

PREMIER'S STATEMENT

Amendment to Question

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR V.A. CATANIA (North West Central) [2.51 pm]: The question is: why are these negotiations so secret? Why is the Premier failing to be open and accountable to ensure that we know exactly how much money we are owed as a state, rather than holding secret negotiations behind the scenes? Does it mean that he does not want us to truly find out that we were owed \$300 million but we only got \$100 million and that we should feel fortunate for that? Is that why? Is the Premier not confident that he can ensure that we will get the full amount of money owed to the state? Is that why these negotiations are being held in secret? In response to the Leader of the National Party yesterday, he stated —

... there is an expectation or requirement for a negotiation between the parties and the opportunity for arbitration at the conclusion of the process.

Why is the Premier so secretive about these negotiations? The question has to be asked: is the Premier confident he can retrieve the money that is owed to the state? If he were confident, he would be open and transparent. He would show the Western Australian public how much is owed to the state of Western Australia. In doing so, we would know that the Premier is fair dinkum about getting the right amount of money from BHP. He has held these negotiations in secret for two years without letting the public know what is going on. It is potentially \$300 million. We do not know how much it is, but it is somewhere between \$200 million and \$300 million. Does Parliament not have the right to scrutinise these negotiations? I do not know why they are negotiations. If someone owes something, they should be paying it out in full. Is the Premier trying to protect and hide a deal that he is going to strike with BHP? The government should be open and transparent and not have these secret negotiations. We have a right to know exactly how much is owed to the state. Why is the Premier not being open, transparent and accountable? He is the Premier of Western Australia! He has the numbers in Parliament, so why is the Premier not doing that and why are these negotiations not being put on the table so they can be scrutinised by the public of Western Australia and the Parliament of Western Australia?

Today the Auditor General handed down a report titled “Opinions on Ministerial Notifications”. I think we are starting to see a theme. One of the contents on page 3 is “ministerial decision not to provide the taxi user subsidy scheme review report to Parliament”. Why not? Another is “Ministerial decision not to provide the February 2018 Metronet taskforce minutes to Parliament”. Why not? We can see how this secretive government does business. It came into government to be open, accountable and transparent, but what we have seen over the last two years is that the government has been anything but open and transparent on big projects. We still cannot get a figure of how much Metronet will cost the taxpayers of Western Australia or the taxpayers of Australia. I think it is in the order of \$10 billion, but we still cannot get those figures from the Minister for Transport because the government is not open and accountable. For two years the Premier has held secret negotiations with BHP over a large sum of money. We do not know exactly how much it is. It is somewhere in the order of \$200 million to \$300 million. That is the cost of a new primary school every year or it could fix the health system and replace the money taken out by this government, which is ensuring that our hospitals are being left to rack and ruin, particularly those in the mining and pastoral regions.

It is time for the Premier to be open, accountable and transparent. Those were exactly his words in opposition, but he is being anything but. He is holding negotiations behind closed doors and not letting anyone know what is going on or how much the people of Western Australia are owed. Meanwhile, he is taxing Western Australians left, right and centre, and saying that this is a legacy of the previous government. This is on his watch. He is now the Premier and the one negotiating with BHP. It was not the previous government; the current government has been negotiating with BHP and that has not been visible to the Western Australian public or this Parliament. It is time that the Premier showed some leadership. The government should be open and accountable and send this to a committee so we can review whether it is in the best interests of the taxpayers of Western Australia. That will ensure that the people of Western Australia are getting their fair share from a finite resource. I urge all members to support the amendment that the Leader of the Nationals WA has moved, because being open and transparent will ensure that the people of Western Australia get their fair share—something the Premier wants to keep secret until he cuts a deal; we want to know what that deal is.

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Mines and Petroleum) [2.57 pm]: The government will not support this amendment. I understand that that is also the position of the Liberal Party. I want to make the problem clear: the National Party does not understand the English language. Let me make it clear that I am not able to state what royalty collections there are from any individual company and neither were former Ministers for Mines and Petroleum. In Western Australia, the tax affairs of any individual taxpayer are secret. The Treasurer

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 13 February 2019]

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cannot tell members how much land tax is paid by the various property owners in this chamber. He does not know what members' land tax bills look like and he should not.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Let me speak! I did not interject a single time during anything that the member said.

Mr V.A. Catania: You did.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: No, I did not.

Mr V.A. Catania: Yes, you did.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: When? This is ridiculous!

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Moore, you are interjecting now, too!

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I cannot understand why these people are so dumb! Let me make it clear —

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: Every time, this happens!

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Every time, this happens. Let me make it clear. The affairs of —

The SPEAKER: Members, we had a clean sheet today in question time and no-one was called to order—do not spoil it.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: The royalty payments cannot be disclosed. I will give members an example. When the member for Churchlands was the minister, he was presented with the problem of a company that had been shown to be gaming the system and not paying its royalties. Originally, he was advised that they thought that they would collect the money. Unfortunately, later on he got legal advice that the royalty was in fact in accord and the company was using a loophole in the regulations under the Mining Act—this was a nickel producer—to avoid paying royalties. The royalties were not at the level being discussed in this particular matter, but they were significant. The recommendation to the former minister was that he should take action to change the regulations to close the loophole. Unfortunately, he did not do that, but when I came to power, I did. I make the point: I cannot tell members the name of the company involved in that case because it is protected. It is rightly protected.

Let me return to the points raised in this debate. We have been open and I have answered every question Nationals WA members have asked. I told members yesterday that I would not answer Hon Jacqui Boyde's question because it was a 12-part question. That question was withdrawn and resubmitted, and I will answer it today. We have been entirely transparent about the information that we can present to the house. But let me make it clear that the reason there is a dispute has nothing to do with the state agreement. The whole point here, if members read what it says in the newspaper, is that BHP believes that it has a deduction and the government has said that that deduction does not apply. The idea that BHP is somehow exploiting a loophole in the state agreement ignores the facts of the case. If that were true, and this was a deduction available under the state agreement, BHP would not be paying additional money, which it is now doing.

The member for North West Central said that the government has been talking to BHP in secret for two years. I became aware of this matter in December 2017. BHP commenced paying the correct royalty in March 2018. BHP commenced paying the correct amount in the next quarter, so that is simply not true. It is simply wrong. The member for North West Central said that because he does not understand the information that has been presented to him. The Nationals had a briefing from the agency and they should know the issues involved. I do not understand why they come in here—I do; it is because they do not understand English. The Leader of the Nationals WA asked me that question yesterday and I told her that it is government's view that certain deductions to the value of iron ore on which the states royalty is calculated, referred to in recent media coverage, are not permitted by the state agreement under which BHP operates nor under the Mining Act. Given that is true, the question I have for Nationals members is: why, when they were in government for eight and a half years, did they allow the deduction to carry on? Given that the deduction is not permitted under the state agreement, why, when they were in power, in government, responsible, at the cabinet table and taking the decisions and claiming the credit, did they allow this situation to continue? I know why they are embarrassed when they come into this chamber and try to talk about things other than the actual dispute. It is because they are embarrassed that for eight and a half years they did nothing about this. That is the question I would like to ask. If there were to be an inquiry, I would ask for an inquiry into the former government's inaction. Why did the former government sit and allow this deduction to carry on? Why did it do that? Why did the former government not follow the law?

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

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The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms J.M. Freeman): Member, that is enough! Thank you very much.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: That is the real question. If there were to be an inquiry, that is the inquiry I would like to see. What discussions in cabinet allowed this situation to continue for so long? What discussions at the cabinet table led to us being in the position that we are in? The McGowan government is proud of the fact that we are collecting every cent in revenue that we can out of these major companies, because that is the responsibility of the government.

I make the point, too, that members ask, “Isn’t it time to vary these state agreements?”, and remind them that there have been 50 variations to the state agreements covering BHP. For example, the Mt Goldsworthy agreement has had 11 separate amendments; the Newman agreement, 11; the Robe River agreement, 12; and the Hamersley Range agreement, 16. The idea that these agreements were written in the 1960s and have never changed is simply wrong. I remind members that \$350 million was extracted by the former government as part of a deal with the two major companies as the foundation for the construction of Perth Children’s Hospital. The former cabinet made that decision. Now they say, “When we made that agreement with BHP, we were wrong. We were wrong when we did that deal.” What a ridiculous position. There is nothing that says that an agreement cannot be renegotiated. We all know that things can be renegotiated. The question I have is: when the former government was renegotiating the deal, why did the Nationals not do the things that they now say should have been done? That is the inquiry that I would love to see. What discussions happened at the cabinet table that meant that the Nationals agreed to those outcomes that they now say are bad? I would love to ask that question. Why not table the cabinet documents so that we can see it now? Let us see what was said at the time. I do not need to have an inquiry to have the former government come in here and table cabinet papers.

Mr V.A. Catania: Let’s do it.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Go and do it. I make the point that members opposite can come in here tomorrow and table the cabinet papers. Go and do it. Let us read what was said when they decided not to do the things that they are now asking for. When members opposite were in government, they did one thing and now they are in opposition, they talk. That is the thing. I will make it clear. Members opposite ask why there is a negotiation. Every court case is a negotiation. A court is a formalised process of negotiation. The government is using the arrangements in the state agreement to bring this matter to a resolution, including the opportunity for arbitration and probably a Supreme Court action if that is necessary after the arbitration. A court case is a negotiation. We will present our view of the facts and the other side will present their view of the facts, and the judge will make a decision; that is a negotiation. Every tax bill is open to negotiation. Everybody knows—the land tax payers on the other side of the chamber—that if they are in dispute about the calculation of their land tax, they have the right, and can, dispute their land tax bill with the Commissioner of State Revenue. That happens frequently. Every single one of us, in our offices, have land tax payers come to see us to complain about land tax disputes. The idea that this is an unusual process is because the National Party did not understand what it was doing when it was in government. The real issue to be investigated is not the state agreement, but what happened when they were in cabinet. If the Nationals want to explain what they did, they should come in here and table the papers. Cabinet papers are only secret because the current opposition will not table them; so come in here and make them public. Then we can all see what members opposite were doing at that time.

I make another point. Again, this is not a question of whether a company is covered by a state agreement or the Mining Act. I was amused that the member for North West Central talked about the modern Mining Act. The Mining Act applies in a whole range of areas to these companies. Nobody would do the 1960 state agreements anymore. When people come to see us and when they came to see the former government, that is what they were all told. Members can look at the Balla Balla state agreement and the state agreements that underpinned Fortescue Metals Group—all those state agreements are contemporary. They do not set aside all those matters that used to be set aside. I point out to members that the Alcoa agreement sets aside a whole range of issues that would otherwise apply to that company. It is a 42-year agreement with a 42-year renewal. Nobody would do that agreement now, but the fact is that that is the agreement that was passed and agreed to by this Parliament.

I do not understand why National Party members do not understand English. I do not get why they do not understand those simple things. When I was a union official, the one thing I knew is if I agreed to something, I agreed to it. When it is agreed to, it is implemented. Apparently, the National Party does not see it like that. That is the simple way. There is a statue to Sir Charles Court on the corner of the Terrace. What did he do? He was the one who did these agreements. Why build a statue to him and then come in here and throw stones at him? That is ridiculous. People ask, “Why don’t you renegotiate them?” I am happy to renegotiate them, but let us take the Alcoa agreement. Why would Alcoa want to renegotiate? To change an agreement, both sides need to agree otherwise it is not an agreement, by definition. That is the simple way to look at this. I do not know why the National Party changed the BHP agreements in the way it did when it was in government. But I cannot be held

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responsible for the fact that it did those things. All I can do is my little bit, which is implement the agreements in the way they were given to me by the National and Liberal Parties when they were in government.

There is a long history in this place of oppositions not voting against state agreements. I have made that point in here on a number of occasions when state agreements came through during the last government. The Labor Party would not have done this deal but we still supported the agreement because an agreement is an agreement. If one undermines an agreement being an agreement, it is not an agreement. I do not understand that that is a particularly complicated issue. I do not understand why National Party members do not get the English language. This has nothing to do with the state agreement versus the Mining Act; this has to do with the way the royalty is being collected.

I am very proud of the officers at the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety. They do a great job on behalf of the people of this state collecting an enormous amount of revenue. I think there are 11 people down there who collect this revenue. They do an extraordinary job. They have to be the most efficient revenue collectors in the world, I would imagine, if we think about the billions of dollars that they collect. They are doing a good job and I support them. I am pleased that they have done such a good job in this case. I am pleased that we are not in dispute about the current collections in respect of this particular mining company. We are collecting all the revenue today that we believe we are entitled to under the royalty arrangements for these agreements.

I have answered every single question completely and transparently on this matter, except for the one by Jacqui Boydell because it was overly complicated. She split the question in two late yesterday afternoon and we are answering it this afternoon. We have given a briefing to the National Party. I was not around, but my chief of staff and senior officials from the agency gave that briefing to National Party members. They know everything. They come in here and ask questions and comment because of the information that we have provided to them. We have been completely transparent. Of course, there are questions that cannot be answered. For example, we are not going to table legal advice. No government ever tables legal advice; except for, apparently, the Scott Morrison federal Liberal government, which did that yesterday. Generally speaking, people do not table legal advice and we are not going to change that. We are not going to change the regular practices of government, because it would undermine the administration of this state. We are not going to do it.

National Party members can rabbit on all they like, but I suggest they should buy a dictionary and start reading it properly. There is nothing untoward other than the fact that for eight and a half years they did nothing about this. They renegotiated the BHP agreement and they did nothing about it then. It is time for them to get over themselves. Instead of talking, they should support Western Australian industry and the hard work of this McGowan Labor government.

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton — Leader of the Opposition) [3.15 pm]: I would like to make a very brief comment. Agreement acts are the foundation mechanism or the institution of our success in the mining sector. There are a whole range of others. No-one is arguing any differently here. The National Party definitely is not. Agreement acts have evolved over time. I had the pleasure, or the duty, 32 years ago to be a bureaucrat overseeing some of the agreement acts. I know them, and I think some of them were the legacy ones, however one defines “legacy”. We go about changing them very carefully. Once agreement acts are negotiated between the parties, they become law. After negotiations, once an agreement bill has been brought to Parliament we have never changed it; we have accepted the negotiations. Governments, in advance, tell members what the negotiations are. This is an issue of providing clarity to investors who put billions of dollars into the business. Changing them is like changing the royalty arrangements—they send tremors all around the investment space in Western Australia and around the world. When the Labor government discussed increasing the gold royalty, that sent tremors around the world. It caused real concerns for potential investors, direct investors in the industry, institutional investors and others. Changing royalty rates and changing the terms is a big thing.

I understand why my friends in the National Party are pursuing this. As the minister indicated, there are aspects in those legacy contracts that we would not even consider in today’s modern agreements. Also, in the old days, Sir Charles Court—who wrote many of them—had a dream of having over 20 steel mills in the Pilbara at one time. It was a large number; I remember looking into it. If members want to know what it is, a document was written in the early 1970s called the Pilbara plan. It outlined what Sir Charles and the people at the time thought about the Pilbara into the future. Iron ore was always meant to be a stepping stone to the industrialisation of the north; also, building towns in the north. At one time the person overseeing those old agreements actually built the sidewalks in Newman and Paraburdoo. They designed every aspect that was in the agreement act. We have moved on. A whole range of changes have taken place.

It is a legitimate idea that we would look at what we want in agreement acts and have a discussion about what has changed and what we want for the mining sector, and whether we just want money or something else. The Liberal Party has not had enough time to discuss this. I think it is one of the most crucial issues in this state. We

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would be open-minded to discuss this type of issue in greater length with our friends in the National Party. I will take it to my party room. I do not want it mixed up with a royalty dispute. I am not aware of a discussion about that. Once you discuss changing agreement acts and changing royalties or disputing royalties, whatever it may be, all I know about this is what I read in the paper: it sends shockwaves around the investment world, which I do not want to participate in.

My colleagues and I have not had time to discuss it. Some of us, such as my colleague the member for Nedlands, have been intimately involved in this for decades. If our friends in the National Party want to discuss this at a future date or in more detail, we are more than open-minded to do so. We cannot support the amendment as it is worded now, but I needed to explain that issue. As to what happens with these disputes with BHP, I do not know. I hope to get a briefing from the minister soon. I checked. I believe that those legacy contracts that apply to BHP have the same wording and conditions as the Mining Act, so I do not think royalties are the issues. The real issues are: What do we want for the north? What do we want from the mining sector in the future besides royalties? I would be willing to have that discussion.

Division

Amendment put and a division taken, the Acting Speaker (Ms J.M. Freeman) casting her vote with the noes, with the following result —

Ayes (5)

Mr V.A. Catania	Mr D.T. Redman	Mr R.S. Love (<i>Teller</i>)
Ms M.J. Davies	Mr P.J. Rundle	

Noes (48)

Ms L.L. Baker	Mr M. Hughes	Mr K.J.J. Michel	Ms C.M. Rowe
Mr I.C. Blayney	Mr W.J. Johnston	Mr S.A. Millman	Ms R. Saffioti
Dr A.D. Buti	Mr P. Katsambanis	Mr Y. Mubarakai	Ms A. Sanderson
Mr J.N. Carey	Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup	Mr M.P. Murray	Ms J.J. Shaw
Mrs R.M.J. Clarke	Mr A. Krsticevic	Dr M.D. Nahan	Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski
Mr R.H. Cook	Mr S.K. L'Estrange	Mr D.C. Nalder	Mr C.J. Tallentire
Mr M.J. Folkard	Mr F.M. Logan	Mr K. O'Donnell	Mr D.A. Templeman
Ms J.M. Freeman	Mr W.R. Marmion	Mrs L.M. O'Malley	Mr P.C. Tinley
Ms E. Hamilton	Mr M. McGowan	Mr P. Papalia	Mr R.R. Whitby
Mrs L.M. Harvey	Mr J.E. McGrath	Mr S.J. Price	Ms S.E. Winton
Mr T.J. Healy	Ms S.F. McGurk	Mr D.T. Punch	Mr B.S. Wyatt
Dr D.J. Honey	Ms L. Mettam	Mrs M.H. Roberts	Mr D.R. Michael (<i>Teller</i>)

Amendment thus negatived.

