

**APPROPRIATION (RECURRENT 2018–19) BILL 2018**  
**APPROPRIATION (CAPITAL 2018–19) BILL 2018**

*Second Reading — Cognate Debate*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

**MR D.T. REDMAN (Warren–Blackwood)** [7.01 pm]: I will conclude my remarks in response to the budget speech.

Before private members' business, I had started to talk about the government response to the bushfire challenges in the state and the setting up of a rural fire service, as recommended by the Ferguson review. The briefing was pretty positive, and the feedback from my electorate on the proposed structure has been reasonably positive. Hopefully everyone will work together to deal with the challenges. During the briefing the minister talked about the resources that will go toward fire mitigation activities, including \$34.6 million from 2018–19 through to 2021–22 and some royalties for regions funding. But after drilling down during the briefing, we found there were funds for voluntary brigades in the shires, and also funds for fire mitigation works on crown land. Prescribed burning was not included. That used to be done under the old Department of Parks and Wildlife. The former government's enhanced prescribed burning program was introduced to try to increase the level of work done on landscape prescribed burning to reduce the risk of big wildfires. It was to try to catch up, if you like.

Over recent years the window of time to burn has reduced, therefore it has become harder and harder to meet the annual targets. The former government put in place a \$20 million fund over four years to enhance that. I believe, and the feedback has also been, that that has been very effective in trying to reduce fire risk. That fund will end at the end of the 2018–19 financial year. Past that, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions will revert to its previous funding. I think that will be risky. During estimates I will tease out exactly where that is at and try to get some advice about the risk post the expiration of the enhanced prescribed burning budget. That will be an issue in the south west, where those big landscape fires are seriously challenging.

A key issue in my electorate is the funding for Margaret River Gourmet Escape. It has now been spread to include the Swan Valley. It is all very nice to have Gourmet Escape extended to other parts of the state, but it was originally focused on the hook of Margaret River being internationally recognised to try to bring people to Western Australia. The change will have a negative impact. Since this government came to power, there has been a reduction in travellers into the state, and I do not think this will help the cause.

The Minister for Culture and the Arts was recently in Albany for the launch of *Breath*, the film of Tim Winton's book that Simon Baker directed and starred in. It was launched with huge fanfare, but the government is cutting the funding to the Western Australian Regional Film Fund, which means we will not see any more films like *Breath*, *Red Dog*, *Red Dog: True Blue* or *Jasper Jones*. I think that is seriously cutting short the role that regional Western Australia can play in culture and the arts.

I am pleased to see the government maintaining support for another project in Manjimup, the southern forest irrigation project. I was very disappointed to see a lack of federal government support for that. It put significant resources into the Myalup–Wellington project. Both those projects were Water for Food projects of the former government. Again, it was disappointing not to see federal government support for a fantastic project. I am in Manjimup on Friday for the opening of its wellness centre. It is a new facility for its home and community care services, which were historically funded by royalties for regions. It is part of significant upgrades in the town of Manjimup that have been supported by private sector investment and have fundamentally lifted that community. Again, for this government to say that royalties for regions funding has been spent poorly is wrong. Lots of projects, including the Manjimup town centre upgrades, are very good examples of investments that trigger other investments and lift the opportunities of communities.

I will refer to a couple of local projects in my electorate. I raised with the minister through a grievance the issue of the wastewater recycling project in Denmark. It is very poor form to have cut back funding for that project. An amount of \$1.5 million in costs has already been sunk. The government has left the golf course high and dry. Putting in grass greens on the golf course means more people come to that town, which is fundamentally good for regional development. There is an ageing community down there. The Minister for Water has pulled those resources and effectively cut the project off at the knees. I refer to tourism assets. The upgrades at William Bay have been cut from the last budget, so there are some disappointing outcomes there.

The one that takes the cake in this budget is a matter that we raised yesterday and will continue to raise—that is, what this government has done to royalties for regions. For the Premier to answer a question today on this government supporting royalties for regions is smoke and mirrors. The only reason he sought to do that is that he feels guilty about what the government has done with royalties for regions. I do not know how government members can keep a straight face and say that the Labor Party supports royalties for regions and everything it

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committed to going into the election, when we have seen a massive substitution and decisions in this budget that go to the core of what has been traditionally funded out of consolidated funds. Effectively taking \$600 million a year out of the royalties for regions program will have long-term impacts. The decisions in this year's and last year's budgets take \$2.5 billion from a \$4 billion program over four years. The government is cutting regional Western Australia off at the knees. The government does not care about the people in the more isolated areas of the state who want to contribute to the economy, as they do. The government has cut them off at the knees by taking \$2.5 billion out of a \$4 billion program. The Premier today stood and said that the government did not do that, and I think he has massively misled the house.

**MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury)** [7.09 pm]: I rise to speak on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2018–19) Bill 2018 and the Appropriation (Capital 2018–19) Bill 2018. Firstly, this is a responsible, roll-your-sleeves-up budget that sets a path to surplus. At the same time, it meets the commitment that we gave to the Western Australian community; it reflects the determination and resilience of this government to achieve positive outcomes for the whole of Western Australia. No bells and whistles, no razzamatazz—just a solid resolve to get the job done, meet our election commitments and get the budget back on track. This budget goes beyond a lot of what I have heard over the last two days, such as, “What’s in it for me?” and “What’s in it for in my electorate?” It is a budget for the whole of Western Australia. It is a step along the road to economic recovery for all Western Australians. Jobs, business prosperity and access to quality services are central platforms for creating a better future.

The budget forecasts gross state product to rebound to around 2.5 per cent in 2017–18 and grow to 3.5 per cent in 2018–19. In the same period, the budget forecasts the growth of 50 000 new jobs, with labour market conditions forecast to show continuing improvement.

[Quorum formed.]

