

17½ per cent loading which many would not even miss if they did not have it.

Finally, I indicate that the policies this Government is following have proved to be disastrous. It is all very well for members opposite to laugh, but when we have a situation in which the Government becomes the wage setter in a community, and private industry must either catch up or get out, woe betide that community. It is very tragic that the Government has followed these policies.

With those comments, I support the amendment.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result—

	Ayes 17	
Mr Blaikie	Mr Mensaros	
Mr Clarko	Mr O'Connor	
Mr Court	Mr Old	
Mr Coyne	Mr Spriggs	
Dr Dadour	Mr Thompson	
Mr Grayden	Mr Trethowan	
Mr Hassell	Mr Watt	
Mr Peter Jones	Mr Williams	
Mr MacKinnon		(Teller)

	Noes 25	
Mr Barnett	Mr Parker	
Mr Bateman	Mr Pearce	
Mrs Beggs	Mr Read	
Mr Bertram	Mr P. J. Smith	
Mr Bryce	Mr Stephens	
Mrs Buchanan	Mr A. D. Taylor	
Mr Brian Burke	Mr I. F. Taylor	
Mr Terry Burke	Mr Tonkin	
Mr Cowan	Mr Troy	
Mr Davies	Mrs Watkins	
Mr Grill	Mr Wilson	
Mrs Henderson	Mr Gordon Hill	
Mr Hodge		(Teller)

	Pairs	
Ayes		Noes
Mr Laurance	Mr Bridge	
Mr Bradshaw	Mr Carr	
Mr Crane	Mr D. L. Smith	
Mr McNec	Mr Evans	
Mr Rushton	Mr McIver	
Mr Tubby	Mr Burkett	

Amendment thus negatived.

*Debate (on motion) Resumed*

**MR P. J. SMITH** (Bunbury) [3.45 p.m.]: I offer my congratulations on your election, Sir, to the position of Speaker. I am sure you will continue to carry out your duties with dignity, fairness, and impartiality.

I am pleased to be one of the new members in this House and, like some of the previous speakers, I should like to express my special congratulations to the women who have increased the female proportion in the House. I am pleased to see them here because they represent that 50 per

cent of the population which often thinks and acts quite differently from males on some issues.

I know that any feeling of gallantry towards them or any notion that they are here as a token gesture towards women has already been dispelled in their demonstration that they are efficient and effective parliamentarians. I am looking forward to hearing more from them on various issues during the session.

Firstly, I would like to thank the people of Bunbury for their confidence in electing me to represent them in Parliament. I am doubly honoured as the first Labor Party member to be elected to the seat in 28 years. The Bunbury election always produces a close result and I am aware of the responsibility on my shoulders to serve all my electors diligently and effectively. I am also aware of the debt I owe to the many people who worked so hard for so many years to put me here. I am sure, with the continued assistance and co-operation that has been offered to me by the members of all parties and by the officers and staff of the Parliament, that my duties will be so much easier to perform.

For many years now, political parties of all colours have made a great deal of noise about decentralisation. Ever since the early days of our State, Perth and the metropolitan area have been the centre. All roads, railways, and communications lead there, the main entertainment and cultural centres were located there and, because of the convenience and the need to be close to other administrators, most business and Government offices were centralised there.

Over the years, more and more country centres were opened up and, even though branches and agencies were established in these centres, the head offices remained centred in Perth.

For a number of reasons, the 1960s saw the rapid decline of rural populations. Once the drift to the city accelerated, the country populous became alarmed at the rapidly declining numbers in rural areas.

Small towns lost their people to larger towns and the larger towns to the regional centres or to the metropolitan area. The much quoted multiplier factor acted in reverse. Once a few key people left, others had to close down and shift also.

The strange thing is that, once they became "city people", they declared, "It is the only place to live!"

My colleague, the member for Mitchell, mentioned in his maiden speech the disproportionate amount of money that appears to be spent on the



metropolitan area, so perhaps city folk have some basis for their beliefs.

The paradox is that many people appear to prefer country life to city life. They spend their holidays there, tour there on weekends, and revel in the fresh air and change of scenery, yet once people settle in the metropolitan area, it seems nothing will shift them—nothing will encourage them back to the country.

Until now, the answer to this drift to the metropolitan area has been to encourage people to resettle the rural areas. To the Liberal Party, decentralisation has meant some concessions and subsidies, and an occasional industry encouraged to set up at a country town. These industries are usually local-produce based, such as a farm machinery factory at Merredin, a fruit canning factory at Manjimup, or a chipboard factory at Dardanup. I am aware that they are not all Liberal Party initiatives. The mining industry has been a boon to such decentralisation systems. Large sections of the north-west were opened up by the iron ore boom, and mineral sands and bauxite have helped maintain the population in the south-west area.

