



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

THIRTY-NINTH PARLIAMENT
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 14 May 2013

Legislative Assembly

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THE SPEAKER (Mr M.W. Sutherland) took the chair at 2.00 pm, and read prayers.

RACING INDUSTRY — HORSE DEATHS

Statement by Minister for Racing and Gaming

MR T.K. WALDRON (Wagin — Minister for Racing and Gaming) [2.01 pm]: There has been a focus on sudden racehorse deaths both in the media and in the Parliament recently. Racing and Wagering Western Australia is the race industry's governing body. RWWA's racing industry veterinarian, Dr Judith Medd, has provided the following information in relation to the cause of death in these cases and the nature of the post-mortem testing undertaken.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member!

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Dr Medd's records indicate that there have been four sudden horse deaths at metropolitan thoroughbred race meetings and barrier trials in the last 12 months. Two horses died on 5 November 2012 after trials at Lark Hill. The horses involved were Found It and Just Wicked.

Mr P.B. Watson: You should have said this last week.

The SPEAKER: Order! Would the minister please sit down? Member for Albany, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Both horses ran in separate 950-metre trials and both collapsed and died after completing their trial. The on-course duty vet conducted a post-mortem examination of both horses and reported cardiac arrhythmia as the likely cause of death. Drug control samples were collected by the state ChemCentre for testing for toxicology and prohibited substances. Both returned negative results. Dr Medd reports that neither of these deaths is considered suspicious.

The other two sudden deaths occurred at Ascot racecourse. On 1 January 2013 Texan collapsed and died on the way to the barriers. Following an autopsy at Murdoch University, the cause of death was confirmed as cardiac arrhythmia. Prohibited substance and toxicology tests by the state chemistry centre returned a negative result.

Ms Funovits collapsed and died at Ascot on 20 April 2013, again on the way to the starting barriers. An autopsy has been conducted at Murdoch University and blood and tissue samples taken for testing. The preliminary autopsy result suggests cardiac arrhythmia as the most likely cause of death, but this cannot be confirmed until the results of the blood and tissue testing have been received. These results are expected this week. Once these results have been received and assessed, the RWWA stewards will issue a media release.

Dr Medd has advised that there has been no significant increase in sudden deaths in racehorses in WA recently. Based on current statistics, the industry can expect between three and nine sudden deaths a year from over 31 000 individual thoroughbred starters in either races or official trials. These figures are comparable with other jurisdictions within Australia and overseas. The scientific literature reports that cardiac arrhythmia is one of the most common causes of sudden or unexpected death in a normal horse during or immediately after exercise. The post-mortem analysis of sudden horse deaths is covered by an RWWA stewards' policy and I am advised that the policy has been followed correctly in each of these sudden deaths. The integrity of racing and the welfare of racehorses are extremely important. The government and RWWA remain vigilant in ensuring that the integrity systems and processes are of the highest order, and continue to ensure public confidence in the racing industry.

PENGUIN ISLAND SANDBAR DEATHS — CORONIAL FINDINGS

Statement by Minister for Environment

MR A.P. JACOB (Ocean Reef — Minister for Environment) [2.04 pm]: I would like to inform the house of the findings and recommendations of the coronial inquest into the tragic deaths of Mr Pavan Ganasala and Mr Praveen Pagadala Shiva, who drowned while attempting to cross the Penguin Island sandbar on 28 December 2010. This coronial inquest highlights one of the biggest challenges for the Department of Environment and Conservation, and indeed land managers throughout Australia, which is the need to balance visitor safety with visitor enjoyment and experience of the natural environment. It is significant that coroner Dominic Mulligan noted that the department manages 1 224 recreation sites, which attract around 15.5 million visits per year, and maintains and facilitates the enjoyment by Western Australians and tourists of these significant and beautiful sites.

The coroner found that the cause of the death of the two men arose by way of accident and that the deaths were avoidable. He found that, even though there are appropriate warning signs at strategic places and a ferry operator licensed by the Department of Environment and Conservation, people still choose to walk across the sandbar between Penguin Island and Mersey Point. The coroner stated in his report that, given the high number of people crossing the sandbar each year, it was not surprising that people are regularly washed from the sandbar. DEC statistics show that the annual visitation to Penguin Island was approximately 102 000 people in 2011–12. The coroner found that, at the time of the deaths, DEC's procedures for sandbar closure were uncertain and that the department had not monitored their effectiveness. The coroner noted that since the fatalities, DEC had made improvements to its procedures. Following the incident, DEC instigated a review to examine its management of the sandbar and how procedures and operational guidelines could be improved. As a result, DEC has already begun implementing management actions for closing and opening the sandbar, increasing and maintaining sandbar patrols by surf lifesavers during the busy summer months and purchasing additional safety equipment for rangers managing the island.

The coroner made four recommendations, three of which are directed at the Department of Environment and Conservation, with one directed at local government and surf lifesaving bodies. DEC has accepted the coroner's findings into the fatalities and will now consider the recommendations and develop a prioritised action plan and timetable in consultation with Surf Life Saving WA and the local government. I recently met with Surf Life Saving WA, along with the acting director general of DEC, to discuss the coroner's recommendations, and I can confirm that work has already commenced to pursue implementation of these recommendations.

Visitor safety is a key priority for DEC and its visitor risk-management program aims to minimise the potential for injuries and misadventure without diminishing or sanitising visitor use and enjoyment of our state's natural areas.

DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLANS — PROGRESS REPORT

Statement by Parliamentary Secretary

MS A.R. MITCHELL (Kingsley — Parliamentary Secretary) [2.07 pm]: I am pleased to present the “2011–2012 Disability Access and Inclusion Plans Progress Report” as prepared by the Disability Services Commission. This report outlines the progress being made by state government agencies and local governments in implementing their disability access and inclusion plans in the 2011–12 financial year.

Disability access and inclusion plans, or DAIPs, provide a formal process for public authorities to make sure their services, buildings and information are accessible and inclusive of people with disability. Under the Western Australian Disability Services Act 1993, amended in 2012, public authorities are required to develop and implement a DAIP. The act also requires the Disability Services Commission to submit an annual report on the effectiveness of and compliance with DAIPs, to be tabled in each house of Parliament every year.

DAIPs aim to address the many barriers to access that prevent people with disability from a fully inclusive life within the community. The DAIP progress report 2011–12 details how state government agencies and local governments have applied strategies to meet the needs of people with disability. The report outlines some wonderful examples of the many ways public authorities are increasing access and inclusion across the state. As well as providing real-life examples, the report documents achievements in implementing access and inclusion strategies. A significant number of these strategies have been completed during 2011–12.

In this financial year, reports were received from 100 per cent of state government agencies and 96 per cent of local governments. I would like to acknowledge those public authorities for their reporting of DAIP progress. It is encouraging to see how the progress of DAIPs is improving access and inclusion for people with disability across Western Australia. Public authorities have not only responded positively to their responsibilities under the Disability Services Act, but also continued to support the state's Count Me In vision. The vision is that people live in welcoming communities that facilitate citizenship, friendship, mutual support and a fair go for everyone.

It is with pleasure that I table the “Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs) Progress Report 2011–2012”.

[See paper 306.]

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS — COMMONWEALTH CONTRIBUTION

103. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's submission to Infrastructure Australia in August 2012 in which he requested funding for a range of projects, especially transport; and, to his comments last week that —

“I would hope to see some commitment by the commonwealth ...

Is the government committed to matching any federal funding for the projects requested in the submission to Infrastructure Australia; and, if not, why not?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I have not got the submission that we made in front of me. But, let me say, we welcome any commonwealth government commitment to major projects, particularly infrastructure and urban transport projects. As to the question of matching—not necessarily. We will not allow the commonwealth government to dictate our public works program. If the media reports are correct, the commonwealth has said it will contribute \$400 million to the Perth–Darwin highway project—or, probably a better name for it is the Swan Valley bypass. The state government has already committed \$140-odd million for the section between Gngangara Road and Muchea. We intend to build that and, following that, the more expensive section from Reid Highway through to the Gngangara point. Those series of interchanges are expensive. But we will not abandon or rearrange other transport projects simply to match commonwealth funding. Indeed, my response would be —

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The commonwealth does not run the road programs or the public transport programs in this state.

Mr P. Papalia: They just pay for it.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: If you are going to be sycophantic to the commonwealth, be so, but we are not going to be. If that is true, we welcome the \$400 million funding. I have to say, in terms of timing and major projects, it would probably be more beneficial to Western Australia if that \$400 million were simply applied to the railway project to the airport.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS — COMMONWEALTH CONTRIBUTION

104. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Premier:

I ask a supplementary question. Will the Premier therefore be passing up significant commonwealth contributions to infrastructure projects in Western Australia that the Premier himself requested from the commonwealth?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

Certainly, we outlined the sorts of projects that matter, and the Swan Valley bypass project does matter. But we have committed \$140 million to it. That stage will be built. The second stage of the project is not likely to occur in the term of the next federal Parliament. If the report is true, it is a bit cute; it is saying, “Here is \$400 million if you match it.” We do not have the capacity to match that. We have already committed to our major transport projects.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: If the commonwealth provides \$400 million, we welcome it, but we are not going to, for example, slow down commitments on rail projects —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: — simply to match a halfway-house offer by the commonwealth. If the commonwealth wants to provide assistance, just make the \$400 million available. We welcome that.

PLANNING APPROVALS

105. Mrs G.J. GODFREY to the Minister for Planning:

Mr Speaker —

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah!

Mrs G.J. GODFREY: I refer to the member for West Swan’s statement to the house last week that planning approvals were down and that the Office of Land and Housing Supply had no staff. With this in mind, can the minister please clarify the state’s position in relation to land approvals?

Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:

I thank the member for the question. The issue of availability of land for residential developments, whether it be in greenfield sites or for urban infill projects, is certainly an important one. I was interested in the comments made by the member for West Swan last week. She accurately reflected the fact that the number of approvals or

titles granted for new lots in Western Australia over the last four years has been at a lower rate than was the case in the previous two or three years. That is correct. What is completely incorrect is her analysis of the reasons. She intimated or suggested that the reduction in the number of approvals has been a result of lack of government action or because of some government actions that have slowed down the process.

Mr M. McGowan: You're just the government.

Mr J.H.D. DAY: For the benefit of the Leader of the Opposition, who has made similar comments in the past, and the member for West Swan and anybody else who might be interested, the reason is that there has been a reduced demand over the last four years from buyers of land, and normally when there is reduced demand, suppliers who have the ability to do so reduce their production. They have also been operating in a situation of reduced availability of finance following the global financial crisis. So it has been more difficult for development companies to obtain access to finance, and it has also been harder in some cases for potential buyers of lots to obtain finance. So that is the reason there has been a reduced number of actual lots produced over the last four years or so.

To be more precise, in 2006–07, there were 6 255 applications for final approval. In 2011–12, the Planning Commission received 2 942 applications to create the lots that were created. Approximately 42 000 lots were created in 2006–07 and about 28 000 lots were created in 2011–12. The reduced number of applications reflects the reduced demand and the reduced production by development companies. Nevertheless, the number of conditionally approved lots has remained fairly static. In fact, at the end of the 2005–06 financial year, the total stock of conditionally approved lots—these are ones that will not in all cases be actually created, but it is an important indicator of land availability—was 62 605. I am advised that over the last four years, there have been 72 000 lots with conditional approval—in other words, available for development.

I also advise that the performance of the Department of Planning in recent years has improved substantially. In 2008–09, only 56 per cent of subdivision applications were processed within the target period of 90 days. This has now improved to 79 per cent in 2011–12, and 99 per cent of applications for final subdivision clearance were determined within the required 30 days. So the performance and output of the Department of Planning has improved substantially over the last three years. That also demonstrates that the comments of the member for West Swan are simply not borne out by the evidence.

I also advise that the number of amendments to the Perth metropolitan and Peel region schemes that have been dealt with by the department, and therefore ultimately by me as Minister for Planning, has increased from 17 in 2007–08 to 34 in 2011–12. In the Perth, Peel and Bunbury regions, in 2010, 190 hectares of urban-zoned land was added, and, in 2011, 400 hectares of land was added. So there is a substantial amount of land available for residential development. I hope that members now understand that the analysis presented by the member for West Swan is simply not accurate.

In relation to the Office of Land and Housing Supply and the statement that there are no staff in that office, that is not correct. There are in fact two dedicated staff members on contract. They have substantial experience and they are playing a very important role in providing information and also facilitating land development, particularly residential land development, in Western Australia. As I said, there are two dedicated staff within that office, and they are working very effectively.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT — LIGHT RAIL

106. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Premier:

I refer to the government's election commitment that the MAX light rail would be a key part of the Liberal government's public transport plan. I refer also to the member for Morley's commitment, which was distributed around his electorate, of "Light rail coming soon", and that, "Under a Barnett Liberal Government, construction of the MAX network will begin in 2016, with commuters able to use the new service by 2018."

- (1) On what date in 2016 will construction begin?
- (2) Does the Premier guarantee that the commuters of Morley, Mirrabooka and Victoria Park will be able to use MAX by 2018, as promised?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

- (1)–(2) MAX light rail is a key project and it will take 25 000 to 30 000 people off the existing heavy rail and the freeway system. It is also a complex project.

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: It is. It is a new mode of transport. The planning will have to be extensive and everything will have to be dealt with. It will require land acquisitions. Getting it through the inner suburbs is going to be difficult. So, there is a lot of work to be done.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms M.M. Quirk: In what year?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: We made a commitment that it would begin in 2016; I expect that to be met. But, as I have said on a number of occasions, the financial position for the state has changed.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Not in the last couple of months, it hasn't.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: It has; I assure the member it has changed.

In the lead-up to the budget, the Treasurer and I and other ministers will be scrutinising every item of recurrent expenditure and every item of capital expenditure, and we will do that to avoid a potential crisis, I guess, in our financial affairs in two or three years.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: That is what government does, my friend. What we have in this state, as the Treasurer has said —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Right. Premier, there were two parts to the question: whether construction would begin in 2016 and whether it would be in use by 2018. I think you have answered most of it. I do not know whether you want to say much more.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: We are planning for construction to begin in 2016, Mr Speaker.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: What a rabble.

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Too many fibs, my friend.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah, I call you to order for the first time. Premier, will you come to a conclusion on this question, please.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Yes. There are a number of factors. We have just lost another \$600 million in goods and services tax, and that has meant the state is more heavily reliant on unstable income flows, particularly royalties, but also stamp duties and even payroll tax, yet our major expenditure in health and education just continues to grow in a predictable way.

This government will honour its election commitments, but we will also not place the finances of this state at risk, because to do so would place at risk education and health funding.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT — LIGHT RAIL

107. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. In confirming that the Premier's government will honour its election commitments, as he just said, that means that the government will commence the project in 2016. Will it still complete the project in 2018?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I cannot predict how long it will take to build it; I will not. Look at Labor's effort on the Perth Arena; look at its effort there. This government has an outstanding record in delivering major capital works. Look at our hospitals; look at a whole range of projects around the state; look at royalties for regions. No government in the last 30 years has delivered the capital works program of this government.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

108. MR N.W. MORTON to the Minister for Housing:

As someone with young children, I am always interested in measures that ensure equitable, affordable housing remains within the reach of the younger generations. With this in mind —

The SPEAKER: Sorry. Now, member for Forrestfield, we do not want you to be asking or reading out a short story, so I will go on.

Mr N.W. MORTON: Right—like the Leader of the Opposition.

The SPEAKER: Sit down, please. Next question. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr N.W. MORTON: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your advice. I will get to the question.

The SPEAKER: No. You have had your chance. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Mr Speaker, you continue to grow in the job.

ELECTRICITY PRICES

109. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Premier:

I refer to the comments made by the Premier's Treasurer last week that there is an underlying structural budget issue that has caused the Premier to break his election commitment on electricity prices and cause more pain to struggling Western Australian families.

- (1) What structural issues have now arisen that were not present during the election campaign?
- (2) Considering the Premier avoided being involved in announcements about budget cuts and cost-of-living increases, is he also avoiding handling bad-news issues?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

- (1)–(2) What structural changes have occurred? Commodity prices—watch them; see them. One only has to look in *The Australian Financial Review* every couple of days to see that they have tacked off. That is a structural change.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: So you just assumed they were going to stay high when you made those changes!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I do not know if members opposite know what structural balances mean, but if they want to understand what a structural balance change is, the decline in commodity prices for Western Australia is a structural change.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: That was such a shock; oh, my God!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The Leader of the Opposition has asked a question that suggests to me that he does not really understand what a structural balance is. Commodity price decline is an example of a structural change. Another structural change is a further decline in the goods and services tax share from 55 per cent to 45 per cent. That is a structural change in our budget. They are structural changes.

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: You are just so noisy!

With respect to the assertion by the Leader of the Opposition that the Treasurer had made comments that I have broken an election promise, the Treasurer points out to me that he has never said that.

Mr P.B. Watson: Would you trust him?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Yes, I do. Have you got a quote? It does not matter; I will carry on. You are clearly just making it up as you go.

With respect to electricity prices, I made the commitment during the election campaign that we would keep electricity price increases at or around the rate of inflation. The rate of inflation is around three per cent. The electricity price increase this year —

Mr B.S. Wyatt: It is 2.75 per cent; you keep rounding up!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The underlying rate is around three per cent.

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: It is!

Mr B.S. Wyatt: No wonder the finances are in such bad shape; you keep rounding up!

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Victoria Park, I call you to order for the first time. Can you let the Premier answer the question so we can move on to the next one?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: That is the rate of inflation. The Australian dollar has fallen, which will push up the inflation rate slightly. That is not a bad estimate. To increase it by four per cent, I think for the general public, is in line with what I said during the campaign. I think it is in line. Bearing in mind that the Labor Party policy on electricity prices is 10 per cent plus 10 per cent plus 10 per cent for seven years, I think the public of Western Australia prefers our four per cent to its 10 per cent.

ELECTRICITY PRICES

110. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Is it now standard procedure for the Premier to make promises and then send the Treasurer out to break them?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

All I can say is what a silly question!

Mr M. McGowan: You disappeared for four days—Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Where were you?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Whatever the Leader of the Opposition might think or say about me, the one thing I do not do is dodge bad news!

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

111. MR N.W. MORTON to the Minister for Housing:

Mr Speaker, I still have a question for the Minister for Housing. Will the minister please update the house on the state government's affordable housing strategy and its approach to housing affordability?

Mr W.R. MARMION replied:

I thank the member for Forrestfield for the very good question.

With about 1 500 people coming to Western Australia every week, it is no surprise that housing affordability is a major issue for this state. The Liberal–National government has a plan to address this matter. The plan is the “Affordable Housing Strategy 2010–2020”, released in 2010 by the member for Vasse when he was the Minister for Housing. We are already well on the way to actually deliver 20 000 houses by the year 2020. In fact, we are well on the way to delivering 7 600 already.

I will outline some of this government's achievements. We have produced nearly 5 000 building lots, constructed over 3 400 new social houses and committed another \$130 million in 2012–13 for a further 433 homes. We have committed an additional \$205 million over four years for housing support services for 450 people with high-support needs in our community. We have also freed up or reallocated 1 554 public houses by assisting over-income tenants to find alternative accommodation. Under the national rental affordability scheme, or NRAS, 724 dwellings have been completed, another 1 100 are under construction and we have committed funding for an additional 1 000. By 2016, we will have committed to 6 000 NRAS houses. We have also helped more than 2 890 households, which could not otherwise access finance, to own their own home through the Keystart home loan scheme. Further, we have also helped 434 households with average family incomes of only \$66 000 to buy their own home through our new SharedStart shared equity program. We have also assisted 30 727 people through bond loans. That is just a snapshot of what we have achieved to date. I will table the full list, as time prohibits me from reading out the whole list.

Housing affordability is a challenge; this government is up to the challenge; and we have a plan, the affordable housing strategy, whereas members opposite only ever had a draft plan.

[See paper 307.]

CROWN HOTEL, BURSWOOD — LAND SALE

112. Ms R. SAFFIOTI to the Premier:

I refer to the sale of land to Crown Perth to develop a hotel and the Premier's statement in Parliament on 9 August 2012 that it —

has an entitlement to purchase an additional 10 hectares.

...

Burswood has the right to acquire an extra 10 hectares of land adjacent to the casino complex.

- (1) Can the Premier confirm that Crown had an entitlement to purchase the land?
- (2) Can the Premier confirm that he provided Crown with a \$30 million discount on the value of that land on the basis that Crown's bargaining position, as the Premier believed, was strong due to that entitlement?
- (3) Who provided the Premier with the advice that Crown had an entitlement to purchase the land?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I thank the member for the question. It would have been a good thing if some prior notice had been given, as I may have been able to produce some documentation for the member, but she did not seek that.

- (1) Under the original Burswood agreement, to which an amendment took place in the 1990s, Burswood does have an entitlement to acquire land. I guess lawyers might ask, “What does the word ‘entitlement’ mean? How strong is it or how weak is it?” I accept that point. But certainly the agreements do cater for Burswood expanding its footprint through the purchase of additional land.
- (2)–(3) The second point of the question, the assertion of a \$30 million discount because of that entitlement, is false. The \$30 million below the valuation was based on the fact that the site would need remediation.

The site was therefore, from memory, valued notionally at \$95 million if it was, if you like, unencumbered. This is not land that can be simply built on; it will require a large amount of expenditure. The view within government is that it will probably cost in excess of \$30 million to remediate the site for construction. The price was therefore discounted by \$30 million to reflect the true practical value of that site.

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I have to say that \$60 million for the sale of land is not a bad result for the state, and the construction of a major new hotel with well over 500 employees is not a bad result for the state.

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I sympathise with the position of residents whose view is affected. Indeed, only a week ago I went out there and met with them and had a look at the site. They are adversely affected, but I guess the bottom line is that they do not own a view; none of us owns a view. The hotel at Burswood has made a number of concessions to try to ameliorate the effect on them. But the suggestion that the \$30 million so-called discount is related to an entitlement to buy is just simply false.

CROWN HOTEL, BURSWOOD — LAND SALE

113. Ms R. SAFFIOTI to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question.

Again I ask: who provided the Premier with the advice that Crown Perth had an entitlement; will the Premier provide that advice; and will he table the valuation he just referred to in his answer?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I made very clear what the valuation was—\$95 million.

Ms R. Saffioti: Table the valuation.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Mr Speaker, I am not going to table commercial information on that site. Indeed, there are other developments around that area.

With respect to advice, obviously the State Solicitor provided advice—government agencies provided advice. I do not know why members opposite criticise every positive project in this state. Mr Speaker, remember all the assertions last year before the election that there was some secret deal between me and James Packer. Members opposite went down that path. The opposition put out press releases and comments about meetings that were not about what it thought they were about; it just continues to try to stop development!

Ms R. Saffioti: Table the advice!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: No, we will not be tabling commercial advice to the government.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

114. Ms A.R. MITCHELL to the Minister for Seniors and Volunteering:

I know the importance of volunteers in our community, but can the minister please inform the house how Western Australians are celebrating National Volunteer Week this week, and can the minister also outline the value of volunteers to our community?

Mr A.J. SIMPSON replied:

I thank the member for Kingsley for the question.

I notice that many members in the house are wearing lapel badges to celebrate National Volunteer Week, and I thank them for acknowledging the great work volunteers do in our community. I am very sure, as community-minded people, members have, somewhere along the line, volunteered and done some work in our community, whether it is turning a snag at a barbecue or chairing a parents and citizens association meeting or an annual general meeting for a community group. We have all done that sort of stuff before. A lot of people in our community do a lot of volunteering.

National Volunteer Week recognises that volunteers are indeed the backbone of our community. Western Australians contribute about 288 million hours in volunteering, which is worth about \$9.4 million a year. But far more important than this dollar value is the social impact. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers, our community is a kinder, more interesting and more compassionate place to live. Many community groups and those in the not-for-profit sector who do a fantastic job would not be able to operate without the volunteer process. This week, National Volunteer Week celebrates many people in our community from volunteer firefighters to surf lifesavers to school reading tutors to sports coaches to first aiders. Western Australia has many great volunteers.

This week, a giant red ribbon is travelling around the state for volunteers to sign; it will be held up at Government House in December. Tomorrow night the Volunteer of the Year Awards will be on, and the Governor of Western Australia will announce the winners. This year we are on the lookout for people who have been volunteers for more than 50 years. Last year I had the honour of presenting a firefighter from Roleystone with a medallion to commemorate 50 years of service to the Roleystone fire brigade, which was great.

There will be 70 events throughout WA this week for National Volunteer Week. Again, I thank members for showing their support in recognising that volunteers willingly give their time and energy to our community. It is all part of this government building a safer and more secure community for our future.

PERITONECTOMY SURGERY — PAMELA BARRY

115. Mr R.H. COOK to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the case of Mrs Pamela Barry, who was told she must have an operation in two months and now says she has waited for two years—one of many patients waiting to travel to Sydney for life-saving peritonectomy surgery.

- (1) Why, when we have hospitals and doctors willing and able to perform this operation procedure in their theatres, has the minister only allowed Fremantle Hospital to perform them?
- (2) Why has the minister not allowed Joondalup hospital to perform these procedures when the only doctor able to conduct them works out of that hospital?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

- (1)–(2) I have to say that I would have appreciated some notice of the particular patient; I guess I could not have commented on that patient anyway. But this is a fairly complex issue. It is not just a matter of one hospital being able to do this procedure; there is actually only one doctor who is able to do that procedure in this state. It is a very complex and very difficult procedure.

Mr R.H. Cook: One doctor and two hospitals.

Dr K.D. HAMES: That doctor was doing those procedures at Fremantle Hospital before. It needed considerable additional funding because it is not just the doctor—it is the support structure that goes behind that doctor in the theatre to enable that operation to be undertaken. That was put in place in the past, and then the proposal was put to me that we move it to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. So we went through the process of working out the cost basis for having it instead at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Then it was put to me that it should be at Joondalup because the doctor had moved to Joondalup. We have had considerable discussions about that—doing it out at Joondalup—and now the proposal is back to Fremantle. I have to say that it has been a very confusing exercise, and now I gather there are issues with the doctor himself regarding time and ability for him to do that procedure. It is not a simple matter. I think it is not something that this house needs to spend a lot of time debating. We have particular issues around a particular procedure. This is not through a lack of government trying to assist. This is due to the complexity of the procedure, the availability of the single doctor who is able to do it and trying to get all those things together. I would be happy to have a briefing provided to the member if he wishes to have one.

PERITONECTOMY SURGERY — PAMELA BARRY

116. Mr R.H. COOK to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. In that briefing perhaps the minister can explain to me and people such as Mrs Barry why the minister cannot stop this bureaucratic nonsense and make sure this operation can take place.

The SPEAKER: What is the question?

Mr R.H. COOK: Why can the minister not stop it?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

That had an enormous amount of preamble for something that never got to a question. I can assume from the member's comments that he suggests that it is bureaucratic nonsense and I assure members that it is not bureaucratic nonsense. I am an avid "Yes Minister" reader, and no chapter deals with this.

Mr R.H. Cook: So it's a laughing matter, is it?

Dr K.D. HAMES: The reality is this is not bureaucracy gone mad. This is a serious issue and the member for Kwinana should take issues such as this seriously instead of just trying to make political capital out of them. This is a serious problem for the patient. When the member gets the briefing, I am sure even he will understand that this is not bureaucracy; this is a problem with the surgeon, the space and the complexity of putting all those things together.

PILBARA — POPULATION GROWTH

117. Mr V.A. CATANIA to the Minister for Regional Development:

I understand that new figures indicate that WA's population continues to increase and the Pilbara region in particular continues to grow. Can the minister update the house on how the state is managing this growth?

Mr B.J. GRYLLS replied:

I thank the member for North West Central for the question. *The Australian* newspaper on 1 May reported —

POPULATION growth in Western Australia continues to outstrip the rest of the nation, increasing 3.3 per cent in the past year, more than double the national average.

The figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics for regional population growth in the year 2011–12 revealed that regions tied to the resources sector were growing at massive rates and these rates, interestingly, were not tied to the fly in, fly out workers. The Pilbara added more than 2 200 usual residents in the year to June 2012, which accounts for 3.5 per cent growth. We are seeing a breaking of the nexus about the population growth being based on just fly in, fly out workers, and people are now moving to the Pilbara and making homes for themselves and their families in the Pilbara, which is very positive. The government and the Premier outlined this vision to the state. Early in the first term of the government we announced the Pilbara Cities vision, looking to build an affordable lifestyle in Pilbara communities. We have invested in business opportunities, more jobs and improving education and health and social services, and at last we are now seeing reductions in land and house prices and rents, which will be critical to continue to drive population growth.

In just three years we have increased the population of Port Hedland and Karratha, and now people think our vision of 50 000 people living in those regional cities in the north is possible. Advertised rental prices in Port Hedland, South Hedland, Newman and Karratha dropped in the March quarter. It is the first time since data has been collected in the past eight years that the cost of rentals in all those communities has come down at the same time. The latest figures from the Pilbara Development Commission also revealed a decrease in the average sale prices of properties in the four major markets of the Pilbara. This is also supported by Real Estate Institute of WA data. The average rent price in Karratha is at its lowest since 2007, and in the last quarter three-bedroom houses were being advertised for \$600 a week rent. That is a substantial decrease over previous quarters. Port Hedland's average rental price has dropped below \$2 000 a week and I would expect that market to come back rapidly, especially when the new 490-odd service workers accommodation project comes online later this year. That drop in Hedland is 13 per cent on the last quarter. The average sale price for a property in Karratha has dropped to \$780 000, and estate agents in both Hedland and Karratha are reporting a general softness in the market. As more apartments come on for sale and more land is available for sale, hopefully, we will have passed the worst of the rental market in the north west. We are looking to continue towards normalisation. It has been good to be part of a government that noticed the Pilbara area as a problem, put in place detailed strategies to try to address it and is now seeing the fruit of those strategies starting to pay off.

BUNBURY PORT — GRAIN TRANSPORT

118. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the commencement of the construction of the export facilities for Bunge Agribusiness Australia at Bunbury port following approval for 500 000 tonnes of grain to be exported annually from this facility.