**Mr D.T. PUNCH:** The member for Moore clearly thought I needed a bigger audience.

In 2019–20, household consumption is forecast to increase and will be a major driver of growth on the back of improved consumer confidence and population growth, in part driven by an improving labour market. The second McGowan Labor government budget is a result of careful, intelligent analysis and we are criticised by members opposite, who have a preoccupation with our election commitments. They believe that we should not be committed to funding our election commitments, but they are really saying that we should not be committed to job creation, to transport efficiency and safety, to improving the health of our community, to quality education and certainly not to improving quality of life. That is what members opposite are really saying. They do not believe in a future for Western Australia. They have a view that we should call a halt to government activities, sell assets and pay down debt generated so efficiently by members opposite to such historical levels that it is a millstone around the neck of all Western Australians and will cross generations to fix.

In my electorate, I have had members of the business community congratulating the government on its commitment to controlling expense growth and restructuring the state's public sector to reduce overall cost. This is the sort of budget that the previous Treasurer, now Leader of the Opposition, would have loved to have brought down if the structure of the Liberal–National alliance had not consistently undermined any attempt at responsible budgeting in the face of declining revenues.

**Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup** interjected.

**Mr D.T. PUNCH:** Listen and learn, member for Dawesville.

That is the legacy we have to live with. In the south west, our election commitments are going to important economic infrastructure, education, health, emergency services, crisis accommodation and sporting facilities. In my electorate particularly, they are all consistent with the plan we took to the 2017 election: the plan for Bunbury. Major components of that plan are funded in this year's budget, including \$106.3 million for the Bunbury Outer Ring Road, a commitment that achieved an outstanding round of applause at the Bunbury Geographe Chamber of Commerce and Industry's budget lunch; \$10.5 million for the creation of the Preston River to Ocean and Leschenault Regional Parks, which will be a great contribution to the environment and a legacy for the future; funding of \$9.3 million to a south west drug rehabilitation program to start to really tackle the issues of methamphetamine abuse; \$13.4 million for a vitally important step up, step down mental health service; funding of \$5 million for Bunbury Senior High School; \$3 million for a new STEM centre at Newton Moore Senior High School; \$4 million towards building the capacity to squeeze more use out of the Hay Park sporting facilities; and \$300 000 for the long-awaited surf lifesaving facilities at Dalyellup, which will be a great contribution to a community organisation that has worked incredibly hard over many years without success.

My electorate, as is the case for all regional electorates, will benefit from the creation of the rural fire service and the vast increase in support for volunteer marine rescue services, which will directly support the many volunteers and communities across Western Australia.

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Importantly, this budget delivers the fiscal certainty for the state's economic turnaround that will directly support the return of my electorate to prosperity, and delivers exactly what we said we would deliver in the lead-up to the 2017 election. I might have a little bit of a conflict of interest in promoting my electorate, but the *Bunbury Herald* is a great Bunbury newspaper. Its headline reads "Promises delivered in Budget" and it goes on to explain the very strategy that I have been speaking about. A headline in Bunbury's second newspaper, the *Bunbury Mail*, is titled, "Boost for Bunbury". They have seen terrific opportunities come out of this state budget, which has been very well received. Today on ABC radio, I was absolutely delighted to hear the new chair of the Western Australian Planning Commission, Mr David Caddy, talk about Bunbury as a second city for the state. He talked about the opportunities that this government is giving to Bunbury, including the transport links, the future of the port, the industrial land and the waterfront project. He highlighted what a great future the electorate of Bunbury has rolling forward. He also talked about the importance of planning for the future, and I acknowledge the previous government and the National Party's commitment to regional blueprints because they were an opportunity to look at the future and dare to imagine what it might be like.

This budget lays an economic foundation for that future. It is really useful to think about a Bunbury that is a sustainable city of 300 000 to 400 000 people over the next 20 to 30 years. It will be an alternative to the Perth metropolitan area for residential investment and business investment, and will be built around quality lifestyles that link a contemporary waterfront to a vibrant cultural and retail heart in the city centre. It will support export-related advanced manufacturing, process control and heavy engineering. It will support advanced mineral processing in lithium, silicon and associated renewable technologies. It will embrace the Internet of Things and the opportunities that might arise out of new technologies for on-demand public transport and the application of the Internet of Things to environmental and energy management, and urban living. It will be a city that looks to and recognises skills for the future, particularly as electric vehicles start to take more of a place in our community and the implications that will have for the automotive industry alone. The city will think ahead 10, 12 or 15 years about what skills might be required, which are fundamentally reflected in this budget in our commitment to education and TAFEs. The city will be a hub for culture and the arts, and, importantly, embrace its south west Noongar heritage. The city can be at the centre of the emerging advance precision agriculture, especially in horticulture. Again, that goes to a commitment made by the previous government to the Myalup–Wellington horticultural and water project. I acknowledge the work that went on previously. This government has delivered the project.

Much in the budget is really positive for my electorate. Members would know that it is very difficult for me to stand up in here and not talk about royalties for regions because I went to the election with an absolute commitment about royalties for regions. We went to the election confirming that royalties for regions would remain and that services such as the Country Age Pension Fuel Card would remain, and that is what we are delivering. Under this government, royalties for regions is alive and well. The Royalties for Regions Act continues as the enabling legislation; there has been no change. The regional development trust remains in place as the watchdog. The billion-dollar cap remains in place. The difference is that members opposite do not like what we are spending it on. The government is now reprioritising the spend with the intent of generating —

**Mr R.S. Love** interjected.

**Mr D.T. PUNCH:** I gave the member for Moore a few pats on the back; just let me finish.

**Mr R.S. Love:** You did, but you're straying from the path of righteousness!

**Mr D.T. PUNCH:** No, I am not, because I have never had any difficulty with many of the projects that have taken place over the last eight and a half years.

I argue that this government, in the context of \$40 billion worth of debt, has an important job to set the economy and our fiscal spend back on track. So we are reprioritising —

**Mr R.S. Love** interjected.

**Mr D.T. PUNCH:** I am not taking the member for Moore's interjections.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member, the member for Bunbury has said that he does not want to take interjections. Thank you.