Consideration Resumed

MR Z.R.F. KIRKUP (Dawesville) [3.25 pm]: Thank you very much, Madam Acting Speaker, for the opportunity to speak, together with members of the opposition, on the Premier's Statement this year. At the outset I am going to do something so as not to interrupt my flow later in my speech. I am going to request an extension of time now.

Several members interjected.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Yes, it is allowed. Sorry, it is the Acting Speaker's ruling, but according to the advice I have sought, I believe it is allowed.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Extension granted.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Thank you, very much, Acting Speaker.

Mr I.C. Blayney interjected.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I am going to anticipate a 30-minute speech, member for Geraldton, so we will see how we go.

The ACTING SPEAKER: You could ask your colleagues to move a motion to extend your time beyond 30 minutes if you would like that.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: We will be fine, Madam Acting Speaker.

Several members interjected.

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Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: If I might proceed with my speech rather than continue to get interrupted by my colleagues. I thank the member for North West Central very much.

I would like to start by agreeing with the Leader of the Opposition. Earlier today he spoke about the government not having had a great start to the year. There has been a clear shift in mood in the community in relation to this government's entry—when it first came into government and the honeymoon thereafter—and where it finds itself now. There are certainly issues starting to develop. There seem to be issues in cabinet. We know from all reports that the Albany love-in did not go so well for members opposite. I am sorry to hear that, considering members on this side had a great time in the great southern.

Mr T. Healy: But John McGrath was not there.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: He was celebrating his fiftieth wedding anniversary, member for Southern River.

Mr T. Healy: Conveniently organised 50 years ago!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: He knew in time 50 years ago, quite right!

It seems to me that the Liberal Party, the opposition, is going from strength to strength on this side of house. That stands in stark contrast to members opposite.

I have to say as well that I am deeply disappointed that once again another Premier's Statement has gone by without there being any mention of Mandurah. I noted that the Premier made reference to Peel Health Campus and the delivery of the waiting bays that occurred there, but otherwise Mandurah went without a mention. I will say again that I am very glad the member for Mandurah is in cabinet, because I suspect that without him the Premier would not know there was a city of 84 000 people at the end of the freeway.

As part of this speech I would like to cover some issues in my district and issues related to corrective services, and I would like to finish on the State Coroner's inquest recently into the 13 suicides in the Kimberley. It is an important thing to me. It matters a great deal to me and it is an issue that this place should not forget. That is the structure by which I would like to start.

On a more positive note, I will start with the announcement made last week of the \$25 million from the federal government for the expansion of Peel Health Campus. That was \$25 million delivered by the commonwealth government entirely handed over to the hospital and Ramsay Health Care to expand it. I am very, very proud to have been part of the effort, together with Andrew Hastie, the federal member for Canning, to deliver an exceptional outcome for our local hospital. It means that we will see the emergency department expanded. It is only one-third the size it needs to be, as members in this place would know, because I have spoken about it a number of times. We will see an expansion of the ED and an expansion of the radiology unit. For the first time, there will be the creation of an eating disorder clinic in Mandurah. That was something that was very important to me and that I advocated for very strongly to Minister Hunt when he was here. It will be substantial in its impact on our community. It has been called for for a number of years now by advocates in the Peel Youth Medical Service. It will go hand in hand with this government's commitment to the Peel Health Hub. There has been some federal government investment in that as well. I am genuinely honoured to be part of that team from the Liberal Party that has invested in our hospital. I said to my wife, Michelle, when we got that announcement that if I am not re-elected in 740-odd days' time, I will feel it is a legacy I can be proud of. The hospital is very important to me. Although \$25 million is a small amount—I think the hospital needs about four times that amount of investment—it is certainly a great start. I also thank the member for Mandurah. His reception of that was positive. We are both united by the fact that that hospital needs to be expanded to suit the needs of our community. I am very proud of that.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke about the local economy. In reports that I hear from retailers, the Mandurah economy is really struggling at the moment. People who have been retailers for decades have told me that they went through their worst ever Christmas. Of course, they would expect Christmas to be one of the most profitable times for their businesses. Unemployment in Mandurah remains an issue. The rate is quite high. The outlying area of Mandurah has always had a high level of unemployment. If we look at the data over decades, the unemployment level in Mandurah has always been a bit higher than the Western Australian average. In particular, the local economy is really hurting. I would like to make sure that we do all we can to support the jobs and opportunities that exist in my district in the City of Mandurah and in the Peel region more broadly. It is very important, because in those regional areas—I remind the member for Kalgoorlie that Mandurah is a regional area—regional cities need to be supported, and we will continue to advocate accordingly.

Dr D.J. Honey: A lot of wool is grown there.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: There are a lot of former cookies there.

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Given that we are looking forward in 2019, looking back, I am really enjoying my time as the member for Dawesville. I have found a very positive reception amongst people who have seen someone fighting for them and standing up for their community. It is a real honour and privilege to serve Dawesville and the southern portion of Mandurah.

During the break, a crayfishing family came to me to talk about the Minister for Fisheries' plans to nationalise the western rock lobster industry. The people who came to me, putting politics aside, were in genuine distress about this government's now abandoned plan and the impact it would have on their family. They were second-generation cray fishermen. They were genuinely in real distress. This announcement was very poorly timed, occurring just before Christmas. I cannot imagine anything that would have had a more shocking impact on any family—going into what is an expensive and difficult time of year, having to buy Christmas presents, and finding out that their future viability might be at risk.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: The member for Cottesloe is absolutely right. It was a very difficult time for them. Generally speaking, there seems to be a bit of a trend with the way the Minister for Fisheries treats fishermen, certainly in my area. I do not think his ruthlessness as a former union operative is working too well out there in the community. I do not think he is a particularly popular minister. If anything, he has managed to turn more people against him than endear people to him. Maybe most of his support is not in the community but in the Labor caucus. Out on the street, the member for Bassendean is not very popular. If he were to walk the streets of the member for Geraldton's district or if he came to my district, I am certain that he would not be greeted with open arms. The fear that he spread amongst the crayfishing families in my district and no doubt in the member for Geraldton's district and right across Western Australia was significant. The minister may have dropped his plans, but those people will hold him to account when the next election comes around.

The ruthlessness of the member for Bassendean that I talk about—I wish he was here—is what I have come to expect from looking back on his history. There was a union deal. He originally pushed Senator Pratt from her seat in order to secure his seat of Bassendean. He did a deal with Joe Bullock to ensure he would secure his state seat in this place, pushing out a great senator for Western Australia. I challenge anyone opposite to tell me otherwise and say that they thought that was a good deal. This is the ruthlessness by which the member for Bassendean operates. I would be curious to find out how the member for Bassendean operates within his own office. I know from seeing the ministerial resource reports over the last year that the minister has lost eight staff—three males and five females. I am curious to know what is going on in the member for Bassendean's ministerial office. That is an interesting situation. The ruthlessness of that lifelong union hack is causing real concern in our communities. I will absolutely make sure, as will the opposition, that he is held to account all the way through. He has been shown to be a really incompetent minister in cabinet, but he is not alone.

One of the areas that I look after is corrective services, for which there is another incompetent minister. Let us contrast that minister with the member for Bassendean, who looks after fisheries and water, which are very important areas. The member for Cockburn, the Minister for Corrective Services, is charged with making sure that people are protected and our community is safe from those who are incarcerated. That is a real concern for me. The fact that the Premier of Western Australia trusts the Minister for Corrective Services to keep the people of Western Australia safe, when report after report of the Corruption and Crime Commission indicates that his decisions are putting the community of Western Australia at direct risk, is a real concern. As the shadow spokesperson on corrective services, I will be looking at this area quite closely as the year develops. I cannot imagine that the issues with systemic corruption, contraband going into our prisons and the lack of regional investment in our prisons will suddenly improve over the coming year, because this minister shows no leadership in this area. That is a real cause for concern.

I had the privilege of visiting Albany Regional Prison when we were in Albany last week for the state Parliamentary Liberal Party conference. It is a fantastic prison. The team working there are doing an exceptional job in what has been identified by the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services as a great prison that needs more investment. I could not agree more. Something that was very interesting to me and might be of interest to members in this place is that Albany Regional Prison has received international recognition. We do not have to place prisoners close to their families. Vietnamese immigrants who arrived in Australia illegally have been placed in Albany Regional Prison. There is an interesting mix in the cohort of prisoners. A lot of the instructions in the prison are written in Vietnamese. There is a very strong Vietnamese component in the prison population in Albany. It was a real insight to see the prison responding to the needs of the prisoners. It was really refreshing to look at that jail. The team is doing a great job. I commend the team there. I have already thanked the minister and wish to do so publicly for his facilitation of that visit to Albany Regional Prison.

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We have some issues relating to Bunbury, Kalgoorlie and the eastern goldfields. We need to be aware of staff retention in particular. The member for Warren–Blackwood, the Nationals WA spokesman on corrective services, also raised these issues. He will be looking at those areas very closely going forward.

We should talk a bit more in this place about the Aboriginal incarceration rate. It is very concerning to me. In the past, corrective services ministers would table data on a quarterly basis. This minister has failed to do so since he came to office, which I suspect was more a legacy of the previous government. Nevertheless, we have seen a cessation of the release of that data. In answer to my questions in October last year, when I asked the minister where that information was, the minister said he would release this data on a quarterly basis going forward. It is now February 2019. I think the last data was released in the first quarter of the Labor government's term. The reason the release of this data is so important is that it informs us what is going on in our state's prisons.

We have been asking the minister quite a lot of questions on notice. We know that the Aboriginal incarceration rate in Western Australia is significant. I have spoken to my colleagues about this. We on this side of the house are all aware of the trend of the Aboriginal incarceration rate. In fact, it is growing under this government, but there is not necessarily a direct correlation; it is simply growing under this government. From the last data we have, 4 247 per 100 000 Aboriginal adults are incarcerated. For every 100 000 Aboriginal adults in the state of Western Australia, 4 247 are incarcerated. If we look at the incarceration rate for the adult population outside of the Aboriginal incarceration rate, it is 346 per 100 000. The Aboriginal incarceration rate is significant.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

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

I am sure that many members pay attention to what occurs internationally. We talk about the crisis happening with the African–American and minority populations in the United States in their prison populations. The United States Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that the African–American incarceration rate in the United States—the last available data was from a year and a half ago—was 1 608 per 100 000 people. Contrast that with the rate in WA. The incarceration rate of Aboriginal people in WA is four times the incarceration rate in the United States of America when it was considered to be a crisis of the minority incarceration rate in the US—I am sorry, Acting Speaker, I have said it three times—where the incarceration rate is three times as high as the minority incarceration rate. That is a very big concern for me, especially when the bill for prisoner custodial services is heading towards \$1 billion every year. We are spending a lot and the Aboriginal incarceration rate in Western Australia stands above each and every other state in the Federation. That is very concerning to me. When I was working in the former Premier's office on this issue, I remember a statistic—I could be off here so give me some allowance—an Aboriginal male adult born in the same year as I was, 1987, was something like 90 to 92 per cent more likely to have had an incursion with the justice system. Aboriginal juveniles in Western Australia are 50 times more likely than their non-Aboriginal peers to be incarcerated. It is a huge issue for our society. It is a huge prison bill. It is not just an economic issue, but the social impact of this is significant and a real concern for me. I have to give credit to the Attorney General for introducing a measure that ensures a mandatory phone call is made to the Aboriginal Legal Service when an Aboriginal individual is incarcerated. I think that is a very important step forward and I think I have congratulated the Attorney General for that. I note that more work needs to be done and that from the data I have seen, the growth rate has not receded—it has continued to grow.

I stand here today as part of that theme of what is happening to Aboriginal Western Australians, noting it is the eleventh anniversary of the national apology to Aboriginal people by former Prime Minister Rudd in the House of Representatives. In 1977, the Western Australian Parliament was the first Parliament to apologise for the treatment of Aboriginals; 11 years ago the commonwealth Parliament did so. Although it was an important, historic and watershed moment, I question whether it improved the lives of Aboriginal people. I remember the commentary at the time. Everyone was pointing out the importance of the national apology and how they hoped that some real tangible action would result from it. However, in every report that I have seen, everything that I have read, every framework, every blueprint, and every observer report from bureaucrats in Canberra, I cannot see a tangible and real improvement. I think the gap in the mortality rate is still sitting well above a decade for both male and female non-Aboriginal versus Aboriginal. There are some real issues there. I was disappointed that although the Premier mentioned in his statement the need to focus on Aboriginal wellbeing—he has put it on a social media tile, which I think is a little too cramped text-wise—he has not provided any cogent plan, policy or legislation on what he intends to do now. I expect and look forward to seeing more on what the Premier intends to do in that space because I think, especially in relation to the most recent State Coroner's inquest, which I will get to in a moment, it is really important that governments, regardless of their politics, focus on trying to improve the lives and outcomes for Aboriginal Western Australians.

Over the weekend I had an opportunity to go through the State Coroner's "Inquest into the deaths of: Thirteen Children and Young Persons in the Kimberley Region, Western Australia". I have read a lot of

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criminal-related material, books and the like, and I have to say that this report is by far the most disturbing report I have read in recent times. I encourage all members to read as much of it as they can. It is quite heavy reading, both emotionally and in length. It is 400-odd pages. I would like to commend State Coroner Fogliani for her work. Before I get into the inquest, I need to put on the record my appreciation for the WA Police Force; in particular, the Kimberley district police. I cannot imagine the psychological toll on officers who are despatched to cut down a teenager hanging from a tree. This week I will write to the Commissioner of Police to forward my thanks and to recognise in particular the superintendent of the Kimberley district and to recognise their and WA Police's effort in this report. I would like to thank St John Ambulance as well because it obviously plays a very important role in any health issue. But of course when we are dealing with a suicide or death it can have a very significant impact, so I would like to thank them for their work in supporting us.

I would like to also recognise Paige Taylor from *The Australian*, Kate Hedley from *WAtoday*, and Jane Marwick and Tim Clarke from *The West Australian* for keeping this conversation going since the release of this report. It is really important that regardless of what happens, there is no political debate about this, that we continue to have constructive and meaningful conversations about how to improve the lives of Aboriginal Australians, and we continue to shine a light on this very difficult area for all of us.

In the 11 minutes I have remaining I want to go through an important summary of the inquest and offer my thoughts. I want to mention in this place every single person who was reported in the inquest because I think it is important. I will very quickly go through the 13 reported deaths, 12 of which were from suicide and one from misadventure or suicide. Aside from all the issues that this Parliament deals with, it is important that we fully understand the gravity of what has occurred up there. Case 1 involved a female, born in 1991 and who died at age 13. She hanged herself in her bedroom in Kalumburu. She was from a family that had been exposed to domestic violence and alcohol abuse. These are references from the State Coroner. Case 2 involved a male born in 1999, who died aged 17. He hanged himself on an oval in Broome. He was diagnosed early with failure to thrive, speech delay, poor health, substantiated neglect, exposure to alcohol abuse and possibly sexual abuse. He had alcohol and methamphetamine in his blood at the time of his death. Case 3 concerned a male born in 1991 and who died at age 24. He was a father. He hanged himself from a tree in a backyard in Broome. He had numerous health issues when he was born—failure to thrive, anaemia—and was exposed to alcohol-related violence in the home. At the time of his suicide, alcohol and cannabis were present in his blood. Case 4 concerned a female born in 2006 and who died aged 10. She hanged herself from an item in a backyard in Looma. She had health issues, anaemia, and was exposed to alcohol abuse and domestic violence. She was seven when her half-sister committed suicide. Case 5 concerned a female born in 2000, who died aged 12. She hanged herself from a tree in a park in Wyndham. She had health issues, collapsing episodes and was exposed to alcohol abuse and domestic violence. She was aged approximately 12 or maybe younger when she first started to experiment with cannabis and alcohol. Case 6 concerned a male, born 1997 and died aged 16. He hanged himself from a tree from a backyard in the Mud Springs Community near Kununurra. He was from a severely dysfunctional family, exposed to alcohol and family violence. According to the State Coroner he was raped by multiple male perpetrators at the age of 15 around Christmas in 2012. When he told his parents about the rape, he reported that they were too drunk to understand what had occurred to him. He was surrounded by suicide. That case, who is also the subject of case 9 in the coroner's report, committed suicide before he did. He registered a blood alcohol content and had traces of methamphetamine in his blood at the time of his death. Case 7 involved a male, born in 2000 and died aged 13. There is an open finding in his case. The coroner suggests that it might have been suicide or misadventure. He died in Kununurra. He was from a family with domestic violence and alcohol abuse. He was diagnosed with failure to thrive, with doctors noting physical abuse and neglect. Case 8 concerned a male born in 1997 and who died aged 17. He hanged himself from a fixture at the rear of his home in Kununurra. He first left his mother's care when he was five months old. He was left in a pram by his mother in the park. Police had to attend to that and find informal care arrangements. He was diagnosed with gross failure to thrive, surrounded by alcohol abuse in his home. He was admitted to hospital aged 14 and aged 16 with severely high blood alcohol content. He died by suicide with alcohol and cannabis in his blood. Case 9 involved a male born in 1993 who died aged 23. He hanged himself from a fixture in the front of his home in the Mud Springs Community near Kununurra. Again, we see a trend here. He was exposed to significant family violence in the home. Five members of his broad family group had died in a five-year period. His health was not ideal. He had a bone infection at age 12. He died with a high blood alcohol content. Case 10 involved a male born in 1994, who died aged 18. He hanged himself from a tree on the Violet Valley Station near Warmun. In contrast, he came from what was reported to be a relatively stable family. There was no history of mental illness in the lead-up to his death. He was then found with alcohol and cannabis in his blood. Case 11 concerned a male born in 2001, who died aged 12 years old. He hanged himself from a structure at the rear of his home in Halls Creek. He was exposed to family violence and there was no toxicology rendered.

