

APPROPRIATION (RECURRENT 2019–20) BILL 2019
APPROPRIATION (CAPITAL 2019–20) BILL 2019

Second Reading — Cognate Debate

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MRS R.M.J. CLARKE (Murray–Wellington) [3.33 pm]: I would like to lead off from where I finished before the lunch break.

Across my electorate are beautiful and environmentally important waterways. The protection of these waterways is so important to the local community and the environment, and we are ensuring that the fragile environment receives the support that it needs. Funds of \$1.2 million have already been invested in protecting the Peel–Harvey estuary, as well as \$10.5 million for the establishment and management of the Preston River to Ocean and Leschenault Regional Parks programs. Protecting the unique biodiversity of the Peel and the south west is essential to the livelihood of the areas and to tourism. This funding will ensure that local waterways can be enjoyed for years to come.

Agriculture is a major industry throughout my electorate. It is being supported through an additional \$131.5 million in funding to help grow our export markets and create long-term jobs. This includes just under \$40 million towards boosting biosecurity defences, Asian market success, and grains research and development support programs. These programs, alongside the ongoing WA Open for Business program, deliver essential backing to regional economies. Providing assistance to open up new export opportunities within agricultural industries creates ongoing jobs for people in the regions and allows local small businesses to achieve growth that may have previously been unattainable.

Importantly in this budget is funding towards a new employer incentive scheme. Encouraging people, particularly our youth, to take on an apprenticeship or traineeship is something that I am very passionate about. I congratulate the McGowan government for investing in a program that will create skilled trade jobs and ensure that we have enough skilled employees into the future. This scheme, which has \$45 million allocated to regional WA, will assist businesses with the costs of employing new apprentices and trainees. This is an essential scheme that will help businesses throughout regional WA hire new staff and give youth opportunities to gain ongoing employment.

Work is also continuing on a number of job-creating projects throughout the Murray–Wellington electorate, including development of Peel Business Park and Kemerton industrial park. Once fully developed, both parks will create thousands of local jobs across the Peel and the south west, completely transforming the region and diversifying the local economy. Both parks have been in the planning stages for a number of years. It is fantastic to see progress on these vital projects take place under the McGowan government.

Adjacent to Peel Business Park is the Bushfire Centre of Excellence; a key component of the recently established Rural Fire Division. It will bring vibrancy to the area whilst providing volunteer firefighters right across the state with world-class training opportunities.

The government is committed to continued funding towards the volunteer and Country Age Pension Fuel Cards, which are invaluable to those who often need to travel long distances as part of their roles as volunteers or to attend important appointments in Perth, Mandurah or Bunbury. The government has also committed to ongoing funding for the south west emergency rescue helicopter, an essential service in emergency situations when patients need to be quickly transported to a major hospital. These services make immense differences in local communities and provide certainty to those who are most vulnerable.

The 2019–20 state budget continues with the McGowan government's commitment to reducing debt, creating local jobs and supporting regional communities. Work is continuing on important job-creating projects throughout the Murray–Wellington electorate. Funding has been allocated to a number of important road infrastructure projects that have long been in early planning stages.

The costs of living have been kept down and essential services in the regions have continued to be funded and delivered. I congratulate the government on delivering a sensible budget that focuses on creating local jobs and improving our infrastructure. The McGowan government is putting the state to work by creating jobs. WA's economy is turning the corner, confidence is returning and local jobs are being created. This government is for all Western Australians. I am proud to represent the electorate of Murray–Wellington under a McGowan Labor government. We are getting on with the job. We are in this together for all Western Australians.

Speaking of our Premier, I would like to thank him for taking time out of his hectic schedule to join me in spending some time with Melissa Hernaman and Michael Reynolds just two days after the tragic loss of their son, Lockie Hernaman. They appreciated the visit and the lovely card that the Premier sent.

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I would like to pay my respects to two young people from my electorate who recently lost their lives in tragic circumstances within days of each other, and has brought communities to tears in their grief. I would like members to close their eyes for a minute, take a deep breath and remember what is really important in life. Forget all the rest, grab life, live, and love every moment. At the snap of the fingers, in a wisp of smoke and in the blink of an eye, we can lose the most precious people in our lives. On Tuesday, we said farewell to a young man, Lockie Hernaman, taken from us in a very tragic way. He was 20 years of age, with such a loving and caring heart for his mum, family and friends. He will never be forgotten. Lockie was a talented young footballer from Harvey who suddenly passed away on 30 April after collapsing at training with his team, the Harvey Bulls. He had finished his plumbing trade certificate just 10 days earlier and had been checking the mailbox daily for his certificate. Sadly, he never saw it arrive; it came three days after his passing. My heart goes out to Melissa Hernaman, Michael Reynolds, Kailee Hernaman and their extended family.

Two days later, on 2 May, 18-year-old Coolup girl Kahlia Mounsey sadly lost her life on South Western Highway after her car hit a tree. Kahlia will be farewelled at Eastlake Church, Greenfields, on Monday, 20 May. She was a former Pinjarra Senior High School student who was undertaking an electrical apprenticeship. These events have struck the local community deeply. I pass on my condolences to the Mounsey and Sellin families and their friends. Harvey and Coolup have lost two exceptional young people tragically. May their short lives be treasured and remembered always. Rest in peace Lockie and Kahlia.

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore) [3.40 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to the budget debate. I start by welcoming a little bit of rain to Perth today. I believe a little bit of rain fell in some areas of my electorate too. At the moment, we are facing a fairly dry scenario in much of the electorate and in the grainbelt generally. I note that a media release from the Department of Agriculture and Food dated 13 May states that the most probable rainfall decile range is in the order of two to three, which is a very low expectation of rainfall for the northern and southern grainbelt. It is not a great outlook and I hope that it turns around with a bit more precipitation than we have had already. According to the department, growers are already modifying their sowing program in response to the soil's low moisture content and, of course, feed for livestock is short. In trying to get around to people to talk to them about potentially being booth workers and everything else at the poll on Saturday, I found that a lot of people were out feeding and looking after livestock. They were not paying too much attention to the forthcoming federal election, which we have been focusing on here. I am sure that a lot of people in the community have other things on their mind at the moment.

This budget is another blow to royalties regions as it used to be, with more than \$1.6 billion of the \$4.2 billion program now allocated for normal everyday government spending. It now funds essentials for remote communities in Western Australia that we used to take for granted—tap water, school buses to pick up children and take them to school, and power. The royalties for regions program was not designed to fund government recurrent expenditure, and the program's effect in the regions is slowly being diminished by being put to that purpose. Of course, the McGowan Labor government is spending more on one metropolitan project—that is, Metronet—than on regional development programs across Western Australia, except in a handful of Labor outposts. Of course, none of the members for those electorates are in the chamber listening to me, so they cannot tell us what has been spent there. They have been hearing plenty of good news in some Labor seats, but there is very little to report in Moore. With the federal coalition's solution to the GST distribution and strong iron ore prices, there has been an opportunity to return the funds to the royalties for regions program that were ripped out in previous budgets. But, of course, we note that that opportunity has not been taken.

Members will recall the miserable education cuts, the attack on regional education and, thankfully, the rescuing of projects such as Moora Residential College by the federal Nationals and Liberals when they returned funding to that project. I note that funding is in the budget no thanks to the current state government. I can report that the community is very, very grateful to the Nationals and Liberals for their support in restoring the Moora Residential College and they remember with a great deal of disdain the Labor Party. Many people in the area, landowners and workers, who used to vote Labor will never vote Labor again. However, the cut to the boarding away from home allowance remains in place. That means that the children of the families, if you like, who are members of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association will progressively receive less and less support to go away to school. These children have no choice; they have to go away to school. It costs their parents money and the state's level of support for those families is going down at a time when costs are rising. This issue was outlined at the ICPA's conference earlier this year—it has one every year. I attended the full-day session at this year's conference. It was very disappointing, and did not go unnoticed, that the Minister for Education and Training did not desire to attend the conference or call in to see what was happening with the ICPA. The minister snubbed the ICPA. As I said, the turnaround in the state's economic fortunes meant that the government could have restored funding to these important programs, but it has chosen not to.

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I am pleased to see that some very important initiatives that are vital to country areas such as the Country Aged Pension Fuel Card will remain in place and the investment in telehealth services will continue. But, unfortunately, with an underspend of \$320 million last year, and the substitution of royalties for regions funds into those programs, as I mentioned before, we know that this program is not the force that it once was.

I will turn to a few issues that affect my electorate more closely. I would like to acknowledge the federal government's assistance in funding works on the Great Northern Highway, including the Bindoon bypass. The Bindoon bypass project has been in consideration for many, many years. Various routes have been put in place that have not been funded. Over time, people's lives have been disrupted. People have not been able to undertake or plan works that they would have liked to on their property because there was a suggestion that one day it might be subject to a bypass. The route of the bypass has shifted from the west to the east, and back to the west. It is good that there is now certainty that the bypass will go ahead. I acknowledge the state government's support in matching funding for the Bindoon bypass and the work on the Great Northern Highway.

I also point to state and federal government investment in the wheatbelt secondary freight route. I congratulate the way in which wheatbelt shires have collaborated because it is a great example of how local governments can work together. Forty-two local governments came together to decide on a system to prioritise expenditure on state and local roads in their areas. The federal and state governments have put forward money to support that program. It is a great reward for those 42 local governments that came together to do that work. I look forward to further investment on the back of the planning and business cases the local governments are bringing forward.

Toodyay Road has a terrible safety record. I will interrogate in the estimates process the amount of funding the government is putting into the wheatbelt section of Toodyay Road. When the member for Scarborough was Minister for Road Safety she put funding in the budget for the planning and the purchase of land et cetera to enable works to be undertaken on the wheatbelt section of Toodyay Road. I will be interested to see whether this government has put any money into that program going forward.

The Minister for Health in this house made some undertakings for palliative care. There has been an announcement of funding for palliative care. I am concerned about where that money has come from and where it will be going. The Department of Health is such a beast of an organisation that \$40 million a year could materialise as a line item and actually do nothing.

What I will be looking for during budget estimates and what we will be keen to hear about is an outline of where that money will go in regional areas—if indeed it is new money. What super structure will be established to enable the provision of palliative care into areas where there is very little by way of services and workforce availability, and a history of neglect from all sorts of governments in providing for people who at a most vulnerable time in their lives? I will be keen to see an interrogation of the Minister for Health in this regard. I understand that the member for North West Central will be sitting in on that estimates committee. No doubt he will bring a raft of questions to that hearing.

One area of health that is very important in rural areas such as mine is the provision of transport for patients in and out of hospital. St John Ambulance is a great organisation that is staffed by many great volunteers who put a lot of time and effort into ensuring that people are covered in terms of emergency services in areas that otherwise could not afford to be covered. It is too expensive to have paid people all over the state looking after the smaller communities. One of the concerns is that much of the inter-hospital transfer work is burning up the volunteers in some areas. Over many years, it has been reported to me that this task probably needs to be looked at to see whether there is a better way of running the service. I know that in other areas in which the ambulance service has strong volunteers numbers, those volunteers like to do that work because it frees up money to purchase new ambulances and services for the area—something that I think needs to be continued. State ambulance services were reviewed and I will be trying to find out about the follow-up from that review.

