	19,757.00
29-FEB-1996	11,674.15
29-FEB-1996	3,000.00
30-JUN-1996	7,141.60
30-JUN-1996	6,000.00
30-NOV-1996	11,285.80
30-NOV-1996	3,000.00
	126,648.31

- (2) No.
- (3) November 1996.

## SPORTS BETTING ACCOUNT

2447. Mr McGOWAN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I refer to questions on notice Nos 776 of 1999 and 2041 of 2000 regarding the Sports Betting Account and ask -

- (a) why has the Minister for Sport and Recreation not advised sporting groups of the availability of the Account to “resolve funding problems that arise from time to time”; and
- (b) on what basis can this approach be deemed transparent to sport bodies?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

- (a)-(b) Money from the TAB Sports Betting Account is allocated by the Minister for Sport and Recreation in accordance with the publicised provisions of the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act.

## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERNAL LIBRARY SERVICE

2451. Mr RIEBELING to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

In relation to those agencies within the Deputy Premier’s responsibility which have an internal library service -

- (a) what is the name of the agency;
- (b) how many staff are employed at the library of the agency;
- (c) what is the budget allocation for the library -
  - (i) in the current financial year; and
  - (ii) in the 2000/2001 State Budget?
- (d) will each of the agency libraries remain fully operational during the coming financial year; and
- (e) if no to (d) above, in which agency will there be a change, what is the nature of the change, and why is the change occurring?

Mr COWAN replied:

Centre for Application of Solar Energy

- (a) The International Centre for Application of Solar Energy (CASE) has a resource area/library for internal use and providing information to industry.
- (b) The library has one person allocated on a part time basis (0.4 persons).
- (c)
 

Budget		
99/2000	\$10,500	purchases
	\$10,000	salary
2000/2001	\$20,000	purchases and salary
- (d)-(e) The library is an internal resource and therefore will remain open but its function will change over time. The increasing availability of on-line information is expected to impact on the amount of hardcopy material catalogued and purchased.

Department of Commerce & Trade

- (a) The Department of Commerce and Trade (the library service is jointly funded in conjunction with the Department of Resources Development)
- (b) 3 FTEs.
- (c)
  - (i) \$131,000
  - (ii) \$100,000
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Not applicable.

Small Business Development Corporation

- (a) Small Business Development Corporation.
- (b) 0.2 FTE.
- (c)
  - (i) \$54,350
  - (ii) \$45,543
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Not applicable.

## South West Development Commission

- (a) South West Development Commission
- (b) A total of 0.1 FTE are employed at the library
- (c) (i) \$5,562  
(ii) \$5,562
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Not applicable.

## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERNAL LIBRARY SERVICE

2456. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

In relation to those agencies within the Minister's responsibility which have an internal library service -

- (a) what is the name of the agency;
- (b) how many staff are employed at the library of the agency;
- (c) what is the budget allocation for the library -
  - (i) in the current financial year; and
  - (ii) in the 2000/2001 State Budget?
- (d) will each of the agency libraries remain fully operational during the coming financial year; and
- (e) if no to (d) above, in which agency will there be a change, what is the nature of the change, and why is the change occurring?

Mr SHAVE replied:

## Department of Land Administration

- (a) Department of Land Administration
- (b) 1.
- (c) (i) \$79,913  
(ii) \$71,242
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Not applicable.

## Western Australian Electoral Commission

- (a) Western Australian Electoral Commission
- (b) .3 FTE.
- (c) (i) \$2000  
(ii) \$2000
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Not applicable.

## Ministry of Fair Trading

- (a) Ministry of Fair Trading.
- (b) 1.0 FTE. (2 Part Time Staff).
- (c) (i) \$70,000.  
(ii) The process for finalising the Library budget for 2000/2001 is still proceeding.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Not applicable.

## LandCorp

- (a) Western Australian Land Authority, trading as LandCorp, for research and internal purposes only.
- (b) The library and research service is maintained as part of the general records section. No specific staff resource is allocated to this function, however the resource requirement is estimated at 0.75 FTE.
- (c) (i)-(ii) No specific budget allocation as the costs are included as part of the general administration and records function.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Not applicable.

## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERNAL LIBRARY SERVICE

2457. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Police; Emergency Services:

In relation to those agencies within the Minister's responsibility which have an internal library service -

- (a) what is the name of the agency;
- (b) how many staff are employed at the library of the agency;
- (c) what is the budget allocation for the library -
  - (i) in the current financial year; and
  - (ii) in the 2000/2001 State Budget?
- (d) will each of the agency libraries remain fully operational during the coming financial year; and
- (e) if no to (d) above, in which agency will there be a change, what is the nature of the change, and why is the change occurring?

