

appropriate, exploited. The concept of an artificial reef for amateur fishing certainly falls into the exploration category and may well fall into the exploitation category also. Artificial reefs have been tried successfully in Busselton and South Australia, and there is every indication that a strategically placed reef north of the entrance to the Mandurah Estuary would be a boon to the area. Such a reef could be constructed out of old tyres, which would have the dual benefit of not disturbing the ocean patterns while at the same time contributing towards solving the longstanding problem of how to dispose of the tyres themselves. They are at present an environmental nuisance, and given the opportunity they could become an environmental blessing. For all those reasons, the concept is worth pursuing, which is what I intend to do.

The condition of the Peel-Harvey Estuary is of major significance to the community of Mandurah because its association with the water is very intimate. My initial investigations over the last few days have led me to believe that there is an organism which has the potential to clean up the Peel-Harvey Estuary. This organism has been developed in the United States over the last 10 years, and it operates by immediately seeking out and digesting nutrients such as ammonia, nitrates, phosphates and organic matter, such as algae, upon being introduced to the water body. The organism works in both fresh and salt water, and is purely biological. It is chemical free, non toxic, non pathogenic, and harmless to all fish, plant and aquatic life. Once organic wastes and algae have been consumed, the organism dies, turns into water, and forms a balance with nature. I intend to continue my investigations into this organism, because if a solution were available which used nature itself, without requiring major man made alterations, the benefits would be immense. The inventor of the organism will be travelling to Asia in the near future, and I hope he can be invited to visit Western Australia to discuss the problems of the Peel-Harvey Estuary and the suitability of this organism as a solution. While I do not expect the Government to stop the planning of the Dawesville Cut at this stage, I hope the various Government departments will be interested in further investigations regarding this alternative.

It has become more apparent to the community at large that funding for essential services is continually under pressure. The need for a bipartisan approach is often required if positive and fruitful solutions are to be achieved. It is my intention to pursue this approach whenever possible. I place on record today my disgust at the seemingly common fact of "starving" an electorate of capital works funding for a few years, only to subject it to political pork barrelling just prior to an election. I do not wish to elaborate on this subject today, only to say that I hope Mandurah will receive due consideration in the years to come.

This Parliament is at a significant point in history, with the public's focus being firmly fixed on Government accountability. While this may not be a revelation to members, the responsibility for ensuring that the integrity of this institution is upheld cannot be overstated. Personal integrity and Government accountability are the very backbone of our State, nation and, indeed, democracy.

I meet the coming years with anticipation and enthusiasm, and it is my intention, as the MLA for Mandurah, to explore every avenue for promoting improvements for the region and, where appropriate, to do my utmost to bring them to fruition. Mr Speaker, I would like to thank you and members for your indulgence during my first speech in the House. I look forward to listening, to learning, and to contributing to the strength and success of our Parliament.

[Applause.]

DR TURNBULL (Collie) [2.36 pm]: Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment to the position of Speaker in this Parliament. I feel very privileged to stand here today representing the people of the electorate of Collie. I wish to thank the voters of Collie for the confidence they have placed in me, and I assure them that I intend to do my utmost to justify their choice. I am only the fourth elected representative for Collie to enter this Parliament, and I follow Mr Tom Jones, who retired prior to the last election. Throughout his 21 years as Collie's representative Tom Jones served the people of his electorate with a dedication that earned him the respect of all of them. During his last term of office he saw the realisation of some of his greatest wishes: A splendid Senior Citizens' Centre and a fine headquarters for the Police and Citizens' Youth Club. He has been a faithful and loyal parliamentarian both to Collie and to his party, and on behalf of the people of Collie I would like to pay tribute to him.

Members: Hear, hear!

Dr TURNBULL: Another gentleman to whom I would like to pay tribute is Mr Tom Perry, who was the member for Lower Central Province from 1965 to 1977. Tom Perry was a determined individualist who inspired the deep respect of the constituents of his widespread electorate. He was a man who always made himself available to anyone who needed assistance. I have learned from these two men what a parliamentarian really is: A representative of the people.

