

PREMIER'S STATEMENT

Consideration

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MS J.L. HANNS (Collie–Preston) [2.55 pm]: I would like to address some of the outstanding support that the McGowan Labor government has given my electorate of Collie–Preston in building very strong communities. The Eaton Junior Football Club and the Eaton “Bobtails” Cricket Club’s home is the Pratt Road oval in Eaton. It was announced today that they received community sporting and recreation facilities fund funding to the tune of \$700 000 to rebuild the clubrooms. Those clubrooms will be rebuilt in partnership with the Shire of Dardanup. That means that these very poor facilities will be able to be fit for purpose for the huge growth that both clubs—cricket and junior football—have seen in girls’ participation in both these sports. This facility sits in the heart of the growing community of Australind in my electorate. I would like to acknowledge both the Eaton Junior Football Club and the Eaton “Bobtails” Cricket Club for their work in collaborating so well with each other to share this particular facility. It is a credit to both clubs in building sports and, in doing so, sharing the facilities and the costs of running their respective seasons. I would like to especially mention Brendan Billett and Cameron Walton, who have tirelessly lobbied for their members and worked to achieve this outstanding outcome for their sports and their communities.

The current facility was built in 1972 by volunteers. The Pratt Road clubrooms were well past their use-by date and in desperate need of replacement. When I toured the facilities, I was absolutely astounded at how these two very large clubs could share a single change room and also rotate both girls and boys changing at the same time in their respective sports. In 2021, I toured the facility with both clubs. I invited the then Minister for Sport and Recreation, Dr Tony Buti. He accepted my invitation to tour the shared facilities of these two clubs. Suffice to say, he was equally appalled at the state of these clubrooms and the conditions in which these people were operating their clubs. I took it upon myself to work with the Shire of Dardanup and the clubs. As I said, I am delighted to let them know that they have received this funding. The state government is very pleased to contribute \$700 000.

I would also like to acknowledge the shire president, Mick Bennett, and the CEO, André Schönfeldt, for working with me to secure funding for their community and working in a very productive partnership with me as the local member to deliver for the community. My role was to highlight the need. I am sure that the application to the CSRFF was absolutely outstanding and the reason they have secured this funding.

The R&J Fishwick Pavilion will commence being built in the second half of this year, ready for the celebrations of the Eaton Junior Football Club’s fiftieth anniversary celebrations. This pavilion will be named after a well-known Eaton couple—Reg and Jocey Fishwick. Their community involvement spans 50 years within the Eaton area. They have been involved in the Eaton Junior Football Club, the Eaton Basketball Association, the Eaton Bowls Club and the local emergency services. I met Jocey during the 2021 election campaign. Sadly, Reg had passed away the previous year, in 2020. Reg and Jocey were married for 58 years and raised their family in Eaton. On another note, when I visited Jocey, I realised that they were also GWN news famous. Several years before, I had seen Reg and Jocey’s home featured on the news as their infamous letterbox was shaped like a speed camera. The letterbox was Reg’s idea when he was fed up with people speeding past his house. The letterbox became a local icon, with Reg adding “road safety advocate” to his long list of community achievements.

Importantly, I welcome the Premier’s comments in his address earlier this week that this government will continue with amendments to reform the Bail Act in light of the tragic death of Annaliese Ugle. I have used the name Annaliese Ugle with permission from her next dad—her uncle—of whom I have spoken about recently in relation to COVID. Phillip is a resident of Collie, where Annaliese’s funeral was conducted because her extended family hails from that area. He welcomes this news that our government is working to ensure that child victims are at the centre of decision-making in relation to bail. He asked me to thank this government for its work in this area.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the residents of Australind for raising, very loudly and often, the issue of the Australind jetty being closed to recreational fishing and local walkers. It has been a popular fishing spot—“pishing spot”; that would not have been good—for the last 30 years. Local families take their kids for walks along the jetty. I investigated this issue on their behalf and realised that the jetty had been closed since January 2021. It was in limbo because it was structurally unsound and was therefore closed. A number of issues needed rectifying, such as replacing the pier and the wooden bridges. It also needed extensive remedial works to the structure and its foundations. As I said, the Australind community rallied to support me taking that issue up on their behalf. I set up an online petition to see how much support I would have so that I could approach the minister, Hon Dave Kelly, to try to get some funding to get this project fixed. Overwhelmingly, 1 200 people signed the petition, which gave the minister a very clear picture of how loved this jetty is and how important it is to local residents.

I would like to say thank you to Mick Crosby, an Australind local, for helping get the word out about how if we worked together as a community, there would potentially be an opportunity to get this resolved. Mick doorknocked and leaflet-dropped in the stinking heat over the early parts of December, and I was very pleased to have him there

with Minister Kelly when we delivered the news that we had secured \$3 million worth of funding to transform this jetty and return it to the community for public use. The local residents were clearly elated. Recfishwest, which I know a fair bit about because my husband is a keen fisherman, featured both the Premier and myself on its online platform and mentioned how incredibly proud it was that this government supports recreational fishing for local users within local communities, particularly regional communities. Premier, we were acknowledged by 24 000 followers on the Recfishwest Facebook page, which overwhelmingly endorsed our decision to fund that project. The locals are looking forward to the work commencing. I have had to explain to people that now that we have the funding, there is a process. However, I look forward to the opportunity to open that facility and, more importantly, allow locals to return to using the Australind jetty.

In summarising my reply to the Premier's Statement, I wanted to share these local stories with members because they are a snapshot of the many ways that this government is delivering in regional areas like mine. They tell of the stories of Labor's values. This McGowan Labor government looks after people, their jobs and their communities and in doing so it manages to create a thriving economy, all during a period of unprecedented challenge across the globe. On behalf of all Western Australians, I thank the Premier and his ministers for their work, and I remain committed to working alongside them, representing the people of Collie-Preston. I commend the Premier's Statement to the house.

MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley — Parliamentary Secretary) [3.04 pm]: It is nice to be joining members in person, as I Webex-ed in for question time earlier. I wanted to start my response to the Premier's Statement by talking about being thankful and showing gratitude. I know that the last two years have been incredibly tough on everyone, but something was brought home to me last week that made me really thankful for what we have had to go through over the last couple of years because it has shone a light on some really important parts of our community. It was when I was sitting at the City of Joondalup's Valentine's Day concert—it was a fabulous concert—where we were asked to have faith. It highlighted the music of George Michael. It was a fabulous concert that was put on by the Perth Symphony Orchestra, which is phenomenally talented, accompanied by the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts gospel choir, who have singing voices quite literally like angels. As fantastic as these musical talents were, I have to tell members that I, my husband and the member for Burns Beach—we had a conversation about it—were constantly drawn to the Auslan interpreter who was on the side of the stage. It was the first time, certainly since I have been attending these events, that there was an Auslan interpreter there for the whole event. The interpreting was for not only what was being spoken, but also the musical words that were coming from the stage that we could all hear and enjoy but the Auslan interpreter obviously made it more accessible for everybody in the audience to enjoy. It was truly a remarkable performance from them and a joy to watch because they were able to perform the songs with such joy. Watching them gave us all the good feels about how inclusive the last two years have made us around how we communicate with people who are deaf and hard of hearing. I would like to say thank you [Member signs thank you] and to applaud [Member signs applause] the Auslan interpreters for their amazing work on the night.

Continuing on this theme of gratitude, it only makes sense that I talk about the volunteers in my community. I know that many members here love to stand and talk about their volunteers because they are the heartbeat of our communities. I have some pretty special volunteers in my community. One volunteer I would like to highlight is Janice Standen. She is the Western Australia Senior Australian of the Year. She is the driving force behind Grandparents Rearing Grandchildren Western Australia, which is located in my electorate. I have been in contact with, and advocating for, Grandparents Rearing Grandchildren since I was elected in 2017. Its members do some amazing work, both individually in their own families but also as a group in driving the message around grandparents rearing grandchildren and how they need support and how they feel that they are not really seen in our society. At the moment, one of the biggest hopes of those grandparents is that they will be included in the next federal census so that they can be counted. They feel that if they are not counted, they do not count, which could not be further from the truth in my humble opinion, and the work that they do does not count. Having had our own foster children come to live in my family, I know how important it is to provide that family environment, but when they are taking in their grandchildren or younger family members at an age at which they thought they would be retiring, it is an awful impost on them, but they carry it gladly.