**Mr D.T. PUNCH:** The member for Moore is the first to complain when we interject.

The government is reprioritising spending with the intention of generating new opportunities for jobs and investments in the regions. Although members opposite may not agree with how we are doing it, that is our objective. This side of the house believes in government for the whole of Western Australia—one government for one state. The previous government clearly had tensions within itself about competing priorities for the

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metropolitan area and the bush. The approach seemed to be that the Liberal Party would fund everything in the metropolitan area and the National Party would fund everything in the bush. Away they spent and expenditure rapidly outstripped revenue during the term of the previous government, which is why we have the structural problems in the budget today and a forecast accumulated debt of \$40 billion over the forward estimates.

We have heard a lot about cost shifting and paying for mainstream services with the royalties for regions budget. I will not go into the detail of all that here, but if members would really like me to talk about orange school buses again, I am very happy to. Paying for seatbelts and air-conditioning in orange school buses, which is an essential part of core government expenditure, is no different from paying towards its operating costs. If members look through the previous budget statements, they will see a gradual creep of royalties for regions going to government agencies and funding staff in government agencies because the previous government's spending patterns ripped the guts out of any discretionary expenditure in public sector agencies. Royalties for regions gradually met the gap and paid for core service delivery. If members opposite do an honest analysis of the budget statements for the last eight and a half years, they will see that trend.

The royalties for regions debate has gone beyond being a political debate. Much is said on social media and in public forums is not accurate or true. It is an argument that does not treat regional people with respect because it is superficial and does not take the whole suite of government activity into account. On particular issues, we see nasty things such social media trolling and graffiti, which I have not seen before, and a deliberate attempt to pitch people who live in the bush against people who live in the metropolitan area.

**Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup** interjected.

**Mr D.T. PUNCH:** Don't you start on me, member for Dawesville!

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, members!

**Mr R.S. Love:** If you upset people, they react.

**Mr D.T. PUNCH:** And who feeds it, member for Moore?

We need to have a new debate on this issue and an approach to regional development that is based on quality regional services, not on how much was spent in an electorate or how much a particular project got or did not get. It is about a quality approach with quality regional infrastructure, quality education, quality health services and looking at the outcomes. Importantly, it comes out of the certainty of a well-managed fiscal environment that promotes business and community confidence. It does not come out of pitching the bush against the metro and fuelling division and anger, which is where the present regional debate is heading. The National Party only fuels that debate because it gives it a reason for existence. The more that it can say that the people in the bush have been duded, the more it gives itself a reason for existence. Royalties for regions is better than that. We need to build a strong —

**Mr R.S. Love** interjected.

**Mr D.T. PUNCH:** Mr Acting Speaker, I call for your protection.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.C. Blayney):** Member for Moore, the member for Bunbury has indicated that he does not want interjections. I would appreciate it if we could hear the rest of his contribution in silence.

**Mr D.T. PUNCH:** Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. You might learn if you listen. Members opposite, that is—not the Acting Speaker.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** That is baiting.

**Mr D.T. PUNCH:** We need to build a strong state for our collective future, based on connecting people and working collaboratively to find new solutions to old problems. There is no going back. The Liberal Party has clearly signalled its view on the future of royalties for regions; it does not see one. This budget highlights that Western Australia is in safe and competent hands and is a confirmation that the state is on track for a budget surplus based on reforms that can restore business and community confidence in the future. These are the foundations for the future, and on our side royalties for regions funding has a continuing role to play, albeit a different one from the past. It is not a matter of fixing solutions by dropping a bucket of money onto them; it is about finding solutions through discussion, working together and looking at creative ways, which is exactly what the Treasurer did when he went to speak to the commonwealth Minister for Finance and came back with a significant amount of money to fund our election commitments. I congratulate the Treasurer on the 2018–19 budget.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS (Hillarys)** [7.24 pm]: The Treasurer and the government would want the people of Western Australia to think that this is a boring, steady-as-she-goes budget—nothing to see here so get on with your lives. That is the narrative that the government has tried very hard to push in the last week or so since the budget

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came down and even before that. However, even a cursory glance by any Western Australian at what this budget does would indicate very, very clearly that it is all pain and no gain for Western Australian households, including the people in my electorate of Hillarys.

The pain comes from a fundamental breach of an election promise that the Premier himself kept making before the last election: that there would be no new taxes, no increases in taxes and no increases in fees and charges. That promise was broken at the September 2017 budget, the first budget this government and this Treasurer delivered. Having broken it once, they continue to do it in this budget. In a few short months, between September last year and May this year, this government has increased household fees and charges by around \$730 a year for the average household in Western Australia. That increase is around 13 times the rate of inflation. It is even more than that compared with wages and income growth for average Western Australians that has been basically plateauing now for the last three or four years, particularly in the private sector. People employed in the private sector will tell us that they have not had a meaningful pay increase for a long time. This government has ratcheted up their charges in electricity by 17.9 per cent; water, 11.5 per cent; motor vehicle costs, registration and the like, 7.6 per cent; and public transport fees, 12.6 per cent. They represent a massive hit on those people who are already struggling to meet their household expenses in difficult economic circumstances. Other colleagues of mine have spoken about the very significant increase in mortgage stress. They have spoken about the increasing number of people in Western Australia who have either no equity in their homes or negative equity. That is a very, very difficult situation for those people. Instead of showing sympathy for those people and recognising how tough they are doing it, this government has chosen to ratchet up fees and charges on households that can least afford them at a time in the economic cycle when they can least afford it.

It is interesting to see the people on the other side, who often profess their love for the working class and their support for the working class—for people on lower incomes—sitting back and silently watching their Premier and their Treasurer, the Labor Party leaders, ratcheting up those costs on low income earners and families who are doing it tough out there. This government has chosen the wrong way to tackle budgetary issues. It has chosen to whack households. The people of Hillarys, like any other people in the 59 electorates around Western Australia, understand that. When they start getting their electricity bills, their water bills or their motor registration bills, or when they pay their public transport fares after 1 July, they will notice an even bigger hit to their hip pocket. It will impact on families. It can be argued that some people can afford that, and that is fair enough. People on high incomes can afford the increases. They might not like it, but they can afford it. However, families that are struggling to pay the mortgage and to get the kids to school and hopefully have a few extra dollars at the end of the week, will not have that \$730 a year because Mark McGowan, Ben Wyatt and every member of the Labor Party in this place chose to break their election promise not to increase household fees and charges. They have chosen to give people a double whack—one in September last year and one now—as their pathway to some sort of so-called budget repair that they talk about.