Case 12 involved a male born in 1994. He was aged six when he first threatened to commit suicide. There was significant violence within his family. Case 12 was an individual whose situation stuck with me. The circumstances

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surrounding his death were that his family was moving from Wungu to Halls Creek. They were moving because the rains were coming and they had run out of supplies, so they needed to go to Halls Creek. Along the way, the car with his family got stuck. They tried to find some tools to recover the car from being bogged and they started fighting. He and his partner walked away after a bit of back and forth. They started to fight and his wife started to walk ahead of him. He walked off after her and they got about a kilometre away from where the car was bogged. He jumped up a tree, then jumped off and hanged himself. The last thing his partner heard him say was that he loved her. She tried to lift him up and he came to the ground. She had to run a kilometre back to his family for assistance. In the meantime, he lay face up in a creek bed. Worse still, because of the distance, his body needed to be transported back to Wungu but the police told his family that they unfortunately would not be able to get out to the community because of the severe storms that were coming. They asked the family to keep his body in the house and turn on the air conditioning to keep it as preserved as possible. He died in Wungu aged 20 years old.

Case 13 concerned a male who died aged 21 years old. He hanged himself from a tree branch in bushland near his home in Halls Creek. There had been abuse of alcohol from an early age and his mother was unable to care for him. There was substantiated neglect and failure to thrive. In 2003, his mother died. In 2006, his brother committed suicide. In 2007, his father died. He was moved to his grandmother's care. She had to look after six kids. She struggled. There was a blood alcohol content when he committed suicide.

This summary has not done justice to the State Coroner, who invested significant time and resources into reporting the circumstances surrounding the deaths of these 13 young people and children. The coroner raised the significant issues of intergenerational trauma and the desperate socioeconomic disadvantages that occurred, including the range of services that needs to be provided. This is not whatsoever a question of resourcing. Governments, irrespective of party, have put significant amounts of money into trying to help and extend services for people out there. In 2016 under the previous government, more money was spent than I think in nearly every other state in the provision of services to Aboriginal people in Western Australia. The reality is that after 40 reports and 700 recommendations on Aboriginal suicide over the last 14 years, these problems are still occurring in these communities. It was absolutely heartbreaking to read this report.

Regardless of any other issues that we might debate or have disagreements on in this place, people are hurting and dying to this day. People are killing themselves in their teenage years. Particularly in the Kimberley region, this is an epidemic. It is a crisis and we need to make sure that we do everything we can to resolve it. Questions need to be asked about parental responsibility. Questions need to be asked about whether these children should be moved into circumstances where they are no longer exposed to this violence and abuse. As much as we might try, there is no point trying to keep these children there if they end up hanging themselves. We have a real situation here—a real social need. If this were occurring in any other place in metropolitan Perth, I think the area would be put in lockdown. Police and nurses would be going door to door. It would almost be declared a state of emergency if it were happening in metropolitan Perth. I think we need to do everything we can. It is meaningless to continue to talk about things like changing the date of Australia Day while these types of social issues are ongoing. We talk about things like changing the date of Australia Day because I suspect they are much easier things to confront than the real issues that are occurring in Western Australia. It is very important to me that we come together as a Parliament to do everything we can to step up and support all government services to make sure these people, in a community-led and meaningful, engaged way, can do everything they can to help pull themselves out of their circumstances and that we invest in them. I think it is vitally important. I think talking about Australia Day being on 26 January is meaningless when a 15-year-old was raped by a group of men and ended up killing himself.

I know that all members in this place intend to do the right thing. I ask for us all to come together and do what we can. I do not have an instant solution but I would like to do everything we can to work with the government regardless of the political party because I think, if we do not work to confront these issues, there is no point in me being elected. The seat is worth nothing if we do not try to do more to protect the most vulnerable in our community.

MR P.A. KATSAMBANIS (Hillarys) [3.55 pm]: I welcome the opportunity to rise to speak on the Premier's Statement. Right at the outset, I congratulate the member for Dawesville for his contribution and for once again shining a spotlight on what I have previously described as Australia's national shame. I think we could do very well to use his contribution as a guide to how we can do better in the future to improve the lives of Western Australians and Australians who continue to live in absolutely unacceptable conditions.

Today I would like to primarily focus on the impact of the Premier's Statement on the portfolio areas that I am responsible for as shadow minister, particularly those in my own electorate of Hillarys. I would like to take the time to speak a little bit about some of the statewide issues that impact everybody, including the residents and voters in my electorate. The first thing I will mention is that since the previous Premier's Statement, there have been a couple of significant and positive changes in Western Australia. The first and I think the biggest is that we have finally reached an agreement with the federal government so that Western Australia can start getting a more

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fair share of the GST. There is still a long way to go but at least we have reached an agreement. I congratulate everyone involved: obviously the federal Liberal government; the federal Parliament, because they all essentially need to agree; the current government; and the previous government. With all the things that have been going on for a long time, we know that lots of people are going to try to claim the credit. I think it was President John F. Kennedy who first said the oft-quoted maxim that victory has a thousand fathers but defeat is an orphan. Everyone will want to claim parenthood of this and I think everyone deserves the accolades. I remember back in 2013, when I was first elected to the other place, I included in my inaugural speech reference to the unfair theft of Western Australia's GST as perhaps the most fundamental issue that faced our state. All other members here have made a contribution. There is no point in wondering who deserves more of the credit and who deserves less. We need to focus on two things. The first one is that it is one step, not the final step, and we need a proper, long-term solution that gives Western Australia its fair share of GST. The second thing is to ensure that the funds we receive are applied properly for the benefit of all Western Australians, both today and into the future. I will discuss that a little bit as I continue with my contribution.

The other significant issue, which was highlighted in today's *The West Australian*, is that the state is likely to receive a windfall due to the misfortune and tragic events that happened in a place far, far away from us; that is, the change in the price of iron ore, driven partly—not only, but I would say primarily—by the significant human disaster that occurred in the vicinity of the Vale mines in Brazil. That obviously has the associated human impact that we have all seen. It is horrific. It also means a necessary change in the iron ore market that will benefit Western Australia. It will result in as yet unquantified increases in royalty revenue as iron ore prices escalate. That is another bonus for the bottom line that this government will receive that should not be squandered and should be used properly as we move into the future.

As I have said repeatedly in this place, I am in this place because I want to see better outcomes for all Western Australians. I think every member of Parliament does. If the government does something good, I will say, "Well done; good on you." If the government is failing or is not doing good enough, I will say, "Look, you have to pull up your socks and do better." In the Premier's Statement there is a combination of both. The one thing that strikes me as a tin ear of this Premier and this government and that continues to haunt the residents and voters in my electorate who speak to me on a daily basis—and I think all Western Australians—is the whole of government, the Premier and the Treasurer in particular, trying to paint that things are going fantastically well in Western Australia and that the economy is doing fantastically well. If we go out to the suburbs and towns of this state and ask people whether they are doing well and whether they feel that the economy is doing well, I do not think we will get that universal acclaim. The cost of living has gone up. Job stability is still not as it should be, and employment growth has not been what this government expected and what it says it has been. In fact, we are now at the stage at which unemployment is higher than it was when this government took office and is the highest of any state in Australia, which goes to show that a lot of people out there are doing it tough.

[Quorum formed.]

Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS: Thank you, Madam Acting Speaker. The government has a little bit of a tin ear when it comes to economic prosperity because a lot of people are doing it tough out there. The unemployment figures bear out that Western Australia has the worst unemployment of any state in the country and things do not look like they will get significantly better any time soon, particularly for the people I speak to in my electorate and in the northern suburbs. In that context, two of the areas that are significantly struggling and going through, I would say, an unprecedented era of uncertainty are the areas of retail and hospitality. Those two areas employ a lot of people who live in my electorate and in the surrounding electorates. They particularly employ a lot of people who rely on part-time work, such as students trying to pay their way through their education and working mums or working parents who need flexibility and need to be able to work part-time hours. They rely on those jobs, whether they are part-time or full-time jobs, to bring income into their household. Retail and hospitality are those two great drivers of employment that are doing it toughest at the moment. One thing that could help those industries as they transition and to ensure that they keep employing people would be to reduce the costs of employing people. The primary cost, especially in these big employment areas of retail and hospitality, is payroll tax. As I said, I will acknowledge some of the good things that the government is doing. I notice it is making some minor changes around the technicalities of how payroll tax is applied to trainees and training schemes. It is talking about introducing an incentive scheme that will not only go to those who pay payroll tax, but also will be spread across smaller employers. We would like to see the details of that, but I think that it sounds like a good thing. However, to protect jobs in the retail and hospitality industries when they are coming under significant challenge from emerging market trends, online retail and, in hospitality the boom in home delivery that is reducing the need for wait staff and the like, and even the need for people washing dishes in kitchens at the end of meals, a significant cut to payroll tax would help drive employment in some sectors and protect employment in those sectors that are coming under challenge. It is another missed opportunity. We spoke about the funds coming in from GST and about the windfall gains from iron ore, particularly due to supply problems created by a massive disaster overseas.

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This is one area in which the government could help by assisting small business and cutting payroll tax, and assisting people who either do not have a job or are concerned about the long-term future of their job. As I said, I think it is a missed opportunity by this government, even though it has done a little bit. I am sure that when we see that incentive scheme around traineeships, we will be able to make a better assessment of it.

In some of my shadow portfolio areas, such as police and road safety, the Premier in his statement talked about the need to bring in new legislation to deal with the medical retirement of police officers. This whole area is something that does not cover with any glory any government in Western Australia over the last 25 years or so—any government of any stripe, whether it is the previous government or the one before in which the current minister was also the Minister for Police or those before her. We have sat back as legislators and forced police who require medical retirement to be essentially drummed out of the WA Police Force under the section 8 powers, which are the loss-of-confidence provisions that usually relate to misconduct. I welcome the fact that the government will bring that in. Let us see the provision, but I am sure that when it comes in, as long as it does what it is intended to do, it will get bipartisan support and will be most welcomed by police officers who are waiting for this sort of legislation. When they leave the force, the medical retirement is most often a result of injuries and illnesses they received on the job. They need to go out with some dignity and we need to give them that dignity. We have not given it to them so far. That is a good thing. That is a tick to the government. Just do it. Bring it in; let us not just talk about it anymore.

However, there has been no movement at all on the police workers' compensation scheme. The police and the public will remember that prior to the 2017 election, the previous government brought in a scheme. It was not perfect; it had significant critics, but it was a good starting point and there was a baseline. Clearly, work had been done at a departmental level and by Treasury. This government said in an election promise that it would bring in a better scheme. We are now two years in and the legislative program has been outlined for the next year, but conspicuously absent is a police workers' compensation scheme. I know it is complex, but this government committed to it. So far it has not come forward. The Premier or someone else can correct me if I have got it wrong, but it does not seem to be a government priority for this year. I urge the government to look into it, especially given the promises that it made before the election. If it is brought to this house, I am here for good outcomes, and if it does what it is intended to do and will work, we will have no reason to hold back on it. Again, the government might be doing one good thing in policing, but it is doing a lot of bad things. In the last two years of this government it duded our police officers on a pay deal. During the election it promised them a 1.5 per cent pay increase, but after the election it capped pay increases to \$1 000. That was a breach of faith and a breach of trust with the men and women on our front line who protect our community in what are sometimes the most dangerous of circumstances. We need those people to be running into danger when the rest of us are trying to avoid that danger. To essentially dud them on the promise of a pay rise a few months after coming into government was a real kick in the guts. It has hurt! It has absolutely smashed morale and goodwill within our police force on the ground. A new pay round is coming this year and I hope the government finds it in its heart to be fair to police this time around, especially given the extra income from the GST and the windfall on iron ore royalties. We will wait with bated breath to see that.

Coupled with the poor pay round in 2017, police were hit with a massive increase in Government Regional Officers' Housing costs. Regional police got a double whammy. They got only a \$1 000 pay rise but they had a rent increase of \$1 560. They were going backwards. The pay rise did not even cover the increase in rent. Police need to be in Government Regional Officers' Housing for many reasons, particularly given their tenure situation. They cannot enter into private sector leases easily because they could be redeployed at any time. As I travel around the state, I am told that this is a massive issue in both retaining police officers in regional towns and regional areas and also attracting them. Let us use this money that the government will come into wisely. One of the wisest areas we could use it in would be to ensure that our regional police are looked after and given a fair pay increase to cover their costs, because the last pay increase for regional officers who are in GROH accommodation was swallowed up simply by the rent increase. Of course, those families also have to pay the same increased costs that we all have to pay on electricity, motor vehicle registrations, water charges and the like that this government has imposed on all Western Australians. It is the perfect opportunity for the government to fix that. There are also issues with the provision of body-worn cameras for police and providing appropriate body armour or protective vests. I think the government needs to address this in the coming budget. It cannot just keep kicking the can down the road.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS: I turn to road safety. In his statement, the Premier announced a change to the way in which blood alcohol levels are calculated in roadside alcohol testing. The Minister for Police followed up today in question time with an answer about it. I think it is a good idea. I agree with the minister's answer in question time. We are the last state to move down this path. It has been nearly two decades since most other states got rid of this double chance, as the minister called it. I think it is a get out of jail card that should not

exist. When the government brings forward the legislation, we will scrutinise it, but I see absolutely no reason why it could not be supported.

There is a lot more to do in road safety. Last year the road toll was lower. That is great and we welcome it, but there has been almost no impact in regional areas. Of the 158 people who died on Western Australian roads last year, 99 were in regional Western Australia. I realise that they are provisional figures—the figures bounce around and over time either somebody who is clinging onto life deceases or a different cause is attributed—but they are the current figures that we have. It is more than 60 per cent. More than 60 per cent of all road deaths are in regional Western Australia. We need to do more, but there was no commentary about that in the Premier's Statement. Through the budget process and a minister who pays attention to this, I hope that it can be fixed.

Vulnerable road users include pedestrians, motorcyclists and cyclists. Between 2013 and 2018, more than 550 cyclists were seriously injured on our roads. In that same period, over 30 cyclists were killed. It is something that we need to address. We need to bring these figures down drastically. This is an area in which we should aim for a figure of zero. The one-metre passing rule was brought in, but there is still a lot of confusion around that and I think a lot is to do with education. Hopefully, either through the road trauma trust account or some other mechanism, we can pay a lot more attention to communicating the need for motorists and all road users to be aware of cyclists so that we can stop the carnage on the roads.

In my local area we have a lot of needs. We are a neglected part of Western Australia. I do not say that lightly. It has been years since anyone paid attention to the needs of the voters I represent. I have spoken about it before in this chamber but it does not impact only on my electorate. Every morning, through my electorate, the Mitchell Freeway turns into a car park. Miraculously, south of Hepburn Avenue it opens up again and we do not get much congestion until we reach that area where the government is doing some work further south between Cedric Street and Vincent Street. That work is welcome.

Mr D.R. Michael: Hear, hear!

Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS: Member for Balcatta, we have spoken about it before. I cheer for that and want it to happen. I am glad that it is happening. However, the stretch from Hodges Drive to Hepburn Avenue, especially the intersections of the Mitchell Freeway at Ocean Reef Road and Woodvale Avenue, is an absolute disaster. Residents are enduring long delays, added travel time and less time with their families. We know the solution. One extra lane is ready to be laid with bitumen all the way. It will benefit people not just in my electorate, but also in the electorates of the members for Joondalup, Kingsley, Burns Beach, Wanneroo and Butler. It will also impact a little on the member for Carine's electorate, which is just south of my electorate. I have called for a bipartisan approach to this. The Barnett government built a third lane going north on that section of road. The government will hardly need to move any services. It just has to make a commitment and do it. It will alleviate traffic congestion markedly, particularly in my area.

Hooning is something that happens in every electorate in our state. It is dangerous, but it is particularly dangerous in some areas where there is significant interface with pedestrians, other road users and these hooners, who continue to hoon around and behave stupidly. I have raised it in this house and I have spoken to the Minister for Transport about it, but one of the hooning hotspots is the Hillarys Boat Harbour. The northern car park is particularly prone to hooning because it is a car park for boat trailers, so speed humps and the like cannot be installed. It would defeat the purpose of having a wonderful public boat ramp that allows people to launch their boats. But for the users of that facility and the long-suffering residents who live in proximity to Hillarys Boat Harbour, the hooning activity at night is absolutely unacceptable. This is not the only solution, but one solution would be CCTV. The Minister for Transport has facilitated a meeting between me and officers of the Department of Transport, who are the harbourmasters at Hillarys marina. We have had some discussions and talked about perhaps seeking federal funding. At the time, the cost of this closed-circuit television was deemed to be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. A recent assessment indicates that less than \$30 000 would provide the appropriate CCTV coverage to, firstly, act as a strong deterrent for these dangerous idiots whom we call hooners and, secondly, to help protect them and have them charged with appropriate offences and, when required, take their cars from them to make them learn their lesson. Again, with all these additional funds coming in, less than \$30 000 to implement this solution would be very welcomed by the people in my electorate. I think this is something that the government could look at because it impacts on not only the people in my electorate, but also all the users of that facility who can be subject to that horrible, nasty practice of hooning.