Mr PRINCE replied:

Police

- (a) Western Australia Police Service.
- (b) The library has a staff establishment of 4 FTE.
- (c)
  - (i) \$72 600, for operational expenses and acquisitions. Salaries are managed centrally
  - (ii) The allocation of specific budgets to portfolios which includes the Library has not been made for 2000/2001
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Not applicable.

Fire and Emergency Services Authority

- (a) Fire & Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia.
- (b) 0.1 FTE.
- (c)
  - (i) \$8,000
  - (ii) \$1,000
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Not applicable.

WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office

The WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office does not have a library service.

## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERNAL LIBRARY SERVICE

2458. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Planning; Heritage; Minister assisting the Treasurer:

In relation to those agencies within the Minister's responsibility which have an internal library service -

- (a) what is the name of the agency;
- (b) how many staff are employed at the library of the agency;
- (c) what is the budget allocation for the library -
  - (i) in the current financial year; and
  - (ii) in the 2000/2001 State Budget?
- (d) will each of the agency libraries remain fully operational during the coming financial year; and
- (e) if no to (d) above, in which agency will there be a change, what is the nature of the change, and why is the change occurring?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (a)
  - (i) Ministry for Planning/Western Australian Planning Commission
  - (ii) Heritage Council of Western Australia
  - (iii) Valuer General's Office
- (b)
  - (i) Three
  - (ii) One contract person works on Wednesdays and Fridays at 12 hours per week
  - (iii) Estimated 0.06 of an FTE (library duties are carried out as part of the Valuer General's Office Records Section)
- (c)
  - (i) (i) \$181 600

- (ii) \$26 500
  - (iii) \$16 000
- (ii)
  - (i) \$197 200
  - (ii) \$24 360
  - (iii) \$16 000
- (d)
  - (i) Yes.
  - (ii) No. A part time librarian, 20 hours per week, will be employed. The librarian will work ½ day Wednesdays and full days Thursdays and Fridays. The library is open to the general public, including students, each Friday from 9:30am to 12:30pm.
  - (iii) Yes (for Valuer General's Office professional reference material).
- (e) (i)-(iii) Not applicable.

## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERNAL LIBRARY SERVICE

2459. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

In relation to those agencies within the Minister's responsibility which have an internal library service -

- (a) what is the name of the agency;
- (b) how many staff are employed at the library of the agency;
- (c) what is the budget allocation for the library -
  - (i) in the current financial year; and
  - (ii) in the 2000/2001 State Budget?
- (d) will each of the agency libraries remain fully operational during the coming financial year; and
- (e) if no to (d) above, in which agency will there be a change, what is the nature of the change, and why is the change occurring?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (a) Aboriginal Affairs Department.
- (b) Two.
- (c)
  - (i) \$114,000.00.
  - (ii) \$114,000.00.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Not applicable.
- (a) Office of Water Regulation.
- (b) Two (one FTE) in the information management area who spend part of their duties on library related work.
- (c)
  - (i) \$5,200.00.
  - (ii) \$5,200.00.
- (d) Yes, in the same limited manner as this financial year.
- (e) Not applicable.
- (a) Water and Rivers Commission.
- (b) 2.5.
- (c)
  - (i) \$166,000.00.
  - (ii) \$171,000.00.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Not applicable.
- (a) Water Corporation.
- (b) Five.
- (c)
  - (i) \$470,000.00.
  - (ii) \$430,000.00.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Not applicable.

## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERNAL LIBRARY SERVICE

2461. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Employment and Training; Youth; the Arts:

In relation to those agencies within the Minister's responsibility which have an internal library service -

- (a) what is the name of the agency;
- (b) how many staff are employed at the library of the agency;
- (c) what is the budget allocation for the library -
  - (i) in the current financial year; and
  - (ii) in the 2000/2001 State Budget?
- (d) will each of the agency libraries remain fully operational during the coming financial year; and
- (e) if no to (d) above, in which agency will there be a change, what is the nature of the change, and why is the change occurring?



Mr BOARD replied:

Youth

(a)-(e) Not applicable.

Arts

Ministry for Culture & the Arts (including ArtsWA, ScreenWest and Perth Theatre Trust)

(a) Ministry for Culture and the Arts (Business Support Unit).

(b) 0.5 FTE.

(c) (i) \$31 500.

(ii) \$31 500.

(d) Yes.

(e) Not applicable.

West Australian Museum

(a) Western Australian Museum.

(b) 1.5 FTE.

(c) (i) \$98 515.

(ii) \$98 515

(d) Yes.

(e) Not applicable.

Art Gallery of Western Australia

(a) Art Gallery of Western Australia.

(b) 1 FTE.

(c) (i) \$71 000.

(ii) \$71 000.

(d) Yes.

(e) Not applicable.