The result of these policies has been some increase in the population of non-metropolitan areas, but farming communities have steadily declined. On the other hand, the metropolitan area has swollen to the stage where the provision of essential services like water, electricity, and transport is becoming more and more expensive. An example of the comparative growths is shown by the intercensal figures from 1966 to 1981. The metropolitan area grew from 559 298 in 1966 to 898 918 in 1981, an increase of approximately 61 per cent. The rural areas grew from 288 802 in 1966 to 374 706 in 1981, an increase of approximately 30 per cent or close to half the rate of the metropolitan area. Most of this increase was because of mining developments.

As part of its election policy, the present Government proposed a different approach to decentralisation; that is, the formation of alternative urban capitals, the first to be established at Bunbury under the general title of "Bunbury 2000". The aim is to accelerate residential and commercial development by promoting Bunbury as an alternative capital. Greater attention will be given to the population being retained by the provision of a range and standard of services comparable with those in Perth, especially in the area of education and skills development. Commercial and tourist potential will be opened up through greater intercity accessibility.

It is possible to do these things without introducing heavy industry close to a city. At the same time, the unique lifestyle of Bunbury and its region, of which we are very proud, will be preserved, enhancing its appeal as an urban locality in which to retire.

These growth policies will put Bunbury into a relatively more buoyant position which will, in turn, act as a catalyst for economic recovery and growth in the south-west. Not only will this policy encourage people to stay in the south-west, but also it will, I hope, encourage people to shift from the metropolitan area to the south-west.

Judging by comments the member for Vasse has made recently, I am sure he would like to see the "Bunbury 2000" strategy fail, but I can assure him, and others with a similar lack of faith, that, after five short months, its implementation is well advanced. Perhaps if it is a success, he will take the same attitude that the previous Liberal Government took, and claim it was his idea after all.

Co-ordinating this strategy will be the South-West Development Authority. The administration for this authority, headed by the ex-Mayor of Bunbury (Dr Ernest Manea) has already been set up at Bunbury. The legislative programme to establish its authority will come before this session of Parliament for consent and ratification. I can assure the House that the members of the secretariat are already active in formulating a comprehensive general plan for the development of the region as a whole.

The need for a tertiary college of some sort in the Bunbury region has been evident for more than 10 years. The lack of educational opportunities at a regional level in the area of tertiary education has contributed significantly to the drift of population to the metropolitan area. One of the recurring reasons that senior staff of Government bodies give for their transferring to Perth is the need to provide higher education for their children.

It is interesting to note that here in the House we have moved into the twentieth century with the addition of microphones, although I note there is no relay into the Press Gallery, and I am sure the people there must have some difficulty hearing certain members. The present Bunbury Advanced Training Centre, which deals in the main with external students from Perth tertiary institutions will soon be linked by satellite to similar institutions across Australia and in the Pacific. The centre will link into the Australian kangaroo network of satellite communications systems. It will be possible to have two-way conversations



with lecturers as far away as New Zealand or Hawaii. The Western Australian Institute of Technology linked into the PEACE-SAT satellite via the kangaroo network this May. This system will be available to the proposed tertiary education college and should greatly enhance its standing in WA because it will mean it will be able to offer an even wider range of courses than those I am about to mention.

The cost of boarding one student when he has to live away from Bunbury is a huge burden on all but the very well off. To educate two children at a higher level is impossible for most. A tertiary education college at Bunbury will encourage people to stay in the south-west and I am pleased to report that the south-west tertiary education advisory committee has already been formed and is active in laying the foundations for a college of advanced education. I hope it will recommend that the proposed institution be an independent college. I feel there is scope in the region for courses in business education, teacher training, computer studies, fine arts, and general studies, particularly with the link into the satellite system. I am confident that, should a suitable building be available, the college could take its first students in 1985.

It has always puzzled me that major rural-based Government departments are located in Perth. Even in these days of rapid and efficient communications, computer-based accounting and the onset of improved efficiency, via the satellite communications I mentioned, it seems that the major increase in Government departments and Government building continues to be centred in Perth.

It appears logical that relevant sections of departments and agencies like the Dairy Industry Authority, Forests Department, Agriculture Department, Agriculture Protection Board, Office of the North-West, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Bushfires Board should be located closer to the customers they serve, leaving a small agency in Perth. I am not suggesting that all those departments be shifted, just the sections or departments relevant to the south-west.

I am therefore pleased to see that, as part of its decentralisation policy, the Government is seeking to relocate selected parts of Government departments and agencies that have functions and services mainly associated with the Bunbury region and the south-west. Plans have already been drawn up for a new \$2 million agricultural administration and research complex on the outskirts of Bunbury.

Over the next three years, I will be pressing to have other Government agencies shifted to Bunbury. There is a need for a regional stamp duty assessment officer, a regional valuator, and a small business adviser. There is a need for a whole host of Government workers in the fields of mental health. A city as big as Bunbury cannot even boast a full-time psychiatrist.

The Bunbury Port Authority has shown a slow decline over the last three years. Despite increased efficiency, tonnages have decreased from 3 445 286 tonnes in 1979-80 to 2 884 295 tonnes in 1982-83. The last 20 years have seen a marked change in the types of goods handled. The handling of mineral commodities now represents by far the greatest proportion with 1982-83 figures of 2 224 026 tonnes.

