

APPROPRIATION (RECURRENT 2017–18) SUPPLEMENTARY BILL 2018
APPROPRIATION (CAPITAL 2017–18) SUPPLEMENTARY BILL 2018

Second Reading — Cognate Debate

Resumed from 23 September.

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo) [12.33 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to this general debate today. It is the second last day of this fortieth Parliament, so, in all likelihood, it is the last opportunity for me to get to my feet in this chamber to speak before I face the people of Wanneroo and ask them again to do me the honour of electing me as the member for Wanneroo at the state election on 13 March.

I have now been the member for Wanneroo for three years and, I think, coming up to nine months as part of the McGowan Labor government. This McGowan Labor government is in its fourth year, and it has been a stable and strong government that has kept WA safe throughout this most extraordinary of years. We have delivered a strong 2020 budget that matches these times. We are focused on protecting the health of the community, and our budget and strong financial management is leading the state's economic recovery, keeping people in jobs and creating an unprecedented pipeline of jobs as we go forward. Most people will acknowledge that it is this McGowan government's responsible budget management and the strength of WA's economy prior to the pandemic that has provided WA with the capacity and flexibility to immediately respond to the impacts of COVID-19 across the state. We have been able to make WA safe and strong because of our financial management over this government's entire period since coming to office in 2017. We are where we are because this state Labor government has been disciplined, coordinated and solid throughout its term.

We are in this position because this government has been a responsible financial manager for over three and a half years. In just three short years, WA Labor has got the budget back under control, turning the previous Liberal–National government's record deficits into surpluses and it is the only government in the country to have paid down debt. The McGowan Labor government's focus on budget repair has set us up in a strong position to respond to this pandemic. We continue to show financial responsibility, which allows us to continue to respond to this pandemic in a way that will keep us safe and keep our economy strong. Members, it is not lost on me what is happening in South Australia and what has occurred in Victoria. It is a very fluid situation. We do not know what is going to happen next. People I talk to in my community are very comfortable that we have a strong and stable government that has the financial and governance capacity to respond as we need to when required.

I want to spend a couple of minutes talking a little bit about the way we have responded this year throughout the COVID-19 pandemic situation. A lot of the debate tends to get taken up with whether we should have closed borders, and we know how the opposition feels about that. However, I want to focus for a few minutes, if I can, on the actions that this government has taken in leading the COVID response and recovery since March. A few weeks ago, the member for Armadale gave us a great recount of the time line of events of how this pandemic has unfolded around the world, in Australia and here in WA. However, I want to take this opportunity to recap on what the McGowan Labor government has done in response to the pandemic since March and how it has ensured that we keep Western Australians safe and strong.

I should really speed talk through some of the things I want to highlight because this government has done so many things. I will speed up a bit through some of them. On 16 March, we announced a \$607 million stimulus package to support WA households and small businesses in the wake of COVID-19, including \$402 million to freeze household fees and charges until at least July 2021. The government doubled to \$600 the energy assistance payment for vulnerable Western Australians, including pensioners.

On 16 March, we introduced up to 20 days COVID paid leave available to public sector workers. We moved quickly to support our public sector workers to make sure that those who were sick stayed home to ensure a safe working environment and to help reduce the spread of the virus. We know that it is the public sector and its strength that has kept Western Australia going throughout this pandemic. Very early on, in March, we recognised that, by ensuring our public sector could access leave if they needed to in case they became unwell.

On 19 March, the McGowan government announced an immediate pay rise for police. We know that the police are at the front line of our response to the pandemic. Right at the beginning of this pandemic, we ensured that they felt supported and valued.

On 30 March, we announced a \$159 million COVID-19 relief fund to provide crisis support by prioritising Lotterywest grants. On 30 March, we announced a \$25 million package of rent relief for small businesses and not-for-profit organisations, including rent waivers for tenants of government buildings. On 31 March, we announced further relief for households experiencing financial hardship through a \$1 billion COVID-19 economic health relief package. This included measures such as one-off offsets of \$2 500 for 95 000 small businesses in this state and the waiving

of payroll tax. Our actions back in March meant that no-one suffering financial hardship would have their power or water disconnected.

On Wednesday, 8 April, we announced a \$91.2 million police package. That included 150 additional police officers, who were recruited immediately, and \$17.8 million to expand police tracking and tracing capabilities. On 14 April, we introduced new laws to provide support for commercial and residential tenants and landlords, including a moratorium on evictions for small commercial tenancies. On 23 April, we announced a new \$154 million relief package to support tenants, landlords and the construction industry, including \$100 million in land tax relief grants for commercial landlords who reduced their rents for small businesses. We invested \$24.5 million to assist the building and construction industry to maintain a skilled workforce and apprentices, including \$5 million to encourage people to take on free short courses so we could make sure that we could continue to have a skilled workforce as we moved through this pandemic. On 30 April, we announced the fast-tracking of major projects to support jobs by establishing a statewide construction panel to expedite delivery of key projects. In fact, more than \$140 million worth of road and maritime projects have been fast-tracked to create more jobs.

On 13 May, we announced the \$14.4 million package to support the tourism industry. On 20 May, we announced historic planning reforms. This once-in-a-lifetime reform has allowed much-needed economic activity by providing certainty for major investors in our big projects, but it has done so much more; it has cut red tape for small businesses and allowed even people from my electorate to get a pergola built in their backyard quickly without all the red tape of local government. On 21 May, we announced the fast-tracking of \$12 million of sports grants. On 3 June, we announced new land releases to further activate and expand the Neerabup industrial estate, which services Perth's fastest growing northern corridor and is going to be the home of future jobs in my electorate. On 5 June, we scrapped fees so we could support more than 3 000 displaced apprentices and trainees to safeguard our future workforce. I am only up to June, members! On 7 June, we announced the \$444 million housing stimulus package, with \$319 million to support people to build, buy, renovate and maintain social housing, and the very popular and significant scheme of \$117 million towards a \$20 000 grant for new homebuyers. I am seeing the successful impact of that scheme in my corridor, with lots of land being bought up my way. Lots of tradies are in jobs and we cannot get enough bricklayers and tradies to build those houses fast enough in Wanneroo.

On 1 July, we announced a \$36 million investment for an elective surgery blitz to catch up on all those elective surgeries that had to be suspended during the lockdown. On 2 July, we announced a \$57 million package for our TAFE sector, including free TAFE courses and major reductions in fees for 39 high-priority qualifications to make sure that our young people are trained and ready to go for the jobs that we are creating. On Sunday, 5 July, we gave a \$6.8 million boost to financial counselling services. On 23 July, there was a \$10 million support package for the manufacture of Western Australian-made personal protective equipment. That only gets us up to July, members!

