

Noes 14

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Hon. J. M. Berinson | Hon. Robert Hetherington |
| Hon. J. M. Brown | Hon. Garry Kelly |
| Hon. T. G. Butler | Hon. B. L. Jones |
| Hon. Graham Edwards | Hon. Mark Nevill |
| Hon. S. J. Halden | Hon. S. M. Piantadosi |
| Hon. Kay Hallahan | Hon. D. W. Wenn |
| Hon. T. R. Helm | Hon. Fred McKenzie (Teller) |

Pairs

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Ayes | Noes |
| Hon. Tom McNeil | Hon. Tom Stephens |
| Hon. W. N. Stretch | Hon. D. K. Dans |

Amendment thus passed.

Sitting suspended from 6.02 to 7.30 p.m.

Motion, as Amended

HON. B. L. JONES (Lower West) [7.32 p.m.]: Mr President, in rising to speak to the Address-in-Reply, I too would like to add my congratulations to those members on both sides of the House who were successful at the last elections. It gives me especial pleasure, however, to congratulate Hon. Kay Hallahan on her elevation to the frontbenches. I know that she will prove, and has already proven, to be a valuable member of the Burke Ministry.

My pleasure in noting one female member's elevation, however, is a little dimmed by the realisation that we have lost another from this side of the House. I am of course referring to Lyla Elliott, about whom much has already been said. I mean no disrespect to Hon. Tom Butler when I say that Lyla's place will be hard to fill. She was a tireless worker and this House will be the poorer for her decision not to stand for re-election.

Today, Mr President, I also welcome the opportunity to thank my family, friends, and supporters for their encouragement and assistance during my campaign, and I would like to express my gratitude to those electors in Lower West Province who voted for me, and for the Australian Labor Party. Considering my electorate is largely a rural one, the support for Labor has upheld my conviction that the people of WA, being generally socially concerned, deserve a strong Government that has shown sincerity, integrity, and compassion. I will endeavour to represent all of my constituents to the best of my ability.

During the next six years I will be involved with many diverse areas in my electorate and with people from vastly differing lifestyles. On many occasions this will necessitate contact with local government authorities in the province, with whom I feel I can identify, having been a city councillor for five years.

During that time, and within its first term in office, this Labor Government has brought about significant reform. Great progress has been made and local government has grown in strength and is developing further into a valuable partner in the three spheres of government.

More autonomy has been given to local authorities. In fact, 25 per cent of the sections or subsections requiring ministerial or the Governor's approval of council decisions have been altered. Rating reforms, such as the introduction of differential rating and the raising of the maximum level of minimum rates, have also been achieved.

One major headache which has been alleviated is the vexed question of pecuniary interest. Relaxing and simplifying the provisions has assisted many councils, as has the introduction of notional grants to enable an earlier start to planning budgets.

Other reforms of benefit to residents are the introduction of new building regulations requiring access and other facilities for disabled people; and the creation of the bikeplans for Perth and Mandurah and soon, I understand, for Bunbury. Importantly, a review of rating changes is to be undertaken which will look at further initiatives such as the payment of rates by instalments, which will assist low-income families.

A feature of this Government's attitude to local government has been its willingness to seek further dialogue concerning resolution of its problems, and a willingness to cooperate to bring about a more efficient and harmonious relationship between the spheres of government.

In my capacity as a member of the Armadale City Council I saw, and was involved in, the planning of many improvements to facilities and social amenities for the city. There has been a healthy and consistent growth in population which is expected to continue steadily. I have witnessed the building of the first stage of a large shopping complex, to be extended in the future; the building of the new law courts; and the relocation and erection of the Armadale administration and council offices. I was also fortunate enough to be on the council when Armadale was granted city status by His Excellency the Governor.

This Government has recognised the importance of the subregional centre by relocating the south-eastern regional office of the Education Department to Armadale, and is currently pro-

ceeding with the upgrading of the police station within the townsite. Recognition has also been given to the potential for tourism by way of Government grants.

The electorate of Dale, of which Armadale is an important town, is indeed fortunate in that not only does it encompass rich agricultural, forestry, fishing and mineral resources such as bauxite and alumina, but it also possesses such scenic areas as Jarrahdale and Dwellingup, which have tremendous potential for tourism. Dwellingup already attracts many thousands of visitors each year through the Hotham Valley Railway, and some 10 000 people used its beautiful Lane-Poole Reserve last year for a wide range of recreational activities. The reserve, which stretches from Nanga Brook along the Murray River valley south to near Collie, is a 55 000 hectare reserve within the northern jarrah forest. Plans are currently being prepared to re-create the atmosphere of the original milling operations that were carried out in the area in the early part of this century.