One item that needs to be considered for my area is the location of a rescue helicopter in the midwest. Just as we have a rescue helicopter in the south west and in the Perth metropolitan area, it would be a very good idea to have one based in Geraldton to service the Murchison and wider midwest area. At the moment, people often spend too long waiting for transport back to hospital. Accidents often occur on the North West Coastal Highway, for instance, where a helicopter would be invaluable in getting patients back to the Geraldton hospital as quickly as possible. Recently in the Kalbarri National Park, a helicopter could have helped to support a tourist and provided an assurance of community safety right throughout the midwest and Murchison. I hope that in future we can consider a rescue helicopter for the midwest as part of the redevelopment of health services right throughout that region. We acknowledge the development of the Geraldton step-up, step-down facility, which is long overdue.

I would like to talk about some of the industry matters that are drivers of the economy in my area, one of which is tourism. I note that the Kalbarri skywalk project is well underway. It is a great initiative of the previous government. Funding was delivered at the time by the Minister for Regional Development, the now member for

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Warren–Blackwood who sits next to me. It is good to see that program coming to fruition in Kalbarri. It will be an important driver of tourism in that area. The people of Kalbarri are very excited about seeing that project come to fruition.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Where will that go?

Mr R.S. LOVE: In Kalbarri National Park.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Near the window?

Mr R.S. LOVE: It will be at the West Loop site. It will overlook that area and sit more or less on the next hill to the west of Nature's Window that the member is thinking about. When I went there a few weeks ago, the anchorage points were all in place and they were waiting for it to be brought up.

Mr D.A. Templeman: What will the length of it be?

Mr R.S. LOVE: I cannot remember.

Mr D.A. Templeman: A couple of hundred metres?

Mr R.S. LOVE: I have walked it, but I cannot remember. Perhaps it will be several hundred metres long. It will be quite an impressive structure. There will be a kiosk out there as well. One of the past problems has been that people go out there with not enough water. At least there will somewhere where they can purchase a glass of water to refresh themselves. In recent times we have had a couple of tragedies in which people have passed away from the heat. They do not expect it to be quite so hot. It is a lot hotter in Kalbarri than it is in Perth, and people do not understand that sometimes.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Will people with disabilities have access to it?

Mr R.S. LOVE: They can get down to the river, yes.

One of the other things in Kalbarri that has consistently been brought to my attention are the restrictions on demersal fisheries that occur in the western bioregion. Kalbarri is right on the northern edge of that bioregion. In the view of Kalbarri residents and businesses, and it is also my view, it is unfair that Kalbarri is affected by closures from October through to December, whereas Shark Bay, Exmouth and the like up the coast are not. This means that fishing expeditions bypass Kalbarri and head further up the coast unnecessarily. In fact, the seasons are different up there than they are in Kalbarri. The closure from October to December is a pretty dubious one. I have raised this with previous Ministers for Fisheries going back to when the former member for Vasse was the Minister for Fisheries, followed by Hon Ken Baston and so on. I have not been able to get anyone to look at this problem because it is one of those small issues that no-one really cares about. I will have another go with the current minister. His track record of listening to the community has not been great until now, but one never knows; he might learn to cure his tinea.

Communication is a very important matter for people in my electorate. Royalties for regions has helped to deliver 344 mobile towers and small cells right across regional WA. It is disappointing to see that state investment now seems to have ground to a halt. The \$22 million rebranded state agricultural telecommunication infrastructure improvement fund was an initiative created by the Nationals in the last term of government. This government has carried on with it, and I am pleased about that. There has been good uptake in my electorate. People in communities and places from Karloo up into the midlands area and around Chapman Valley are all looking at putting in, if one likes, private broadband networks because the national broadband network is not really helping any of those communities in my electorate very much. Most of them are bypassed by that service and there is some uncertainty about the future of telecommunications generally throughout those areas neglected by the NBN program. One of those areas is Mingenew.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr R.S. LOVE: Last year I attended the opening of a satellite-tracking centre just north of Mingenew. A number of space-related activities occur in the Mingenew area and out near Depot Hill, which is unsupported by landline communications. Those activities are set up there because the area has clear air to communicate with the satellites as they pass over. It is also the last point of contact for many satellites before they hit the Indian Ocean where information cannot be picked up. Many satellites in space are not necessarily huge things—some are quite small and they download occasionally to centres like the one in Mingenew. Unfortunately, that centre is not supported by good communications on the ground. It is a glaring hole that needs to be filled. The Shire of Mingenew is doing what it can to raise the issue but a lot more could be done.

One of the other infrastructure issues that plagues residents in the midwest has been the unreliable power supply that they receive. People have had enough of paying the ever-rising cost of power when it cannot reasonably be expected to be there when it is needed. People in towns such as Dongara and Mullewa have had many outages,

especially in the summer period. We see the need for more flexibility in the delivery of power throughout the midwest, and a renewed emphasis on the importance of reinstating power after outages. It is too easy to blame adverse seasonal conditions. The seasonal conditions have not changed very much since we have been delivering power in that area, but the length of the outages has increased, and it is not uncommon to have four or five days without power in some of those towns. That is not a great thing to happen. Kalbarri's microgrid is being built. That initiative was put in place by the now Leader of the Opposition, following a grievance I brought to this place in 2014. It was looking pretty good at that stage, because we were going to have significant generation in Kalbarri with a solar farm matched to the battery that is being installed. Unfortunately, this current government awarded the project to a mob called Energy Made Clean, and no component solar farm was attached to it, which means that the battery will provide power for a few hours and then it will be exhausted, and the town will be out of power again. On the occasions when we have day after day of severance of the line between Geraldton and Kalbarri, the town will quickly run out of power, and that very large investment of millions of dollars will sit idle and impotent in providing for the needs of the community.

Quite recently I was part of a Parliamentary exchange program with Saskatchewan in Canada, and I was pleased to be able to visit a high school in one of the small towns in that province. I came away very impressed by their attitude to rural education, as opposed to what happens here. Small towns there have a K-12 campus, whereas our idea of a district high school in Western Australia is only up to year 10. It is somewhat outmoded. Saskatchewan has a belief that children should be able to go to school in their local area right through to year 12. Relatively small schools will have a strong and well credentialed mathematics teacher and a senior science teacher, and if they have to supplement some of the specialist programs with the equivalent of our schools of isolated and distance education, they will do so, but they also have a teacher on hand who can assist, if need be, with those specialist courses. They cannot provide everything to everybody, but they have the basis of what we would call a very good Australian tertiary admission rank course at each one of those little high schools right throughout the province. Contrast that with what happens in a community such as Jurien Bay or Carnamah, which offer a much poorer outcome for the students than what is achieved in Canada. Although I was very impressed with what I saw in Canada, I was dismayed to think about the very poor level of outcome available for students who cannot afford to go away to a boarding school, or who simply do not want to go away. Some families do not want to send their children away to boarding school. I would think that if we have a superstructure of a school able to take students through to year 10, with the modern-day advantages of communications and the ability to videoconference et cetera, there is absolutely no excuse for not being able to offer a full range of subjects to those high schools so that those students are not disadvantaged, do not have to move out of their home communities, and can get the education that they want and need local to them.

I have already mentioned the adverse seasonal conditions in parts of the electorate. We had a discussion last night about the importance of live animal exports to producers in my area, and the threat that a change of government poses to those people. But other issues face the farming communities. We know that we are living in a drying climate, and some areas of the electorate where there has been, in the past, allocation of water to licences based on a rainfall pattern that was a bit more generous than it is now, now have to confront real issues of water shortages and dealing with a drying climate. I urge the state government to support the farming community as it addresses those measures. I know that the electorate of the member for Roe is more of a pinch point for water shortages just at the moment, with the recent declarations of parts of his electorate, but there is a drying trend right throughout the south west land division. In my electorate, a large number of irrigation licences have been issued in recent years, and serious thought is needed about how we are going to deal with diminishing availability of water in the future. I hope the Minister for Water and the Minister for Agriculture and Food will address this issue, because the two areas are tied together. We cannot really look at one without the other.

Communities throughout my electorate have taken on natural resource management with gusto. There are many coastal Landcare groups, and Landcare groups throughout the inland areas. In the past, royalties for regions has been able to support those small groups with funding, and I will be looking to the estimates committees to interrogate the government about the commitment to regional NRM programs. I note a few matters in the line items that may indicate some level of support for those groups in the future, but with the paucity of information available in the budget documents, I do not have any firm answers. I will be certainly looking to those estimates committees to give me a better idea of what is going on with natural resource management throughout my electorate and throughout the state.

It has been mentioned already that we are facing a shortage of police in regional areas. I believe a number of stations are finding it very hard to get police personnel to come. One of the issues facing the police is the ever-increasing cost of rents in regional communities, for not just police but also teachers and other government employees. I implore the government to stop jacking up the price of rent for these vital services in regional areas. It is creating a real issue in staffing very important services, such as police, in our regional areas. The perverse effect will probably be that the houses will sit there empty, because we cannot get the officers to come and live there. The

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government should have a look at what it is doing with the pricing for these houses. It is a real problem, and it goes against the market trend, if you like. We know that house prices have come down, and in many regional areas they have plummeted. Rents have come down generally throughout the state and yet prices charged to police in regional towns in my electorate and other electorates throughout the state continue to go up. That is an unsustainable situation, and I urge the government to look at it. It is not just a matter of being bloody-minded and saying, “Your government started to charge more rent, or you did this or you did that”; we need to address the situation. We have a much healthier budget now, with the return of the GST, thanks to the federal coalition government, and the boost to iron ore prices, which have led to a mini bonanza for the state.

It is time to readdress some of these decisions that were made in the past that are adversely affecting communities and will greatly affect those communities going forward, because I know that the government is planning to put up rents again.

I will wrap up by talking very briefly about another very important industry in my electorate, the professional fishing industry. The Minister for Fisheries and this government had a thought bubble about privatising a portion of the industry, and we know where that ended up. There was a loss of confidence in the industry. We need that confidence returned so that the industry can invest in new boats and keep up to date. We need to let people know that that industry will exist going forward. I urge the government to address this issue, to provide greater security to fishermen. In the face of the government’s federal Labor colleagues, who want to greatly expand the marine park system around the coast, I want it to advocate for the fishermen of this state into the future.

MR Z.R.F. KIRKUP (Dawesville) [4.10 pm]: It gives me great pleasure to round out the opposition’s contribution to the debate on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2019–20) Bill 2019 and the Appropriation (Capital 2019–20) Bill 2019.

At the outset, I want to be the first member of this place to congratulate the Duke and Duchess of Sussex—much to the pleasure of the member for Balcatta—on the arrival of Archie Mountbatten-Windsor, seventh in line to the throne. That is a fantastic outcome. I am sure that, on behalf of all members of this place, we send our best wishes to the duke and duchess.

It was two years ago today that I managed to make my first speech in this place. When I look back on that first speech and at where we are today, a lot has changed in that time.

Dr A.D. Buti: You’re still very dapper!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: One thing has not changed, member for Armadale, and it is obviously my sartorial skills!

Several members interjected.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: But, otherwise, much has changed in that time.

Mr D.A. Templeman: The surplus! That has changed! We got a surplus!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Right. I am certain we will get to the budget very soon, member for Mandurah, as part of my contribution.

I would like to thank all members, certainly on my side of the house, for their support and their fostering of me during these last two years. It has been fantastic.

Ms R. Saffioti: Are you leaving?

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: No. It is two years ago today —

Several members interjected.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: It might sound like a farewell speech or a valedictory speech. I am just recognising that a lot has happened, member for Mandurah, over those two years.