I have spoken about the school buildings in my electorate before and I will continue to speak about them, because it is one of those situations in which nothing happens unless people make noise. I have said before that our educators—teachers and principals—and school communities do a magnificent job not just in my electorate, but in every electorate. However, working in ageing school buildings that are long past their use-by date is not an attractive proposition and it does not help teachers and the local school community to get optimum education outcomes. Schools in my electorate like Hillarys, Springfield and Sorrento Primary Schools are over 40 years old.

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I will use Hillarys Primary School as an example, but all three schools have the same problems. In 1973, the school was established on what was communicated as being a temporary site and the school was to be relocated to another site. What happened, of course, was that other site was sold off, and the school is still there in asbestos-ridden temporary accommodation. It is a pressing issue. I have advocated on behalf of Hillarys Primary School. I have to say that working with the principal, the parent community, the local City of Joondalup—the mayor and the local councillor—and the Minister for Education and Training, we have obtained some funding to improve the car parking, because it is a mess. The council has done its bit and helped to fix some of the road articulation in the area, but there is a lot more work to do. The community is looking forward to the new car parking bays. I thank the minister for working with us cooperatively, but perhaps for the amount of money being spent on that car park, we could get a better outcome with more parking spaces and without the need to eat into green space being used by the school at the moment. Across the electorate, particularly those three schools on the coast that have been neglected for far too long, what is needed is a rebuild. I will continue to advocate for that rebuild. If this government is truly committed to education outcomes, and I know it is because the Premier told us that yesterday when he said, “We know that when we invest in education, society reaps the rewards”, it should allow all my school communities, particularly those three very old schools, to reap the rewards of some investment in education.

The Whitford Family Centre is very important. It has been running for 30 years and services over 400 families each year and around 280 families on any average week. The centre provides pre-kindy programs; a playgroup; a playgroup for children with autism; before and after-school care; vacation care; yoga classes for children and adults; and all sorts of stuff. Without Empowering Communities program funding, the Whitford Family Centre will close and that will be a shattering loss felt throughout our community. I have spoken to the minister about this funding before. Nearly two years ago, she implemented a little bit of a change in the funding process and that was helpful, but the centre is funded for only a short period, and that creates uncertainty. The loss of the centre would result in unemployment for 12 staff and be a massive loss in our community, particularly for parents who may not have access to another facility in the local area. I urged the minister, who is in the house at the moment, to look into the centre’s funding and make sure that in the next funding round, the long-term survival of neighbourhood centres like the Whitford Family Centre is taken into account.

Ms S.F. McGurk: Will you take an interjection?

Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS: I do not have much time, but, yes.

Ms S.F. McGurk: I answered a question on this in question time this afternoon and addressed all those points. If you had been paying attention, I am sure you would have found the answers for all those things.

Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS: Great, thank you.

The Joondalup Men’s Shed is a great asset. It is the only men’s shed in Western Australia located on Department of Education facilities. Finally, the City of Joondalup and the men’s shed have found a new facility on council property to relocate it. It will not be in my electorate anymore, but I am sure that Bob Allen and everyone at the shed will do a wonderful job. I know that the member for Joondalup will welcome the move and I hope that the government assists the men’s shed to continue its great work.

I could go on forever about issues in my electorate. There is a need to re-articulate the bus routes in my electorate to provide direct bus routes along Hepburn Avenue, and a great need from both a local and a tourism perspective to have direct buses to Hillarys Boat Harbour.

MR V.A. CATANIA (North West Central) [4.26 pm]: I rise to talk about a few of my portfolio responsibilities, along with issues facing the electorate of North West Central. I will start with tourism because the Minister for Tourism is in the chamber. I thought that would be the way to go before he leaves the chamber; I am sure he will leave after I start to speak because I will talk about some facts about tourism.

When Labor announced its tourism election policy, it was welcomed. A Tourism Council WA media statement of March 2017 states —

... \$425 million over five years for tourism marketing and events and \$2 million to increase international student numbers at an industry event this morning.

It continues —

Tourism Council WA CEO Evan Hall said the commitment would create more than 2,300 ... jobs for Western Australians.

The media statement refers to then Leader of the Opposition, Mark McGowan, who —

... also announced a new direction for the State’s tourism attractions, declaring he would introduce greater coordination among attractions and make tourism their number one focus.

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He is quoted as saying —

“Combining the focus of attractions such as Perth Zoo, Kings Park, Whiteman Park, the Bell Tower and Fremantle Prison will mean there is a clear focus towards creating tourism jobs by having performance targets for international and interstate visitors to the State’s great public attractions.”

In opposition, I have been looking online for any mention of how we could grow regional WA tourism destinations in this state, but could not find any promotion of any of the regional sites, whether in the south west, the Swan Valley, Broome, Exmouth, the goldfields or anywhere else. When the government released its Road Trip State policy, it left quite a few regional towns off its map. I cannot remember which towns were missed off the map—there were so many. I know Karratha was missed, because Karratha had a campaign to get the town on the Road Trip State tourism map.

The Tourism Council’s media statement continues —

- Further extensive reform of liquor licensing to make it easier to start new tourism businesses;

I wonder why the government left off Karratha and some of the Pilbara towns. It is because of the liquor restrictions it has imposed on the Pilbara towns. It does not bode well for tourists who cannot get a sixpack of beer on a Sunday. It is interesting that the Premier highlighted that liquor licensing reform will make it easier to attract tourists. Regional WA has it a lot harder, particularly in the Pilbara. I find this media statement very interesting. It continues —

- Ensuring all intrastate regular passenger transport aviation services are on the Global Distribution System —

GDS is about being visible to other places in the world, other than what happens in the state —

and empty seats are sold to tourists through discount leisure packages.

I thought I might go somewhere on Monday next week. I thought: I will go to Karratha because I might duck down to Onslow. I looked at what it would cost to go to Karratha, which was left off the driving map that was brought out as part of the new tourism marketing campaign. We cannot get a sixpack in Karratha because the government has changed the liquor restrictions. I thought that surely there have to be some cheap flights to Karratha. I looked into a flight to Karratha on Monday, and return, because we have to get back here for Parliament, and guess how much, members?

Mr W.R. Marmion: Is it \$1 000?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I wish. A return flight to Karratha on Monday, 18 February is \$2 182.03.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Is that a private jet?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: It could be. Albany is \$687.37 return on that date, 18 February. I thought: I will look at Exmouth. It is \$1 778.02 return on Monday, 18 February.

Mr I.C. Blayney: These are full fares, are they?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: These are full fares. This is what people look at.

Dr A.D. Buti: These are full fares. We can get cheaper fares, can we? Can we get cheaper?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: These are cheap fares. I have gone on Google and seen how much. These are full fares. I will explain to members what the government has tried to do. Port Hedland is \$2 368 on 18 February. Paraburdoo is \$1 810.01 return on 18 February. Kalgoorlie is \$1 504.01. I thought Geraldton has to be a couple of hundred dollars, but no.

Mr I.C. Blayney: Is it \$900?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: No, I will tell the member for Geraldton. It is \$1 198 on 18 February.

Mr I.C. Blayney: I will tell you something I just did in my office. I do not want to take up your time.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Go for it. I am happy to hear the member’s contribution.

Mr I.C. Blayney: Last time I booked a full fare—they used to tell me I had to book a full fare because it is the most flexible and easy to get refunded—we looked at the scale of fares and we rang up Premier and Cabinet, the travel people, and we said, “Are you agreeable to me booking cheaper fares? It just means that on the odd chance I have to change the reservation, there will be a fee for changing the booking.” They said that they were quite agreeable to doing that, so I will be saving a couple of hundred bucks on each ticket from now on. They told me I was the only member who had ever asked.

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 13 February 2019]

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Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr Peter Katsambanis; Dr David Honey; Mr Terry Healy; Ms Lisa Baker; Ms Sabine Winton

Mr V.A. CATANIA: It is still pretty expensive, member for Geraldton. The member for Kimberley is not here, but if the member for Kimberley wanted to —

Mr S.K. L'Estrange: He makes a good point. That could be the answer for the government. DPC could subsidise all the regional members' airfares like they do for the member for Geraldton.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I will get to that because I am starting to think about a policy there. A return flight to Kununurra on 18 February is \$2 238; Esperance, \$754.31, member for Roe; Mt Magnet, \$663.79; Meekatharra, \$828.24; Wiluna, \$939.89; Carnarvon, \$996.94; and Shark Bay \$1 026.40. But I left out one town that has had the focus of offering cheap fares—Broome. It has to be gold. I might go there on Monday. I looked at it and I thought: Karratha is not a bad option! A return flight to Broome on Monday is \$2 650.01. I had to look at it twice.

Mr W.R. Marmion: Is accommodation thrown in?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I do not know. I have not gone that far because I have been in the chamber today. We are looking at a family trip to go to London. We can buy a ticket via London to go to Rome down to Sicily to see the rellies in Sicily and I am looking at \$2 000, but I can go to Broome for \$2 650.

When we look at the reports on tourism since that announcement by the then opposition leader and now Premier, we see negative media towards tourism because we have had a seven per cent fall in tourism spend in this state. Nationally it has grown by five per cent, but it has fallen by seven per cent in this state. *The West Australian* of 29 January 2019 states —

A fed-up tourism industry says the McGowan Government must stop the “smoke and mirrors” and urgently spend at least an extra \$130 million to prevent more job losses in the sector.

Hang on a sec. I looked at the media statement and it says that 2 300 jobs will be created by this policy. Two years later, the sector is in absolute dire straits and is looking at job losses, rather than job growth. It continues —

Mr Hall said “it was impossible to over-exaggerate the disastrous state of the industry”.

The CEO of Tourism Council of WA said —

“it was impossible to over-exaggerate the disastrous state of the industry”.

That is the tourism industry. The article continues —

“We are in a crisis,” Mr Hall said. “We’ve seen more than 1200 jobs go in the last financial year and it has become inevitable that hundreds more will follow.”

The \$425 million that was meant to create 2 300 jobs has now turned into 1 200 jobs to go. That is an estimate with many more hundreds to come. That is the tourism policy that we have today. We cannot get a beer in the Pilbara. Karratha cannot be put on a tourism map, and we cannot fly there because the cost of flights is way too expensive. When we look at the tourism portfolio and the strategies of this government, which has now been in office for two years and has made tourism a centrepiece of the government’s platform, we see a disaster. A junior minister is in a senior portfolio. I think that tourism is a senior portfolio these days, because it is absolutely critical. If we have strong regional tourism, we have strong metropolitan tourism. One of the reasons that we cannot grow tourism here in the state is that if we cannot afford to get there, we just do not go. That is the point of reading out those flight costs, because if we cannot afford to go to regional destinations, we just do not go. People cannot fuel their cars to get around regional Western Australia because of the cost of fuel, not to mention the dangers of cattle and wildlife on regional roads.

We have seen one blow after another to the tourism industry. An article titled “Emirates is up and away as the seat battle bites” states —

In another blow to WA tourism, Emirates has announced that it will suspend one of its two daily Perth–Dubai flights.

That is a blow to tourism, when we hear so much about these overseas trips that the Minister for Tourism is taking to get airlines to fly here. I think it is more about getting people to leave WA and go over there, rather than the other way round.

Another article from *The West Australian* is headed “Tourism industry in WA ‘on its knees’ and needs funding boost”. It states —

One of WA’s leading tourism operators says the industry is on its knees and needs urgent funding from the McGowan Government.

Adam Barnard, boss of the Adams tour bus company, said “we are kidding ourselves” if Tourism WA was expected to market the State overseas with its current budget.

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I will go further: transport is vital. If it costs too much to go and see the wonders that Western Australia has to offer in regional Western Australia, people just do not go. We have infrastructure like the tanker jetty in Esperance and the one mile jetty in Carnarvon. Every year, 120 000 people would go to see what the one mile jetty had to offer. The government will not even look at a way forward to try to fix the one mile jetty. I have offered a solution; there is some money there. The government made an election commitment of \$3 million towards a PCYC building in Carnarvon. It does not need a new building, but it needs upgrades to infrastructure. Let us put that couple of million dollars into one mile jetty. The local government wants to knock down the blowhole shacks and it has \$1 million left from when we were in government for that. I say leave the shacks and put the million dollars into one mile jetty. There is \$3 million. I hope that the federal government can step in and throw in a few more million. Suddenly we have ourselves a project—saving tourism in Carnarvon. I say to the Ministers for Heritage and Local Government that there is a solution for one mile jetty. They should come on board, because it will help tourism in Carnarvon and the Gascoyne.

When the government talks about how it has saved the cruise liner industry in Western Australia, I look at Exmouth. Time and again it gears up to get a cruise liner to park in the gulf and get people to come in on tenders. Sometimes there can be a couple of thousand people who come ashore to experience Ningaloo Reef and Exmouth, yet it is obviously predicated on whether the weather is any good, and, more often than not, they cannot get off the ship. The community gears up, spends all this money, sets aside a day or two days, and are then told that the passengers cannot get off the boat and they are continuing on to Geraldton because there is nowhere else on the coast to stop. The government is highlighting how it is saving the cruise liner industry and how it is focusing on Broome, yet Exmouth is a perfect destination to really enhance our tourism industry. When people get off a boat and see what we have to offer, whether it is in Broome, Geraldton or Exmouth, more often than not those people will come back by plane and finish off seeing those areas. It continues tourism forever and a day.

I asked the Minister for Transport question on notice 4411 about a deep water port for Exmouth. The question asked —

- (a) what plans have been developed or feasibility studies completed for the development of a deep water berth in Exmouth, if there are none, when will plans be developed or a feasibility study be undertaken by the State Government; and
- (b) if plans have been developed, what is the time-frame for construction, has any financial assistance from the Federal Government been sought and have any discussions taken place with the cruise liner and tourism industry to seek financial assistance?

[Member's time extended.]

Mr V.A. CATANIA: This was the answer —

- (a) The Gascoyne Development Commission's deep-water wharf project scoping study and the Department of Transport's concept for expansion of the Exmouth Boat Harbour.
- (b) Both investigations concluded that a deep-water wharf is a long-term option with high capital costs. There are no plans for further government investigations into a deep-water berth at this time. There are some private industry proponents considering the feasibility of a deep-water berth at Exmouth.

The State Government is investigating alternative berth options for use by cruise ships and other vessels.

In other words, it is not on the radar.

I asked the same question of the Minister for Tourism, and the answer I got back was —

Please refer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 4411.

That is how seriously the government is taking the cruise liner industry and tourism in Exmouth and Western Australia generally.

As tourism spokesperson for the Nationals WA, I know that tourism and transport are interlinked. If people cannot afford to get there, they just do not go. Tourism is suffering in this state because of the cost of going to regional destinations, where the tourism is. People want to go and see the red dirt. They want to see where we create the world's best wines. They want to see some of the world's best beaches in Esperance. They want to see the camels on Cable Beach. But if they cannot afford to get there, they just do not go. This government said it would conduct a review into regional aviation, which it did, but what has happened? These are the highest prices I have seen in my time in regional WA. The member for Armadale talked about cheap airfares.

Dr A.D. Buti: Cheaper.

Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr Peter Katsambanis; Dr David Honey; Mr Terry Healy; Ms Lisa Baker; Ms Sabine Winton

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Cheaper airfares. Do members know what? People can get cheaper airfares if they book within 24 hours and if they are local. They can get a flight to and from Carnarvon for \$200 or thereabouts, if they book within 24 hours of leaving. How can people plan medical appointments in Perth or anywhere else, or travel as a tourist, if they have to do so only 24 hours in advance? It cannot be done. It is all about being able to make it logistically possible to go and visit these destinations, but also for medical appointments or whatever else people have to come to Perth to do, whether they are in Broome, Carnarvon, Shark Bay or Exmouth. It is just not working. That is why tourism has decreased in this state. The spend has decreased and visitor stays have decreased. Yes, people can come to Perth, and Perth has a lot to offer, but they want to experience a lot more than just Perth. They want to experience the real Western Australia, and they cannot do that because they cannot afford it.

Let us move on and talk about transport and Metronet. I have put a few questions on notice about the cost of Metronet, yet there are still quite a few gaps in the response I got from the Minister for Transport. In question on notice 4406 I asked —

- (a) what is the breakdown of cost for each of the individual Metronet rail projects:
 - (i) Yanchep Rail Extension;
 - (ii) Morley–Ellenbrook;
 - (iii) Byford Extension;

That is something that was talked about in the Darling Range by-election. Does anyone know how much it was proposed the Byford extension would cost? The answer for that particular part was —

- (ii)–(iii) Estimated costs are currently being determined through the planning process.

The question continued, asking about the Forrestfield–Airport Link, Thornlie–Cockburn Link, Midland station project, Karnup station, the railcar program and Bayswater station upgrade. All up, with what is being proposed here—this is just for the rail access; this is not for any land acquisitions or anything that goes into these projects—we are missing the Morley–Ellenbrook costs, the Byford extension costs, Karnup station costs and the railcar program costs. What we are seeing in total, including the others I mentioned, is around \$4.6 billion. I go back to what I have asked in this place before: how much is Metronet going to cost? I think we have a right, as taxpayers, to know how much it is going to cost. If we factor in those missing elements, how many more billions of dollars will that be?

Dr D.J. Honey: Ten.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Exactly right, member for Cottesloe: \$10 billion. That does not take into account the subsidy of Perth transport to the tune of \$1.2 billion. I have heard estimates that it will be another \$1 billion per annum once Metronet is completed, so we could be looking at another \$2.2 billion per annum. I do not begrudge spending money on the rail system in Perth or subsidising Perth transport, but it is coming at the expense of regional transport. Why are we not subsidising our bus, our train or our other form of transport, which is often an aircraft. Why would the government not subsidise to reduce the exorbitant prices that I read out before? Why will the government not look at that?