Employment and Training

(a)-(e) See below -

(a)	(b)	(c)		(d)	(e)
		Current financial year	2000-01 budget allocation		
Training & employment	2 staff	\$135 200	\$135 200	Yes	N/A
Central TAFE	35 full time equivalent positions	\$2 094 788 (2000 calendar year budget)	2001 budget yet to be determined	Yes	N/A
West Coast College of TAFE	17 FTEs with 20 staff employed to fill those positions	\$807 939 (2000 calendar year budget)	\$807 939 (2001 calendar year budget)	Yes	N/A
South East Metropolitan College of TAFE	13 staff not including casuals	\$759 676 (2000 calendar year budget)	2001 budget to be determined in December 2000	Yes	N/A
South Metropolitan College of TAFE	13 staff for 8.5 FTEs, plus casuals	\$727 403 (2000 calendar year budget)	Year 2001 budget to be determined	Yes	N/A
Midland College of TAFE	8 staff including an audio visual production officer & assessment centre officer	\$357 000 (1999 calendar year budget)	\$398 000 (2000 calendar year budget)	Yes	N/A
South West Regional College	4.5 full time employees	\$230 452	\$235 061	Yes	N/A
Great Southern Regional College	3.2 FTEs	\$219 176	\$219 176	Yes	N/A
Central West College of TAFE	4.5 FTEs	\$56 250	\$57 000	Yes	N/A
Eastern Pilbara College	10 staff for 7.8 FTEs	\$435 537 (2000 calendar year budget)	2001 budget based on student contact hours. Most likely will be the same.	Yes	N/A
CY O'Connor	2 staff	\$127 415 (2000 calendar year budget)	Year 2001 budget to be determined	Yes	N/A
Kimberley College	2.5 FTEs	\$134 435 (2000 calendar year budget)	Year 2001 budget to be determined	Yes	N/A

Karratha College (joint with Shire of Roebourne)	10 staff	\$504 000	\$504 000	Yes	N/A
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\*An academic calendar year is used by most TAFE colleges for budget allocations.

Please note, responses provided for question (c)(ii) are based on the budget allocations determined by each individual agency, as monies are not specifically allocated from the State Budget to College library services and may also include funding from alternative sources.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERNAL LIBRARY SERVICE

2465. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

In relation to those agencies within the Minister's responsibility which have an internal library service -

- (a) what is the name of the agency;
- (b) how many staff are employed at the library of the agency;
- (c) what is the budget allocation for the library -
  - (i) in the current financial year; and
  - (ii) in the 2000/2001 State Budget?
- (d) will each of the agency libraries remain fully operational during the coming financial year; and
- (e) if no to (d) above, in which agency will there be a change, what is the nature of the change, and why is the change occurring?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (a) The Department of Minerals and Energy (DME)  
The Chemistry Centre (WA) – CC(WA)
- (b) DME 3  
CC(WA) 0.3
- (c) (i) DME \$281 000 CC(WA) \$20 000  
(ii) DME \$285 000 CC(WA) \$20 000
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Not applicable.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERNAL LIBRARY SERVICE

2466. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

In relation to those agencies within the Minister's responsibility which have an internal library service -

- (a) what is the name of the agency;
- (b) how many staff are employed at the library of the agency;
- (c) what is the budget allocation for the library -
  - (i) in the current financial year; and
  - (ii) in the 2000/2001 State Budget?
- (d) will each of the agency libraries remain fully operational during the coming financial year; and
- (e) if no to (d) above, in which agency will there be a change, what is the nature of the change, and why is the change occurring?

Mr COWAN replied:

Office of Racing, Gaming and Liquor  
Burswood Park Board  
Totalisator Agency Board  
WA Greyhound Racing Authority

- (a)-(e) Not applicable.

WA Lotteries Commission

- (a) Lotteries Commission.
- (b) One staff member is established to maintain the corporate file registry and to order, distribute and hold a range of newspapers, text books, publications and periodicals linked to the Lotteries Commission's business.

- (c) The Commission's budget for the purchase of the above items is -
- (i) 1999/2000 \$12,000
  - (ii) 2000/2001 \$12,000
- (d) The staff member and services described above are to be retained in the coming financial year.
- (e) Not applicable.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTERNAL LIBRARY SERVICE

2468. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

In relation to those agencies within the Minister's responsibility which have an internal library service -

- (a) what is the name of the agency;
- (b) how many staff are employed at the library of the agency;
- (c) what is the budget allocation for the library -
  - (i) in the current financial year; and
  - (ii) in the 2000/2001 State Budget?
- (d) will each of the agency libraries remain fully operational during the coming financial year; and
- (e) if no to (d) above, in which agency will there be a change, what is the nature of the change, and why is the change occurring?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

Western Australian Tourism Commission

- (a) Western Australian Tourism Commission
- (b) Part-time employee working 20 hours per week
- (c)
  - (i) \$31,040 (\$21,727 salary & on-costs; \$9,700 library acquisitions)
  - (ii) \$32,333 (\$22,633 salary & on-costs; \$9,700 library acquisitions)
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Not applicable.