Mr D.A. Templeman: You saw the light!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: That is right.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr R.S. Love): Okay, members! You have had a bit of fun. Let the member make his contribution.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: As part of my contribution today, I would like to touch on a couple of areas. I want to talk briefly about the State Coroner’s inquest into the deaths and suicides in the Kimberley region. I want to talk about the state budget and some of the Labor Party seats that have been forgotten and missed in the budget, which is always a good thing to go through, because there are many seats that this government decides to pick winners from, and certainly more seats that it decides to make losers of, for those members opposite. I want to talk a bit about the federal election. I also want to talk about the impact of this budget on the Peel region and certainly on my seat.

I first want to briefly discuss the coroner's inquest into the deaths and suicides of 13 young people in the Kimberley region. Saturday will mark 100 days since the report was handed down and released publicly by Coroner Fogliani. I know a number of members in this place are interested in that inquest and have spoken about it outside this place. Certainly, I appreciate that on Tuesday, when we asked the Premier a question about the report, he outlined some of the government's initiatives and pointed to the government's commitment that there will be a whole-of-government response to that report at some point in time. That is great, and I absolutely applaud and appreciate the government's commitment to that, as I am sure all members in this place have a commitment to make sure we do more to deal with the dire issues that are covered in the coroner's report. I have thought long and hard about the 42 recommendations that were released as part of the coroner's inquest. I am sure that all members in this place, and certainly those more experienced than I, would point to the fact that 42 is a lot of recommendations for the government to respond to, certainly on an issue as important as this. I appreciate that, and the fact that it has taken nearly 100 days. I am certain that we will get a high-quality and committed outcome.

The difficulty I have is that since 2003, there have been 14 inquiries and four coronial inquests into basically the same issue of youth suicides and the plight of Aboriginal Western Australians in the Kimberley and northern Western Australia. Since that time, by any measure, about 700 recommendations have been made. When that is added to the recommendations from Coroner Fogliani's inquest, that takes us to about 750 recommendations that have been handed down since 2003. That is a significant number. That is 750 different recommendations and commitments from agencies. Coroner Hope's review of a previous coronial inquest showed that more attention needs to be paid to those recommendations to ensure they can be implemented appropriately as per the initial coroner's inquest.

However, that brings me to the point of personal despair, I suppose, because although I think things are getting marginally better for Aboriginal people in Western Australia on this acute issue, these coronial inquest and agency reports keep coming out. As I have said, there have been 750 recommendations since 2003. That is a heap of recommendations. I am at pains to understand what more we can do to respond to this issue. As I have said previously in this place, it is a genuine duty and purpose of mine, and of all members of this place, to do as much as we can to help mitigate the circumstances being faced by young people in the Kimberley—young Aboriginal people in particular—that cause them to end up killing themselves. I appreciate that the circumstances that surround that are immense. I consider that they are facing more extreme circumstances than people anywhere else in Western Australia. We live in one of the wealthiest states in the federation. Therefore, it is incumbent on all of us to push to do more. I appreciate that successive governments have done that. This is not a political issue. It is not a question of money. There have been a number of coronial inquests. Coroner Fogliani found that it is not for lack of funding, or even lack of want. It is about trying to find the best way to empower the communities that are in this very desperate situation.

Although I do not have a solution, as it were, while I am in this place I will do my utmost to continue to raise this matter so that we can make a concerted effort to address some of these issues. I have been thinking quite a lot about that, and I have not really formulated what that is, but I flag that over the coming weeks, I intend to bring to this place and to members on both sides my suggestions about how we as parliamentarians can respond to this issue in a better way. I do not believe that Parliament should be just a responsive mechanism. I do not think for one second that it should take another coronial inquest or another agency review and more recommendations for Parliament to find its appetite and talk about this issue for a day or so, before other issues take over. There needs to be a concerted effort on the part of Parliament to address some of the concerns that I have raised. I do not know at this time what that will look like. I do not have an established idea. However, I certainly make a commitment that I will, hopefully, work with members on all sides to try to come up with some mechanism by which the Parliament can be more involved and lean into this issue, rather than being responsive to it as a last-resort mechanism. We are faced with very distressing content in these reports. We send them out for agency comment and review. We understand and appreciate that central agencies then monitor those recommendations. However, they then get lost. We need to pay more attention to these reports on a more constant basis. I do not know what that will look like, but I hope to have a firmer idea, so that rather than just keep talking about it, all of us in this place can come together to do something about it in a more comprehensive way.

The other issue I want to talk about regarding Aboriginal people in particular is the recognition, promotion, recording and exhibiting of Aboriginal culture. I had the opportunity last year to attend a trip to South Africa as part of a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association delegation. I had read a fair bit about apartheid in South Africa. Certainly an interest of mine is how policy goes on to become an idea, then a government policy; where the seeds of that start and how it ends up. I found, when I visited South Africa, all the reading I had done did not do justice to what had occurred. Obviously, what happened there is awful. I found the experience of going to the Apartheid Museum very important. For those who have not been to the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, that left me with a much more profound sense of what occurred in South Africa during those very troubled times than anything that I could read. I would like to see something like that happen in Western Australia. I do not know what

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that looks like. I know that the former Premier Colin Barnett had slated a site at the western end of Elizabeth Quay and talked about an Aboriginal art gallery. At that point I think he had flagged it, planned to carve the land out, and suggested that the commonwealth should help fund that. I think that Western Australia has a very unique opportunity in that respect—not only the art that we have, but also talking about Aboriginal people and their history here. If we tell the story of what occurred, if we can face those facts fully, tell those truths fully and understand fully what occurred, schools can go through there and tourists can visit. As the member for Vasse has said, Aboriginal tourism is a very important part of the drawcard for Western Australia. I think we have a real opportunity in Elizabeth Quay to make that a focus. Maybe in Elizabeth Quay—perhaps somewhere else.

Mr J.E. McGrath: The Old Mill in South Perth is another site that could be suitable for that.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: The Old Mill in South Perth, as the member for South Perth tells me, is a site that could be suitable for that; indeed, it has been looked at by the City of South Perth. We could tell the story of what occurred right from settlement, and what occurred to those people—their family stories. I have spoken a number of times to the member for Kimberley about trying to understand health records. In my own family's records, a family with longstanding Aboriginal history, there are massive patches missing from what occurred to them during that time. Their names come up only in interactions with law enforcement, then they drop away. The member for Kimberley suggested to me that a number of them may have been moved to different reservations, different places, different reserves; whatever that looks like around Western Australia. We do not know, because there are not a lot of records available, or certainly not present in the public realm. I think that any effort we can make as a government, regardless of party, to try to promote, exhibit and build reverence around that will be worthwhile. It is really important to tell that story. I certainly felt that when I was in South Africa, and I think we could go to that effort here in Western Australia. We have a unique opportunity in Western Australia, given our past, to lead in that respect, and I would like to make sure that we can do that. I move on from that. As I said, there is no single fix. I have said it before and I will reiterate my commitment to continue to raise and to fight to progress those issues on behalf of Aboriginal Western Australians, as I am certain all people in this place would.

While I am talking about fighting for people, I often enjoy going through the state budget and seeing where members of the government in particular have either succeeded or failed in securing funding for their own seats. It is meaningless to talk about the opposition and what we manage to achieve, because no matter how hard members on this side fight, the government continues to ignore us, and the Premier continues to break his promise that he would govern for all Western Australians. That is clearly not true. We have seen time and again that the Premier absolutely only governs for Labor-held seats. In fact, we have seen in successive budgets that the government wants to pick and choose the seats it wants to sandbag, because it knows that some seats have already been lost. I need only to talk to the member for Kalgoorlie and the issues with his local pool, or the member for Darling Range on key critical infrastructure projects. It is clear that this government is ignoring those seats held by the opposition. The member for Hillarys talks endlessly about the road.

Mr P.A. Katsambanis: The Mitchell Freeway!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: The Mitchell Freeway and the widening there—the government continues to ignore those members on this side of the house.

Mr P.A. Katsambanis: Peel Health Campus!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Peel Health Campus, of course, which I will get to. Of course, when we go through the budget papers, it seems that this government has decided to ignore some of its own side. I often think that budgets are a good barometer for those seats that the government expects to win or lose in the election in 667 days' time. Whilst I do not have the time to go through all the seats, I think it is important to highlight some of the seats that clearly this government has decided that it will favour and some of the seats that it has already abandoned, quite rightly, member for Cottesloe. I pointed out before that the member for Pilbara is the billion-dollar man. He secured \$1 billion worth of funding in the first budget, I think it was. A billion dollars are being poured into the seat of Pilbara.

Mr I.C. Blayney: And all they do is complain!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: All they do is complain; that is right. We found, member for Geraldton, that he has gone beyond the \$1 billion mark. In this state budget, there is another \$340 million or thereabouts being poured into the seat of Pilbara.

Mr P.A. Katsambanis interjected.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: That is right; he is definitely on the rich list. The member for Hillarys is right. His seat is being absolutely focused on. It is hard to imagine why that might be, but, of course, we need only to look to his margin to understand why that might be the case. The seat of Pilbara is a very marginal seat for the Labor Party, and I suspect if the result in the Darling Range by-election is replicated at the next state election, the seat of Pilbara

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would definitely be taken from the Labor Party, no matter how much money it spends there. To me, nearly \$2 billion worth of taxpayers' money being poured into that seat to try to hold it—that is quite a sandbag! I am not certain that is going to save them in 667 days' time.

Dr D.J. Honey: It might not be value for money!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: That is right—not value for money. One of the other seats I would like to quickly talk about is the seat of Collie–Preston. It is very interesting to me. The government holds that seat by a margin of 14.7 per cent, but when we go through the budget papers and successive budgets, unusually, the seat of Collie–Preston is getting quite a lot of money being poured into it, which is interesting to me. It has a margin of 14.7 per cent, and in this budget alone, there is more than \$100 million going to Collie–Preston.

Mr S.K. L'Estrange: They don't like coal!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: That is right; the government does not like coal! I find that really interesting. In the budget, it has forecast that there is \$100 million being poured into it, \$60 million specifically in the budget papers for these appropriation bills that we are talking about. With a seat being held by a margin of 7 275 votes, why would we spend nearly \$100 million trying to sandbag that seat? It is not for lack of investment. The former Liberal–National government put a lot of money into regional seats. Royalties for regions—we have seen what happens there. The Liberal–National Party had a great focus on all regional areas in Western Australia. Why would we need to spend more than \$100 million on a seat that the government holds by 14.7 per cent? I would imagine that is for two reasons. Either the highly agitated, typically Labor voters down there have realised that this government has abandoned them, when the Premier talks about the renewable energy targets, such as 45 per cent. I wonder what Collie's role is in that—I really do. I wonder how that looks for that town.

Dr M.D. Nahan: They have already cancelled two renewable energy projects.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: There we go—two renewable energy projects cancelled. Maybe the member for Collie–Preston knows something that we do not. Maybe the government knows something about the member for Collie–Preston that we do not. I do not know. I look forward to him standing at the next state election in 667 days' time, when he can tell the good people of Collie–Preston that he has secured more than \$100 million for them. I find it very interesting, and I look forward to the next state budget, and seeing how much more he can secure. Over the last couple of budgets, the amount of money being poured into Collie continues to build. I find that very interesting.