There is no doubt that Dwellingup is about to undergo a very marked change within the next few years as developers become more aware of its potential for tourism. As long as such plans are made with care for both the existing residents and the environment, such development should be of benefit to the district.

An exciting development in the south-west is of course the goldmine in Boddington. A \$95 million project is to go ahead and production is due to start in late 1987. This will be the largest goldmine in Western Australia and the second largest in Australia. It will give a tremendous boost to the area and it is envisaged that 200 people will be employed at the peak of construction, and the mining operation itself will provide 100 permanent jobs. Priority has been promised to local labour and suppliers. In addition to new jobs and greater economic activity the company will spend \$3 million in developing local facilities in the Boddington area over the next five years. This figure does not include housing development.

The Boddington Shire has been closely involved in the development of the new mine, and in conjunction with the State Government a close assessment has been made of the impact the project will have on the local community. Particular attention has been paid to local roads, water supply, sewerage, education, health, and recreation. The company is working with the Government to finalise an environmental management programme which

will include rigorous management of water supplies, monitoring of surface and groundwater for salinity, and chemical and pollution control.

This project is expected to be in operation for at least 15 years, and the processing of three million tonnes of ore per year is anticipated. A carbon-in-pulp gold treatment plant will also be constructed as part of the overall project. The recreational facilities programme will also create employment opportunities. This is a four-year programme which includes such amenities as bowling rinks, squash, tennis, and basketball courts, and an indoor recreation centre, all of which will be of great benefit to the residents of Boddington.

The Murray-Wellington component of my electorate is somewhat similar to Dale in its composition of agriculture, dairy farming, timber management, and mining and processing. However, I feel a potential for tourism exists here which has not been fully realised. The natural beauty of some of the areas on the waterways between Pinjarra and Australind is not sufficiently known outside the province, but if planned with care, tourism could provide much-needed employment and give local businesses a boost.

In some instances, this part of the province has been neglected, and I was distressed by the state of disrepair into which some of the schools have been allowed to fall. The Waroona Primary School is one in particular which I will be rigorously campaigning to have rebuilt. I acknowledge that the Burke Government during its first term in office acquired a site for a new school, and I will press for the school to be built during this term of office and, I hope, during this coming year. There are, of course, other schools in the district which are also an example of neglect, or which certainly need updating. One is the Harvey Pre-school, and that is one which I will also press to have brought up to an acceptable standard.

The Pinjarra High School has been acknowledged as in need of upgrading, and land has been set aside for its eventual rebuilding. Of course it is difficult for any Government to make up for all the years of neglect in one or even two terms of office. However, despite the present economic climate which will demand sacrifices in many areas, I am confident this Government will address the real needs of the electorate, and will give priority where it is identified.

Mandurah is another very important area in the province. For many years it was regarded as a pleasant retirement area, but one with few amenities. During the past few years Mandurah's population has grown rapidly, and newly released Commonwealth statistics rate Mandurah as the fastest expanding local government centre in Western Australia. Should the present rate of expansion continue it is estimated Mandurah's population will be 50 000 within the next 15 years. This growth rate is double the national average. Because of this rapid expansion Mandurah now has larger areas of urban development, and many more younger people have moved into the district. New interests and activities have developed, and more income-producing businesses have provided employment for the increasing population.

This Government's commitment to Mandurah's development has been demonstrated by the allocation of large sums of money to such matters as the feasibility of the Dawesville cut, the new prestressed concrete bridge due to be opened shortly, and the commitment to the new Mandurah Hospital, the land for which has already been acquired. Tenders are to be called for forward works of stage 1, and tenders for the major elements of work are expected to be called later this year.

The Dawesville cut environmental review and management programme which is nearing completion, promises to be the most comprehensive assessment ever released in Western Australia, and after a three-month period for public submission, the Environmental Protection Authority expects to announce around next January whether or not the cut should be constructed.

I have already spoken of the diversity of activities and interests to be found within the province, yet each area, be it urban, rural, or mining, has one common resource, one which has often been underrated, yet upon which this State depends for its future well-being. I refer, Mr President, to the youth of this State—our future decision-makers, community leaders, and the parents of tomorrow. As a former educator, I have been only too aware over recent years of the plight of our youngsters, many of whom have been denied the right to employment and its corresponding feeling of self-worth. I have witnessed the humiliation often felt by young people who have been labelled "dole bludgers", and I have seen the negative effects that adverse publicity has had upon them when they have been lumped together as

"no-hopers". Over a period of years such negative forces combine to make many youngsters feel defenceless and hopeless, not knowing what the future holds or what to aim for. It is to our youth that I want to devote this section of my speech.