Jan, congratulations. Becoming the Western Australia Senior Australian of the Year is well deserved. The work that you do is amazing. I am sure that if you had been chosen as the Senior Australian of the Year, you would have continued that work over there as well, but we are really glad to have you here as our Western Australian senior of the year. Congratulations to Jan and her team at Grandparents Rearing Grandchildren. I am sure that they will be knocking on my door soon to get me involved in advocating for the next thing that they want.

Like I said, volunteers are the heartbeat of our community. That was particularly brought home to me last weekend when we attended the northern zone Little Athletics competition. The Kingsway Little Athletics Centre, which is the athletic centre that my kids go to, was the host of the competition this year, and it was a massive undertaking. There were 184 key officials looking after 1 164 registered athletes, and 689 parents were on rosters because we had

to run 348 races and 96 field events. On top of that, we also sold 3 836 items from our canteen. That is a massive effort. If anyone has ever been to a Little Athletics day, they will know that it seems to be organised chaos. There are people everywhere, children going to events, and athletes negotiating clashes between their events if, for example, they are doing long jump and they get pulled off to do their 100-metre race, and then they come back to long jump; there are clash officials organising that. I want to say a really big thankyou and congratulations to Danni Dix, who is the chairperson of the Kingsway Little Athletics Centre. I know that members of the organisation were there until 2.00 am before it started on Saturday and they continued on into late Saturday night. I know we had some issues with technology on Saturday, which never helps, but at the end of the day, everyone was still smiling and the kids still had an amazing time competing. The joy on their faces when they achieve a personal best is worth all the headaches of trying to get them to train and to understand that it is okay if they do not achieve a personal best. It was an amazing effort from Danni and her team. I know other members also have Little Athletics clubs at Kingsway, including the members for Wanneroo, West Swan and Landsdale. We are very grateful for all the work Danni and her team do, and I thank them for that.

I recently put my hand up to be a team manager for a WA Basketball League team. I really did that so that I would know all the information coming through, because this job gets so busy sometimes that we miss things. Even before the WABL season has started, the amount of organisation that the managers of WABL teams do is amazing. I want to give a shout-out to Bec and all the other managers, because the amount of preparation that is going into allowing these kids to participate at the next level of basketball is phenomenal.

I was also grateful to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services over the Christmas and new year break. We had two fires in my very suburban electorate over the break. There was a quite serious fire on New Year's Day at Shepherds Bush Reserve in Kingsley, and another one in the bushland at Warwick. The Kingsley fire was very, very close to houses. The way that DFES managed that fire and made sure that my local residents were safe, looked after and evacuated when necessary was amazing, because the fire flared up really quickly. DFES brought it under control with astonishing speed, so I give my thanks for the way it has handled the bushfires in my electorate over the last few months. We are all very, very grateful that you were there to save lives and houses in those two fires.

I see my colleague is standing up there, but I am not quite ready to finish yet!

This last year has been an amazing one for the electorate of Kingsley. When I was first voted in, in 2017, I was constantly attacked by former members of the opposition, who said that I would not survive the next election, that I would be cut off by the party and that I would not be here; the party was supposedly drawing the line, and I was behind it! That actually made me harden my resolution to deliver for my community and to make sure that the things my community needed were being delivered. People in Kingsley often said to me in those early months that they felt a little forgotten and that they were in the middle. They are not in a lower socio-economic area that gets a lot of attention from services, but neither are they in a highly affluent area in which they can do things for themselves. They felt that they had been forgotten and had fallen through the cracks, so I made it my mission to get some really great investment in our local schools. I have spoken about our local schools at length in this chamber, but when I go to our schools and I see the dedication of the teachers and the faces of kids who are hungry to learn, I want to give them everything I can in order to get them ready for the jobs of the future and to make sure that they are in settings that stretch them and make their learning journeys exciting.

I was really excited after the last election that government members were able to make so many commitments to our local schools. The biggest one in my electorate was nearly \$16 million for Greenwood College. This school was built in the late 70s, and if any members have walked around it recently, they will have seen that it looks like it has not had any upgrades since then. We were able to provide \$16 million. A big part of that is a new sports hall. Greenwood College is a specialist volleyball school and students could not actually play volleyball properly in the current sports hall, because the ball kept getting stuck in the ceiling. We are building a purpose-built sports hall in which they can properly practise their volleyball skills. I understand that work has already started on the design for that. Another important one for me, as a former actress and sometime singer, is the refurbishment of Greenwood College's existing gymnasium into a performing arts centre. I love the performing arts; I love the things that it does for kids in terms of confidence and stepping outside their comfort zone. I think this refurbishment will be fabulous for the Greenwood community. We are also providing a new STEM centre. Late last year, we finished the science block refurbishment, which was well overdue. When I toured the science block after first being elected, I heard that they were older than me, and they looked it. We have provided \$1.4 million for the upgrading of the science block. The college now has a modern science block where the kids can learn the skills that we keep being told they are going to need because they will be doing jobs that do not even exist yet when they leave high school.

Warwick Senior High School is the beneficiary of a \$7 million election commitment. It will be getting a new performing arts centre, which its specialist music students will no doubt be very happy to perform in, and also a STEM centre. I want to highlight the West Coast Secondary Education Support Centre, which is co-located at the Warwick Senior High School site. We made an election commitment of \$2 million for the upgrade of its

swimming pool and to provide appropriate facilities for its sometimes very vulnerable students to be able to utilise the pool, as well as a hoist for the pool. Warwick Senior High School and West Coast Secondary Education Support Centre are great examples of what happens when two communities work together. They are co-located on the same site in Warwick. They are very different schools with very different demands and needs, but they have been able to put together a way of working that benefits both cohorts of students and teachers. I congratulate the principals and staff members at Warwick Senior High School and West Coast Secondary Education Support Centre because without their cooperation, the kids would suffer. The kids are now thriving in an environment in which mainstream kids and the education support kids can be integrated in some classes and can see each other in the playground. The two schools even held their last school balls together at the same venue. That is a wonderful achievement for both schools.

There have been plenty of other investments in schools in my area, which I will run through quickly because I know that I am almost out of time. Hawker Park Primary School received \$1.5 million. We have called it an early intervention hub, which probably is not a very nice name, but it essentially means that we have created a space to wrap the services around preschool-age children so that as they transition to primary school, they will be familiar with the space and have all the services that they need. Hopefully, we will open that officially very, very soon. Some of the smaller investments include a commitment to provide \$160 000 to upgrade the toilet facilities for Glendale Primary School, which had not been upgraded in about 35 years. Again, that is not flashy or a sparkly commitment. Liwara Catholic Primary School was given \$15 000 for a bike skills track and Creaney Primary School received \$25 000 for a nature playground. I was very privileged to be there on the day it got permission to open the playground from WorkSafe. When the fencing was pulled down, 40 beautiful kindy kids ran squealing on to the playground because they were so excited to have the brand new playground. North Woodvale Primary School received \$23 000 for iPads for the kindy to year 2 classrooms; Goollelal Primary School received an additional \$20 000 for iPads and a new projector; Halidon Primary School received \$15 000 for contemporary learning spaces; and, of course, today we announced the provision of solar panels for Dalmain, Goollelal, Halidon and Glendale Primary Schools.

I could keep going, clearly, but I know that the member for Southern River is very keen to get on his feet. I will conclude by saying that the things that the Premier outlined in his Premier's Statement earlier this week show that even though we are dealing with COVID on a daily basis and we are putting all that work to good use now, we have not stopped governing and being there for our communities. I thank the Premier and all the ministers who have helped to make Kingsley the best electorate it can be.

MR T.J. HEALY (Southern River — Parliamentary Secretary) [3.23 pm]: It gives me great pleasure to rise today to speak on behalf of my community. First of all, I would like to draw the attention of the chamber to a fantastic young person in my community by the name of Jonah Grey. He is the eight-year-old 2021 state champion for Brazilian jiu-jitsu. He is a wonderful resident of Canning Vale and an eight-year-old yellow belt who trains at Legion 13. He recently became our state champion. He began his journey at the age of five and has excelled in the sport, winning numerous competitions. I had the wonderful pleasure of meeting him recently with Sam Lim, the federal candidate for Tangney, which includes our area of Canning Vale. Jonah Grey recently won the 2021 WA state championships, the state titles and 2021 FBJJWA state titles. He has a great commitment to the sport. He trains five times a week and does strength and conditioning. I commend his family and his father, who I also met, for the work they do in supporting him. Congratulations on behalf of the Parliament of Western Australia, Jonah.