Dr D.J. Honey: They can savour that fact when they're all unemployed.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: That is right; they can savour the fact that the government poured that money into them when they have no jobs because the government has committed to this renewable energy target, without a doubt. I find that very interesting. Compare the money that the member for Collie–Preston has secured for his seat with how some marginal metropolitan seats have gone. I promise members—members opposite already know this—there are some seats that are found wanting. The member for Kingsley unfortunately is not here at this point in time.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Member for Kingsley—a fantastic effort. In the state budget she managed to secure \$400 000 for a skate park. I deliberately pause at the end of that, because there is nothing else. There was \$400 000 for a skate park, but nothing else for Kingsley. There was \$100 million for a seat that the Labor Party holds by 14.7 per cent and \$400 000 for a skate park in the most marginal Liberal-held seat in the metropolitan area.

Mr S.K. L'Estrange: It was 0.6!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: The margin is 0.6; that is exactly right. I find that very interesting. There is something else about Kingsley that I will get to very shortly. I really feel for the member for Kingsley. Just as a bit of a side note, it is worth noting that if one goes through the redistribution submissions by the particular political parties, they are always a really good indication for how particular political parties feel about their seats. It is really interesting. Of course, the Redistribution Commission is funded in this state budget, so that is why we can talk about it. I enjoy redistributions. This is the third or fourth one that I have been part of now. We find in the very revealing Labor Party submission that every opposition-held seat gets stronger—rightly so, because they know they are never going to get any of the opposition-held seats again. Why not build them up?

Mr S.A. Millman: What's the margin?

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: It is a 0.69 per cent margin—343 votes, and it gets stronger under the Labor Party's submission. I am very happy with that.

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Oddly enough, every single Labor-held seat under three per cent gets stronger except for one, the member for Kingsley's. The member for Kingsley is unfortunately not getting any money in the state budget, but it is also very clear that hers is the only seat in the Labor Party's submission that goes backwards. That is remarkable.

Mr S.K. L'Estrange interjected.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: The member for Churchlands is quite right. I do know how much of that margin it can shave off. There is not a lot of buffer there. I am very surprised that at a 0.6 per cent margin the Labor Party feels confident enough in one of the most marginal seats it holds that it can make the member for Kingsley's seat even weaker in the stronghold.

Mr S.K. L'Estrange interjected.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: That is right. Should we get down to double digits? I really feel for the member for Kingsley, who clearly works very hard for her community. But has the Labor Party turned its back on her? Time and again she does not get money in the state budget, and in the redistribution submission, the Labor Party has cut her loose already. If we took on the adopted approach from the Labor Party in its submission for the boundaries, Kingsley would get worse, every Liberal Party seat would get stronger and Labor Party seats under three per cent would get stronger, except for the member for Kingsley's. I find that very disappointing on behalf of the member for Kingsley, but we do not need Kingsley to get that much worse, because we will get it anyway. If we look at the Darling Range result, we see that that seat is already ours. That is fantastic. On the Darling Range result, we would be in government. The tide is going to come back in, especially if a Shorten government is elected. I can only imagine what is going to occur then with the hardworking team of the Liberal opposition here. It is a bit of a shame.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Have you looked after me in my submission?

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Absolutely. The member for Mandurah and I are on the same vote there—regional number one.

Mr D.A. Templeman: You're always looking after my interests—the regional team.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: That is right.

Mrs R.M.J. Clarke interjected.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Member for Murray–Wellington, that is quite right.

I have grown quite fond of the member for Kingsley. It is a shame that the Labor Party has decided to turn its back on her, but we will see what happens at the next state election. I do not think that the Labor Party needed to cut her loose now, because she is going to lose her seat anyway.

Mr S.K. L'Estrange: Maybe it is factional.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: It could be a factional issue. I do not even know where to begin on that, member for Churchlands. Sometimes the Labor Party's factions are such a mess.

I was talking about some of those key Labor seats. I found some of the social media budget communications from members opposite very interesting, particularly members who have managed to secure things for their seats. The member for Joondalup did a fantastic summary about what she had achieved for her community in the state budget, and all the more power to the member for Joondalup. She will need to build that firewall, because we are coming after her, but otherwise she has had great result with her checklist. The member for Bicton does as well. But then we saw some of the other members who failed to get any money for their seats whatsoever. What did they resort to doing? Not only are they not good representatives because they cannot convince their own party to give them money, but also they started to promote things that were so far out of their electorate that they made no sense. I am, of course, talking about the members for Mount Lawley and Baldivis. There is a fantastic post on the member for Baldivis' Facebook page. I could not believe he got so little for his electorate. He has voted time and again to increase fees and charges on his community, then had the gall to host a finance forum to help those people. It is very important that he is doing that, but I suspect that the better thing the member for Baldivis could have done is vote not to increase fees and charges in the first place. I do not know; maybe he should not have done that. He has so little for his community, a community that I would suspect is in the most distressed state in metropolitan Perth given the amount of repossessions that have occurred in his district. What did he do? Out came the budget and in one of his more recent Facebook posts he said, "Supporting WA agriculture". Fantastic! That is great for Western Australian agriculture, but last time I checked, there is very little relationship between Western Australian agriculture and the seat of Baldivis.

Mr R.R. Whitby interjected.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: No, I will not take an interjection, but I am not the only person who clearly thought —

Mr R.R. Whitby interjected.

Mrs Robyn Clarke; Mr Shane Love; Mr Zak Kirkup; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr Yaz Mubarakai; Mr Simon Millman; Mr Ben Wyatt

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Baldvis, thank you.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: The best part of the post is that it has a picture of a wheat crop. I am very curious where a wheat crop is in his agriculture areas in the electorate of Baldvis, but I was not the only person who thought it was somewhat ironic, because there was a comment on the post from a Mr Sawyer who said —

Agriculture sector in Baldvis? Not much left of it ! With the way developers have moved in !

The member has a total of three likes on that post by the way, for supporting agriculture. I do not think that wheat crop in Baldvis is supported. The member for Baldvis had nothing else to talk about so he talked about the member for Geraldton and what he secured. Another Facebook post says —

GROWING JOBS, GROWING FISH

...

\$7 million to build a new, state-of-the-art marine finfish nursery facility in Geraldton

We thought the member for Baldvis would have more wins on the board than talking about what is occurring in Geraldton. I do not mind him promoting the good member for Geraldton and talking about agriculture, but I thought he would have more to talk about on the state budget than a wheat crop and a fish facility in Geraldton. I would think so, but here we are. Of course, the member for Mount Lawley is on a similar venture. He also liked to promote the finfish nursery in Geraldton. It is quite clearly a good relationship. The member for Geraldton might be the most popular man in metropolitan Perth by the way the Labor Party is going. It has secured so little for its seats. It should roll him out, because he has managed to secure a facility that it is promoting in his electorate.

Mr I.C. Blayney: Everyone wants the seat of Geraldton.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Everyone wants the seat of Geraldton. Is that not amazing? I find it remarkable that we see those members opposite who are on tight margins, whose seats are in fairly parlous circumstances, and the best they can do is resort to promoting a wheat crop and a finfish nursery in Geraldton. I think they should lift their game, as the former Premier might say, and maybe get some more local wins on the board. They should follow the lead of the member for Joondalup, or better yet, the member for Belmont. The member for Belmont has done such a great job that she is the only candidate I have seen cross-promoting Bill Shorten's Labor candidate for Hasluck. She is obviously doing such a great job in Belmont, because her name is there right next to Bill Shorten's Labor candidate for Hasluck. I am curious; have all these members opposite managed to secure so much for their community that they have been asked by their headquarters to go on similar materials? No. Maybe those members should be taking the lead from the member for Belmont, or the member for Joondalup, who has a very clear social media plan; she has very clearly spelled out what she has won. The member for Belmont is out there promoting what she has achieved together with Bill Shorten's Labor candidate in Hasluck. I suspect it will not help him in Hasluck, but she is out there on the material, very clearly a very popular local member because she is clearly making gains. The member for Collie-Preston is getting more than \$100 million, and the member for Kingsley is getting \$400 000 for a skate park. Members can see the disparity that is occurring. I find that remarkable. Some seats are getting much love from the offices of the Premier and Treasurer, and some seats not so much that they have to resort to promoting such things as a finfish nursery.

I could go on, but I want to talk very briefly about the federal election. A number of days ago, the member for Mirrabooka spoke about what happened to the Labor member for Cowan and some of the material that has been put out against her. It is absolutely abhorrent. I am united with all members on this side. I was not aware of what was said about the member for Cowan out there until the member raised it. I think that is absolutely detestable. I find the state of politics, certainly federally at the moment, really disconcerting. We have seen that type of material being put out about the member for Cowan; people attempting to set members of Parliament's buses on fire; polling booth volunteers on all sides being abused by miscreant parties, I suspect, or individuals; graffiti on supporters' houses; and dead dogs. People who are putting conflutes out the front of their house are getting graffiti on their house a number of times. That concerns me a great deal. I absolutely take the point of the member for Mirrabooka and what she has said about Cowan.

Mrs R.M.J. Clarke: I think it has been one of the ugliest federal elections.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I think the member for Murray-Wellington is right. It has been a very disappointing federal election in that respect, and I am certain the Liberal Party will continue to conduct its campaign with a high sense of dignity and discipline. I wish, hope and implore all parties to do the same—to follow the lead of the Liberal Party and the way that we have conducted ourselves.

With the last two minutes to go, I have so much—I could have spoken a bit more about the Labor Party candidates —

Mr P.A. Katsambanis: Extension!

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Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: The extension has been taken. I would have looked forward to talking more about Bill Shorten's Labor candidates, but I might round it out. I point out to the house that at the very start of this federal election campaign, the Labor Party, in all its arrogance, was suggesting that Western Australia would be a battleground state, where I think it said it would win four or five seats. At the very start, federal Labor, I think quite arrogantly, was very hopeful of its chances here. That has tightened up to such an extent that if we take into account recent two-party preferred polling, I do not think the Liberal Party will lose a seat. We might even gain a seat.

Dr M.D. Nahan: They brought out their big guns, didn't they?

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: The Leader of the Opposition is absolutely right.

Those members who are here tonight should look at Darling Range and the potential federal election result, and wonder what the similar theme is, as Labor has lost so much of the vote in Western Australia already. It is the Premier. The Premier was a key feature of the Darling Range by-election and is a key feature in the coming federal election.

Dr M.D. Nahan: He was the key feature in our victory.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Indeed, Leader of the Opposition.

I find this very interesting. He has been plastered on all the election material so far. I suspect that if the Labor Party does not get the result that it wants, the only person to blame will be the uniting element between the Darling Range by-election and the federal election—that is, the Premier. I will find it very interesting if the Labor Party does not get the seats it expected. Let us not forget that it was talking about a uniform swing up to Canning. I suspect that is no longer going to happen. Only one individual should be condemned for the Labor Party's failure. That will be the Premier of Western Australia. The people of Darling Range had their say. The people of Western Australia will have their say at this federal election. In 667 days' time, the people of Western Australia will have their vote at the next election.

MS E. HAMILTON (Joondalup) [4.40 pm]: I rise to make my contribution to the second reading debate on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2019–20) Bill 2019 and the Appropriation (Capital 2019–20) Bill 2019. I want to talk about the third state budget that the Labor Party has handed down and convey what it means for the electors in Joondalup. This is a good budget. It is well considered and continues the McGowan government's commitment to getting WA back on track by diversifying the economy and creating new jobs for people in Joondalup.

The McGowan Labor government has turned our state's finances around. The budget has officially returned to surplus this year and I commend the Treasurer for this significant achievement. I acknowledge, too, that there is definitely more to be done, given the mountain of debt left by the Liberal Party and the Nationals WA. As we move forward with our plan for WA, strong surpluses will allow the McGowan government to fund important infrastructure projects, pay down debt and protect the economy as we move forward.

