

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Motion

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR S.J. PRICE (Forrestfield) [2.48 pm]: Before question time, I was talking about a particular Jarrah tree people might notice when they drive through the new intersection of Roe Highway and Kalamunda Road.

Mr V.A. Catania: Is that the one that you were chained to?

Mr S.J. PRICE: It was the one I was hugging. Yes, that is the one.

There is a bit of a backstory to that from when we were leading up to the start of construction of the new intersection. Unfortunately, what happens over time is that a lot of vegetation is planted within road reserves, and when we come to take advantage of those road reserves, the first thing that happens is that a lot of the vegetation is removed. I was doorknocking in the area to talk to local residents and inform them that there would be some changes to the landscape over their back fence when these trees were removed. A lovely resident was sitting outside a small block of units that backs onto Kalamunda Road, and we had a chat. She asked about all the trees that were overhanging the back of her property. Unfortunately, they were all eucalypts that had been planted over time. I said that I was not sure what we could do about that and we would go and have a look. As we walked past those trees, we passed an enormous jarrah tree that was there, but we did not really pay much attention to it. When we came back, we stopped and looked at the tree. It was really big. The way we find out the age of a tree is by cutting it down and counting the rings.

Mr W.J. Johnston: That works!

Mr S.J. PRICE: A good old google came up with a formula, so we went back with a tape measure and measured the girth and the height and punched it all in. As I mentioned earlier, according to our measurements, this tree was in the vicinity of 360 years old, which would explain why it is so big. It was taped to be cut down as part of the new road development. We were able to get in touch with the Minister for Transport's office and Main Roads and, in the end, the road was redesigned around this tree. That beautiful big old jarrah tree is still standing there at the moment, in a fairly barren landscape as a result of the bridge going in, and hopefully it will stand there for another 360 years.

That is reflective of all the development that is taking place in my area. A lot of work is happening. As has been mentioned by numerous people, one of the Labor Party's big focuses heading into the election campaign was to ensure job creation through the difficult economic times of the COVID-19 pandemic that we are dealing with. Part of trying to stimulate the economy is, of course, the government's strong focus on developing jobs through government projects throughout Western Australia, and we have certainly been able to do that. That has been very beneficial to the whole economy. As we heard recently, this state's unemployment figures are now lower than what they were pre the pandemic. More people are now in work than was the case previously. Unfortunately, some challenges are facing the workforce as we go forward, and we will continue to work through those.

Another important event that will occur in, I think, 2023 is that the FIFA Women's World Cup is coming to Australia. Perth has been identified as one of the host cities, which will be great. Part of what comes with the host city label is the requirement for training facilities for the visiting clubs. A number of clubs around the city have been identified as possible training venues. One of those is Forrestfield United Football Club in my area. Forrestfield United is one of the largest soccer clubs in Western Australia. People do not like referring to soccer now; it is all football, football, football. That club is continuing to grow. The number of members is quite extraordinary. It has mixed teams, social teams, amateur teams, masters' teams, women's teams and National Premier League teams. The club currently has over 600 players and 800 members. Within Forrestfield it is the key focus of all the sporting grounds. If members know Forrestfield, the club's home base is Hartfield Park Recreation Centre. The facilities at Hartfield Park are probably some of the best in Perth for non-professional soccer players. There are some big challenges with space availability in that area, because soccer is so big. Hartfield Park is home to soccer, rugby league, rugby union, Aussie Rules football, cricket, and hockey at the back. There is also a bowling club and a tennis club. I have probably missed some. There is a lot of pressure on the sporting fields in the area.