On 26 July, the Premier announced our \$5.5 billion recovery plan. This plan has seen an unprecedented \$5.5 billion investment to support us through the COVID-19 pandemic and drive our economic and social recovery. It is designed to get Western Australians back to work and is creating thousands of local jobs in important sectors, such as construction, manufacturing, tourism, hospitality, renewable energy, education and training, agriculture, mining and conservation.

I want to take a moment to read a few more of those. Bear with me, members. On 26 July, the Premier announced a \$66.3 million investment into renewable energy technologies. On 27 July, the McGowan government announced our green jobs plan, which will see \$60 million invested in environmental projects, which will create more than 1 000 conservation jobs in this state. On 31 July, we announced a \$330 million investment into industry. I want to highlight one of those industry investments that I am happy about for Wanneroo. We saw \$20 million come to Wanneroo towards a robotics and automation physical test facility as part of the 94-hectare precinct north of the current Neerabup industrial estate to support research. On 28 July, the biggest TAFE investment in history was made in the form of \$229 million to upgrade existing TAFE facilities and provide even more fee cuts for important courses that we need our young people to get access to.

On 2 August, we announced a \$300 million investment throughout the state for sport and community infrastructure upgrades. On 3 August, we announced \$492 million worth of investment into our new schools and existing schools across the state. This is my favourite and I will tell members a bit more about what that means for my schools in Wanneroo in a moment. On 4 August, we announced \$8.2 million of funding for resource exploration. I want to highlight this one too. We often talk about how important mining is to the state and how it has led our economic recovery and that of the nation, but we also need to focus on resource exploration and make sure we have mining projects well into the future. This government, as part of its recovery plan, has done so. On 5 August, we announced an investment to boost local manufacturing. Most people would know about, and be very supportive of, the more than \$40 million that will go into constructing a new diesel railcar maintenance facility, which means that we are going to build the trains in Western Australia, with Western Australian people providing Western Australian jobs. On 8 August, \$150 million was invested into the state's tourism industry, including important maintenance and

Ms Sabine Winton; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr John Carey; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Ms Emily Hamilton

capital works upgrades to places such as Kings Park, Margaret River, Karijini National Park, Monkey Mia, the Pinnacles, Rottnest Island and Ningaloo. We all know how well the local tourism sector is going at the moment as people are discovering their state. On 14 August, we announced a massive \$40 million injection into our food industry plan, which supports local production of food, which is something that is very important indeed to Wanneroo. On 17 August, \$22 million was invested in renewable energy, particularly hydrogen, so the state could become a player in that emerging field. There are too many; I am running out of time!

On 22 September, we announced \$18.34 million to build a defence manufacturing workforce. We are skilling up Western Australians to take on that submarine work. We are just waiting on the federal government to invest in Western Australia. We are ready to take it and we will wait and see what the feds say to us. There is no doubt that our economic strategy and some of the investments that I highlighted are having an impact and providing a pipeline of local jobs. We delivered the budget in October. I want to highlight three things. Firstly, it was a responsible budget with a surplus of \$1.2 billion, which will allow us to be agile and continue to have the capacity to respond as the pandemic continues to impact us and play out across the state, Australia and the world. I want to highlight two things in particular that have had a great impact in my community. As part of the responsible financial management of the state, every WA household will receive a \$600 credit on their electricity bill. I have had great feedback on that. It is having an impact, and it is great to see that so many people in my electorate not only appreciate it, but also want to pour that money straight back into the local economy by spending that money in their local community.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Ms S.E. WINTON: Of course, we are very keen on keeping our local communities safe. Another key announcement as part of the 2020 budget was the recruitment of 800 more police officers on top of the 300 new ones being delivered.

Members knew I would want to focus on education. The nearly \$500 million invested throughout the state is having an impact, but I want to highlight the impact it is having on my electorate of Wanneroo. As members know, I was a teacher for 27 years, so they would not be surprised that I just want to take a few moments to highlight those things I am particularly proud of. That package means that \$25.1 million is being spent right now in schools in my electorate of Wanneroo. Joseph Banks Secondary College is receiving \$16.1 million to build an impressive new building to provide not only general and specialist classrooms for science, technology, engineering and mathematics, but the school also plans a space academy. It is going to be outstanding. I have two government secondary schools in my electorate, and the second one, Wanneroo Secondary College, is the school where I graduated. There is a new gymnasium, which I delivered as part of an election commitment in 2017.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms S.E. WINTON: Wanneroo Secondary College is my old stomping ground. The new gymnasium is fantastic. I cannot wait for the Premier to visit on Monday. I might even get him to shoot some hoops with me!

Several members interjected.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Is he not in Dawesville today?

Mr J.N. Carey interjected.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Yes, he is.

The announcement made as part of the recovery plan is that we are now committed to investing an additional \$5 million into Wanneroo Secondary College so it can now have a brand-new performing arts centre. That is not an election commitment if I am re-elected; it is happening right now. The architect has been appointed and the works are being undertaken right now. As part of the \$25.1 million, new early childhood centres are being developed. Architects have also been appointed at East Wanneroo Primary School and Spring Hill Primary School. That is on top of the previous commitments I delivered as part of my election promises in 2017, which has seen Tapping Primary School get a new undercover area, and science labs at Carramar, Tapping, East Wanneroo and Wanneroo Primary Schools. There was also a maintenance blitz in December that has been significant in assisting all of my schools in their small maintenance work and providing a jobs pipeline for local tradies in my area. The projects are underway. They are happening right now.

I try very hard to be positive in this place, and I do not want to criticise the opposition, but sometimes it does get a bit hard. Sometimes it is necessary, especially if opposition members try to touch me up in regard to education. I want to take this opportunity to highlight a couple of things. I would really, really love the member for Dawesville to interject in a moment and explain something to me, because I would be really keen to hear his perspective. I want to refer to the Leader of the Opposition's Facebook page. If anyone wants to see the Leader of the Opposition on

Ms Sabine Winton; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr John Carey; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Ms Emily Hamilton

Facebook, they have to go to her individual Facebook, member for Kalamunda, because she does not appear in any other Facebook pages of her Liberal colleagues.

Mr M. Hughes interjected.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Yes.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Carine!

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Carine!

Ms S.E. WINTON: I do not see —

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Carine!