Net debt is \$4 billion lower than expected over the forward estimates. That is \$4 billion less than it would have been under the Liberals. To put this into perspective, this equates to the state saving hundreds of thousands of dollars per day in interest alone. The Liberals tell us we cannot manage money! They created a financial mess and the McGowan Labor government is cleaning up after them. The WA economy continues to grow. Employment data shows that our strong focus on job-creating projects is paying off, with 37 000 new jobs having been created since we took office. In stark contrast, the previous Liberal–National government did not create a single job during its final term in office. We have turned the state around. Debt is going down and jobs are being created. We are delivering for the people of Western Australia and getting on with the job.

I am honoured to represent the seat of Joondalup in this place, and I am proud of what we have achieved so far for the local residents in Beldon, Heathridge, Edgewater, Connolly, Currambine, Ocean Reef, Mullaloo and Joondalup. I will walk through some of the budget allocations that will have an impact in my electorate and commitments that I know will resonate widely. There are many positive aspects to this budget that I could talk to, but I will point out a few important ones that I know my electorate would like an update on to find out how we are tracking with major projects. My focus will be on the Ocean Reef marina. I am dedicated and committed to making sure that we deliver this project for residents in the northern suburbs. Ocean Reef marina is set to become a world-class waterfront precinct providing recreational, tourism, residential and boating facilities for local residents and visitors alike. This budget will deliver an additional \$30 million in funding towards progressing the marina, which will bring the total state investment in the development to \$164 million over the life of the project. This is in addition to the \$35 million that was funded in the 2017–18 budget. I will again put on record in this house that it has only ever been a Labor government that has been committed to delivering the Ocean Reef marina and it has only ever been a Labor government that has put any money into the project. Not one dollar was committed to this project by the previous Liberal government during its eight and a half years in office.

I am a strong advocate for Joondalup and the northern suburbs. This considerable budgetary commitment to the Ocean Reef marina indicates that the McGowan government also views it as a key project. Since taking office the

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McGowan government has continued to deliver this much anticipated development in the heart of the northern suburbs, and it now has had a healthy \$65 million allocation over the last three budgets and will have \$164 million of state government investment over the life of the project. Our community has wanted the Ocean Reef marina for a very long time. When I am knocking on doors and talking on phones, people never hesitate to tell me how long they have been waiting for this project and how much they are looking forward to construction commencing. Progress is tracking very nicely, with construction expected to commence late next year. There has been, and continues to be, overwhelming public support. Over 2 100 people came along to the open day that was held at the Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club in October last year. I attended and was joined by representatives from LandCorp, the state government's land and development agency, which is responsible for managing this development. The City of Joondalup also attended. We met with residents and presented a refined concept plan. It was also an opportunity for local residents to get involved and have their say on what they would like to see included in the landscape masterplan. With the assistance of 3D mapping and a futuristic slideshow, residents could see for themselves how the development will benefit our community. The revised concept plan on display at the open day demonstrated that the Ocean Reef marina will be a world-class waterfront precinct with recreational, boating, tourism and residential facilities, which will draw visitors from near and far. The sheer number of people who came along on the day again illustrates that our community is actively engaged and extremely excited about this project.

As a member of the Ocean Reef marina steering committee, I am confident that the development will be a key economic driver in the region, create hundreds of local jobs and become a world-class tourism destination. It will offer a number of great amenities. Marine services will be close to boat ramps and trailer parking. It will have waterfront cafes and restaurants. Club facilities will be linked to a beachside park. There will be an internal beach, universal fishing access, 2.6 hectares of public open space, 2.9 hectares of parks and recreation reserves, 12 000 square metres of retail and commercial space, residential areas separated from marine services, capacity for 565 boat pens and 200 boat stackers, over 1 000 residences, 5 300 parking bays, an Anzac memorial, a waterslide, an aqua play area, a protected swimming area, improved marine edge treatment, a pontoon, and a snorkel trail. This development will also meet sustainability targets.

Following a huge response to the Ocean Reef marina open day, the next stage of planning began, which included the design of the public realm within the marina. A community reference group was set up, which included 20 members from across community and stakeholder groups. This group worked with the landscape architects to create a vision and design for the public spaces in the marina to complete the landscape masterplan. It also allowed for input from three local schools—the year 6 students from Beaumaris Primary School, the year 11 students from Ocean Reef Senior High School, and students from Prendiville Catholic College—to ensure that all corners of our community were represented. Everyone was able to feed in to the finalisation of the landscape masterplan. I hear that it should be completed towards the end of the month.

The Minister for Lands, Ben Wyatt, visited the site with me a few months ago and acknowledged that although the project has been talked about for a very long time, we are now seeing some real progress and investment. He went on further to comment that this was a significant project for the McGowan government and that he was thrilled to be able to play a key role in it. I must also take a moment to commend the hard work and dedication of a group of key stakeholders on site: the Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue Group, the Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club, and the Joondalup City Returned and Services League of Australia. They are working in collaboration, with LandCorp as the lead proponent, to ensure that the concept plan meets the needs and expectations of all the groups involved.

Last year, the McGowan government introduced the Western Australia Jobs Act, which makes it a requirement for significant state government projects to prioritise jobs for local workers. This project will deliver hundreds of jobs during construction and ongoing jobs in industries such as hospitality and tourism over the life of the project. As we as a state continue to further opportunities to diversify the economy, I am sure that this project will continue to create numerous job and industry opportunities. Given the size and scale of the marina, we know it will become a tourism destination, which of course nicely ties into our plans in the tourism portfolio. This budget has \$12 million allocated to a new tourism package to attract more international visitors to WA and to provide a substantial jobs boost. I look forward to continuing to update my community on this project. There will be numerous opportunities over the coming months for community engagement and for people to see how progress is tracking on this development.

I now want to take a few moments to talk about the health portfolio. The McGowan Labor government is committed to putting patients first and ensuring that patients in the northern corridor in particular, and across the state, can receive quality health care close to home. Joondalup Health Campus in my electorate provides services as a secondary hospital for the catchment area that mainly comprises the cities of Joondalup and Wanneroo. The health campus currently comprises a 524-bed public hospital and a 146-bed private hospital. It has one of the busiest emergency departments in the country.

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Stage 2 of the Joondalup Health Campus project represents a \$161 million investment to expand it to meet demand as the northern corridor continues to grow. The expansion is to focus on areas with the most urgent need. It will provide a new 77-bed mental health building, an additional 12 emergency department bays and up to 30 additional inpatient beds to support the expanded ED. The expansion addresses mental health services that operate near capacity in the existing 47-bed mental health unit, through an increase of 30 beds. That will include an additional 10 beds for youth and older adults to enable both cohorts to receive dedicated services at the health campus. From the communications I have had with local residents, I know that youth mental health is a big issue in the area and that there is a growing need for these services. This is felt across my electorate and more broadly across the state.

The development also increases the emergency department capacity with those 12 bays to support the delivery of services. As I mentioned, the Joondalup Health Campus has one of the busiest emergency departments in the country and sees nearly 100 000 presentations annually. These additional beds will provide for a more efficient manner of operation, as well as the additional hospital beds to support patients being admitted from ED. In addition, the scope includes hundreds of new parking bays for visitors and staff. These works are expected to commence late this year or early next year, with a completion date of 2024–25.

I want to take a moment to address a few comments that the federal Liberal Party has made, particularly its misleading adverts that have been distributed in our local paper over the past couple of weeks, and to correct the public record. I heard my parliamentary colleague the member for Girrawheen call the federal Liberals “scallywags” in this chamber yesterday. I am sure thousands of dollars were spent on these adverts. I am sure this money could have been better spent elsewhere. I raised this matter in the house with the Minister for Health recently, by way of a parliamentary question. I have outlined our commitment to the Joondalup Health Campus. The minister rightfully said that the Liberals have set a poor example when it comes to funding health care. Scott Morrison, Ian Goodenough and Christian Porter have cut hospital expenditure in WA by \$77 million, resulting in reduced health care for Western Australians. The criticism that WA Labor was not supporting this expansion was wrong and the federal Liberals have a lot to answer to for misleading our community on this issue. We are committed to delivering quality health care close to home through the Joondalup Health Campus.

In March of this year, this government opened the \$5 million 12-bed stroke unit. It includes six acute care beds co-located with a therapy space. We know that strokes are very prevalent in the community. We also know there is a need to act fast when a stroke occurs and that every minute matters. The availability of this new comprehensive stroke unit in Joondalup will cut travel time by up to an hour each way for patients who would otherwise need to attend Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital or Fiona Stanley Hospital. Stroke is one of the biggest killers in Australia. The long-lasting effects and potential disability following a stroke can be significant. Last year, Joondalup Health Campus treated almost 200 stroke patients in general medical wards. This number is expected to rise as the hospital is able to accept patients from other tertiary centres. Rather than patients being dispersed throughout the hospital, this unit will enable health and stroke care experts from all disciplines, including doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and speech therapists, to be co-located in one ward.

I would like to take a moment to commend the work of Andrew Wesseldine, the state stroke director, who has, and continues to be, intricately involved with this unit. I must also mention the wonderful work of Jonine Collins, the WA executive officer of the national Stroke Foundation. No mention of the stroke unit at Joondalup Health Campus would be complete without again acknowledging the tireless work and dedication shown by Sally Allen and Lara Cole from the Northern Suburbs Stroke Support Group. We are very lucky that Pete Coghlan and Robert Vander Kraats are also involved with this group. They have experienced stroke firsthand and are able to be the voice behind the needs of our community. This unit has already saved lives. This is just the beginning of the upgrade and expansion works that will take place at Joondalup Health Campus under the McGowan Labor government.

There are many other issues in the health portfolio that I would like to touch on, particularly around the issue of funding mental health. The need in this space is all too real. It is important to note that it is not unique to WA; it is something that governments around the world grapple with. We need to continue to invest in mental health community support services and to ensure that people who are seeking support can reach out for it in real-time, and perhaps in a location that is more suitable, acknowledging that this is not always an emergency department. Constituents contact my office seeking advice on how to access support for themselves, and from time to time it is also for their loved ones. To them, I say there is a \$93.8 million mental health boost in this state budget for services in the public system.

I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work that has taken place in the mental health space at Joondalup Health Campus. I was lucky enough to attend, very early in coming to office, the opening of the 10-bed mental health observation area. I acknowledge that this is a really complex challenge facing our community.

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This budget also provides \$41 million towards an end-of-life choices and palliative care package. It takes a bold government to deal with complex policy areas. We have taken that challenge to replicate the community conversation and bring it into this chamber around the issue of voluntary assisted dying, in particular around the desire for some members of our community to be able to make their own decision at their end of life, when that time arrives. I look forward to participating in a considered, respectful and informed debate in the chamber in the second half of this year.