Hartfield Park is part of a large area known as Mundy reserve, which has very significant Aboriginal heritage. As a result, it is quite difficult to create any additional space, because we need to protect the heritage of the area. A lot of important stories are told that include the Kalamunda area. They talk about "cala", which means fire. The person who was in charge of the Aboriginal community in the area, which was the second largest community in the Swan River region when Perth was settled, was a bloke by the name of Mundy, or Munda. They could see fires up on the hills, and they used to talk about "cala" as being fire and "munda" as being forest, so it ended up being known as Kalamunda. The area is very culturally significant, and we have to protect that, which means that we have to look at alternative ways of increasing the capacity of the sporting fields. The City of Kalamunda is quite proactive in investing in infrastructure for the area, and this government is as well. We have committed significant funds previously to improve the lighting in the area, and also to help with the development of the club and fix up the change

rooms to cater for the women's side of it. There was also investment in the area from the previous Liberal–National state government, and the federal government has invested in the area as well. It is seen as a very important area.

In my view, it is extremely important that the FIFA Women's World Cup events are spread across the city as much as possible. Part of that is ensuring we have a training facility in the eastern suburbs and it is not all city-centric.

Mr W.J. Johnston: Queens Park!

Mr S.J. PRICE: The state-of-the-art facility of excellence should be somewhere in the mix by that stage, I imagine.

Ms M.M. Quirk: The Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex.

Mr S.J. PRICE: Yes. It is the eastern suburbs I was talking about, member for Landsdale—a new name.

That is another important part as well.

Just talking once again about some of the good stuff that we have done in the area, there was an election commitment from the Minister for Community Services about some of the local family centres. Prior to the Labor Party winning the 2017 election and coming into government, a program was put in place called empowering communities. That was a way of funding local community centres. However, not all the local family centres fitted into that funding model, so there was a need to provide additional funding. One of the things we did leading into the election was commit to provide funding to those centres that were about to run out of funding over the next four years, and also to help them develop the programs required to enable them to meet the funding requirements for that program. Woodlupine Family Centre is a big benefit to my community. It has been going for many years and provides a wonderful service to the local families in the area. The uncertainty about its future funding was certainly of concern to it and everyone who uses its services. To have that funding secured for the next four years certainly provides it with some confidence about the future, plus the additional assistance to ensure that it can meet the requirements for the empowering communities program going forward is also very important.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr S.J. PRICE: I wish to touch on greyhounds again. There has been a significant increase in the type of greyhounds that have been rehomed through programs that Racing and Wagering Western Australia has put in place to look after the welfare of greyhounds. It is great, though not the best. Like most things, there can be improvements. One of the things that we have always spoken about when talking about the groups that rehome and worry about the welfare of these greyhounds is some sort of inspectorate to monitor their welfare. A significant number of constituents in Forrestfield and many other electorates have adopted these greyhounds. The need to provide additional oversight on their welfare is very important and sought by a lot of people who are involved in the rehoming of greyhounds. The week before last, a petition with over 9 000 signatures was tabled in the other place. It called for an end to greyhound racing in Western Australia. A lot of animal-loving people in Western Australia feel very highly about that position. It is certainly something that we need to look at going forward. There are three greyhound racing tracks in WA, and we need to determine whether we need them going forward. Reviews into the welfare of animals and how safety can be improved on the tracks are being undertaken at the moment. All these things are good, but, ultimately, greyhounds are dealt with quite differently from any other pet. Greyhounds are viewed as entertainment animals. They sit in a separate category. The Animal Welfare Act 2002 has a limited application to greyhounds. They are treated very differently from any other domestic pet, which is part of the challenge. The act of making them race is challenging because they are made to race as opposed to run. They are trained in a way that makes them have to race. That has an effect on their behaviour as they get older. It is an interesting area. There is a growing awareness of how beautiful these dogs are and what wonderful pets they make. The more we can do to help their quality of life, the better.

I will finish where I started and thank all new members for their wonderful first speeches. As we have said numerous times, parts of those speeches will be quoted back to those members over the years. If they have the opportunity to make a valedictory speech at some point, they can look back at what they said and, hopefully, they will be able to tick all the boxes that they created for themselves along the way. On that note, I support the Address-in-Reply.