I view my entry to Parliament as a magnificent challenge. It is an honour to represent those people involved in the mining and associated energy industry; in agriculture and forestry; in small business and service industries; retired people and pensioners; and all the people of the Collie electorate who contribute not only to the wealth of Western Australia but of the nation as a whole. The electorate of Collie has always been based on the mining industry. This emphasis is even more apparent now that the new electoral boundaries have been established. The three mining areas which make up the Collie electorate represent more than half of the electors of the seat of Collie.

The people of Boddington are proud of the fact that Boddington Gold will have the highest single-mine production of gold in Australia this year. The 400,000 ounces of gold mined will be worth \$US 150 million. There have also been very encouraging results in exploration, and the mine could experience further growth next year. Worsley Alumina is mining for bauxite at Boddington, which is then refined at Worsley. Worsley Alumina is the most efficient large scale producer in the world, and at 1.6 million tonnes of aluminium this year, it directly creates 900 jobs. Worsley Alumina is one of the most impressive parts of Western Australian aluminium production; it produces \$1.2 billion a year, and supplies 22 per cent of the world's requirements.

Western Australia is on the verge of a great new value-added industrial expansion into aluminium smelting and the associated manufacture of aluminium products. The enormous value of our bauxite will be truly realised only when there is a total vertical integration of this industry. The aluminium task force is at present grappling with the task of establishing a structure to enable an aluminium smelter to be built which will bring a profit to the operators and substantial benefits to Western Australia.

Mining at Greenbushes commenced in 1888 with tin production, which is currently enjoying a resurgence of interest. More recent discoveries are tantalite and spodumene, both of which are essential to the high tech world. Spodumene, which is refined into lithium, has a vital role as a glass toughener. It is also used in the development of super conductors. Both these metals are enjoying high prices at the moment, and the future expansion in refining at Greenbushes looks bright.

Whittakers Ltd is establishing a large timber mill there which will be operational later this year. All this activity in Greenbushes requires more housing. Homeswest should build accommodation for single and aged students and retired people, and more family homes will also be needed in Greenbushes.

Collie is, of course, well known for coal mining, and I would like to expand on this later. I feel honoured to represent the farming communities at Boyup Brook, Donnybrook, Balingup, Boddington and Collie. Agricultural production in these areas is expanding and there is a resurgence of profitability in the wool industry. Farmers are taking advantage of this to consolidate their flocks and modernise their equipment.

The Rylington Park Research and Educational Centre at Boyup Brook is a fine example of how much value the farmers themselves place on research and planning for the future. Orchards and horticulture are flourishing in the picturesque areas of Donnybrook, Mullalyup, Balingup and Greenbushes. A resurgence in apple production is occurring, with four new varieties showing very great promise. Stone fruit capacity increased by more than 77 per cent between 1981 and 1986. Most of these orchards are now being grown on the Tatura trellis system, which greatly improves their efficiency. Fruit produced in this region is being sought in overseas markets, along with horticultural exports, such as potatoes, cauliflowers and other vegetables. The Donnybrook area is becoming a garden to feed Asia and to enrich Western Australia.

Country towns are especially sensitive to the decisions of Government in respect of the

employment of public funds. Collie and other towns have suffered from the rationalisation of Westrail. Collie in particular has suffered from the decision to recentralise the Water Authority office to Bunbury. The loss of Government jobs can start a snowballing of retrenchments affecting everyone in a country town - schools, councils, retailers and private services.

Hospital services in country towns must be retained both as essential services and as employers. Farming and small businesses bear the brunt of increases in Government charges. Telecommunications, water and electricity, especially for irrigation, are examples. Taxes such as land tax, payroll tax, FID and BAD, fuel and freight taxes, fringe benefits, capital gains and income taxes and high interest rates reduce incentive and lead to a reduction of jobs in country areas.

People want to live in the country right now. There is a positive desire to live outside the urban areas. In all the shires in my electorate there has been an increase in population. Government facilities must be provided at prices comparable to those paid in the city to encourage people to settle in rural areas.

Housing in country areas is very important, particularly in my electorate, where industrial developments in Boddington, Greenbushes and Collie are resulting in shortages and high rentals. SECWA, GEHA and Homeswest must allocate more of their precious funds to these towns to help alleviate the housing shortage and thus attract more people and more workers to live in these towns.