Ms S.E. WINTON: — the opposition leader. It is the darnedest thing.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

Mr M. Hughes: I know you are two-faced.

Point of Order

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: I have a point of order.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr S.J. Price): Member for Carine, there is no point of order; sit down.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: I need to take my Facebook and show the Leader of the Opposition in my feed.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Sit down! Thank you. Carry on, member for Wanneroo.

Debate Resumed

Ms S.E. WINTON: Mr Acting Speaker —

Several members interjected.

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I do believe that the member for Kalamunda called the member for Carine two-faced, and I ask him to withdraw.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr S.J. Price): I did not hear that. Member for Wanneroo, carry on please.

Debate Resumed

Mr M. Hughes interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Kalamunda, your own member is on her feet.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Carine!

Ms S.E. WINTON: It is all right, Mr Acting Speaker, if you do not sort him out, I will shortly, because I am going in the chair!

I am going to tell the truth. I am going to show a couple of Facebook posts from the Leader of the Opposition. The first one is from 6 September.

Point of Order

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I believe that members presenting props need to seek approval from the Speaker, and I am not certain that has occurred in this case.

Mr J.N. Carey: It is not a prop; it is a piece of paper.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I will bring a poster this big and it is just a piece of paper.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Mr Acting Speaker, I will not hold it up. I will describe it for members. May I do that?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr S.J. Price): Yes, do that then, member. There is no point of order.

Debate Resumed

Ms Sabine Winton; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr John Carey; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Ms Emily Hamilton

Ms S.E. WINTON: The Facebook post from 6 September that I am describing, and members will be keen to go back to it, shows a generic photograph of Joseph Banks Secondary College. I know it is a generic photo, because the Leader of the Opposition has not been there—not in all the time I have been in office. I quote from the Facebook post. It says —

The teachers and students at Joseph Banks Secondary College in our northern suburbs will benefit from our commitment of \$16 million to building new classrooms.

I am confused about that, because it is not the Liberal Party's commitment; it is not its deliverable. It is in this budget of this Labor McGowan state government. It baffles me how the Leader of the Opposition can say it is the Liberal Party's commitment. The member for Dawesville may interject at any point now to set me right. I notice that the member for Dawesville has gone quiet.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Ms S.E. WINTON: Just in case it was a misprint or the wrong Facebook post, on 7 September there was also a lovely generic photograph of Wanneroo Secondary College. Guess what? She ain't been there either for the last three and a half years, so she grabbed a generic photo of the school. Her Facebook post says —

Our \$5 million investment to Wanneroo Secondary College will give our students greater opportunities with a new performing arts centre.

It is not the Liberal Party's commitment. The opposition has to think up something new. The Liberal Party is about to go to the election 2021 and has to come up with its own ideas, its own sellables. Please provide some future commitments for my schools—that would be wonderful—but do not try to sell my commitments that I have worked very, very hard on by being an advocate for my schools for the last three and a half years and pretend that they are the Liberal Party's. I am disappointed that the member for Dawesville is not setting me straight.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister!

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Could the member for Dawesville explain to me why his leader posted on Facebook and said it was her commitment to fund what the state McGowan Labor government has committed to and is doing right now in my electorate? How does that work?

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: In 115 days when we take over the Treasury benches, we will continue that investment, so it is our commitment.

Ms S.E. WINTON: So the Liberal Party will continue that investment?

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, members!

Ms S.E. WINTON: Perhaps the post should have said, "We support the McGowan government's investment in Wanneroo and we undertake to continue it if we are elected." That would probably have been a more accurate post. At some point the Liberal Party has to roll up its sleeves and present itself as an alternative. It needs to come up with its own ideas. I am telling the Liberal Party now that its electricity policy is a dud. It did not do too well last time by suggesting it would privatise Western Power, and it is not going to work this time. I do not know where the Liberal Party's other great thought bubble about shopping hours came from. Again, the Leader of the Opposition is obviously not walking through the shopping centre at Wanneroo, because I can tell members that small businesses do not want to open early on Sunday.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Carine!

Ms S.E. WINTON: In fact, most of the small businesses do not even open on a Sunday —

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Carine!

Ms S.E. WINTON: — because it is not worth their while. Where is the Liberal Party's policy? It is lazy, incompetent and dysfunctional. On the other hand, we are a strong and reliable team. I can see the envy from the member for Dawesville. We have more women in the Parliament. We have 15 in the Legislative Assembly at the moment and we have seven —

Ms Sabine Winton; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr John Carey; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Ms Emily Hamilton

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Look, the Liberal Party has more bald men in this chamber than women, so, member for Carine, just be quiet!

Several members interjected.

Ms S.E. WINTON: There are more bald men in the Legislative Assembly —

Point of Order

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: Mr Acting Speaker, I find that very offensive. A genetic trait is being mocked in this Parliament by the member. Does that mean all genetic traits will be mocked by members of Parliament in the future? Is it acceptable to mock genetic traits? I want a ruling on that.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr S.J. Price): The member was just pointing out a fact. Carry on, member for Wanneroo.

Debate Resumed

Ms S.E. WINTON: I am a woman and the member for Carine is bald, and I noticed there are some more bald members in the chamber.

Mr A. Krsticevic: There are bald people on your side as well.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Carine.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Yes, but we have more women.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Carine, I am going to have to call you shortly.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Carine, I call you for the first time.

Ms S.E. WINTON: I also want to briefly touch on the COVID-19 pandemic. I know that we talk, and rightly so, about COVID-19. It has taken up everyone's energy, whether that be a local member, a minister or the government. We have had the most extraordinary of years. For a couple of minutes, I wanted to highlight the reform agenda that has been the hallmark of the McGowan government over the past few years. It includes the passage of voluntary assisted dying legislation; the introduction of the container deposit scheme; no body, no parole legislation; revenge porn laws; giving redress to victims of child sexual abuse; and mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse by priests. We reform legislation and we will continue to do so if we are re-elected in 2021.

What we are offering in 2021 is pretty exciting. I think we are heading the way of the member for Dawesville when it comes to how many members may be sitting in this chamber. We are offering not only a strong stable government, but also the candidates that the WA Labor Party has chosen for preselection to run in seats are quite phenomenal. The member for Dawesville would know one of them pretty well—a paramedic in Dawesville named Lisa Munday. She would be a fantastic contributor to this place. In Albany, we have Rebecca Stephens, a fantastic woman. In the seat of Collie–Preston, we have preselected another teacher, Jodie Hanns, to fill the shoes of the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Mick Murray. In the seat of Darling Range, we have Hugh Jones standing; in Kalgoorlie, we have the dynamo Ali Kent; in Geraldton, we have Lara Dalton; in Scarborough, we have the sparky Stuart Aubrey; and in Hillarys, we have another teacher, Caitlin Collins. We have preselected a fantastic range of candidates to join our existing team. I know they will work incredibly hard for their electorates, they will not take their constituents for granted and they will be part of a McGowan government that will continue to manage this pandemic and the economy to ensure we stay safe and strong.