MR K.J.J. MICHEL (Pilbara) [3.03 pm]: I have come to the house to give my contribution to the Address-in-Reply. I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation. I pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

I would like to congratulate Hon Michelle Roberts for her appointment as our Speaker. As has been pointed out, she is the first female Speaker to be appointed to this house. She will bring an understanding of parliamentary process to the role of Speaker that could only be gained through her near 30-year tenure in this house.

I would like to congratulate the Premier for his strong leadership during the last four years to secure the trust of people across WA. I would like to thank the Premier for his support throughout my first term and during the campaign. I would

also like to thank him for officially launching my re-election campaign. My thanks to Ministers Stephen Dawson, Alannah MacTiernan, Bill Johnston, Paul Papalia, Rita Saffioti and Roger Cook for supporting my campaign.

I congratulate all new members elected to the forty-first Parliament. I am a firm believer that Parliament will serve its role more effectively the closer it reflects the demographics of the constituents we serve.

We have a record 28 lower house women MPs, a fact we should all be extremely proud of. I am proud of the fact that many cultures are also represented in this Parliament, including more Indian-born MPs of any Parliament across Australia than at any time. Congratulations to Dr Jags and Yaz. Congratulations, too, to all regional members. I would like to put on record that we now have more regional members than ever. We now have four Labor members representing the Mining and Pastoral Region. Congratulations to Peter Foster and Rosetta Sahanna. But most of all, I am proud and happy to be re-elected for a second term representing the Pilbara as part of the McGowan Labor government.

As the previous owner of a small business that operated throughout the Pilbara, I left my business to run for election in 2017 because I wanted to see the creation of local jobs in the Pilbara as a priority for the government. I wanted to be a local voice in a McGowan Labor government that always fights for local jobs for local Pilbara residents. I am proud of the local procurement and local contract requirements that our team has achieved over the past four years to make sure that our big industries hire locals and reduce the fly-in fly-out workforce.

We are delivering on the \$28 million renewable hydrogen strategy to position WA as a major producer and exporter of renewable hydrogen. With the recent announcement of the Engie–Yara project receiving federal Australian Renewable Energy Agency funding, I am proud that our state government has played a huge role in championing the exciting hydrogen industry. We are also supporting development of the emerging potash industry, including introducing a new rental rate for potash projects. The potash industry is another exciting industry that will create jobs and opportunities for Pilbara residents for decades to come. I am proud that we are actively supporting the industry. We are capitalising on the strength of our iron ore exports through the investment of \$20 million for Port Hedland’s inner harbour to upgrade retaining walls and seawalls, and investing \$51.2 million for the Nelson Point tug haven to upgrade retaining and sheet pile walls as part of the WA Recovery Plan.

I am also proud of the investment that we have put into TAFE and local schools so that every local Pilbara resident has the pathway to a good job to reduce the FIFO workforce. Under the highly successful lower fees, local skills initiative, the McGowan Labor government slashed fees to make training more affordable for locals after the price hikes by the previous Liberal–National government. The McGowan government has committed to invest \$22 million in the Pundulmurra South Hedland campus for a new workshop to expand training for trades tailored to meet resource sector requirements; \$5 million for a new classroom block at the Roebourne TAFE campus to expand and deliver training in more modern facilities; and \$270 000 for a National Disability Insurance Scheme training centre at the Karratha campus.

To build our local Pilbara schools for the future, the McGowan government has committed over \$55 million to build new classroom blocks; upgrade air conditioning; refurbish music halls; upgrade bitumen surfaces; build new classrooms, sports halls and four general learning classrooms; and refurbish STEM facilities, IT laboratories, home economic laboratories, the childcare occasional training room and the education support centre. There is \$42 million for the redevelopment of Roebourne District High School from kindergarten to secondary school. On top of all that, an extra \$14.3 million has been committed to Pilbara schools for maintenance upgrades and improvement works as part of our massive school maintenance blitz.