Dr A.D. Buti: Did you do it? Did you do it when you were in government?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Prices have never been so high. They have been higher under your —

Dr A.D. Buti: Did you do it when you were in government though? Did you subsidise air fares when you were in government?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: We are now proposing these ways in which we can grow tourism, but also attract and retain people in regional Western Australia and enable people in regional WA to seek options for health care. This is given the fact that the government is not building the hospitals that we had money in the budget for and in some cases had already started—projects like Carnarvon aged care, which the government has now canned or cut the budget on, Tom Price Hospital, Paraburdoo nursing post, Meekatharra Hospital, Mt Magnet nursing post, and Laverton Hospital, and the delaying of Newman Hospital. The list goes on, member for Armadale.

We now have headlines like “Is transport off the rails?” because there has been a decline in public transport use, meaning the subsidy will go up. What has kept public transport going is the wonderful Perth Stadium, something that when in opposition the current government criticised left, right and centre. The Labor Party went to the election saying it would not privatise. There was a big campaign, the unions got all up in arms and it was run that the Barnett government was all about privatisation.

Dr D.J. Honey: Asset strippers.

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Mr V.A. CATANIA: Yes. But I do not think we have seen more privatisation occur in the last 20 years than we have with this government!

Mr I.C. Blayney: Since Margaret Thatcher!

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Since Margaret Thatcher!

The sale of PEXA has put \$175 million into Metronet, while things have been cut from regional WA, the cost of regional transport has increased and there has been a decrease in public transport users in Perth. The government has sold off PEXA and put the funds into Metronet—the big black hole. The government needs to be open, accountable and transparent about how much it will cost the taxpayer. The Labor Party went to the election anti-privatisation, but what is coming up? We have the TAB—something the government said it would not sell; now it is selling it. Landgate—something it said it was not going to sell; now it is selling a portion of Landgate. This is unbelievable. But do we hear anything from the unions? One union is standing and saying “Don’t sell Fremantle port”, and that is the Maritime Union of Australia. It is saying to keep Fremantle port, and I agree because it has plenty of capacity. But, more importantly, it is also standing and saying, “Keep jobs in Australia.” It is saying there should be a review of agreements between the state and BHP. Finally the penny is starting to drop with people involved with the Labor Party. I hope the government listens to the MUA because I know the Premier is good friends with the MUA. It is important that the government listens to the unions, because it listened to the unions prior to the election but it has been awfully quiet when it has come to the privatisation occurring at the moment. I think this is the most privatisation that has ever occurred in this state, coupled with the lack of and halt on spending in regional WA. Nearly every regional town is quiet at the moment. Why? Because there is no government spending—nothing at all. It is hurting our economy.

I have touched on some of the portfolios. We have another two years of this government and we will see these backflips. I do not mind a backflip, but there has been bad policy after bad policy. I think a lot of Labor members have what lobsters have in their heads—a bit of mush—when it comes to policy, and not much meat between the tail even. The Leader of the House is loitering, making sure that I do not attack his portfolios.

Members, we have seen the halt of spending in regional WA and the death of royalties for regions. I have mentioned the hospitals and nursing posts that have been stripped from my and adjoining electorates. We cannot fund our tourism attractions like One Mile jetty in Carnarvon and Esperance tanker jetty. Regional towns are suffering at the moment because of no government spending. No wonder the government is reducing debt; it has stopped spending in regional WA. Last year all the marginals were three per cent; I reckon it is now at four per cent. In February 2020, when we come back to Parliament, it will be five —

Mr I.C. Blayney: Six.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Five! I am being conservative, because six will be the election in 2021. This will be a one-term government because it is a mean-spirited government. It has a mean Premier, and regional WA knows that the mean Mark McGowan hates regional WA. It is so true, members. I hope government members do not make regional WA suffer anymore and leave in 2021, because I tell you what: you have lost all the votes in regional Western Australia.

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe) [4.56 pm]: I thank the member for North West Central very much for another excellent dissertation.

We are really beginning to see some familiar patterns with this Labor government, one of which is a complete disregard for the hardship it is causing to a great number of Western Australian families. Another thing we see is a lot of chest beating. I was looking at this fine picture of the Treasurer in *The West Australian* today. He is the strong man of fiscal responsibility; he is the John Worsfold of fiscal responsibility. Then I thought: no, perhaps he is the Vladimir Putin of fiscal responsibility. He is tough and resolute in the face of people suffering hardship. He is the guy pleasing the top end of town by the way he is managing the economy. There has been a lot of chest beating about it.

The reality is that there is no substance to the tough, because the government is not achieving the goals it set. Two things have changed to put this state in a good fiscal position. The first is that Dean Smith, Liberal senator for Western Australia, fought a fantastic battle to get the federal government to agree to a goods and services tax deal for Western Australia. It had nothing whatsoever to do with Labor Party, the Premier or the Treasurer. Dean Smith and his federal Liberal colleagues fought a fantastic battle to get support for this state. The member for Pilbara can delude himself all he likes, but that is the simple truth. That is the simple truth, member for Bunbury. Federal Liberal members, led by Senator Dean Smith—an outstanding senator for Western Australia—delivered that money to the state and you guys have benefited from it. It had nothing to do with fiscal management.

The other thing is the iron ore price. The same article in *The West Australian* states that there has been a \$1 billion boost. The estimate is that up to \$1 billion above forecast will be going into the state government coffers as a result

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of the rise in the iron ore price. When this government came to power, the iron ore price was down to around \$40 a tonne; for about the last year, it sat up closer to \$80 a tonne. We all know about the problems in Brazil, and the spot price is now sitting up around \$120 to \$130 a tonne. That is the difference that has been made to the budget. I am sick and tired of the cheer squad in various parts of the media and so on going on about it. The simple reality is that they are windfalls that have nothing to do with management by this government. They are pure windfalls, and excellent work was done by Senator Dean Smith and federal Liberal members of Parliament for Western Australia. On top of iron ore—I know a bit about the minerals industry, given my previous career—pretty well every commodity is sitting at record high prices and, furthermore, the exchange rate has been sitting down around 72¢ US to the Australian dollar, which is boosting exports, so that is the difference. We can see how the walk meets the talk when we look at the deliverables. One of the hard things the Treasurer did—the “Putin of fiscal responsibility”—was to cut jobs out of the public service, making the hard decisions. He was going to cut 3 000 jobs. It sounds tough, does it not? Where were we by the midyear review? It was 289! There is the iron fist of the Treasurer being brought to bear on those departments, compelling them to save money.

Dr A.D. Buti: How many jobs would you have cut by now?

Dr D.J. HONEY: The member for Armadale should listen to this. The actions of this government have led to hardship. The member for Armadale has told me a lot about hardship in his electorate, but this government has smacked his constituents right between the eyes. It has led to them losing their houses. This government has led to those families—mums and dads—going to bed every night feeling sick in their guts because they cannot pay their utility bills. I was down in the electorate of the member for Armadale talking to the people in the hardship utility grant scheme. Do you know what they told me?

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Have you all had enough now?

Mr D.A. Templeman: They said, “Who are you?”

The ACTING SPEAKER: Leader of the House! There is a blank sheet of calls here, but, Leader of the House, you shall now be the first person on there.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Thank you for your protection, Madam Acting Speaker.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Thank you for your kind remarks, by the way. I liked the letter that you wrote me.

Dr D.J. HONEY: I appreciate excellent members of Parliament. Thank you.

I say to the member for Armadale that I was down his way talking to the people in the HUGS centre. I was back in my old haunt, where I used to go when I was a boy to visit my nanna in Kelmscott.

Dr A.D. Buti: Why didn't you inform me you were going? You don't know courtesy and protocol, do you?

Dr D.J. HONEY: I am not a minister, member, but give me about two years, I reckon. Give me about two years and I may be able to say that. I will have to inform the member in two years' time, maybe.

When I was down talking to the HUGS centre, they told me that they have more people coming to them every day. These are not people who are unemployed—the real strugglers who are doing it tough; these are families in which mum and dad have both got jobs. They cannot pay their utility bills, and they feel they are having to come and beg for support. They feel terrible about it. They are the member for Armadale's voters, and the voters in a number of other seats. A number of members have said that we do not see any significant improvement in the parts of the economy that this government should have control over. We do not see improvements in tourism, or overseas student enrolments. In particular, we do not see it in the domestic retail economy. All the things that a state government should be dealing with are not just flat; they are getting worse and worse. That is the sector that employs all the people and has the greatest impact on the ordinary lives of Western Australians.

It is not all negative. There is one positive to talk about in my electorate. That is the commencement of the cycle path from Grant Street to Fremantle. The member for Fremantle was here. It is great to see that going ahead. It is a great initiative and it will actually save lives and encourage people to use bicycles. That is a real positive, but that is possibly about the end of it in my electorate.

An enormous concern in my electorate, and the western suburbs generally—the electorate of the member for Nedlands in particular—is urban infill. Well-founded concerns are coming to light around Labor's dystopian view of infill. I have heard a number of members opposite make comments about the previous government's amalgamation process, telling us what a terrible thing it was.

Ms C.M. Rowe interjected.

Dr D.J. HONEY: That was a government that listened.

Mark my words: this infill policy will make the council amalgamation issue pale into insignificance. It is not simply about Liberal or western suburbs electorates. I am getting friends all over the metropolitan area, because they have heard my concerns about this, and they are approaching me. They are from Forrestfield. The member for Armadale should go and have a talk with some of his previous voters in Forrestfield. Have a chat to the voters in Bassendean. The workers' friends who live in those beautiful little weatherboard cottages in Bassendean and Bayswater are really worried about the government's infill policy. They are worried that the government is going to destroy the amenity of their area. As I said, I am getting friends all over Perth. People in Applecross have seen what the government has done, destroying a beautiful suburb. The people in Nedlands have seen the government's plans, and the people of Subiaco have seen what happens. This will probably be the death knell of Labor-dominated councils. Not a single Labor member on that council will be re-elected. They will all be thrown off because of the sleazy deals they are doing around infill in Subiaco.

As I have pointed out many times, in fact the western suburbs are doing more than their fair share when it comes to population density. Density is really straightforward: look at the size of the area, look at the number of people, and arrive at an equivalent R-code, which is quite legitimate. It is the number of residents who live in an area divided by the area. In Fremantle, it is close to nine; in South Perth, it is 16; in Bateman, it is 16; in Scarborough, it is 21; in Churchlands, it is 17; and in Nedlands, it is 14. This is Nedlands, where the Minister for Planning lectures the council about not letting people live there, with just on twice the population density of Fremantle, which is the enlightened Labor area, where we have social and high-density housing. In Cottesloe, the density is 11.64. In the whole metropolitan area, the western suburbs have around the highest population density anywhere. They are doing the heavy lifting already, but the government is going to punish them. The Minister for Planning, supported by the member for Perth, who seems to be the cheer squad, will punish them even further.

We do not need the Labor government threatening or bullying councils. That is what the minister is doing. I have a range of press articles here with headings such as "Nedlands local planning scheme to strike the right balance". I will not go through them all, because I have a lot to get through today, but here is one headed "Saffioti slams Subi Nimbys". These "Subi Nimbys" will kick every Labor councillor off that council, and the North Metropolitan Region will be looking good for a fourth upper house seat come the next election. Maybe we will go for five.

Someone who is fighting this issue outside this place is Bret Christian. What an outstanding journalist and defender of the people he is. He got it right in his article headed "Subi keys 'handed over to developers'". That is what is happening; that is what this Labor government is doing—handing over this dreadful development policy to developers. They are their mates—not people in Armadale who cannot pay their bills; not people who are struggling; and not people at Byford who cannot sleep at night because they are so worried about their financial situation with their house prices going down. It is the Labor Party members' developer mates; they have drinks at their special chambers after their party meetings. They are the Labor Party's new friends in this state, not the people it is supposed to support.

We do not need secret council meetings that exclude ratepayers. We need the legitimate concerns of residents to be taken into account. I want to warm to this theme a little. Appropriately, I hear this government talk a lot about consultation. I hear the Minister for Women's Interests, the member for Fremantle, who I know takes her job extremely seriously, talk a lot about the importance of consulting with various women's groups. I hear the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs talk about the importance of taking into account the concerns of residents in Aboriginal communities. However, it appears that people who live in the western suburbs are non-citizens. The Labor government does not consult with them. It does not take any account of their concerns. It lectures them, berates them and belittles them. That is what the minister is doing. It is disgraceful. It is disgraceful that the legitimate concerns of people who live in these areas are not being taken account of by this government and, in particular, by the Minister for Planning.

There are concerns about the heat island effect of large concrete structures and the massive loss of green canopy in their suburbs. Members should have a look at where this infill has occurred. There is not a tree to be seen. I will get this looked into, because I will quantify it for members opposite over time. Tens of thousands of trees, or probably more, have been demolished for massive areas of concrete. Streets have been blocked, causing a massive increase in car traffic and illegal parking. Someone has come up with the bright idea to force people to use public transport, because apparently there is some moral good in that, but they have not been given enough parking spaces, so guess what? They all drive, and they are parking on people's lawns all over the suburbs. People cannot walk down the footpaths in some new developments because there are so many bins there. On bin day, the bins completely block the footpaths. There is no coordination of development. All these developments are occurring as individual things. There is no coordination of the power, water, gas or sewerage supplies. They cannot cope. Guess who is paying for that? Ratepayers and taxpayers are paying massive costs for the brownfield upgrade of that infrastructure. There is completely inappropriate high-rise development. The member who represents Applecross told me recently that a lady who lives in a house there has a 17-metre concrete wall as a boundary fence. That is

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the infill policy of members opposite. I was told that another person has two 17-metre walls as fences. Can members imagine if that was their house? This infill policy is a disgrace. This infill policy will contribute —

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the House, do you want to go home early tonight?

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Armadale, I call you for the first time. I had not even sat down!

Dr D.J. HONEY: This infill policy will be one of the nails in the Labor government's coffin. Executive power does not give it the right to destroy communities for an ideological pursuit to suit its developer friends. As I have said, everyone has a right to be heard, including people who live in suburbs that members opposite do not represent.

I have covered water and utility charges before, but I will go through this again. Power charges are up by 17 per cent and water charges are up by 11.5 per cent. It is a massive tax on families in Western Australia. I understand the need for responsible fiscal management; that is appropriate. I am getting sick and tired of the comparisons with the previous government on this matter.

[Member's time extended.]

Dr D.J. HONEY: The previous government saw a population increase of 500 000 people over its two terms. Guess what? Every area had power, water, sewerage and gas services. Every area had schools and a massive increase in hospital infrastructure. That is what that money was spent on. Less than 2.5 per cent of that money was spent on the headline projects of Perth Stadium and Elizabeth Quay. The money was spent on basic services for a 25 per cent increase in the state's population during the two terms of the previous government. You guys have taken care of that problem. What has happened under this government? Population growth is effectively zero because of its policies, but it does not have that excuse. The previous government had to spend that money. Government needs to have sound fiscal management, but it also has to have a heart. It has to take care of those people who are least able to take care of themselves. Now this government has put families into that category with its massive cost increases.

There has been a massive increase in the price of water. Given the time, I will go through this fairly quickly. I hear numbers from the Economic Regulation Authority. I will tell members what really counts. It is cash flow. I will tell members what the cash flow is from the Water Corporation to government. This is the money from the Water Corporation. The Water Corp does not make money through any means other than charging Perth residents and country residents for water services and for water. That is it. It does not have lotto money or some other means of income. In 2016–17, the total revenue from dividends and this made-up tax equivalent regime was \$1.37 billion, and in 2017 it was \$2.3 billion. That is what water users are being overcharged. The Water Corporation does not get any of its capital money from Treasury. The Water Corporation funds all its own capital. This has nothing to do with a capital offset; this has nothing to do with making provision for depreciation. This is about cold, hard dollars flowing from the water users in this state into the coffers of government. That number tonks along at around the \$2 billion mark. That is the real flow of cash into the coffers of the state. Looking at the offset for regional water users, my good friends and colleagues in the National Party have pointed out very clearly that in the forward estimates, \$320 million of royalties for regions money will be paying for the regional water subsidy. Not even that money will come from the Water Corporation. It is a massive grab. One-third of the royalties for regions money will go purely towards water. That is really just being transferred straight back into consolidated revenue, exactly as the Leader of the National Party said. It is a massive tax on the people of Western Australia.

Small business is a sector that drives employment in our community. It has suffered unsustainable increases in utility costs. It is a double whammy, because if the government belts small business, it destroys small business and guess what? More jobs are lost and it makes it even harder for those people who are doing it tough. We can look at the results. This is a great government! We have seen members pat themselves on the back. We have the superstar Treasurer. He is the darling of the top end of town. Which state has the highest unemployment rate in Australia? It is Western Australia. In December, the rate was 6.3 per cent. Tasmania and South Australia are doing better than Western Australia. That is a shame that this government bears. It has been in office for two years. As my leader pointed out, we are into the third quarter of the game and Western Australia has the highest unemployment rate in Australia—no change.

I thank the Minister for Water, who is doing his best to increase my popularity in regional areas of the state. If it went down to a vote now, I think I would win by a landslide. A paper was floated in August about increases in water licence fees. It was very clear that the great majority of people who hold water licences would pay \$6 668 to renew their water licence. There are other charges, such as bed and bank charges, that also hit users. It is around \$3 300 for a bed and bank permit. It means that if a person wants to put a bridge across a stream to protect the stream, they are going to have to pay \$3 300 for the privilege. It caused absolute outrage and consternation amongst

water users. I have spoken to about 26 different groups over this issue and some other water issues. There is no basis whatsoever for the charges. I spoke to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Do members know what it told me? It said, “We looked at our costs and we looked at the number of licence holders. We divided the cost by the number of licence holders and that gave us what the charge should be for the licence.” That meant that the cost to renew an Ord River Dam licence was the same as the cost for a farmer to renew a dam licence in Margaret River, which is clearly patently ridiculous! Late last year, I saw that the Minister for Water was backing off, and it appears that the fee will be lowered. I hope it is because there was no basis whatsoever for the licence fees that were being proposed.