Rottneest Island Authority

- (a)-(e) Not applicable.

#### SWIMMING POOLS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSPECTIONS

2477. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) How does the Department of Local Government ensure that local government authorities are conducting inspections of private swimming pools as required?
- (2) Is the Department aware of any Local Government Authorities that have not been conducting sufficient inspections -
  - (a) if yes, which Authorities were involved; and
  - (b) what action has been taken?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1) Local governments submit annual Statutory Compliance Returns to the Department of Local Government. The Department's proforma asks the local government to identify that it has completed required private swimming pool inspections. The return is completed by the Chief Executive Officer who signs it as being correct before presenting it to Council and submitting it to the Department. Until 1999 submission of the return was voluntary but it was submitted by more than 75% of local governments. From this year the submission of the Statutory Compliance Return will be mandatory. Commonly, local government building surveyors perform private swimming pool inspections Officers of the Department are in close communication with these local government officers and are able to informally appraise the status of private swimming pool inspections.
- (2) (a)-(b) The Department is not aware that any local governments have not conducted required private swimming pool inspections.

#### CARCOOLA PRIMARY SCHOOL, UPGRADE

2481. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister for Education:

- (1) When did the Carcoola (North Pinjarra) Primary School last have a major repair and renovation?
- (2) When is the Carcoola Primary School scheduled to have a major repair and renovation?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Repair and renovation work at schools is done on a needs basis within district priorities. The Department of Contract and Management Services has advised that repair and renovation work has occurred at Carcoola Primary School on a regular basis for many years. In the last two years, repairs to the bore, the reticulation system and the sub-soil drainage have been carried out.
- (2) The Department of Contract and Management Services and the Peel District Education Office are in the process of prioritising maintenance requirements for schools in the Peel Education District for the 2000/2001 financial year. As part of this process, Carcoola Primary School will be contacted by the Peel District Education Office so that the school's current repair and renovation needs can be identified and included for consideration during the stage of compilation of the district priorities for 2000/2001.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT, NATIONAL PARTY POLICY

#### **854. Dr GALLOP to the Deputy Premier:**

My question relates to the National Party's policy in relation to public transport and I ask: Does the National Party accept the reported criticism by senior Liberal Party MP George Cash that the Minister for Transport, Hon Murray Criddle, is to blame for the Government's failure to honour its promise to extend the northern suburbs rail line to Clarkson?

#### **Mr COWAN replied:**

I am pleased the Leader of the Opposition used the term "reported comments". Let us dispense with whether those comments were accurate or inaccurate and deal with the fact that the comments were reported. The extension of the northern freeway and the rail link are being brought into the whole issue of northern suburbs transport.

Dr Gallop: The comments were about the rail line.

Mr COWAN: It will not be easy to separate the two because the rail corridor and the freeway extensions all run along the same easement. Rightly, when answering a question during the estimates, the Minister for Transport, my colleague in another place, indicated that no funds had been allocated in this year's budget for extensions to the northern rail link. However, that does not mean that the Government is not proceeding with all of the work that is necessary to implement the extension of the rail link. The preliminary work that has to be done to identify the precise alignment of the easement, the Government's capacity to acquire the easement land, the necessary planning and the funds associated with meeting the costs of implementing the plans, will be put in place.

### PERTH CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, NEW OFFICE TOWER

#### **855. Mr BRADSHAW to the Premier:**

Is the Premier aware that a new 30-storey office tower will be commenced in the Perth central business district this year? If yes, what effect will this have on the construction industry in Western Australia?

#### **Mr COURT replied:**

The Knoxville Group, which is a subsidiary of the Hai Sun Yup Group of Singapore, announced today that it will commence construction this year of a new 30-storey, what is called premium-grade, office building. It will be built opposite QV.1. Woodside Petroleum Ltd will be the tenant of 70 per cent of the building and it will be completed in 2003.

A significant group of oil and gas operators have put their corporate facilities into the western end of the city. There is no doubt that Western Australia has now become the oil and gas centre for this region. Within a month or so, the Government will announce the preferred proponent for the convention and exhibition facility which will be a large construction taking some three years to build and which will incorporate the development of the new soccer-rugby stadium. At the same time, the new David Jones redevelopment will take place and work will commence shortly on the redevelopment of the Treasury buildings into a hotel facility. All in all, this means that over the next three to four years, a significant amount of construction activity will be taking place in the city which will create many jobs. However, importantly, today's announcement indicates that another major corporate entity is making a long-term commitment to Perth by basing its headquarter operations here.