- (1) Did the minister consult with the Shires of Collie and West Arthur before the decision was made to transport grain through those shires?
- (2) What assessments on the Coalfields highway between Arthur River and Collie were undertaken by Main Roads before the approvals were given?
- (3) Which roads or highways will the bulk of the grain transport trucks use to access Bunbury port; and, will these highways require improvements to ensure safe passage?

Mr T.R. BUSWELL replied:

(1)–(3) I thank the member Collie–Preston for the question. I assume he supports the export of wheat through Bunbury port.

Mr M.P. Murray: I certainly support the road upgrade, yes.

Mr T.R. Buswell: I think it is a really good outcome for farmers in regional Western Australia because it means grain producers can have choice when it comes to determining who will handle, transport and ship bulk grain. I think that is a good outcome and we will finally get some competition in that aspect of —

Point of Order

Mr M.P. Murray: My point of order is about the question. The question I asked was about the roads, not about the grain itself.

The SPEAKER: Minister.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: The point I was simply trying to make is that this is an important step forward for farmers. It is an important step forward to introduce competition into grain handling. The grain that will be exported by Bunge out of Bunbury will be transported, in the first instance, by road—approximately 500 000 tonnes per annum. How it gets there is yet to be fully determined because it will depend on the farmers from whom Bunge procure that grain. On the balance of probabilities, a fair proportion of that grain will use the Coalfields highway and the extension through to Darkan, and I will get back to that in a second. There is also a probability that some of that grain will come up South Western Highway and trucks will be able to use the new entry into Bunbury port through the Bunbury outer bypass stage 1, which is currently under construction, and the extension of the port access road—two important road projects undertaken by this government in the south west. Some of that grain may travel down the Forrest Highway to Bunbury. It really depends on the decisions of farmers. However, it will impact on Collie–Coalfields highway. The good news is that this government, unlike the Labor government for the eight years that it sat on this side of this place, is investing money in the Collie–Coalfields highway.

I go through some of that detail. As the member for Collie–Preston is aware, we have already committed \$25 million to that road. Some of that money has been spent and some will be spent when the balance of that state forest exemption is taken out of state forest and becomes road reserve. That is a great outcome, for not only heavy-transport users bringing grain down the hill into Bunbury and taking their trucks back up there, but also the people the member represents in this Parliament, because that piece of road will be made safer and for the first time in a long time Collie–Coalfields highway will be upgraded. But there is more than that because we have also made commitments to continue the upgrade of the Collie–Coalfields highway. If my memory serves me correctly, there is another \$28 million—\$22 million to continue the work up around Collie between the Wellington Dam turn-off and Collie and another \$6 million to put a decent passing lane as people come up the hill at Roelands. These are fantastic outcomes for the people of Collie and, more generally, the people of the south west. It will mean that that road can do what roads should do—that is, facilitate transport to and from the port. There is still some work to be done on the road between Collie and Darkan. My parliamentary secretary, Hon Jim Chown, was in Darkan a week or two ago talking to the local council about that very issue and we will work with the council to provide the necessary upgrades to that road from Collie through to Darkan and from Darkan through to Wagin. I will conclude with this: one of the reasons we can do that is that this government made the bold decision to increase funding for regional roads, because we are taking a significant amount of the money that people donate to government at speed and red-light cameras and investing it in upgrading regional roads, and some of that will go into upgrading not only the road between Collie and Darkan but also, I suspect, Collie and Wagin to the east. This is a great outcome. It is a great outcome for the port of Bunbury, it is a great outcome for farmers who will start to have choice and it is a great outcome for the people of the town the member for Collie–Preston represents in this place, because at long last someone is spending money on the road that matters so much to them.

BUNBURY PORT — GRAIN TRANSPORT

119. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Transport:

I have a supplementary question. Will the minister give an undertaking that the upgrades of the road between Darkan and Collie will commence and be finished before the trucks start rolling through in four-minute intervals?

Mr T.R. BUSWELL replied:

I can give an undertaking that money is being spent on those roads now that has never been spent on them before.

Mr M.P. Murray: That's not the question.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: I can also give an undertaking, member for Collie–Preston, that when I looked at the *Hansard* of between 2001 and 2008, the member for Collie–Preston did not ask one question about that piece of road. Why is it that the member for Collie–Preston can sit over there on his backside for eight years and do nothing and suddenly get in opposition and grizzle? You are a no-hoper; you did nothing!

Several members interjected.

Withdrawal of Remark

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The Minister for Transport just used some incredibly unparliamentary language and I call on him to apologise and withdraw.

Several members interjected.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: “No-hoper” is what you said.

Several members interjected.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: Are you going to apologise or not?

The SPEAKER: That concludes question time.

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Can I seek some clarification from you, Mr Speaker?

The SPEAKER: I never heard anything above the din.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: If the minister were to call a member of this house a no-hoper, as in the quotation, “You are a no-hoper”, is that not unparliamentary?

The SPEAKER: That concludes question time.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: No ruling?

The SPEAKER: Are there any petitions?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Mr Speaker, on a further point of order, I asked you for a ruling and I am still waiting to hear your ruling.

The SPEAKER: I never heard what was said, but I think we will let it go this time.

That concludes question time.

Several members interjected.

PAPERS TABLED

Papers were tabled and ordered to lie upon the table of the house.

The SPEAKER: There are a number of private conversations going on and nobody can hear the member for Girrawheen.

SENIORS' IDENTIFICATION CARD

Notice of Motion

Ms M.M. Quirk gave notice that at the next sitting of the house she would move —

That this house calls on the government to introduce a seniors' ID card for those elderly Western Australians who no longer have a driver's licence, and that such a card should be established by legislation to ensure that it will be accepted as part of the 100-points check and will in all respects be given the same status as a licence.

ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL PROTECTION BILL 2013

Notice of Motion to Introduce

Notice of motion given by **Mr R.H. Cook (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)**.

SUPPLY BILL 2013

Second Reading

Resumed from 9 May.

MR P.B. WATSON (Albany) [2.55 pm]: On behalf of the people of Albany, I rise to talk on the Supply Bill 2013. Firstly, I congratulate the state government on the Albany Health Campus. I also congratulate the Premier for not making a political speech, although I will not congratulate the Minister for Health for not making a political speech! On behalf of the people of Albany, I thank the government for providing a tremendous facility. That is the good news.

I am sure all members know that next year is the centenary of when the Anzacs left Albany for Gallipoli. Last week there was a briefing on the matter in Albany but unfortunately I could not attend. However, I asked the Minister for Veterans three times for a briefing but each time I turned up, there was no-one there. People who went to the meeting last Tuesday night have told me that they asked about funding for the other events around the centenary and were told that there was no funding. I have just found out from someone in Busselton that the state government has allocated \$7 million over five years for the Margaret River Gourmet Escape. Which event do members think is the most important? Where is the money going? It is going to Margaret River. Today I am asking the Premier and the Minister for Tourism why Albany is missing out on funding. When Christian Porter was the Treasurer, I told him that Albany needed money quickly for the centenary of the Anzacs leaving Albany and he told me on the day of the budget that the money was in there but that it was up to the Premier to decide when to announce it. I waited and kept asking questions in Parliament and the budget was brought down in May.

When did we find out that there was money? It was announced just when the Liberal Party candidate for Albany was announced, so then it became political.

It has been 100 years since the Anzacs formed in Albany and left for Gallipoli—I would leave the chamber, too, Premier. The centenary event is now half-baked. A big interpretive centre was supposed to be built and I can understand some of the reasons for deciding not to build it where it was originally intended, but it was just before the election when the Premier said that we did not have enough time to build it and that a smaller one would have to be built. It is the centenary of the Anzacs and Albany is where the Anzac spirit was born, yet it is being ignored while Margaret River is getting \$7 million over five years for a gourmet food festival. Where are the government's priorities?

Ms L.L. Baker interjected.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I am not worried about them.

As part of the centenary celebrations, there was supposed to be a re-enactment of the Anzac fleet off the coast of Albany and a lot of ships were going to be in the harbour. This is not the government's fault, but do members know how many ships we are getting for the centenary of the Anzacs? We are getting four ships—three on the wharf and one in King George Sound. As few as four Australian and New Zealand navy ships will be tied up at the port. People can walk on them, but what does that have to do with the Anzac fleet? Absolutely nothing. I am calling on not only the state government, but also the federal government to get more ships involved. I have approached the American consul, who told me that the Americans do not make decisions about their navy ships 18 months out from an event but that she will try. We need about a dozen ships anchored in King George Sound to make the most of the occasion, as the event will be broadcast nationally and Albany is expecting 50 000 visitors. I read in the newspaper today that only 4 000 Australians can go to the centenary celebrations in Gallipoli. Where else would Australians go to celebrate the centenary? I would go to Albany where people can attend the dawn service and see the last sight of Australia that some of the Anzacs saw as they headed to Gallipoli to die and never come back. We are being treated as second rate.

Where does the National Party stand on this? Originally, the National Party was a party for the regions. Recently I ran into Matt Stephens, who is a long-time National Party supporter. Apparently he ran into Brendon Grylls in Albany either last week or the week before and gave him a serve in the main street. Brendon said to him that the National Party has more seats now and Matt said, "Yes, but where are they? They're up in the Pilbara." I am sure that with the Leader of the National Party now in the seat of Pilbara, if there had been a centenary celebration for the first shipment of iron ore, all the money would be going up there. To me, the National Party is a party for the north of the state. It is not worried about the farmers. They should have dumped that wheat on the front lawn of the Leader of the National Party and not on the Premier's driveway! The National Party used to be there for the farmers and the people of the regions—not anymore! Its members are only worried about building up their party. At the last election, we had references to the kingmaker! He is not a kingmaker anymore. The Premier can ask the people! The Premier would understand that if he knew how many people in the National Party gave me their preferences. I do not believe it is that they think I am such a good guy; they were disappointed. That was a protest vote against the National Party.

Mr T.R. Buswell: Putting them first as a protest vote?

Mr P.B. WATSON: They gave me their preferences so that I would win the seat.

Mr T.R. Buswell: Who was their first choice?

Mr P.B. WATSON: What is the Treasurer talking about? A lot of voters put the government first, but put me next; they gave me their preferences because they knew I would get their vote. I will speak slower for the benefit of the member for Vasse, if he likes!

Mr T.R. Buswell: I've never heard of a protest vote where you voted for someone!

Mr P.B. WATSON: That is because the Treasurer is in a safe seat and I am in a marginal seat. I am up against that sort of thing all the time, so I look at those angles.

The state government contributed \$8 million to upgrade the Mt Clarence interpretative centre, whereas WA Labor promised \$17 million for capital works to upgrade the Mt Adelaide and Mt Clarence historical precincts, to contribute to the interpretative centre on the original site and to provide two staff to help coordinate the centenary of Anzac commemorations. I do not want to make this into a political issue, but we have a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Mr C.J. Barnett: You have done that in the local media!

Mr P.B. WATSON: I have to; it is the only way I can get the message across. The Premier sits and smiles. I can give the Premier a couple of other examples. The Premier came to Albany and said he would put bolts on the rocks. Did the Premier not say that these bolts would be in by Easter? We lost a man off those rocks in the

last 10 days. Are those bolts in place yet? No, they are not. What happened? I wrote a letter to the Department of Environment and Conservation, which wrote back and said they were not safe. The Premier disregarded DEC and said he would put them in anyway. The Premier should put them in; he should put up or shut up!

Mr T.R. Buswell: That's what is happening now! Why don't you ask for a briefing? You know damn well it is not that easy to put a bolt in.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Why did the Premier come down and say he would put them in? I am not talking to the Treasurer; I am talking to the Premier. The Premier made that promise. He came to town and made that promise and he has not delivered.

Mr T.R. Buswell interjected.

Mr P.B. WATSON: The Treasurer should not start, or I will start on his little liaisons in Albany. Do not worry about that! There is more to come out on that.

I also refer to those nine passing lanes that the Premier promised between Albany and Kojonup. We need to have those passing lanes completed before all visitors come down for —

Mr C.J. Barnett: The first one at Cranbrook is about to get underway.

Mr P.B. WATSON: The Premier promised nine!

Mr C.J. Barnett: How did you go on passing lanes when you were in government?

Mr P.B. WATSON: There were plenty of them! We need them in there by 2014–15. The Premier has referred to the salmon holes. I do not mind the Premier coming up with a suggestion, but when he comes into town during an election campaign and he sees an issue such as fishing off the rocks, he should not take the people of Albany for granted. It is funny, but the voters of Albany swung towards the Labor Party. They are a lot wiser down there. Now everyone else is starting to see that the Premier cannot deliver what he put up! Do not worry, Premier; by the next election Albany will be in the forefront of a change in government.

Mr C.J. Barnett: What is it in Albany that we did not deliver on?

Mr P.B. WATSON: That includes the gas pipeline.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Watch this space!

Mr P.B. WATSON: Do you mean the space between your ears?

Mr C.J. Barnett: What a brilliant orator you are! Clown!

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.C. Blayney): Member for Albany, will you address your comments to the Chair!

Mr P.B. WATSON: Mr Acting Speaker, he is talking to me!

The ACTING SPEAKER: Will you stop baiting the Premier, please, member for Albany?

Mr P.B. WATSON: I am sorry. We have protection for the Premier!

One thing we could have out at the salmon holes, where we very sadly lost another person from Perth last week, is proper signage. We have a lot of trouble at the salmon holes because a lot of people who go there are from Asia and cannot properly read English and cannot understand that standing on those rocks is dangerous. I was talking to someone on the plane last night who had been out fishing on the rocks. A lot of people do not realise that the king waves that come up in the Albany region and right along the south coast do not come straight at the fishermen; they come up the rocks behind people and they wash them in.

Mr T.R. Buswell: It is the same on a lot of coasts.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Yes, but I am talking about the south coast. In other areas, people have a chance to get out. On the south coast there is a deep drop and people either hit their head on the rocks or they get sucked underneath. We need the proper signage.

After the election campaign I was approached by people from a mobile polling team that went around to the seniors, and the people with dementia, residing at the aged-care homes. The team was very concerned that a lot of the seniors became distressed and had to be prompted by officers from the polling booths when they were asked how they wanted to vote and which party they normally voted for, while other residents were distressed by the disruption to their routine and being taken out to vote. I do not know what the answer is, but we should not cause any stress to these seniors who have voted over their lifetime and who are now in their later years. They get very stressed. The team brought up a number of points. They stated that the average life span of most people is around 85, with more and more people achieving their centenary. After a lifetime of contributing to society and participating in voting, the elderly would benefit from having the option of not voting, if they so wished, without having the threat of a fine hanging over them. This would apply to those people in aged-care hostels or

in the community. The right to vote would be retained as long as our elderly citizens are on the electoral roll, but they could exercise the right not to vote, if they so wished. The team suggested that the appropriate age at which people would no longer be required to vote is 81, partly because it provides a pleasing symmetry with the voting age of 18, and also because 80 or 81 is the cut-off age applied by organisations that provide such things as travel insurance. This is some food for thought. I have been told that some of our seniors became very distressed when they were asked who they would vote for and it put a lot of pressure on them.

I would also like to talk about the Minister for Disability Services, Hon Helen Morton, in the upper house. For two or three years now I have been following up an issue on behalf of John Dainton and his family relating to Ben Dainton, who is receiving disability services. The Dainton family had a meeting with the director general of the Disability Services Commission on 3 April 2012. Mr and Mrs Dainton set up a company for their son Ben, so that instead of the government providing all the services, they did this, and they saved the government a heck of a lot of money each year. However, all of a sudden, the government—it does matter which government, as it is a departmental issue—saw that if this took off, the department would have no work to do. I am chasing this up at the moment, and I seem to get the same old answer. Mr and Mrs Dainton put in invoice No 9 for \$45 000 to the department. They had a meeting with the director general in April 2012, and since then they have had four offers to recommence funding, but one of the stipulations is that when they fill in the forms and sign them, the department can change them, but they cannot see the forms afterwards. I am sure that if they took this issue to a court of law, something would happen. As I said, I have been following up this issue for two or three years now, for a family that has got off their backsides and created a company to provide services to their son and is providing a cheaper service than the government can provide, yet the government does not want them to do this for some reason. To me, this can only be from the government's self-interest.

I have a letter from the St Vincent de Paul Society about a recent meeting with counsellors from welfare groups in the City of Albany on the need for more specialist financial services. The society stated that it is recording an increasing number of welfare recipients who are failing to meet domestic budget requirements and who would benefit substantially from professional counselling intervention. The society is referring these people to Anglicare, which cannot handle this demand. All the welfare groups in Albany have got together and asked the state government to provide more counsellors in regional areas. It is all right when people live in the city and they cannot get to see a counsellor in one area, because they can go to one in another area. But for those people who live in Albany, there is a shortage of financial counsellors.

One of the prison officers in my electorate sent me an article, which states —

Federal Hunter MP Joel Fitzgibbon is championing the call for correctional services officers to be recognized for their work in the same way as police and firefighters.

His comments came the day before the state government opened a big maximum-security wing in Cessnock. He said —

... the sometime dangerous work carried out by correctional officers played a crucial role in the maintenance of law and order.

“In this great country, we have a fine tradition of recognizing those who serve in uniform,” ...

“At the top of the tree, of course, are those who serve in the uniforms of the Australian Navy, Army and Air Force, but we also award medals to non-military personnel.

“We have, for example, the Australian Police Medal, the Australian Fire Service Medal and the Australian Ambulance Service Medal ...

“So ... why not have the Australian Correctional Officer Medal?”

I agree with Mr Fitzgibbon when he said —

“I believe them to be worthy of the same sort of recognition enjoyed by others serving in the uniforms of government forces and agencies.

In some cases, the work they do is more dangerous.

I spoke earlier about the lack of funding in regional areas, such as for Albany's centenary. I have been working with the West Australian Football Commission's director of football, Grant Dorrington. We have arranged to hold a football game in Albany next year between Claremont and South Fremantle, I think, to commemorate the anniversary of the first ships that left from Albany. John Drummond “Jackie” Newham played 26 games with North Fremantle from 1909 to 1911. He was part of the fleet that assembled in King George Sound, but later was killed in Gallipoli. We want to call next year's game in Albany the Newham Cup game. I think it is a great idea. I congratulate Grant for all the work he has done. We had a chat about it and then he followed it up.

The member for Eyre and I are holding a meeting on Thursday, 23 May for all country members. The flyer is headed “Find Cancer Early: Come and find out how many cancer deaths in rural WA can be prevented, and

how". Our guest speakers will be Dr Andrew Kirke, a regional general practitioner; Professor D'Arcy Holman; and Professor Christobel Saunders. All country members are invited to this meeting to be held on Thursday, 23 May, and they will be sent an invitation. It will be held in conjunction with the Cancer Council on behalf of the member for Eyre and me.

One thing I have noticed—I have let most of my constituents know—is that thousands of bank account holders are now being advised to make transactions as little as \$1 so that their money will not be transferred to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission to help plug the federal government's budget deficit. If someone does not take anything out of their bank account in three years, the federal government can put it into the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Someone such as the member for Hillarys, who has money in bank accounts all over the world —

Mr R.F. Johnson: No, I haven't, but I did bring that up last week and I think it's governmental theft, quite frankly.

Mr P.B. WATSON: It is. I agree.

Mr R.F. Johnson: They have no right to do it. I have a trust account for my daughter, and some of that money just stays in one particular account to gather some interest, hopefully, so it lasts longer. My bank manager phoned and said, "You'd better move some money from there to another one. You can move it back afterwards. If you don't do it, the federal government will take it." That is governmental theft.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr P.B. WATSON: I agree. In a few months the federal Labor Party might not be in government.

I would also like to talk about Pitstop, the Men's Resource Centre in Albany. When it last applied for funding, I managed to talk to my great friend the Minister for Health about what a great job it does in the region. This group talks to men about prostate cancer and other men's health issues. All it is looking for is \$150 000 a year. This group is filling a gap in our community. We hear a lot about women's health, which I agree with 100 per cent. We see the trucks that screen for breast cancer but men get forgotten, especially in regional areas. Guys in the bush say, "I'm not going to the doctor; I'm not going to get a prostate cancer test. No-one's going to do that to me. I'm tough. I don't want to be seen as weak going along." The Men's Resource Centre goes out to the regions quietly. They go out after hours and on weekends when the Department of Health does not have people on the ground. Grant Westthorp and his group at the Men's Resource Centre have sent a very good submission to the Minister for Health. I know that funds are very tight at the moment. Its vision is to assist all males to live longer, happier and more fulfilling lives. Its mission is to secure the best physical, mental and social health and wellbeing outcome for males. It also focuses on boys. It talks to young people in schools. We have to get in early with prostate cancer. Men need to look after themselves. As I said, every man thinks he is the toughest and nothing can happen to him. As we have seen, if men do not get the proper checks, things can happen to them.

It is a shame the Premier has gone because I wanted to have another little crack at him. When he last went to Albany just recently, he said he was confident of a solution to the Esplanade site debacle by midyear. What is he going to do? Is he going to buy it? What is going to happen? This is another one of these promises that he made during the election campaign. I keep harping back to the election campaign. If someone is going to make promises, they should stick by them. He said that if we did not get a reply by 28 March, he was going to do something about it. It is now May and still nothing has happened. He came out with a press release that said that the owners were going to sell the land. We all knew that four years ago when it was put on the market. What do we have now? We have the most expensive sandpit in Australia. There is a beautiful pristine beach down there and the city has done up the restaurant, but what do we have? A big heap of sand. There is nothing there at all. It is an absolute disgrace. Anywhere else in the state, something would get done. Just because people in Albany do not like the Premier, it does not mean that he has to punish them by not giving them anything.

I must not forget to talk about volunteers. I will be cooking for about 200 of them on Friday night down at the boatshed. If we did not have volunteers in regional areas, we would be lost. We talk about things in the city. A lot of ambulance drivers, firefighters and State Emergency Service workers are volunteers. Everywhere we go, there are volunteers in our regional areas. In Wellstead, one of the little towns in my electorate, one guy volunteers for the Red Cross, he drives the ambulance, he is in the fire brigade and he is involved in sports. These people are volunteers throughout the whole region. I wrote a report with the member for Kingsley on regional sport. The issue of volunteers was huge. People would not think that many people in Albany are fly in, fly out workers, but a huge number are. This is affecting volunteers right throughout the state. Once the volunteers go and all these workers fly in and fly out, it has a real effect on people in our regions.

I congratulate Tracy Sleeman and her group at the Albany and Regional Volunteer Centre in Albany for doing a tremendous job. Tracy has been volunteering for a couple of years now. The centre has a good network for getting people out and about. Indeed, I get a letter every time something is on. As I said, I am cooking sausages on Friday night. It should be a really good night. All the Dockers supporters have told me to wear my

Collingwood jumper, which will be interesting. Yes, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr I.C. Blayney), I can see your Dockers tie!

A constituent of mine came to my office on Monday and told me about an idea he had come up with. It sounds a bit farfetched, but he suggested that the government lease Multanovas to regional cities for two months each year and that any money made from those Multanovas during that time should go towards local roads. Local roads is not always an issue in regional areas. I can remember Denmark in the olden days when the shire had a local guy who did it. By crikey, he would get you day and night wherever you were! If you sped once all over town, he would get you—he seemed to be everywhere! Things have changed now. It is just a thought. Local governments have issues keeping up their roads. If a person is caught speeding in the City of Albany and incurs a fine, why should the money raised from the fine not go back into the roads in Albany? I do not know whether that is the way to do it. Maybe we could get 10 passing lanes between Kojonup and Albany instead of nine.

I congratulate Virgin for taking over the airline that operates flights to Albany. It is interesting that one of our local people, a young lady called Cathie Denehy, met with Sir Richard Branson about getting cheaper flights to regional areas. I think I read that Virgin has only 12 per cent of Skywest, but that it was using its brand. I do not know how much power it has, but it is very important that discount flights to Albany be made available. At the moment it is very, very hard to get a discount flight. My perfect scenario would be for people to fly from Perth to Albany, get the worse part of the road out of the way, spend two or three days in Albany and then drive back through the scenic part. Unfortunately, everybody goes the other way. They travel to Margaret River, do the Tree Top Walk, visit Denmark and, once they get to Albany, wish that they had got there sooner and that they had more money and more time. These are the issues in Albany that we must look at.

Our farmers look like they will have a better year this year. The rains have come at the right time, but that alone will not save Albany. We must increase tourism to Albany. I do not want us to miss out on the Anzac centenary celebrations. I know I was probably a bit political before, but it is very, very important for Albany. People will not go overseas anymore because it will become too expensive. Albany is the perfect location. With all the promises made by the Premier, there are 1 401 days until the next election. I will be watching the Premier every one of those days to make sure that he fulfils all of the commitments he made to the people of Albany.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [3.25 pm]: As part of the debate on the Supply Bill, I will raise a very important issue regarding a local former policeman who served the Police Service of Western Australia for 21 years. He is actually a constituent of the member for Dawesville; however, unfortunately, he has not yet had a chance to meet with him, which is a regular occurrence, I might say. He sought to meet with the member for Dawesville in October last year. He was told that he would be contacted, but he has not yet been contacted. I understand that he does have a meeting with the member for Dawesville in June. This is a serious matter that should be raised by the member for Dawesville. I hope he will do something about it.

I refer to Mr Michael Thornbury. I will read from a letter that I asked him to provide to me after I met with him in my electorate office last Friday. It reads —

Dear Mr Templeman,

As per our discussion 10th May 2013, I submit this timeline for your perusal. I have also included emails and reports I sent to my Superiors indicating that the incidents I was attending and the amount of work I was asked to do was excessive for one person. I have highlighted areas that may be of interest.

I was first diagnosed with PTSD (POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER) in August 2001, the result of attending fatal traffic crashes and other traumatic events as a police officer at the time.

I attended two incidences within the space of a week, both major fatalities involving teenage children that involved human mutilation and destruction, similar to that of a bomb going off.

As I write this I relive it so excuse me if I don't go into too much detail, but it is quite vivid in my mind and at the time I was never offered counselling.

My employer has a terrible track record when it comes to helping its officers in distress.

The policy is to send an email out to officers that attend major incidences stating if you want to talk about it, contact Health and Welfare, but there is never any follow up and the emails are standard impersonal generic letters which are treated with contempt and ignored by all I know as it comes across as a 'BANDAID' response.

PTSD goes hand in hand with Major Depression, which I was also diagnosed with. To compound matters my PTSD lead to separation and divorce at the time as my (ex) spouse could not handle it.

I can recall going home and discussing the incidences with my ex wife, who promptly called the police and was told they couldn't help. We eventually separated for good around the time I was diagnosed with PTSD.

In 2002 I was sent to a plethora of psychiatrists by the police for assessment (between 8–10 doctors), but they did not send me to anyone for treatment. The police just wanted an opinion as to my mental state at the time.

All the reports stated I had PTSD and MDS.

My case officer from Health and Welfare was not very helpful and kept stating cost was an issue. Mental health was not something they had really concerned themselves with. Remembering this was 10 years ago, back then the department was not very concerned with their officers wellbeing.

After practically begging for assistance, I eventually was cleared to see a physiologist by the name of Paul Ryan. I saw him for about a year, maybe longer.

I also sort out Psychiatrist Dr Michael HAGAN, who provided a report in 2003 about my return to operational duties.

I am not seeing these Doctors any more (this was ten years ago). At around this time (2002–03) I was placed in the Crash Investigation Section by my then OIC Senior Sergeant CLEWS.

Considering my symptoms, I had not sort this position out nor did I request it, but having shown you the alternative that I was placed in prior to this placement —

I will pause there. This police officer was placed in a cell at Mandurah Police Station. It continues —

I felt I had very little options available to me.

I performed this job to the best of my abilities considering my non operational status—it was basically paperwork as I was not allowed to attend crashes.

From 2003–2007 I was ordered again and again to attend other psychiatrists that worked for Health and Welfare as the police decided they wanted me to attend the crashes as well as investigate them. They no longer wanted a non operation officer in the position.

I do not know who these doctors were, but they worked for the police or were contracted by them.

Around 2007–2008 I was deemed operational and performed operational police duties, including attending crashes.

In 2009 the superintendent of my district decided to have one officer doing all fatal and serious crashes for the district of Peel.

His thought process was to make one officer accountable for the files to streamline the work and so only one person was the ‘point of contact’ if he needed to know something.

Despite my protests and my history, I was told to do it.

I pause again. This man, who was already traumatised, was sent back to the same job. It continues —

I attended over 21 fatalities in which I had to investigate and report to the coroner from 2009–2010, (approximately 2–3 a month). A lot were multiple victim incidents and some were murder/suicides involving young children. I also attended plane and train crashes.

In August 2010 I was not coping again and sent to see the Police psychiatrist Dr Helena PIIRTO.

She deemed me un-operational and put me on sick leave.

I attempted to return to work in March 2011 but was given mundane duties and told I was not allowed to do anything, so I was basically sitting in an office by myself reading a book. As such this did not work out so well, and I was on sick leave until my medical retirement.

I was medically retired on the 18th of October 2012 by the police for PTSD which in all honesty has disabled me quite severely.

I did not want to leave the police and tried very hard to stay in any form possible, but was told everything would remind me of my situation no matter where they put me.

Ironically I’m reminded of it outside of ‘the job’ but now don’t have peer support or an income, so their point is rather mute.

I have included in this email a letter to my Local members of parliament —

He included that letter in this email, which Dr Hames himself would have received, and I hope, again, that he will do something about this as Mr Thornbury is a member of his constituency —

requesting assistance from them prior to my retirement.

I have also approached local media —

I will pause again. The local newspaper, the *Mandurah Coastal Times*, highlighted the plight of Mr Thornbury last Tuesday —

to shed light on my situation, and those of others like me treated by the police as second class and discriminated against due to a mental condition vs a physical one.

Hopefully it will shed some light on my situation, should you like to read it.

Kind regards

Mike THORNBURY

Mr Thornbury served the police service of Western Australia for 21 years. He told me that since the age of 10 he had always wanted to be a police officer. By all reports, he was able to serve the state with distinction. Indeed, he still has not even received his Australian Police Medal, which he is entitled to, having served at least 15 years with the police service. That is not a big issue for him, to be honest, but it is still part of recognising his contribution to the state. What I have read out is just a short synopsis of a complex case. I have seen the photos of the office in which he was placed, because they did not effectively know what else to do with him when he was still in the police service as an employee. It was in one of the unused cells—I have been in them—in the Peel police office or the Mandurah Police Station.