One of the other major promises that the Premier, the Treasurer and all the candidates for the Labor Party at the last election made was that they had a plan for jobs. They had a plan to provide more employment opportunities for Western Australians. But what have we seen in the 14 or 15 months since this government has come to power? We have seen record unemployment. The number of Western Australians out of a job—almost 100 000 people—is the highest number of Western Australians out of a job ever—not this year, not last year, not the year before, but ever! Unemployment has been going up and we are now at the stage where we, as a state, have the highest unemployment in all of Australia—more than Tasmania, more than South Australia and of course more than the other eastern seaboard states. This result has been delivered by a government that walked around before the election with a red booklet with big white writing on it saying, “Plan for Jobs”. It was a booklet; it was not a plan. The proof is in the pudding and the people of Western Australia who are struggling to find employment or who are worried about their employment security in difficult economic times condemn this government for its failure to deliver on its rhetoric and promises before the election. There is no plan for jobs. It was just a slogan and it was backed up by a piece of legislation that came into this place early on in the parliamentary term that defined Western Australian jobs as being a job created anywhere in Australia—in all the states and territories—or New Zealand. This government was creating jobs but for New Zealanders, South Australians or Tasmanians. The people of Western Australia see through that. They see through the charade. The government might tell them, “It’s steady as she goes. Nothing to see here. It’s very boring. Move on and do something else. Worry about the royal wedding or the success or otherwise of your footy team.” But people will not do that. People will notice the pain that this government is inflicting on them for very negligible gain. There is no gain because what is being delivered? For the people of Hillarys in my electorate, it is very little at all.

The government has rightly secured funding from the federal government for some much-needed work on the Mitchell Freeway. I do not begrudge that, but it has deliberately chosen to de-fund one important piece of work that is probably the biggest choke point on the Mitchell Freeway, particularly in morning peak but also now increasingly in afternoon peak as more people are travelling from north to south, and that is the extra lane needed

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on the south-bound or city-bound section of the Mitchell Freeway between Hodges Drive and Hepburn Avenue. Anyone who listens to the traffic reports every morning will know that the first item is congestion around Whitfords Avenue. I have spoken about it before; it is almost ready. The previous government had chosen to use savings from other road projects, including the northern extension of the Mitchell Freeway to Hester Avenue, to add a third lane, and some of the other works that are needed across the freeway. That choke point impacts not just on the people of my electorate but clearly also on people from the electorates of the members for Joondalup, Kingsley, Burns Beach and Wanneroo. All of those people get choked at that intersection in the morning when they are using the Mitchell Freeway, whether coming into the city or going somewhere else for their work or to take their kids to school or whatever. It is a constant choke point. It is the number one item on every radio or television traffic bulletin every single day. This government chose to withdraw that funding. It took it away from the people of the northern suburbs and said, “We’ll fix some other priorities. We’ll run around and talk about our slush fund.” I cannot recall the actual name of the slush fund—local projects, local roorts.

**Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup:** Local Projects, Local Jobs.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** Local Projects, Local Jobs. Thank you, member for Dawesville.

The people in my electorate—residents in Craigie and Kallaroo in particular—who must enter the freeway at Whitfords Avenue, and people from Padbury, Hillarys and Sorrento, see that and say, “We are not a priority for this government. They have withdrawn funds for a much-needed road project; they have taken it away and spent it on other priorities. We’re no longer a priority.” This budget did not provide any funding for that. That is a pity because it will condemn so many people in the northern suburbs to spending so much more time on the road when they could be spending it more productively either with their families or in their businesses, or just enjoying their lives rather than being stuck in traffic.

I am going to keep talking about this next matter until it gets fixed. I have made the point before that it is not a Liberal–Labor thing and it is not an us-and-them thing; it is something that has been ignored and forgotten for far too long. It is the need to significantly repair or, better still, rebuild the really old schools across Western Australia. There are three critical ones in my electorate. They are great schools with great leadership, wonderful teachers, fantastic students and parents, and they are just great school communities—in crumbling old buildings, mainly consisting of asbestos. We know the risks associated with asbestos, especially as it ages and starts to crack. I am referring to the primary schools at Hillarys and Sorrento, and Springfield Primary School, which is located in Kallaroo. Those three schools need a fundamental rebuild. At the last election, the previous government had a program to rebuild schools. That was of course predicated on the sale of Western Power. We did not get elected. The impetus to fund the necessary rebuild of these schools has gone away but the need to rebuild them has not. I will continue to come into this place and highlight it, whether the Labor Party is in government or my side is in government, until it happens, because those school communities absolutely deserve them, and so do the other school communities around Australia that have these crumbling, asbestos-laden schools. They do the best they can with extraordinarily poor capital works at their disposal.

The general public would accept some of this pain and the no-gain aspect for themselves and their local communities if there was some sort of broader community gain, a paying-down of debt and a reduction in deficit. I commend the Treasurer for focusing on reducing the growth in government spending. I think that is a noble cause. However, as other speakers from the opposition, including the shadow Treasurer, the member for Bateman, have highlighted in their contributions, a lot of the supposed reduction in deficit—there is no reduction in debt; I will talk about that in a minute—is done with smoke and mirrors. A lot of it is done by shifting items off budget so they do not appear and they make the aggregate figures look better than they really are. If we put back those items, like the big item, the NDIS, which has been moved off budget, there is no real reduction in expenditure growth, so there is no gain there whatsoever.

Then we see debt. Debt continues to grow. The projections are that it will grow a little less than projected last year. That is a good thing in itself. Let us see if it is delivered. This Premier, this Treasurer and this government said to the people of Western Australia before the election campaign last year that they had a plan to pay down debt and they would pay it down like a mortgage. Most people I know who have a mortgage actually pay it down. During the first few years, the mortgage is paid down by only a few dollars and it grows and grows. That is the glory of being able to pay that debt down slowly until eventually we get to the stage of paying it down. Paying the deficit down like a mortgage would be to reduce the \$32 billion debt figure in the last budget of the previous government by starting to incrementally reduce it, bringing it down to \$31.5 billion, \$31 billion, \$30 billion, and eventually paying it off. That is what “paying it off like a mortgage” means and that is how the Western Australian public understands it to be. Instead, this government increased the deficit. It is going up to almost \$41 billion. That is not good enough.