There are many other areas I would like to focus on. I want to touch on our investment in education. The sum of \$452.8 million has been allocated in this budget to improve WA schools. We have an active and engaged school community in Joondalup, with fantastic teaching and support staff, and lovely parents, students and wider community. Of course, there are the very real struggles of trying to get volunteers to participate in these school communities. I have been going around P&C meetings and school boards, and know that volunteers are hard to find. I wanted to make a little plug in this speech to say that people should get involved if they are not already. It is a great way to be involved in your child's education but also to be able to reach out to the parent body and community.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms E. HAMILTON: In Joondalup, we will see the construction of two \$5 million performing arts centres, the first of which will be at Ocean Reef Senior High School. Ocean Reef Senior High School offers students a specialist contemporary music program. Amongst other things, this new purpose-built facility will enable students to explore their creative talents. This building is very much welcomed by school principal Karon Brookes. It will provide an exceptional environment for students to perform. I know that the school is looking forward to being able to provide an additional venue in our community for local community groups to utilise as well as being a location where student productions can take place. In our community, along with many others in neighbouring electorates, space like this is hard to find. Having a school community that will benefit from a performing arts centre and the fact that they are able to open up their doors for the wider community is exciting. Ocean Reef Senior High School board, headed by chair Patrick Wong, has been working closely with the Department of Education, architects and the school's principal to develop the plans for the new building. It will be located within school grounds. Numerous fantastic facilities will be attached to it.

Joondalup will be very lucky to receive two performing arts centres. The second of those will be located at Belridge Secondary College. Again, I know the centre will be welcomed by school principal Melesha Sands. It will provide a purpose-built facility for student productions and a location to exhibit works, as Belridge Secondary College has a specialist fashion design program. Planning work for the centre will commence this year.

I point out that the state budget allocates \$40 million to students with a disability in the WA public school system to help address the learning needs of all students. In my role as chair of the Beldon Education Support Centre board, I have spoken directly with the principal of Beldon Primary School, Michele Mason, about how this additional support will benefit the school. I have also talked with the principal of the Beldon Education Support Centre, Jenine Wall. It is a fantastic injection of funds that is welcomed by our community.

I could continue to talk about the positive aspects of this budget for the Joondalup electorate, but my contribution needs to come to an end very shortly and I want to summarise my contribution. This budget has been well received by my community, the media, political commentators—by everyone except the opposition. Opposition members have taken real issue with this budget. The former government was in office for eight and a half years, but all we see is generational debt, spiking at \$44 billion, that will affect my children and those of members opposite. The Treasurer has made the difficult decisions that have led us to where we are today—back in the black. It requires solid financial management and it is clear that we have turned the corner. But now is not the time to diverge from the path we are on. I took a moment while putting this contribution together to reflect on my first budget speech in this place. My focus was that we needed to get Western Australia back on track. That is exactly what we have done over the last two years, while focusing on our core business. We have funded health, education, public transport and law and order. By doing so, we have ensured fairness and equality and provided numerous opportunities for local residents, small business and the wider community.

My focus is to ensure that Joondalup is a priority for our government and I will continue to advocate for our community in this place. The budget has delivered for Joondalup and it has delivered for Western Australia. Again, I commend the Treasurer for this budget. I commend the bill to the house. Thank you.

MR Y. MUBARAKAI (Jandakot) [5.02 pm]: I thank Madam Deputy Speaker for the opportunity to speak on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2019–20) Bill 2019 and Appropriation (Capital 2019–20) Bill 2019. I will not use my time to speak on our third budget like the member for Dawesville did; I will spend my 10 minutes talking about the wonderful work that we are doing. Government members are well connected with their communities and are promoting the good news about prosperity from good investment in the state. What is more important for members on this side of the chamber is that we look at the state as a whole, rather than just the electorates

we represent. The good news is that government members are doing an amazing job. Good luck with the next two years, member for Dawesville.

I will continue my comments on the 2019–20 state budget. The McGowan Labor government has delivered a budget focused on fixing the financial mess left behind by the previous government. We are building Metronet, creating more jobs to strengthen the state's economy and investing in essential public services, including health and education. The McGowan Labor government's third budget is projected to record a \$553 million general government operating surplus this financial year. This is the first surplus since 2013–14 and represents a massive \$3 billion shift from the \$2.5 billion deficit inherited from the previous government. This operating surplus is crucial in order to fund infrastructure investment, such as roads, hospitals and schools; pay down the debt left by the previous government; and provide a buffer against unpredictability in revenue.

In order to achieve an operating surplus, the McGowan Labor government's focus on controlling expenditure growth has been key to its financial management and debt reduction. A raft of successful savings measures has meant that expenditure is expected to grow by just 1.3 per cent per annum over the next four years, compared with 6.4 per cent under the previous government, allowing expenditure to be better directed to improve the quality of health care, community safety and education.

In 2018, the McGowan Labor government secured GST distribution reforms that guarantee that Western Australia will never again receive below 70 per cent of our population share of the GST pool. Sensibly, the McGowan Labor government has fully allocated the \$434 million GST top-up prepayment received in 2018–19 to the government's debt reduction account.

The budget also addresses an important issue affecting Western Australians—that is, the significant cost-of-living increases households have been burdened with over the last decade. These increases averaged 5.8 per cent per annum over the two terms of the previous government. In this budget, the McGowan Labor government delivered the lowest increase in household fees and charges in 13 years, with a two per cent increase in 2018–19.

This budget also sees the McGowan Labor government deliver record investment in Metronet and road projects, with \$4.2 billion in total provided for road infrastructure and maintenance initiatives to reduce traffic congestion, improve safety and create jobs. This includes \$536 million allocated to the Thornlie–Cockburn Link project to extend the Thornlie rail line to Cockburn station. Construction is due to start later in the year. This project runs through part of my electorate of Jandakot and will be heavily utilised by residents and workers from Canning Vale, Harrisdale and Piara Waters. Stations will be built at Ranford Road and Nicholson Road, which will enable commuters to reach Perth in under 30 minutes, and getting to Optus Stadium will be easier than ever. Residents and workers in Canning Vale and surrounding areas will benefit from reduced travel times and better connectivity to the public transport network. The Thornlie–Cockburn Link will also influence land development, with changes taking place that will support medium to long-term residential and employment development in Canning Vale. I have spoken to residents in Canning Vale, Harrisdale and Piara Waters when doorknocking, in phone conversations and at mobile offices, and I continually hear how they are looking forward to the Thornlie–Cockburn Link becoming operational.

Jandakot will also benefit from a further \$237 million allocated to the Armadale Road bridge project. Work is continuing on this key piece of infrastructure, with the design finalised for the Armadale Road and Solomon Road intersection. Main Roads WA undertook extensive engagement with the local community in order to understand residents' preferred design for the intersection and to hear their concerns. The project addresses congestion at the Kwinana Freeway, Armadale Road and Beeliar Driver intersection, which is Perth's fifth-most congested intersection. By constructing the Armadale Road bridge and connecting to North Lake Road, a bypass will be effectively created around Cockburn Central train station and Cockburn Gateway Shopping City that will allow for the segregation of local and heavy regional traffic. Cockburn Central train station is heavily utilised by commuters from Treeby, Harrisdale and Piara Waters, and the project will make their journey time safer, shorter and more consistent. The project compliments other significant local road improvements, such as the Armadale Road upgrade to a dual carriageway between Tapper Road and Anstey Road. It will also support residential and commercial expansion in Cockburn and Armadale.

An important aspect of the McGowan Labor government's plan to repair the state's finances and support the ongoing recovery of the Western Australian economy is diversifying our economy. The budget shows that the McGowan Labor government is funding key areas to assist with continued diversification to ensure the WA economy continues to grow in a challenging global and national economic environment. The McGowan Labor government is committed to a number of new job-creating initiatives in Jandakot. As well as the job-creating Metronet, the Thornlie–Cockburn Link and road infrastructure projects, an additional \$19.5 million has been allocated for the Forrestdale business park west development. Once this area is fully developed, 140 hectares of land will be

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unlocked and the precinct will create over 2 600 local jobs. This is an important step forward for businesses in our local area. I am proud of the McGowan government's investment in Perth's south-east.

The McGowan Labor government has also made changes to its Keystart stimulus package to support home ownership and jobs in the construction sector. This is particularly important in my electorate, especially in the suburbs of Harrisdale, Piara Waters and Treeby. These three suburbs continue to undergo extensive development, with the growing communities forecast to expand further. To give an idea of the growth these areas are undergoing, in 2016 the population of Piara Waters was estimated to be 9 517. Average annual growth is forecast to be 10.38 per cent, growing the population to just over 15 500 residents by 2021.

Mr S.A. Millman interjected.

Mr Y. MUBARAKAI: Thank you, member for Mount Lawley. Further to this point, Piara Waters is forecast to continue to experience significant growth over the next 20 years. This trend is also expected to be replicated in Harrisdale and Treeby. Through the changes to the Keystart stimulus package, the McGowan Labor government has ensured that these communities will continue to thrive and grow by supporting homebuyers and the housing construction industry.

Through targeted spending to enhance essential public services, the McGowan Labor government is putting patients first by delivering high quality patient care across the state, with a significant investment in health and mental health infrastructure and more innovative services with improved access for all. One of those innovative services, although not technically in my electorate but next to its boundary, is Western Australia's first medihotel. The medihotel will be located alongside Fiona Stanley Hospital as part of the Murdoch Health and Knowledge Precinct and will include aged-care beds, housing and health research facilities. Patients who are discharged from hospital but are still recovering can recuperate in the medihotel, which will offer comfort and privacy with close access to medical care. Construction is currently underway on this groundbreaking patient service.

The McGowan Labor government has also invested in schools in Western Australia by ensuring that all students, regardless of where they live, receive a high quality education. As a father of two school-aged children, I applaud the McGowan Labor government's focus on ensuring that schools can better support the growing numbers of students in modern, first-class facilities. The state budget includes a further \$452.8 million investment to improve school infrastructure and create jobs for Western Australians, bringing the total investment by the McGowan Labor government in the Western Australian education system to \$22.1 billion over the next four years. The budget allocates \$78.3 million for five new primary schools to open in 2021, including the Harrisdale north primary school. As I mentioned before, Harrisdale has experienced exponential growth in residential density, and this is forecast to increase at an average annual growth rate of 2.22 per cent. Compared with the wider City of Armadale, Harrisdale has a higher proportion of children aged from zero to 11 years. Harrisdale Primary School is the largest public primary school in Western Australia with 1 137 students currently enrolled from kindergarten to Year 6. These enrolment figures are expected to continue to increase. The investment by the McGowan Labor government in Harrisdale north primary school will provide enrolment relief for Harrisdale Primary School and alleviate the issues that occur with sustained high enrolment figures.

I would like to finish by thanking the McGowan Labor government, in particular the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the outstanding Treasurer and cabinet ministers, for delivering Western Australia a state budget that has returned to surplus for the first time in five years. It has delivered the lowest increase in household fees and charges in 13 years. It has provided record funding investment in Metronet and road infrastructure projects, diversified the economy and created jobs through targeted investments, and enhanced essential public services such as health and education through appropriate spending. I would also like to thank the McGowan Labor government for listening to the concerns, issues and ideas of the Jandakot community and continuing to strongly invest in the Jandakot electorate.

MR S.A. MILLMAN (Mount Lawley) [5.15 pm]: I rise to speak on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2019–20) Bill 2019 and the Appropriation (Capital 2019–20) Bill 2019.