The once grand old timber port has had its cut timber tonnages reduced to 11 808 tonnes and agricultural products account for only 24 977 tonnes. The most striking downturn has been in wheat cargoes—a drop from 246 374 tonnes in 1978-79 to only 15 353 tonnes in 1982-83. The old timber jetty, the departure point of countless millions of tonnes of timber and wheat, is now closed, but I am pleased it is still preserved as a tourist recreation and fishing spot, with the newly-formed Bunbury timber jetty preservation committee very active in ensuring that it is kept for future generations to enjoy.

The huge wheat silos, which dominate the port skyline, are practically empty. Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. has recently provided new loading facilities on the land-backed wharf, but the tonnages of wheat are not being shipped through the port.

Part of the problem seems to be the breaks in the Bowelling-Wagin railway line. Wheat and other traffic which was previously linked with Bunbury along this line are now diverted elsewhere. I remind the Minister for Transport that Bunbury people see a need for the reopening of this line and await his decision on the matter. As grain crops increase in the area east of Wagin, I would like a proportion of this increase shipped through the Port of Bunbury. I say a "proportion" because I do not believe I can claim the whole lot, although I would like to.

I put part of the blame for the drift of population to the metropolitan area on the cost-saving-by-centralisation mentality of Governments, particularly Liberal Governments, and private enterprise. It has always been the assumption that, if most workers and goods are centralised in Perth, then sent to country centres, it must save money in the long term. This may have saved



money in the past, but the long-term social costs are tremendous.

I see economic sense in decentralising Government purchasing and buying locally. I hope this Government will see fit to establish a regional Government Stores complex near Bunbury. Regional officers should also be given greater financial autonomy, allowing them to buy locally if it is practical. If the Government sets the example in decentralising, we can put moral pressure on the private firms to do likewise.

South-west market gardeners would like a produce market established in the south-west. The firm of Woolworths (WA) Ltd. has recently stopped buying its regular supplies from local growers and instead is dealing with larger firms based in Perth. The illogical part is that some of the vegetables it buys in Perth have come from market gardens near Harvey.

Finally, as a further impetus to decentralisation, I envisage Bunbury as the tourist gateway to the south-west. I need not elaborate on the widespread appeal of the south-west region to tourists; it has the right mixture of industrial development, agriculture, and natural reserves.

I ask the Government to expedite the improvement of transport services to Bunbury so it can benefit all the people of the south-west.

I am pleased that, after 10 years of talking, a final decision to shift the railway marshalling yards from the centre of Bunbury is likely. Once this decision is finalised, a start can be made on upgrading the line and replacing the *Australind* passenger run with a rapid transit rail link.

Decisions are presently being made to upgrade the Bunbury airport and construction of the Bunbury-Mandurah dual carriageway is being expedited.

Despite the present economic downturn, the future for Bunbury and the south-west looks bright. This Government's policies of decentralisation will shift attention and workers to Bunbury and its region. This will, in turn, attract private industries and their workers. The proposed aluminium smelter and associated powerhouse will be an extra bonus in terms of work and finance. A prosperous Bunbury will mean a prosperous south-west and that, in turn, will promote a prosperous State.

Many other matters concern me—far too many for me to touch on more than a few of them in my first speech.

The member for Scarborough mentioned the need for a coastal management authority in WA. One of my concerns is the management of the

waters of our coast. For most of my life I have spent a large part of my leisure time either on or under the sea. I am concerned that the people of this State, both amateur and professional, have exploited the sea and its life forms to the point that, unless some action is taken soon, future generations may never know what a wide range of life once existed along our lengthy coastal waters.

It also worries me that so many people who enter this underwater world wearing scuba equipment, die or are seriously injured each year. Those who buy this scuba gear should be able to expect safe gear and expert training, but more about these matters at another time.

I may have seemed parochial as local members often do, in concentrating on Bunbury, but I can assure members that the interests of this great State will also be my concern in the coming years.

[Applause.]

Debate adjourned until a later stage of the sitting, on motion by Mr Thompson.

## QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIFTH DAY

#### *Motion*

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

**MR THOMPSON** (Kalamunda) [4.40 p.m.]: The Government would have been disappointed had I not been given the opportunity to make this contribution to the Address-in-Reply because first I want to compliment the Government on something it has done. Not only do I want to compliment the Government, but also I want to congratulate two Ministers of the Crown who have been involved in this particular project. I refer to the action that has been taken to secure for this State a major equestrian facility of international standard.

Mr Tonkin: Do you have a vested interest in this?

Mr THOMPSON: Yes I do.

Mr Hassell: Does the Government?

Mr THOMPSON: I make no apology about it; I have been advocating this facility for some considerable time.

Several years ago the Commonwealth Government decided to provide a fund to encourage State Governments to establish within their borders sporting facilities designed to lift our rating in international competition. An example of such a project is the hockey stadium at Bentley. That