I wanted to finish by saying—I am sure it is the same for everyone in this place—that this year has been overwhelming to be in public life. I felt more connected to my community than ever. I have had thousands of conversations on the phone and through doorways with the residents I represent when I have checked on them to see how they are doing, to understand how we as a government can support them and to receive feedback on what they want their government to do. Overwhelmingly, my residents support the McGowan Labor government's approach to putting WA first and they support our border control measures, which have kept our state safe and strong.

I want to give a special shout-out to my electorate staff—Jahanna Frederickson, Justin Pereira and Haeden Miles. The work that they have done this year to support individuals in my community who have been impacted by COVID in lots of different ways has been quite incredible. They have assisted people whose elective surgery was delayed, people who were trying to get a loved one home from interstate or overseas or people who were displaced from their work. It has been the most incredible time to serve the community. There has never been a greater

Ms Sabine Winton; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr John Carey; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Ms Emily Hamilton

time to serve it. I look forward to being in this place next year to represent the residents of Wanneroo for another four years.

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Parliamentary Secretary) [1.04 pm]: I would like to contribute to this general debate on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2017–18) Supplementary Bill 2018 and the Appropriation (Capital 2017–18) Supplementary Bill 2018. I will start where the member for Wanneroo finished by commenting on the year that we have faced. These have been extraordinary times. Every local member would have worked hard to assist their constituency and their communities whilst responding to a global pandemic. I have one observation to make from this time. What has struck me in the electorate of Perth has been the way that the local community came together, particularly when the pandemic first hit. I was pleasantly surprised, but I expected it, that my community rallied together to assist those most vulnerable, those in need, those who were alone or those who do not have family or friends, particularly seniors. My office organised a seniors' outreach program. I think we were the first electorate office to do it. Like everything we do, the member for Dawesville copied me.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: I acknowledged you. It was a very good program you put in place.

Mr J.N. CAREY: Yes. My office and I reached out. We got volunteers in. I personally called—this is a fact—2 500 seniors in my electorate.

Mr D.J. Kelly: They still talk about those phone calls.

Mr J.N. CAREY: They do; they remember those phone calls. What really struck me was that so many elderly, vulnerable and isolated people were already being looked after by people in their street and their neighbourhood. In fact, people would come into the office, photocopy a flyer and distribute it in their streets. That was unprompted by my office. It showed this incredible sense of community. I am back doorknocking post reaching phase 3. As the member for Wanneroo said, there is a genuine appreciation of the leadership provided by our Premier, Mark McGowan—safe and strong leadership during these times. People look with sadness to the United States, for example, where we are seeing increasingly terrifying waves of COVID, and appreciate how fortunate we are to live in Western Australia. That is both the result of Western Australians rallying together, but also the firm leadership by our Premier, the Deputy Premier, the emergency council and cabinet—both our initial response and our ongoing economic response.

I want to talk about three key issues related to that economic response that occurred during the pandemic. The first is the Perth City Deal, which I think has been underestimated, and its impact on the city. The second issue is planning reform. We have only completed phase 1; phase 2 is yet to come, but it is critically needed. The third issue, my favourite topic, is local government reform and the changes that are required to address various needs. It was interesting to hear some of the usual critics say that the Perth City Deal is not substantial; it is not transformational. Let me be very clear about this: the Perth City Deal is the most important infrastructure package and change for our city in decades. It is far more important than Elizabeth Quay, Yagan Square and Perth City Link. Some people may question how I can make that claim. I make it on the following basis. I like Perth City Link. I like Elizabeth Quay. Yagan Square is okay.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: You don't like it so much?

Mr J.N. CAREY: I will get to the design challenges. In themselves, they are not major attractions for people in our city. That is the simple reality. Perth has ample large public spaces—Elizabeth Quay, Yagan Square and other parts of the City Link, which adds to our existing public spaces. They are not major attractors to the city. People may pop into Yagan Square or Elizabeth Quay once, but that is it. Ultimately, we know this. Good urban planning demonstrates this. People attract people. People are the critical ingredient. It may seem like a bit of a chicken-and-egg scenario, but the reality is that pre-COVID, people travelled to the great cities around the world. When they talk about that experience, it often comes back to sitting at a cafe on the street and watching people walk by. What makes that experience attractive is the vibrancy that people bring to a city.

This is why the new ECU campus is critical to the future of Perth. Firstly, it will guarantee that by 2025, 9 000 new students will come into the city. That will mean more foot traffic every day. Research has shown that although university students may have a low income, a high level of that is disposable income. They will spend that income and support the shops and small businesses. That is critical. Secondly, it will spur on accommodation in the city. That will guarantee not just a day population, but also a night population. New accommodation towers will be built. That will make Perth more attractive to international students post-COVID. Part of the reason that Western Australia has struggled in the international student market is that international students crave the city experience that Melbourne and Sydney deliver. Of course, things will change in the post-COVID world, but we will be able to offer that experience through a major new city campus. That campus will include not only the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, but also businesses. This increase in accommodation will increase safety. Yes, an increased police presence is very welcome, and of course our government is delivering on the biggest ever injection of 800 new police officers. Having 9 000 new students in our city will be just as critical. More people on the street

Ms Sabine Winton; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr John Carey; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Ms Emily Hamilton

will mean fewer opportunities for crime, and that will mean safer streets. That is why parts of the east end of the city, for example, do not necessarily feel safe. On a Wednesday night, we can look down the street and no-one is there. The commissioners of the City of Perth have backed an ambitious target of 90 000 people to live in the City of Perth. I am very confident that the new ECU campus will be a major factor in contributing to that population increase.