[Member’s time extended.]

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**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** Is that figure the right figure or has it also been done with smoke and mirrors? That is when we get to this federal bucket of money that the Treasurer celebrates and the various members in the electorates who are going to get the benefit of it celebrate. I welcome that money. It is not a gift; it is a small acknowledgement that Western Australia has been ripped off on GST funding for way too long. It is less than our entitlement but it is better than we were getting without it. I welcome that funding. I know it is going towards relatively good projects—great projects, necessary projects. However, the trick that this government has done, as other speakers have highlighted, is that it has banked all that federal money in the forward estimates. So far so good. It is rubbing its hands with glee. All that federal money is conditional upon the state government providing matching funding. Some of it is 50–50 and some of it is 80–20. Irrespective of that, the state has to make a contribution, but it is conditional. The state does not get that money unless it makes its own contribution, so the government has put all the federal money in the forward estimates, but it has conveniently left out the necessary state money. For the government to get that federal money in the years it has put it in the budget, it needs to find the state money. I think the calculation is around \$1.8 billion or it could be \$2.4 billion, but it is billions of dollars. That is going to add to state debt. The government has conveniently left it out, just left it blank, to hoodwink the public that debt projections are going to come down a little bit. They are not going to when the government finds that money, and the government is going to have to find it. If the government does not find that money, it will not get the federal money in those years and those projects will not be built, whether they are the Bunbury outer ring road, the train line to Ellenbrook or the works around Stephenson Avenue and Cedric Street and the Stirling precinct of the Mitchell Freeway. I see the member for Balcatta over there and he and I are on a unity ticket on that and we have been talking about it for a long time. That is necessary; it should have been done years ago and we need to get it done. If the state does not stump up additional debt to fund those projects, they will not happen, so that is another trick that this budget plays on the people of Western Australia.

I do not have a lot of time, so I am going to try to summarise. Another thing is that a lot of the revenue projections in this budget are predicated on some pretty wild assumptions. I use the term “wild” advisedly; I do not use it for shock value. When we look at where we are, the government is expecting dwelling investment—investment in homes in Western Australia—to increase by 4.75 per cent in the coming financial year and then by 5.75 per cent in the year after. Everyone involved in the property industry, from the housing industry to the Master Builders Association to the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia, is telling us how tough it is out there. They are telling us that building starts are down, sales of properties are down and it takes a longer time to sell those properties. It sounds like the perfect storm for a decline rather than an increase. Of course there is going to be a decline, because this government has actively tried to harm those industries. It first took away the boost to the first home owner grant of \$5 000. That basically stopped the first home buyers’ market in its tracks. Those people who are trying to get on the ladder of opportunity, young families, young people and sometimes older people who have saved and saved for years to be able to get their first home have had that \$5 000 boost taken away. It has made things more difficult for them. The government introduced the foreign buyers’ tax and has now increased it to send away foreign investors. The government is saying, “Don’t come here. We don’t want you to buy our new residential properties. We’re going to tax you if you do.” They will look at other markets. The government has done the same thing with international students. If it makes it tough for international students, they will go to Adelaide and Hobart. Exactly the same thing will happen with foreign investors in new residential properties in Western Australia. Employment growth is forecast at 1.5 per cent next year and two per cent the year after. There is a forecast for the unemployment rate to fall from its current rate of 6.8 per cent or 6.9 per cent to 5.75 per cent, and for it to fall even further in the following year to 5.5 per cent. Even the population growth seems optimistic. The government is forecasting a population growth of 1.2 per cent next year and 1.5 per cent the year after. Interestingly, today an article was published in WAtoday headed “Perth is losing its appeal for Australians over east”. It reads —

For 45 years, Perth has attracted more Australians to move west than have gone the other way.

...

But recently that has started to change, as the number of people heading over east has increased to record highs, while the number of people heading west has plateaued.

Is there any surprise that people are trying to leave Perth? This government is slugging them, and it has no plan for jobs. People are looking elsewhere for greener pastures, as the article points out, particularly in cities such as Melbourne that are already overcrowded. We see record numbers of people leaving Western Australia to go over to the eastern states. How is that going to help our population growth? Business investment is forecast to be down by 14 per cent in the coming year, but then miraculously it will spring up by six per cent in the following year—a 20 per cent turnaround. That is highly unlikely with the parameters and the settings of this high taxing, high fee charging government presided over by the Premier, the Treasurer and their fawning backbench.

I want to focus on the police portfolio, and I will focus a lot more on it in budget estimates next week. In the September 2017 budget, funding to the police portfolio was absolutely gutted across the forward estimates, by around

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\$200 million. On top of those cuts, there are further cuts in the forward estimates in this budget. Over four years, it is projected that the police workforce will decline by another 218 staff. There will be an actual decline in the number of people employed in the Western Australia Police Force. Today in question time the Minister for Police refused to tell us how many of those would be sworn officers, and how many would be support staff. Irrespective of that, people in every electorate in every community in this state tell us that they need more police, not fewer police. Crime is going up. We see the focus on the young people in the city causing problems. Obviously those problems are caused by things that the police cannot control, but when these young people congregate in the city and start criminal activity, we expect our police to respond more quickly. Major social problems that I do not have time to talk about today drive that increase in criminal activity, but the police are at the front line. The public expects more police to be able to deal with an increase in crime and more complex crimes.

There is also no funding for any new equipment for the police. Last year Minister for Police was dragged kicking and screaming into agreeing to look at providing police officers on the front line with stab-proof vests, a critical piece of protective equipment, and a workplace safety requirement. She initially said no, but eventually she was dragged towards it. I know that the police command is currently looking at what are the right vests, but they are going to have to find the money from their own budget, because there is not one new cent to provide for these stab-proof vests. There is obviously no funding for further information technology, and body cameras and dash cameras. We see the ridiculous situation in which the media often get third-party video that could have been selective, and could have been edited, of incidents involving police and their interaction with the public, yet the police officers are not able to be issued with lapel cameras to record their interaction with the general public, which is pretty standard equipment around the western world now. It is just not good enough, and it translates across every single area that this government has touched.