I would like to draw the chamber's attention to a local hero within my suburb of Huntingdale and commend David McLean who is a long-term resident of Huntingdale and the person who I call the guardian and protector of Rusthall park. David is meticulous. Every day he looks after the park, cleaning it up. He always brings to our attention any maintenance and other issues that need to be done. He does incredible work and I am very honoured to mention him during the Premier's Statement today in responding to all the heroes the Premier has raised in his speech, and to draw attention to a person like David McLean. I talked to his neighbour Ross recently and we discussed the importance of the role David plays in our community. I thank David McLean.

I would like to acknowledge the fortieth anniversary of the LJ Hooker Thornlie–Canning Vale–Harrisdale branch. It recently reached 40 years as an active and very well established, respected community organisation and business within my electorate. I particularly congratulate John and Dahlia Rechichi. LJ Hooker was opened in 1982 by John Rechichi and Robert Urquhart. In those days it was known as LJ Hooker Urquhart and Rechichi. The office started with John, Bob and Dahlia selling properties. They have changed locations. They were in Thornlie Square in the member for Thornlie's electorate. They have opened several offices in Canning Vale and around the area. They have some incredible long-term staff, which is testament to the great work and community that they provide. Anyone who lives in the south east corridor who has rented or bought a house most likely would have dealt with the wonderful LJ Hooker family. They will be having a celebration soon and I look forward to informing them, on behalf of the member for Thornlie, myself and the wider community, of the Parliament of Western Australia's appreciation for the work that they have done in our area. The business supports local clubs and schools, and are major sponsors. It has employed many, many local people and has assisted many families, including mine almost. Dahlia almost sold

me a house once. Many families in our community have found their homes through LJ Hooker. I thank LJ Hooker on behalf of all our community and the Parliament of Western Australia.

I would like to inform the chamber and congratulate The Last Local in Canning Vale, which was recently named as a finalist for the Australian Hotels Association Hospitality Awards for Excellence. The Last Local, previously known as the Last Drop, has done some renovations recently. I congratulate the owner, Mickey Phull, and his team for the great work they have done in bringing together this next generation of that pub. They have put together some beautiful main meals and provide a wonderful atmosphere. A new family area has been developed. On behalf of everyone in Canning Vale and in the Parliament, I congratulate The Last Local on being a finalist for the AHA Hospitality Awards for Excellence.

I take great pride in informing the chamber of the recent nomination and win by the C.Y. O'Connor Village Beer Garden that was recently awarded the best steak sandwich in Western Australia. That is something that everyone here and in our community already knows. It is a wonderful facility. It had a fire recently, but the food trucks and kitchens are still operating. I congratulate and acknowledge the Dawkins family and the great facility that is C.Y. O'Connor's and acknowledge their win for the best steak sandwich competition that was awarded at the end of last year for the Australian Hotels Association Hospitality Awards for Excellence. Congratulations again from everyone in our community and from the Parliament of Western Australia.

I am very honoured to have a number of incredible student leaders within my electorate. I have a number of schools in my electorate. A number of student counsellors and student executives have been nominated by their peers, and I would like to take a moment on behalf of the Premier, Mark McGowan, the Parliament of Western Australia and all the members of the Legislative Assembly to congratulate the student leaders at all my local schools. I cannot do my job as a member of Parliament without the support that my local schools and their student executive give to me, and I would like to acknowledge their leadership in what will be another trying year, and different from the way that we would normally run schools and education and the leadership roles that they occupy. Again, I would like to acknowledge your service and say thank you on behalf of Premier Mark McGowan and the Parliament of Western Australia.

Members, buckle in. It is going to be a bumpy ride!

Mr J.N. Carey: Is this another burger one? Is this great burgers?

Mr T.J. HEALY: No. Members, I would like to inform the chamber of the student leadership and the incredible student leaders at Canning Vale College. With your indulgence, Acting Speaker, I congratulate them. In year 12, they are Rojin Didari; Laura Loveday; Tia Martin-Petersen, one of our captains, who I met at last year's graduation ceremony; Paul Price; Blake Harbord, our other captain; and Keisha Patricio—congratulations. In year 11, our student councillors are Jessica Birrell, Abbey Johnson, Audrey Keenan, Jorja Gurgone, Emily Parks and Christian Driscoll. In year 10, they are Ella McGoldrick, Rhys Gudgin and Sam Mamootil. In year 9, they are Oliver Birrell, Samantha Herbert, Joshua Lawrence and Hamenpreet Dhillon, and in year 8, our student leaders are Cooper Rose, Isla Cook and Jorja Sartori.

I acknowledge the student leadership team from Ashburton Drive Primary School—a fantastic school within the suburb of Gosnells in my electorate. I acknowledge student councillors Zack Mansveld, Zacky Nansati, Devin Huang, Ava Lawrence, Siena Fuentes and Luke Cho. Thank you for your student leadership and for stepping forward. I also acknowledge Ashburton Drive Primary School faction captains Jye Ammon, Pheonix Peos, Isabella Knight and Christina Po. Thank you for all the work that you do at Ashburton Drive Primary School. I look forward to working with you and Mark McGowan to look after everyone in Gosnells.

I would like to inform the chamber of the incredible student leadership team at Seaforth Primary School within Gosnells. I acknowledge the student councillors Fatema Amiri, Ivy Cox, Alinani Jere and Marjorie Nelson. I also acknowledge the leadership of our faction captains at Seaforth Primary School. They are Tusipasi Tusigaigoa Isaako and Isaac Hastie, who are captains of the blue faction, Wooyan Bindari; and Alex Rogers and Dakotah Thorne, who are captains of Nodjam Noorn, the green faction. Thank you to all the leadership team at Seaforth Primary School. I thank you for your service and look forward to continuing to work with you.

I am very excited to inform the chamber about the incredible student leadership of Excelsior Primary School in Canning Vale in my electorate. I congratulate these student councillors and student faction captains for their service. They are Om Talele, Jayden Zin, Corinna Conway, Teegan Daly, Maya Orlova and Cassie Tse, and our faction captains are Levi Wulff and Mia Kelly, faction captains for Lacerta, which is green; Mona Sakalia and Mackenzie Stent, our faction captains for Phoenix, which is red; Aadi Talele and Holly Marlow, our faction captains for Delphinus, in blue; and Travis Priest and Josephine Siburian, our faction captains for Pegasus, in yellow. Thank you for all your leadership and care of our school. I look forward to working with you as your member of Parliament.

Members, I am very honoured to introduce to the chamber and acknowledge the service of the student leadership team at Southern Grove Primary School. I acknowledge the student ministers, Farhan Sodhi, Yashfa Bhatti, Eva Chen, Abdullah Salman, Rishaan Sisodia, Rosedeeep Khosa, Sacha Pollock and Hamza Mostafa, and of course

our team captains, Hazif Muhammad Hafiz, Omid Jawid, Eva Rawston, Ahmed Anjum, Samir Sheik Mydheen, Naeema Ladha, Kaylee Pamire and Karl Patricio. Thank you for your service to our community.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr T.J. HEALY: Members, I take great pleasure in informing the chamber, on behalf of the member for Thornlie and myself, of the student leadership team at Wirrabirra Primary School. I acknowledge the leadership and service of all our student leaders, particularly our head boy, Jasper Kimbar; head girl, Abigale Betty; year 6 leaders, Charlotte Gray, Ishaan Madampath, Raveena Raveendran, Lilly Regan, Raven Javier and Elina Skrgic; year 5 leaders, Samuel Ansah, Abeena Raveendran, Harveer Nibber and Sophie Ross-Parker; and year 4 leaders, Mushtaq Garad, Verity Kimbar, Mohammad Rezaei and Latiah Woods. I look forward to working with Wirrabirra Primary School and Wirrabirra Education Support Centre and their student leaders to make our area even better than it is.