Briefly, the Deutsche Bank, in referring to the Western Australian economy, said in its most recent report that positive international developments are likely to see the Western Australian economy return to a growth rate of around 2 per cent ahead of the rest of the country. It noted that since we came into government in 1993, Western Australia has had an average economic growth rate of 5 per cent compared with the national average of 4.4 per cent. Access Economics stated in its five-year business outlook that more than any other region in Australia, the longer term holds excellent promise in the west.

At a time when the Opposition is talking down the Western Australian economy and criticising all our major projects including the convention and exhibition centre and the tunnel, those projects are actually going ahead and creating jobs for many Western Australians.

#### FINANCE BROKING INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT BRIEFING NOTES

##### **856. Mr McGINTY to the Minister for Fair Trading:**

I refer to the government briefing notes titled "Finance broking industry in Western Australia - Appointment of Select Committee" distributed to coalition members arguing against such an inquiry in the Legislative Council and rejected by the first witness before the Gunning inquiry, Mrs Penny Searle. Who was responsible for writing and distributing the briefing note and what has the minister done to correct the record?

##### **Mr SHAVE replied:**

As the member for Fremantle knows, the question he has just asked is different from the question he forwarded to me this morning. It is one of his quirks. He has a habit of twisting the truth and coming up with little stunts like this.

#### *Withdrawal of Remark*

Mr KOBELKE: The minister, in responding directly, referred to another member in this place and indicated that the member's behaviour was improper. Without stating the exact words, Mr Speaker, which I believe you heard, such comments should be judged unparliamentary, in which case the minister should be requested to withdraw.

The SPEAKER: When matters are raised about specific members telling deliberate untruths - in other words lies - there is no doubt that is impugning. However, for goodness sake, many things are said in this place. The minister made his comment, we all heard it and will make our judgment on it. I do not believe the member has been impugned.

#### *Questions without Notice Resumed*

Mr SHAVE: The question that was sent to me by the member referred to a comment which was not brought to my attention at the time it was made. However, I received a letter dated 7 June from Mrs Searle in regard to this matter and I requested an appropriate comment from the ministry. I am advised the comment about Mrs Searle was based on an interview with Paul Murray on Radio 6PR on 5 April 2000.

During the interview, Mrs Searle made the following comments -

I have to be honest and say that when I first went in I was very sceptical, but the opportunity to be able to lay before or out into the public domain and the problems that I've experienced, was too great not to take. On doing that, you know, the way that I went through to Perth, via the country with the training and into the inquiry itself I've come away with, shall we say, a lot of hope. Mr Gunning made it very clear during the proceedings yesterday that he would use the widest possible interpretation of the terms of reference to get to the bottom of (indistinct) and he looked as if he really wanted it.

I will table a copy of the transcript of Mrs Searle's comments to Paul Murray.

- (3) The briefing notes are a compilation of material prepared by officers of the Ministry of Fair Trading and were authorised by the executive officer to brief the minister representing the Minister for Fair Trading and government members in the upper House. Briefing notes are not drafted for the purposes of tabling. They are necessarily brief and accompanied by an oral briefing explaining the detail of the matters contained within the notes.

Mr McGinty: They should be accurate.

Mr SHAVE: I have tabled the comments made by Mrs Searle. If people read those comments, they can work out whether they are in conflict with what has been said.

Mr Kobelke: They will know the briefing notes are false.

Mr SHAVE: That is the member's view. Has the member for Nollamara seen the briefing notes? How does he know they are false if he has not seen them?

Mr Kobelke: From what you just said.

Mr SHAVE: I have not said anything. That is how stupid the member is: He makes comments without even looking at the briefing notes. At no time was it suggested that Mrs Searle does not support the establishment of a select committee or a royal commission, because I understand she said that. On this basis, and taken in context, the comment in the briefing notes is not false. I note that Mrs Searle has written to the members of the Legislative Council advising them of her concerns. It is appropriate for her to do that.

[See paper No 960.]

#### COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM

##### **857. Mr McNEE to the Minister for Water Resources:**

Is the community water supply program to continue; and, if so, when will the next round of grants be announced?

**Dr HAMES replied:**

I thank the member for the question and for his involvement in ensuring that farmers in Western Australia have adequate water resources. This Government is about to spend another \$3m on pipeline extensions and community water supplies in rural areas, bringing the total it has spent on this work over the past five years to \$19m.

I will announce now the recipients of the next round of grants, because I know many members representing those communities are in the Chamber. The Government will provide \$106 000 for the Cleary Rocks south district west of Beacon; \$947 000 for a pipeline stretching from 20 kilometres north of Mingenew to five kilometres south of Mullewa, which will service 35 farms; \$396 000 for the Stubbs catchment north-east of Newdegate; \$242 000 for a 29-kilometre pipeline in the Mukinbudin North Road-Karloning district; \$380 000 for a pipeline extension along the Beagley and North Kuringup roads, north-east of Nyabing in the Shire of Kent; \$579 000 for the Burracoppin South Road and Hendrick Road; \$73 000 for a community dam at Borden; and \$75 000 for the Range Road subcatchment at Pingrup, which is an exciting new development that will probably receive further funds in the future.