Youth needs encouragement and a goal to strive for. It needs to be helped to take responsibility and to have the opportunity to take part in decision making. I am proud to be a member of the Burke Government, which has moved to address the pressures facing youth. It recognises that young people have an important and unique contribution to make to Australian society and is seeking to tap the energy and idealism of young Australians.

During the comparatively short time we have been in Government, the Labor Party has initiated some exciting and innovative schemes aimed at restoring confidence and providing opportunities for training, education, participation, and representation on decision-making bodies, apprenticeships, and encouragement of cultural participation in society. The Government has embarked on a programme to inform 1985 school leavers of the opportunities which will be available to them. I cannot stress enough that the message needs to get through: There are alternatives to unemployment, and our youth need to be made aware of them. We, as adults and leaders in our community, need to be spreading the message. Advertising can only reach so many, and to minds "switched off" and perhaps influenced by older family members who have been unemployed, in some cases for years, it is too easy to become apathetic.

For 1985 school leavers there are a number of opportunities available. For example, there are traineeships, Employment 200, group apprenticeships, CYSS courses, volunteer youth programmes, casual work experience, Westrek, Western Venture, and Co-Action. Towards employment there is Joblink, Jobstart, community employment programmes, CES counselling, and job placement. What also needs to be made known, however, is that to be eligible for some of these courses young people need to be registered with the CES. This, however, does not imply that they need to be in receipt of the dole.

In order to assist 16 and 17-year-old students to remain at school, should they so choose, the Government has committed itself to increased secondary allowances, so that no student from a low income family will be forced to leave school prematurely.

There will be a range of special programmes by TAFE to assist young people to gain access to employment or further training. For Aborigines in remote areas there will be available new social, recreational, and employment programmes to enable access to employment and to prevent so-called antisocial behaviour. Of course, while employment, education, and training are obviously major areas of concern for our youth, they are not the only ones. Many of the pressures which today's society brings to bear were largely unknown to my generation and we have to address ourselves to such problems as a rapidly changing society, and what is perceived by many youngsters as the unremitting threat of a nuclear war. The Government is attempting to do just that and has taken some creative and bold decisions to try to combat those pressures. The Youth Affairs Bureau was established in 1984; its functions include policy analysis of all matters specifically related to youth, improving the coordination between services, and ensuring adequate programme evaluation.

Other schemes which have been or which are soon to be established include youth participation grants. In order to involve young people in decision making and to introduce them to management processes, a scheme was instituted as a means by which they could plan and run projects to meet their own needs. The scheme was designed so that projects, which would give the participants long-term benefits, were encouraged. The scheme, known as the youth participation grants scheme, received more than 100 submissions. These came from both country and city community-based groups. Projects concerned such activities as leadership camps, community newspapers, radio programmes, establishing youth clubs, and many more. Many young people, through this scheme, have been able to gain experience in a broad range of areas, and the scheme has contributed to a significant number of young people being involved in the development and management of activities throughout the State.

A street work programme, the primary aim of which is to break the "street kid" cycle and redirect young people to more fulfilling lifestyles, is currently being evaluated by an independent consultant, and a major focus is on identifying the primary effect of an inner city street work team. For some kids this programme may include new forms of substitute family situations, but for the majority it will mean reconciling them to their families, or for

older ones, assisting them to set themselves up independently.

A youth register is to be established to record the names of young people who wish to sit as members on Government boards and committees. This register will ensure a high standard of representation and provide assistance and support to young representatives through periodic one-day training programmes.

As at 12 May 1986, the Burke Government has provided \$230 000 in the 1985-86 Budget for the youth drop-in programme. Twenty new centres have so far been funded, and it is estimated that \$320 000 will be available in 1986. These centres provide for informal contact opportunities not catered for by alternative programmes, which enable information sharing and link young people with other Government and non-government youth services.

There are, of course, other areas which have been identified as being in urgent need of attention such as child abuse, glue sniffing and the drug problem. These problems are being addressed. In fact, a task force to investigate child sexual abuse and its prevention was announced only this week.

The Burke Government came into office with a pledge to develop a comprehensive youth policy. It is doing just that. The unemployment situation has now been turned around, so that we can expect a big majority of last year's school leavers to be placed into employment, training, or further education within a reasonable time.

There is much still to be done in planning for the future needs of young people, but I believe we are firmly on the road to meeting the emerging needs; and through such new initiatives in the areas of education, health, recreation, accommodation, and the understanding of the pressures which beset our youth, we will succeed in giving them a new direction and feeling of worth as contributors to Australian society.

I hope that the future well-being of our young people is of sufficient importance that it can cross the boundaries of political parties and that members on both sides of the House will combine to support those measures which have been, and are still to be, introduced in the near future.

I support the motion.

[Applause.]

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon. J. N. Caldwell.