In the very little time remaining to me, I will talk about something that I talked about in last year's budget debate, about which this government has again done nothing. I know there is some talk about lithium plants coming to Western Australia, and I support that, but where is the encouragement for other new industries to set up, in the design sector and the information technology sector—a vision for the jobs of the future that perhaps do not exist today, but will employ young people and older people in the future? In that gap, in that lack of vision for what the jobs of the future are going to look like, is it any surprise that WA today articles and census figures are showing that people are moving from Western Australia to the eastern states in record numbers? I am not often one to praise Labor governments.

Is that my time, unfortunately? I will have to continue on a different occasion.

**MR K.J.J. MICHEL (Pilbara)** [7.55 pm]: I would like to congratulate the Premier and Treasurer for directing Western Australia into responsible financial management, as outlined in the 2018–19 budget. The McGowan state government is committed to tackling the record debt and deficit legacy of the previous government and to returning our state budget to surplus. The previous Liberal–National government had a habit of spending too much in all the wrong places and of poor financial management. In the words of former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, those opposite could not operate a tuckshop. Nationals WA members have had the gall to stand in this place and talk down Minister Alannah MacTiernan. It is my privilege to have worked very closely with the Minister for Regional Development since my campaign to be elected by the people of the Pilbara. The minister is very thorough in everything she does and makes a point to know everything that needs to be known about the projects that she is engaged in. She is hardworking and reliable, and comes up to the Pilbara almost every month. Any member on this side of the house can tell you that the minister goes to every part of WA to maintain her excellent attention to detail. There has never been a member or a minister of the National Party like her; the National Party does not understand how responsible regional development should be conducted.

I have lived in the Pilbara for over 16 years and I have seen and heard all that happens in the Pilbara. If there is anyone in this Parliament who knows the Pilbara best, it is me. As a business owner, I have employed 25 staff in offices in Karratha and Port Hedland. My wife and I have invested a lot into our business in the Pilbara. I work in residential and commercial properties all over the Pilbara, personally repairing air conditioners and communicating with people daily, which gives me a good view of what the community is going through. I have firsthand knowledge of how the irresponsible financial management of the previous Liberal–National government has affected local businesses, the people and the projects of the Pilbara.

The Special Inquiry into Government Programs and Projects, headed by John Langoulant, AO, found that fundamental breakdowns occurred in the governance and financial decisions of the previous government. I was disappointed to hear the Leader of the WA Nationals say at the Pilbara Kimberley Forum 2018 that the inquiry is not worth the paper it is written on. That is the Nationals' attitude. Then Hon Jacqui Boyde, from the other house, commented that we have not delivered on our election promises for the women's shelter in Port Hedland. That was blatantly mistrustful. We were waiting for the works to be completed before making a statement. The Premier, Hon Kyle McGinn from the other house and I visited the women's shelter and made our announcement when the

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work was completed. Then the member for North West Central commented in this house that the funding for the men's shed in Tom Price, as per our election promise, had not been delivered. That was more scaremongering by the member. I have spoken to the men's shed and they are working on it, and we will see the fruits of our labour in it.

If the member spent some time in his own electorate and spoke to the people who live there, he would be aware of what is going on, but, instead, he seems to be spending more time in Karratha. Maybe it is part of the National Party's protocol to pay homage to the former member for the Pilbara on a regular basis. I have spoken to many people in the member's electorate and they tell me they have never seen the elusive member for North West Central.

In my electorate of the Pilbara, the special inquiry report was scathing of the handling of several projects.. that includes the Pilbara underground power project; Pilbara accommodation, including Hedland 125—the former Port Hedland hospital site—the Quarter, and Pelago; Wanangkura Stadium; and Osprey Village. Let us take the underground power project as an example. I have said earlier in this Parliament that this project cost every family in Karratha which owned a house more than \$3 000 and every business in Karratha tens of thousands of dollars. This project was delayed by three years and took eight years to complete. It had no work study and no contracts drawn before it started, and the budget was blown out by \$109 million. The people of Karratha could have used that \$109 million to help them with the mortgage stress they were going through. We could have used that money for Moora. We could have used it for Schools of the Air. We could have used it for a lot of things. I know many people who could not pay their mortgage and had their house repossessed. I know many people who left their keys in their letterbox, or handed their keys back to the banks, and left town. Will the Nationals apologise to the people of the Pilbara for its financial mismanagement, which caused this crisis?

The people of the Pilbara are resilient. During my 16 years in Pilbara, I have seen my fair share of cyclones and never had the electricity go off for more than a day, maximum. When people in the Pilbara did have power cuts due to a cyclone, we learned to live with it and took it as part of living in such a unique part of the country. We never complained. We were too busy driving around to the waterfalls, which we hardly ever see, and the rivers, and enjoying the great outdoors.

Let me take Osprey Village as another example. Special inquirer Stephanie Black said in the Langoulant report —

The rushed nature of this project resulted in a number of key decisions being made prior to the setting of any formal governance structure. All up, the project cost the Government \$95 million more than expected.

That is another \$95 million wasted. That \$95 million could have been spent elsewhere in the Pilbara, or in the seat of Moora, or on Schools of the Air, or on easing the pressure on housing, education, health, aged care and other essential services.

I fail to understand why the National Party, which stands for royalty for regions in the Pilbara, will not look after the people, projects and businesses of the Pilbara. The Langoulant inquiry clearly shows that the National Party is a poor financial manager that did not, and will not, follow responsible financial protocols set by the government and by Parliament. I do not think the National Party understands that we should not spend more than we earn, without any transparency and accountability. How can the Nationals expect anyone in their electorate to be responsible with their finances if their elected leaders made such a disgraceful display of reckless spending?