These projects represent a tremendous commitment by this Government. It has made sure that it looks after those farmers who have suffered long periods of lack of water, and that it provides the funds required to give them the water supply they so desperately need and deserve.

Mr Bridge: Tell them who started the scheme.

Dr HAMES: I know who started the scheme.

Mr Bridge: Well, say it!

Dr HAMES: My problem is that -

Mr Bridge: All members know who started it. He is not giving me credit.

The SPEAKER: Order! I think that at long last the member for Kimberley has made his point.

Dr HAMES: I was going to conclude, but I congratulate the member for Kimberley. He did a huge job in getting water to the communities. His guitar and his singing won over a lot of hearts out there. Unfortunately, at the time the Labor Party gave him only about \$4m, which he had to stretch over three years. He did a tremendous job with that money and it is a pity the Labor Party did not give him more. We put \$19m into the same sort of project.

#### DAMPIER TO BUNBURY NATURAL GAS PIPELINE, TARIFFS

**858. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Energy:**

I refer to the minister's comment that AlintaGas and Epic Energy might reach a private settlement regarding tariffs on the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline to provide some certainty during the AlintaGas privatisation process.

- (1) Has the minister encouraged or requested AlintaGas to seek such an agreement?
- (2) Is AlintaGas negotiating on these matters with Epic Energy?
- (3) If so, when are the negotiations expected to conclude?
- (4) What is the expected duration of the arrangement which is being negotiated?

**Mr BARNETT replied:**

- (1)-(4) I thank the member for the question. As I have said before, any privatisation is a complex issue, and people who underestimate the complexities invariably make errors. One of the complexities in the AlintaGas sale relates to the process of regulation, the setting of distribution tariffs and the transmission tariff on the main Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline. The sale can proceed, but clearly it is in the interests of both the vendor and the bidders that as much as possible is certain. We will never have everything certain, so I have suggested to the gas sale steering committee that, if the regulator is unable to bring down a draft ruling by the time the sale goes through - which is likely to be the case, as I do not think he will be able to bring down a draft ruling - an alternative would be to have a commercial agreement between AlintaGas and Epic Energy over the transmission tariff. I think the term of that would probably be two years. I have suggested that to the gas sale steering committee and, in turn, to AlintaGas. That will be a commercial matter. My view is that if they were to reach agreement on a transport tariff of \$1 for 12 months or two years, it would simply put to bed one more issue of many issues. I am sure members would have noticed that the unions involved voted to accept the offer last week. The fact that the unions involved voted to accept the offer means that the issue of employee wages and conditions and continuity of employment has been put to bed. This is one more issue, and I hope it will be put to bed also.

Dr Gallop: You are creating uncertainty. This is another element of uncertainty. It is the biggest issue in Western Australia. You are hopeless!

Mr BARNETT: The power of the argument is so strong that I cannot respond.

## DAMPIER TO BUNBURY NATURAL GAS PIPELINE, TARIFFS

**859. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Energy:**

As a supplementary question, will these tariff negotiations be seen as a de facto acknowledgment that the Government has obligations to Epic Energy arising out of its acceptance of \$2.4b for the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline sale?

**Mr BARNETT replied:**

The Government does not have any agreement with Epic Energy about transport charges. Again, I will explain the process of the sale of the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline: The pipeline was sold according to a whole set of conditions - policy decisions made by government during the sale. One of those policy decisions was that the price of gas transport would fall in two steps from \$1.20 to \$1, and bidders were invited to make their bids against a 20 per cent reduction in transport charge, which they all did. They all perfectly understood that.

Because the regulator was not yet established, I put in place by way of parliamentary regulation, transport charges of a dollar prior to Christmas. That is the situation under which people made their bids. They were not only to indicate the price that they would pay to buy the pipeline but also required to foreshadow their programs for expansion of the pipeline. Epic Energy indicated a \$870m expansion plan over eight years. It is not a contractual agreement between the State and Epic Energy that it must happen but it is Epic's commitment and statement of intention. Equally, Epic put forward its scenario, the famous schedule 39, of the way it saw transport charges proceeding, which was that transport charges would be a dollar and Epic proposed that transport charges would increase at two-thirds of the consumer price index in subsequent years. A dollar is reasonable. After all, the dollar figure was the transport charge that the Government set by way of policy during the sale, so I would have to think that it is all right. We made the decision. The two-thirds of consumer price index implies a continuous fall in real levels of gas transport costs, which is not an uncomfortable scenario. I am comfortable with what Epic put forward as its proposed tariff increases. I have said that publicly a dozen times.