What does Mr Thornbury want? What he wants and what he would love is his job back, effectively. As I said, he has always wanted to be a police officer and, by all evidence, he demonstrated a very strong commitment to Western Australia as a police officer. He saw many things that many of us, of course, will never see, particularly given that he served as a major crash investigator and, therefore, had to be one of the first on the scene of some very, very horrific crashes. As he said in that letter, his relationship ended as a result of the trauma that he saw.

What else does he want? If he cannot get his job back, and it seems that is not possible, Mr Thornbury is asking effectively for consideration for an ex gratia payment. He highlighted, I think quite rightfully, that police officers may be injured physically and may attract attention—as we saw recently, absolutely justifiably and quite rightfully, a police officer, Mr Matt Butcher, received an ex gratia payment for some horrific physical injuries that he endured. Mr Thornbury highlights that although his trauma is not physical, it has very much affected him mentally and, therefore, affected his capacity to not only find other employment, but also, indeed, effectively live. Mr Thornbury had a couple of houses that he has had to sell since his retirement because of his financial situation. Again, he has a mortgage, but he is now on a disability pension and is basically finding it almost impossible to pay the mortgage on that property—his home. So, he is asking for an ex gratia payment. I think he should be considered seriously for that. He is also asking, as an officer affected in the line of duty, that the relevant acts that relate to police men and women and, indeed, health and safety be reviewed, and reviewed urgently, because his example is one in which he effectively now is unable to find any further employment, despite serving our community. This service was throughout Western Australia—in country and regional areas, as well as the metropolitan area. He served the police service for 21 years across the state.

Finally, as I said, even the dignity of receiving his police medal is something that should have been actioned immediately after his medically induced retirement.

I am appealing to the Minister for Police. I will be writing to the Minister for Police with all this information, and I will be writing to the member for Dawesville, who is his member of Parliament and who should have seen him in October last year when the request was first made, asking him to now take up his case and ensure that justice is given to this man who has served the state of Western Australia and the communities in which he has been a police officer, because he deserves to be heard and his grievances thoroughly investigated. His ex gratia payment request should be seriously considered by the commissioner and ultimately by the Barnett government. I am making that plea to the Minister for Police today. She will get a copy of all that I have, including photographs of the place in which he was requested to do work while he was suffering, and I will ask his member of Parliament—the person who should be representing him and who should have raised this issue first of all with the minister, a member of his own government—the member for Dawesville, who I hope is listening, to take this issue on, rather than me having to bring up this issue on his behalf because he did not make himself available to meet with Mr Thornbury back in October last year.

I now want to move onto a couple of other matters. During the election campaign the Liberal Party, as we all know now, made some promises—outlandish promises—that it will not be able to deliver. I want to highlight a couple of them, but I am going to warn the Liberal Party and I am also going to warn the member for Dawesville that they will be hammered by me, over the coming months and years as we lead up to the next election, about commitments that were made, because I will be watching very carefully to ensure they are delivered. The first one was that this Liberal Party, this member for Dawesville and the failed candidate for Mandurah promised in the height of the election campaign to eradicate mosquitoes. I will highlight a Liberal promise: Libs promise to eradicate mosquitoes. Mosquitoes have been around for millennia, I think; they may even date back to the early Jurassic period. Indeed, mosquitoes are a major problem for us in the Peel region. It is an absolutely massive problem. But I now have it on good authority that the Liberal Party will eradicate them.

Mr R.H. Cook: All of them?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: All of them, and I will hold it to that promise. I will tell members what I will also do, because this is a serious matter for my people in Mandurah, particularly in my part of Mandurah. We have a problem in that the mosquitoes are now affecting family life in our region. I have continual reports of mums saying that their kids cannot go outside to play after they come home from school when the mozzies are really bad. People cannot go outside and enjoy alfresco living; they cannot have a meal outside in the summer because the mozzies drive them inside. It is a major, major problem. We have seen members of the Liberal Party now on a number of occasions promise anything to anyone and when they are in desperation and they make promises like that, they need to be accountable for them. If they are going to promise to eradicate mosquitoes, which is what they said they would do, they are going to be held to account for that. Every time someone contacts me by ringing my office, which I will be encouraging them to do, or emailing me about mosquitoes and mosquito problems, I will be referring them to the member for Dawesville and to the Liberal Party promise. I will be telling them that I will be absolutely on their case because they have promised something they know they will not be able to deliver. Humankind has not been —

Mr M.J. Cowper interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The member for Murray–Wellington is out of his seat. If he got off his bum and started doing something as well, he might actually start to take up some issues, because I get plenty of calls from people from his electorate.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: That is his seat!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: It is his seat; right.

I get plenty of calls from people from the member for Murray–Wellington’s electorate about things that no-one takes up. He is sitting there. He might have a wonderful margin. He might have promised all sorts of things.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The member for Murray–Wellington might have a wonderful margin. He might have a margin of 17 per cent or 10 per cent or whatever it is, but when he starts making promises he cannot deliver, then people start to say, “Hey, wait a second, we’ve been hoodwinked.” After the last election only a couple of months ago, the people of this state are starting to realise very quickly that they have been hoodwinked. They have been hoodwinked about debt. They have been hoodwinked about promises for particular projects that suddenly are evaporating before their eyes. That is what is happening. We have seen it today in that light rail promise. And we will see over the coming weeks and months and probably years that suddenly they will backtrack.

The interesting thing about the mozzie promise by government members is that they said they would commit \$1 million over four years to eradicate them. One million dollars over four years—what a pitiful contribution to supposedly eradicate mosquitoes! But then this is interesting, is it not? I thought the \$1 million was for the Peel region, but I was told by the member for Maylands that part of it had been allocated to Maylands. I have a media release here with me from Dr Hames, which states —

Liberals’ commit \$1million a year over four years to eradicate mosquitoes in Maylands.

I am assuming it is the same amount. The Liberals have made a very serious mistake here because they have made a promise they cannot commit to.

I want to also hold them to another promise. The people of Mandurah believe it is a promise. The Liberals’ candidate, Tony Solin, spent more than \$200 000 to try to get rid of me—and failed. His media release states —

Working together to solve your transport issues.

The transport minister is not in the chamber but I tell you what, members: he will get a grilling in estimates this year when we finally get to them. In Tony Solin’s release there is an impression of a multistorey car park at Mandurah station. What did the Labor Party promise? Because Mandurah has only one station, we promised a second station north of Mandurah at Paganoni Road. One of the problems in Mandurah is that we have only one station that services the whole of our population as well as that of the outer Peel, including people who come from Pinjarra and even Waroona.

Mr M.J. Cowper: How do you know it’s not in Peel?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: It is on the north boundary. It is north of Mandurah, I just said that.

Mr M.J. Cowper: How do you know it’s not in Peel?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I said it is the north of Mandurah, you idiot!

Tony Solin’s release states —

Working together to solve your transport issues.

And it indicates that Mandurah station will have a multistorey car park. I will be asking —

Mr M.J. Cowper interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Don't you start, member for Murray–Wellington! He does not get up. He does not even get up in this place. When was the last time he got up and made a speech? Last week was the first time in about five years. He is the same as the member for Dawesville. The member for Murray–Wellington does not get up and support the community. He does not stand up for policing. He is an ex-policeman and he is not even standing up for policing.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am not having a go at him. He is interjecting!

The ACTING SPEAKER: Could you, member for Mandurah, address your comments to the Chair, please?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I will, if that loser—I think I am allowed to use that word because that was used during question time—if that fellow keeps going. Here we go: the promise!

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr J.H.D. DAY: The member for Mandurah is deliberately pushing the limits by using that sort of language. It is unparliamentary, so I ask for your ruling, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: There is a ruling by the Speaker. It is appropriate language apparently.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.C. Blayney): Member for Mandurah, I would ask you to withdraw that comment, please.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: You want me to what?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Your description of the member for Murray–Wellington.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: What—loser?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Yes, could you withdraw it?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I withdraw.

Debate Resumed

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: There is the promise in the release: a multistorey car park in Mandurah. I reckon at estimates time the government is going to come in and say, “We didn't make that promise.” I reckon we are going to find a lot of these things when we come to estimates: “We didn't make that promise. Oh, no, no, no, that was the vibe, that was an idea.” But I tell members that the Libs were handing out pamphlets at the Mandurah train station telling people, “You're going to get this. Vote for Tony and you'll get this.” The people did not get Tony and they knew that they were not even going to get this car park either. The Libs told a lie. That is what they did. I tell members that over the next coming weeks and months we are going to continue to highlight how the Liberal Party's members over there lied to the people of Western Australia. They told total fibs because they would do anything—anything—to get elected. Now the chickens are coming home to roost. All the backbenchers who might have been elected on that swing are going to find suddenly there ain't the money there that they thought was going to be there and was promised during the election. Suddenly it has all gone; it is dissolving in front of their eyes. I tell members that Liberal Party members cannot keep blaming the federal government, because they will have been in government almost six years by this time next year, and people will not be hoodwinked. The Liberals might have hoodwinked them once a few months back but they will not be hoodwinked this time. The Libs have made too many promises. They promised too much to everyone and they are not going to deliver them. Now they will be found wanting and the chickens are going to come home to roost. I tell members one thing: this side of the Parliament will be holding them—every single one of them—absolutely accountable.

The member for Belmont has a margin of 300 votes. Every single person in her electorate is going to know that her side of politics lied to the people of Western Australia, made fake promises and will not deliver them. She is part of it and she will be held accountable for it—I can guarantee. I tell her that the people of Western Australia are not stupid. They know now that they were hoodwinked; they are starting to realise it. Suddenly, fewer than two months after the election, the cost of power goes up again—four per cent. What does the Premier say? He says, “Oh, no, wait a second, we said it'd be around about the inflation rate or the CPI.” What a lot of rubbish! Government members are a lying bunch—that is what they are. They are continuing to do it and then they make excuses for it. The people of Western Australia will absolutely not be hoodwinked. I tell members that the people of Western Australia will be holding the Liberals to account.

I tell members one other thing about what we will see in this place. We will start rolling out all the stories and all the promises that the Libs will have failed at and for which the people of Western Australia will be sheeting home responsibility. I want to finish on another important issue.

Mr C.D. Hatton interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Who said that? Was it the member for Balcatta? Member for Balcatta, be very careful, mate. He got in there only by a few votes. A few people have come into this place and gone out very quickly. He might just be one of them. So, he should be very, very careful when he makes interjections, because sometimes members get reminded about their interjections. In fact, apart from his inaugural speech, that's probably only his second contribution to this place—a pitiful, feeble interjection! So, he should be very careful; be very, very careful, because he might be found wanting. It would be terrible after four years if the only two contributions he made were in fact his first inaugural speech and a feeble interjection. I think that is where he is skating to. So, he should be very careful.

I want to talk about housing. We have a major housing issue in Western Australia. Everyone knows this, as this is being felt in all electorates. But I want to tell the house that it is being felt absolutely in my electorate and in the Peel region. Again, I have never heard the member for Dawesville, the member for Murray–Wellington, who is supposed to be representing the Peel region as well as I am, or the member for Darling Range raise the issue of the housing crisis in the region. This is despite the fact that Peel—this was mentioned in *The West Australian* last week—has the highest number of people defaulting on their mortgage, and about a month before that the highest number of people declaring bankruptcy. Put that figure with the highest number of people who over the last term of government applied to the government through the hardship utility grant scheme for assistance. Last week the number of Synergy customers alone in Western Australia asking for help with their power bills was something like 120 000. The government has gone and put another four per cent on top of the 62 per cent by which it put up the price of power in the past four and a half years. Everyone in Mandurah knows that if they want a rental property, they have to compete with 20 or 30 people, sometimes more than that, at every viewing. If we ask the real estate agents, they say that when they have a viewing for a vacant rental property, 20, 30, sometimes more, people will turn up—some of them are families with kids—to scramble and fight for that rental. What happens? The market states the weekly rent can be increased, and it is; there are almost bidding wars sometimes. But that means that genuine families, some of them with little children, miss out. I see them every day in my office. As a member of Parliament it is the most frustrating thing that I cannot say to them, “There’s a house for you.” That is what I want to do, but I cannot. We put them back in touch with the agencies. Many of them have already been to the Department of Housing, or are on the public housing list, which we know is absolutely out of control, whether it is the priority waitlist or the general waitlist, as they call it. These people are in genuine need. Last Friday another mum came into my office. She has three children, all aged under five years. The rental that she was in was sold from under her feet. She had to move out and had nowhere to go. She had been everywhere. Because the rental market appraisers and the owners can pick and choose, she does not get a look-in because she has little kids. That is the reality. What happens then? She could start couch surfing if she has any friends or any family members in town. Then we have houses in which there is a family and another family, quite often staying in the lounge room.

Do members opposite reckon this is really good for Western Australia? This is the sort of stuff all the new members should be standing here and speaking about in this debate on the Supply Bill, because it is happening in their electorates as well as mine. It is not happening only in the Peel. That is what new members on the other side should be doing. They should stand up for their communities. They should start saying it is not good enough that the state of Western Australia is now in a position in which so many families will not have roofs over their heads tonight. Tonight we will all go back to our own homes. I will go home to Mandurah, down along the freeway. I will go home to a nice warm bed. But there are people in the electorates of members opposite who have nowhere to stay tonight, yet members opposite do not say anything in this place. Stand and say something on behalf of those people. Start saying something on behalf of the people who are homeless in Kalgoorlie, Joondalup, Belmont, Pinjarra, and Morley, and in your seat up there in Geraldton, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr I.C. Blayney). They are real people and they are suffering under this government. They have been taxed to the hilt and almost priced out of existence with the government’s increases in power, water and gas. These are real people. These are people whom we should be caring about. These are people whom members opposite should be caring about. These are the issues new members should be raising in Parliament here. It is their responsibility. Get up off your bums! Get over the fact that you won an election by whatever it was—eight per cent, nine per cent. Get off your bums and start doing some work now. Start saying it; start doing some work. Start writing to the Minister for Housing, the Minister for Planning and the Premier. Tell him in the party room that this is not good enough. The people of Western Australia deserve better.

Members opposite should listen to the member for Hillarys. His comments last week were absolutely true. New members should get their priorities right. They should understand that people are suffering and the government is making people suffer more by the things it is doing to them. They should do it now because that is their

responsibility as elected members of this place. I have had a gutful of raising it on behalf of the people of Peel and not getting any support from the member for Murray–Wellington and the member for Dawesville. We do not hear a word from them. They should be representing the people in my region, as I do, and everyone should be standing and defending the people that they are supposed to be representing here. After all, for many members opposite, the people voted for them, but they will be dropped like a bucket of spuds when the people realise they are not doing anything for them. They will dump members opposite like a proverbial in the estuary. Members opposite will be kept to account for everything that they are not doing.

MS A.R. MITCHELL (Kingsley — Parliamentary Secretary) [3.55 pm]: I rise to support the Supply Bill 2013. People in my electorate know that this government makes decisions that support people in their electorates. They also know that they are not necessarily big capital items. My electorate is not like that. My electorate does not have big capital items, but it has people who know what is going on, who follow what is occurring and who appreciate that sometimes it is the little things that count; they do not have to be big expenditures of money. At the same time, many of my people are well aware that it is not for only their area, as a number of areas have benefited from decisions that have been made by this government over the past four years. The track record of this government will see that the Supply Bill 2013 is used well, used appropriately and used for the benefit of many people.

I want to go back over a couple of important areas of expenditure from which my residents have benefited in the past four years. The first one I refer to is the change of policy on air cooling in schools, which we altered very early on. I think some members will remember that an imaginary line had been drawn and if a school was further east of that line, there was a chance that it would become air cooled. If a school was within that line, just forget it; it was not going to happen. P&Cs went about doing fundraising to get conditions right for the students in their schools so that the educational opportunities would be better managed. It was pleasing to see that this Liberal–National government made the decision to change that policy so that children across the metropolitan area would benefit from having conditions in their schools better attuned for them to learn, to gain better educations and to go home in much better frames of mind. I know a lot of parents also appreciated that fact. That was a decision that was not in any election campaign. A few schools had raised the issue because they were right on the cusp of that line. The decision was made to benefit all students in all government primary schools in the metropolitan area.

Within my electorate is a school that needs quite a considerable amount of attention—that is, Greenwood College. It has been there for a long time. For those who do not know, it is one of those dark brick schools with the flat roofs. There are still a few in the area and they have a fair issue with refurbishment. The good thing about this school is that the administration has done such a wonderful job looking after the school that it has not gone into a state of total disrepair. It has survived, so the Department of Education does not have it on its list for a refurbishment. Over the past few years things have happened and as a result the government has changed the priority list for refurbishments at that school and now Greenwood College is being repaired. I will mention the new home economics rooms. Members really should have seen them. They had bright orange benchtops that would probably have matched my bright orange Tupperware containers from many years ago. Right across those benchtops were chips and scratches. They failed the occupational safety and health check. The inspectors came through the school and said that it was not safe for people to use for food and technology. It was great that I could make a representation to the Minister for Education at the time and it was seen that this needed to be addressed. Four home economics rooms were refurbished. It has given the students of that school a new lease on life; they are working in a positive area that is supported by this government. It also gives them better opportunities, better facilities and better equipment so that they are now working in these new conditions rather than back in the early 1970s, which is when that school was built.

Another situation for that school was that it has a flat roof and water collects on it very easily. That is wonderful for destroying roofs. It was very embarrassing when a large hole appeared in the administration office roof and water came through when I was due to have the Premier out to the school the following week.

As a credit to the people at the schools, we know the sort of people they are, they were so embarrassed and did not want the Premier to see the hole in the administration area. I said, “Leave it; I want the Premier to see this.” Sure enough, that roof is being fixed. In fact, major refurbishment is being done across the total roof area so that we can minimise the damage caused by leaks through the roofs into the ceilings and into the rooms of the school.

Another area for me that is very, very important—I thank the Minister for Transport for this—is the expansion of the Mitchell Freeway north from Hepburn Avenue to Hodges Drive. This work is on the border of my electorate; it is not in my electorate, but we all know that a large number of people live in the northern suburbs now. That area is expanding north continually. Of course, we now find that more and more people use the Mitchell Freeway to get into Perth and out every day—even on the weekends; it is not just during the week. Many of us know that we do not want to leave Perth to go back to the northern suburbs after 3.30 in the afternoon, because what might have been a half-hour trip for someone who left at a good time in the morning becomes an hour trip going home—that is the time taken just to get to my electorate office. It is very important that this area is also

addressed. It is in the middle. It is not for the extension of the Mitchell Freeway and it is not for other things that need to occur; it is just an expansion program that gives people travelling north a chance to get home earlier. They can be home and do things with their families; they can be in their communities and do things in the community after work, all of which are very, very important. I am very pleased that that construction is well underway. I think drivers are handling the restricted areas very well at the moment. The only thing I would perhaps suggest to the minister is that when no work is going on on the freeway and no people are working on it and we are still required to drive 60 kilometres an hour on a three or four lane freeway, it would be lovely to be able to travel at 80 kilometres an hour, rather than at 60 kilometres an hour. I know that that is not the minister's choice, as it is determined by Main Roads. However, I thank the minister for the expansion because it is going ahead and it will be finished in mid-July as planned. People travelling north appreciate that expansion program. The members for Hillarys, Ocean Reef, Wanneroo and Joondalup all have constituents who appreciate that expansion program.

I also mention a couple of things because we have car parks at train stations that are obviously being well used and we have had a very good increase in the number of car parking bays at train stations. That is the case in my electorate as well, particularly because I now have Warwick, Greenwood and Whitfords train stations in the area I represent. Those car parks have been well received and, obviously, are well used. The day after they were opened, they were filled, but at least we know people use them and that they use the trains. What is more important for me has been demonstrated by this government's willingness to listen to and act on things that it did not perceive could be an issue when the initial construction phase started. I talk about a couple of situations at different train stations. Firstly, I refer to the Whitfords train station. When the extra stage on the northern side of the car park was put in, a lot of trees and bushes had to be cleared. Those trees and bushes were natural noise blockages for a lot of the noise that came off the freeway, and a lot did come off the freeway. As the shrubbery and those trees were removed, it meant that the people who lived closest to the freeway now had visible signs of the freeway and also a lot more noise. Once again, residents raised that with me and I raised it with the Minister for Transport, and, once again, we now have an amenity wall that has made such a difference to a number of residents—not those immediately there, but certainly those around the area. It has made such a difference. It was not a major thing, but it showed that this government listened and that it took on board things that had not been planned for in the process of building the extra car parks.

I mention another example with the number of car parking bays at Warwick train station being expanded. Warwick train station is probably one of the only train stations where residents' houses back right onto the car parks. Some of those residents found themselves in difficult situations. They had very poor fence lines with cars parked right up against them, and their safety and security had been put at risk—as well as the fact that it was a lot noisier for them. The Minister for Transport—I thank him for this—came out to visit the residents. We saw the poor state of the fences as they had been left by the Public Transport Authority. Once again, the government took on board the concerns of residents, and they have had the opportunity to have standard fences put up to a certain value so they were better protected, with less noise going around. They could decide how they wanted the fence, but we could provide a value to them. These other things that go on, which are not big capital infrastructure or big things, show that this government listens and does things; it means that people know that they have a voice in the government that can be heard and that the government takes on board the small things. My electorate is probably an electorate of small things, not big things, but that is why it is very important for me to know that I can, and do, go to ministers and they will come to spend time in my electorate and work through issues that probably are not their biggest concern, but they are certainly important in my area.

I am very pleased to support the Supply Bill for this government because I know that, yes, things will be tough, but we will make a difference and we will deliver the things we said we would. It is very, very important that we continue to progress through the next four years, and I am also very confident that the people guiding this expenditure, construction and infrastructure that will be put in place have the best interests of the residents in my electorate, and any other electorate, at heart, and those residents have confidence in them. We know they have confidence because of the way they voted in the 2013 election.

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington) [4.07 pm]: I rise to speak in the debate on the Supply Bill 2013, which of course is a general debate allowing us to canvass many different issues. I make the point that last week when I contributed to the Address-in-Reply debate, I went in detail through a number of issues related to my electorate. Today I will go through some issues related to my shadow portfolio responsibilities.

I start with some comments about the government's budgetary position. I have in front of me pages out of the *Pre-election Financial Projection Statement* for 2008 and 2013. It is interesting that the revenue expected for the 2008–09 financial year at the time of the PFPS for the 2008 election was \$19 903 million—so \$19.9 billion. The PFPS for the current 2012–13 financial year tells us that in February this year, the Department of Treasury was expecting revenue of \$25 477 million, or nearly \$25.5 billion. Therefore, the Department of Treasury tells us that over that time revenue has gone up by \$5 574 million—over \$5.5 billion per annum. That is 28 per cent more revenue now than in 2008–09. For the last year of the projections in the PFPS, 2015–16, it is stated that revenue

will be \$30 412 million, or \$30.4 billion. That is \$10 billion, \$10 509 million, more than at the time of the 2008 PFPS, so a 52.8 per cent increase in revenue. We would have to call that a river of gold. How anyone could work out how to spend all of that additional revenue is a real question. What is more interesting for me from these figures is that in the 2008 PFPS, it was projected that revenue for 2011–12 would be \$21 349 million, but the actual figure out of this year's PFPS for 2011–12 was \$25 220 million or \$3 871 million extra to be spent by this government in the 2011–12 year or 18 per cent extra income.

That is an extraordinary river of gold. Every time the Premier of Western Australia, the Treasurer or a minister talk about their tough budgetary position, these facts should be considered. There has never been a government in this state that has had more revenue, more opportunity to spend money, and more opportunity to do things for the community than this government. This is the richest government, the highest taxing government, and the government with the largest flow of revenue from the commonwealth and from all the different opportunities to raise money in this state, and it is disgraceful for this government to say it has a structural deficit. That means that this government cannot manage its finances, and if the government cannot manage its finances, it cannot manage the state.

When the Treasurer publicly says, as he did today, "We are making these structural saves", let us make something clear: the commonwealth government has a severe revenue problem; the state government has an unbelievable and unprecedented revenue stream. When the Labor Party was in government before the 2008 election, the then Liberal opposition constantly criticised the then government's level of revenue. Now, at the end of the current forward estimates period, this government will have more than 50 per cent extra on top of that figure. The Premier's performance in question time today on this topic was extraordinary. It is an embarrassment to try to suggest that somehow between 9 March and 13 May the budgetary position of the government has collapsed. How can anyone take the Premier seriously when he makes those kinds of comments? Quite frankly, people are not taking the Premier seriously anymore. The people of this state did tend to let the Premier's slippery words slide by during the first term, but now people are getting a handle on the fact that he cannot be trusted when he speaks out loud.

There are a range of issues. In a radio interview on the *AM* program a few years ago the Premier said there would be LNG shipments from Western Australia to Melbourne. That will never happen. The Premier also said a special system of dual listing of companies on the Singapore Exchange would allow for an expansion of money-raising opportunities for Western Australian mining companies. There is no process that will ever lead to that. In fact, when I have asked the Premier questions about it, he said that he never had any meetings or discussions with anybody about that matter.

The Premier often comments in this house about how Western Australia should have a special relationship with China, which it does. Fortunately, it was the former Labor government that created that special relationship with China. When I was state secretary of the Labor Party, I met with a series of visiting delegations. Interestingly, when delegations of the Chinese Communist Party visit Australia, they always catch up with the secretary of the Labor Party.

Mr T.R. Buswell: They probably thought you were running the show.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: The Vietnamese did; I do not know that the Chinese did. The Chinese are sophisticated and understand these distinctions; but sometimes when the Vietnamese delegations visited, they treated me with far greater respect than I deserved.

The point I make is that the Labor Party is the only party in Australia with a special strategic relationship with the Communist Party of China. This was entered into when Simon Crean was the federal leader of the Labor Party.

Mr M. McGowan: What does that mean?

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: That is the real question. I was on the national executive at the time, and we were a little surprised it happened.

Mr T.R. Buswell: Do you have a five-year plan for your relationship?

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I never went on any of the junkets, but perhaps that is what the relationship was focussed on.

Mr J.H.D. Day: You have the right coloured tie anyway.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: They look good with dark suits.

Mr T.R. Buswell: Maybe Simon Crean's implosion was part of some plan.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Ha, ha! That was 10 years ago, so I do not think he contemplated that at the time.

Ms M.M. Quirk: They still haven't cottoned on to where Harold Holt is, though.

Mr M. McGowan: He's going to go on the submarine shortly.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: It is great, is it not, that the Harold Holt memorial in Melbourne is a swimming pool? Anyway, we are getting away from what I should be talking about.

Of course, we need to have a good relationship with China, but we need to think about the fact that state-owned enterprises are exactly that—Chinese state-owned enterprises are owned by the Chinese state and are not separate organisations. When we deal with them, we are dealing with the same organisation; that is, the Communist Party of China. All those organisations must get central approval and budgetary sign-off. There is nothing wrong with that; that is just the way the Chinese Communist Party operates its economy.

I encourage members to have a look at the book held in the Parliamentary Library titled *No Ancient Wisdom, No Followers The Challenges of Chinese Authoritarian Capitalism* by James McGregor, a former journalist and now business consultant in Beijing. Interestingly, he writes about state-owned enterprises and subsidies. He makes the point in his book —

By not paying the government for industrial land they occupy, from 2001 to 2009 the SOEs —

That is, state-owned enterprises —

received a subsidy of RMB 3.9 trillion—which accounted for two-thirds of their total nominal profits.

SOEs paid an average real interest rate of 1.6 percent on their loans from the state banks from 2001 to 2008, as compared to a market interest rate average of 4.68 percent. This is equivalent to a subsidy of RMB 2.3 trillion in the form of forgone interest payments.

The SOEs from 2001 to 2009 underpaid taxes for oil, coal, natural gas, and other resources by RMB 497.7 billion.

He goes on —

If the total RMB 7.5 trillion in subsidies and forgone costs uncovered by Unirule is deducted from SOE profits from 2001 to 2009, the real average return on equity for the SOEs in those years is *negative* 6.29 percent.

SOEs did not return any of their profits to the government between 1994 and 2007.

After 2007, only a trickle of SOE profits went to the government. A mere 6 percent of SOE profits were turned over to the state in 2009. This figure fell to 2.2 percent in 2010.

The point of that is, firstly, that Australia has benefitted from China subsidising its state-owned enterprises, because when Chinese state-owned enterprises invest in Australia, they are using money that could have been used to expand the Chinese economy. But that is an aside. The other point is that these companies have been a drain on the Chinese economy. If China had headed down the path of reform and allowed the free market to operate, China would be a richer country, and a richer China means a richer Australia because there would be more opportunity for us to trade and invest in China and that would make us better off.

Therefore, when Australian businesspeople go to China, it is important to recognise that China's opening up to the outside world would be in the interest of both countries. Democracy is a good thing. The free market is a good thing. I do not understand why some businesspeople in Western Australia do not understand that democracy is a superior form of government to communism. It always surprises me when I read those sorts of comments on this issue by business leaders in this state and elsewhere. I am a proud supporter of democracy. I believe that China needs to follow its own path, but its path should end in democracy. Democracy is a superior form of government for China and Australia, and there will be many superior opportunities if they have an open economy that allows for foreign investment, a free market and the rule of law. In supporting our special and important relationship with China, it must be borne in mind that it is to our benefit.

Ms R. Saffioti: Mutually beneficial.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: It would be more mutually beneficial if there were democracy in China. It is insulting to suggest that a country must have a certain level of wealth before it can cope with democracy. In my mind people yearn for democracy; they want the opportunity of self-expression and to choose their own governing system. I encourage Australian businesspeople to deal with Chinese state-owned enterprises and state instrumentalities not arrogantly or condescendingly, but to make the point that Australia's system of government is superior and should be supported, and that includes public and effective support by the Western Australian business community.

I now turn to the question of the electricity system in Western Australia in my capacity as the shadow Minister for Energy. I am pleased that the Premier sacked the former minister and removed the responsibility of the energy portfolio from Hon Peter Collier. It is not surprising, because he did such a shocking job in managing the Western Australian energy system. I will go through some of the problems he is responsible for.