Former United States' President Barak Obama famously said, "A budget is more than a series of numbers on a page; it is an embodiment of values". The National Party's values are nothing more than self-serving cover-ups and bully-boy tactics against anyone who questions it. The McGowan government has taken the fight up to the National Party and it does not like it one bit! It wasted millions and millions of dollars in the Pilbara on unsustainable projects. The former member for Pilbara and the Liberal–National party need to apologise to the people of the Pilbara—the people taken for a ride—for the agony and torment caused.

I will return to the latest budget and what it means for the people of the Pilbara. The McGowan government is investing \$4 billion in royalties for regions funding across Western Australia on responsible and long-term projects that regional Western Australians really need. In the Pilbara this means \$112 million for the Port Hedland Spoilbank marina; \$4.7 million towards enhancing Pilbara education outcomes through the School of Isolated and Distance Education; \$16 million for the Aboriginal ranger program; \$5.5 million for transforming agriculture in the Pilbara; \$14.8 million for a step-up, step-down facility in Karratha; \$9.3 million for conservation through the Pilbara environmental offset fund; \$49.4 million to complete the Karratha Health Campus; and funding for tourism, innovation, telecommunications and more. The McGowan government has committed to investment in remote communities that the Liberals and Nationals left behind. That includes \$50 million for the Karratha–Tom Price Road, which I feel should be named "Red Dog Highway"; \$54.5 million towards the upgrade of Marble Bar Road through Coongan Gorge; \$19.8 million towards the Pilbara Aboriginal town-based reserve

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projects; \$46.4 million to redevelop Newman health services; \$3 million for the expansion of schools and childcare facilities in the Shire of Ashburton; \$21.5 million to continue regional youth justice services in the Pilbara and Kimberley; \$136 million over four years for the Country Age Pension Fuel Card; and \$4 million for the volunteer fuel card.

The Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mike Nahan, made it very clear that the Liberal Party has no commitment to royalties for regions. Under a Liberal–National government, regional Western Australians would have missed out on billions of dollars of investment. The deliberate scaremongering by those opposite proves that the people of Western Australia still cannot trust the Liberal–National coalition. This is in stark contrast to the commitment made by the Mark McGowan government, which has made it clear that it will keep royalties for regions funding as a standalone fund to drive economic development and job creation in the regions. Under the McGowan Labor government major changes have been made to ensure that royalties for regions is better governed and focused and avoids the cost blowouts and delays that dominated the program under the former Liberal–National government. In fact, the people of the Pilbara deserve an apology for the incompetence in the management of the royalties for regions fund by the former Liberal–National government. Rather than condemning the Mark McGowan government, the opposition should be congratulating us on our commitment and hard work in repairing the damage done by the previous government. The McGowan Labor government is committed to creating jobs —

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr R.S. Love):** Members! Member for South Perth!

**Mr K.J.J. MICHEL:** The McGowan Labor government is committed to creating jobs, growing the economy and the responsible financial management that this state needs. I congratulate the Treasurer on this budget.

**MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe)** [8.08 pm]: I rise to make a relatively brief contribution. I am still in a state of shock after the member for Pilbara’s contribution. I found it quite disturbing, to tell the truth. When I look at the royalties for regions program, \$7 billion was spent over the previous eight and a half years on over 3 900 projects. Over \$2 billion was spent on the Pilbara Cities program, and here is the member for Pilbara criticising it. I find it quite bizarre, as I did the member for Pilbara’s grievance in, I think, about May or June last year when he attacked the former member for Pilbara, Hon Brendon Grylls, who was not here to defend himself.

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Minister for Corrective Services, you are not in your chair.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I thought it was appalling and very disappointing for the member for Pilbara to attack a previous member in a grievance when he is not here to defend himself. I believe the member for Pilbara should look in his backyard when he opens the Karratha hospital in the not-too-distant future, and have a think about where that originated. If I may, the Royalties for Regions Act provides for the equivalent of 25 per cent of WA’s annual royalties, both mining and petroleum, to be made available each year for regional infrastructure and services. The object of the legislation is to promote and facilitate economic business and social development in regional Western Australia. That is what it is all about. Given what has happened in this state budget, we are looking at substitution; that is probably the word that sums it up for me when I look at the royalties for regions program.

I think the member for Cottesloe pinpointed it tonight in his address when he said that RforR has now been substituted by 32 per cent and it is going up to 56 per cent in the out years, so we are looking at potentially over \$2 billion out of the \$4 billion fund being substituted in the out years. That is a real concern to me, especially given the \$79.9 million being substituted for orange school buses, \$134.7 million for regional TAFE subsidies, \$795.8 million for country water subsidies and \$31.4 million for education assistants. It is a real concern when I think back to the original purpose of royalties for regions. It has been almost totally swept under the table. When I hear this government say, “We are the government for royalties for regions and we are the government that has the most regional members”, I remind members of what has been happening with the recent polling. Probably the most disturbing thing, I imagine, for the backbenchers of the current government is the metropolitan push back that is occurring now due to the funding cuts to the likes of the well-advertised Moora Residential College. One of the Labor government’s platforms was that wherever a child lives in Western Australia, they deserve the opportunity for an equal and fair education. That was the platform in the document sent out several weeks before the election.

I must admit I was quite concerned about the unprovoked attack on the member for Moore last night. I came down from upstairs because he was suffering at the hands of the member for Armadale, who seemed to be quite aggressive last night. Unfortunately, over the previous four years, the member for Moore was not required to keep talking about the Moora Residential College because it was budgeted for as part of the royalties for regions program. We worked our way through the Esperance Residential College, the Narrogin Residential College and

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the like. Moora Residential College was part of that package. As I said, I found it rather harsh when the member for Moore was being attacked. He seems to have moved on and he is again in the chair tonight.