I take great pride in introducing to members the student leadership team of Caladenia Primary School. I was at the student speeches last year for the student elections. This school has 100-plus year 5 students nominating each year for student leadership positions. They have a very, very formal and organised ballot. I am always honoured to be at that school and I know the heavy leadership role that the school places on these young people. I want to say congratulations and thank you. I acknowledge the student leadership team. They are head girl, Lola Rivers, and head boy, Bodhi Chopping. Our student executive are Clarissa Tampubolon, Mila Gibbs, Esme He, Adeleine Barr, Emily Sartori, Benjamin Wojciechowicz, Yonal De Vas, Cooper Abercrombie, Ijaaz Ramdianee and Henry Sun. Our music captains are Asees Brar and Darsh Gundapaneni. The Minister for Culture and the Arts, who is here in the chamber, will appreciate the importance of music captains at schools. Thank you for your service. I acknowledge red faction captains Sierra Louise and Desandu Premarathna, and red faction vice captains Edward Chopping, Tyreece Dickson, Mischa Chee and Helen Hua. Our green faction captains are Ellie Morris and Nicolas Ng, and our green faction vice captains are Levi Wilson, Jackson Lillywhite, Chloe Dunn and Alexia Tsekos. Our blue faction captains are Sophia Blakemore and Nathan Chau, and our blue vice captains are Lachlan Bathgate, Ashton Marks, Nimrat Sandhu and Leshelle Naidoo. Our gold faction captains are Claire Karanja and Giovel Augustine, and our gold faction vice captains are Austin Conick, Cruz Sutherland, Chelsea Burnett and Reena Suresh Kumar. I look forward to working with you and with Mark McGowan to help represent you here in the Parliament of Western Australia and I thank you for your service.

I acknowledge and mention especially the student leadership team of another school in Southern River—that is, Bletchley Park Primary School. I acknowledge head girl, Noelle Thi; head boy, Jake Dowd; and our councillors, Flynn Boyd, Angelena Piratheepan, Isabel Fleay, Liam Hanson, Damon Williamson and Andrea Tay. I acknowledge the faction captains: for Bradman, Owen Hodge and Alyssa Truscott, thank you. For Farmer faction, Bella Godecke and Liam Domoney, thank you. I acknowledge Ethan York and Lily Mussel, our faction captains in Fraser; and Jethro Folarin and Alyssa Hayward Parker, our Strickland faction captains. A mention of note: the birth of head boy at Bletchley Park Primary School, Jake Dowd, had a great effect on me, as his mother was a teacher at Southern River College and I started teaching at that school because Jake Dowd's mother was on maternity leave having Jake Dowd. His birth enabled me to act in his mother's role at Southern River College for two weeks, and I never left until I came to this chamber. Jake Dowd, I place no pressure upon you, but I look forward to following your political career, because your birth had an effect on my career and my teaching roles.

I would like to congratulate the student executive of Huntingdale Primary School. I would like to especially acknowledge the school councillors of Astha Sharma, Ava Tandy, Chiedza Ndara, Halo Clinch, Braiden Kessell, Elijah Councillor—Elijah Councillor, you were born for this role!—Mitchell Sorensen and Joshua Kelly. I acknowledge our faction captains at Huntingdale: in Banksia, Addison Fletcher and Sephticia Newman; in Hovea, blue faction, Willo McKinnon and Manawa Hireme; in Acacia, gold, Charli Howarth and Senthia Alankeswaran; in Zamia, green, Amelia Boyce and Remy Taylor. Thank you for your service.

Mr J.N. Carey: I am highly suspicious of your cup drinking; I just want to say that, because you have drunk a lot of water out of that cup!

Mr T.J. HEALY: Hydration is very important, member.

Members, I would like to inform the chamber about the fantastic student leadership team at Southern River College. I would like to congratulate and thank for their service the year 8 student councillors of Lucas Groenewege, Summer Brinkworth, Dakota Smith, Mathew Kihumba, Seth Dellaca, Abbey Shenfield and Brayden Spicer. I thank the year 9 student leadership team of Brodie Groenewege, Eftekhar Hussainy, Grahesh Boodhum, Jashan Kaur, Kaeden Amos, Hayley Verco. I congratulate the year 10 student leaders in Charmaine Fruelda, Sunday Thaymu, Nicole Whittle, Muhammad Hafiz, Adam Khurram, Dylan Claassends, Katie Russell and Soleil Oost. I thank our year 11 student leadership team of Jaishree Charan, Cooper Macey, Pratishee Luchoomun, Ryan Gwilym, Susan Mohammadi, Mi Soi Tar Non and Rhiannon Gay. I acknowledge the year 12 leadership team: head boy, Maisum Syed; head girl, Tahlia Giura; Liam Sutherland; Kobi Philbin; Analise Stephenson; Athena Calupig; Kristy Clune; and Lainie Monaghan.

I take great pride in informing this Parliament of Western Australia of the great service that the student executive of Providence Christian College in Southern River place in our community. I want to say thank you to all the schools and the families, especially the student executive. I would like to mention college captains, Lauryn Heath and Domenic Rossi. Congratulations and thank you to prefects Kaylee Arnold, Saskia Booysen, Tanya Cheong, Ellie Cikara, Charles Darwin, Samantha Kingsford, Kezia Kuriakose, Thabo Mazibuko, Jodi McNamara, Skye Meiselbach, Joshua Meyer, Qhubeka Ndlovu, Abigail O'Connor, Nya Tassell. Thank you for all of your service.

It is with great pride that I can inform the chamber of Campbell Primary School, a school in Canning Vale in my electorate. I would like congratulate their student leadership team of Soomin Lee, Arharaj Chudasama; our councillors Shon Sony, Atharv Palsodkar, Miles Kiddie, Ray Chang, Cadence Habib, Banaz Mahmoodi, Maya King; and our faction captains Aadhav Vignesh, Isabel Light in Fraser faction; Donnicha Healy Soler and Evie Raffaele in Strickland faction; Kyce Jordan and Annabelle Liew in Longley faction; and Aaron Kerp and Isabel Spencer in Bradman faction.

Members, that brings me to the end of my list of student councillors today. I say congratulations to all those student leaders. To all our student executive and student leaders, on behalf of this chamber, on behalf of all of us, we want you to know how much we appreciate all the things you do. We know how different this year will be as you commence your studies and continue, and we appreciate all that you do to represent our communities, and I say thank you.

I also thank the chamber for their patience! Members can be very sure that I will provide a wonderful copy of that parliamentary *Hansard* to each and every one of those families and a web link. You can go to terryhealy.com to download the video.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr D.A.E. Scaife): Is it “.com” or “.com.au”?

Several members interjected.

Mr T.J. HEALY: Wait, we have more.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Is it “.com.au”?

Mr T.J. HEALY: That one was not for a potential video.

I will say I am very happy to announce to the chamber that I will soon have a competition for families to acknowledge Mother's Day. We have teamed up with a business in Canning Vale to give one lucky mum a \$100 gift voucher to Just In Time Gourmet. You can go to their website, justintimegourmet.com.au, and pick up a picnic hamper or a basket. If you perhaps would like to enjoy Mother's Day outdoors this year and take your family for a picnic, my office is happy to provide a \$100 voucher through this competition. To enter, simply like and share this video and post and make sure that you have liked the Facebook page. We will announce the winner just before Mother's Day, but again, I thank Just In Time Gourmet for all the work they do in making sure all our families are looked after this Mother's Day and always.

I mention a fantastic leader of my community, Sam Lim. He is, amongst many things, a local police officer, the Labor candidate for the seat of Tangney; in my electorate that is the area that covers Canning Vale. He is also one of our COVID cops, and he is also a very good friend of Mark McGowan. If people in our community want to continue to show their support for Mark McGowan at the coming federal election, they should support Sam Lim because he is someone whom I know I would love to keep working with, and whom Mark McGowan and our community would love to keep working with. I wish him all the best for all the work he does in our community.

I take great pleasure in informing the chamber of the great work of one of the small businesses in my electorate very, very close to my heart—and my belly sometimes!—and that is Baskin-Robbins in Southern River. Just down the road from my electorate office members will find a fantastic source of ice-cream sweet treats through the summer periods. I want to thank all the staff and team at our Baskin-Robbins store. On behalf of the community and the Parliament of Western Australia, I think we all agree that we send our congratulations and appreciation to them.

It gives me great pleasure to inform the chamber of the executive committee of the Bangladesh Australia Association of Western Australia, whose headquarters are in Canning Vale in my electorate. I want to say thank you to all the volunteer team and senior executive and volunteers within BAAWA for their service. I would particularly like to mention Dr Shahedin Shahid Rajoo, president; Dr Anis Rahman, vice-president; Abu Saeed Anwar, general secretary; Dr Mohammad Rafiqul Alam, assistant general secretary; Tanveer Shahid, treasurer; Kaisur Rahman, assistant treasurer; Swarna Afsar, cultural secretary; Nashid Chowdhury, assistant cultural secretary; Nafisa Akhter, assistant cultural secretary; Syed Tanvir Raihan; Kifayat Islam Mazumdar; Sama Kamal; Dr Shoumitra Seal; HM Jubide Khan; Mohammad Mannan; Mohammad Majedul Islam; Syed Mohammad Maruf; and Tasneemul Galib Amit. I thank them all for their service to our community.