Firstly, the solar feed-in tariff scheme. At the time of the 2001 election, the Liberal Party plan was to have a \$33 million feed-in tariff scheme. In the end, the cost will be \$450 million—that is, a \$417 million blowout. Now the minister has frequently said that all he did was copy the Labor Party's policy. The problem was that he thought he had copied the Labor Party's policy but he never actually read its policy. We actually had self-stabilisers, because our feed-in tariff at the time of the 2008 election was limited to the capital cost of a solar installation. That meant that people could not have an unending stream of income if they installed a solar system. It was only limited to the actual expense that people had gone to in installing a solar system. Now the government likes to say, "Oh, well, 70 000 people were able to install a solar system because of the feed-in tariff", but had it properly designed the tariff, 700 000 Western Australians would have been able to get solar systems for \$450 million. The world has moved on and feed-in tariffs are no longer the primary focus of encouraging people to use solar systems, but that was a complete disaster.

Next, we get the high-efficiency gas turbine in Kwinana. I will call it the HEGT, which is how people in the industry describe it to me when talking about it. There are a couple of things about this matter; firstly, the government says there are 700 megawatts of excess capacity in the system. Over the past four years, the government built the high-efficiency gas turbine that, funnily enough, has contributed to that overcapacity. If one of the government's challenges is to reduce the overcapacity of the system, why did it build this HEGT? We also find that the government had terrible management of the project when it went \$36.6 million over budget, and because it was late, it was also charged \$20.7 million in capacity payment refunds.

One of the most amusing things was seeing the minister standing outside the HEGT when it was commissioned saying that it was unique in Australia—that somehow or another it was a cutting-edge innovation or, as people in the industry say, it was completely unique, except for the Perth Energy plant right next door over the boundary fence of the HEGT and the ERM plant that is on the other side. In fact, if people were to google "combined cycle gas turbine Australia", they will find some 23 or 24 high-efficiency gas plants in Australia. The idea that somehow this is some unique beast that only former Energy Minister Collier was able to deliver is bizarre. It was a badly managed project that went way over budget. The government said that there is an overcapacity in the system and yet it is building power stations, which, I would suggest, is counter-intuitive. When the government says there is a risk that the value of the plant is going to fall because it will not be used at full capacity, people will wonder why the government invested in the plant. Surely a proper business case would have been done before it invested some \$150 million or \$160 million in the power station?

Then there is government's decision to refurbish the Muja A and B plants in Collie.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: The government planned to spend \$150 million after having so far spent \$250 million, plus being penalised by \$25 million in capacity payments. It was interesting to watch both the minister and Premier say in the media during the election campaign that, firstly, it was not a blowout. Apparently when it goes over budget, it is not a blowout if the government decides afterwards that it should have done something that everybody told it that it needed to do at the start—which is exactly what happened here. It did not choose to refurbish the steam side of the boiler system, and of course, when it blew up, the government found that it had to and spent \$100 million fixing up the high-pressure side of the generating system. At the start of the project, the government was told the risk. Apparently that \$100 million is not going to be paid by anybody. It will be interesting to hear the Treasurer at some time tell the house exactly what will happen to that \$100 million. If it is not being paid by the taxpayers or by the consumers of electricity, who is paying that \$100 million blowout? I look forward to his telling us that because I am sure he will be the only person in the room who knows how that happened.

There is the \$54.9 million blowout in the Synergy billing system. In April 2009, the then minister told the Legislative Council that he had personally intervened to make sure that Western Australians received a world-class billing system. He said, "I have personally intervened; I have met the executive of Synergy; I have met the board of Synergy and I have negotiated a great outcome", but when the blowout became obvious two and a half years later, the minister then said, "Oh, actually, it didn't have anything to do with me; that was the former government"—even though the whole system had been implemented while he was the minister.

There is the disaster of the Pilbara underground power project. Not only is it \$100 million over budget, but no date has been provided for when the project will be complete. Then there is the Pilbara generation project. Because the minister could not get cabinet approval to spend capital on its generation requirements, the government put in a temporary system for two years stating that at the end of the two years, it would then replace it with identical equipment and call that the permanent solution. So for two years it would lease a temporary solution and would then install identical equipment to be the permanent solution—an extra \$100 million.

Then we have the Mumbida wind farm problems that are now becoming apparent. We do not know quite how much that is going to cost, but at the moment all those other things add up to \$854 million that Minister Collier was personally responsible for in cost overruns, blowouts and unnecessary expenses. Now that is not bad, but

when the current government then says it is focused on reducing costs in the electricity system, I can see that its first decision was probably a good decision, which was to get rid of Minister Collier. Clearly, he was one of the biggest sources of costs in the electricity system in Western Australia.

I want to go on very quickly to talk about the re-merger of Verve and Synergy. Again, in August 2009 Minister Collier announced that the government would not be merging Verve and Synergy. People in the industry still wanted a lot of questions answered, which were never answered, but at least they had that security. Then as noted in *The West Australian* of 12 March 2012, Minister Collier said —

There is nothing formal at the moment but putting Verve and Synergy together by March next year is a very real possibility.

We saw the government's idea of sovereign risk being put into the electricity supply system at a time when the minister said that the whole electricity market structure might change. Was there a process? Was he saying in March 2012 that this is a real possibility? Did he set up a process? Did he have a consultation system? Did he do anything? No. He left the industry completely ignorant of his intentions. Then in August 2012, when the government released the strategic energy initiative and it was clear there would not be a re-merger of Verve and Synergy, Hon Peter Collier came out and said—I quote from *The West Australian* of 29 August —

What I've said is it's certainly not a priority as far as the Government is concerned.

Having rejected it in 2009 and having let the horses run in March 2012, in August 2012 the minister says it is not going to happen. Then what happens? After the election we get a new minister, and suddenly not only is there discussion of the possibility of re-merging Verve and Synergy, but rather we get an announcement that it is going to occur. I have a whole series of technical questions to ask the minister about what is happening with Verve Energy and Synergy. It will be interesting to find out the answers to those questions, because it is as though the Minister for Energy is a commentator: he walks around the state saying that somebody should know something about something. I will give members an example of that by quoting from *The West Australian* of 11 April 2013 in which the minister states —

“Do I think the State will slowly exit generation? Yes,” he said. “Wasn't that the whole purpose of the disaggregation?”

It was part of the purpose of disaggregation, but given that the current government has decided to end the process of disaggregation, the real question is: what is this government's decision. In that same article, the minister states —

“The real question is what kind of market structure and incentives, three, four or five years down the track will there be to encourage them not only to build it and sell it (power) to Synergy but take more of the market risks.”

The minister has asked a good question, but why does he not answer it? The opposition has asked the minister on a number of occasions in this chamber, and I also have a formal question on notice to the minister, to explain that system. It is unbelievable that a minister who takes an oath to try to do his best endeavours on behalf of the people of this state cannot answer basic questions about his own decision that, according to the Oates review, is placing at risk \$10 billion of future investment. We all look forward to the minister answering his own questions. If he cannot answer his own questions, who is going to answer those questions? There is no process or system to negotiate with the industry players and no opportunity for discussion or for things to be resolved in terms of what the future of the state should look like.

I also want to point out that when Hon Peter Collier was in the energy portfolio, he was always very proud and made special mention of his efforts to increase renewable energy participation in the generation system here in Western Australia. Where does the new minister sit? Firstly, we can go back to 2009 when he rejected wind power as being a modern option for generating power in this state or anywhere else; and, again, when he made that comment the other day. In *The West Australian* of 26 April the minister stated —

“I am going to look at every aspect of the industry that affects the cost,” he said.

That is in regard to the renewable energy target scheme, which the federal government introduced to ensure a high level penetration of renewable energy. In the same article, the minister stated —

“It is clearly an issue. I am going to look at the cost of the RET scheme to the system and quantify it and let people know what it is.

“It isn't just buying wind power, and (building) the transmission lines that go to them, but its impact on the whole system. The RET scheme, in my view, is not sustainable, especially when you get up to over 20 per cent.”

I make the point for the minister's benefit that the RET scheme is not over 20 per cent; it is 20 per cent, so I am not quite sure why he thinks it would go beyond that.

The next point I will make, which is something the minister would know if he had read *The West Australian* of 8 April, is that solar power installations in Western Australia are continuing to grow at a massive pace, because the cost structure of installing solar panels has crossed over now and, without any subsidy or selling electricity back to the grid, ordinary home owners can save money by installing solar panels. It is no longer the case that people need a subsidy to get a benefit out of solar power. Not everybody in Western Australia has the opportunity to install solar panels. The Labor Party made a proposal at the last election to expand that opportunity, which obviously will not go forward now because we did not win the election. The real question for the minister, when he examines the RET, is: what is he going to do about ordinary families in this state who are using solar panels as a way to save on the cost of electricity? The Premier likes to say that the Labor Party had a plan to increase electricity prices by 10 per cent each year for seven years. Of course, if that policy had been implemented, electricity prices would be 15 per cent lower in round terms than they are now. That is because of the very, very steep rises in the first 12 months of the first term of this government of 15 per cent and 10 per cent, I think. Therefore, no matter how many times the Premier says that he will increase electricity prices by only four per cent a year, the fact is that electricity prices went up very, very steeply. The Premier acknowledges that the rises were too steep. What is the Minister for Energy going to do to help families deal with that high cost? Is the minister going to restrict or ban people from putting solar panels on their houses in certain suburbs? What system is he going to use to ensure that people have the option of benefiting from a solar panel on their roof? That will be a real challenge for the minister.

The future of electricity generation has to be in allowing people to make their own decision; it has to be about innovation. We have seen the benefits that innovation brought to other industries. It is time that this government got out of the nineteenth century and the command-and-control approach—we just talked about China and the Communist Party. It is not only the Communist Party of China that needs to embrace reform; perhaps it is the Liberal Party of Western Australia as well. It is time that people are given more rights in this system. It is time that the minister recognises that the biggest risk to the electricity system in Western Australia is not a market risk; it is the Premier making silly decisions like the refurbishment of Muja AB. I am not against coal; it is about a stupid proposal to spend a quarter of a billion dollars to refurbish a 40-year-old plant that will only last another seven years! That is a silly decision. It is a silly decision to build a high-efficiency gas turbine plant when we are over capacity.

MRS G.J. GODFREY (Belmont) [4.37 pm]: I rise to support the Supply Bill 2013. Back in March when I first became the member for Belmont, one of my first functions was to host the Prime Minister in opening the upgrade to the Great Eastern Highway. The Great Eastern Highway has been a great asset to the people of Belmont. The six-lane highway upgrade includes bike paths, dedicated bus lanes and a right-turn access into the horse area. This project, although not completed at the time of opening, is now being finalised with new bus stops, artwork and landscaping. It is an incredible project. As I said before in this place, it has been delivered on time and on budget. This project is an example of the way that Main Roads and the City East Alliance are completing new transport projects and it is a credit to the government. Years ago the engineering would be done, but nothing would have been done about the landscaping, artworks et cetera; so we in Belmont are pleased with the completion of this project.

The Gateway WA project is very important for the people of Belmont because Belmont is surrounded on all sides by highways—Great Eastern Highway, Orrong Road, Leach Highway, Roe Highway and Tonkin Highway. As the Mayor of Belmont, I was a member of the Gateway project committee, and I am very pleased that we were always consulted as representatives of the local government in the seat of Belmont on how the different aspects of the project would affect the community. The Little Athletics running track will be moved from Gerry Archer Reserve, and consultation with this group alone has been exceptional, as it has been with businesspeople along Leach Highway where the flyover will be located. That consultation has worked well and the project is almost completed. About 12 houses along Leach Highway have been purchased so they can be demolished, because they will be right on the flyover at Abernethy Road and Leach Highway. All the freight that comes out of the Kewdale freight marshalling yards needs access to and from the airport so it can be distributed around the metropolitan area. We are looking forward to the Gateway WA project being as successful as the widening of the Great Eastern Highway project.

Another area of importance to the people of Belmont is the Swan River. Different members in this place have voiced their concerns about the river walls falling into the river. The City of Belmont, together with the state government, has been working on the river walls at the back of the Ascot Racecourse. The tree planting along Garvey Park and the floodplains along the foreshore of Belmont is another project that has been quite successful. It was done in conjunction with the Belmont council and Men of the Trees, with funding from the Swan River Trust. Water testing along the drains that run into the river is a very important project because a lot of businesses contribute to the pollution that enters the drains that contaminate the Swan River.

I am looking forward to the completion of the dual use bike path, which will be on West Parade, South Guildford. That road that has no drainage, no curbs and no footpath; it is very dangerous and winding. It is in the

north of my electorate. The dual use path will enable students to get to school and will also be used by cyclists from South Guildford who ride into the city.

Another project highlighted throughout the campaign was the 40-kilometre-an-hour flashing lights at schools. The only area that I am interested in is on Stanton Road, which is a major access road to the airport. Two schools are affected—Redcliffe Primary School and Saint Maria Goretti's Catholic School.

I would like to talk about the KidSport program. More children are now learning to swim. Children who could not afford to play football or cricket are now joining in in the community. That program has been very successful in Belmont.

I turn to the Harman Park Community Centre, something that I have been working on for a very long time. It is now starting to come to fruition. There used to be a childcare centre on this site. It has been demolished. Funding has been approved for the community centre, which will be used for the home and community care program. There will be a dedicated building for this project. Originally HACC was in an old building on Parkview Parade that was used as change rooms. It was not suitable. A lot of the people who use this service are aged and affected by dementia. HACC was moved from that building as it was deemed unsuitable, and housed in the Redcliffe community centre. Although that building was brand new—it has a lovely dance floor and facilities—the clients, who are aged and suffering from dementia, had to move their equipment in and out of storage every day. This new building in Harman Street will be purpose built for this group of clients. Most importantly, it will now become an area that will be dedicated to senior Aboriginal women for a yarnning group. These people have been shunted from pillar to post. They will now have their own area to get together, even with grandchildren, and be able to call the place their own.

A facility in Belmont that is very exciting is the viewing platform at the airport. If anyone has not been there, I suggest they have a look. I take my grandchildren there regularly. Spectators are so close to the large planes taking off, they can wave to the passengers and they wave back. The viewing platform is on Tonkin Highway. It is a great facility. I saw something similar at Manchester Airport many years ago. It is very popular. Perth Airport has an environmental committee. I served on that environmental committee for a few years. One of the major things that it does is organise a walk through Munday Swamp with the Aboriginal elders of that area. That is a beautiful part of the metropolitan area.

I would now like to talk about a couple of schools in my area, of which there are 13. Two in particular—Belmay Primary School and Tranby Primary School—have a large number of Indigenous and multicultural children. Years ago I was disappointed when I went to one of the schools as there were a lot of angry children and hardly any parents at the assembly. Tranby Primary School initiated a program called the passport program, which is very successful. I would like that to be rolled out to a few other schools. Under the program, the children get a book and it is stamped when an adult or a grandparent attends the school to help the child. This passport can accumulate and be used for purchasing books or external excursions et cetera. That has had another effect. A lot of people who do not like to go to school to listen to children read, attend sporting events or come to an assembly are welcome at the school and they find that it is not as overbearing as they thought.

Housing is a big issue. As the member for Mandurah said, a lot of people are coming into our offices now with housing concerns. The other day I became aware of a young mum with four children under the age of eight. The house she was renting was being sold and she was told that her lease would be terminated. Our office worked closely with her so she knew she was not alone. There was a very good outcome. We went through the system to see how people can get housing. I acknowledge that housing is a concern. In the end, the new owner wanted this lady to remain as a tenant, which she was able to, so it was a good outcome from that perspective. Four new houses are being built by the Department of Housing in Epsom Avenue. Disruptive behaviour in homes in Rivervale, in particular, although we see it in other areas of Belmont, is a concern. However, I find that these people who come to us for help do not understand how the three strikes legislation works. We are working with them and we are getting some very good outcomes.

Finally, I wish to talk about the police. Throughout the election campaign the Minister for Police came to Belmont three times. We spoke to a lot of people. A lot of issues were presented to her. Since then the police have been coming back to Belmont. I look forward to working closely with the Minister for Police on the issues that are being raised in Belmont.

In conclusion, I support the Supply Bill 2013. It is a very good bill.

MR P. ABETZ (Southern River) [4.48 pm]: I would like to make a small contribution to the debate on the Supply Bill 2013. Given the difficulties with finances for the state with the decline in GST revenue, the volatility of royalties and stamp duty receipts, obviously finances are a serious issue. Certainly in my electorate people are very aware of that. Even though everyone in my electorate would very much love to see the Thornlie line extended through Canning Vale to the Mandurah line to provide a train service in that area, because the project will cost some \$250 million, everybody is realistic enough to realise that it will not happen in this term of Parliament. It is good to see that it is a long-term plan.

One of the things that we have been able to do is upgrade the Nicholson Road roundabout at Garden Street and Yale Road near the railway crossing. The fact that \$3 million was able to bring about such an excellent outcome indicates that sometimes for fairly small investments of money government can bring about a massive improvement in the quality of life for local residents. Since the upgrade was completed recently, I have received a number of emails from people thanking me very much for my efforts in getting it to happen, because their travel time to work has been cut by 20 minutes.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Why don't you bring them in here so they can tell the truth?

Mr P. ABETZ: What is wrong?

Mr D.A. Templeman: How many have you got?

Mr P. ABETZ: I have received three emails and a number of phone calls. I have also been thanked when I have gone to shopping centres. Before the election, people at meet and greets were very appreciative of the roadworks that were already underway. It has been a great outcome. In fact, the local paper ran a story on its front page about the tremendous difference it has made to the flow of traffic. It used to take people 20 minutes or more to get through; now, even during peak hour, they can get through without having to wait for a second traffic light change. For a very small amount of money—in the big scheme of things—we can make very significant improvements. It is my hope that in this term of Parliament we will be able to do something similar on Ranford Road between the Canning Vale markets and the Livingston Marketplace shopping centre by constructing a third lane on Ranford Road, which will serve —

Dr A.D. Buti: All the way to Tonkin Highway!

Mr P. ABETZ: That would need to come later! A good start would be a bus lane that would allow buses to get from Canning Vale and surrounding areas to Murdoch station on time during peak hour. If buses run on time, more people will be encouraged to use them, which would hopefully reduce the number of people using Ranford Road.

I refer to the lack of land available for churches in new suburbs, which is increasingly becoming an issue. In times past, when a new suburb was built in an estate—I am not sure which government department used to do land development—church sites were set aside. Church groups could register for those sites with the church group on top of the list having first choice. Part of the condition was that the church group had to pay market price for the land and had to start building within 18 months of being allocated the site. If the church group did not start building within that time, the site had to be handed back, a refund was given and the site was offered to the next church group. In that way, we got churches in the suburbs. The private development of land has resulted in no church sites. It is very, very difficult to find sites for places of worship in the newer suburbs. That issue needs to be addressed. Somehow in our planning structure we need not only an allocation of 10 per cent public open space, but also land set aside for religious groups to purchase to build places of worship. Under current planning laws the requirement is that for every four seats in a place of worship, there must be one car parking bay, which means that a church group would need to find quite a substantial sized piece of land to build a church that would seat between 400 and 500 people. A couple of church groups in my electorate are looking to build an auditorium that would seat 1 000 people. There is simply not the land available for that. Unless those groups look right out into rural areas, it seems almost impossible to procure the required area of land. I will continue to pursue that issue.

Another interesting and difficult situation is that for the first time people in my electorate are coming to me with housing issues. Families want to stay in the area after their lease expires because their kids are settled at school. But there is simply not enough housing in the area available to rent at \$500 a week. Higher rents are forcing a lot of families to move out of the area in which they and their kids are settled, which is a pity. Sometimes families are forced to pay \$600 a week to stay in the area. Obviously the higher the rent for houses, the fewer people who compete. It is good that we have targeted 20 000 affordable homes by 2020. I hope that continues to progress well and that we exceed that figure by 2020.

Recognising the pressure on the state budget, I hope that the regional sports facility at Clifton Road will progress. I am pleased to report to the house that its planning is well underway. The draft master plan and the feasibility studies are in progress. Within a month or two, the City of the Canning, together with the Departments of Sport and Recreation and Planning, will release a report. It will be good to see how we can progress that facility. Again, there is a need for active recreational areas in the newer suburbs. Although there is lovely public open space in my electorate, it does not lend itself to playing games of football, cricket or hockey. A major regional sporting facility on that 130-odd hectare site that is half owned by the government and the City of Canning will make an excellent contribution to the facilities and amenity of the area. The access road needed for that facility will possibly be provided by the access road that, hopefully, will be built as the back entrance to Jandakot Airport. Planning for that is currently in progress as is an amendment to the metropolitan region scheme. Hopefully that will proceed in good time. I will conclude my remarks with those comments. I support the Supply Bill 2013.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.57 pm]: I start my contribution to the debate on the Supply Bill 2013 by paying tribute to the organisers of the SunSmart Busselton Festival of Triathlon, which took place over the weekend. It has become a tradition in our household to spend one of the early weekends in May in Busselton for the half ironman. I become more and more impressed with the organisation of that event every year. Indeed, the event has gained international renown. The support provided by government, both directly and through organisations such as Healthway, is extraordinary in creating a great festival, and one that embraces the community. For instance, the executive director of Healthway, David Malone, was at the festival on the weekend. Obviously with Healthway being a sponsor of the event he had a professional obligation to be there. But he also undertook the 21.1 kilometre run leg as part of a team. It is a great event. What really impressed me was that long after the timekeeping was concluded and long after the crowds had started to diminish, the organisers of the event, particularly the announcers—Simon Beaumont and Mat and Simone—stayed around. So, as the light faded and everyone had started to pack up and go home, and with only half a dozen competitors still to finish the event, they remained on the course spotting competitors, cheering them on and announcing their names as they finished. It was such a great tribute to the sport, to the organisers of the event and to the Busselton community. I place on record my appreciation to Triathlon Western Australia for the extraordinary event that the Busselton half ironman has become. I look forward to the full ironman at the end of this year at which I will be a spectator. I look forward to cheering on the member for Armadale as he completes his first full ironman. I am sure the member for Armadale will be successful, and it will be a very impressive feat indeed.

This week is National Volunteer Week, and I want to take the opportunity to place on record my appreciation of the volunteers in the Kwinana electorate and the communities of Baldivis and Kwinana. The volunteers in our community are the mortar that holds the foundation of the community together. They play an incredibly important role. Although we can provide services either through government or through private institutions and directly through non-government organisations, the capacity of these services to really make a difference in the community relies very much upon the work that the volunteers do in those communities. For instance, there is the Rockingham–Kwinana State Emergency Service and the work that Dave Beard does down there. There are the volunteer brigades such as the St John Ambulance brigades, and the volunteer fire brigade at Mandogalup and the townies in Kwinana, South Kwinana and, of course, Baldivis, and the work that they do year after year protecting the community from fires in the area. Service groups such as Kwinana Home Support Service and Kwinana Early Learning Centre play an incredibly important role, as do the heritage groups that value the heritage sites in our community. The parents and citizens associations play an important role in the schools. There are the civil service groups such as Rotary, which I do a lot of work with, and the Lions Club of Kwinana, which I am a very proud member of. There are arts groups such as the Koorliny Arts Centre, which has a level of funding but which relies very heavily upon volunteers and the work they do in that group. Of course, Dance for Africa and other youth groups work in the area. There are seniors groups such as United Pensioners Kwinana, and Kwinana Men's Shed, which provides a place for seniors and older people to go to socialise and feel part of the community. Kwinana Senior Citizens is an organisation that has a great and very proud history in Kwinana. So established is Kwinana Senior Citizens that the old wet mess for the Kwinana construction site makes up part of its buildings. There are sporting groups such as the Kwinana Knights senior and junior football clubs, the Kwinana Tigers Hockey Club, the Kwinana Crusaders Softball Club, the karate groups, the soccer clubs and so on. They all play a very important role in our community.

We should also place on record that the changing nature of the workforce in our community, particularly with fly in, fly out workforces, places a great deal of pressure on these groups. Mums and dads who are working away from home find it difficult to make a season-long commitment to their local sports clubs, and when they are back from the mine site, they also have difficulty finding the time and energy to be involved, and that is having a very real impact upon the sports groups in the area.

Wild Ambo, an organisation run by my good friend Marilee Burt that picks up injured animals from right across the community, functions only because of the work that Marilee does as a volunteer. Of course, I also want to pay tribute to the church volunteer groups in my area that provide food hampers for the community and support for organisations such as the St Vincent de Paul Society and other groups that make sure we can continue to hold the community of Kwinana together. In Kwinana and in Baldivis, many people do it tough, and they rely upon the work that these groups do to increase the capacity of our community to respond to their concerns.

I also want to place on record my appreciation of the environmental groups in the area, in particular those involved with the Baldivis Children's Forest—that award-winning community group that does such good work in promoting the environmental values within the Baldivis community and making sure that people are socialised around those environmental values and are aware of the role that the environment plays in their community.

The work that these groups do sits in contrast with other issues that undermine the confidence of the community. There can be no greater undermining of community confidence than a lack of community safety. A recurring theme for my electorate office staff is that people are increasingly concerned about the level of policing in their

community. This has received a certain amount of media play recently as the commissioner has made observations about issues to do with policing numbers and so forth and the fact that that does not necessarily translate into better policing. However, the fact remains that policing is about not only the effectiveness of the police force to resolve crimes, to apprehend and to bring people to justice; but also a sense of community confidence, such that people feel safe in their neighbourhoods. The fact is we are losing that fight, and it is the community's perception of its safety that is very much undermined. We are constantly confronted by people who ask, "Why isn't the Kwinana Police Station a 24-hour police station?" I commend the work that the member for Armadale has done in raising that issue in his area. I do not know whether making Kwinana Police Station a 24-hour station would be a solution to the issues around people's perceptions of the effectiveness of policing in the area, but I do know that anecdotally people believe that police response times are increasing. People feel that when they ring the 131 444 number, they are not dealt with in a way that gives them confidence that their complaint or their issue has been taken seriously, and they lack the confidence that the police will have the sort of presence in their community that makes them feel safe and makes people who are looking to commit crimes feel vulnerable. That is one of the fundamental problems that we have.

In May last year, I asked the police minister about the policing resources that were available in Kwinana. The reduction of police resources in my area is very dramatic, and that is one of the concerns I have around policing. For instance, in 2007–08, about 52 police staff were available in the south metropolitan–Peel district. By 2011–12, that number had decreased to 32. I accept that some of these numbers do not necessarily reflect immediate front-line cops because of the switch from the south metropolitan district to the Peel district, but it gives us the understanding and sense of how widely spread police resources are. In 2007–08, Kwinana, as part of the south metropolitan police district, was covered by a fleet of 102 police vehicles. Now it is covered by a fleet of just 53 vehicles. We are seeing a reduction of the police resources available to be deployed in the area of Kwinana. This is a specific problem that I can see is being repeated from suburb to suburb right around the Perth metropolitan area. That is the problem that the member for Armadale is experiencing in his area, it is the problem that the member for Warnbro experiences in his area, and it is the problem that the member for Mandurah experiences in his area. The sense in the community is that the police simply do not have that visual presence to make an impact on people's sense of security and the presence of the police on the street.

However, it goes beyond that, because there are also issues around, for instance, police presence in schools, which was part of the Liberal Party's promise before the 2008 election. It is an issue for which the Liberal Party has not provided any resources. This is one of those broken promises that is having a very real impact in the community. The reason why I think it is important that we have police in the schools is that in schools such as the old Kwinana Senior High school, which is now Gilmore College, having young people exposed to the police force and to police officers early in their lives socialises them around those issues to do with policing, being a responsible citizen and their obligations as a citizen. It is very important that they have that interaction, that socialisation, so that they understand at an early age the role that police play in their community to keep them safe and to prevent them from undertaking crimes that they may be tempted to undertake from time to time.

The issue of policing will not go away. It will not be wished away by claims from either the police minister or the police force that we have enough cops because, quite frankly, the perception out there in the community is that there are not enough and people are not feeling safe. One of the challenges to the Treasurer in this bill and in future budgets is to provide resources so that we can continue to resource police so that they have the capacity to respond to people in the community. Every delayed response, every time they do not provide a meaningful response at the end of the phone and every time people call for the police and do not feel they come quickly enough is another opportunity for people's confidence in our policing to be undermined. It is another opportunity for people to feel less safe in their community, and that is just not good enough.

I wish to turn briefly to some issues to do with the health portfolio. In particular I want to speak briefly about the Royal Perth Hospital Protection Bill 2008. This is a very important bill, not in terms of its length or intent, because on intent, as they say in the classics, we are all sitting around in furious agreement—that is, we all wish for the retention of Royal Perth Hospital as our inner-city campus—but because this comes down to the issue of election promises by a government and promises that were made over more than one term of that government. Prior to the 2008 election, the Liberal Party made a very solemn promise to the people of Western Australia that it would introduce a bill called the Royal Perth Hospital Protection Bill within its first 100 days of winning government. Admittedly it said that it would introduce it; it did not say that it would pass it. I do not think it is up to the electorate to say, "You say you'll introduce it but will you just introduce the bill or will you make it into law?" What the people heard when the Liberal Party said, "We will introduce this bill" is that it was introducing a bill to turn it into law. It was not introducing the bill to leave it languishing on the notice paper or to fall off the notice paper for lack of attention on three separate occasions in those four years.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Have you counted up how many hours of debate you wasted on that? It was seven hours on the second reading alone.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: You didn't even bring it on for debate in the upper house.

Mr R.H. COOK: Premier, try to explain —

Mr C.J. Barnett: You just wasted time.

Mr R.H. COOK: I surely do not have to explain to the Premier what it means for a bill to fall off the notice paper three times.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Three times it was brought on and three times the Labor Party opposed it.

Mr R.H. COOK: That bill fell off the notice paper, not because we opposed it, not because we debated it, but because of the Premier's complete lack of interest in it. It was a con. This is a con on the people of Western Australia. Another aspect of that bill, which the Liberal Party trumpeted, was that it would redevelop Royal Perth Hospital to be part of a new 400-bed facility. Once again, the seed was planted in the minds of people in those electorates in which the Liberal Party campaigned strongly on Royal Perth Hospital that this would be one of the commitments it would make. But no, the Minister for Health, upon achieving government, said, "Well, we said we'd do it. We just didn't say when we would do it."