Mr Ripper: What about AlintaGas and Western Power?

Mr BARNETT: I will come back to that point. There is a difference between my saying that I am comfortable with Epic's scenario and suggesting it is a contractual agreement - it is not as Epic and all other bidders understood when the pipeline was being sold. Every bidder armed with armies of lawyers and accountants in a document room which was open for six weeks knew that the process of national gas pipeline access regulation was in place and that there would be an independent gas regulator who from 1 January 2000 would set the tariff. If the Opposition is suggesting that anyone would bid \$2 407m and have a team of lawyers and accountants analysing the project and not understand the national access code, I am afraid that they are more naive than other people.

The member for Belmont asked a third question about AlintaGas and Western Power. AlintaGas and Western Power are commercial entities, government owned but independently structured as corporatised entities. Western Power and AlintaGas, along with Wesfarmers, Alcoa or any other group, are entitled to put in submissions to the regulator, which they have done. Is the Opposition suggesting that I in some way should prevent Western Power or AlintaGas from independently putting in their submissions? I have played no role in AlintaGas' or Western Power's submissions. It is their corporate right to do that, as it is for Wesfarmers, Alcoa or any other group. The government submission clearly acknowledges the sale process but makes clear that there is no commercial agreement. There is a recognition, which was Epic's proposed scenario, with which I am comfortable, but it is not a commercial agreement.

Dr Gallop: We will examine this.

Mr BARNETT: The Leader of the Opposition should support Western Australia.

Dr Gallop: Stop this rubbish about supporting Western Australia. You are a minister with big problems.

Mr BARNETT: Why does the Opposition not bring this on for debate tomorrow?

Dr Gallop: We will.

Mr BARNETT: Good, I look forward to it.

## WATER SUPPLY, MULLALYUP, KIRUP AND BALINGUP

**860. Dr TURNBULL to the Minister for Water Resources:**

- (1) What arrangements is the minister putting in place to improve the water supply of Mullalyup and to ensure the long-term water supply for Kirup, Mullalyup and Balingup?
- (2) When will the work commence?

**Dr HAMES replied:**

I thank the member for the question. I was pleased to meet the member and the Kirup Progress Association recently in Parliament to discuss water supply to Mullalyup issue. Mullalyup has had substandard water for some time and the association has been very concerned about its supply. The Water Corporation has been working to find an alternative supply.

The alternative supply proposed was from the Kirup Dam. However, the Kirup Progress Association was very concerned that insufficient water would be available in times of low rainfall for enterprises in the local area. The association wanted me to hold off installing the pipeline and taking water from the dam. If the Mullalyup Progress Association had been to see me on the same day, its representatives would have told me the opposite story - Mullalyup desperately wanted water as its supply standard was not adequate.

I am pleased that we dealt with both problems. We will start work immediately on the pipeline so that the Mullalyup supply will be guaranteed from the Kirup Dam. At the same time, we are considering the feasibility of purchasing a property between the two communities with a dam to potentially provide large quantities of water to supply Kirup if its supply becomes low as a result of the use of the Kirup Dam. This pipeline from the Kirup Dam will ensure a water supply for Mullalyup, and potentially provide improved quantities and quality of water to the next community of Balingup, which has potential water problems. It is a win-win situation for both Mullalyup and Kirup, and a potential further win for the Balingup community into the future. I thank the member for Collie for her efforts, and I am sure everyone will be well pleased with the result.

#### DERBY TIDAL POWER PROJECT

##### **861. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Planning:**

I refer to the minister's recent visit to Derby to examine issues surrounding the Derby tidal power project.

- (1) Is the Derby community correct when it states that the project would bring ecotourism and other planning benefits to the town?
- (2) If yes, what are those benefits?
- (3) Did the minister give any commitments to the Derby community?
- (4) Has the minister raised any issues about the project in Cabinet, and more specifically with the Minister for Energy?

##### **Mr KIERATH replied:**

- (1)-(2) I am still considering those matters.
- (3) No.

#### HEALTH CAMPUSES, PEEL AND JOONDALUP

##### **862. Mr BAKER to the Minister for Health:**

What is the true situation regarding increases in funding made available to the Peel and Joondalup Health Campuses over the past two years?

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

I thank the member for some notice of this question. I was absolutely amazed when I saw the latest stunt from the Labor Party in a media statement released late yesterday.

Ms McHale: The truth - is that a stunt?

Mr DAY: I will tell the member the truth. The Opposition claims that the substantial increase in funding over the past two or three years to the Joondalup and Peel Health Campuses indicated that the Government's involvement of the private sector in providing health services had been unsuccessful. Either the Labor Party is deliberately misleading the public or it does not understand how the health system or the Health budget work. Either way, members opposite demonstrate that they are not competent to run our complex health system in this State. Members opposite say we pay too much for the provision of health services in Joondalup and Peel; is that correct?