Members can see that my electorate not only has a great range of concerns and problems, but also it covers a large area with a diversity of industries and pursuits. Despite this diversity, there is one concern which has unified the whole electorate. Overwhelmingly I have been made aware of the concern, alarm and even anger being expressed about the overutilisation of the jarrah forest. One third of the Collie electorate is covered by jarrah forest, but it is a forest under threat. In the near future we will have a silicon smelter at Kemerton which will use 135 000 tonnes of jarrah this year. While the EPA report says the Jarrah will all come from non commercial timber, well respected people in the forest industry believe that while at present it may be possible to obtain this tonnage, it cannot be sustained. In a number of years, perhaps even as few as five, all the forest floor waste will be gone and more thinnings and more waste from thinnings will have to be used.

As a result of the charcoal needs of the smelter, there is already pressure on the availability of waste timber. The large mills at Donnybrook, Balingup and Greenbushes are no longer able to supply local people with mill ends which have always been available for domestic use. Although two small mills in this area are still able to provide some millings, the supply will be limited, and one cannot get on their lists if one was not a customer last year.

This seems to suggest that perhaps waste timber is not as readily available as the developers would lead us to believe. Surely the domestic needs of local people must be met before the industry makes demands. Barrack Mines, the developer and operator of the silicon venture, now proposes to double the size of the smelter operation, thus doubling the amount of jarrah which will have to be taken from our central and northern jarrah forests. If the silicon smelter is to expand, alternative sources of charcoal production will have to be considered. Tasmanian blue gums and two other varieties of eucalypts have been successfully used elsewhere. While I do not object in principle to the expansion of the smelter, the jarrah forest must not come under undue pressure and the possibility of using alternative charcoal sources must be accepted by that industry.

It is very important that any arrangements include the provision of the rights of private individuals to access to the forest areas all over the south west for domestic wood collection. Quite simply, we cannot afford to jeopardise our water supply and catchment areas. We cannot afford to damage our jarrah forest when it is vital for water, for fuel, for domestic supplies, for tourism, for recreation and salinity control. There is a definite incongruity, a contorted logic, in allowing the rape of our jarrah forests at the same time as Western Australia is being advised to plant more trees to counter the salinity problem and the greenhouse effect.

Of course, the problems associated with the Greenhouse Effect are being used by many people to justify the recommendation for the use of gas rather than coal. It must be pointed

out that the Greenhouse Effect is a scientific theory relating to changes in weather patterns because of the build up of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere. We must be very careful not to concentrate entirely on the effect of coal on the Greenhouse Effect. It is important to note that it is in fact the car which causes the greatest emissions of carbon dioxide. We will not, however, find the transport industry being attacked because it is easier to focus on a great big coal fired power station than to face the prospect of giving up our family cars.

The Greenhouse Effect is in fact a composite effect and curbing the world's population is the most effective way of controlling the Greenhouse Effect. End use efficiency must play a bigger role in preventing the build up of the Greenhouse gases - end use efficiency by all consumers, both domestic and industrial. Research into economically efficient energy use and production is essential. A power station using the pressurised, fluidised bed technology is a project that Western Australia should undertake. This could be done by converting the Bunbury power station, thereby increasing the efficiency of that power station by 20 per cent while reducing pollution.

Many scientific bodies around the world are studying the new technologies needed for environmentally benign coal usage. At the recent international coal conference, Coaltech 1988, held in Amsterdam in November, many papers on this subject were presented and their publication is eagerly awaited. These new technologies offer positive hope for the use of coal in power production. Extensive research on environmentally benign coal usage should be carried out at the Collie School of Mines under the auspices of the Curtin University of Technology using funds from industry and NERDEC - the National Energy Research and Development Corporation.

There is now another, most serious subject which is vital to the people of my electorate, to all the people of this State, and to every member sitting here today. As I have already said, the electorate of Collie is a very diverse one, centred of course around the town of Collie, the coalmines and the Muja power station. They are the hub of the energy industry in Western Australia, with the Muja power station having a generating capacity of 1 040 megawatts, which is half of the State Energy Commission of Western Australia's total capacity. For the Government of this State the energy crisis of Western Australia is the greatest challenge and problem which must be addressed in the next few months. The Government must make a decision to build generating capacity, or this State faces, amongst other problems, the prospect of blackouts. If members do not think this will be much of a nuisance to those of us sitting here today, they should think again. Next summer the business people in their magnificent glass hotboxes in Perth will discover that the power supply will not cope with the demands of their air-conditioners. Members should think of Bond's tower, which requires six megawatts. Members should be prepared for those people to storm the steps of Parliament House demanding that members find immediate solutions. Members should not be surprised if the nerves of the business people in Perth become a trifle frayed when the power surges and fluctuations damage their computer systems, which need air-conditioning and steady supplies of energy. Surges and fluctuations have been occurring this year while controllers at the Muja power station have tried to prevent the total blackouts, and they have been using the old Kalgoorlie oil fired power station to keep us going. This situation will not be able to continue next year.