Mr P. Abetz: After Fiona Stanley opened.

Mr R.H. COOK: The Liberal Party never said that. That is the Minister for Health's latest representation. He said, "We never said when we would do it. We said we'd do it at some point and it's a second-term promise." But of course, as the Premier has reminded us time and again, he cannot be held accountable for the promises he made prior to the 2008 election because that was a different government. So, what he is actually saying, by the extension of his own logic, is that nothing he said about a second-term promise can be taken at his word. Nothing this Premier says can be taken at his word on what this government will do in its second term, because according to the Premier there is no such thing as a second-term government. That was a different group of people; he does not have to be held accountable. What the Premier is actually saying, by the extension of his own logic, is that he cannot be taken at his word. He is saying that, because he said prior to 2008 the government would redevelop Royal Perth Hospital and it was a second-term promise, it does not matter.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr R.H. COOK: It is not surprising that the same health stakeholders the Liberal Party courted so effectively prior to the 2008 election are now starting to question this government about whether it is really dinkum on the issue of Royal Perth Hospital. Of course the problem the government has around Royal Perth Hospital is that it has to find the staff and the resources to stick into Fiona Stanley Hospital when it comes on board. A lot of these people are now saying, "Well, what were they really meaning when they said they'd reintroduce the Royal Perth Hospital Protection Bill?" We now know—nothing! We now know that it was simply an exercise in trickery and in deception and that all the government will do is introduce the bill and then let it die. What did the government mean when it said it would redevelop Royal Perth Hospital? We now know—nothing! That is because this government has already said it will not be held accountable for the promises of the previous government. Those health stakeholders are now saying, "Well, what is going on here? Can we take this government at its word?" By the extension of the Premier's own logic, no, they cannot, because he is saying he will not be held accountable for any promise he made prior to 2008. That means, therefore, in terms of Royal Perth Hospital that everything is up for grabs. People working at Royal Perth Hospital are now wondering about the future of their jobs. Will they continue at Royal Perth Hospital or is their job one of those that will disappear? It is not surprising, therefore, that they take the opportunity to question this government by saying, "Surely, if you are the same people who promised us prior to 2008 that you'd introduce the Royal Perth Hospital Protection Bill, now is the opportunity to reintroduce that bill and pass it."

Several members interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: The opportunity is there for the government, as an act of integrity and as an act of good faith with the people of Western Australia, to reintroduce the Royal Perth Hospital Protection Bill. It is as simple as that. I would have thought that the first thing it would do on coming back to this place is get on with the business of the past Parliament. But, as we have heard from the Premier so very many times, government members disown anything they said prior to the 2008 election, and that includes the Royal Perth Hospital Protection Bill. We will therefore bring it on and we look forward to assisting the government to keep to its promises, because clearly it cannot do that by itself.

I want to spend some time briefly discussing the issue of peritonectomy surgery waiting times and the holding of peritonectomy surgery in Western Australia, as was raised in question time today. Pamela Barry is one of a range of patients who had to undergo an operation known as a peritonectomy in order to be given a good chance of survival. It is a very complex, expensive, lengthy and difficult operation. It is so difficult that the number of specialists in Australia who can do it can be counted on one hand. We are blessed in Western Australia in that we have one of those specialists here who can undertake this very difficult surgery. I understand that this is not surgery that people undertake as an option; they undergo this surgery, which takes about 10 hours, because they want a chance of survival. The stakes are very high on this one. A surgeon in Western Australia can undertake

this operation. Two hospitals can host this operation. One is Fremantle; the other is Joondalup—yet patients have to fly to Sydney to have this operation. As I said, this is a lifesaving operation. Pamela Barry is one such person who needs the operation. When she was originally diagnosed with cancer, she was told that she had to have this operation within two months. She says she has waited about two years. She is scared stiff because she knows that she needs this operation to give herself a good chance of survival.

The discussions between the doctor who can do the surgery and the Department of Health are ongoing. From the minister's answer today it seems that the discussions have been going on for a long time. It is time for this Parliament to say enough is enough. The minister has to resolve this issue. It is not fair on this patient that she has to fly to New South Wales to have this operation done. In some respects it is probably not fair on the patients of New South Wales that they have to share the specialists in their state with patients from Western Australia. We are very lucky that we have that option. It is time for the minister to personally intervene and resolve this issue. If, for some reason, the operation cannot be undertaken at Fremantle Hospital, surely Joondalup Health Campus is an option. To allow patients to continue to be put on the never-never is not an option when they have been given a life expectancy that is nowhere near the never-never. Their end points are fast approaching. That is why people such as Pamela Barry and Patricia Svensden, who has also come forward, are talking about this operation, the difficulties and what is potentially the end stage of their lives. They are asking the minister to please sort this out because they want a chance of survival. They want a chance to receive this operation that they know can be done and hosted in Western Australia. For the life of me I cannot understand why, when we are so close to being able to do this operation in Western Australia, the minister has not taken the opportunity to knock the bureaucrats' heads together and sit down and say, "Right, no-one leaves this room until we have resolved this issue and got this operation to take place in WA."

I want to briefly conclude by appealing, on behalf of those members of the Kwinana and Baldivis communities, and other suburbs in the Kwinana electorate, who rely on the service of disability organisations and the resources of the Disability Services Commission. I implore the Premier to join his colleagues in other states in signing the National Disability Insurance Scheme agreement. I think an NDIS is necessary for this country in moving forward. As the Premier has said, he understands what an important initiative it is for people with a disability in Australia. It is very important in making sure that people in our community have the sort of support they need to continue to lead happy and fruitful lives. On a regular basis I speak with people who are struggling to deal with their lives, to deal with housing and to deal with the support services they need. Through the work that I am fortunate enough to do with the Muscular Dystrophy Association, I really appreciate the struggles that people have to get the support services they need. If we can get ourselves to a position whereby we can have a disability system of entitlement that means people do not have to go begging to a government agency to receive the services they need, we would progress significantly as a nation and as a community. We could all hold our heads up high that despite the range of differences that people have and despite the time it will take to align disability services across the country, we, as a nation, have come together to decide that now is that point in history when we will set aside those political differences and work together to have a proper, well-funded, well-resourced and appropriately entitled disability services scheme.

MR P.C. TINLEY (Willagee) [5.25 pm]: It is great that I have the opportunity to get up again in a general debate and to make a contribution on the Supply Bill 2013. I want to put on the record a series of issues relating to my seat as opposed to anything in areas of portfolio interest. I attempted to do so last time I got to my feet, but I ended up wandering off into territory related to the ideology of the chamber on this side and that and the discomobulation of some of the members opposite in their attitudes towards what is a Liberal attitude, what is a conservative attitude and what is good social policy. But I will not start down that line because I will get my blood up.

Mr R.H. Cook: You've got to keep to the script this time.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: I will keep to the script because my electorate office staff are concerned that they do a bit of work, find out the details and put it all down for me, yet I do not stick to the script. I will not get my blood up; I will keep a nice even tone. I will not speak too loudly so the Treasurer can get some sleep and I will just talk about things that are —

Mrs L.M. Harvey: Why would you say that? I am sitting beside him; he is working.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: I am sure he is. It will not take him long.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Do not speak so loudly. Just relax. It is okay. This will not be painful.

I will speak to things that are particularly dear to my heart. It is very good that the Minister for Police is here because I really want to start by talking about something with which I have had a long involvement informally and now formally, which is my police and community youth centre. The PCYC in the seat of Willagee, which is called the Fremantle PCYC, has a long and proud association with not only the district generally, but also my

seat. It covers a couple of seats, obviously—Fremantle and Willagee. The particular concern that got me so active in it more recently is the Barnett government's approach to community policing. No more evidence is required about the lack of commitment to visible and positive policing than what we find at our PCYC. The fact that the government has formally removed police from police and community youth centres recently motivated me to say at a meeting that the association should drop the "P" from PCYC, which would be a big move for something that has been going since the early 1940s. The reason I say that is simply that in actual fact there are no police at police and community youth centres. No police are involved in positive interactions with the programs that are conducted by police and community youth centres.

I say that because in the Fremantle PCYC were two senior constables, Ian Hill and Ian Abercromby, who have now been moved and who had some of the most outstanding connections with the youth of that district that I have ever seen. They had been there some years. It takes time to build up the trust and rapport of the youth, particularly the troubled ones who need more work, not less; more interaction, not less; and more positive diversions away from some of the poor choices they make, not less. These two police officers certainly deserve, in my estimation and from my observations, not only all my support and any accolade I can give them from this chamber, but also, more importantly, formal recognition from their own police service of the service they provided. One afternoon I went down there at the request of the local newspaper to see whether we could do a positive story on Indigenous youth in the seat of Willagee. I asked Senior Constable Ian Abercromby whether he knew anyone and whether we could get any kids for the story. It was about 3.30 in the afternoon. He said, "Standby", and within 20 minutes he had produced not only 30 young kids from up the road and around the district, but also their parents or guardians. They all came down because they wanted to be involved in promoting the PCYC. He did not have to ask them twice, because despite their own activities and what they had planned for the day, they got that the PCYC is an integral part of the centre of the community, so it was no ask whatsoever. What was even more interesting was that, as Senior Constable Abercromby produced this great herd of people for a great photo shoot, he knew all their names. He knew each and every one of those children's names; he knew their parents' names, their guardians' names and he knew their circumstances. He and his offsider Ian Hill could interact with those kids and had a basis of rapport that only comes from a long investment of time—a long investment in hours that do not fit shifts and the normal nine to five. Such a rapport could come only from a deep sense of commitment to the community and a deep sense of possibility that they could actually shape young lives and move them away from choices that are less desirable towards choices that are more desirable.

When we consider Indigenous youth, who we all know, let us face it, are over-represented in our judicial system, we realise that for them to have a positive interaction with a police officer is rare. It is gold for them because in their circumstances more often than not they and their siblings have negative interactions with police officers in some form, whether it is out on the street or because they have done or been involved in some crime. Probably their first interaction with police officers in the seat of Fremantle and my seat, Willagee—in the Fremantle district—has been a negative one. Therefore, it is essential that they have the opportunity to see the human side of policing, the human side of police officers themselves, and for them to see behind all the equipment, the cars, the radios and the technology that now seems to burden our police officers on a daily basis and see a human who actually cares—Western Australians committed to opportunities for youth. We know this from the range of studies and from our intuitive understanding that if we can create a positive impression on youth, we will have the most sustained outcome. We can create a circumstance in which young people make healthy active choices in their lives about what they might want to do with themselves, not least of which is raising their self-esteem, which is the objective of every program run in the PCYC and, I should imagine, in any other committee facility. The only ambition really, regardless of the delivery method or the conduit for it, is raising the level of self-esteem and self-respect, which translates into respect for property, respect for others and respect for an ambition they should set themselves and that they might want to achieve in their lives. That is absolutely, completely delivered in a PCYC. Unfortunately, we seem to have got a good bit of bureaucratic back shuffling.

The Premier said police would not be removed from PCYCs, and for all intents and purposes he gave the ultimatum to the commissioner to at least give himself the veneer of truth or some sort of authenticity when he said out there on the step that police would in fact not be removed. So what do we see? We have youth liaison officers. After Ian Abercromby and Ian Hill were moved to their various locations—I am not quite sure where they went to—the youth liaison officer was posted in, I think some months ago now, and has not been seen in the Fremantle PCYC, despite the Premier saying that police would not be removed from the PCYC. We know for a fact that in the Fremantle PCYC there is an office marked for the police officer, but we have not actually seen him. I am not sure whether that is due to his individual set of circumstances; I am not sure whether it is a functional, systemic problem; I am not sure whether he cannot get out of the Fremantle hub for want of having to fill in the bureaucratic, administrative forms, and the processes he probably has to go through. One thing we know —

Mrs M.H. Roberts: The minister's here; she might know. She might be able to tell you, she knows what's going on.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: It would be very interesting.

One thing we do know, though, is that this police officer must report at the first instance to the Fremantle Police—no problems; he can handle that—and that if there is a car available, the police officer will have use of the car and will be able to go to the PCYC. We also know that that police officer has been explicitly told that he is not to participate in the programs conducted at the PCYC. Why? Because he is a youth liaison officer and there is a different program for him to execute. Out of interest I asked in what area this police officer would produce a result for youth as a youth liaison officer working with at-risk youth, at which institutions he would work and how. No-one can really answer that for me or deliver to me a comprehensive understanding of duties for this youth liaison officer. However, we do know that the territory that this single youth liaison officer must cover is from Fremantle to Rockingham.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: That's why we are recruiting another 30.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Recruiting another 30 youth liaison officers is a very good idea, minister, but would we not think that the 30 would be found, recruited and trained before the positions were vacated and the youth of the district of Fremantle cut adrift? Would we not think that there would actually be a plan in place that would be tested and that it would involve a handover of corporate knowledge from two officers—in my case; I am sure other PCYCs would have them—who have a huge depth of knowledge and who have a complete and utter commitment to the youth of the Fremantle district? We would think the minister would have had a plan that somehow covered officers' knowledge and would pick up where they left off. It sounds to me, minister, that this is just another example of bad management and bad leadership from a bad government.

The Fremantle PCYC has a huge heritage. I would say the Fremantle PCYC is probably the best facility in the state; it is a very good example. For any member who wants to go there to have a look, I am more than happy to make a time, show them through and show them what the club does. The Fremantle PCYC was formed in the early 1940s and it was originally called the Fremantle Police Boys' Club. It has changed its premises three times since then. It used to be right in the heart of Fremantle and is now in the suburb of Hilton, where it was officially opened in September 1975 by the then federal member for Fremantle, Hon Kim Beazley Sr. It produces a huge array of recreational and support programs. It offers each and every one of those programs on the basis of discovery and personal growth for the individual youth who use it. It has recently undergone some major renovations that were jointly funded by the federal government and the City of Fremantle. It delivers 25 different programs in those premises, things such as Aikido, air rifles—believe it or not—basketball, boxing and Chinese health, as they call it. It has computer rooms, a great weights and fitness training centre, floorball and a games room. It has girls gymnastics, of course, from beginners through to level 10, which is one of its biggest programs. It has boys gymnastics through to juniors. It has judo and karate. It has an education and training room that is often used by members of the community. It has wrestling under an outstanding Olympic-grade coach and a range of other recreational activities. It caters to people from three years of age—my little three-year-old does toddler gym—right through to the seniors who do badminton, Rainbow Gym, as it is called, and Lifeball. It is great to see men and women of about 80 or 90 using the facility during the day, which is a fantastic sustained use of it. It has undergone very substantial renovations and building works. The former Mayor of Fremantle Pete Tagliaferri, and the City of Fremantle's Phil Gale, and its current CEO, Graeme Mackenzie, in 2009 collaborated with the federal government and the then federal member for Fremantle, Melissa Parke, to acquire \$3.2 million to put to its renovation and to connect the existing PCYC building with the existing town hall, which is adjacent to it. We now have a fantastic design that links the old town hall, a classic small town hall design, with the old 1970s' brick facility to produce what I believe is the best community infrastructure, certainly in the district of Fremantle. I should also note that along with the \$3.2 million from the federal government, an amount of \$1.6 million came from the City of Fremantle and half a million dollars from a Lotterywest grant.

I am advised by the Hilton PCYC that in 2012 the club had over 35 000 attendances; that is, there were 35 000 visits from people who signed up for and attended a particular program or session. That is just for the formal programs and does not include numbers attending the drop-in centre or after-school centre, if you like another name, where the likes of Senior Constables Ian Abercromby and Ian Hill would interact with the kids on an informal basis, which is just as important as the formal interaction. This shows that a general and informal presence, not in a structured sense, of a police officer and other male and female role models as an alternative to the family structure that the child comes from is absolutely essential to round out or assist the personal growth of these kids. I am so motivated about this particular PCYC, and PCYCs generally, because as a young kid I went to this very same PCYC, where I did boxing and basketball training. I am a beneficiary of that positive interaction with police officers, not least of whom was Sergeant Ray Steadman, who gave me lots of good advice and guidance when I was making some incorrect choices. He set the seed that assisted me on the path that sees me in this chamber today, I suppose. I am so motivated about this PCYC that I actively sought out a position and was voted onto the council for this PCYC. I am extremely proud of the opportunity to start to bring to bear some of my experiences to assist the PCYC in not only sustaining itself but growing.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr P.C. TINLEY: I should also make mention of my fellow committee members: Rebecca Slavin, the centre manager, who is fantastic and who is employed by the City of Fremantle, so she is particularly good at running the whole show and keeping it together; Craig Green, who is a PCYC youth worker; Adrian Pardini, who consented, after a small amount of discussion at the annual general meeting, to stand as president, and his wife, Michelle Pardini—they are two people who are very committed to the whole PCYC movement; and to Gary Sherriff and Wendy Everett.

I will also take this opportunity to pay particular and special mention of the outgoing president, Bob Meredith. Bob is an icon, and I do not want to overuse a cliché, but members will not read about him in *The West Australian* or hear about him on the news. Bob is one of those people who has been going around and around in not just PCYCs but a range of other community programs, particularly involving youth. He has been doing that for years—in fact, for 43 years. He started with the PCYC in 1970 as a boxing coach. He was my boxing coach for a short time and it was a great joy to see him there after so many years. But after many years, he and his wife, Mo Meredith, who is herself a fantastic contributor to the community in my electorate and the wider district of Fremantle, have said that that is enough. Of course, Bob is a life member of the PCYC, and no more fitting an accolade than that could be bestowed on Bob. I wish Bob well and thank him for his support. I do not think it will be the last we see of Bob, because he will still be active around the club where he is always welcome. I should say that Bob, like the two police officers I mentioned, Ian Abercrombie and Ian Hill, has an intimate connection to the community, particularly with youth. He has seen many people like me go through and on to adulthood and become productive members of the community.

It is interesting that we talk about those people as well as the bricks and mortar of what is hopefully a sustainable model in the way it will deliver youth services, because it actually inspires many other groups and people in the community to see what else can be done. Again, there are many groups in the community that we never read about, and it is up to us as their parliamentary representatives to ensure that we support, promote and present whatever we can to give them more energy to do what they need to do and which they do so well.

One of the harder suburbs in my seat to represent is Coolbellup. Coolbellup is a very old suburb. Over time it has contained a large volume of public housing, which has been slowly reducing over the years. In its early days, nearly 100 per cent of the homes were public housing, and in the 1950s the majority was composed of English migrants. It is great to talk to some of the older people in the suburbs who can remember the area being bush and how the suburb evolved from that. There is a new breed of residents in Coolbellup, as the demographics have changed, with an older cohort moving into smaller accommodation choices and young families coming in. One of the great things about Coolbellup is the little Coolbellup Community School, which is the result of an amalgamation of three primary schools that occurred under the government of Alan Carpenter, who was the member who preceded me. It was through his energy that a really good educational outcome was delivered for the suburb of Coolbellup by designing and pushing for those schools to become the fantastic new facility that is the Coolbellup Community School. However, it could always use more students, and, as the demographics changed, with young families coming in, some parents were hesitant to allow their children to go to a new school, as it were, because they were unsure what the educational outcomes would be for their children. What they have got is a great connection to some very motivated teachers and a great support network. One of those is a little residents' group called Cooby Now! This was the invention of some well-motivated young mums who were looking for a way to ensure that the school had the best resources and support from the community. These young women started Cooby Now! to ensure they promoted the school to its own residents. We had a large contingent of primary school age children leaving Coolbellup to go to an adjacent suburb with a school that is well established with a good track record. Samson Primary School is a fantastic school, but unfortunately that detracted from some of the potential resourcing for Coolbellup; therefore, these women formed Cooby Now! to promote the Coolbellup Community school. I really appreciate the opportunity to be involved with them and support them in what they do. Dr Katie Attwell was the original engine room behind the idea, along with Jemma Wuthenow, Sonia Lamond, Selvi Parameswaran and Sandie Stewart.

So good was that group at promoting the school, it branched off to see what else it could do for the community. In the fading days of summer, it held the Cooby Fest—that is, the Coolbellup festival. It was a great little festival. I assisted in its planning. We put some resources in it to ensure that it went really well. When I attended this little festival, it was great to see some of the older residents in their 60s and 70s that I was speaking of earlier lying around on the beanbags that the group had hired to place under the trees. These residents were lolling about under the trees drinking the fresh juice that had been made and listening to the entertainment performing on the stage. When I spoke to them, they said it was one of the best things they had ever seen in their time in Coolbellup. It was a great endorsement of what these women had done. I say that in a very gender-specific way. So much of my work in the community—I am sure other members in this place would agree with me—exposes me to the idea that women are the engine room of community building. That is not to discredit men and create some sort of gender bias, but the fact is that women built the community. The women in the various residents groups are really seeking to create a connection between people.

The Coolbellup festival committee consisted of Sonia, Selvi, Jane House, Pip Brennan, Jane Burnett and Jo Manning. Members might notice all those gender-specific names. They did a fantastic job to deliver an outstanding result. I would like to thank the City of Cockburn and the other sponsors for the work that they did to ensure that the festival went off well and that it was a resounding success. The effort that goes into these sorts of things is not small. It was recognised that there is a cost in holding such an event and that thousands of dollars needed to be raised, but it came down to the minutiae of coordination between one stall and the next and between one group and the next to ensure that everybody who wanted to be involved was catered for. There was a great array of local crafts and little cottage industries with everything from baby clothes—these things were made in the homes of the people of Coolbellup—to birdcages and dog kennels. It was a tremendous experience for everyone in the community. It was a lovely day and there was some great entertainment. Those women should be completely and absolutely endorsed so they go on and produce even better results. I look forward to being able to support them over the coming years to ensure that they not only grow their own families and community but also create a good model for what could be applied in any other community in this state.

Finally, I would like to finish off quickly by mentioning another group in my electorate called Willagee Alive, which is a great group that has been sustained over a long period by some highly motivated women to ensure that they produce a result that is a little bit shifted. Even though Willagee is going through a demographic change with new families moving in, it still has a very large older population. That group is well supported by Willagee Alive. I would also like to thank the City of Melville for its work in the master plan for Willagee. It has involved community groups such as Willagee Alive. I would like to make special mention of William Schaefer, a strategic urban planner, who has led the community consultation through the master planning process. He has been outstanding in the way he communicates with people and the way he ran some of the very well attended sessions that were conducted by the City of Melville. The first session for community engagement on the master plan for Willagee was to be held in the community centre. When everybody arrived, despite the RSVPs, the organisers realised that they had twice as many people as they could fit in that facility. They had to move across to the library. It was a fantastic outcome. The level of engagement that came from the community, young and old, was outstanding and it continues beyond that.

I conclude by saying that the groups in our community that matter are the ones we will not read about but they are the ones in our particular seats, and I endorse each and every one of those people who want to participate and build community.

MR I.C. BLAYNEY (Geraldton) [5.55 pm]: I will speak briefly on the Supply Bill 2013. I spent the second week of the school holidays in Adelaide. I took my children to Adelaide for a week. We should all consider holidaying at home. Tourism is an important industry in Australia, and it is really suffering from the rise in the Australian dollar. As members who have been there would know, Adelaide is a planned city with beautiful wide roads on a grid layout and it is very easy to get around. After driving around Perth, I could not believe how quick and easy it is to drive around Adelaide.

The two reasons I went to Adelaide were to look at the O-Bahn and the renewal and extension of the Glenelg tram. The O-Bahn was developed by Daimler-Benz in Germany for the city of Essen. It had a tunnel system that it wanted to change so that both trams and buses could use it. The concrete line that was built for the O-Bahn in Adelaide was dedicated entirely to the O-Bahn; nothing else uses it. Interestingly, it is built on alluvial soil so the whole track has to be built above the ground on pylons. The O-Bahn was introduced in 1986 to serve Adelaide's north eastern suburbs. The land that it was built on was intended for a tramway. However, the decision was made to go along the O-Bahn line. Compared with the tramway, the O-Bahn needed less land, was quieter, faster and at the time cost less. The line is 12 kilometres long; it has one station and two interchanges. The interesting thing about the O-Bahn is that buses can enter and exit the concrete busway and then drive as normal buses into the streets. It is a unique feature of the system. While on the O-Bahn, buses do not need to be steered. They can travel at up to 100 kilometres an hour, and the system can carry 18 000 passengers an hour. At the end of the line is the Tea Tree Plaza interchange, which is the largest station. It has become a substantial commercial centre. It is one of Adelaide's designated regional centres. We can see a connection there with our proposed changes to local government in that it envisages 12 or 16 commercial centres developing out of the merged councils. It has a large Westfield shopping centre, the Modbury hospital, which is a large hospital, and the Torrens Valley TAFE campus. Within a kilometre of the interchange, there are three primary schools, one government high school, one Christian school and three retirement villages. I was very impressed by the O-Bahn. I think it should be considered for the Perth Airport link. Where possible, a dedicated track can be built for it but the buses can also operate on priority lanes in the road system or operate as normal buses. The buses are now Scania's; they were Mercedes-Benz. Any type of bus can be used.

The other interesting transport development in Adelaide is the extension and renovation of the tramline, which previously ran only from Glenelg to the centre of the city. It has now been extended. It runs another 1.2 kilometres and it has been renovated. It is the first new tramline built in South Australia since the 1920s. I think the original tramcars were built in the 1920s. They have been replaced by new Bombardier trams, which seat about 80 people. Interestingly, the Glenelg tram runs for much of its length on a dedicated line, so it is not

mixing with cars, which makes it a lot more reliable and a lot quicker. After trying both systems, I would have to say that I found the O-Bahn far more impressive. I am surprised that more of these systems have not been built. An O-Bahn system may be a more worthwhile system than both the Metro Area Express light railway and the airport railway link. I urge the government to consider it.

I echo the comments made in this place during the previous Parliament by the member for South Perth when he talked about an extension of the Perth ferry network. Once again, there is a place for that in our transport future. The ferry terminal for the city really has to be within Elizabeth Quay. When we are talking about transport in Western Australia, I would like to reiterate that we desperately need that extra runway at Perth Airport. That should be made a priority and done as soon as possible.

Another place I hoped to visit while in Adelaide was the Holden factory at Elizabeth. Unfortunately, this was not possible as it has not run tours for some 10 years. I am a strong supporter of the Australian car industry.

Debate interrupted.

[Continued below.]

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.00 pm

SENATE VACANCY

Joint Sitting of the Houses — Statement by Acting Speaker

THE ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P. Abetz): Before I call the member for Geraldton, I wish to advise that the Speaker has consulted with the President of the Legislative Council in relation to holding a joint sitting to fill the vacancy in the Senate created by the resignation of Senator Christopher Evans, and that the joint sitting will be held on Wednesday, 15 May 2013 at 11.00 am in the Legislative Council chamber. I understand that all members have received an email with information about the joint sitting and that they also have some information on their seats.

SUPPLY BILL 2013

Second Reading

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR I.C. BLAYNEY (Geraldton) [7.01 pm]: I will just conclude my remarks. I mentioned before the dinner break that on a recent visit to Adelaide I had hoped to visit the Holden car factory at Elizabeth, but unfortunately this was not possible; I understand the factory has not run tours for 10 years. I am a strong supporter of the Australian car industry and I hope that it survives. I proudly drive an LPG-ULP Commodore built in Adelaide. I urge the Holden factory to restore factory visits. I suppose it would be a good way for taxpayers to see where their dollars are going. Hopefully, Holden and other manufacturers will begin to get their heads above water as the value of the dollar is beginning to decline. I say to them: "Please hold on; many of us were brought up to the chant of football, meat pies, kangaroos and Holden cars!" I hope that it stays like that forever.

Another visit I made was to Monarto Zoo, which is an open plains zoo east of Adelaide and quite close to the Murray River. I understand that there have been proposals in the past for Western Australia to have an open plains zoo, probably out around Northam. I think that would be a fantastic facility for Western Australia to have. A visit to Adelaide would not be complete without visiting Wang Wang and Funi, the pandas that live at Adelaide Zoo. Once again, I would love to see Perth starting to work towards acquiring pandas for Perth Zoo; they are a fantastic tourist attraction.

Mr P. Papalia: Pandas?

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: Pandas, yes. The zoos do not actually get to keep them; the Chinese lend them to other zoos, but the zoos have the pleasure of their company.

Mr F.M. Logan: For how long?

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: I do not know; that is up to the Chinese.

The week spent in Adelaide was the longest time I have spent outside my electorate for more than two years. I suggest that it would be a worthwhile visit for anybody. As I said before, I encourage us all to travel at home because our tourist industry needs the revenue. I thank all members for listening to me.

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn) [7.03 pm]: I was just making some points on what I should be speaking about on the Supply Bill tonight and I have come up with a number of things, so I will proceed with this list before me.

First of all, I want to talk about broken promises. Broken promises is a theme that seems to be very common in this house at the moment. It is a theme that seems to be running continuously through the Barnett government, but particularly at question time, when a number of broken promises have been raised by the opposition in terms of commitments made by the Liberal partner of the government.

[Quorum formed.]

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I thank the member for Mandurah, the Whip, for drawing your attention, Mr Acting Speaker, to the state of the house, given that I am on my feet and that I should have more than about three people listening to me!