We have committed \$4 million for a residential facility in Newman to support Martu students from remote communities and \$3.5 million for new early childhood buildings for kindergarten and pre-primary school students at Wickham Primary School. I am proud to be part of the Labor government that is putting patients first in the Pilbara and ensuring that regional patients have access to quality health care closer to home. We have committed to invest \$6 million for an MRI unit at South Hedland hospital and another \$10 million to boost services at Karratha Health Campus, plus incentives for general practitioners to move to the Pilbara. We have invested \$2.7 million for the replacement of accommodation for Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service staff in Jigalong; increased the patient assisted travel scheme accommodation subsidy to \$100 a night and increased PATS escort eligibility for people from vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including women travelling to give birth.

I am proud that the McGowan Labor government has delivered \$310 million for the Manuwarra Red Dog Highway, with stage 3 completed and stage 4 set to commence in 2022; \$36 million for the realignment of Great Northern Highway near Port Hedland International Airport; \$54 million for the realignment of Marble Bar Road through Coongan Gorge; \$850 000 towards upgrades on the Roebourne–Wittenoom Road; \$10 million in 2020–21 to the regional road safety program to upgrade 85 kilometres of roads in the Pilbara; and \$120 million to upgrade and seal Marble Bar Road, which is an extremely vital road for many of our East Pilbara communities.

I am proud to deliver the local projects that our community has asked to be delivered for decades, including the Manuwarra Red Dog Highway, Spoilbank Marina and the new Newman hospital. There is one commitment that will have a huge benefit for many local Pilbara residents; namely, our commitment to invest \$19.8 million to cap airfares to Perth at \$299 one way. This issue was raised with me frequently. This initiative builds on the McGowan government's commitment to secure affordable airfares to Perth, which arose from the 2017 parliamentary inquiry into regional airfares.

I am proud that the people of the Pilbara have put their trust in me to deliver a comprehensive plan for the Pilbara, which we took to the election. I do not doubt that our government's response to the COVID-19 crisis had an impact on and swayed many constituents who would not normally vote for Labor to vote that way. However, in the past four years, I made sure that I constantly engaged with my community. I speak with everyone, even those people who do not like me for whatever reason. I strive to attend every event in my electorate. I cannot tell members how many times constituents across the Pilbara have been shocked that I would make the time to meet with them, something that the previous member failed to do.

There were some awful campaign stunts at the last election, with the Liberal and National Parties actively working together. The Nationals intimidated my volunteers in Hedland and took photos of me and my vehicle licence plate and posted them on social media to try to intimidate me. They were so arrogant that they did not send scrutineers to the booths on election day; rather, they were all going to a lavish election night party. The negative campaign launched by Gary Wightman in the *North West Telegraph* specifically targeted me, with the idea to bully and intimidate me about the West End dust issue. It backfired and had a positive result on my campaign. The Liberals constantly attacked our response to the COVID pandemic and their candidates tried to sabotage my campaign launch and intimidate my supporters. I am extremely proud of our volunteers, who did not give in to the Liberal and National Parties' persistent trolling and intimidation. We achieved an amazing result of a 30.1 per cent swing on first preferences.

I would like to thank campaign director, Stephen Dawson; my campaign manager, Ezra McKenna; and my core campaign team of my wife, Jacqueline, and Randy Surrao, Tricia Hebbard, Paul, Joseph Almonte and Dharam Pal. I thank them for their tireless efforts during the campaign. Without them, the small things that needed to be done would not have been completed. Ezra doorknocked with me whenever he could, organised volunteers and ran the day-to-day campaign extremely well. I thank Randy Surrao, who was willing to help me at a moment's notice. There was no job too big or too small for him. I would like to thank Tricia Hebbard for her fantastic effort in Hedland. She doorknocked with me and organised the booths and volunteers. I thank Paul Smith for his tireless doorknocking efforts during the campaign. I thank Peter Foster for joining me on the campaign trail in East Pilbara.