Why are we facing this energy crisis? One cause of the delay in building a new power station in Collie is the Rothwells debacle. Parliamentarians sitting in this House today may very well believe that Rothwells is just a Treasury concern over an amount of \$150 million, or the Opposition probing the Government's involvement, or the Government fielding clever questions and answers; but in Collie the Rothwells collapse is very real. The Collie work force still recalls that due to the actions of senior members of the previous Government the largest mining company was three days away from insolvency, and 800 people were three days away from an empty pay packet. It is very difficult for the people of Collie to understand why, in view of the critical situation of the energy supply, there is still no new power station - not even the plans for one. After all, even when Muja stage D was commenced in the late 1970s the authorities knew that another power station would be needed. Even Prime Minister Hawke, in his infamous appearance in the Collie Park, categorically promised the Collie electorate a new power station; that was five years ago, and we are still waiting.

The fact is that Western Australia will need two coal fired power stations of 100 000 megawatts each if the industrial development of Western Australia continues at its present rate to the year 2 000. The delay in having a power station is costing Western Australian taxpayers. There are reasons for the ever increasing numbers of gas fired turbines proposed at Pinjar and elsewhere, firstly as a stopgap measure to cope with the peak power demands and thus prevent the blackouts, and secondly because the introduction of a base load coal fired power station is at least four years away. These stopgap measures will take large quantities of gas so the developers are being exhorted to find gas in the Perth Basin, but a significant suitable gas find in the southern half of this State is not very likely. If gas is not found there will be no other option but to use imported oil in these proposed turbines, and I am sure this is not a prospect that any member here would like to contemplate. Gas reserves are not defined and established, and the establishment of these will take time and an indeterminate amount of money. Recent Press releases have stated that royalty holidays and other incentives could be applied to gas exploration and production, but I point out that without the taxes, royalties and other imposts on coal the coal industry could be truly competitive. State payroll tax alone adds more than five per cent to the wages cost, which is nearly three per cent of the total cost of coal.

It is possible to detect signs of panic in the Government's frantic search for elusive gas, yet coal at Collie is solid, reliable, ready and available to be used right now. If a lack of finance, escalating interest rates and mammoth debts are the reasons SECWA is promoting small, low capital, short term gas fields and generators, I can only say that the decision makers are passing by the most reliable and ultimately the best solution to this crisis; that is, to build and develop immediately a power station at Collie. The gas fields of Dongara have very limited life, and gas finds at Busselton are only coal drainage gas, which is almost pure methane and suitable only for small generators of about 15 megawatts. The best use for these generators is as line loss compensators at the end of the grid. In the debate over the usage of gas or coal for power generation I must also point out that in the total analysis coal is cheaper than gas as a primary energy source for electricity production.

The Greenhouse Effect, which is being used by advisers at the Energy Policy Unit and many of the Press reports, has in reality very little influence in the decision about where to build a new power station - at Collie, or at Hill River, Eneabba. It will be remembered that Hill River coal has considerably more sulphur and ash than Collie coal and therefore is environmentally less acceptable.

In the next four years, while a base load power station is being established, Western Australia's power requirements could increase by up to 700 megawatts. Decisions to be made shortly should not be made purely for the sake of expediency. No further stopgap measures should be permitted. I urge all members of this House to go out into the work force, to go to Kwinana and Collie, and to start asking questions of SECWA to ensure that pressure is kept on the decision makers to continue planning and to keep to a very tight schedule.