I have mentioned Yagan Square. I have really rallied behind that. I appreciate that it was an initiative of the previous government. I also acknowledge and deeply appreciate the traditional owners. However, as an urban design space, it is not as effective as had been hoped. The simple reality is that people walk right through Yagan Square and pass it. My understanding is that the original planners had suggested that a road go through Yagan Square and that the bridge be used for the buildings and pedestrian amenity. That would have been really interesting for our city. ECU represents an ability to pump new life into Yagan Square. I am really excited by the potential for Yagan Square to become part of the ECU campus. I am personally advocating and supporting that ECU take over the ground floor plate of Yagan Square as the first demonstration of the potential to run classes, promote the new university campus, and support the existing businesses in Yagan Square. We can imagine the amphitheatre filled with students during the lunch break. There is a lot of potential to develop a university precinct in the heart of Perth. That will change the face of our city.

One other element of the Perth City Deal that is worth mentioning is the \$105 million Perth CBD transport plan. This is not a criticism of the council, but there is no doubt that the City of Perth lags as a walking and cycling city compared with other cities around the world. That is disappointing. We have an incredible river. People love to walk or cycle along the river. It is one of Perth's best assets. However, we need to invest more in walking and cycling in the city. I do not mean just for the lycra set, but for mums, dads and kids who might want to walk or cycle into the city on the weekend. Research has shown that walkable and cyclable cities create stronger economic activity, because rather than simply driving through a street, people will walk or hop off their bike and linger, look at a small business or sit at a local cafe. I am deeply proud that this state government is investing \$105 million in that transport plan. That will include a new iconic pedestrian/cycling bridge and gateway to East Perth, which the residents and businesses are incredibly excited about.

This state government is also investing in cultural assets. The only other place that I would like to be part of that package is the Perth Cultural Centre. I am chair of the task force. Incredible institutions are located at the Perth Cultural Centre. However, the public space fails those institutions. There are no trees. It is hot and it is barren. The amphitheatre does not work. We are now out to the market for an urban architectural firm to produce a master plan. That may be delivered in phases. Our government has put \$20 million towards the redevelopment of that open space. That is a very strong start, and hopefully it will be continued by successive governments. We imagine a boulevard of trees under which people can walk and cycle, and more intimate spaces. As I have said, we do not necessarily need big, hot, cement spaces. They do not attract people. They are not friendly. Tourists do not flock to them. We need to reimagine that public place. Of course, with the new Perth Museum, which will open very soon, it will become apparent that we need to invest in that public space.

The first part is the Perth City Deal. I say again that that will be the biggest ever transformational piece for the Perth CBD. I am mighty proud that it is being delivered under a state Labor government.

The second part is local government reform. I want to address this, because it is apparent that signature issues and problems are still facing that sector. I think people on all sides of politics are sick and tired of dysfunction in local government, and inquiries that are generated. That is no good for anyone. It is not good for the ratepayers. It is not good for the staff, who try to do their best. It is not good for the councillors. It can be a deeply distressing process. However, it is sometimes necessary to draw a line in the sand to enable an organisation to move forward, as was the case with the City of Perth. We also need a new Local Government Act. This government and the Minister for Local Government have brought in a number of reforms. We brought in Auditor General oversight of local governments. That is critical to accountability and transparency. We brought in changes to the suspension and dismissal of councils and individual council members. That was certainly required. We brought in a range of changes to lift transparency and accountability. We brought in mandatory training for elected members. We brought in new CEO standards. We changed and reformed gift disclosure, which was clearly causing problems and confusion. We brought in the provision of more information to the public. My colleague the member for Balcatta has released the "Local Government Review Panel Final Report", which outlines a pathway forward to create a new, modern act for local governments that will reflect the realities that we face.

It is important that local governments do not face the same scrutiny as the state government. When we think about it, local government has no Parliament, no opposition and no estimates committees. There is a question time, but it can be very condensed. There is much greater scrutiny in the media of the state government than of local government. I admit that, yes, local government can generate some great tabloid stories, but local papers are declining. We actually do need to increase public transparency and scrutiny. When we talk about local government reform, people assume that we are talking about amalgamations or change. I think it is fair to say—I look at my

own council, the City of Vincent—that small councils have struggled during the COVID-19 pandemic and it has been a challenge. However, it is also fair to say that the idea of council amalgamations is dead and buried. I do not do this as a big political point, but the whole debate burnt many people under the previous government and people like those on my council who tried to legitimately engage with the process—I know Fremantle and other councils did—struggled.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr J.N. CAREY: There has been so much distrust that the idea of council amalgamations—which are probably still warranted, particularly in the western suburbs—is off the agenda for successive governments. The new legislation must put that contentious area aside and instead focus on creating an act that allows more flexibility for councils in some regard, but also lifts the basic benchmarks. I will give a couple of examples.

The first relates to the appointment of CEOs. I do believe that there needs to be greater scrutiny and accountability of administrations and, in particular, CEOs. My own experience as the Mayor of the City of Vincent has shaped that, but also speaking when I was the Mayor of Vincent engaging others, in particular it shocked me that people appointed CEOs and delegated the duties and did not give it much more thought. There were examples in which CEOs were appointed when not all the council had seen the contract. When one buys a house, one looks at a contract. However, CEOs were being appointed in Western Australia when the full council had not seen the contract. Regulations are being drafted, which the minister has already flagged. This will spell out—I have championed this—a much clearer transparent process that will ensure that councillors are involved in the critical decision-making. This includes, for example, that when advertising to the market, all councillors vote on the advertising brief so that everyone is very clear what type of CEO the council is seeking. When there is a contract, every member of the council must see and review the contract, understand it and, if required, have a lawyer present, as we did at the City of Vincent to go through that contract. That is critical.

There is another element that I think is critical and that was recommended by the panel; that is, after two five-year terms, the CEO's position should automatically go out to the market. I understand why the Western Australian Local Government Association does not necessarily like this, but I think it is critical that the jobs of CEOs—they may have had extraordinary performances—still go out to test the market, to see who else is there. The reason for this is simple. We know that some CEOs—they will not like this—stay with a local government for 20 or 30 years. A culture develops around them. Mayors and councils come and go, but ultimately it is the CEOs who shape the organisation. New councillors and a new mayor may feel intimidated about daring to ask whether a CEO position should be advertised because someone has been there for so long. If an automatic feature existed that provided that after two terms, not because of politics but because it was just part of the process, it go back out to the market to be tested, this should be welcomed. I will be frank: I do not think it is healthy for any organisation to have a CEO for 20 to 30 years. It does not provide new ideas or thinking outside the box. In fact, what we can get, as we have seen, is fiefdoms built in local government.