I would like to thank the fantastic booth captains, Randy Surrao, Phil Davies, Christy Reed, Sharyn Morrow, Tricia Hebbard, Kate Wilson, Kelly Howlett and Peter Pope in Hedland, and Will Hope and Sandy Tandy in Newman. Congratulations to Christy, her Nanna Betty, and the team for achieving a fantastic result at the Dampier booth.

We had a huge team of volunteers across every booth on election day and during the pre-polling. I would like to thank every one of my volunteers who helped me—Anita Surrao, Audrey McGee, Nathan Connelly, Lydia Pereira Connelly, Dave Joseph, Maria Joseph, Liz Robinson, Lindsey Robinson, Guy Shepard, Rozi Luthra, Dharam Pal, Stuart McLennan, Amy Studley, Chris Scott, Sammy Maphaka, Barry Harrison, Malcolm Parker, Peter Lynch, Jeremy Lynch, Tiya Yacoob Lynch, Betty Reed, Bill Messer, Jack Renault, Heather van den Rydt, Rheema Dhir, Juliet, Annie, Dyanand and Gordon, Lynda Cooper, Libby Gaunt, Robert Cheedy, Bruce Booth, MJ, Joseph Almonte, Jorge Landicho, Allan Juanchon, Melba, Maryanne, Geraldine Burgess, Shaun Burgess, Neil Bullen and the lads from the 6 Star Group.

I would also like to thank my supporters from Hedland and my volunteers—Peter Pope, Kelly Howlett, Jan Gillingham, Jesse Pawloff, Jasmine Bamford, Ben Crilly, Nirav Gurjar, Kashish Malhotra, Neil Guilmartin, Gail Victor, Garry Ansell, Kevin Clifton, George Daccache, Julia, Maisy, Sela, Cheryl Leguin and Judith McRae; and from Newman, Lynda Langlands, Chloe Neill, Olivia Hughes, Helen Russell, Makenzy Russell, Colin Draper, Brendan Langlands, Reece Losik, Jason Mallard, Lachlan Harrison, David Kular and Rose Omo.

I would also like to thank Neil Guilmartin for his tireless efforts and support during the election for the signs on my trucks and putting up all my posters in Hedland, and all over the place. I would also like to thank Kate Wilson and Garry Ansell for the video and footage they produced for my campaign, and for their tireless efforts of walking around with me and filming in different locations to make sure we got the best outcomes. My special thanks go to Kelvin Portland for taking the campaign posters to Newman, and also helping us during pre-polling in Karratha.

I would also like to thank my special A team from Perth. They are a big part of my team. They are my good friends Eddie Magtuto, Precy Magtuto, Eric Almen, Wendie Almen, Victoria Weatherspoon and Emma Hanh-Ma, and I thank them for actively supporting me along this campaign. I would also like to thank the Hinaki family in Roebourne, Georgia Mills and Tissa Clarke. I give a shout-out to the Roebourne community for their incredible support, and I would like to thank all of my sponsors. I would like to thank the fantastic booth captains for the

wonderful work they have done and for their tireless efforts they put into my campaign. Last of all, I thank the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union for its support. Thank you to Steve McCartney, Renee Portland and staff for their assistance. Thank you to Tim Picton, Ellie Whiteaker and the WA Labor team for running a fantastic campaign. It was great to work with them.

I would also like to thank my wife, Jacqueline, for all her effort and the strength she has given me, whether putting up posters, doorknocking, distributing flyers, helping with accounts, purchasing campaign materials et cetera. You have been with me all along the way. Even at times when I struggled to move, you inspired me to keep going. No matter how much I thank you, it cannot do you justice. Our family plays a very important role in our campaign.

Last of all, thank you to the people of Pilbara for their faith in me. I will work hard to do my best for the Pilbara. Thank you.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Ms A. Sanderson (Minister for Environment)**.

House adjourned at 3.19 pm