The Government has just called for expressions of interest in a new coal fired power station in Collie. Any genuine expression of interest is likely to come from the company that already owns a coal mining capacity in Collie. At present Western Collieries Ltd is anxiously awaiting a decision by Rothwells' liquidator, Mr Ferrier, in respect of what offer he will accept for Western Collieries. This puts the purchaser in a very difficult position when tendering for this expression of interest, and it may have difficulty in presenting this before the due date. Western Collieries' position is a direct result of its involvement in the Rothwells debacle. Therefore the Government must take some responsibility for the problems which have been created. It is the Government's responsibility to act quickly to honour the promise made prior to the election only two short months ago, and to develop a coal fired power station in Collie.

Collie is ready now. It has the infrastructure, the manpower, the organisation, the expertise and the desire to be involved in such a vital part of the State's future. Preparations are already under way in readiness for development. The companies are geared up, are ready for change and are ready to expand. Equipment has been purchased. The Griffin Coal Mining Company has already spent \$20 million on equipment while Western Collieries has been researching and testing the latest available underground mining technology. Dewatering and total extraction systems of underground coal reserves have already been proven so that

whoever does purchase will have the ability to introduce long wall mining technology almost immediately. In this way economies of scale in price structuring could be introduced in order to keep Collie at the forefront as a cost efficient fuel supplier for a new power station.

After all this preparatory work the total Collie work force must be given the opportunity to optimise the productivity potential now possible. All people engaged in energy production in Collie recognise the realities of the modern mining scene. Considerable change has been going on in Collie mining techniques over the last 10 years. There is a new generation of men who are intelligent and who realise that their mining future is dictated by economics. They understand that change is a part of all modern business ventures and they want to have a part in directing which way the changes will go. They need to be consulted, especially in the case of the introduction of three shifts and changes to work schedules where recognition of the sociological impact of such changes is essential. There must also be a speedy resolution to the morale destroying protracted restructuring at the Muja Power Station.

The people of Collie have been concerned about statements, supposedly made by a Minister, that seats held by the Opposition do not receive the same consideration as Government held seats. It has also been said that Collie people rejected the Government's program. However, I point out that the people of Collie are not negative. They are forward thinking people who know that in order for their town to progress they must be prepared to accommodate the changes that progress brings.

Industrial development such as the petrochemical plant, the aluminium smelter, the silicon smelter and the ammonia and urea plant means that a new power station is imperative. In fact, most likely two new power stations are necessary. SECWA now has to produce electricity at world competitive rates to attract industry which has to sell its products on the world market. Collie recognises that the intensive use of valuable capital and the use of the latest technology by skilled operators is the way to ensure that our town continues to develop steadily. Collie people want to ensure a good future for their youth. At present 2 000 children are currently attending school in Collie. Their employment opportunities are basically limited to energy production and forestry. These children are our future and to deny Collie the opportunity of having the next coal fired power station is to deny them their chance for a future they can look forward to. I therefore urge all members, particularly Government members, to make it their urgent business to understand this energy crisis in all its complexities. I am sure they will then all agree that Collie is the best available site for the next coal fired power station.

In conclusion I wish all new members and members of long standing - especially those with responsible positions - a truly productive Thirty-third Parliament.

[Applause.]

MR HASSELL (Cottesloe) [3.06 pm]: In opening my remarks I commend the member for Collie on her very fine maiden speech to the House. It was very well thought out and thoroughly researched, and I hope she and the other new members from both sides have a long and fruitful time in this House. Mr Speaker, I congratulate you upon your re-election as Speaker of the House and offer my best wishes for your work in that role.

Today I want to speak to the House about a case of injustice. My interest in this case precedes my appointment as shadow Attorney General with responsibility for legal matters on behalf of the Opposition. On 20 August 1988 there appeared a front page report in *The West Australian* about the trial of Nicholas Meredith. On that day I wrote to one of the living victims of the offence committed by Nicholas Meredith, of which he was convicted. I wrote to Mrs Traudl Tan, the widow of 52 year old Peter Michael Tan who was killed by Nicholas Meredith. Mrs Tan is in the Gallery of this House today and I seek to bring her case before the House.

Peter Michael Tan left a widow, two teenage children and an adult daughter. The story of the events leading to the death of Peter Tan, the charging, trial and sentencing of Nicholas Meredith and his term of imprisonment, which will shortly expire, raises serious questions about our system of justice. Specifically it raises questions about the treatment of victims of crime, our attitude as a community to them and the competence of the Crown Law Department.

Time is short and all of the details cannot be told, but nevertheless it is desirable for me to go