I was talking about broken promises and how it is becoming all too much of a common theme with the Barnett coalition government. One broken promise that I want to refer to is a promise that was made in my own electorate of Cockburn in the lead-up to the election in 2008 when the then candidate for Jandakot, who is now the member for Jandakot and Minister for Corrective Services, promised a new 24-hour police station for the area around Cockburn Central. I think at that time he wanted the station to be located in the seat of Jandakot, but he argued the case for a 24-hour police station in the Cockburn Central district. To give the house a bit of an idea of the geography of Cockburn from a policing point of view, the area is within the Fremantle district and is serviced by the general police station in Fremantle. There is a police station in Murdoch very close to Fiona Stanley Hospital, as you would know, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr P. Abetz). There is also Cockburn Police Station, which is a small couple of houses on Rockingham Road in Spearwood. The next-closest police station from a servicing point of view is Kwinana, but those officers do not come north to Cockburn; they service the Rockingham regional district. The fastest growing area of Cockburn is the eastern sector around the freeway and the railway station. The suburbs of Atwell, Success, Aubin Grove, Hammond Park and the new suburb of Honeywood are rapidly expanding. Thousands of constituents have already moved into the seats of Jandakot and Cockburn, hence the argument that was made by the then candidate for Jandakot for a new police station in Cockburn. I do not think the candidate knew at the time that a block of land adjacent to Cockburn Gateway Shopping Centre had already been set aside by the Western Australian Planning Commission for a new police station. I think he was unaware of that when he made the promise because he was arguing for a larger, 24-hour police station, which certainly would not have fitted onto that block of land, which still exists. That was more than four and a half years ago; in September, it will be five years ago. And what do we have for a police station? The promise, which as I said was made in 2008, was reiterated at the recent state election by the member for Jandakot. He reiterated the promise that a 24-hour police station is coming to Cockburn. It is now nearly five years since the promise was made. We have a nice picture of a police station on a sign that was erected two years ago with a great deal of fanfare by the then Minister for Police—now the member for Hillarys—along with the member for Jandakot; they had their photograph taken next to the sign, alongside a police car. The sign still exists. It is tucked down a little side alleyway and nobody can actually see it; people would have to go looking for it. That is all we have from a nearly five-year promise of a police station. I see the member for South Perth looking at me; I know how he feels. He is still waiting for a railway station that was promised even longer ago!

Mr J.E. McGrath: I am a very patient man.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Yes, very! The member for South Perth has to be a very, very patient man.

Mr T.K. Waldron: You have a nice surf club!

Mr F.M. LOGAN: The Minister for Sport and Recreation has just mentioned the nice surf club—and we certainly have. It will open very soon, and I am sure the Minister for Sport and Recreation will be at the opening; I look forward to seeing him down there. I thank him once again for the contribution to that beautiful surf club.

But we are on policing, unfortunately, which is a pity because I have a feeling that with the forthcoming budget, we are probably unlikely to see a 24-hour police station in Cockburn in the near future. I have a feeling that project will be deferred. I am not too sure whether it will be deferred to the end of this term of government, but I have a very strong feeling that project will be deferred. That is a shame, because had the promise been made in a slightly different way, had the promise been made for a local police station only—the block of land is still available; it would have been a fraction of the price of a 24-hour regional police station—it would have been built by now. It would have been completed. I have a feeling that is not going to happen.

One of the other reasons it is not going to happen is that if the police station goes ahead in this term of government and is built on the site proposed by the member for Jandakot and the former Minister for Police, it will be in an unfortunate position. To get to the proposed police station, quite narrow roads—the hallmark of the new Cockburn Central—have to be gone along. The only possible way to get out from the new police station to service the area in an emergency would be to go onto the proposed new North Lake Road flyover, which will go over the freeway between North Lake Road and Armadale Road. The Treasurer is well aware of that piece of infrastructure, which seems to have grown in size and price since the minister had a quick look at it. It was going to cost, I think, about \$50 million to \$60 million. It is now somewhere in the region, because of the nature of the piece of infrastructure, of between \$110 million and \$140 million. I see that as another very large piece of infrastructure that may well be deferred for a significant period because of budgetary implications. That has already been outlined by the Treasurer. If that piece of infrastructure is deferred and the police station goes ahead, the police can go into the police station but they cannot get out in an emergency—well, they can, but they would have to sit in traffic waiting to get out. They would be stuck in Cockburn Central. For a major regional police hub, I just do not think that is going to happen; I just do not think the police are going to do that.

So we can see the complexity of the promise that was made. I think a valuable lesson for the member for Jandakot is not to promise things that cannot be delivered. This piece of infrastructure is sorely needed; people in the area need a police station.

Mr P. Papalia: That sounds familiar.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: The member for Warnbro is about to talk about Secret Harbour police station in a minute.

The people in Cockburn and the seat of Jandakot need a police station because it is a rapidly growing area. Had some humility been employed by the member for Jandakot and had he had further discussions with the council and his own colleagues, he may well have been able to get a police station up and running by now. That is not the case, and I have a feeling it never will be. I think we will be going to the next election in 2017 without a bridge and without a police station.

I do hope however, now that the Treasurer is back in this place—he also still has the role of Minister for Transport—that we will not see another broken promise with the railway station. That is not the Atwell railway station promised by Labor, but the Aubin Grove railway station as promised by the current government.

Mr T.R. Buswell: That wasn't an election commitment.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: It was an election promise.

Mr T.R. Buswell: No; the funding was committed before the election.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Yes, absolutely. That is true; it was. But it was part of the government's election package, and it came two weeks after Labor committed to a railway station at what we were going to call Atwell. They are both in the same spot —

Mr T.R. Buswell: Yours had no parking.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: — but we were going to call the station Atwell. Two weeks later, the current government, as the party going to the election, announced that it would build the railway station, it would fund the railway station, and it would be called Aubin Grove. We have an awful lot of signs in Cockburn—not much action, but lots of signs. We have some very, very big signs on both sides of the freeway down there on Russell Road, and on the other side in Jandakot. They are enormous signs that happened to just appear before the writ; in fact, two days before the election writ.

Mr T.R. Buswell: They are very informative signs.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Very informative signs that just happened to go up with “The state government announces” just before we went into the election proper.

Mr T.R. Buswell: The same signs are at Kenwick station.

Mr N.W. Morton: They're very good signs.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Yes, I think we have a few—all advertising paid for by the taxpayer of WA —

Mr T.R. Buswell: Information program.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: — announcing a Liberal Party promise in what was then the forthcoming election. Those signs are on the north and south side of the freeway as well.

Mr T.R. Buswell: They are very good signs.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: They are very good signs. A bit like the signs—in fact, no, Minister for Transport, they are better than the police station signs at Cockburn Central! They are much better because they are much bigger and there are more of them.

I just hope that we might get a railway station. I am hoping for the people of Atwell, Aubin Grove, Hammond Park and the lower part of Success that we get a railway station, not just the signs.

Mr T.R. Buswell: You will.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I am hoping we might even get a police station.

Mr T.R. Buswell: I might invite you to the opening of the railway station.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Not just the signs for a police station.

Mr T.R. Buswell: If you're nice, I'll invite you to the opening of the railway station.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: That is very nice of the Minister for Transport. I just have this vision of me tied to the tracks and the Minister for Transport saying, “I'm glad you could make it”!

Mr T.R. Buswell: In fact, what I might do is replace some of those photos at Cockburn with a photo of you!

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Fantastic! The Minister for Transport can put my signs up anywhere he likes; he knows that!

Mr T.R. Buswell: You know the ones at the station of the commuters?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: That is fantastic! Yes, I know; the minister can put any pictures of me around Cockburn—I am more than happy!

Mr T.R. Buswell: It would help with our peak hour crush!

Mr F.M. LOGAN: The minister can put the state government logo on it if he likes as well!

Mr T.R. Buswell: It would keep the numbers down at peak hour!

Mr F.M. LOGAN: There is a train station coming soon. It is a bit like waiting for a bus; there is a bus coming soon, just keep waiting!

Mr T.R. Buswell: No, no. There are plenty of buses there.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Anyway, we are waiting. We will wait and see where that train station is coming.

As the Treasurer wrestles with the state's finances, I hope it does not become a casualty of this or next year's budget. I hope it is not deferred. There is a time frame for the railway station. I hope that it is not one of the casualties of this year's budget—but we will see.

Finally, after a great many demands from the member for Mandurah, I have to talk about a very important place in my electorate to which not too many people go. I have spoken about it before; it is a wonderful spot.

Mr D.A. Templeman: It is, but it's not well known.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: People should know about it, but they only get to hear about it a little because I speak about it quite regularly in this chamber. I refer to Mt Brown. Not many people know about Mt Brown. The Treasurer and I should walk up there sometime.

Mr T.R. Buswell: To where?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: To Mt Brown. The member for Mandurah asked me whether one could drive to the top of Mt Brown.

Mr T.R. Buswell: Mal Brown?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Mt Brown—not Mal Brown!

Mr T.R. Buswell: Mal Brown! You could drive up to him, but he'd knock your head off!

Mr F.M. LOGAN: No, Mt Brown!

The member for Mandurah asked whether he could drive up Mt Brown. I said, no, that people used to be able to do so, but all the roads have been closed. One can certainly walk up Mt Brown. It is a beautiful spot.

Mr T.R. Buswell: Where is it?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: It is a lovely spot in Wattleup. It is bisected by Rockingham Road and Cockburn Road. It is where Rockingham Road and Cockburn Road meet right by the Alcoa refinery. Looking back from the Alcoa refinery, one would see a hill rising into the clouds—that is Mt Brown, a sensational spot. The member for Mandurah has often requested a visit to my electorate to climb Mt Brown. I have suggested he should do so. It is a wonderful spot with great views. In all seriousness, the views are fantastic. From the top of Mt Brown there are views all the way back to Fremantle and over the river to North Fremantle. Looking the other way, one can virtually see over the top of Garden Island down towards Warnbro. From there I could look for a police station in Warnbro, but I know I would never see one.

Mr P. Papalia: I think you need an extension.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I will not ask for an extension because I think members in the chamber have probably had enough by now. I did promise the member for Mandurah that I would reflect on Mt Brown, and so I have. On a serious note, it is right behind the Australian Marine Complex. Had I not intervened before the 2001 election when I was working for the Australian Workers' Union, and after I became a member of Parliament representing Labor, to save the park surrounding Mt Brown, it would have been cut in two by the Rockingham-Fremantle expressway, which was destined to go straight through that park, which is one of the last remaining pieces of vegetation on the Perth coast. Up and down the coast, the last remaining piece of untouched vegetation—it reflects what Perth would have been like before it was developed for suburbs—is in the parks surrounding Mt Brown, which is part of Beeliar Regional Park. For that reason, I suggest that members visit the seat of Cockburn, because it has not only suburbs and industry, but also a beautiful series of wetlands. All we are looking for now is the police station that was promised five years ago, and, hopefully, a railway station to replace the Minister for Transport's huge signs in the area between Russell Road and the freeway. I look forward to attending the opening, Mr Treasurer.

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro) [7.25 pm]: I will continue along with the theme established by the member for Cockburn about broken promises. There is plenty of opportunity to do so because of the amount of material that has accumulated, albeit in a short period of time. It is appropriate that the Treasurer is here and that we are debating the Supply Bill 2013. I will diverge from the Supply Bill at the outset to focus a little on my electorate and on some of the broken promises made to the people in my electorate, which I have previously mentioned in this place. I will mention them again because it is even more pertinent in light of what has happened in the electorate in recent times.

First, I will talk about broken promises in the transport portfolio. We received today a response to a question asked in the upper house about the transport portfolio and the electorate of Warnbro where it borders with the electorate of Mandurah. As I said a couple of speeches ago in this place, the question was a point of interest during the last election campaign as to whether the people in the southern and eastern suburbs of Rockingham and the northern suburbs of Mandurah numbered in the order of 50 000 or 60 000 people. It is a little difficult to establish that figure, because we can go only on combinations of projections from both cities. I would suggest that that is a conservative figure. In the order of 50 000 or 60 000 people live in the catchment of the vacuum of public transport that lies between Warnbro train station and Mandurah train station at the other end. In much the same way as they do so now, during the election campaign they were stuck in traffic on a daily basis. The question asked was: what would we do about that? WA Labor responded with a clear commitment, the costings of which were based on estimates of the cost for a train station at Paganoni Road in Karnup, midway between the Warnbro and Mandurah stations. It was costed by government agencies in documents that were handed to the Minister for Transport—which he ignored—that suggested that the next station on the line should be established at that point. Those documents identified the cost, and during the course of the campaign WA Labor made a commitment to allocate \$55 million in the fiscal year 2017–18 to commence construction of that station, with construction to be completed by 2019. It was a clear commitment of which the public and the electorates of Warnbro and Mandurah were notified—the station would open in 2019. The government chose to deceive the people of the electorates of Warnbro and Mandurah and suggested that it would match that commitment. In fact, the candidate for the Liberal Party was reported in the local newspaper as having made the commitment for a station at Paganoni Road. It was neither retracted nor refuted by the Liberal Party, or by the government of the day, which was fully aware of the commitment, and it was never questioned by the people of the electorates, who expected that the Liberal Party, under Hon Colin Barnett, would keep its word. They expected the Liberal Party to keep its word and they expected the government to keep its word should it be re-elected. There was no real reason for people to expect that that would not be the case. The people in Ellenbrook and Swan Hills know not to believe the government. Certainly people in West Swan know not to believe the government—that message got through. They do not need any more lessons—they now understand. I suggest to the member for Swan Hills that some of his new constituents will also understand the government's broken promises by the next election.

Mr T.R. Buswell: That's what you said to him at the last election and he's still here.

Mr P. PAPALIA: He lost half his electorate, fortunately for him. He was fortunate; it will not happen next time.

Mr T.R. Buswell: He is still here.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I do not think the minister can treat the voters with such contempt on more than one occasion and get away with it. He did it once. The member was fortunate; he was saved by a redistribution. I do not think he will get away with it next time. The constituents of Warnbro and Mandurah were expecting the minister to keep his promise, because they had not had experience of his promising, because he did not promise anything last time. On this occasion he made a \$55 million promise.

Mr T.R. Buswell: No, we didn't.

Mr P. PAPALIA: The minister's candidate did.

Mr T.R. Buswell: He did not.

Mr P. PAPALIA: The minister did not refute it; he was fully aware of it. Was the government media office not aware of that promise? Is that the suggestion; is that what the minister is saying?

Mr T.R. Buswell interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: On the day of the election, as voters queued to go into booths, why were they confronted with this sign with the candidate's name and "Your Liberal for Warnbro" written on it, and, "Making decisions getting things done", and the Liberal Party logo at the base of the sign? Why were voters confronted with that sign, which says, for the purposes of Hansard, "We NEED a train station at Paganoni Road, NOW! Not in six years. A Liberal Government will deliver it SOONER"? That was a very specific promise to the people of the electorate of Warnbro.

Mr T.R. Buswell: He may well have been able to, but he didn't get elected. We will never know.

Mr P. PAPALIA: This is the point I made last time I was talking about this subject. I am glad the Treasurer is here because I want to ask about this. When the Liberal Party of Western Australia goes to an election, will it keep promises only in electorates it wins?

Mr T.R. Buswell: No.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Is that the point the minister is making? That is the point he seems to be making. Is he suggesting that any other promise in a seat the Liberal Party does not win is only an aspiration by the individual in his party who is running for the seat?

Mr T.R. Buswell: No, I am not making that point at all.

Mr P. PAPALIA: If that is the case, that is a disgrace.

Mr T.R. Buswell: I just answered your question. Turn your ears on. If you're going to ask a question, listen to the answer.

Mr P. PAPALIA: What was it; was it a promise?

Mr T.R. Buswell: The answer is no, no; you're wrong.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Was it a promise? Turn your ears on. Was it a promise?

Mr T.R. Buswell: No; it's not.

Mr P. PAPALIA: What is it?

Mr T.R. Buswell: We are not going to be building your train station, full stop.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I know he is not because I asked him the question in the upper house today.

Mr T.R. Buswell: Pretty unequivocal.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I think I need to read that answer into this place.

Mr T.R. Buswell: You've failed again. You're not delivering for your constituents.

Mr P. PAPALIA: The manner in which the minister responded to the question actually complies with his modus operandi and his form when it comes to keeping promises and breaking them post-election. The question asked was —

Will the Barnett government build the Karnup train station and all the associated facilities for the 50 000 to 60 000 people living between northern Mandurah and southern Rockingham, in this term of office?

Mr T.R. Buswell: No.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Correct. The minister did not actually say no; he could not bring himself to say no. Perhaps it was his staff.

Mr T.R. Buswell: It's the upper house.

Mr P. PAPALIA: It was answered on behalf of the minister. The minister is not suggesting the member would have answered without the minister telling him what to say?

Mr T.R. Buswell: I signed it.

Mr P. PAPALIA: That is right. Instead of honestly confronting the issue and saying, "No, I lied during the elections, we're not going to do that" —

Mr T.R. Buswell: I never said we would build that.

Mr P. PAPALIA: — and getting on the record some degree of honesty, which would have been refreshing —

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: The member for Warnbro just stated directly to the house that I lied. I did not lie. In fact, the use of that terminology in this house has long been considered unparliamentary and I request that you ask him to withdraw it, as I will every single time he says it from now on.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P. Abetz): I ask the member for Warnbro to withdraw.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I withdraw.

Debate Resumed

Mr P. PAPALIA: The candidate for the Liberal Party of Western Australia undeniably lied at the last election. He lied in the form of a statement given to the *Southern Telegraph* during the election campaign, which was never refuted by the Liberal Party machine or by the Premier of the state, who would undoubtedly have been aware of it because he has all the staff and all the mechanisms of government.

Mr T.R. Buswell: No, you don't. In an election campaign you don't; you're in caretaker mode.

Mr P. PAPALIA: He had all the mechanisms of the very well funded Liberal Party of Western Australia to determine what his candidates were promising. In the event they were not aware, it is gross incompetence. But I do not believe that. I think the Liberal Party is incompetent in a lot of things it does, but in this case, when it came to running this campaign I will give Ben Morton the benefit of the doubt. I think he did all right, albeit with the huge amount of money he had. In no way do I believe the minister did not know this candidate made that commitment. I believe the Liberal Party of Western Australia lied to the people of the electorate of Warnbro —

Mr T.R. Buswell: You're reading it wrongly.

Mr P. PAPALIA: — in not only the *Southern Telegraph* but also on signs that were distributed at every single booth in the electorate for people to read as they approached their booth to vote. That is a fact. The Treasurer was unable to bring himself to acknowledge that and say that the Liberal Party of Western Australia lied to the people of the electorates of Warnbro and Mandurah. The fact that the minister is incapable of doing that in an upfront, honest fashion does not disturb me at all because I think that is standard practice. He has form in this arena and he has continued it.

The statement the Minister for Transport gave in response to the question of whether he would build this station to service the 50 000 to 60 000 residents lying between Warnbro and Mandurah stations is pretty weak, the minister must admit. His answer was —

The Liberal-led government has committed \$80 million to increase the number of stations on the Mandurah line by building the Aubin Grove station.

Mr T.R. Buswell: That's true.

Mr P. PAPALIA: It is extraordinary that he could not bring himself to say no.

Mr T.R. Buswell: It's true.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Why did the minister not say no?

Mr T.R. Buswell: Well, it's true.

Mr P. PAPALIA: He just said no in here.

Mr T.R. Buswell: That statement is entirely accurate.

Mr P. PAPALIA: It is and so is the observation that —

Mr D.A. Templeman: Answer the question now.

Mr T.R. Buswell: I just did.

Mr P. PAPALIA: He did; he said it in here.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Are you going to build a multi-level car park at Mandurah station?

Mr P. PAPALIA: That is an interesting question.

Mr T.R. Buswell: That's a very good point. We are definitely building one at Edgewater Station, and on the back of that we will be looking at building multi-level car parks at other stations.

Mr P. PAPALIA: When?

Mr T.R. Buswell: The other stations are yet to be determined.

Mr P. PAPALIA: When, in this term?

Mr T.R. Buswell: I couldn't say yet.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I doubt it.

Mr T.R. Buswell: You'll have to go to the market at Edgewater and see what happens. You didn't want to build any.

Mr P. PAPALIA: That is right; I do not think it is a good idea. I think the government should build more stations and it should build one south of Warnbro at Karnup.

Mr T.R. Buswell: You tell the people who use Mandurah Station you don't think it's a good idea.

Mr P. PAPALIA: The people from the northern part of the Mandurah electorate who use the Mandurah Station want a station halfway between Mandurah and Warnbro. What would be cheaper, just quietly?

Mr T.R. Buswell: It's cheaper to better utilise existing stations.

Mr P. PAPALIA: How much will that double-storey car park cost, roughly?

Mr T.R. Buswell: It's not as cheap as at-grade parking, let me assure you of that, but it's cheaper than building a new station.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Is it more than \$55 million?

Mr T.R. Buswell: No. But it's a lot cheaper than building a new station.

Mr P. PAPALIA: What about the rolling stock that the minister will add for the additional people who will use a double-storey car park?

Mr T.R. Buswell: We are already buying new rolling stock.

Mr P. PAPALIA: No; the additional stock the minister is getting are only to meet current demand. I do not think it is a good idea, but, notionally, if we build a double-storey car park, people who are currently not getting on the trains will be squashed onto trains. Therefore we need extra rolling stock. When we costed the \$55 million we included the additional rolling stock that would be required.

Mr T.R. Buswell: No, you didn't.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Yes we did.

Mr T.R. Buswell: No, you didn't. Take it from me and retract it quickly. You didn't include rolling stock. You didn't.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I will accept the minister's statement to the people of the seats of Warnbro and Mandurah—all those people who reside halfway between Rockingham and Mandurah—that he will not build a station and that his party told a blatant lie to the people of those electorates in the course of the election campaign and for which he has never apologised. I will take that and we will move on because I want to cover another failure of the minister's government and its lack of service provision for my electorate. Again, this is intentional deceit by the ministers. In the course of the election campaign, it was suggested to the people—I do not think they bought this one; they might have bought the one about the train station but they certainly did not buy this one—that they did not need a police station halfway between Rockingham and Mandurah. That was the line of the Liberal Party and the Barnett government, which it adopted only in about March 2009. Prior to that, it conceded that there was a requirement for a police station at Secret Harbour but decided to break that commitment in about March 2009. The Liberal Party kept this line. People attended the public meetings calling for a police station and a greater police presence between the two police hubs. The Commissioner of Police and senior police officers suggested to the large public forum at Rockingham, which the member for Mandurah and I attended, that it was not necessary. Their statistics suggested that the people who desperately wanted a greater police presence between those two police hubs were wrong. No-one at those meetings bought it. They did not agree because their lived experience did not align with the sales pitch coming from the Minister for Police's office. We had one police minister and then another but they had the same sales pitch. The other night when a motion was moved against the Barnett government on the grounds of its failure to provide proper policing to Western Australia, it was suggested by the minister at the time that the people who need what the minister calls "modern policing", which is when a police car drives through a suburb at some time, reside only in Labor electorates and that the people who deserve old-fashioned policing in the form of police stations and a police presence reside in the leafy green western suburbs of Perth. We know that because the \$10 million to build the police station at Secret Harbour that was assigned in the 2008–09 budget went to the Premier's electorate at Cottesloe.

Mr T.R. Buswell: Where was it spent?

Mr P. PAPALIA: That is where it went.

Mr T.R. Buswell: No money was spent there. Was that a true statement? Is that a true statement? That statement is not true.

Mr P. PAPALIA: In the same month that the cancellation of the Secret Harbour Police Station was announced, the announcement of the police station in the electorate of Cottesloe was made. Where is the money? It is gone. It was used elsewhere—in the Premier's electorate.

Mr T.R. Buswell: No it wasn't. That's not true. You have to deal in facts. You can't just make stuff up.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Why is the citizenry in the electorate of Cottesloe being afforded only second-rate 1950s policing? That is what I asked the other night then the Treasurer was not here.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr P. PAPALIA: I have been asked to speak for the full time, and I will fulfil my commitment to the government Whip.

I still am unable to comprehend the government's argument it made the other night when the Minister for Police was redefining her commitment to the people of Ballajura on the 24/7 police station the Liberal Party promised. In her attempt to redefine the promise, the minister indicated that modern policing does not need police stations.

My response to that claim then is that we need another hub between the Mandurah and Rockingham police hubs. If we do not need a police station, we need another hub. We do not want to settle for modern policing in the form the minister claims, which is drive-by policing by a couple of coppers in a police car; we want a police hub because there are 50 000 or 60 000 people who deserve a proper police presence residing in the southern and eastern suburbs of Warnbro, Port Kennedy, Secret Harbour, Golden Bay, Singleton, Baldivis, Karnup, Madora Bay and Lakelands. Those people deserve proper policing. Even if the minister thinks that is old-fashioned, that is what we think they deserve.

Mr T.R. Buswell: What is the definition of “proper policing”?

Mr P. PAPALIA: It is a police presence in the form of a hub. The geographic distances between those two police hubs is too large and the population is too great for them to be properly serviced from those two police hubs. There is no denying it. As I said, it does not matter how many stats are rolled out or how many senior police officers the government asks to try to convince people, because the people do not believe them. They are witnessing what we witnessed last Friday. They are witnessing things like the bashing of a 14-year-old boy in Secret Harbour. Last Friday, a young fella was bashed by an adult and left there. That is not the only incident, but that is a very disturbing incident that I have heard of as recently as Friday, post the election. Before that, on the weekend of 23 and 24 March, a young father walking home from the Whistling Kite in Secret Harbour was bashed, this time by a group of youths. They bashed him with pipes and bats and left him for dead in the park. The police at Mandurah have placed requests for information about that in the local papers. My argument, and that of the people who are supporting the call for the Barnett government to provide a proper policing presence between the Rockingham and Mandurah hubs, is that the people deserve a police hub that is located midway between Rockingham and Mandurah. We do not expect the police to sit there and answer the telephones on the front desk because we understand the argument that they should be on the streets, but when they leave the hub, they leave from a location. They drive out and then drive back. That provides presence. Going to and from work provides presence. The knowledge and awareness that the police station is there provides a deterrent. If members want to know whether that is proven by the experience of the people living in the area, they need look no further than a report in the local *Sound Telegraph* on 1 April of taxidriviers in Rockingham not wanting to go to the southern suburbs of Rockingham because they are getting rocks thrown at them. During the election campaign, I went to the electorate of Pilbara and was made aware that this was also occurring in South Hedland. It was drawn to my attention that taxidriviers were refusing to go to South Hedland because of the same threat. The same thing is happening in Port Kennedy and Warnbro. It is reported that taxidriviers fear going into those areas because people —

Mr T.R. Buswell: Is there a police station in South Hedland?

Mr P. PAPALIA: There are other issues there.

Mr T.R. Buswell: Hang on. There is no police station in your electorate and they will not go there, but there is a police station in South Hedland.

Mr P. PAPALIA: They can ask the police officers to go—they have someone to talk to —

Mr T.R. Buswell: You just shot yourself in the foot.

Mr P. PAPALIA: No, I did not.

Mr T.R. Buswell: There is a police station in South Hedland but the taxidriviers will not go there because they are getting rocks thrown at them.

Mr P. PAPALIA: They were, but the police responded. The problem with Warnbro and Port Kennedy is that the police officers in Rockingham are so overwhelmed, under-resourced and understaffed as a consequence of the government’s inability to provide proper resourcing, or balance the budget, I might add, that they are incapable of addressing this. This is not an issue that has just occurred. When it occurs in South Hedland, they do something about it. They have coppers—the Treasurer knows that there are a lot of police in South Hedland —

Mr T.R. Buswell: Why are the taxidriviers not going there?

Mr P. PAPALIA: They are now. This was some months ago.

Mr T.R. Buswell: I am glad you clarified that.

Mr P. PAPALIA: But in Warnbro and Port Kennedy there are no coppers to come to the rescue because they are up in the Rockingham hub and down in the Mandurah hub. They are overworked and there are inadequate numbers to respond in an appropriate fashion.

The Treasurer can treat this as a joke. The Treasurer can, and regularly does, treat the concerns raised by the opposition as a joke. The Treasurer’s strength is his ability to make a joke of things. The problem is that it is not a great strength for a Treasurer or for anyone who purports to be a responsible manager of funds for the state on behalf of all the taxpayers of Western Australia. Over time, it gets old and tired. Yes, the Treasurer can elicit a

giggle from the monkeys on the back bench during question time by throwing around toilet paper and making silly comments, but over time it gets old. When we raise serious issues, I would prefer a response beyond primary school debating techniques. I would prefer the Treasurer to respond by telling me what he will do about it.

Mr T.R. Buswell: But you just destroyed your own argument.

Mr P. PAPALIA: What is the Treasurer's argument for not placing a police hub to service the 50 000 or 60 000 people who reside halfway between the Mandurah and Rockingham hubs?

Mr T.R. Buswell: Is your argument that the issues are about resource levels, or a building? Because it seems to me that it's about resource levels.

Mr P. PAPALIA: As I have said, you do not resource the police service adequately, and beyond that there is a strategic decision required on behalf of government. The government's defence, which has been trotted out on numerous occasions over the last four and a half years, and frequently during the election campaign, was that it was an operational decision that the government could not involve itself with. That argument was used consistently in the electorate of West Swan. That is the argument that was used to shut the police station in Ballajura in the early days of the Barnett government's first term. The government told the member for West Swan that her constituents did not require a police station because it had been told by the police commissioner and his senior officers that it was not necessary, and that that was an operational decision, so the government could not involve itself with that decision. Then, for several years after that decision, the message was reinforced to the people of Ballajura that they did not require a police station because that decision had been made by senior police, and it was an operational decision that the Barnett state government could not involve itself with. That continued right up until the death knell; right up until two weeks before the last election at which time, miraculously, the operational decision must have changed. After all those years of informing the people of Ballajura that they did not need a police station because the police had made a decision and the Barnett state government could not involve itself in that decision, suddenly it was okay, and it suddenly was recognised that there was a need for not just any police station, but a 24/7 police station—a police station that was open 24 hours, seven days a week. Who then came to the electorate of West Swan to assist the Liberal Party candidate to announce that commitment? None other than the leader of the Liberal Party, the Premier of the state, Hon Colin Barnett. Clearly, the government had determined that it actually could involve itself in decisions about where police stations went. It could make those decisions, it could change police assessment, and it could make a commitment to the people of Ballajura that they would get a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week police station, despite having told them for four years that one was not required.

That commitment was made in Ballajura; one can only wonder why the same commitment could not be made to the people residing in the southern and eastern suburbs of Rockingham and the northern suburbs of Mandurah. It is nothing to do with population; that area definitely has a larger population than Ballajura. It is not to do with lack of incidents; we have had ATM bombings, service station robberies, multiple assaults, out-of-control parties, young people being bashed, fathers being bashed—we have had all manner of incidents, many of which have occurred post the election, so it is not for lack of evidence or demand from the local population. The people of the electorates of Warnbro and Mandurah have been asking for this just as much as have the people of Ballajura. They have consistently attended public meetings at all hours of the day; they have travelled distances to meet with the police commissioner and the new police minister. During the election campaign the police minister visited the electorate of Rockingham and invited resident association representatives to meet with her, and some of them did. She assured them that they had her empathy and her sympathy, but they did not have any action from her, because she did not believe it was required, so it has nothing to do with that. There is no reason for not providing a police hub halfway between the Rockingham and Mandurah areas, other than that the Barnett government just does not care; it could not be bothered. It does not want to provide a proper police presence to service the significant population of the area halfway between Rockingham and Mandurah. It could not be bothered; it has other priorities.