On behalf of the Parliament of Western Australia I acknowledge the service of a very hardworking person in our community. I would like to say thank you to Tracey from Huntingdale Village Pharmacy for her 10 years of service

looking after all of us. It has been great to visit her. I would like to acknowledge in the Parliament of Western Australia her great service and the service of her pharmacy, where she has worked, and say thank you.

On behalf of the member for Thornlie and I, I congratulate Corinne and Sharlene, who have recently achieved 10 years of service at Gosnells Leisure World. We thank them for all the work they have done looking after us in our community. We appreciate their dedication to our centre.

It has been a bit rough during this COVID period, but I acknowledge the recent fiftieth anniversary of the Wirrabirra Primary School, which is a great longstanding school in my electorate and that of the member for Thornlie. I acknowledge the school's service to our community and say thank you to all the families, students and educators over generations at that school.

I am honoured to have some faithful fans on my Facebook page. I would like to acknowledge some of my top Facebook fans and say thank you. I hope that my content is not boring and that they find it entertaining and exciting sometimes. I acknowledge the following: Jordan Hunter, Liam Stokes, Nicola Stokes, Ruth Aspinall, Vince and Deb Stackpole, Rob Harris, Kellie Goff, Val Gilbert, Giselle Abdul and Neil Menezes.

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Thornlie) [3.53 pm]: I am pleased to address the Premier's Statement. It is a speech I want to make in three parts. First, I congratulate the Premier and thank him for the manner in which he has led the state in keeping us COVID safe. Keeping us COVID safe is something the Thornlie electorate has greatly appreciated. People are incredibly thankful. They have been on the journey with the Premier and have seen the difficulty with the decisions he has made and the challenges that come about when he responds to questions from the media—the challenges of day-to-day leadership. People have been on that journey and the Premier can be assured that he has the full support of the people in the Thornlie electorate. We are incredibly thankful.

We have not been able to travel in this COVID era, so in the break I took over summer, the option I chose was to complete a bike ride on the Munda Biddi Trail. I want to talk a little about this incredible asset we have in Western Australia. This amazing asset is an interesting example of how government can really do things well; how a government can thread together 1 000 kilometres of trail through different forest types and areas of bushland, all off-road and through different nature reserves and state forest, along the edges of national parks, while making sure it is a coherent 1 000-kilometre trail people can feel safe on and enjoy. It is challenging and is something the government has done really well. I imagine that the call would have gone out through the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and its predecessor, the environment department: "If you have in your patch or area a trail that could be linked in, let us know." That call would have gone out to all the offices in the department, and they have done it brilliantly. Normally when I talk in this place about cycling I congratulate the Minister for Transport and tell her what an amazing job she is doing providing incredible funding, which is very much appreciated, for the principal shared path network and other cycling-related transport infrastructure. That is very much something I acknowledge and will continue to acknowledge and thank the minister for. However, on this occasion I am thanking the Minister for Environment and also the Minister for Tourism, because those are the ministerial portfolios that have primarily led the way in establishing this incredible tourism asset in the Munda Biddi Trail.

It is also something that the Munda Biddi Trail Foundation, a volunteer organisation, has made a contribution towards. Contributions have also been made by Alcoa. This trail is really something else. When I set out on 10 January, I did not know what was in store for me. I had done a bit of training, but I then found the challenge and experience of seeing different parts of the real Western Australia, the south west of our state, and experienced the different forest types and saw the jarrah-marri country and realised that in many areas it is somewhat degraded and in trouble. It really brought home to me why our policy on the cessation of native forest logging makes such sense when I saw the areas of jarrah where the regeneration is fickle. Narrow stems are coming back and there are areas of homogeneity that suggest that something is amiss with the ecology of the area. That brings home to me what a sensible decision that was. Ending that native forest logging was something I was able to see firsthand. Nevertheless, as we travel along the Munda Biddi Trail we see the beauty of all the forest types, whatever their condition. There are even times when one sees the degraded jarrah forest that one still sees its potential and beauty. When we are in karri country, we see its magnificence and grandeur. When we get to the south coast, the highest rainfall zone, we begin to wonder about the tingle trees that are dependent on the high rainfall, the isohyets, and the challenge that the trees continue to get the rainfall they need when they cannot go further south because there is no more land. The Munda Biddi Trail really is something that the state has got right. When the international borders open up, I think we can be ready for a great influx of overseas tourists.

This recreational activity of trail riding has enormous appeal internationally. People will want to use a bike that resembles a mountain bike. Many people do the trail on mountain bikes. They will need a good bike with wide tyres. They need ideally to carry their own stuff. People can do the trail as an overnighiter, but I did it in 10 days. I thoroughly enjoyed staying in the huts and towns along the way. I stayed in the town of Collie and enjoyed my night at the Colliefields Hotel. I also experienced the wonderful project that is taking place to restore the balcony of that hotel. The member for Collie-Preston committed to funding that project. That has been a great preservation of our heritage.

The Munda Biddi Trail ride is not just about experiencing forest ecosystem types; we also get some cultural appreciation of our built heritage and to see aspects of our tourism industry. When I went to towns to fuel up and get some supplies, it was quite notable that the establishments there—the cafes and the IGA supermarkets and what have you—were coming to the end of a long holiday season and had been well and truly stretched. Young people were working behind the counters and at the tills. In some cases, they might have been as young as 12 or 14 years old. That is because it is so hard to get workers. This is testament to the fact that we have such a strong economy and employment rate that it is hard to find staff in various places. We do not have the inevitable backup that we have had for years of being able to call on backpacker tourists; they just are not around. I think some people had called on nephews and nieces and sons and daughters—very young people—to do their bit. It is certainly a great learning experience for them. It shows that we need to invest in our hospitality sector and make sure that the people coming through have the necessary skills. When we do bring back international tourists, there will be an expectation, whether people are in a cafe or a bar, that the level of service and the quality of food provision meets the necessary standards. It is very important that we achieve that.

There are many things to say about the Munda Biddi Trail. When people arrive in Albany after the 10-day journey, they often contemplate the experience. There are various ways of doing the trail. I did it solo. Somebody said to me, “Why would you do something like this solo? It sounds as though it was a religious retreat.” In fact, the experience was an endurance exercise. There are always the inevitable body niggles that come along with an endurance exercise, so I was rather thankful that I did not have to share those with someone else or hear about their personal body niggles—you just get on with it and ride along. It was an amazing endurance exercise. I congratulate Munda Biddi and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. Rod Annear at the department has done an absolutely amazing job in leading much of the establishment of the trail. The marking of the trail is brilliant. However, I would advise anyone who does the trail to make sure that they have the Munda Biddi app on their phone. It is a brilliant app. It uses a GPS blue dot that people can watch on a map that they have downloaded to their phone. They do not need to have a phone connection; the map is already installed. Should people miss a marker, that is the way they can get themselves back on track. It is a brilliant piece of technology and an amazing contribution by the creators of the Munda Biddi app. We can be very proud of the Munda Biddi Trail. It is also a sign of the diversification of all things cycling in our state. That opportunity to see the ecology of Western Australia and get that firsthand experience is something that we can be very proud of.

I now want to turn to another journey. This is a journey that was underway 250 years ago. In fact, 250 years ago and a couple of days, two ships sailed from Mauritius to the Kerguelen Islands. They actually claimed the Kerguelen Islands for France in the name of King Louis XV. That occurred on 14 February 1772. After making that claim for France, the ships were scheduled to come eastwards. They had heard about Terra Australis and thought perhaps they could claim it. Very interestingly, under the international law at the time, the Treaty of Tordesillas, the western half of Australia, from the 135 degree-east line of longitude, was unclaimed, so it was quite legitimate for them to think about claiming it. The only thing is that as they left the Kerguelen Islands, the ships became separated. The ship that was headed by Commander Kerguelen decided to go back to Mauritius and then back to France. The other ship, *Gros Ventre*, headed by Captain Louis de Saint Aloüarn, stuck to the plan and headed eastwards. It then ran into Dirk Hartog Island, and eventually got here.

In fact, first of all, on 17 March, it came to Cape Leeuwin. Would members believe that in March, it was not possible to land there? They could not see a suitable landing site. They then decided to rely on some old maps that suggested that if they came up to Dirk Hartog Island, they would be able to land, but at that time, around 17 March, they were not able to. On 30 March, they landed at Turtle Bay on Dirk Hartog Island and claimed the western half of Australia for France in the name of Louis XV.