An article on the ABC news website this morning was titled "The dark triad sums up psychopaths, but the light triad defines saints". The dark triad, for those members who are not aware, refers to personality traits. It consists of three negative traits: the tendency to manipulate others, otherwise known as Machiavellianism; the tendency to seek admiration and special treatment, known as narcissism; and the tendency to be callous and insensitive, otherwise known as psychopathy. Conversely, the good triad is known by its characteristics of Kantianism, which is when we treat people as a means to themselves rather than as a means to an end. Basically, we are not out to use them. It is pretty much the opposite of Machiavellianism. The second attribute is humanism, which is valuing the dignity and worth of each person. The third is a faith in humanity, which is when we believe that people are fundamentally good. I have this article here if members are interested in it. When I read this article this morning, I wondered what would be the attributes—the light triad—of economic management. I found an excellent example

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in the budget delivered by the Treasurer last week. When I think of the dark triad of economic management, I think of profligacy, thoughtlessness or indifference, and parochialism and pandering to sectional interests. But then when I think of the light triad, I think of frugality and restraint, attention to detail, intellectual and thoughtful, and of sharing the benefits and the burdens. I see that what the Treasurer has done with this budget epitomises what I would consider to be the light triad. But being good economic managers is not an end in and of itself. Being good economic managers means that we can pay down debt and save half a billion dollars on interest repayments. Being good economic managers means that we can invest in the services and infrastructure of this state, and we can insulate ourselves from global volatility and shocks.

As the government's financial position improves over the next couple of years, we need to look at whether and how we can increase wages for our hardworking public servants—our teachers, nurses, police, ambulance officers, firefighters and prison officers. We need to continue our investment in job-creating, congestion-busting infrastructure that by its construction will fuel economic growth and oil the wheels of the economy. We need to look at the revenue side as well. We need to look at ways in which we can develop sufficient headroom in our financial balance sheet to reduce the payroll tax burden on our small business community. When I see the excellent steps that the Treasurer has already taken to reform payroll tax to encourage greater apprenticeships and traineeships, I can see that this government is attuned ever so sensitively to the needs of small business in Western Australia. That brings to mind that light triad trait of sharing burdens and benefits. Unfortunately, the burden that this Treasurer is forced to bear was accumulated over eight and a half years by the former government. We have heard a lot of fantastic contributions from the backbenchers on the government side, all of whom spoke articulately, with clarity, alacrity and passion, and in an informed way about all of the benefits that their electorate and constituency will get from this budget. We can see from those contributions that the whole of Western Australia will share in the benefits. I have taken my time to promote some of these benefits that will be shared throughout Western Australia, because the McGowan Labor government is not about looking after only the Labor seats, although it has done that exceptionally well. I commend the member for Pilbara for his excellent advocacy on behalf of his constituents in securing funding from the government. I commend the Minister for Sport and Recreation; Seniors and Ageing, the member for Collie—Preston, for his excellent advocacy. Every one of the McGowan government backbenchers has worked hard with the Treasurer and the government to identify issues of greatest concern to their constituents, and have worked hard to find ways to address those concerns.

In my own electorate of Mount Lawley, the people at Mount Lawley Senior High School, in the lead-up to the 2017 state election, were concerned about significant increases in enrolment, and there was concern about enrolment pressures on all the public schools throughout the western suburbs. Rather than focusing on investing in one of our Labor electorates, we decided to build Inner City College in the electorate of the member for Nedlands. That is a \$70 million investment, but it does not benefit only the people of the seat of Nedlands. It has a benefit for the people in the electorate of Perth, and in the electorate of Mount Lawley. That one example shows that this McGowan government will not pander to sectional interests. As well as sharing the burden of repairing the fiscal mess that was left to us by the wreckers on the other side with their incapacity for managing the economy, we will share the benefits, as those benefits flow through. We are investing in school maintenance.

We are upgrading Royal Perth Hospital, in the electorate of the member for Perth. This is a \$22.7 million project. A significant proportion of the Mount Lawley electorate accesses Royal Perth Hospital, as they are in the east metropolitan district. Another significant proportion accesses Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, and many people in my electorate also access Osborne Park Hospital. It is good to see investments in our health infrastructure across all those institutions. We are investing in a new mental health unit in Fremantle. I do not criticise or condemn that; I say it is a fantastic investment because I know that the Treasurer and the Minister for Health have already invested in mental health in Mount Lawley, with the mental health unit at the St John of God Hospital. Investment in the mental health emergency department at St John of God Hospital in Midland will only serve to make the investment in Mount Lawley even better, because the people at St John of God Mount Lawley will also have access to that St John of God Midland emergency mental health department.

We are expanding palliative care services and boosting police and community youth centres. We are taking action on methamphetamine, with \$42.5 million towards our methamphetamine action plan. This investment does not benefit only the people of Murray—Wellington, Dawesville or Girrawheen; it benefits all Western Australians, because this is a government that governs for all Western Australians. We heard the passionate response from the Minister for Culture and the Arts last night at the end of private members' business to scurrilous accusations about the way in which this government was focused only on the inner city. That passionate defence, and that poetic description of the bucolic upbringing that he experienced—the romantic notion that he brought forward into this chamber—was a perfect example of not only his passionate commitment to the people of Mandurah, who continually re-elect him year after year with increased margins, but his commitment, emblematic of the entire government, to the whole of Western Australia.

We are powering remote communities. We are growing WA aquaculture. We are making it easier for more WA families to buy their own first home. We are investing in Aboriginal tourism. We are diversifying the economy, and we are creating the jobs of the future because, as we improve the economy it gives us the capacity and the ability to do those things that are so important to Labor governments. We are delivering health services. This government is demonstrating that the state can improve services while maintaining sound financial management. A total of \$216.7 million has been allocated to hospital services, including \$21.5 million for small rural hospitals and nursing posts. It is a shame that, with the exception of the member for Murray–Wellington on the government benches, we do not have any country members or members of the National Party here. I accept that they may have other business in the Parliament. Expenditure on hospital services increases to \$6.7 billion in 2019–20, and will be growing at an average annual rate of 3.5 per cent across the next three years. There is a \$22.7 million investment to refurbish the 20-bed intensive care unit at Royal Perth Hospital. Once again, I am so pleased to see that the McGowan Labor government is committed to preserving and enhancing Royal Perth Hospital, something that could not be said for our predecessors.

The McGowan Labor government is also spending \$94.2 million on mental health, and alcohol and other drug services, and this is expected to grow to over \$1 billion in 2022–23. When I listened to some of the contributions from members in this chamber about mental health, and how profoundly it affects the lives of everyday Western Australians, I could not help but be moved, and I could not help but be grateful for the fact that we have a Treasurer with record of economic management who has the money now available to spend \$1 billion on mental health services. A mental health emergency centre at St John of God Midland Hospital—I have already spoken about that—is another \$5 million. This one is especially important to me, because I think we need to focus on diversifying the economy and creating the jobs of the future. The future health research and innovation fund is allocated \$52 million. There is nothing more important, as we see our health budget grow, and as we see the outstanding work that the Minister for Health is doing with his sustainable health review, than identifying ways in which we can take advantage of those brilliant medical researchers in the Western Australian community who are at the cutting edge of technological and medical developments, investing strategically with them, and leveraging that with medical innovation and commercialisation. We will see this increase as a focus of the McGowan Labor government over the next couple of years, and I implore the people of Western Australia to get on board with this agenda, because it will make a difference in people's lives genuinely through the national collaborative research infrastructure.

Another area I have spoken about often in this place is our creative industries. There is nothing more important to the Minister for Culture and the Arts than our creative industries, and he knows what an important role they will play in the jobs of the future. The people of the electorate of Mount Lawley are well known as supporters of the arts, whether it be visual arts, music, theatre or creative industries such as gaming and filmmaking. The McGowan government is finding ways to support creative communities to drive projects to deliver both beauty and economic sustainability. Even in the inner-city areas, our community feels a strong affinity for rural and regional Western Australia, which is why we support initiatives such as the Aboriginal ranger program and now the regional arts and culture investment program. I have spoken before about our investment in the contemporary music fund—\$3 million providing opportunities for music artists and enabling safer and more vibrant venues. This will considerably improve the economic and social output of the contemporary music industry. Our regional arts culture and investment program of \$20 million over four years, and the \$8 million commitment to regional exhibition touring will boost visual arts. Other programs include a state of creativity, strengthening Aboriginal arts and empowered and employed communities.

On Tuesday, the minister announced a new virtual reality festival taking place later this year as part of Revelation Perth International Film Festival. What a fantastic initiative. Titled XR:WA, the festival will present public and industry events that explore virtual and augmented reality, artificial intelligence, computer animations and other forms of screen-based and immersive media. XR:WA will provide an opportunity for participants to witness the latest innovative technologies. This is cutting edge; this is a government that has a vision for the future. The industry component of the festival program will attract a broad range of local and international delegates to explore new ideas and experiences. Local content from Western Australia is growing in the immersive and interactive media sector. WA is incredibly lucky to have this fantastic virtual reality talent. I will give a quick shout-out to Vee Pendergast of Stirfire Studios who recently received an international Access Pass Superstar award through our game industry growth pilot program. WA is also home to innovative virtual reality businesses and individuals such as Justin McArdle's Frame VR, Brendon D'Silva of Virtual Guest, and Dr Kate Raynes-Goldie who have contributed on the XR:WA advisory panel. The McGowan government's support of this festival and the industry shows that we are future focused and capitalising on this growth and supporting its emergence in Western Australia. That is jobs of the future, and I commend the minister for it, and jobs of today as well.

I return to the comments I made in support of the Treasurer's proposed amendments to the payroll tax exemption scheme to promote apprenticeships. The last thing we want, in an era of fiscal responsibility, is people who are

exploiting loopholes. If the employer incentive scheme is to work appropriately, it needs to be targeted, and it needs to be directed. Out of \$182 million for the new employer incentive scheme, \$45 million will go to regional Western Australia, demonstrating, once again, that this government governs for the whole of Western Australia. The scheme will be funded through the redirection of payroll tax once the legislation is passed to remove the remaining payroll tax exemption for trainees. The payroll tax exemption for apprentices will be retained. Under the employer incentive scheme, businesses will receive a base payment of \$8 500 for employing an apprentice or new entrant trainee. It is estimated that the scheme will extend state government support to nearly 6 000 businesses. Members, let there be no doubt—the party of small business is the party of government, and that is the Labor Party. Together with the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund, the new scheme will extend support to employers in all industries who take on apprentices and trainees. In addition to the 6 000 new businesses, 2 600 businesses are already currently benefiting from the payroll tax exemption.

There is no question, members, that when the McGowan Labor government was elected in 2017, we faced an enormous task to remedy the fiscal recklessness of our predecessors. Thankfully, we have a Treasurer who understands the good triad of economic management, the necessity for frugality and restraint, and the importance of attention to detail. We have from our Treasurer a budget that is intellectual, that is thoughtful, and that does not have all the flawed assumptions of the previous government, which led us down the path of debt and deficit disasters. We have a Treasurer who understands the importance of not just sharing the burdens, but also sharing the benefits. I look forward to the bright uplands as we move into a future of better financial management, so that this government can afford to do the things that the people of Western Australia deserve. I commend the Treasurer's budget.

MR B.S. WYATT (Victoria Park — Treasurer) [5.31 pm] — in reply: I rise to respond to the second reading debate on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2019–20) Bill 2019 and the Appropriation (Capital 2019–20) Bill 2019. I also rise quite inspired by the member for Mount Lawley's contribution to the budget. I want to begin by thanking all members for their contribution. The quality of debate, particularly among government members, has been quite spectacular. In this competitive environment that is politics, all of us on the frontbench are feeling the heat on the back of our shirts, knowing full well that just a stumble might see us in other positions. I am particularly pleased that we have such engaged, articulate and confident members of Parliament. We know when we listen to the debates that they are connected to their communities and electorates. The budget reply is a general debate, and it is always good to listen to the various issues raised by members. Obviously, there are always reflections on the broader themes of the budget. However, much of the debate is also around what the budget means for specific people, groups and areas.