I am a bit fearful following the member for Cockburn's recent contribution and his observations about the hub in Cockburn; it sounds as though the poor old member for Jandakot might experience the same outcome. It sounds like he got a sign.

Mr T.R. Buswell: He's getting a train station.

Mr P. PAPALIA: He has a train station; that is true. One has to concede that he —

Mr T.R. Buswell: He's a quality member.

Mr P. PAPALIA: At least the Treasurer told the truth then; that was nice. But he could not find it within his heart during the election campaign to tell the truth about why he would not prioritise a police station, and he certainly did not tell the truth about the commitment the Liberal Party made via its candidate, on multiple occasions and on election day, for a train station at Karnup. He could not find it within his heart to tell the truth

about that one. I found it extraordinary that he was incapable of even responding with a straight answer when asked about it today in the upper house.

MR J. NORBERGER (Joondalup) [7.55 pm]: I rise this evening to speak in support of the Supply Bill 2013. As the newly elected member for Joondalup, I must say it is not difficult to look around my lovely electorate and see many great examples of this state government's wise and prudent investment in infrastructure and services, and I would like to share a couple of them tonight.

Joondalup Health Campus is a shining example, I believe, of this government's commitment to the complete rebuilding of the state's health system. Some \$393 million has been invested by the state government into that hospital. It is a key hospital for the northern metropolitan region, it is a very busy hospital, and it is an outstanding hospital. This latest investment has seen the addition of operating theatres and extra beds, bringing the total number of beds at Joondalup Health Campus to 650, which means that the hospital will be the second largest hospital in the state. We have also just added a clinical school in conjunction with Curtin University, Edith Cowan University and the University of Western Australia, which will really boost medical education and training for those universities by being directly attached, if you like, to a first-rate hospital. Also in the first stage of that redevelopment, a new emergency department was opened—an outstanding facility. One of its standout features is that it actually has a dedicated paediatric emergency department with a separate waiting area for people with their young kids. I can attest to how good it is; I have had to use it with my newborn, and it is quite fantastic. If one has to present to an emergency department with a young child, which is a bit stressful at the best of times, to be able to go into a separate and secure area and be seen in a specialist paediatric ED is outstanding.

I come from a family of nurses; my mum and my sister are both nurses, and my mum has had the pleasure of working at Joondalup—even before it was called Joondalup Health Campus, when it was still Wanneroo Hospital—from 1983 to 2010. Prior to this latest investment by our government, which resulted in the new emergency department being opened, the previous emergency department dated back to 1997, so it went for well over 15 years before getting a major upgrade. I can tell members that it was much needed, and it is now just an outstanding facility.

If we have a look at this government's commitment to sport and recreational facilities, it certainly highlights the value that we as a government place on the benefits that such organisations and facilities bring to the fabric of society. I was delighted to be able to secure a commitment of more than \$20 million to boost the facilities at Arena Joondalup, which will see dedicated facilities and clubrooms added for the West Perth Football Club, which is a fantastic outcome for the club; 10 more netball courts; and a new home for the Wanneroo Wolves Basketball Association; its current facilities, which it has been in for quite some time, are well and truly ageing and beyond their use-by date. It is great that our government was able to consider its future needs, and we are now in the process of securing a new home for the association at the arena. We are also working to construct a second rugby pitch there, which is also critically important to some fantastic sports clubs, including the Joondalup Brothers rugby union club. But it is not just the big sporting projects that are happening in Joondalup. There are also many smaller projects that show that the government cares right down to the grassroots level. One example is the Prince Regent Park lighting upgrades in Heathridge, which will directly benefit the local soccer club.

Transport infrastructure is an important matter throughout Perth, and especially in Joondalup. The government is investing over \$300 million to widen and extend the Mitchell Freeway. I believe that is a direct recognition of the rapid growth taking place in the northern corridor. The growth we are experiencing in the City of Wanneroo, the City of Joondalup and beyond is phenomenal, and it is great to see more people making that area their home. The government is investing in infrastructure to make sure we support that growth.

With the widening and extension of the Mitchell Freeway, at least \$30 million is being spent on adding a third lane to the freeway from Hepburn Avenue to Hodges Drive, which goes through the heart of my electorate. People in my electorate are very excited about this project and they are looking forward to its completion later in the year. Last week, I was privileged to meet with Main Roads and the contractor performing that work. The progress of that work is outstanding, despite the wet weather that has hampered the bitumen laying. Although those works are causing short-term pain, freeway users can see that the benefits are just around the corner, and we are all looking forward to that.

The Mitchell Freeway extension community working group is working closely with the community on the extension of the freeway from Burns Beach to Hester Avenue, with other options being considered to take that work further. This is a great investment and is needed because growth in this area is phenomenal. I am deeply involved in this matter and I am the deputy chair of that working group.

The impending commencement of the delivery of more rail carriages at the end of this year is definitely a sign of the government's support for increased public transport use. The government recognises that more people are using public transport, and it is fantastic. It means cars are being taken off the roads. A key to success in this area will be the growth of supporting infrastructure, such as parking at train stations and bus connections. During the

election campaign I fought very hard on the issue of the need for more parking and bus connections. Edgewater train station is a key train station in my electorate. It is currently used predominantly by people who drive to it, park their cars and then transit into the city. At present it does not have any public transport connections, but that is something I am pushing for. The car park facilities at Edgewater train station are already at capacity, and beyond. In fact, when I started campaigning in March last year it was not uncommon to find people parking in the surrounding suburbs, on verges and even in surrounding business car parks. It has got to the point now that cars are being clamped.

The then local member did not see fit to do anything major about this matter. However, I started to ask the community what they wanted. I also spoke to the Minister for Transport, and I thank him for the attention and overwhelming support I received from him for the development of a multistorey car park at Edgewater, which is a key addition. If there are to be additional trains, which are desperately needed, and we want more people to travel by train, it is no good if people cannot get to the train station to catch them. Interestingly, I received no support whatsoever for that idea from the then member for Joondalup. His idea at the time was that everyone should catch a bus to the train station.

Do not get me wrong, I am all for having bus connections to train stations, but we cannot be so short-sighted as to think that every person will jump on a bus to get to a train station. A lot of people want the freedom to take their vehicle to a train station, park it and go into the city. There are numerous examples of where public transport would be insufficient in this case. If people come from the city to the train station and want to go to the shops before going home, they need their cars. Some people like the security of having their own cars. Some people may want to go from the station to friends' houses, and so on. There will always be a need for people to take their cars to train stations. So I am delighted that through demonstrating to the minister the great desire and need for that I was able to get a commitment from the government to build a 1 000-bay, multistorey car park at Edgewater train station. It has been extremely well received by the community and is something I am looking forward to working towards implementing with the government over the coming years. Having said that, I agree with it and will be helping to promote the integration of bus services at train stations to give people a choice.

In wrapping up, I want to express my dire concern, and echo the concerns expressed by many government members and the Premier, about the continuing decline of GST funds allocated to WA. I commend the Premier for being a strong voice for the state in this area. I am a staunch federalist and I am concerned about the ever-increasing desire of the federal government to control or administer areas of service delivery rightly belonging to the state government. Again, I am glad this side of the house is standing up for Western Australia and what is fair for all.

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I support this bill.

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [8.06 pm]: I rise to support the Supply Bill 2013. I recognise that it effectively enables the transfer of some \$8 billion from the consolidated account. The application of those funds will be manifold; they will be used for all kinds of things, but one of the most important things they will do is help support the fabric of our community and society. Indeed, one of the most fulfilling roles members of Parliament play is in building communities. We can actively help nurture and instil confidence in our communities by working with community leaders, to help them realise we live in a good, democratic society that enables them to express a view and bring about the changes they see as necessary.

One of first areas that I turn to when working with the community is sporting clubs, and I begin by paying tribute to a few of the sporting clubs in my community. I mention, firstly, the Thornlie Swimming Club. This club has had enormous success over the years, but in more recent times its membership has declined. It has experienced problems because Thornlie Leisure World has a 25-metre pool only, and a 50-metre pool is really needed for a good, thriving swimming club. There are other reasons for the decline in membership, one of which is the ageing population in the area that has contributed to a decrease in the membership, but I believe that will rebound.

One of the observations I make when I visit the Thornlie junior swimming club, or any of the clubs in my electorate, is the difficulty of ensuring a volunteer support base. There are many wonderful volunteers in our community. Indeed, I have heard many members extoll the virtues of the volunteers active in their communities. But it does appear, and perhaps especially in youth-related sport and activities, that it is often difficult for parents and carers to be convinced that they will not be taking the world on their shoulders if they put their names forward to volunteer. People need to be confident that if they make a contribution, it will not involve taking on onerous tasks and that there is no need for them to be overburdened.

Before I finish talking about the Thornlie junior swimming club, I want to acknowledge the fantastic work of its president, Peter Anderson. At the trophy night recently, Peter made a point of saying that he will be stepping down from that position. He has been involved in this club for many years. His children were there 20 years ago, but it is time for him to pass on the baton to someone else. For the start of the next season, he has put the word out there that he hopes that somebody younger and with children going through the club will put up his or her hand, but I acknowledge the fantastic work that Peter has done; it has been a really sterling contribution.

Turning to a community sporting group that accommodates people who are a bit elder of year—some of whom are seniors—I refer to the Gosnells Croquet Club, which is a fantastic club with the most beautiful clubrooms and a great atmosphere. It is on the lookout for new members as well. I acknowledge the work of its president, Peter James; its vice-president, Tony Smith; its secretary, Liz Winstanley; and Maggie Cussell, its social secretary. They all do a fantastic job in promoting the noble sport of croquet and all the fun that goes with it, and the sometimes very devious tactics that are involved; it is always entertaining to be there. Again, I know the club is keen for new members. These sporting groups form the fabric of our society and provide opportunities for people to not only be active in the community, but also actually play a part in the tradition of the area. I will give an example. We have many clubs that have a long history in our area. Indeed, the Gosnells Football Club is well over 100 years old, and I was recently at the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Gosnells Bowling Club.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.M. Britza): I ask members to quieten down; we are struggling to hear. Thank you.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: I want to acknowledge the role of the Gosnells Bowling Club; that is, the excellent work done by its president, Maurice Crabb, and his charming wife, Anne; its vice-president, Peter Charkiewicz; its secretary, Albert Pedrotti, who has managed so well corporate bowls events over a number of years; and Lesley Smirk, who has looked after the catering at the bowling club and done a fantastic job. Then there is the role of sponsorship. Gordon Bradford has helped by bringing in many local businesses to be sponsors. By bringing local businesses into a social sporting context, it thereby strengthens the community bond so that people are more inclined to shop locally and enjoy the benefits of having that more direct relationship with local businesses. I want to acknowledge that it is now Rob Gibbons who is the sponsorship officer of the club.

Recently I was at the ladies' gala bowling day and noted the fantastic work of Annette Sheridan. There is much good work that goes on in our local clubs. At the seventy-fifth anniversary of the bowling club, I was able to present a photo of the original clubrooms, a room known as the "Bough Shed". I would like to acknowledge Rosemary McKay in helping me come up with this very old important photo and having it framed and presented to the club.

Sporting clubs are just one aspect of the fabric of our community, but another aspect is the concerned citizen who sees a problem and actually says, "Well, I want to do something about this." One such example is Tony Alexandrou, a constituent of mine who lives in Gosnells. He came to me saying, "Look, we have a rapidly transitioning community here; it has gone from being one where there was even a question mark about the enrolments at the local primary school to one where we are now seeing more young people move in." There is a cycle of rejuvenation that we see in many suburbs; there is affordable housing in Gosnells that is very well connected to many transport linkages, whether we are talking about the Tonkin, Roe or Albany Highways or the Gosnells or Seaforth train stations. Those transport linkages are valuable to people, and if they are having to weigh up the alternative of moving to the far-flung suburbs, the new areas where people can get those house-and-land packages at a relatively cheap price, or the option of buying an older house in an older suburb and renovating in Gosnells, many people are choosing that rejuvenating option. Tony Alexandrou came to me, saying that he could really see how our suburb was poised to take off—maybe not in the next five years, but in the next 10 or 15 years—but that we had to do something about crime. There is the wish for the social fabric of our society to be stronger, but people's confidence is undermined by the problem of crime. As solid an effort as those police officers at the Gosnells Police Station put in, it still is a concern for people that we have drug houses in Hicks Street and that a derelict house was burnt out but not razed to the ground. I should point out that the house is still presenting a danger to people because there is a whole legal process that has to be gone through before this dreadful building can be razed to the ground. Those matters undermine the social fabric of the community; it makes people lose confidence in our society. It makes them ask, "Well, what is going on here when the City of Gosnells, the local member of state parliament and the federal government cannot act on these problems and blights of our society? What is going on?" Those matters undermine confidence and start to eat away at the fabric of our society and that is unfair. But Tony Alexandrou has come to me saying, "Look, we can at least do something about the hooning; that is, can we slow down the speed at which people travel along Hicks Street? Can we see about getting some speed humps in?" That sort of thing is an excellent way of engaging the local community towards a solution. I am not sure whether we will get those speed humps that he has so well identified as being necessary, but on this point Tony is helping me to put together a petition that will go to the City of Gosnells. We may not get them, but at least the community would have been brought together on this point by focusing on getting to a solution eventually, which is a positive step forward.

Much of the community fabric can be nurtured and helped along by ensuring that the planning processes that we have are really working and are viable—that they engage people and immediately tell them that their views are valued. It really disappoints me when I tell people, "Look, there is a potential for a big development to go in here." We have such an area of some 500 hectares of land in the Gosnells electorate that is potentially a huge development that will eventually include many thousands of dwellings. It is owned by the Della Vedova family and is known as the Della Vedova land; I wish them well in its development. However, it concerns me when I

say to people, “Look, we are in the very early stages of hearing about this development. If you have particular wishes, requests or views on how this land should be developed, make those views known now.” Sometimes I get the response from people, “Well, no-one is interested in our view. People don’t care what we think.” We must turn that around. We are interested. We must use those bits of precious advice that come from the community. We have to let it be known that the community’s views are valuable—that it has a legitimate role in helping shape major developments that will change our community quite dramatically. That sort of thing is very important.

I have had a range of requests about the Della Vedova land concerning how that huge area will be developed. One school of thought is that we should make sure the land is developed, but we retain the wetland areas so that we keep the character of the area. Another school of thought is that this area has been used in part as farmland, and we should use that as part of the character as well—namely, by keeping a working farm there so people can actually see where livestock are grazed and what goes on around that.

Other people with a more urban view of things are saying, “Well, what about a retail shopping mall precinct somewhere? What about sporting facilities? What about health care?” We need to make sure all those things are incorporated in this major development. All the points raised are perfectly legitimate. They are all things that the developers could enrich their community consultation process with, and by which improve the quality of their development. There is always a risk in a developer’s mind that there will be some public backlash or concern about a development, but if developers are seen to be consulting from the outset and really taking on board community suggestions, that will go a long way towards allaying those concerns and getting the community on board.

Another development that I would love to see is the rejuvenation and improvement of an area in Gosnells known as Lissiman Street. I have spoken about this before. However, I want to say that community consultation about a blighted area right in the heart of your town centre is not a matter of sending letters out to people who live within a 100-metre circle of the development site. The community consultation has to be much broader than that. From what I have heard so far, people want to see retail, town houses and office space there. I would even like to have my office in that area, but, unfortunately, there is no office space available, even in the general precinct. As the member for Gosnells, I would love to have my office in the Gosnells town centre. There is a diversity of requests. Other people say that they would like to see laundromats and things of a practical nature; nevertheless, they are the essential services and businesses that people would like to see in a local community. The businesses that are there could thrive. They could be boosted by such a development. I have talked to people such as the owners of Lanes Lunchbar, Ken and Jasmine, who are poised to build their business, but it needs strong private sector investment nearby. We cannot have private landowners not developing their properties; that is no good at all. We must make sure that all property owners move things along in the right direction. We cannot have some private landholders holding us back. At the same time, we need local government to be active, and a promised improvement plan has to be delivered. The state government support has to be there to make sure that it is a thorough community consultation process.

I recently had the pleasure of visiting the Save the Children Australia organisation’s headquarters at the Gosnells Community Lotteries House, from where it runs the It Takes a Village program. I visited the Save the Children organisation with the federal Minister for Sport, Multicultural Affairs, Kate Lundy. It was striking to us how, based on our view of things in Gosnells, Australian society has moved on from the notion of Australia being a tolerant society. For a very long time we were very proud to say that Australia is a tolerant country. We have moved beyond that to say that Australia is actually a country that can embrace other cultures. This is why days and weeks such as Harmony Day are important. We recognise the contributions that people from all sorts of cultures make, and we come together and form a harmonious society. An interesting parallel can be made with music; different notes of music can come together to form a beautiful harmony. Layer upon layer, we can build the fabric of our society and it can be a harmonious multicultural one. That is certainly evident in Gosnells.

Turning to the work of the It Takes a Village program, I heard some of the stories of refugees. I heard the story of a family from Burundi, which suffered greatly with a civil war. I heard about the trauma that people had left behind them. But then they were thrust into the south eastern suburbs of Perth, and faced the isolation and lack of English skills that might go with it. It is very frightening that their trauma can be exacerbated by our best intentions. But, fortunately, a program such as It Takes a Village gives them social infrastructure and an opportunity to mix and go beyond the isolation that they might initially feel. I think that is vitally important.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: I will quickly touch on the issue of rail line extensions in the south eastern suburbs. Labor campaigned strongly on this issue in the election campaign and had a solid commitment to extend the line from Thornlie to the Mandurah line. We had that budgeted. In fact, our costings were higher than those that the government provided. I think the government suggested that it would be a \$240 million extension, whereas our costings came in at \$280 million. It is something that the community desperately wants and really needs. It is the

only successful way before us to avoid the traffic congestion problems that plague us so much. I know that the member for Southern River supports me in this matter. I am sure that he is disappointed to hear his federal colleagues say that there will be no federal funding of public rail transport. That is a sad reflection on them. It just makes it ever more important that we have a federal Labor government that can provide funding for rail infrastructure in the south eastern suburbs. Public rail transport right across Australia should be funded by all levels of government. I think it is deeply disappointing that those in the federal opposition do not believe that. They talk about sticking to the knitting; they feel that that is just about funding road transport. Why would they make that distinction? With the problems that road transport is facing, it just does not make sense.

I want to turn to the economic indicators that we use. When I watched *Q&A* last night, I heard Clive Palmer talk about the use of the gross national product. There was something about his comments that reminded me of a very famous speech given by Robert Francis Kennedy. If I may, I will quote Bobby Kennedy. In 1968, some 45 years ago, he said —

Too much and too long, we seem to have surrendered community excellence and community values in the mere accumulation of material things. Our gross national product ... if we should judge America by that—counts air pollution and cigarette advertising, and ambulances to clear our highways of carnage. It counts special locks for our doors and the jails for those who break them. It counts the destruction of our redwoods and the loss of our natural wonder in chaotic sprawl. It counts napalm and the cost of a nuclear warhead, and armored cars for police who fight riots in our streets. It counts Whitman's rifle and Speck's knife, and the television programs which glorify violence in order to sell toys to our children.

Yet the gross national product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education, or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages; the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials. It measures neither our wit nor our courage; neither our wisdom nor our learning; neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country; it measures everything, in short, except that which makes life worthwhile. And it tells us everything about America except why we are proud that we are Americans.

Robert Francis Kennedy was speaking at the University of Kansas in March 1968. It strikes me that when it comes to matters of economics, acknowledging that the Supply Bill is at the heart of our economy in Western Australia in many ways, we too often forget about looking at the real values of our society. We need economic, social and environmental indicators that go beyond those that are so often used to measure the progress of our society. Indeed, I think there is some fascinating work going on in this area, and there has been for a number of years. No doubt Bobby Kennedy's speech set many good minds thinking on this point.

I have looked at some of the latest information coming out of the United Kingdom on this issue. The UK Sustainable Development Commission has put out a report called "Prosperity without growth?" This commission is the UK's independent adviser on sustainable development. Its Economics Commissioner, Professor Tim Jackson, who wrote the foreword to its report, made some really important points. He states —

The global economy is almost five times the size it was half a century ago. If it continues to grow at the same rate the economy will be 80 times that size by the year 2100.

... ramping up of global economic activity has no historical precedent. It's totally at odds with our scientific knowledge of the finite resource base and the fragile ecology on which we depend for survival.

There is much reason for us to look towards not only other indicators, but also other ways of structuring our society, recognising the finite nature of our resources. We need to switch to a society that is built on prosperity—a society that has a lasting prosperity. That is where much of the thinking now is going—making sure that we are a prosperous society, but a society that is based on lasting prosperity.

Professor Jackson says also —

It resides in the quality of our lives and the health and happiness of our families. It is present in the strength of our relationships and our trust in the community. It is evidenced by our satisfaction at work and our sense of shared meaning and purpose. It hangs on our potential to participate fully in the life of society.

This gets back to the point with which I began my speech. It gets back to the fabric of our society and our communities. It gets back to the social groups, the sporting groups, the seniors groups and the school P&Cs—all the groups that make up the fabric of our society—and making sure that they are strong. That is where true satisfaction comes from in our lives. That is from where we get the richness of our life's experiences.

The report makes some other points about economic growth. It states —

Economic growth is supposed to deliver prosperity. Higher incomes should mean better choices, richer lives, an improved quality of life for us all.

But in reality, has it done that? Growth has delivered its benefits, but very unequally. The report states also —

A fifth of the world's population earns just 2% per cent of global income. Inequality is higher in the OECD nations than it was 20 years ago.

The report states also —

Wealth trickled up to the lucky few.

We have heard a lot about the Milton Friedman view of trickle-down economics. But in reality it seems that wealth has trickled up to a precious few.

The report presents some solutions to building a sustainable economy. One solution is protecting the capabilities that we have and ensuring that they flourish. Another solution is tackling systemic inequality. That is something that I do not think we talk about enough in Western Australia. We do have great wealth in this state. But how well do we distribute that wealth? That is one of the key things that we need to look at. That is where something like this Supply Bill should be considered as a means of ensuring that redistribution of wealth does take place.

The report looks also at certain indicators. One indicator that I want to conclude on in this contribution to the debate on the Supply Bill is greenhouse gas emissions. It is important to note that in the last few days, we have seen global atmospheric carbon dioxide levels exceed the level of 400 parts per million. That is a point that we have been approaching. But we have now exceeded the level of 400 parts per million, when we have not seen that level for about three million years. It is a global problem. We all know that. It is something that each nation is called upon to do its bit for. Naturally, wealthier countries should be doing more than the less developed countries; naturally, that is the case. At our state level, what are we doing with our emissions? What are we doing in anticipation of the problems that will beset us with the further onset of climate change? The traditional wisdom in this Parliament at a state government level has been that greenhouse gas mitigation—reducing greenhouse gas emissions—is something that we can leave to the federal government, but adaptation is something that we can perhaps do at our state level. But I do not see much activity on that front in this state at the moment from our current state government. Our agricultural sector will be seriously damaged and already is suffering the consequences of climate variability and climate change. Our urban environment may be greatly impacted upon. There are obviously also impacts on coastal communities with even the slightest sea level rise and the overlaying of a greater intensity of storms and greater frequency of storms. The drying climate may also lead to the drying out of whole suburbs and the dewatering of our groundwater areas such that we get subsidence and structural cracking in buildings. There is a whole host of problems there. There is also our natural environment. Even if we take an anthropocentric view of things, it is the case that our fisheries are shifting as climate bands and climate patterns shift. Our jarrah forests are not regenerating at the same rate as they once did. The future of the whole forestry industry is hanging in the balance.

We clearly need a climate change policy that this Parliament can seriously implement. That policy may well be based largely around adaptation. But my concern is that in Western Australia, that is not happening. I hear that the climate change unit within the Department of Environment and Conservation is barely staffed. I recognise that a restructuring is going on, but I think there might be only one full-time equivalent officer in that unit. I will wait for the Minister for Environment to clarify that for me some time, perhaps by way of questions on notice. Nevertheless, we need action on this front, because there are so many spheres of our economy and our quality of life that depend upon us making sure that the climate pattern that we have grown to enjoy is ongoing and not one that changes dramatically.

I support the Supply Bill, and I hope that the issues that I have raised will be treated with all due seriousness by this government.

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston) [8.36 pm]: I rise firstly to put on the record some concerns about the Supply Bill and about the funding and the way in which it will be applied over the next year or so. That is the case especially when we talk about forward estimates and when we have a Premier who has said that forward estimates are not to be believed; they are only what they are—forward estimates. Therefore, as we go into the budget process, and as we work through that process when the budget is tabled, how can we believe the government when the Premier himself has said that forward estimates are not to be believed? That is something that I think is detrimental to the Parliament and detrimental to good government, because we need to look at more than just one year at a time. We need an extension of time and some understanding of where money is going to be spent into the future. So, the Premier has some explaining to do. Anyone who wishes to look up *Hansard* will find very quickly where, only a short time ago, the Premier made the very bold statement that we should not believe what he puts in the forward estimates.

Mr J.H.D. Day: He did not quite say that.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: It is not only the Premier; can any minister here be believed on the forward estimates?

Mr D.T. Redman: Absolutely.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: How can they, when the Premier says do not believe them? He is supposed to be their leader—but maybe not the National Party; maybe we will believe them for 10 minutes or so, but no more.

Mr D.T. Redman: Give us 15, member!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: All right—15, but by that time they will be asleep. What I am concerned about is what the ministers are going to put in this budget in direct funding, and then in the forward estimates. We have seen now that things are very tight within the budget estimates. On the floor here, the Treasurer said that. He said that things are going to have to change and that the government will have to do some more work, and he has put out letters to each of his ministers saying that he will tighten up the system.

Mr T.R. Buswell: When did I say that?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I do not have a problem with that, Treasurer. What I do have a problem with is whether anything that is put into this place and tabled is going to be honoured. That is where I have a problem, and that is why I am bringing that up now. We are talking about supply agreements. Yes, of course this side of the house is not going to block supply—firstly, because we do not have the numbers, and, secondly, because I do not think it will do any favours to any government to block supply, as we saw quite some years back in the federal government.

I am talking today to make people aware that everything that we read may not be true. It may be just a furphy. It may be just something that has been pulled out of a hat and put in there to shut the punters up for another week. We have seen that happen with the election promises already, with this pull back, where we are not sure on what date things are going to start. We saw that in question time today. It was very obvious that there are some major, major structural problems in the finances of this government. Yes, the government will go back to WA Inc. Most of the people in Western Australia who vote now were not born when that problem happened, yet the government still harps on it.

Mr A.P. Jacob: I was around!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Yes, there is one over there, but only just—the member might still have had his nappy on!

What I can say is that we do have problems with this government. One of those problems relates to policing. I brushed on this the other week but I feel we have to talk about it again. There has been some commentary from the Commissioner of Police during this week and last. It is something that concerns me immensely. I think he is doing his job and protecting the vulnerable police minister. He has been out there saying, “We can’t blame the minister; we can’t blame the police department. What we’ve got to blame is the system.” To some degree I think he is right, but it is not his job to be the social welfare commissioner of WA. His job is to be a police commissioner. In his wisdom he said, “I’m not going to police certain areas in which the laws have been made and enacted in this Parliament.” Who is really running this state? Is the Commissioner of Police running the state or is the minister and the ministerial group making the laws and the government making the laws running the state? Is a police commissioner or a health commissioner running the state? I would like to hear that answer.

The way I see it the Minister for Police has become a rubberstamp for the police commissioner. He has made that very clear. He said, “There are areas that I’m not going to police.” I have a real concern when he makes statements like that. Is piddling in the street one of those areas that he is not going to police? It is not going to hurt anyone. It is obnoxious, rude and everything else, but is he going to police that? Are we not going to worry about brake lights on cars, as he said in the press? If someone puts their brakes on while driving down the Kwinana Freeway—if drivers can go fast enough!—but there are no brake lights and there is a nose-to-tail accident that causes \$1 million damage to cars, what are the important things? Let us be realistic; there could be a 15 to 20-car pile-up in the making on this highway, but who will make the decision to police what? Will it be the commissioner or will it be Parliament? We make the laws but we have a Commissioner of Police who is not going to act on them. If that is the case, it is a pointless exercise being in Parliament. I am sure some of the newer members of Parliament will be amazed that we have a commissioner saying, “I’m not going to police that.” It is a long way down the road towards saying that we will just have commissioners and no Parliament. Members would believe me if they read what he says every time. My view is that if he spent less time playing Hollywood George and writing to the papers and got on with his bloody job, he would be far better off. I know what he does when the heat comes on—he gets on his motorbike and goes for a ride into the desert, and he calls it a fundraising ride! That is not good enough for any government leader at the top of the tree. There are jobs to be done out there. I am so hot on this because of what I see in country towns and in the city. There are enough members around here to understand. We heard it from the group over there about the problems in their electorates—it was in a dorothy dixer to the police minister. We see it in our electorates.

There are some problems between groups in my town at the moment. Windows have been broken and cars have been smashed up. There is a court case tomorrow that we have to find extra police for. We do not know whether we can get extra police because the numbers are not there. When we put questions on notice about police numbers needed in the south west, we did not get an answer. They say it is an operational issue and they cannot

provide those figures. Why? They are hiding behind the process. They do not have the funding needed to have a proper, honest and straight police force. The police out there are doing an excellent job under much duress. The minister has to come forward in this year's budget with a lot more money to get the police up and running, and have enough numbers to make sure people in our communities are feeling safe so that people can go down the street at night-time, because at the moment I do not see that.

Mr T.R. Buswell: How much more?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I am not the police minister. I have asked for the numbers of police needed in the south west but I get the brush-off. With your smart-arse question, what I do not —

Withdrawal of Remark

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.M. Britza): Member, that language is unparliamentary.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I withdraw it.