Members might ask, and I would quite agree with this sentiment, what is the significance of this—more white people claiming Australia. It is not particularly interesting. There is something very interesting about this voyage. To give members some more background, we only found evidence of this particular journey in 1998 when some archaeologists and historians found coins and searched for a document in a bottle that had been left at Turtle Bay on Dirk Hartog Island. That was the process that enabled them to make the claim to the land on 30 March 1772. The interesting thing is that when they made that claim, various comments were made in the record of the trip. One comment was by Sergeant Lafortune, who said, “Today we learned that New Holland is inhabited.” There was also a comment by François Etienne de Rosily-Mesros, who said, “One place in particular we thought people had danced in a circle.” There are notations throughout the manuscripts from the voyage recognising the inhabitation of Western Australia. That did not stop those particular people from pursuing the claim. That is what they were ordered to do.

When this information got back to Versailles at the time, in 1773–74, it went to Louis XV and his advisers. I think we could write off Louis XV as being somewhat akin to Prince Andrew when it comes to morality; we would not credit him with too much. The advisers around him—the people who were really making the decisions—saw those notations. I want to put something to this place. This is something that still needs to be tested, and we need to do

some research in the French national archives along these lines, but along with a whole series of other factors, namely that France did not have much money, that the reports about what the land looked like were not particularly flattering, and that it appeared to be very dry landscape—for a whole host of reasons—France decided not to pursue the claim to Western Australia. This is exactly 250 years ago. I put it out there that one of the reasons may be that 250 years ago, we were right in the middle of a thing called the Age of Enlightenment. At that time, there was a philosophical line of thinking, especially pursued by the philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau, and many others, that used a term that could sound somewhat derogatory. It was “the noble savage”. There was an idea that the ultimate state of freedom for human beings was to live in a traditional culture. They said that in a civilisation, people are too dependent on other people—the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker—to have true freedom, whereas if people are in a totally primitive state, they are worried just about surviving.

People in traditional cultures have the highest state of human freedom. That is one of the lines of thought that was going on in this Age of Enlightenment—that age of respect for traditional cultures. It could be that when the advisers saw these notations about the fact that New Holland was inhabited, they decided not to pursue it. That is why I put it to the house that the anniversary on 30 March this year is of significance. Perhaps some would dismiss it as being a quirky part of our heritage. Had things gone differently, Western Australia could have been a French colony and a French-speaking country. Clearly, France made the decision to not pursue the claim, so we have a totally different history. It was not until 1826 when the British realised that the western half of this continent was unclaimed that they sent Lockyer over in the *Amity* to make sure that there was no doubt about it and to secure the land for Great Britain. That will be discussed as we near those anniversaries of 1826 and 1829. That has been a live issue for 250 years. It is fascinating that in 1998 we were able to find the traces of that particular claim. I find it extraordinary, when I read the records from the 1998 mission to find the bottle, how they were able to pinpoint where de Saint Aloüarn landed at Turtle Bay. It is extraordinary stuff.

I move to another journey—the final journey.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: Another issue that seems to arise in my electorate every summer—some summers are worse than others—is the problem of botulism in Mary Carroll Park wetlands in my electorate. I was lucky to be part of a patrol rostered to collect often dead or sick birds that have botulism so they do not spread it to other birds. We were able to contain the problem quite successfully. I wandered around the Mary Carroll wetlands wearing my waders early in the morning. The beauty of the area is just astounding. It is sad work in many ways. The first time I did that was on 1 January. I had the pleasure of being in the company of Pat Hart, the chair of the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group. I am really thrilled to acknowledge all the work that Pat Hart has done, and note that she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day honours list. I am thrilled that Pat received that acknowledgement. It was a pleasure being with her and all the volunteers who worked throughout the summer to do this botulism patrol.

This journey of respect for our ecology, our native species, is something that I want to highlight in the time remaining to me, especially in relation to what can generically be described as bird entanglements. It is really distressing to see how often all kinds of birds, whether it is pelicans, swans, darters, cormorants, sometimes ducks and seagulls, get entangled in fishing line. I really think the Swan River Trust might need to look at this issue. If we are keen to set ourselves various indicators of good river health, ensuring we eliminate bird entanglements must be one of the indicators that we use. It is just too awful to see birds in distress. I am on the Facebook group that the Western Australian Seabird Rescue group runs. It seems like we get call-outs on that Facebook messenger page every day. The statistics that we have at the moment suggest that in the last 12 months, we have had 300 call-outs to assist various birds that have become entangled. It just goes on. It is a nonstop problem. There is a real complexity to resolving these problems. These poor creatures have fishhooks embedded in them. These days fishing seems to require people to have multiple hooks, lures and sinkers. A series of hooks can be embedded into the leg or wing of a bird and then the line may be wrapped around it. Initially, the bird tries to deny it. It is in a state of denial and wants to get on with its life. It is quite difficult to catch. When they are still in reasonably good condition, they are really hard to catch.

One of the other problems we have is that recreational fishers cut the line. In fact, it is better that they do not do that. This is something that we have to work on. Perhaps WA Seabird Rescue could provide the training to the recreational fishing community on how to respond if people hook a bird or, better still, how to avoid hooking a bird in the first place. For instance, if people see a cormorant nearby, they should not go and cast off because that poor bird will see the lure going through the water, think it is a fish, dive on it and get caught. It would be easy enough for someone to go somewhere else where there are no birds that are likely to catch the lure. If people catch a bird of any description or any species, whether it be a pelican, a swan or whatever, they definitely should not cut the line because that line can be used to catch the bird; otherwise we have to wait until the bird gets sick, fatigued and weakened and then we can use a leg roping system or a net launcher. We have to rely on the bird being quite weak to do that, which diminishes its chances of survival.

I am sure that all members have noticed our magnificent pelicans. If they come over Canning Bridge or up the freeway, sometimes they perch on the lights on the freeway. It is quite spectacular to see them. Sometimes osprey are there too. It is magnificent to have creatures like that in our river and urban Perth capital city setting. What a gift it is. People often take photos. That is when we see the problems. People take a photo with a reasonable resolution and we can then zoom in and see that a bird has fishing line wrapped around its leg or wing. That is when we have to identify that we have to go out and try to catch the bird. This is a serious problem.

I pay tribute to some of the key volunteers who go out. Rowan and Mary, who have retired, are incredible. They have developed some very clever, very sophisticated bird-catching techniques. It is highly skilled work and very time-consuming. Often, we realise that we will not free the bird on one day and we have to go back the next day, bringing a few mullet to perhaps lure the pelican in or whatever. A young professional couple, Angela and Craig, are also involved. They are very busy with their lives. They do fantastic work. We sometimes see pretty gruesome stuff when we get hold of these birds. They can look awful. The only thing we can do is take them to WA Wildlife. Our statistics suggest that at least 300 birds are entangled a year. Those are just the ones reported to WA Seabird Rescue. There are a whole lot more. We are only covering Albany, the Peel region and the Perth metropolitan area. This is a much bigger problem than we are aware of and on which we have statistics. It really is enormous. I really implore the house to support any initiatives that would encourage those in the recreational fishing community to change their ways and learn to appreciate how this really nasty business can be solved.

Mr D.J. Kelly: Have you gone through Recfishwest directly?

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: Not yet but I believe that is something that the WA Seabird Rescue people are keen to do. I know that they receive \$2 million a year from the state. They would say they get it back as part of their licence agreement. Effectively, it is \$2 million of public money a year. I see public money being spent on promoting fishing rather than encouraging good fishing practices, so I think there is scope for there to be changes for the fishing community. I also recognise that Recfishwest's penetration into what we might generically call "recreational fishers" only puts it in contact with a percentage of them. It could just be a little kid out there with a handline who causes one of these terrible entanglement situations for a bird as beautiful as a pelican, an osprey, a swan or a darter. For any of those birds, it really is an awful thing. I think we need to set diminishment and elimination of bird entanglements as indicators of our progress.

I am very pleased that we have taken such a strong stance when dealing with COVID. We have been led very well by the Premier. I also acknowledge the tremendous work done by Hon Roger Cook, the former Minister for Health, and the current minister, Minister Sanderson. They are under incredible pressure—that is for sure—but they have led us brilliantly and long may they continue to do so. I know that the people of the Thornlie electorate are incredibly thankful. We have a challenging time ahead, but with the leadership that we have, we will be able to cope with whatever difficulties are thrown before us.