We also need to look at basic reporting to our community. When I first become Mayor of Vincent, my council had a very poor rating for trust and good governance. In fact, in the last Catalyse community scorecard survey—basically local governments engage an independent agency to consult the community and rate the local government based on a number of factors, including good governance, good leadership, accountability and so forth—the City of Vincent came in second last. At the City of Vincent we looked at how we could drive better trust in our organisation. We made a number of different areas publicly reportable online for anyone to see, anytime. Some of those can be contentious. We put all conflicts of interest, so impartiality, proximity interest and fiscal or financial interest, on our website and constantly updated it. People can still see when I declared everything during my time as the Mayor of Vincent. It gives people a sense of history. Details of contracts over \$150 000 and the organisation are put online, as are tenders. I think the most interesting, which has been contentious in some local governments, is a lease register. Every lease the City of Vincent entered into—the type of property, the organisation, the amount of money and the options in that lease—is put online. That is critically important. We know that with sporting organisations, leases and how much each other is paying can cause division in the community and local government. I take the view that because local government is not subject to the same scrutiny as a vehicle of Parliament, it is critically important that we set higher benchmarks for it and that kind of tool of public registers is critical.

I hope that in a second term of a Mark McGowan Labor government, following the release of the local panel report this year, we see that second major tranche of local government reform in Western Australia that will lift and set new public benchmarks for reporting to ratepayers and, in particular for me, will set new transparency and accountability mechanisms for council and the community on the appointment of CEOs, which, ultimately, are the only employee of any council. The CEO is the one choice that a local government can make that sets the direction for council.

In the six minutes I have left, the last area I want to talk about is planning reform. I am deeply proud to have championed planning reform in Western Australia and, in particular, some of the smaller changes that I genuinely

Ms Sabine Winton; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr John Carey; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Ms Emily Hamilton

believe will have lasting and significant impacts for small business in Western Australia. These reforms, which include the streamlined centralised process, do not mean that we want to see or guarantee shoddy developments or developments that are completely out of the ballpark. It is not to see a 100-storey tower built in a three-storey zone. If anyone in the development industry sees it as a free kick, I assure them it is not. There is a longer community consultation process. It has earlier engagement up-front with a range of government agencies such as Main Roads and local government, and also has a requirement to engage with the State Design Review Panel. These are all important changes. The message to the development sector is: despite these reforms being critical and needed, do not think that it is simply an anything goes approach. It is not, and I am pleased that there is oversight by the WA Planning Commission and the State Design Review Panel.

I want to say that smaller reforms are important. The one that I personally championed, as Mayor of Vincent and now for four years as a member of Parliament, which will come in very soon before Christmas, is abolishing planning approvals and parking shortfalls for small business. People are still shocked and surprised to know that if someone is opening a cafe, restaurant, laundromat, consulting room, recreational facility or small bar, they will need planning approval, and if, under that change-of-use application, they have a shortfall in car parking, they could be paying \$3 000 to \$5 000 a car bay. If they have a shortfall of 10 car bays, they will owe \$50 000 to the local government and in addition to that, they will have to engage a planning consultant or a lawyer. It may go on for four to five months and in that time—I can tell members that this happens—the small business walks away. In these times, we need greater flexibility for small business. This is a signature planning reform. I think some people underestimate it, but it will mean real, meaningful change for family businesses that are opening up or that want to change the purpose of their business, such as a cafe store that decides to expand to a laundromat, or someone decides that their cafe is not working, but their sister wants to use the space for her hairdressing. We have all experienced the stranglehold of local government. Abolishing the change-of-use and shortfall provisions is something that I personally championed for over eight years and I am deeply proud to see that these changes for small business will come through.

If we are re-elected, we will do a second tranche of planning reforms. They will probably be more complex, because they will look in greater detail at parts of our planning system. In particular, we will look at the complexity of Main Roads approvals for developments, which are a bugbear of both the community and developers. We will need to look at further consultation mechanisms and further streamlining of planning approvals, not to destroy the quality process or community consultation, but to cut away and remove some of the double-up that we still see in the planning process. As the next part of our design reform, we will very soon announce medium density, which probably generates the most community angst, that will, for the first time, mean two, three and four-storey buildings. We will be setting new benchmarks for local government planning in that we will seek better house designs with better natural light and ventilation, more landscaping and more deep soil zones. All these changes are ultimately about creating more livable neighbourhoods and better design outcomes for our communities. There is a lot to be done still.

We are not a government that is running out of steam. Members can genuinely see that in both local government and planning, we have substantial reform agendas that will be delivered on the re-election of a Mark McGowan government.

MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley) [1.33 pm]: I would like to begin today's contribution by speaking about one of my favourite topics, and I know it is also one of the Acting Speaker's (Ms S.E. Winton) favourite topics—education. People often ask me what was my driving factor in running for Parliament. For me, it has always been education. With two young children at primary school, I know how important education is for our children. One of the things that really sparked my desire to become a member of Parliament was when, under the previous Barnett government, education assistant positions were cut out of our public education system. Education assistants are there to not only catch the most vulnerable kids in our system, but also help extend those kids who need a bit of extra assistance to achieve their own personal goals. For me, education assistants being cut out of our public education system was a red rag to a bull. That was the final straw that got me to stand up, put up my hand and run for Parliament. It is no wonder that I have spent the last almost four years campaigning for schools in my electorate.

My electorate is fairly well established. All schools except one are well over 30 years old and have seen a lot of maintenance issues, expansion and kids being housed in demountables or spaces that are not suitable to account for modern technology and teaching in our schools. Although our schools are fantastic at teaching—the teaching and support staff are amazing—they have lacked investment in their infrastructure. I have spent the last four years harassing, I guess is the best word, the Minister for Education and Training to invest in the schools in Kingsley to make sure that we are not forgotten, as we had been in previous years under previous governments. I want to go through the investments we have had in the seat of Kingsley over the last four years.

I start with Woodvale Primary School. We invested in a music wall for its preprimary schoolkids, who also got a science lab. We all know how important science, technology, engineering and mathematics is. The minister for STEM knows how important it is to teach our kids the skills that they will need for jobs that have not been invented yet; the new science lab is incredibly important. The school got loose parts play boxes and money for new play equipment and it also received \$54 000 during the maintenance blitz last year, which was amazing.

Ms Sabine Winton; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr John Carey; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Ms Emily Hamilton

North Woodvale Primary School got a new nature play space that it had been saving up for over a number of years. With the \$20 000 we put in, it was finally able to get it over the line. The school also received money for a new science lab and, most importantly, it received \$1.4 million to upgrade the administration building. This is one of those things that is really hard for schools, because whenever they get an extra bit of money, all they want is to spend it on the kids. However, we also need to acknowledge that both the students and the administration people who work at the schools need to be housed in appropriate accommodation. When I went to the school and told its staff that they had received this money for an administration block upgrade, they were over the moon.