Debate Resumed

Mr M.P. MURRAY: But I think he deserved it for the game he played today, and there will be a few more to come yet! He can laugh, but do not worry; like I said, it will not be long before he is on the front page of *The West* again, believe me. If he wants to play, let us play. We need more money —

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah, thank you.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: We all know what is coming. It is only a matter of time and when. We will decide that, won't we? I did not hear a smart alec answer—is that the word I was chasing? Sorry; it was a smart alec answer.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I accept that, member!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: We need extra police. The hub system, as I said the other night, is not working. People have to wait 25 minutes up to an hour for police to attend. We see murders happening in different places, so those top-of-the-range issues soak up more police than they should. We have different fundraising events or, say, a concert down at Bunbury. Police had to be moved out of the other areas. The kids in my town thought it was lovely. Why? "Because you can go out and do a couple of burnouts. There are only a couple of coppers on tonight because they had to go and help somewhere else." It is a real problem.

Another thing is the visual aspect. The commissioner certainly disagrees with me on this, but I believe that police being seen is a big deterrent. We need to have police around. We need to see a police car cruising from time to time, not in the yard with its motor running, computer switched on and roaring down the road with the siren on like hillbilly cops! We need more people around in those police cars so that there is a presence within our communities. That is not happening. As much as I heard Capel people saying that they will get more police down that way, I want to see the evidence. I want to see police on a regular basis and not on an ad hoc one. The Capel people will be very happy with the commissioner's statement that he will not listen to some things and not be pulling people up for certain things. I know that in Capel in the first week, after some of the criticisms I made about lack of policing, four or five drivers were knocked off for drink-driving because they had been going to the club driving home backwards and forwards. They have to be under the same rules. That is my point. We cannot distinguish between that person and that person or that tail-light or that person piddling in the street. There has to be some consistency in this. When we make a law in here, I believe the law should be enacted. If not, bring it back in. Move a motion and wipe that law out because it is not relevant any more. It is not like the 1903 Dog Act—former Minister for Agriculture and Food, was the Dog Act 1903? I thought he was going to bring it back into Parliament and update it. We do not want to leave it that long before we revisit the act and say it is now not law.

The Minister for Police has sat there with her head down pretending she is not listening, but I know she is. I ask the minister to talk to the Commissioner of Police. Sit down and ask him how he will enforce the laws that are made in this Parliament, and which laws he will enforce. Come back and report to this Parliament so we know the answer when constituents come in and say, "I read in the paper that he's not going to do this or that, yet I've been knocked off for it." That is what I want to know so that we have a consistent policing line in Western Australia—something that is very blurry at the moment. It is the Minister for Police's duty to find out what the commissioner is going to do and how he is going to do it, and report back to Parliament.

Many other issues relate to the budget. It was quite obvious in question time today that the minister for roads and other bits and pieces was not quite sure what will happen with the roads from Collie to Darkan to Wagin because the answer was "might be", "could be" but not "will be". That is the problem. I just read *Hansard* —

Mr T.R. Buswell: Those roads will be upgraded.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Is the minister now saying that they will be upgraded before the wheat goes on those roads?

Mr T.R. Buswell: No. I said those roads will be upgraded.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Jeez; I only have 30 years left of my life, and I do not want to waste it all waiting! That is what the minister is telling me. I want a date! I want to know that when those road trains come on those roads it will be safe to drive on there!

Mr T.R. Buswell: Collie Coalfields highway is being upgraded.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: There will be school buses! We have been through this 100 times, but the minister is not in front of the game.

Mr T.R. Buswell: There are already road trains on that road.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Yes, there are.

Mr T.R. Buswell: Correct.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: But not the amount that there will be; they are going to be four minutes apart!

Mr T.R. Buswell: That is why the parliamentary secretary was just down with the shire in Darkan—to understand where we are going to spend that money.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: That is fine, minister, and I am happy to hear that. But what I have not heard is when the work is going to be done. When is the money going to be available—in this budget?

Mr T.R. Buswell: Yes, in this budget.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: From Collie to Darkan?

Mr T.R. Buswell: Correct.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Darkan to Wagin?

Mr T.R. Buswell: More than likely. It will be—it depends whether —

Mr M.P. MURRAY: No, no—more than likely! Here we go again! Maybe, could be, should be!

Mr T.R. Buswell: Hold on, member. Let me ask you a question: if the high-risk areas are determined to be between Collie and Darkan as opposed to Collie and Wagin, then surely you'd fund the high-risk areas first and then work backwards?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I would hope so, but I am not getting that answer from the minister. That is what I am asking the minister. Will the minister give a commitment that those high-risk areas will be fixed before the grain starts coming down that road?

Mr T.R. Buswell: I can tell you that they will be fixed; I have just told you that.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: We will see; the minister is still very evasive in that answer. The minister is not giving me a commitment that I can give back to my communities. I am talking about not only my area, but also the member for Wagin's area. We have had Narrogin shire in only last Thursday on exactly the same thing, and the Wagin shire is of the same view. The West Arthur shire has been to see me about exactly that. One of those people out there, Ray Harrington—he is the shire president—is absolutely distraught about the whole system, even though he will save around \$20 a tonne on his own wheat crop. He has said, "I don't want to put people's lives at risk by running my wheat down that road." He has said it will be personally advantageous for him to put the wheat out through Bunbury port to around the tune of \$50 000 or \$60 000 a year—quite substantial.

Mr T.R. Buswell: Good.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Yet here we have a minister who will not give the commitment to make sure that those roads are safe and well before we get to there.

So, minister, quite truthfully I really do not want to go through the same sort of situation of having, in just over a year, six deaths like on the other road—I make it very clear that they were not all caused by the road.

Mr T.R. Buswell: No.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I do not want to revisit that too often. But I just want to remind the minister that we do not want to transfer the problem east of Collie, because that will be one of the main thoroughfares.

Another area of concern right in the middle of Collie is on Throssell Street and the turn-off into Prinsep Street. There is often a traffic jam right in the middle, opposite the Gull service station. Many people are asking what we are going to do about it when the trucks come. A lot of people say to put lights in, but if lights are put in and then there is a stack-up of six or seven trucks in a row, which would be like a train going down the rest of the highway, we will have problems further down. I would like to see some planning done very quickly on that area right in the middle of town. The other day it took me 20 minutes—members would not believe this in a country

town—to get across that intersection because it was school knock-off time and people were knocking off work. So, we will have problems there when the trucks are there, and I ask the minister to have a look at that.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Another thing that comes to mind is how the election promises are going to be funded. The first one, of course, concerns my second-favourite football team—the Eaton Boomers!

Mr T.R. Buswell: Second favourite!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: They are not too bad; they have been on the bottom for only 30-odd years, but —

Mr T.R. Buswell: No, they finished second last year.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: They gave Collie a flogging the other day!

But I want to know about funding for the much-needed clubrooms that has been promised in the election cycle. It was promised by the Labor Party, and the Liberal Party matched it; I would like to find out when—I will be putting those questions in—that funding will be; is it going to be in this budget? That team is desperate. The Shire of Dardanup wants to remove it from Glen Huon Oval; the shire wants it to move down and have a multifaceted-type sports ground with cricket and junior football at Pratt Road; the soccer team is arguing about its pitch as well. That needs to happen very quickly, because Eaton Fair Shopping Centre is on the expansion list for the next 12 to 18 months. That will take up a lot of the room around Pratt Road, and the shire is very keen to make sure that that area is turned into a passive recreation area; it also hooks up on to the other side to the gymnasium and the sports centre. They are very keen for that to happen. That is something else I will be chasing over time—I am just giving the minister forewarning of that.

There were several other promises, and one that was I think was a furphy, to be quite honest, is about the Millbridge bridge that crosses at Collie River. There was again a promise of \$18 million from the government in the run-up to the election. I am concerned, because this is about forward estimates. It will probably be put in the forward estimates, but to be quite honest it will not be needed for another four or five years; there are no roads running up. It was a very good political ploy during the election, I must say, and it cost me quite some votes. That was reflected in the booths; there was a drop because some people have to travel 15 kilometres to go from one end of Millbridge right around to the other side, and when they cut through the paddock someone keeps dropping a log across the road so they cannot do the shortcut, which is fair enough. But problems are going to occur not only because of the bridge, but also when the traffic flow changes. Even now, when coming onto the highway at 8.00 am the trucks and cars are backed right up to Eaton Fair. Further traffic management systems will have to be put in there other than just a bridge to bring the traffic down there. I can tell the minister—I probably will not be there—that the grizzlies will then be about the traffic coming through the middle of suburbia. We have seen that happen every time. It is all right for a short fix —

Mr T.R. Buswell: Over the bridge? Up and over the bridge, do you mean?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Yes. They will come down past the aged-care home, down through there, and the roads are not made for that; they are made for suburbia. There will be some major problems.

Mr T.R. Buswell: When those two councils put those roads in, they always knew the bridge was going to go across.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Yes, but it is all about cost. But in the centre of the road are all those trees, and I think someone might have to get a bulldozer and push them down and widen the road out a bit. But I will not do that; I will let the minister get out there and do that because it will not be very popular.

Mr T.R. Buswell: I used to fish in the river there.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I must move on.

I want to quickly speak on a few other issues, one of which is the expanded recreational use of Wellington Dam, which was quite surprising to me. It is one of the biggest marron fisheries, and I think the Premier might have been down there when the Liberal candidate announced changing the whole facet of the dam by putting in black bream, mulloway and trout, and changing —

A member interjected.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Yes, well that is the problem. The marron that are there will then be all wiped out by the predators.

Several members interjected.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Hang on—I will change that! If we can get it salty enough, we will put some abalone in there! But what concerns me is that after the desire and the effort—this has been over quite some time—has been put in to freshen up that dam, and moneys have been removed from other things to do that, we have now

changed the whole aspect by saying we will put saltwater fish in a freshwater dam. I think it is wrong. We are certainly heading down the wrong track. Remember, the marron fishery brings thousands and thousands of dollars into that region. Last Easter there were 3 500 people camped around the dam—quite possibly we would call it illegally. People were wild camping, and it is great to see mainly big family groups and a couple of big party groups, I must say. In the main, family groups come down to enjoy the forest and enjoy catching a few marron, but if we keep ignoring the salt problem, that will be gone. They will be out there trying to catch a mulloway, and I think that is a bit strange to say the least. I have spoken to some of the Fisheries guys, who say that it is very unlikely that mulloway would live in that brackish water, but black bream could. The Premier was a party to that promise. I am asking him to change his view and go back and start to work on the back areas of the dam and try to keep working on the salt mitigation program. I do not know what he has done with that \$17 million. I would be interested in looking in the budget. It was federal money. I wonder whether it was handed back. But there was a furphy that a study would be done again—I think it was number seven—of 250 000, when the member for Murchison–Eyre was the minister, and that was to put people off.

The Minister for Sport and Recreation has just left. The amount of \$1 million was announced just before the election. It was quite strange because we had been waiting four and a half years for it, and a week before the election the candidate announced it. That was very strange! It is funny how politics works!

Mr T.R. Buswell: A very good candidate.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: When I was standing next to the Premier in the park, he gave out a miserable little cheque. What a miserable little cheque he had, and it was a lotteries cheque; it was not even a government cheque. The Premier was standing there as proud as punch, like a kid with a new pushbike, with a very small cheque.

Mr C.J. Barnett: You clapped.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I had to laugh but then I was roundly criticised for taking him to task over the coal industry. But I have done that enough times; I will not do that tonight. I know he is aware of the problems that need to be fixed.

Mr T.R. Buswell: I think they were safer with us in government than you in government.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: The Premier can do one thing to help Verve Energy and help the state; that is, use more coal and thereby provide the cheapest electricity in this state. It is nearly two-thirds cheaper than gas-fired electricity.

Mr C.J. Barnett: If you're correct, Synergy and Verve need to be together, otherwise it can't happen.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I know; it will be very difficult for me. I understand exactly what the Premier is saying. I can tell the Premier that I will not walk away from my responsibilities to my electorate. That might tell a story in itself. Anyway, that is one of the issues —

Mr C.J. Barnett: We tried very hard to get rid of you and we nearly got there!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: The Premier certainly was not in our caucus room. He was not in our caucus room when some other people were there who might grin about what I said about things that were happening.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Well done. Good luck to you.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: In the end we ended up with Blue Waters, so we could not grizzle too much about what did change and what did not change. We know very well that the Liberal Party would not have built a power station because since Hilda Turnbull's time until now, there has been time to put on a back section, as we have talked about many times, and it is still not there. Instead we refurbished Muja A and B, the oldest power stations in the world, when we could have built Collie B for the same price.

Mr C.J. Barnett: You had eight years in government to put the B on Collie A and you didn't do it.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Yes, but the Liberal Party was in power before that. We have seen the Premier's paper in here from 2000. He has had four and half years. I was not good enough to convince the people. I will be honest. I tried very hard to make sure of it, but the Premier came out and fired up Muja stations A and B, which were 40 years old, when he could have built a brand new one for the same price that operated with more efficiency and cheaper power. I cried tears of blood about the situation.

Mr C.J. Barnett: I am not disagreeing.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I care about the industry and it is under stress at the moment. We are all aware of that and we have to be very careful.

The Minister for Agriculture and Food is not in here, but the former minister is here, so we can talk about some issues and he might want to say a few words. One of the problems in the farming industry, from Perth down to the south west, is the fact that people are neglecting weeds, especially cotton bush, which is running riot. As a lot of people will know, it grows probably to about two metres high, it contains a bud that looks very much like

cotton and it runs wild. People need to spray it. A lot of people pull it out by hand when the shoots are small because of the amount of seed that comes from it. But the Department of Agriculture and Food has not fulfilled its responsibility by writing to absent landholders and people who have the problem on their properties and telling them they must look after their properties; they must spray these weeds.

The other weeds are the Apple of Sodom and blackberries of which there are now two types in WA. Many people are surprised to learn that. There are containment lines so that the blackberries do not cross-breed. The Department of Agriculture and Food is doing absolutely nothing about that other than, after a lot of political pressure and pressure from the farmers, running a workshop on Friday on how to control those weeds, especially the cotton bush. What does concern me is that since 2010, no-one has been prosecuted for failing to look after their properties. That is appalling because we need to knock over only a few property owners with a \$500 fine or a warning notice so that they become aware of the problem. I wrote to three owners of land that borders a place owned by a gentleman who was very concerned about some weeds. Those people had bought their properties for lifestyle and were not aware of the problem, but they started to do something about it. I was very pleased about that, but the Department of Ag has not followed up. It has handballed the issue and said that it is the responsibility of the shire or of the farmers. It is not their responsibility because many of the plantation areas have these weeds growing through them and they will be very costly to eradicate in the future.

I could go on for another couple of hours, but the only thing I would like to raise now is the local government fund. Many local governments have brought to my attention that they are worried about the future of the local government fund and where those moneys will come from. Previously they could get some funds from royalties for regions, but we know that royalties for regions is dead, despite some publicity put out in the south west by Hon Brendon Grylls.

MS E. EVANGEL (Perth) [9.05 pm]: Mr Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of the Supply Bill 2013 before us and to convey my support for the bill. It is a bill that I believe is imperative in facilitating the ongoing supply and delivery of critical infrastructure and services for the Perth electorate and, indeed, all electorates throughout this great state of ours.

I am sure you and everyone else in this place are aware of the unprecedented investments that are occurring in my electorate at present; investments in city projects that are transforming our city. Indeed, in my inaugural speech, I highlighted a number of major projects currently under construction in Perth, such as Elizabeth Quay, the Link project and the soon to commence new Western Australian Museum in the heart of our cultural centre in Northbridge. As this government continues to build these projects in our city, it is simultaneously building confidence in our city's retail sector, being the city's economic lifeline.

I congratulate our Minister for Planning and the Premier for their foresight, because, by building a city of international significance, we are attracting the attention of international retailers such as Top Shop and Zara, as seen in the papers recently. Both are very welcome additions to the city's retail fabric and attract significant crowds critical to the long-term sustainability of all city businesses, large or small. So, yes, I support the Supply Bill's progress through this place and again applaud this government for its investment, vision and commitment to progress.

Western Australia is a wonderful place to live and a popular choice. We are seeing as many as 1 500 people a week moving to our great state. Many are choosing my electorate as their place of residence. I completely understand why, as it is an exciting electorate with extraordinary history and a bright future. However, our rapid population and infrastructure growth is placing significant demand on our transport networks. The current strategies employed by our Minister for Transport, such as the widening of the Mitchell and Graham Farmer Freeways, will ease this pressure and it is imperative we continue our diligent work in this area.

I have mentioned the growing number of people choosing to live in my electorate. This rapid growth can be seen by the increased number of children attending our local primary schools. Year by year we are seeing additional strain placed on our school infrastructure. I am pleased that our Minister for Education has given priority to my electorate and recognises the need for extra facilities to accommodate these growing numbers of students. In fact, such is his interest and commitment, he has already committed to visiting Highgate, Kyilla and North Perth Primary Schools in the coming months.

Mount Hawthorn Primary School, established in 1906, with just 43 children attending at that time, has also received the minister's attention. Its student population has now grown to more than 800. Mount Hawthorn Primary School has indeed experienced a population explosion, so much so that the student population does not fit in the undercover area at the same time. This means that if it is raining, a portion of the students will get wet and if it is an extremely hot day, they are vulnerable to the sun's harmful rays. It pleases me that the Minister for Education has recognised the urgency of this issue as well as another urgent problem, which is the deteriorated state of part of the school's playground bitumen area. The minister has committed \$1.25 million for the redevelopment of the school's undercover area and the resurfacing of the playground bitumen. I know that this

news is very welcomed by the school's principal, Ms Dale Mackesey, and the school board, P&C and schoolchildren.

Finally, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of the sporting clubs in my electorate, and in particular the North Perth Tennis Club located on Farmer Street in North Perth. Established in 1913, the North Perth Tennis Club celebrated its 100th birthday on 11 May last Saturday. It was my honour to celebrate with them and enjoy the friendly hospitality of the club. Tennis is a wonderful sport that is enjoyed by players of all ages. It was great to see young children as well as elderly people receiving awards for their achievements at the club. I congratulate the North Perth Tennis Club president, Mr Steven Lamb, Mr Basil Rompotis and the organising committee for hosting a wonderful afternoon tea for over a hundred people. The North Perth Tennis Club is more than just a place to play tennis; it is also a place where people gather to socialise and make friends, friends that last a lifetime, and such is the case with Ms Peggy Secker. I congratulate Peggy for celebrated 60 years of membership at the club on the same day that the club celebrated its 100th anniversary. What an outstanding achievement! Peggy is a much-loved member of the club who is known for her generosity and commitment to the club over the years, so much so that she is often referred to as "Aunty Peggy" by many of the children and other members. It was a delight to meet Peggy and present her with a lovely letter congratulating her on her 60-year milestone. I wish Peggy another 60 years to celebrate once again.

I reinstate my support for the Supply Bill 2013, as this government is delivering significant outcomes for the people of Western Australia. There are important projects in place in my electorate and I am sure in the electorates of other members. I will continue to speak in support of the Supply Bill as a continuation of our good governance.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr J.H.D. Day (Leader of the House)**.

SENATE VACANCY

Joint Sitting of the Houses — Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr M.W. Sutherland): I remind members that tomorrow at 11.00 am there will be a joint sitting in the Legislative Council chamber to fill a vacancy in the Senate. Members should make their way directly to the Legislative Council chamber when the bells are rung at 10.55 am.

House adjourned at 9.12 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

BALLAJURA POLICE STATION

20. Ms R. Saffioti to the Minister for Police:

I refer to Question of Notice No. 8524 answered on 16 October 2012 and the subsequent commitment made by the State Government to build a \$12.5 million police station in Ballajura within three years, and ask:

- (a) what evidence was presented to the Minister that service delivery in Ballajura had been significantly negatively affected by the State Government's decision to close the station in 2009;
- (b) will the Minister table this evidence;
- (c) if not, why not; and
- (d) when did the Minister advise the Police Commissioner of the decision by the State Government to now build a new station in Ballajura?

Mrs L.M. Harvey replied:

- (a) Decisions regarding opening and closure of stations are primarily a matter for the Commissioner of Police. As Minister, I thoroughly examined data pertaining to crime statistics and response times, sought briefings from WA Police regarding the situation in Ballajura and considered representations made by members of the public in the area, before reaching the view that funding for a purpose built station could be justified in the area. Also significant to this view was the need to house additional officers to be recruited over the coming term of government, and the Liberal Party's willingness to commit to fund a purpose built facility fit for police operational purposes.
- (b)–(c) No one single piece of evidence was determinative in this decision. If a specific document is sought I will consider a request for its tabling.
- (d) WA Police were consulted regarding the costs involved, and subsequently advised of the Liberal Party commitment prior to the public announcement. The State Government will honour the commitment made by the Liberal Party prior to the 2013 State Election.

BALLAJURA POLICE STATION

22. Ms R. Saffioti to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the election commitment to build a \$12.5 million police station in Ballajura and ask:

- (a) will this station be completed in 2015–2016;
- (b) what process will the State Government undertake to choose the greenfields site where the station will be constructed;
- (c) when does the State Government plan to commence construction;
- (d) will the station accommodate 21 police officers;
- (e) will the station be open on a 24-hour basis;
- (f) how many holding cells will the station contain;
- (g) will the station contain secure parking for officers; and
- (h) what suburbs will the station be responsible for?

Mrs L.M. Harvey replied:

- (a)–(h) The proposed Ballajura Police Station will be considered as part of normal Government decision making processes and will be consistent with the commitment made prior to the 2013 State Election.

PERTH–DARWIN HIGHWAY

27. Ms R. Saffioti to the Minister for Planning:

I refer to Question on Notice No. 8552 answered on 16 October 2012, and given the State Government's election commitment to begin construction of the Perth–Darwin National Highway on the new alignment in 2016, I ask:

- (a) will a new Sub-Regional Structure Plan be produced for the Swan Urban Growth Corridor; and
- (b) when does the Minister intend to publish an updated structure plan?

Mr J.H.D. Day replied:

- (a) The North East Sub-Regional Structure Plan is currently being prepared by the Department of Planning and will include the Swan Urban Growth Corridor and the proposed new alignment of the Perth–Darwin National Highway.
- (b) It is anticipated that the structure plan will be released for public comment by the end of this year.

ELIZABETH QUAY — INDIGENOUS CULTURAL CENTRE

28. Ms R. Saffioti to the Minister for Planning:

I refer to the 1.5ha set aside as part of the Perth Waterfront Project for an Indigenous Cultural Centre and ask:

- (a) is the State Government still committed to building the Centre at Elizabeth Quay;
- (b) what is the estimated cost;
- (c) will the State Government seek funding from the Federal Government to help fund the construction costs; and
- (d) when is construction due to commence?

Mr J.H.D. Day replied:

- (a) As stated in question on notice 7914, the Indigenous Cultural Centre is part of the Elizabeth Quay Master Plan and is currently a concept. It does not form part of the first stage of the project.
- (b) Not applicable
- (c) The State Government will look at a range of funding options to deliver the Indigenous Cultural Centre.
- (d) Not applicable.

POLICE — OFFENCE CATEGORIES

37. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Police:

Can the Minister provide a breakdown in the number of offences for the following categories in the past 12 months for each suburb in the Kwinana electorate:

- (a) homicide;
- (b) recent sexual assault;
- (c) historical sexual assault;
- (d) domestic assault;
- (e) non-domestic assault;
- (f) threatening behaviour;
- (g) deprivation of liberty;
- (h) robbery (business);
- (i) robbery (non-business);
- (j) burglary (dwelling);
- (k) burglary (non-dwelling);
- (l) motor vehicle theft;
- (m) theft;
- (n) arson;
- (o) property damage;
- (p) drugs (traffic);
- (q) drugs (possess);
- (r) receiving/illegal use;
- (s) fraud;
- (t) graffiti; and
- (u) breach of restraint?

Mrs L.M. Harvey replied:

- (a)–(u) [See paper 304.]

MARGARET RIVER FIRES

41. Ms M.M. Quirk to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the fires at Margaret River in November 2011, and I ask:

- (a) since then, on how many occasions has the Department of Environment sought legal advice from the State Solicitor on issues arising from those fires;

- (b) can the Minister please list the dates on which advice was sought and obtained;
- (c) since then, on how many occasions has the Department of Environment sought other legal advice on issues arising from those fires, and in particular:
 - (i) who provided the legal advice; and
 - (ii) can the Minister please list the dates on which the advice was sought and obtained; and
- (d) what is the approximate total cost of legal advice given?

Mr A.P. Jacob replied:

- (a)–(d) The Department of Environment and Conservation seeks legal advice from the State Solicitor’s Office and the department’s own Legal Services Branch as required. Legal professional privilege attaches to communications for legal advice made by, and legal advice provided to, the department.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES — MEDIA, COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

53. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Sport and Recreation; Racing and Gaming:

I refer to each department and agency under the Minister’s control and ask, as at 15 April 2013:

- (a) what is the total number of employees engaged in media, communications, marketing or speechwriting, including:
 - (i) public;
 - (ii) corporate; and
 - (iii) media relations;
- (b) what is the salary of each of these employees; and
- (c) what is the job title for each of these employees?

Mr T.K. Waldron replied:

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION

- (a) Two
- (b) PSGOA Level 7 and PSGOA Level 5
- (c) Communications Manager and Communications Officer

VENUESWEST

- (a) 4.5 FTEs
- (b) PSGOGA level 2 — 0.5 FTE
PSGOGA level 3 — 1 FTE
PSGOGA level 4 — 2 FTEs
PSGOGA level 7 — 1 FTE
- (c) 0.5 FTE — Marketing Officer
1 FTE — Marketing Coordinator
2 FTEs — Senior Marketing Coordinator and Publications Coordinator
1 FTE — Director Business Development and Marketing

DEPARTMENT OF RACING, GAMING AND LIQUOR

- (a) One
- (b) Level 6
- (c) Media and Communications Coordinator

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES — MEDIA, COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

54. Mr M. McGowan to the minister representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to each department and agency under the Minister’s control and ask, as at 15 April 2013:

- (a) what is the total number of employees engaged in media, communications, marketing or speechwriting, including:
 - (i) public;

- (ii) corporate; and
- (iii) media relations;
- (b) what is the salary of each of these employees; and
- (c) what is the job title for each of these employees?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

- (a) (i)–(iii) 28 which equates to 20.783 FTE
- (b) 1 at Level 3 \$62,894–\$68,287
1 at Level 4 \$70,820–\$74,845
15 at Level 5 \$78,782–\$87,070
8 at Level 6 \$91,676–\$101,517
1 at Level 7 \$107,200–\$114,897
1 at Level 8 \$121,625–\$132,105
1 at Level Specified Calling Level 2 \$84,805–\$93,726
- (c) 1 Director
1 Manager
19 Communications Officers
6 Media Liaison Officers
1 Development Officer

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION — STRUCTURE

67. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Government's plans to break up the Department of Environment and Conservation and I ask:

- (a) will the Climate Change Unit continue to exist;
- (b) if yes to (a):
 - (i) in which of the new agencies will it be located;
 - (ii) what will be its Full Time Equivalent staffing allocation;
 - (iii) what will be its annual operating budget; and
 - (iv) what will be its functions; and
- (c) if no to (a):
 - (i) will there be an agency or unit to coordinate the State Government's response or activities, and if not why not;
 - (ii) if yes, what will that agency or unit be called and under which other agency will it be located; and
 - (iii) if no, who will implement the recently released Climate Change Strategy, *Adapting to our Changing Climate*?

Mr A.P. Jacob replied:

- (a) Yes
- (b) (i) The Climate Change Unit is currently part of the Environmental Services Group of the Department of Environment and Conservation. Decisions on the future structure of the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Environment and Conservation are still to be finalised.
- (ii)–(iii) The response to Hon Sally Talbot's question without notice number 853 on 25 October 2012 provides the staffing allocation for the Climate Change Unit (4.8 FTE) and the annual operating budget excluding the Low Emissions Energy Development fund (\$620,000). During the election campaign, the Government announced \$4 million over four years for a collaborative research program between the State Government, Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO to improve understanding of Western Australia's weather and climate and to support adaptation to a changing climate.
- (iv) The Climate Change Unit is responsible for coordination of policy and strategy advice regarding the economic, environmental and social impacts of climate change.
- (c) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES — MEDIA, COMMUNICATIONS AND
MARKETING

111. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Environment; Heritage:

I refer to each department and agency under the Minister's control and ask, as at 15 April 2013:

- (a) what is the total number of employees engaged in media, communications, marketing or speechwriting, including:
 - (i) public;
 - (ii) corporate; and
 - (iii) media relations;
- (b) what is the salary of each of these employees; and
- (c) what is the job title for each of these employees?

Mr A.P. Jacob replied:

- (a)–(c) [See paper 305.]

AGRICULTURE — DECLARED PLANTS LIST

186. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

In reference to the listing of cotton bush, apple of sodom and blackberry on the Department's declared plants list, I ask:

- (a) what is the State Government doing to help contain or eradicate cotton bush, apple of sodom and blackberries;
- (b) how many people since 2010 have been prosecuted for not controlling:
 - (i) cotton bush;
 - (ii) apple of sodom; and
 - (iii) blackberries;
- (c) what funding was provided in the 2012–13 Department budget to control:
 - (i) cotton bush;
 - (ii) apple of sodom; and
 - (iii) blackberries; and
- (d) who has the ultimate control over the spread, control and eradication of noxious weeds?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

- (a) The three weeds are widespread and established in Western Australia. It is not feasible to eradicate these weeds. The Department and Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) is arranging for a community coordinated response to contain widespread and established weeds in the South West Agricultural region. A range of control methods are available. DAFWA will support communities in their coordinated response to control of established weeds where required.
- (b) (i)–(iii) None.
- (c) (i)–(iii) DAFWA does not allocate or account for funding on a species-by-species basis. The South West Agricultural Region, where these three species most commonly occur, has a budget allocation of \$842,012 for 2012–2013 for all invasive species requirements within the region.
- (d) Landholders have responsibility to control declared weeds on their properties.