MS H.M. BEAZLEY (Victoria Park) [4.21 pm]: It gives me great joy to take off this mask, actually, to be honest! Thank you very much to the government for allowing me to do that under the rules as I present my speech. It gives me great pleasure to rise today in response to the Premier's Statement, which was delivered in this place two days ago. Together with his cabinet, the Premier is executing a strategy for our state that places Western Australians, our businesses and industries, community services and justice networks, and environment and future in the strongest possible position as we navigate the opportunities and challenges of today and the unknowns of tomorrow.

The McGowan government's plan has had tangible benefits for my community in Victoria Park. In the current state budget, the McGowan government invested significantly in our primary school science program. This meant a \$190 000 investment in local schools in my electorate of Victoria Park. My old school of East Victoria Park Primary has received \$40 000 for a first-class science classroom. Lathlain Primary School has received \$40 000 for a first-class science classroom. Wilson Primary School has received \$40 000 for a first-class science classroom. Millen Primary School has received \$40 000 for a first-class science classroom. Victoria Park Primary School will soon receive \$25 000 for a first-class science classroom or resources. Our five Victoria Park schools were a portion of over 400 public primary schools across Western Australia that benefited from this new \$18.2 million primary school investment.

It is essential that students in Victoria Park and across our state are provided with the highest quality facilities and resources in science, technology, engineering and maths to inspire them about what is possible so that they are prepared for the jobs they will hold in the future. Given our primary schools also feed into our local public high school, Kent Street Senior High, which is home to leading specialist programs such as CoRE—Centre of Resources Excellence—and aviation, where students learn aeronautics, the principles of flight, rockets, drones, spaceflight, engineering, mechanics and robotics, this investment in science in the lower years will place Victoria Park Primary students in the best possible position to fly. I thank the Minister for Education and Training and the Premier for investing in our kids' future.

Victoria Park Primary School is a historic school in my electorate. Victoria Park Primary School was opened in 1894, making it one of the oldest built by the Department of Education in Western Australia. At almost 130 years old, the buildings at the school are heritage listed. When visiting Victoria Park Primary, you feel the pride the school has in its history as well as its steadfast commitment to the futures of its students.

I congratulate principal Pam Pollard, the school board, wonderful staff, the active parents and citizens association and the students and families for their support of the school and their advocacy for a much-needed new build. I was incredibly proud to join the Minister for Education and Training, Hon Sue Ellery, MLC, and former member for Victoria Park Hon Ben Wyatt in October last year to open Victoria Park Primary School's new classroom block. As the local member, I am very proud of the \$7.1 million investment made by the McGowan government to build this impressive new two-storey classroom block. It provides four early childhood classrooms, six general learning classrooms for years 1 to 3, additional toilets, storage areas and kitchens as well as new ground-level parking. The new \$7.1 million classroom block also includes an innovative rooftop playground. When I have visited, that rooftop playground has given even my old middle-aged brain the fire to get out playing again.

The new classroom block was designed to meet growing enrolment demands. It provides first-class facilities across year groups and allows for the school to operate on one site. The school's population had grown so large for such a landlocked site that it had been operating across two sites, leading to not only administrative challenges, but also the dreaded double-drop-off for parents. I congratulate Minister Ellery and Victoria Park Primary School on the successful opening of the new classroom block. I know it will be well utilised and much appreciated in its first full year of operation this year.

The delivery of the McGowan government's primary school science program that saw \$190 000 invested in new science classrooms at Victoria Park Primary Schools, as well as the new \$7.1 million two-storey classroom block at Victoria Park Primary School, was on top of the almost \$3 million invested in every Victoria Park school as part of the McGowan government's recent \$200 million school maintenance blitz. Every public school in my electorate of Victoria Park received boosted maintenance funding as part of this blitz—that is, East Victoria Park Primary School; East Victoria Park Education Support Centre; Carson Street School, which is a wonderful school for children with disability; Lathlain Primary School; Victoria Park Primary School; Millen Primary School; Wilson Primary School; Bentley Primary School; Canning College; and Kent Street Senior High School. Every public school in Victoria Park received boosted funding.

Schools utilised this funding in various ways; for example, my old school of East Victoria Park Primary invested in replacing old light fittings with new LED ones. This means that East Victoria Park Primary has not only now saved money on its power bills, but also reduced its carbon footprint. It was a great decision and it is great news for a school that is committed to sustainability. I thank the Premier and Minister for Education and Training for prioritising maintenance at every single one of our local Victoria Park schools.

The McGowan government's \$190 000 primary school science program investment in Victoria Park schools, the new \$7.1 million two-storey classroom block at Victoria Park Primary School, the almost \$3 million invested across every Victoria Park school as part of our school maintenance blitz are now being even further complemented by a \$750 000 investment into an upgraded science, technology, engineering and mathematics classroom at Kent Street Senior High School. As reflected in our investment in STEM, the quality of STEM education is a key priority of the McGowan government. The upgrade of the STEM classroom at Kent Street Senior High School is an investment in not only STEM, but also our current and future Kent Street staff and students. This new STEM classroom is on top of over \$600 000 of added maintenance invested in the school as part of our maintenance blitz. This investment allowed Kent Street Senior High School to undertake works, including upgrading classrooms, installing playground shade sails and, in a move welcomed by all, upgrading the toilets.

I know that principal Kate Wilson was also pleased that Kent Street Senior High School was one of 70 public secondary schools to be allocated a career practitioner, who began work at the school just this term. The installation of career practitioners in schools across WA is a new, \$31 million initiative of the McGowan government, and I congratulate Minister Ellery, the Minister for Education and Training, and the Premier on this program's delivery. The career practitioner at Kent Street, who is employed as a qualified teacher, plays an integral role at the school, providing students with the opportunity to experience a range of work and study options, helping them navigate their post-school future. I congratulate principal Kate Wilson, who I very much enjoy working with; the school board; the P&C; and the students, families and Kentians on being such wonderful advocates for their school and living the school's motto, "Courage to Achieve".

It is not only primary and high schools in my electorate of Victoria Park that have benefited from the McGowan government's commitment to education; it is also our TAFEs. We have two TAFE campuses in my electorate, in Bentley and Carlisle. On top of the \$190 000 invested in Victoria Park as part of the McGowan government's primary school science program; the new \$7.1 million, two-storey classroom block at Victoria Park Primary School; the almost \$3 million invested across every Victoria Park school as part of our government school maintenance blitz;

and the \$750 000 to upgrade STEM facilities at Kent Street Senior High School, we have not forgotten our TAFEs. The McGowan government is investing more than \$1.5 million to modernise equipment at our South Metropolitan TAFE Bentley and Carlisle campuses. The Carlisle campus is a specialised, purpose-built campus, unique to the state. Our investment in Carlisle TAFE will deliver large, high-tech spray-painting booths for panelbeating, worth over \$1 million. This investment is part of the McGowan government's \$25 million pledge to modernise equipment at TAFE facilities across WA. Along with investing in modern equipment, the McGowan government has also reduced TAFE fees.

The McGowan government launched the Lower Fees, Local Skills program in 2020. We recently extended this TAFE fee reduction initiative until 2025. A total of 210 courses have had their fees either heavily reduced or frozen. Carlisle TAFE is the only WA TAFE campus to deliver such certificates as certificate III in automotive body repair technology, which is also now a half-price course; certificate III in automotive electrical technology, a half-price course; certificate III in engineering fabrication trade surface finishing, a half-price course; certificate III in motorcycle mechanical technology, a half-price course; and certificate III in outdoor power equipment technology, a half-price course. Locals also have access to half-price courses at Bentley TAFE campus, including certificate III in community services; certificate IV in preparation for health and nursing study; and a diploma of community services. Lower Fees, Local Skills has delivered a huge increase in Western Australians taking up vocational education and training courses at our TAFEs. TAFE enrolments for lower fee courses are up 27 per cent. I am pleased to welcome these students to my electorate and community of Victoria Park, and I congratulate our hardworking TAFE lecturers, trainers and staff for the wonderful work they do.

I would like to talk about something close to my heart: people living with disability, their carers, and the support our disability community needs and deserves. I have a son with a disability. I understand the myriad unique needs of the myriad people living with disability. It is a community that has also experienced unique challenges during the COVID pandemic, from telehealth appointments, which my son is not a fan of, to decreased access to one-on-one supports, further challenges in access to transport and mobility services, and what seems to be a very strong push by the federal Liberal Morrison government to decrease the supports available to NDIS recipients, particularly those with a behavioural disability or who are neurodiverse.