We can go even further. I will tell members what—I have a tremendous group of friends up in the northern suburbs of Perth. I have always liked the northern suburbs and I can tell members that the people up there like me now. Perhaps I will run for the seat of Wanneroo next. I attended a meeting, as did the member for Wanneroo, of the North Wanneroo Residents Association. I can tell members that they are not too keen on this government, but they have some pretty influential members—I know that much. They are extremely unhappy with the Minister for Water. The truth is that our climate is drying; we all know that. An excellent report put out in July 2015 has an excellent minister’s foreword from the now Leader of the National Party. It outlines the issue and the concerns. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation made it very clear that there needs to be a 25 per cent cut in the allocation of that water if nothing else is done. The key words are “if nothing else is done”. What have we seen? Before the public meeting that I was talking about, suddenly, on the day of the meeting—more than a coincidence, I think—both the Minister for Water and the Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food put out press releases stating, “Problem solved. We are going to have a 10 per cent cut in nine years’ time.” There is a solution! The experts say 25 per cent if we do nothing else, and they are doing nothing else.

Ms S.E. Winton interjected.

Dr D.J. HONEY: No, I have very little time, member. I am happy to talk later. The government has come up with 10 per cent in nine years’ time. What is that doing? Nothing. That is two elections away. The real problem with this —

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

Dr D.J. HONEY: I like this place. I like this place so much, I joined it, minister. The real problem with this —

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

Dr D.J. HONEY: I love all those places, thanks.

Ms S.E. Winton interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo! I am on my feet. If you want to be added to the naughty page, you are headed the right way, thank you.

Dr D.J. HONEY: I will get to a solution, member for Wanneroo. The real problem with this is that it does absolutely —

Ms S.E. Winton interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo, I call you for the first time. Could you please not yell across the chamber. There is a member on his feet. You would want to be respected when you are speaking too. Please give others that respect.

Dr D.J. HONEY: The real problem with this is that it does nothing about the problem whatsoever. We have a drying climate. Several catchments are over-allocated and some water reductions are required if nothing else is done, particularly in Wanneroo, Neerabup, Nowergup and Carabooda. The real problem is that the government has no effective plan in place to deal with it. This is something that I find really disturbing. The simple reality is that 125 gicalitres or 125 billion litres of what is essentially fresh water is pumped out into the ocean every year. Every year, 134 gicalitres is produced of which 10 gicalitres is reused on the Gngangara Mound. Although there is a proposal to use another 10 gicalitres, 114 gicalitres of water will still be chucked back into the ocean. If we used only a small fraction of that water, we could completely mitigate all these losses. There are numerous ways in which to use that water at an extremely low cost—not the costly method that is currently used—to completely solve this problem.

Ms S.E. Winton interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo!

Dr D.J. HONEY: I am happy to talk to the member for Wanneroo afterwards. I have only a few minutes left to deal with other issues. I have so much source material; it is just hard to squeeze it in.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Have you got any friends in Mandurah?

Dr D.J. HONEY: I have all my Alcoa friends in Mandurah, minister—they love me.

I will not go through their releases. The simple fact is that the proper reuse of that recycled water would not only stop these cuts, but allow us to grow an industry. When we talk about environmental issues that we are concerned about such as green miles and when I hear about employment and other issues, I know that water creates jobs, which stops people losing jobs and it stops the destruction of businesses. On the night of that meeting, we heard that some of the landholders have had their land value drop by 50 per cent. That destroys their retirement income.

I will not talk about standpipes. There is an issue going around about standpipes in the country. They are critically important in the bush and the Water Corporation is looking to dramatically increase fees and reduce the rate of water available to farmers, which could have real consequences during a bushfire or other urgent situations.

In summary, the government talks big on fiscal responsibility but it has not delivered. The changes in the budget are through good luck and, as I have said, primarily through commodity prices, not good management. This government does not understand what is going on and it does not like regional Western Australia. I reckon our vote must be about 80 per cent around the bush because the government has systematically gone around and whether it is about live sheep export, horticulture or cuts to schools, it is doing everything in its power to offend and destroy regional communities. It wants to bully people with their ideological drive on urban infill, which again is driving people into our arms. This is the important final part: this government does not care about the people it claims to represent—those poor people who are being absolutely smashed by government charges and fees causing misery and heartbreak, families to break up and homes to be lost. Perhaps this government should remember that the votes from a few elites in the top end of town will not be of much use to them at the next election. Thank you.

MR T.J. HEALY (Southern River) [5.27 pm]: I look forward to rising as the first presenter on this side since the Premier spoke to make a valuable contribution on this debate. I want say a couple of thankyou's first of all to my electorate of Southern River and the families of Canning Vale, Huntingdale, Gosnells and Southern River. I love being their representative in this place. It is an absolute honour for me and I look forward to talking about what I hope is the theme of my speech today: how I will deliver and continue to work hard for my constituents. I would like to thank my family. It is Valentine's Day tomorrow. I will be here in the chamber and not at home with my loved ones, but I would like to thank a couple of special people: my wife, Catherine, who is doing an incredible job raising our two wonderful daughters, Arya and Heaven. I would like to acknowledge my mother, who has been an incredible support to us as we raise our two-and-a-half-year-old and four-month-old. I would like to thank Tammy, Khoza and all those people within our family who really ensure that I can do my job and be here. Of course, I say to all of them and especially my wife, happy Valentine's Day for tomorrow.

A special thankyou to the firefighters from my electorate. There was recently a fire in Forrestdale on the southern border of my electorate, and Southern River and Canning Vale were greatly affected as were the communities of Piara Waters and Harrisdale in the bordering electorates of the members for Jandakot and Armadale. I really want to say thank you to all of the career and volunteer firefighters, the aerial fleet, the choppers and the water bombers who really kept everyone safe.

I was very proud to nominate Tenuun Sanjaadorj, one of my former students, as Gosnells Young Australian of the Year, and I am very proud that he took out that award. It was very well deserved. I congratulate Tenuun and his family, and I look forward to working with him as our youth person of the year in Gosnells.

I would like to thank my staff—Paul, Jacob and Kelly. I think I drive you guys nuts, but you do an incredible job in representing our community.

The Premier's Statement is a very important institution. I want to refer to the very first Premier's Statement that was made in this Parliament. It is interesting that this Parliament has had the institution of a Premier's Statement for only a little more than a decade. The theme that I would like to contribute today is that this government will continue to deliver for all Western Australians. We will do what we say we will do. We will keep our promises. We will work hard to ensure that we have credibility on the core elements of schools, trains, police and hospitals. We will work hard to ensure that people have jobs and financial security and that their families are looked after. We will deliver on those core elements. It does not matter whether we are Labor or Liberal—we need to deliver on the things we say we will do.

The first Premier's Statement was delivered in 2006 by then Premier Hon Alan Carpenter. As members would be aware, the then Procedure and Privileges Committee recommended that at the beginning of every year in which the Parliament had not been prorogued for an election, an opportunity be provided for all members to make a statement to the house outlining their priorities. It was interesting to reflect on Alan Carpenter, a great Premier. When he delivered his Premier's Statement to this house, he had been elected only recently, about a month after the resignation of Geoff Gallop. That was also his first address to the Parliament as Premier. In his statement, he discussed the emerging industries in this state, the skills shortage, the need to reduce apprenticeship terms, and the need for anti-hoon laws. It is interesting that that was also one of the first times that a container deposit scheme had been put to the Parliament. That reflects what has now evolved and was mentioned in the Premier's

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Statement yesterday. He also spoke about how it would be great if the Labor government moved towards adopting an end-of-life-choices plan. What began in the time of Alan Carpenter will be addressed this year in this Parliament.

This is the beginning of the McGowan government's third year in office. It is two years since we were all elected at the March 2017 election. I thought I would draw some parallels with the Premier's Statement of 2010. There are some stark parallels. By the way, I seek to give only positive speeches this year. I do not seek to be negative. I do not seek to be angry towards the opposition. I seek only to speak the truth.

Mr D.A. Templeman: You're a man of love!

Mr T.J. HEALY: Thank you, Leader of the House. The day before Valentine's Day, I do seek to be a man of love!

I would like to read from the Premier's Statement that was delivered by Hon Colin Barnett in February 2010, at the equivalent point to where we are at in this first term of the McGowan Labor government. He said that the government's priority is to protect the state's finances. He said that the government seeks to build confidence and attract investment. He said that the government will continue to hold a disciplined fiscal line. He said that the government has ensured that the state has retained its AAA credit rating. He said that the government will continue to keep a tight rein on the state's finances. He also spoke about local government amalgamations. That was not necessarily achieved. He said that an independent Environmental Protection Authority would be created. That did not really work out when it came to dealing with Roe 8. He said that the new Perth Children's Hospital would be opened in early 2015.

[Quorum formed.]

Mr T.J. HEALY: He said also that the transformation of the training system will involve rebranding and refocusing TAFE. That did not include the TAFE fee increases, so that was a bit of a misleading statement. Hon Colin Barnett was the second Premier of this state to deliver a Premier's Statement. As I have said, it is a very important institution.

I now want to talk about what the McGowan Labor government has delivered and is continuing to deliver locally in the four suburbs in my electorate of Southern River, and about the important work that we will continue to do to ensure that we deliver on our commitments. I am very proud that I have done a fair amount of doorknocking over the past two years. It has been fantastic to talk to families of all ages and get their feedback. I try to doorknock a different suburb every weekend and to be present in my electorate as much as I can. The people in my electorate are not necessarily overflowing with praise, but they are happy that we are building the train lines and the schools, and they are happy that they are seeing their local representative. That is what I seek to continue to deliver.

Earlier today, during question time, the Premier mentioned Southern River College. I was a teacher at Southern River College. One of the main reasons I came to this place was the savage cuts that were made to education during my time at that school. I was, therefore, very proud to stand with the Premier, Mark McGowan, and the Minister for Education and Training, Hon Sue Ellery, at Southern River College for the sod turning for the \$8.4 million new STEM, gym and performing arts facilities that we promised before the election. We promised, and on 31 January we were at Southern River College to deliver on that commitment. It was wonderful to be with the Premier and the minister and to speak with the staff at that sod turning and be able to deliver on that commitment.

I said last year during my speech on the Premier's Statement that this government has started work on removing the speed humps on Gay Street, Huntingdale. We have done the cheque presentations, the sod turning and the construction for that project, and about 80 per cent of those speed humps have now been removed and replaced with chicanes, or roundabouts. The people of Huntingdale and the community of Southern River and surrounds are very pleased to have those chicanes. We are listening to the community and delivering on what the community wants.

Last week, I joined Hon Sue Ellery for the opening of the first of two new primary schools in Southern River. Members would be aware that for 10 years, no new schools were built in the rapidly growing Southern River electorate. Our government promised to build two new schools. The first, Southern Grove Primary School, was opened last Friday and has more than 250 students. During the break, the government also announced that construction of Riverbank Primary School in Southern River will begin in the next couple of years. We are delivering. Construction has begun to the additions to Canning Vale College. An extra 11 or 12 education assistants have started work in half of my schools in Southern River as part of the government's promise to employ 300 additional education assistants. That is wonderful to see. That was also mentioned in the Premier's Statement. The nature playground at Huntingdale Primary School was opened in mid-2018 and the children are having a wonderful time playing on that.

The Direct to Market program, which allows schools to access their local jobs and find local builders and planners, has been delivered and is being used. We are delivering on CCTV at Sutherlands Park, as promised. The Minister for Health has promised an extra maternity ward at Fiona Stanley Hospital. Again, that has a personal connection

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for me. That is where we had my daughter Arya. She was born there in October last year. We did not get to benefit from the new maternity ward, but the focus there on midwifery will be wonderful and beneficial.

The Gosnells Cricket Club extensions are moving to the next phase. We cut the ribbon on the hockey stadium next door late last year. Again, we are delivering on those commitments. The indoor cricket nets will be coming soon. We have extended hours and increased the number of police at Canning Vale Police Station. We have increased the number of police at Gosnells Police Station.

One of the big signature parts is Metronet. We will start construction on two Canning Vale train stations this year—the Nicholson Road and Ranford Road stations—and we will extend the Thornlie line through Canning Vale to Cockburn. We will have new bus routes. This is about connecting my community through long overdue and long-awaited developments in trains. Again, we will start that construction. After all the years of promises that my community has had, the construction will begin.

Mr W.R. Marmion: When will it begin?

Mr T.J. HEALY: The tenders have been put out, as the member for Nedlands would be aware. I think there are two organisations. This is all public information. I can send the member the briefing note afterwards. The tenders will be announced and, like I said, he can come with me and help me shovel that first load of soil as we begin.

We have had incredible Metronet forums and consultations in shopping centres and across the community, asking people about the bus routes and train stations. The Metronet bill passed last year. This is separate from Metronet, but I was very proud to bake cupcakes last year for the seventieth birthday of Seaforth train station. That was probably one of the biggest events in that part of Gosnells. My cupcakes, and the ones that were made by a local cupcake provider, were very, very popular. Again, we are building the train lines and the public transport infrastructure that was long promised and never delivered. It is being delivered by this Labor government.

I refer to the Western Australian Jobs Act passing. We now have a WA industry participation strategy and companies are required to make local participation plans. The Building and Construction Industry Training Fund now applies to mining and that will have an effect on jobs. There are jobs and skills centres in eight regional towns. We opened Albany just the other day, and the Premier met the Albany mayor. We have five centres in the metropolitan area. One is at Thornlie TAFE, for my community. Again, we are delivering on those promises and commitments to jobs. We have a TAFE fee freeze. TAFE fees are frozen at 2016 prices, which is still too high, but it gives certainty to families. We are able to confirm local apprenticeships on local projects. We were able to move all those projects and the funding from Roe 8 into shovel-ready projects, such as Karel Avenue, Armadale Road bridge and others around the community. The member for South Perth discussed how important the Manning Road bridge is and how happy he was that the money went from Roe 8 to that.

We opened Perth Children's Hospital. Both of my children have already accessed those facilities. I am a bit biased, but I am very thankful that we elected a Labor government that could open Perth Children's Hospital safely.

Matagarup Bridge was built locally in Western Australia by local people and delivered. Matagarup Bridge is a beautiful and fantastic thing. Local contractors will be paid.

We delivered a fair share of the GST. For the first time, we were able to secure an agreement and deliver an arrangement.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

Mr T.J. HEALY: The federal government overlooked Western Australia. The member for Dawesville tells us that he was in the Premier's office. He was there and he was never able to secure that arrangement. That a GST deal is coming is an historic achievement. The Premier also discussed this matter: business confidence is returning to Western Australia. The economy is recovering. There is optimism in the economy. There will be a budget surplus ahead of time.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr T.J. HEALY: I would hate to deprive members opposite of the opportunity to hear of the positive things that are happening in all our communities.

The ACTING SPEAKER: They are enjoying it.

Mr T.J. HEALY: As I have learned to be a member of Parliament, it has been wonderful to help my constituents very, very locally. As a result of doorknocking, phoning and consultation in the community, we have been able to consult and help liaise to fix and upgrade many footpaths on main and minor streets around my community. I helped my schools work with the council and linked them to get Kiss 'n' Ride zones repainted. That means so much to all those schools where those systems are now in place. The no standing and the

Kiss ‘n’ Ride zones mean so much. My daughters are not at school yet, but I already know how important and how hectic those processes are. I have been helping two of my schools establish their 40-kilometre-an-hour zones. One is an established school. Another is one of the two schools that are coming on. I have helped with all the crossing guard applications. It has been wonderful to get into the meat and the real work of working with my community. This is not Labor or Liberal, but this is having a wonderful office, community and schools so that we can all work together and achieve.

On schools, I was very proud to visit almost all my schools last year and in 2017. I have almost 16 schools with the borders and the shared schools that we have around. I visited at least 10 or 12 school boards last year and attended P&C meetings. I sat down with those communities and discussed all the things that I have discussed today, and talked about how we will deliver on those aspects.

Bike donations are a very popular aspect when we go to a school and talk about how we are going to deliver on our bike donations to help fundraise for P&Cs. It is always very, very positive. Bike Force Southern River and Jet Cycles in Gosnells are the two providers. It is also great to support that local jobs initiative. Bringing student councillors in for lunches really helps to work with the students. To be a bit naive, I miss my students. I was back at Southern River College the other day and I said, “I miss my students. I’m not sure whether any of my students miss me!” Although sometimes it is like working with toddlers, but I do miss working with young people and teaching in the same capacity day in, day out. Banging my head against the wall continues in some aspects of this job. It is wonderful to work with the student councillors when they come in for their student lunches. I love to work with schools and the community. I love that youth work. That aspect of the job is wonderful.

I have also been working with my deputy member of Parliament, my daughter, Heaven. She attended, I think, 10 graduation ceremonies with me in December last year.

Ms L.L. Baker: That is child abuse. We have to be careful with that one.

Mr T.J. HEALY: She has been enjoying it. She was asleep on my shoulder for half of them. Heaven Chakulunta-Healy has been a wonderful accompaniment. She has also been my little parks ambassador. Each week we have been visiting different parks and slides in each of the four suburbs of Gosnells, Huntingdale, Canning Vale and Southern River. We have been doing a bit of a playground audit. My daughter gets to play on the slide and we get to work out whether it is good for a toddler to climb. As a result, we have been able to report to the council when there has been graffiti on the slides. In Huntingdale, we recently did a big mail-out for the fact that we were able to remove a large number of offensive texta graffiti on a bunch of the slides. We let the council know when the rubber matting needs to be replaced, the shade sails need to be upgraded, the slides need to be polished and the sand needs a bit of a cleanse. Again, the council does these things when we ask, but it should not be that way. I have found that sometimes when a member of the public raises it, it does not happen as fast. After our playground audits, I send an email—after Heaven has had her slide and played with the toys and all those aspects—and we have been able to clean up parts of that process and ensure that parks are better maintained. I certainly appreciate working with the council in delivering on that.