Goollelal Primary School is a very small school in my electorate. When I first talked to its staff in 2017, they started telling me about their undercover area and how it was not appropriate to use in the summertime, because it got too hot and in the wintertime it was too cold to hold classes in there. We started on a process to find out what it needed to make the undercover area a useful space. It was a big space in the school, and to make it a useable space, we invested \$240 000 to upgrade it. The school can bring classes together to collaborate and the space is somewhere that it can be proud to take visitors to and hold assemblies at. That was \$240 000 for Goollelal Primary School.

Creaney Primary School received \$52 000 under our maintenance blitz and with that, it created a new stage and rendered the walls in its admin block. Again, the school came back to me saying that any bit of money that it gets, it wants to spend on the kids, so this maintenance money was really great to maintain the building and infrastructure.

Halidon Primary School received \$150 000 to upgrade its administration block. It also received \$20 000 for a nature play area and a science lab. One of the very small things—it is always the small things that make the difference—was there was an unofficial footpath beside the school, outside the school fence but on school property, that many parents and students used. A lot of the parents using it were trying to push prams or buggies through the sand. Many years ago—this will tell members how many years ago—after slabs were laid for the Shire of Wanneroo buildings, there was a bit of concrete that was unstable and unsafe. We worked with the school and the Department of Education to concrete that footpath, so the mums with their babies in the buggies could use the footpath without fear of getting bogged, and it was also really nice for the amenity around the school.

Dalmain Primary School was one of the first primary schools in the state, and the first primary school in my electorate, to open a science lab. We opened it with a big bang, putting Mentos into Coca-Cola and watching that explode.

Mr D.J. Kelly: Oh, that's a great experiment.

Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI: It is a fantastic experiment and it showed me, minister, that these kids are very creative and so into learning all the skills that they will need in science and technology. I was really proud that we were the ones able to deliver the new science lab for them.

Ms S.F. McGurk: Probably also taught you something about Coca-Cola, too!

Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI: Yes; do not drink Coca-Cola is probably what it taught me!

In addition, the school received \$26 500 during the maintenance blitz funding.

Greenwood Primary School received \$21 000 for new shade sails and \$52 000 for its maintenance funding.

Hawker Park Primary School is one of my favourites. When I was first elected in 2017, I went to speak to the principal, as all new members do, and we had a great discussion about a little hub or early intervention centre to be located on the school site so there would be wraparound services at the school and a space for the school to provide playgroup facilities or potentially a child health nurse on site so that parents who were dropping off their older children had somewhere to go to engage with the community and get the support that they needed. I do not know whether the Minister for Child Protection remembers this, but back in 2017 I spoke to her about this and we discussed how it might happen. In the end, we decided that it probably sat with Education, but during the announcement of the WA recovery plan, \$1.5 million was invested in Hawker Park Primary School to create an early intervention centre. This will be a hub for the school. It will have the capacity to run a before-school and after-school care program and to run playgroups there during the day. It will have a psychologist on site. It will have other medical rooms. If, at various times, the school needs an occupational therapist, a speech pathologist or if the Department of Health is looking for somewhere to put the child health nurse, they can all be accommodated on site. I think this is very important for families. We all know how time-poor families are and if a school can co-locate these types of services, that will make such a difference for these families. I know that, moving forward, this early intervention centre will be a great addition to the Hawker Park Primary School.

I will move on to some of my high schools. We all know how demanding high schools' needs can be. We have been really lucky to be able to invest \$2 million into upgrading Warwick Senior High School's performing arts facilities. In addition to that, we have already invested \$150 000 to remove old concertina walls and put in modern, movable walls that give some sound protection between classrooms, and additional space for people to put things on the walls. We also gave the school \$79 000 during the maintenance blitz.

Ms Sabine Winton; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr John Carey; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Ms Emily Hamilton

Greenwood College received \$2.4 million for upgrades to the science block in addition to the \$101 000 that it received during the maintenance blitz. All those little bits and pieces here and there sound great, but when that is added up, the McGowan government has invested \$1.9 million into schools in my electorate just for maintenance, and \$5.9 million into my schools under the WA recovery plan. That is amazing. That is the most money that has been invested in the schools in Kingsley for decades.

I will move onto another education provider here in WA—TAFEs. Having received my TAFE certificate way back when, I understand that TAFE is a vital component for training in Western Australia, for getting people into jobs and, particularly now, under the recovery plan, for getting people back into jobs. It is the number one priority for our government. Training is vital to support WA's immediate and future workforce needs and TAFE will obviously play a major role in our economic recovery. As members know, the McGowan Labor government has announced a \$57 million recovery package for the training sector, which will make training more affordable for thousands of students. A few months ago, the Premier came out to the Joondalup TAFE and we were chatting to some of the students about the announcements that we had just made for the training sector. One of the students said that he had always had a goal to become a ranger. He wanted to work on country and become a ranger, but he could never have afforded the fees. That nearly broke my heart because the capacity to pay should never ever stand in the way of being able to train for a job that one wants to achieve. It should not be that way here in Western Australia. When he turned around and said to the Premier, "Thank you, Premier. The only reason that I am undertaking this course is because you slashed the fees", I felt very proud. I felt very proud of our government. I felt very proud that this young guy was going to fulfil his dream because of a decision that we as a government and the Premier had made and that the Premier had stuck by.

We invested \$32 million to expand the list of lower fees, local skills priority courses by another 39. We invested \$25 million for the introduction of the 15 free TAFE short courses to upskill young people for current and emerging job opportunities, particularly coming out of the COVID-19 global pandemic. My electorate is very lucky in that it sits between two TAFE campuses. The Balga TAFE campus is to the south-east, and the Joondalup, or North Metropolitan, TAFE campus is to the north. This government is investing in our kids' futures. We are investing \$32 million to upgrade the Balga TAFE campus, which includes a new multistorey building. We have also invested \$17.6 million for the construction of a new trade and training workshop and associated technology labs for the light automotive training at the North Metro TAFE in Joondalup.

For me, having a dad who was a mechanical fitter, I can see the value of training our kids in the skills that they will need for moving into future jobs, particularly as we are bringing so much manufacturing back here to Western Australia. We are building trains here again. We are building emergency service vehicles here again. Investment like this now will be so important for the future.

I have taken up quite a bit of time talking about education. I did say that it was my passion, so I will ask for a short extension.