Last year, I was incredibly proud that our WA Labor government committed \$8 million towards disability advocacy services, including \$3.44 million to advocacy services in areas of unmet need. Given the number of appeals NDIS clients are now forced to lodge, this is a very necessary investment. Some of this funding went out to our fantastic local community law service, Sussex Street Legal in Victoria Park. Sussex Street Legal received more than \$300 000 in funding for its disability justice advocacy project. Amongst other issues dealt with, Sussex Street's advocacy on behalf of people living with disability includes working to obtain more funding for clients, particularly from the NDIS.

Recently, on social media I expressed my frustration about the NDIS; rarely has such a post garnered such in-depth and on-subject discussion, and too many stories that broke my heart. I shared that my son's most recent NDIS plan review, which was months late, cut his already minimal funding. This came after a significant period of him needing increased supports in situations where his behaviours were causing massive issues in his life, including at school, which affected not only him, but also his classmates and teachers. Despite all the evidence and reports by professionals, detailing the supports he requires, his funding was cut. We appealed the decision, which was an issue in itself, but the cuts remained.

I posed the question: if I cannot get my son the support he needs, who can? I am an articulate, educated, English-as-a-first-language state MP. I shudder to think of the even poorer treatment being administered to those who do not have such advocacy, and I know many of them. According to my notes, I received comments on that social media post such as —

I'm educated ... a high school deputy principal and my autistic 12 year old daughter's funding was cut. The NDIS actually wrote that "my friends" would help her achieve her goals!

Another one, according to my notes —

My daughter has level 5 cerebral palsy requiring support for every aspect of daily activities (literally could not get out of bed without being hoisted) and her plan was slashed.

Another comment reads, according to my notes —

We have to prove every year that "yes, they still have a disability. Yes, they still need help. The disability has not by some miracle disappeared". It's humiliating for families and clients.

I could not agree more. It breaks my heart and it is incredibly frustrating.

As such, I am very pleased that in addition to the \$8 million our government committed last year to disability advocacy services, we are also investing \$13.4 million to fund an Office of Disability. This office supports our

government's responsibilities when it comes to disability services within the federal NDIS system. The investment comes on top of funding for our state disability strategy, which is a commitment of \$2.6 million. I sincerely thank our Minister for Disability Services, Hon Don Punch, for his strong work in the disability space, which is delivering better outcomes for thousands of Western Australians living with disability—people like my son.

I am proud to be a member of a government that is committed to promoting transformative change, including equitable opportunities and outcomes in all areas of life for people living with disability. On top of the \$8 million being delivered by our government for disability advocacy services, which includes funding for my local Sussex Street Legal community legal service, the \$13.4 million dedicated to Western Australia's Office of Disability and the \$2.6 million to deliver our state disability strategy, I was very pleased to be able to do something comparatively small, but very much appreciated, in my community.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: Just before Christmas, I was proud to deliver a new \$70 000 waterski boat to our local Victoria Park-based WA Disabled Water Ski Club. This was one of my election commitments. The WA Disabled Water Ski Club provides around 900 waterski experiences every year for people living with disability. The club, run by dedicated volunteers, has been operating for more than 30 years. It was fitting that the club named its new boat after club founder John Wilson. The club secretary and one of its longest-serving members, the wonderful Karen Andrews, is a former Paralympian who has cerebral palsy. Karen continues to hold a world record for going over waterski jumps. The club is also home to members who are training for the world championships. In fact, the club's new boat provides club member Richard West with the ability to train for next year's world championships. I wish Richard the very best of luck.

The WA Disabled Water Ski Club has built a genuine family atmosphere. It is a leader in inclusivity and access to sport and community for people living with disability, and I am proud to have it based in Victoria Park. I am pleased that the delivery of my election commitment of a new \$70 000 boat allows the club's great work to continue.

Many local community organisations and services add to the strength and vitality of Victoria Park, one of which is Connect Victoria Park. I am proud of the McGowan government's recent \$60 000 investment in new energy efficiency measures at Connect Victoria Park. That is the delivery of an election commitment that I made last year. Connect Victoria Park is a respected and innovative provider of social housing for low-income older people. Connect also provides connection, belonging and wellness opportunities for people aged over 55, and Connect embraces our older LGBTQIA+ community. In addition, Connect is firmly committed to the pillars of sustainability. The delivery of my election commitment of \$60 000 to Connect made it possible for Connect to install 17 kilowatts of solar panels, 39 kilowatt hours of battery storage and over 120 LED lights. Connect prioritised those lights most used, such as the 24-hour security lights, to maximise its energy savings and environmental outcomes. These measures will save Connect approximately \$10 000 a year. This saving will help put downward pressure on rent for people who are already at the baseline of rent affordability and improve cash flow.

Our investment will also significantly reduce Connect's carbon footprint. The installation of these fantastic new energy efficiency measures was completed just before Christmas, meaning that the Christmas festivities at Connect were the most sustainable in its history. I congratulate Connect, its wonderful community and, importantly, its dedicated staff, including CEO Luke Garswood, who is an absolute pleasure to work with and who possesses a mix of vision and pragmatism that is unusual and appreciated. I also thank Vicki Potter, village hub coordinator, who is an extraordinary organiser and breeds positivity and action in all that she does, and the whole team, Flavia Pardini, Sarah Ryder, Sue Whittaker, Nazia Agwani, Maria Hawkins and Peter Steele, on their continued, valued and meaningful work across the fields of housing, connection, community and so much more. I also thank Connect for its strong and active commitment to sustainability, a commitment that I share and was proud to support with this \$60 000 energy efficiency investment.

Some of the recent activities and achievements in my local electorate of Victoria Park that I would like to bring to the attention of the house include our \$5 million investment in Guide Dogs WA, based in Victoria Park, to establish a world-class breeding program so that WA will not have to rely solely on importing guide dogs from interstate. These funds will also allow Guide Dogs WA to provide an accredited guide dog training course, which will be only the second of its kind in Australia. Over \$300 000 has been provided for new basketball courts at East Victoria Park and Wilson Primary Schools, which was another of my election commitments.

Our \$285 000 investment in the City of Canning's new Hillview Intercultural Community Centre in Bentley for a new kitchen, furniture, IT and AV equipment was also one of my election commitments. The new Hillview Intercultural Community Centre will have its official opening soon, but as of this week these resources are already being used by community groups across my electorate, including by Connect Victoria Park, which on Monday launched an intergenerational, intercultural playgroup for preschool-age children and their grandparents at the centre. I look forward to tagging along soon. Our \$10 000 investment in the local Curtin-Victoria Park Cricket Club for new sightscreens was another election commitment that I was proud to make.

Local road infrastructure upgrades are coming soon to the Shepperton Road and Mint Street intersection, the Star Street and Briggs Street intersection and the Leach Highway and Braibrise Road intersection, and more, to the value of almost \$1 million, not to mention our huge investment in Metronet, which will raise the Armadale rail line that has cut through and run through Victoria Park for almost 130 years. This almost half-a-billion-dollar project will revitalise that stretch of Victoria Park, freeing up land under the train line for community use. We came one step closer to removing traffic-stopping boom gates throughout Victoria Park just eight weeks ago with the announcement of the preferred proponent for the Victoria Park and Cannington phases of this Metronet work. I look forward to working with the Minister for Transport, Hon Rita Saffioti, and our community, as well as the newly named proponent, Armadale Line Upgrade Alliance, to ensure that our community's and the McGowan government's vision is realised for Victoria Park.

Our new \$8 million Kensington fire and rescue station greatly enhances the capacity of our local emergency services and includes dedicated learning facilities as well as a new training tower. Having visited the station and chatted with our amazing local heroes, our Department of Fire and Emergency Services workers based at Kensington, I know that they also love the fact that there is a new integrated gym and especially that they have left behind the almost half-a-century old building that they previously occupied.

Bentley Health Service's 11 new beds are now active and in use, and the new 30-bed modular ward facility is scheduled to be opened by the end of this year at the hospital. Bentley hospital is just over the border of my electorate, but it is an integral part of the Victoria Park community.

I am proud to be part of a government that delivers better outcomes for Western Australians. I am especially proud to work within our government to ensure that Victoria Park has what we need to continue to be a community of passionate people, dedicated community organisations and clubs, innovative entrepreneurs and a hub of learning. Thank you.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Ms C.M. Rowe**.

House adjourned at 4.47 pm