The Premier mentioned that this year we will have a discussion when the euthanasia, dying with dignity or end-of-life choices legislation will be presented. I thought what the Premier said was very significant: this will be a significant debate and it will be tough. I thought what he said was very wise. He asked us all to be brave and to be kind. I am not 100 per cent decided; I think people should have a choice with what they seek to do with their own lives, but I want to see the detail, and there are a lot of grey areas in this. I think it will be a very unique approach to legislation and a very tough debate to have. I echo what the Premier said: for us to be brave and to be kind.

I would like to bring my comments to a close and reiterate some of the things the Premier said in his Premier’s Statement. Again, this is not about Labor or Liberal, although this is certainly what Labor governments do. I quote the Premier from his uncorrected speech —

Government is more than the delivery of election commitments and solving problems of the day.

...

Government is a unique institution in society, which has both the capacity and the drive to make our state a better place to live for everyone, no matter where they start in life. The great objective—the betterment of our society—requires more than our intentions and words. It requires our actions, efforts, and dedication.

If we acknowledge that government is the coming together of a number of representatives to pool taxpayer funds to make the community better in a number of areas, I think that is a very good reminder for all of us to ensure that, as a state government, we deliver on the key services—schools, hospitals, public infrastructure, roads and trains; the key services that people rely on.

It is an absolute honour to stand in this place and be a representative who can deliver on items and aspects of people's lives that are so important to them. Again, to my community and to all of Western Australia: this government will continue to deliver for all Western Australians. We will continue to deliver on our promises, we will continue to listen. We will do what we said we would do for schools, infrastructure and hospitals. We will deliver on our promises and do what we say we will do. We will keep working hard for you. Thank you very much.

MS L.L. BAKER (Maylands — Deputy Speaker) [5.52 pm]: Last year at this time when I stood to address the Parliament I raised the subject of clean meat. It is sometimes quite interesting in this house to try to work out if anybody is actually listening to what one says. I am very pleased to say that in the very last speech given last year—almost 12 months after I gave my clean meat speech—a farmer, the member for Geraldton, raised the subject of the rapidly developing meat substitute industry, which is drawing massive investment from the likes of Branson and Gates in America and other countries.

Today, however, I want to address issues that the Premier raised in his statement—the issues of climate change and health. I want to start by saying that climate change is one of a relatively small number of environmental issues that are common across all countries, states, towns and precincts on the globe. A report put out by the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO last year tracked the changes in Australia's climate and included the latest monitoring, science and projection information available. These are changes that may affect many Australians, particularly the changes associated with increases in the frequency or intensity of heat events, fire and drought. My speech today is given in the very grave context of the last 12 months, during which we have had massive problems with drought in the eastern states and loss of livestock through that drought. Over the last few weeks we have seen not only drought but also unprecedented deaths of farm animals in Queensland through flooding.

Australia's climate has warmed by just over one degree since 1910, leading to an increase in the frequency of extreme heat events. Oceans around the world have also warmed by about one degree since 1910, contributing to longer and more frequent marine heatwaves. Sea levels are rising around Australia and our oceans are acidifying. There has been a long-term increase in extreme fire weather, and in the length of the fire season across large parts of Australia. Believe me, if you live in the state in Western Australia and deal with fire every year and the dreadful effects it has, you will be very aware of the increase in fire events.

Looking ahead, Australia is predicted to experience further increases in sea and air temperatures, with more hot days and marine heatwaves, and fewer cool extremes. There will be further sea level rise and ocean acidification, and decreases in rainfall across southern Australia, with more time in drought, but an increase in intense heavy rainfall events throughout Australia. According to that report, climate change will continue in the decades ahead, superimposed on natural variability. Changes in climate, particularly in weather and climate extremes, can have a very significant impact on our environment and wellbeing, including on ecosystems, agriculture and the built environment.

We have been looking long and hard at some of the more obvious culprits—namely coal and gas—for a long time, but there is definitely an elephant in this debating room, and I turn members' attention to it: the impact of food production and the livestock industry on greenhouse gas emissions, climate change and health. Meat has been and continues to be excluded from most public policy debates about climate change. I suspect we all know why: it is highly sensitive. We live in a meat-eating culture and we have made a lot of money out of breeding animals and feeding the world. It is a tricky subject, but if we do not address this, climate change will continue.

According to Dr Tara Garnett in the journal *Environmental Science & Policy*, the level of greenhouse gas emissions from food production is on the same level as that of the transport industry. Methane and nitrous oxide concentrations, originating mostly from agriculture, have increased by 150 per cent and 20 per cent respectively since 1750.

Clearly, we have to adapt to some level of climate change, and clearly we have to do so quickly in Australia. Australian researcher Celia Green and her team wrote a paper "The Greenhouse Gas Emissions of Various Dietary Practices and Intervention Possibilities to Reduce This Impact". It is a big title, and I am not going to say it again; members will have to read it in *Hansard*. According to this study, animal products produce the greatest amount of greenhouse gas emissions compared with other food types. It therefore logically follows that reducing animal food production has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A large amount of natural resources, such as land, minerals, water and energy, are used in the production and consumption of food, all of which generate significant greenhouse gas emissions. According to that paper, of all the food-generated greenhouse gas emissions, livestock is responsible for about half. Cattle and sheep are the largest contributors of anthropogenic methane—meaning methane caused by human activity—due to their complex, four-chambered stomachs. The dairy industry also contributes to emissions, mostly methane, and mostly occurring in primary production, although this can increase with further production, such as the production of cheese and yoghurt. According to the paper, most emissions occur at the farm stage, followed by fertiliser production, packaging, transport and waste disposal. Significantly fewer emissions are generated from the production of vegetables and grains, and these come from

Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr Peter Katsambanis; Dr David Honey; Mr Terry Healy; Ms Lisa Baker; Ms Sabine Winton

the power used for irrigation, processing and packaging. All these pressures will grow as the global demand for food and meat increases.

Robert Goodland from World Bank has since passed away, but he wrote —

The gravest environmental impact of food production is the impact of its greenhouse gas emissions; that's because of the uniquely diverse, unprecedented, and irreversible risks that it involves. According to the International Energy Agency, atmospheric carbon must be reduced significantly by 2020 or else the world may not be able to avert uncontrollable climate change.

Mr Goodland states —

... the only pragmatic way to reverse climate change before it is too late is to replace a substantial amount of today's livestock products with better alternatives.

He estimated that the life cycle and supply chain of products from farm animals generally referred to as "livestock" are responsible for at least 51 per cent of human-induced greenhouse gases. Greenhouse reduction measures conventionally include the replacement of fossil fuel infrastructure with renewable energy infrastructure, effectively swapping coal stations for wind farms. However, as we know, this is a long and complex process. Quick and large-scale action could be taken with the right impetus in the food, agriculture and forestry industries. What if we replaced a substantial amount of our livestock production with alternative, plant-based nutrients for human consumption? That would free up a vast amount of land to allow for reforestation. Growing more trees would help to draw atmospheric carbon down to earth.

According to my notes, Goodland states —

The effect of this would be so enormous that it could actually be the only pragmatic way to reverse climate change. That's because livestock and feed production are estimated to occupy 45 per cent of all land on earth.

That is nearly half the land mass of the globe. In my opinion, the priority for government should be to provide incentives for reforesting a significant amount of that 45 per cent of the land mass on earth that is currently under livestock or feed production use. Carbon dioxide from livestock exceeds globally eight gigatonnes a year—eight times the volume produced from human respiration. Pastoralists impacted by climate events like drought or flood, such as we have seen with the dreadful conditions I mentioned at the start of my presentation, could be assisted, and should be supported to get involved in alternative sustainable livelihoods like reforestation. According to Goodland, reforestation could be a huge source of sustainable employment with jobs in seed collection, planting nurseries, fire prevention and conservation, to name but a few.

It is only fairly recently that the climate impact of livestock rearing and the nutritional and health issues related to meat consumption have become a health concern. I paraphrase from *The Lancet*, and those who know *The Lancet* know it is not generally acknowledged to be a left-wing radical driver of change; it is pretty conservative. This was from 24 November last year. Let us talk about diet. Government efforts to curb consumption and weight gain in high-income countries are yet to deliver any meaningful results. Most of them are based on sugar and fat. Similarly, the global ecological sustainability of farming has only just become a major topic of conversation and research. A UK study with 65 000 participants carried out in 2014 looked at diets broken into six categories—high, medium and low meat eaters, fish eaters, vegetarians and vegans. The study showed that greenhouse gas emissions were highest for the high-meat-eating men and lowest for vegan women. That is not me—just saying. The average values for dietary greenhouse gas emissions for meat eaters were 52 per cent higher compared with vegetarians, and 100 per cent higher than vegans. Modelling a future scenario shows the current consumption patterns are unsustainable, and that a reduction in livestock rather than replacing with intensive farming is an important element in achieving food security.

Meat production affects the ecosystem, with the production of GHGs. Additionally, studies now question the systems of production's direct effect on global freshwater use, change in land use and ocean acidification. A recent paper in *Science* claims that even the lowest impact meat causes much more of environmental impact than the least sustainable form of plant vegetable production. Population pressures with global population set to increase by one-third between 2010 and 2050 effectively push this world past breaking point in food security. Therefore, food security must be a key focus for everyone in this room, everyone in this government and everyone in Australia.

Mr P.J. Rundle: There won't be any farmers left.

Ms L.L. BAKER: There will be. I have gone through that, member for Roe. There will be a definite need for farming.

The general public is becoming better educated about the health consequences and environmental costs of different diets. I was talking with the member for Mirrabooka earlier about the Education and Health Standing Committee's research into type 2 diabetes. She informed me that it is estimated that 1 million Australian adults—about five per cent of the population—had type 2 in 2014–15 according to self-reported data in the Australian Bureau of Statistics' national health survey. I referred the member and her committee to a document sourced on pages 133, 134 and 135

of the *Impact of Meat Consumption on Health and Environmental Sustainability*—a book I have if the committee wants to have a look at it. At least 25 studies have been published assessing the relationship between meat intake and type 2 diabetes risk, with the majority showing a positive association. That is not a direct causal impact, but it is a positive association between red and/or processed meat intakes. I wanted to put that on the record because I think her committee is doing some very important work in that area and I wanted to make sure that that was brought to its attention.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms L.L. BAKER: I quote —

The EAT–Lancet Commission is the first of a series of initiatives on nutrition led by *The Lancet* in 2019, followed by the Commission on the Global Syndemic of obesity, undernutrition, and climate change.

That is very current; we have only been in 2019 for a few weeks, remember. I quote from the executive summary from the EAT–Lancet Commission —

Food systems have the potential to nurture human health and support environmental sustainability, however our current trajectories threaten both. The EAT–Lancet Commission addresses the need to feed a growing global population a healthy diet while also defining sustainable food systems that will minimise damage to our planet.

The Commission quantitatively describes a universal healthy reference diet, based on an increase in consumption of healthy foods (such as vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, and nuts), and a decrease in consumption of unhealthy foods (such as red meat, sugar, and refined grains) that would provide major health benefits, and also increase the likelihood of attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

If I have time I will refer to the planetary health diet because I think it is quite interesting to see exactly what is said about it.

The Dutch researcher Hans Dagevos posed the question: are consumers part of the solution by making transitions towards more sustainable consumption patterns in general and less meat-centric diets specifically? Personally, I think governments have a role to play, as do each of us as individuals. We can set examples by limiting our consumption of intensively farmed meat for human health and for global environment, as well as animal welfare reasons. Programs like Meat-free Monday are a really good start in changing behaviours. Many people in developed countries are supporting calls for a tax on red or processed meat. Personally, I doubt that on its own will deliver the change required without unduly impacting on low-income consumers. Suggesting that those who cannot afford meat should automatically become vegetarians is not a balanced response to solving the problem we face from meat consumption.

In Australia we have a meat-centred food culture. Meat dominates restaurants and all menus, whether at fast-food or high-end restaurants. I note that one of the hamburger chains is publicising vegan burgers now. I am not sure what I think about that. It is probably a good thing.

Mr D.R. Michael: They are very nice!

Ms L.L. BAKER: They are very nice? Thank you, member!

Consumer efforts to reduce meat intake include something called a flexitarian diet, which is a style of eating that encourages mostly plant-based foods but allows meat and other animal products in moderation, replacing meat portion size, replacing meat with plant-based alternatives, replacing red meat with more environmentally friendly meat or organic free-range meat. Researchers have identified stronger strategies, including the change and modification of one's eating behaviour, and adopting something such as the slow-food movement or else a vegetarian or vegan diet. Slow food is an international movement. Its website states that it was founded in 1989 to prevent the disappearance of local food cultures and traditions, counteract the rise of the fast life and combat people's dwindling interest in the food they eat, where it comes from, and how our food choices affect the world around us. It is a great movement that has been alive and well in Australia for a while now. Are these small steps enough? Hans Dagevos said —

As long as meat takes a central role in our food culture where meat eating is the norm, is promoted in numerous ways, and, last but not least, is widely available at very low prices, it is realistic to maintain modest expectations for a general breakthrough of “strong” flexitarian food styles.

In my opinion, we need to have a public conversation about the impacts of meat consumption. As it progresses, this conversation should inform how our government plans and applies farming subsidies and the search to ameliorate the true costs to humans, animals and this planet of certain processing methods, all the way through to

changing consumer habits. I want to refer back to the new plant-focused diet called the planetary health diet, which I referred to earlier. I quote from an article that was published in *The Guardian* on 17 January. It reads —

The first science-based diet that tackles both the poor food eaten by billions of people and averts global environmental catastrophe has been devised. It requires huge cuts in red meat-eating in western countries and radical changes across the world.

The “planetary health diet” was created by an international commission seeking to draw up guidelines that provide nutritious food to the world’s fast-growing population. At the same time, the diet addresses the major role of farming—especially livestock—in driving climate change, the destruction of wildlife and the pollution of rivers and oceans.

Globally, the diet requires red meat and sugar consumption to be cut by half, while vegetables, fruit, pulses and nuts must double ... North Americans need to eat 84% less red meat but six times more beans and lentils. For Europeans, eating 77% less red meat and 15 times more nuts and seeds meets the guidelines.

The diet is a “win-win”, according to the scientists, as it would save at least 11 million people a year from deaths caused by unhealthy food, while preventing the collapse of the natural world that humanity depends upon. With 10 billion people expected to live on Earth by 2050, a continuation of today’s unsustainable diets would inevitably mean even greater health problems and severe global warming.

Unhealthy diets are the leading cause of ill health worldwide, with 800 million people currently hungry, 2 billion malnourished and further 2 billion people overweight or obese. The world’s science academies recently concluded that the food system is broken. Industrial agriculture is also devastating the environment, as forests are razed and billions of cattle emit climate-warming methane.

“The world’s diets must change dramatically,” said Walter Willett at Harvard University and one of the leaders of the commission convened by the *Lancet* medical journal and the Eat Forum NGO.

That is a quick précis of the planetary health diet. Some of the papers discussed today were found in the reference book *Impact of Meat Consumption on Health and Environmental Sustainability*, put together by Curtin University’s Talia Raphaely and Dora Marinova. The pair open the book with a simple quote —

To our children, their children and all future children. Thank you for lending us your world.

I will end my contribution with a quote from an article published in the *Lancet* on 24 November 2018 —

So what is a healthy amount of red or processed meat? It’s looking increasingly like the answer, for both the planet and the individual, is very little. The conversation has to start soon.

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo) [6.14 pm]: I, too, rise to make a contribution to debate on the Premier’s Statement tonight, during prime time television. I am excited. As we come up to the halfway mark of this Mark McGowan Labor government, it is fitting and appropriate that I offer my assessment of our achievements as a government so far, in particular in the context of what those achievements mean for Wanneroo, the electorate I proudly represent. I want to take this opportunity to remind the house of some of the commitments that I have made and delivered into Wanneroo, and to outline some of the priorities for the second half of our term of office, and how I will continue to listen and to deliver for the people in my electorate. At the halfway point of my four-year term as the member for Wanneroo, it is also a good time to reflect on and share my experience. The questions I am asked most often are: What is it like being a member of Parliament? Are you enjoying it? Is it what you thought it would be? I am sure other members get asked the same questions. There is no doubt that this place is intoxicating, and sometimes, particularly when we have to listen to some of the speeches made in this place, it can be excruciating. I am very privileged and honoured to be in this position, and I never take it for granted for a moment. One can be easily swept away, become distracted and perhaps run the risk of becoming arrogant and complacent, but I assure members that I do not.

There are three key parts to my role as a member of Parliament, and they are not often understood. First of all, we are legislators in this place. We make new laws, and we make old laws better. That is a great contradiction in being here, because what we do here in Parliament is not well known by voters generally.

Mr Acting Speaker, I am being a bit distracted by the two members on my right here.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr R.S. Love): Sorry, I did not realise. Member for Roe, and your mate, could you perhaps keep it down a bit? The member for Wanneroo is trying to make a contribution.

Ms S. WINTON: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 13 February 2019]

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Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr Peter Katsambanis; Dr David Honey; Mr Terry Healy; Ms Lisa Baker; Ms Sabine Winton

Not many people know the hours that we work here, and our work here at times seems detached and irrelevant to many people in Wanneroo. My voters are concerned about their own daily lives, getting their kids to school, making sure they have jobs, and worrying about the cost of living and living safely in their neighbourhoods. They certainly switch off from the theatre, the drama and the one-upmanship that is sometimes displayed in this place. Many of our voters are disengaged, which is frustrating, because as a result not enough people know what we do here, despite the fact that the decisions we make here have a significant impact on people's lives. No-one really knows what we do here, or how we do it. As an educator, this is of great concern to me. It is probably no surprise, then, given that I was a schoolteacher for 27 years before entering this place, that I have particularly embraced the part of my job as a member of Parliament that allows me to engage with students. Knowledge is power, and it seems to me that the more people who understand how one gets the privilege to be here, the more people who understand how we make laws in this place, the more eyes will be upon this place and the better we might perform. We might even behave ourselves a little better.