Ms McHale: No. We say that you have overrun your budgets by \$4m to \$6m, and that there is no accountability.

Mr DAY: I will give the facts in a minute. The Labor Party is implicitly stating that the Government should reduce funding to the Peel and Joondalup Health Campuses.

Ms McHale: Not at all; we say you should be accountable to the public for your privatised campuses.

Mr DAY: The member cannot criticise the Government for making too much funding available, and then say the Government should not reduce the funding. The Labor Party is hesitant to say overtly that the Government should reduce funding to Joondalup and Peel because such comments would be of major interest to people in the electorates of Wanneroo, Hillarys and Carine in the northern suburbs, and Mandurah and Dawesville, for example, to the south. The reality is that the increase in funding to the health campuses has resulted from the substantial growth in population in both these parts of the metropolitan area.

That has led this Government -

Ms McHale: Then apply the same standard to all the other hospitals. These are double standards.

Mr DAY: The Labor Party obviously does not like the amount of funding that we have made available for the benefit of residents in the northern and southern parts of the metropolitan area. This Government has made a conscious policy



decision to build, or to arrange for the building of, much larger and better facilities in Joondalup and Peel than was the case when the Labor Party was in office. As a result of those new facilities being made available, more services are now being provided. In simple terms, more treatment is being provided to residents in the Joondalup Health Campus and Peel Health Campus catchment areas than was ever the case in the past. That has led to more funding being made available by this Government.

Ms McHale: Have you applied the same logic to the other hospitals?

Mr DAY: At Armadale, for example, in the member's part of the world, the Government is building a new hospital which will be of benefit to her constituents.

Ms McHale: What about all the others where the numbers are increasing?

Mr COURT: We are not talking about it; it is being built.

Mr DAY: As the Premier said, a new hospital is being built. The Labor Party talked about it for 10 years. We are actually building a new hospital in Armadale, and there has already been an increase in -

Ms MacTiernan: We did not make promises that we broke, like you do.

Mr DAY: The Labor Party has egg all over its face as far as the Armadale Health Campus is concerned.

Ms McHale: If the minister cannot justify it, he should sit down.

Mr DAY: Members opposite do not like the truth.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister is giving an answer, a few other people want to have their turn at providing an answer, a few extra questions are being asked here and there, and it adds up to a situation that is not acceptable. Perhaps the minister could wind up his answer.

Mr DAY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I was saying, an increase in funding has been made available to the Armadale Health Service, for example, over the past couple of years, and that is occurring on a progressive basis. The same has occurred for the South West Health Campus, where the Government has also constructed a magnificent and large new facility, as has occurred at Joondalup and Peel. The amount that is being made available this financial year to the Joondalup Health Campus for contracted services is \$52.7m, the original agreed amount. An additional \$3.5m has been made available for additional elective surgery, and \$4.2m has been paid as an availability charge, which reflects the cost of providing the capital asset at Joondalup, and that is the case whether a hospital is privately run or run by the Government. The fact that privatisation has occurred has absolutely nothing to do with the large increase in funding that has been made available to either Joondalup or Peel.

#### BUNBURY BACK BEACH, GROYNES

##### **863. Dr EDWARDS to the Premier:**

I refer to the Bunbury Back Beach project. Will the Premier confirm that his Government will proceed with the construction of three high-profile groynes on the Bunbury Back Beach without proper assessment, without public consultation and in the face of widespread public concern?

##### **Mr COURT replied:**

For many years the Government has been lobbied hard about the redevelopment of the Bunbury Back Beach. There have been two issues. One has been the rather awkward way that the road system and the like had been planned. There has been a very extensive consultation process over several years involving many committees, all driven locally, for this project. There was concern a year or so ago that it involved some commercial development. That was taken off the proposals. On the land side, there has been community agreement about the form that should take. The issue of the protection of the dunes came to a head two or three years ago - I cannot remember exactly when - when the whole beach was completely washed away. The facilities, the surf club and the restaurant, from memory, were all in danger of being lost. A lot of pressure has been applied to the Government to develop an engineering solution to protect that beach. Due to the work that has been done a concept has been developed that involves the building of three groynes. The Government does not undertake any of these projects without first acquiring all the proper technical advice and expertise.

Extensive consultation has occurred, extensive engineering work has been done, the Government has committed funding, and some concern has been expressed about the concept of the groynes. As I said, the Government will always listen to concerns and will accept the best possible technical advice. The Deputy Premier should probably be responding to this question because the South West Development Commission is overseeing the work. The Government ensures that good technical advice is sought and it has had good advice. If we are not satisfied we can always seek more advice. The two objectives are to redevelop the land-based areas. We have community agreement on how that should be done. After extensive work, the engineers have developed what they believe to be the appropriate plans for the protection of the sand dune system.