[Member's time extended.]

Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI: My other passion is health. As a mum, I have spent many a night either at Perth Children's Hospital or up at Joondalup Health Campus with children who have broken bones or ear infections and whatnot. The investment we have made in health in Western Australia is very important. We have invested \$256.7 million in Joondalup Health Campus; that is an amazing amount of money. The new development is going to include extra mental health beds, new operating theatres and additional inpatient beds. We are expanding the emergency department and the behavioural assessment urgent care clinic to treat drug and alcohol-affected emergency department patients.

I know that I am not the only northern suburbs member of Parliament who understands the critical need for us to invest in mental health in the northern suburbs. I have had many conversations with the Acting Speaker (Ms S.E. Winton) about mental health in the northern suburbs. Yes, some of the money invested is federal government money, but the state government went out and got that money from the federal government. The state Labor government has advocated for and invested so much money in Joondalup Health Campus, and that just shows how much we understand the needs in our electorates.

As with our TAFEs—I have one at the top of my electorate and one at the bottom—I am very lucky to have Joondalup Health Campus in the north of my electorate and Osborne Park Hospital in the south. We are investing \$24.6 million in Osborne Park Hospital for the expansion of the new neonatal nursery, the creation of a fit-for-purpose maternity assessment unit and a new rehabilitation unit with additional stroke beds. This kind of investment in health is going to be vital as we move into the future with an ageing population. Twenty-four per cent of the people in my electorate are over the age of 60. If we are going to be able to look after these people in the future, we have to invest in our hospitals and our health system now.

I will now move on to a couple of hyper-local things in my electorate that I am really proud of the state government for delivering—not just during this term of government, but this year. The Premier came out to the Kingsley Memorial

Ms Sabine Winton; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr John Carey; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Ms Emily Hamilton

Clubrooms late last year to reaffirm the state government's commitment to provide \$50 000 to the Bali Peace Park Association. Its aim is to purchase the site of the former Sari Club in Bali to create a peace park. Having observed the Bali bombings memorial last month, I understand how raw this still is, 18 years later, for people who lost loved ones, including the Kingsley Football Club, which lost seven players, and many, many other club members were injured in the bombings. We actually increased our commitment by \$10 000 to account for increased costs, so the McGowan Labor government will be providing \$60 000 for the Bali peace park.

East Green is now a housing development, but it was originally the site of a primary school that was closed and demolished by a previous government. It was set to become a housing precinct. The residents were not very happy about that at the time, but it happened. When I came to Parliament in 2017, it was essentially a big dust bowl in the middle of that community, with antisocial behaviour, hooning and vandalism. Worst of all, sand was blowing into the houses of the surrounding residents. They came to me and said, "Something needs to be done; it needs to be developed." Shortly after that, we launched the plan for East Green; unfortunately, it did not have a great take-up. It probably was not as well thought out as it could have been, and the community probably was not as engaged with it as it could have been. It was not selling.

I went back to the minister's office and said, "If we want this to be a vibrant community, get these blocks selling and deliver a really great precinct at East Green. We need to be smart about it. We need to think about what people will need." In the Perth metropolitan area, the block sizes are getting smaller, but if we provide really great public open spaces and fantastic parks, it will become less of an issue. I went back to the minister and said, "We need to build the park first and then sell the blocks." Thankfully, the minister listened, and the department, along with Frasers Property, undertook to build the park so that people could see what they were buying into.

We relaunched East Green at the beginning of this year and I am pleased to say that when I spoke to the East Green development sales office two weeks ago, I was told that only eight blocks of the original 102 blocks were left to be sold. That is because of the amazing effort put in by the department and Frasers Property to create a beautiful open space that families are already using. The best thing about it is that the land was not just flattened and plastic play equipment installed in the middle; it was actually designed around existing mature trees, so it already has a beautiful established feel.

I will quickly touch on some of the things the McGowan government has done through the COVID-19 recovery plan for business and infrastructure. We have invested quite a bit of money in infrastructure in my electorate. There is a \$76 million project to widen Mitchell Freeway between Hodges Drive and Hepburn Avenue. That is very important to residents of the northern suburbs, as I am sure the member for Joondalup will agree. The freeway widening will also have a great impact on the daily city commute for residents of Woodvale and Kingsley. Every minute we can shave off that commute is more time we get to spend at home with our families. That particular 8.8-kilometre stretch of freeway is a significant pinch point for traffic in the northern suburbs. Approximately 60 000 vehicles travel this stretch of road every weekday, and there have been quite a number of crashes. Between 2014 and 2018 there were 560 recorded crashes, with one fatality and 350 major incidents. The Ocean Reef Road–Wanneroo Road bridge interchange opened only a few weeks ago, and it will shave seven minutes off the daily commute of people in the northern suburbs. It is at the very north of my electorate and is a very important interchange. It is just one more part of the McGowan government's commitment to delivering better infrastructure and local jobs to the northern suburbs.

What has the McGowan government done for businesses in Western Australia? We have invested \$942 million in supporting businesses and not-for-profits in Western Australia. We have waived licence fees, given payroll and land tax assistance and offered commercial rent support. We provided the small business electricity payment to every business that is a Synergy customer, and created the PIVOT program to help small business owners adapt and respond to the COVID-19 environment. It will help business owners enhance their entrepreneurial mindset and develop innovative ways to operate their business. We have created building incentives worth \$117 million through \$20 000 grants for new builds. This is an amazing investment in our local communities and an amazing investment in our small businesses. As a former small business owner, I am proud to be part of a government that understands the needs of small businesses. We invest in the needs of small businesses and we show that we care about them—not only in the metropolitan area, but across the state of Western Australia. I know, having been a small business owner, that it can be very difficult, even when times are good. When times are bad, we need to know that the Premier and the government have our back. Thank you.

MS E. HAMILTON (Joondalup) [1.59 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to the Appropriation (Recurrent 2017–18) Supplementary Bill 2018 and the Appropriation (Capital 2017–18) Supplementary Bill 2018. Let me start by acknowledging that this year has been a year like no other for locals living in Joondalup, Western Australia, and the world more broadly as we tackle the challenge that is COVID-19. Every Western Australian should be proud that together we have been able to stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep our state safe and strong. What we have before us in this budget is ultimately the result of one and a half years' worth of a budget in one, having been postponed from May to October.

Extract from *Hansard*

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 18 November 2020]

p8016b-8028a

Ms Sabine Winton; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr John Carey; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Ms Emily Hamilton

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 8040.]