I love my schools, and my students visiting me in this place. In fact, I am looking forward to the year 5 students from Hocking Primary School coming to visit Parliament on Friday to kick off the parliamentary year of school visits that I will enjoy this year. I love sharing this incredible place with students, and I will continue to passionately support my schools and teachers to promote civics education and democracy education, so that the next generation will seek to be more actively involved and informed in the decision-making process that affects us all. I have also taken the opportunity, as a registered teacher, to go into classrooms in my schools in Wanneroo to get back to basics and do some teaching. It keeps me grounded and connected to students and schools, and the wonderful and inspiring work they all do, and it allows me to understand how I can support teachers and parents and advocate for them, not only on the floor of this Parliament, but within my government.

Many members know that in the last 10 years before entering Parliament, I was with the primary extension and challenge program for primary school-age gifted and talented students. The PEAC program is a longstanding, highly respected and successful education program that provides support for gifted and talented students to work with like-minded peers. I am passionate about advocating for the special needs of our brightest students and ensuring that we support those students to reach their true potential. Getting back to PEAC teaching, last year I collaborated with my PEAC colleague Kirsteen McCrory in planning and delivering the PEAC course called PEAC parliamentarians, in which we used this inspiring chamber and this magnificent Parliament House as a classroom for 10 weeks. The students had to reach out to their local state member of Parliament and complete a research assignment about their local member. I know that those members from both sides of the chamber who were involved were impressed with the capacity of these students. They chose issues to pursue and spoke to them in this place, shining a light on a huge range of important issues to young people, ranging from child poverty and advocating for agricultural learning in schools to euthanasia. I thank the members for Balcatta, Swan Hills, Kingsley, Joondalup, Cottesloe, Carine and Scarborough and the Minister for Transport for supporting it. I know the students really valued their great contributions. They are exceptional students. I will continue to promote talent and potential in our students and I look forward to extending the opportunity again this year.

The Premier emphasised the need to diversify our economy. Our government has a clear plan for innovation and creativity. We are creating jobs in the science and innovation industry, which are the jobs of the future. These students I have just talked about will be ready to take these jobs of the future. We must continue to invest in our smartest and most creative people. I look forward to the youth Parliament being held in Parliament later on in the year. It is a great program for our future leaders.

As I said, a key role is the legislative work that we do. The Premier reminded us yesterday that we have tabled 91 pieces of legislation and 85 have passed. I mentioned that what we do here is important and the laws that we make impact on people's lives. Some of the highlights of our legislative agenda for me include our legislation around economic reforms and getting our finances back on track after a Liberal government left us with forty thousand million dollars of debt. Our Western Australian Jobs Act is important, as is our industry participation strategy, to ensure that government spending creates opportunities for local businesses and WA jobs.

We are driving an environment agenda. Many members have already mentioned the container deposit scheme legislation that is due to be debated in this place. It will ensure that consumers can take empty beverage containers to a refund point, providing incentives to return these containers. This program of legislation is important because it will reduce the waste going to landfill, encourage recycling and, very importantly, provide opportunities for an income for local community groups.

Our social reforms have been significant. We know that the member for Maylands is a champion of the animal welfare reforms that we are driving. The Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement Bill has finally righted a terrible wrong. The Civil Liability Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Bill has removed the time-limit barrier, allowing survivors of child sex abuse to seek justice and compensation regardless of how many years ago the abuse happened. "Charlotte's Law" will ensure that killer drivers face tougher penalties. Our work on the

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Criminal Law Amendment (Intimate Images) Bill is important and a priority for many parents like me. Importantly, we have criminalised the non-consensual distribution of intimate images, commonly known as revenge porn.

I am very proud of our legislative achievements so far. As much as I reflect on those, I am also energised by the legislative agenda to come. In particular—I note that some members have already mentioned this—I want to highlight a very important piece of legislation that will be introduced this year. Of course, we have delivered the report of the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices and, as a result, later this year we will introduce legislation on this important issue. This is really important to me because it will mean that conviction politics can flourish as we debate respectfully but with passion what the majority of Western Australians who want the right to make a choice at the end of life expect us to do—be courageous and fearless in Parliament. The Mark McGowan Labor government will, through its record of social legislative reform in the next two years, prove to be that government. I am thrilled to be a member of such a government.

My legislative role as an MP is important, but I know it is all about community. To that end, it is important that we listen to and consult with our community. I am proud to be hosting an end-of-life choices forum in Wanneroo in March. Guest speakers will be the member for Morley, Amber-Jade Sanderson, who was the chair of the select committee, and Hon Alannah MacTiernan, a member for North Metropolitan Region. I look forward to hearing what members of my community have to say about this important issue. It is important that we link the work and decisions of Parliament and government to our electorates.

I am pretty proud of the way that I have achieved this. Of course, it is important to connect my electorate with the ministers in this government. It is important that ministers in our government visit my electorate not just during election time, but during our term of office so that they better understand the needs of Wanneroo and so that I can better advocate for Wanneroo. I take this opportunity to highlight to the house the ministers who have come to Wanneroo in the less than two years we have been in government. In fact, the Premier and the Minister for Tourism were in Wanneroo on Friday night. It was fantastic to see the support for Wanneroo by the Premier and the ministers. Prior to that, on 1 February the Premier was in town to celebrate a local commitment for the Kingsway netball court upgrades. He has had numerous visits to Wanneroo in the past two years. I have hosted the Minister for Sport and Recreation at Barbagallo Raceway. The Minister for Environment has been to Sinagra to talk about recycling. The Treasurer has visited local shopping centres. The Minister for Water has visited Lake Joondalup. We have seen the Minister for Local Government tread the boards at Limelight Theatre and consider a local commitment to upgrade the theatre. The Minister for Transport has made numerous visits to acknowledge and support the three key infrastructure projects that are being delivered in Wanneroo: the overpasses at Joondalup Drive and Ocean Reef Road and the dualling of the last bit of Wanneroo Road. The Minister for Education and Training has visited schools in Wanneroo on numerous occasions. The Minister for Veterans Issues has visited the Wanneroo RSL. The Attorney General is very often in the electorate of Wanneroo. The Minister for Health has made numerous visits to Joondalup Health Campus to talk about the delivery of our election commitments. The Minister for Agriculture and Food has also made numerous visits to Wanneroo, including to the last two Wanneroo Shows, which has never happened before. I thank my ministers for their continued interest in the northern suburbs, and particularly Wanneroo. I look forward to hosting them on many more occasions.

I also want to highlight a few local commitments that I have delivered to Wanneroo. In particular, the building of a brand-new \$5 million gymnasium at Wanneroo Secondary College is progressing really well. In fact, I met with the principal, Pauline White, earlier this week and she showed me the architectural drawings. Work is progressing well on that important part of the school, from which I graduated.

I want to share with the house another local commitment that has been delivered that is particularly important to me. During the election we committed to upgrade the undercover area at Tapping Primary School, and that has now been delivered. It was my great pleasure to be invited to a whole-of-school assembly to celebrate the opening of the new undercover area. Although that might not sound particularly significant to many people, any parent, student or teacher at a school will know that not many schools can have their entire school community gather in one place, under one roof. Tapping Primary School can now proudly have its entire school community in one place at the same time. That means that siblings can watch each other get merit awards and school musicals can be held at the school, as was done with *Madagascar* at the end of last year, rather than running the production off site. I am really proud that Tapping Primary School has been able to achieve that and that I have delivered on that key election commitment.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Well done, member; that is excellent.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Thank you, member for Mandurah. Of course, I mentioned that the Premier was in Wanneroo on Friday, having a chat with the committee of the Wanneroo Districts Netball Association because the netball change rooms at the Kingsway netball centre, the home of the mighty Wanneroo netball association, are finally getting an upgrade, and thousands of girls and women who use this facility will now be able to have change rooms

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and toilets reflective of the number of girls who use them. Those toilets have not been upgraded in 40 years since I played there as a girl. I petitioned for this upgrade during an election campaign and I am very proud that the work is about to start. It was great to see the Premier there and I look forward to him coming back when the project is completed.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms S.E. WINTON: As I previously said, we are delivering on our key infrastructure projects and they are well underway. These projects represent in excess of \$146 million worth of investment generating over 800 jobs. Community is the heart and soul of my electorate and I am blessed to work with so many wonderful groups providing great services in our community. Tonight I want to especially acknowledge the Wanneroo Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade that continues to do an extraordinary job keeping my community safe during this high bushfire-risk season. It has spent hundreds of volunteer hours making sure that we are safe and their work is exceptional.

I see three key roles to being a member of Parliament: the legislative role, which I have talked about briefly, the community representative role, and also, very importantly, the advocate role. This has been the most rewarding part of my role. I love the reputation that my office and staff have for advocating and supporting my residents with their various issues and problems. I love advocating here in this chamber or with my ministers or agencies on behalf of the interests of Wanneroo and its residents, businesses and industries. That is my job.

I would like to take the rest of this time to report back to this house on one of my key election commitments with regard to the north Wanneroo agricultural industry. I am very proud that this Mark McGowan Labor government is truly a government that listens and works collaboratively and holistically to deliver on our election commitments. I will give members a specific example of how we are doing that. I am sorry that the north Wanneroo growers were given empty promises and left hanging for eight long years when the mob opposite were in government. Wanneroo produces 38 per cent of the total agricultural production in the Perth area. On many occasions in this chamber, I have let members know how important Wanneroo is as an agricultural production area. In 2015–16, more than 100 horticultural growers employed more than 1 000 people. This local agrifood industry is a vital employer with a bright future in creating more jobs, but there have been longstanding challenges for agriculture in north Wanneroo. I have lived smack in the middle of Nowergup for a very long time so I kind of know what I am talking about here. I am not a Johnny-come-lately picking up this issue right now. I have lived and breathed these issues and seen the promises and false starts made in this region for a very long time. I want to provide a bit of context for the election commitment that the government made to establish a North Wanneroo Agriculture and Water Taskforce. I remember very clearly, and so do a lot of residents in Nowergup, Carabooda and Neerabup, the work undertaken by the previous Labor government under the direction of the then Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Hon Alannah MacTiernan, and the local member, Di Guise. The “Future of East Wanneroo” document was a significant piece of work that recognised the declining water supplies due to a drying climate and the increasing overuse and pressure on the Gnangara Mound. That work was done in 2007 by the previous Labor government. It is quite clear what the recommendations in that document were. The reality is that this work was done back then, and then we had eight and a half years of a Liberal government that completely ignored this work. Members can talk to people about it but that is the actual truth. I found it interesting before when the member for Cottesloe had a bit of a go at the state government's progress in this area given that we have had less than two years to have a crack at trying to solve this problem and the previous government had eight years and did nothing. The recommendations in the “Future of East Wanneroo” document were abundantly clear and offered solutions to the competing demands of groundwater. Again I repeat that the opposition, when in government, did nothing. I have to clarify that because in 2016 the previous Liberal government announced that it would make 25 per cent cuts to the water licence of local growers. That was the Liberal government's announcement in 2016 after it had been in government for eight years. When opposition members were in government, their solution to the growers in north Wanneroo was to cut their licences by 25 per cent after having had eight years to do something about it and doing nothing. The opposition's shadow Minister for Water has been really enthusiastic in coming up to Wanneroo. I wish he was in government back then because then maybe something would have happened. The enthusiasm he shows was really lacking in the previous Liberal government. It is a shame he was not recruited earlier.

At the last minute when the wheels had well and truly fallen off the Barnett government, it rolled into town and said it would make 25 per cent cuts. I need to clarify that. They did not roll into town. The bureaucrats came to Wanneroo tavern in 2016, but no minister came.

Mr S.K. L'Estrange interjected.

Ms S.E. WINTON: I notice that the member for Bateman was the Minister for Agriculture and Food at the time, but he had only six months in the job. His achievement was to announce the 25 per cent cuts.

Mr S.K. L'Estrange: The member for Bateman was not the agriculture minister.

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Ms S.E. WINTON: Yes, he was. I think the member will find that he was. There was a grievance that the previous member for Wanneroo made when the member for Bateman was the agricultural minister for six short months. It was such a short time that the member probably does not remember it, but that was his claim to fame. He also announced that he would put a task force together and the previous member for Wanneroo, Paul Miles, three months before the election said, “I will put a task force together. We’ll sort this out. These 25 per cent water cuts are outrageous.” He convened a task force. There were three short meetings. The previous member did not attend any of them and these were the recommendations—flippy, floppy, fluffy motherhood statements about how they were going to solve the problem for Wanneroo. Members should read it.

Mr S.K. L’Estrange interjected.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Would you like me to read them out because they are very fluffy. They offered no certainty and no solutions for Wanneroo—they were fluffy. In fact, the member for Wanneroo at the time, Paul Miles, said in his media statement back then, “I am extremely concerned. I am currently in talks with the Minister for Water. The state government could simply pump the recycled water back to the growers in Neerabup, Nowergup and Carabooda.” But that is what we suggested we should try to do in 2008. Members opposite had eight years to do it. It was so simple but they did not do it! It is really quite incredible that we have this wonderful, enthusiastic shadow Minister for Water who missed the mark. He should have been around for the eight years of a Liberal government because maybe we would not have a problem.

Mr J.N. Carey: He is the future of the Liberal Party, the member for Cottesloe. He is the future!

Ms S.E. WINTON: He is the future.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members! Member for Perth!

Ms S.E. WINTON: I have taken a fair bit of time explaining things to members and giving them a history lesson because I was a resident in Nowergup and I understood what the Liberal government was not offering people. Let me tell members now what we have done in two short years. We have not solved the problem, yet, but we are actually serious about it. We made an election commitment to establish a North Wanneroo Agriculture and Water Taskforce and this is our document. It is pretty thick compared with the wishy-washy stuff that members opposite put together. I suggest that they read it really carefully.

Mr S.K. L’Estrange interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Churchlands.

Ms S.E. WINTON: We have put a task force together. It is an interagency task force. It has brought together a number of agricultural water users and key industry and government stakeholders to help formulate an informed response designed to restore the confidence and support for existing industry, which did not happen for eight years under the previous government. The task force’s deliberations around water allocation and land use security have been ignored for a number of years. That is despite the landmark study to which I referred. Finally, I also undertook a significant amount of consultation. That clearly said that the growers want certainty. They want to know what is going on. They do not want people to just roll into the Wanneroo tavern at the last minute of the former government’s term and say they are going to cut their allocation. That caused great insecurity. Our government has made the difficult, but strong, decision to ensure that the water situation on Gngangara Mound is corrected. We cannot keep ignoring it as the former government did.

The recommendations from the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Minister for Water are a cross-agency and holistic approach. That is something members opposite do not understand. I am satisfied that those ministers have listened. Our government announced recently that there would be a 10 per cent reduction to ground water use in north Wanneroo from 2028.

Mr S.K. L’Estrange: What will that do?

Ms S.E. WINTON: I will tell the member what that will do. That is more than half of the 25 per cent cut that members opposite said they would make. That is pretty good. We also announced that we would invest —

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr R.S. Love): Members, calm down!

Ms S.E. WINTON: I know that —

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo, I am on my feet. Sit down. When you start again, could you address your comments through me instead of engaging with these guys, because that only encourages them.

Extract from Hansard

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Ms S.E. WINTON: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I did not think I was engaging directly with them. It is very interesting. I am a bit of a mathematician, and I find it curious that the member for Churchlands always seems to get a bit more excited when I am on my feet, or when the member for West Swan and Minister for Transport is on her feet. He is not quite as witty when the Treasurer is on his feet. That is just a pattern we have observed.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Ms S.E. WINTON: We have listened to the growers and we have more than halved the proposed water cuts. We have made the tough, but responsible, decision to progress the 10 per cent cuts in 2028. That means growers will have certainty, because they know that the cuts will happen in 2028. Growers now have nine years, with the support of government through the water efficiency program, to make changes to ensure we have sustainable agricultural businesses in Wanneroo.

Importantly, the minister has agreed to our recommendation, and we are now proceeding with a business case for a new agricultural precinct in the Wanneroo area, as well as bringing recycled wastewater into Wanneroo, which the former government was so enthusiastic about but did nothing about. We have not made motherhood statements. We have made real commitments. We are progressing with a business plan to see whether that will provide a solution to the water problem. We have done more in less than two years than the former government did in eight years. That is the truth.

I will finish by mentioning a couple of other things and why I am really proud to be a part of this government. I want to get back to some positive stuff, rather than engage in the competitive behaviour that some members opposite like to engage in. A highlight for me was to be a part of this fortieth Parliament, which finally has introduced a welcome to country at the start of each day's proceedings. The first thing I ask my students when they come to this place is whether they know that prior to us coming into government there was no welcome to country. We have righted that. The portraits of significant female parliamentarians used to be located outside the toilets in this place. We have righted that wrong. They now take pride of place outside the Premier's office. I tell every student who comes this into place that we value those things and we have righted those things. I also make sure that I tell every young woman I engage with that this Labor government has 22 women members of Parliament. We have 15 women in this chamber. That is more than in the Liberal and National Parties combined. So members opposite might need to get a bit more in touch with their feminine side and not be so male egocentric.

I am proud to be the Labor member for Wanneroo. The values of fairness, compassion and equality will always be central to the issues that we prosecute in this place. I think our record for the last two years proves that, and our agenda going forward enforces that.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)**.

House adjourned at 6.45 pm