I think this budget very much delivers on the efforts of the first two budgets brought down by this government, and I made that point in my budget speech. Members will be delighted to know that I will not speak for the entire 45 minutes, but I want to reflect briefly on how far we have come and how much has changed in the last couple of years. When I became Treasurer, we were in a scenario in which our economy—our gross state product—was shrinking. This was the only time on record that this has happened. We were in a genuine recession. We had five years in which our domestic economy contracted, often at quite considerable rates. I note with some amusement, to be honest, the references by the Leader of the Opposition and shadow Treasurer to state final demand. I remind the house that when the Leader of the Opposition was Treasurer, the state final demand figures in 2014–15 were a contraction of 3.6 per cent, in 2015–16 a contraction of four per cent, and in 2016–17 a contraction of 7.2 per cent. At no point while the Leader of the Opposition was Treasurer did the domestic economy grow. That is why, during the entire second term of the former Liberal–National government, no net jobs were created. The Western Australian economy lost about 700 jobs over that four-year period.

There were also consecutive operating deficits. I want to emphasise the cash position, and the budget goes through this. On the back of two years in a row of cash deficits in excess of \$4 billion, we had a scenario in which net debt was not set in any way to peak. I did not inherit one projected operating surplus. There was about \$6 billion in accumulated operating deficits in the *Pre-election Financial Projections Statement*. We have managed, in two years, to turn that around. We have done that through the efforts in the first two budgets by not just cutting spending because I think that, ultimately, most people would appreciate cutting spending in a state budget environment is very difficult. That is because we are required as a state to underwrite basic essential services—members know what they are—our hospitals, schools, police and child protection, so there is a limit to what we can do. What we did—this was a big effort in our first two budgets—was fundamentally reprioritise our budget spending, whether it be in public sector reform, or whether it be in the decision that we would not do what the former government was committed to but would change that and focus on our own priorities. That is what needed to have happened when Mr Barnett became Premier in 2008. Instead of delivering on the six per cent or seven per cent expected expense growth in that year, we ended up delivering 13.5 per cent expense growth. That started the trend of 10 per cent, on average, expense growth over that first term. That

locked into recurrent growth that was unsustainable and gave us the structural deficit that I inherited and that we have now turned around.

In two years, due to those first two budgets, we have managed to get back into the position in which we expect a surplus of some \$553 million in 2018–19. That is a win for Western Australians. There is no doubt about that. As I have said time and again, when we get back to surplus, we use the surplus position, as we know, for asset investment, to create jobs and to pay down debt. That is exactly what we are doing. That is exactly what we committed to do during the 2017 election campaign. That is what we have been saying consistently to Western Australians. I think they understand that when we came into government in 2017, it was on the basis of one overriding and overwhelming theme—that is, we had to fix the finances of the state. Yes, our big asset investment program in Metronet and our big asset investment in regional roads were an important part of delivering us to government. However, ultimately, there was an acceptance, and there was an anger, that despite the largest economic and revenue boom a Western Australian government had ever seen, we found ourselves deep in deficit and with debt heading on an unsustainable path. That is what we were elected to do. This budget certainly delivers on the efforts of our first two budgets. I think most members of Parliament, if they are reasonable, as all government members are, would accept that. Indeed, I note that some members of the other side of the chamber did make some positive comments around the budget and the effort to which we have gone to return this state to surplus, and I acknowledge those contributions by those members.

The Leader of the Opposition and shadow Treasurer would say, “Well, it’s all just luck.” It is amazing. The harder we work, the luckier we get in this game. The more disciplined we are, the luckier we get. I made the point, when I sat on the other side for a long time—eight and a half years—that, ultimately, why do we focus on expense growth and sensible financial management? The member for Mount Lawley also made this point. We focus on that so that we can deliver our programs sustainably, and, when things turn against us, we do not have to make the sort of stringent cuts that we do not want to make. It does not matter who it is; no-one wants to do that. I want to ensure that the programs we worked on in opposition—the Aboriginal ranger program, for example—are delivered sustainably and do not become a victim of global circumstance.

Another point I want to make is that the importance of strong operating surpluses also ensures that we as a government protect Western Australians from our exposure to changing international conditions. Our great strength in this state is the fact that we are a trade-focused economy, but it is also our vulnerability. It does not take much of a change in the exchange rate or the iron ore price for there to be rapid impact on our expected revenue. Almost overnight, we could see a billion dollar negative turnaround or a billion dollar positive turnaround—almost overnight. We need to ensure that we have a strong operating surplus that protects us from any negative change. There is nothing we can do in this place to control or have an impact on those changes; we are vulnerable to those movements. That is another reason we need to ensure that we have strong operating surpluses, to protect ourselves from those international movements.

I think the shadow Treasurer was perhaps being unkind in the debate that we had. I get it—we all have to find our theme, our argument, and the opposition needs to find something negative to say about the budget. There is no doubt that the iron ore price was impacted by the tragedy in Brazil. Nearly 250 Brazilians were killed as a result of that tragedy.

Mr W.J. Johnston: The Leader of the Opposition called that the “Brazilian lottery”.

Mr B.S. WYATT: Yes. That is incredibly disappointing. The Brazilians lost nearly 250 people as a result of that tailings dam disaster. The Brazilian courts and government have reacted strongly to that, as one would expect. That has taken out about four per cent of the global supply chain of iron ore. That has had an impact on the price of iron ore. It has been hovering in the low to mid-90s for a lot longer than I thought it would. That is why we took a very different approach to how we assumed the iron ore price in this budget, not just for the budget year, but for the forward estimates as well. If we had simply done what we normally do around iron ore, we would have locked in a much higher assumption over the forward estimates, which would have meant that at this point we were assuming very large operating surpluses,—but would they be delivered? No, of course not, because that iron ore price is not here to stay. We have taken a very conservative view on the iron ore price because I want to ensure that the budget is exposed to more upside risk than downside risk. Because of the environment we are now in and the successful work of the Premier, when we have the GST floor and means that we get to keep more of our iron ore royalties—not all, but more we can plan better, and we can ensure that we take conservative positions on things like iron ore that are a big part of our revenue base. This is not luck. If I had done what Mr Barnett and the former government did, I would have locked in a very high price and spent accordingly. That is exactly what happened, and when the iron ore price did what it was inevitably going to do—because it was never going to stick up there at \$120, \$130 or \$140 a tonne—and came off, the balance sheet was so terribly exposed that it drove us into those large deficits that we are only just coming out of now.

There is one thing I want to spend a little time on before I conclude; a number of members have spoken about this. One of the biggest reforms in Parliament over the last couple of years has been that of the funding of trainees in Western Australia. This has been a significant reform. Historically, as a state, we have heavily subsidised our TAFEs, which are an important delivery arm of how we train our people, but how we actually fund them has only really been through a payroll tax exemption. That means a couple of things. First, it has been employer-driven, and there has been limited capacity for the state government of the day, regardless of who is in government, to actually weight those, prioritise those, identify emerging skill shortages and ensure that extra effort goes into those areas. Second, it means that small businesses—those that do not have a payroll high enough to pay payroll tax—have not been receiving support from the state. This reform, which brings us more in line with other states, has been significant. The first legislation that went through Parliament some time ago—unfortunately, disappointingly, opposed by the opposition—set that up; the legislation I have introduced and I am delighted the opposition is supporting now creates the second part of that. That has been done with a lot of consultation with a lot of different industry groups that train people and means that businesses regardless of their size can now get support for training their employees. If a business has an apprentice, and it is below the payroll tax threshold, it gets support for that apprentice. I think this is a great outcome. It also allows us to prioritise areas; for example, the commonwealth government international partnership that we have entered into wants to prioritise areas that, to be honest, are emerging skill shortages on the east coast, not particularly relevant to us in Western Australia. We can see emerging skill shortages in WA in the area of disability services and health provision over the next three to five years, so that is where we need to start training people. We can now identify those emerging skill shortages and provide extra loadings. We can provide loadings for the skills priority list. We can and will provide loadings to training for Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, and older apprentices between 21 and 30 years of age, because age has always been—we have had this fed back—an obstacle for people who may have made a decision to leave school, “I want to do this”, and not unusually, then changing their mind and wanting to do something else. We can provide a 50 per cent loading for those apprentices. This is a good incentive scheme to keep training our workforce.

Whilst we are seeing a decline in people training apprentices at the moment, the Leader of the Opposition made the interesting point that we saw a decline during the boom as well, because there was such a huge income differential. A person could be training, or they could go and work on a mine and triple their income, so people were not completing their training or apprenticeships. It is driven by a range of other factors. Either way, inevitably, we do expect the economy to grow, and that will create pressures around skill shortages. We are seeing it already emerging in the mining space. Miners tell us that already they are starting to have difficulties finding the people that they need, which is one of the reasons we have developed Keystart. The question was raised by the shadow Treasurer: why have we made it just six months? There are two reasons. One, that was actually what industry wanted. It wanted a six-month window to effectively encourage decision-making now. We need activity now in the construction space. What will happen is what happened last time: the miners will pull those skills out of the construction space, as they did during the last boom, and then—the rental vacancy rate highlights this—shortly we will need those skills. There will be a supply issue. There is a supply issue coming, and we want to make sure that those people are still in the construction space, ready to respond to those construction demands, without forcing wages and the cost of housing up to an unsustainable rate.

All these things are connected. We have taken a very broad, high-level view of the Western Australian economy and identified what we need to do, which levers we can pull, to ensure that we have made the right decision. I think that is why the budget has been received so well. It has been received very well across Western Australia, not just in Perth. I was in the Kimberley, and I know some of my other colleagues were around regional WA talking about the budget, and everywhere I go, people have congratulated me and the government on the efforts around getting back to surplus. Every Western Australian understands that they cannot spend more than they earn forever. Eventually the banks come calling. They kind of did, and that is why interest rates have gone up. Now they are coming down again, because of that effort. I want to point that out. The opposition now thinks it is all just a matter of luck, these things happen, but as I have said, the harder the government has worked, the luckier we have got. That is why we have managed to deliver a budget for Western Australia that gets us back on track and on to the path that we need to be on, going forward.

I conclude by thanking all my cabinet colleagues. Every minister would like to be doing more in their portfolio areas. Every minister has fantastic proposals and programs that they would like to see funded that inevitably the Expenditure Review Committee, the cabinet and ministers have to say no to. We have to find other times or savings to deliver on those. Every minister has been disappointed in one way or another, but as a group we understand that we have been put here for a reason, and we intend to deliver that for Western Australians, which is why I think Western Australians are supportive of the government. I thank all my colleagues and all members who have contributed to the budget debate during the second reading. It is always an interesting debate, simply because it is a good way to get a good feel for everyone’s electorates. It is fair to say that some of my colleagues in this place

Mrs Robyn Clarke; Mr Shane Love; Mr Zak Kirkup; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr Yaz Mubarakai; Mr Simon Millman; Mr Ben Wyatt

spent a lot of time in their debates referencing not so much the budget, but certainly either Scott Morrison or Bill Shorten. I want to say to my colleagues on the other side: do not be so grim. The underlying assumption to everything that they have said is that the election is lost and that Mr Shorten is shortly to become Prime Minister Shorten. I think we have delivered a budget that the other side would have loved to have delivered, but never had the fiscal discipline to do so. I thank all my colleagues. I look forward to budget estimates next week—as we all do—and to then start working on the next budget.

Questions put and passed.

Bills read a second time.

Pursuant to standing order 222, bills and estimates referred to Estimates Committees A and B.