One of the other things that concerns me when I look at this year's budget is the spending in a range of schools in regional WA that coincidentally happen to be in Labor-held seats. I cannot find any spending on any school in the seat of Roe or the electorate of Moore. But I see funding for schools in Albany, Bunbury, Collie–Preston and the Pilbara. I guess I am fairly sceptical because under the previous government, the royalties for regions program catered for the whole state. It did not matter whether it was the Pilbara, the Kimberley, Kalgoorlie, Bunbury, Albany or wherever; the money was spent wherever it was needed. That is what I found disappointing when I heard the attack from the member for Pilbara tonight. As far as I am concerned, the previous member for Pilbara revolutionised spending in regional Western Australia. Having been a member of the Western Australian Regional Development Trust, I know that in 2008 it identified a minimum \$8 billion backlog of capital infrastructure that had not been funded by previous governments over the previous 20 to 30 years.

I would like to talk about this attitude of cut first, consult later, which seems to be a pattern that is developing with this government. Today I asked the Premier a question on the community resource centres. The Minister for Regional Development is out there saying that the government is consulting and we need to look at what is happening with the community resource centres. The government has removed 40 per cent of the funding in the state budget for the community resource centres, but now it is consulting to see what it can do. It has cut out the money, so what is the point of consulting? There is no point. The money has been chopped out. To top it off, as I asked the Premier today, now some of the CRCs have been categorised incorrectly. Some CRCs—such as at Wandering and, I believe, Boddington—were told that their funding will be cut by 60 per cent. Hopefully, they will be able to get their funding reinstated and have their funding cut by only 35 to 40 per cent. That is another quite disturbing aspect.

I think the Schools of the Air debacle was really a perfect example of that cut first, consult later attitude. The government needs \$64 million to pay for the school down the road near Subiaco Oval. It thought: let us cross out a few of those line items and here we go—no problem. Of course, we saw the uproar about the Schools of the Air, the gifted and talented program and the whole package—Moora Residential College, camp schools and the agricultural colleges trust fund. It is another case of cut first, consult later. Luckily for the Schools of the Air, the fallout was so massive that the state government reversed the decision. Quite frankly, I think that it would be a great development if the government looked at reversing defunding Moora Residential College, because, to be honest, the fallout that it is receiving in both metropolitan and regional seats is quite disturbing. I refer to a letter in the paper today from Bill Black in Mandurah. It is titled “Moora call loses my vote”. I quote —

For over 40 years I have been a Labor voter because of the values of fairness, equality and a fair go for working families that I have always held dear. However, the cuts to rural education and the closure of the Moora Residential College have cost the Premier my vote. I am not involved in agriculture, but I can see how unfair these cuts are to country people who don't have the luxury of several high schools to choose from nearby to educate their kids. I wonder about the future of agriculture in this State if the basic right to a quality education becomes that eroded through bad government policy that it becomes too hard for families to carry on.

I think Bill Black from Mandurah has summed it up perfectly. It is okay for people who live in the city because they have several schools to choose from; it is not a problem, but, unfortunately for people in Moora, Carnamah and Coorow, the government does not think it is a problem to send their children off to Northam, Yanchep or Geraldton. It is not on. There is no basic understanding of how a regional community works. Another classic example is Carnarvon Community College. I was there about three years ago when the project was just beginning and the three primary schools were merged with the senior school. There was so much excitement in the community about a fantastic project. What has happened? In the current budget, \$13.4 million has been taken from Carnarvon Community College without even consulting the administrators, teachers or community. That is just another example of the Labor government's “cut first, consult later” philosophy.

Briefly, I would like to talk about a couple of other elements. I am the National Party spokesman for sport and recreation. The budget allocates \$9.1 million to swimming pools in remote areas, which was originally a royalties for regions program that the Liberal–National government was very proud of. I believe the program will be continued, so I congratulate the government on its commitment. The only question I have is about the third swimming pool in Collie. I do not think that Collie needs three swimming pools. I know that the member for Collie–Preston says that it is very cold there and he needs a heated pool but, to be honest, considering the likes of Moora Residential College, a third swimming pool in Collie is not on. My predecessor, Tuck Waldron, was a very active advocate for the KidSport program. The previous government invested strongly in it to make sure that many of our regional and city kids were able to join the program. I look forward to the current government continuing the program. The government has increased funding from \$14 million to \$18 million in the current budget for the

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community sporting and recreation facilities fund, which is really important for both metropolitan and country schools, but, unfortunately, the budget will be reduced to \$11.34 million over the out years. I encourage the government to have another think about that because it is a really important program. It is really the only opportunity our sporting clubs in both regional and metropolitan areas have to access state funding to improve their facilities.

Regarding aged care, I am very concerned about investment in aged care in regional Western Australia. Some money has been allocated to residential aged-care facilities in Carnarvon and Dongara, and the ValleyView Residence aged-care centre in Collie. However, I am disappointed that no funding has been allocated for the expansion of aged care in Esperance.

The previous Minister for Regional Development, Terry Redman, committed and budgeted \$45 million to independent living unit and regional aged-accommodation programs to keep families living in their own communities. I am very worried that in last year's budget the rug was pulled out from under those projects and all of a sudden it became a \$22.9 million contestable fund. The great southern housing initiative was a classic case. All the local governments—Broomehill-Tambellup, Cranbrook, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Katanning, Kojonup, Plantagenet and Woodanilling—had put together a fantastic project and leveraged \$10 million of federal funding.

[Member's time extended.]

The federal member for O'Connor, Rick Wilson, had allocated that \$10 million of funding and was ready to go. What happened? That project became a "throw your hat in the ring" for \$22.9 million, with a number of other projects, including some in the northern part of my electorate—Wickepin and the like. The wheatbelt project is also in jeopardy. It is disappointing that it was reduced to \$22.9 million in last year's budget, but it has now been reduced to \$20.9 million. The amount is going down at a rate of knots and I am worried what it will be in next year's budget. Will that contestable funding have been allocated by them? That is my concern.

I will present a couple of snapshots from my electorate—a couple of positives that I would like to add. When I first arrived in Parliament, I spoke to the Minister for Transport about the Williams bridges 24 and 25. They have been funded by the minister in 2018–19 and 2019–20.

**Mr M.J. Folkard:** On Albany Highway?

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Yes, on Albany Highway—the north and the south bridges. It is a combination of federal and state funding. Excellent work there! Funding for the Wheatbelt Safety Review has increased to \$6.8 million in 2018–19 and \$10.42 million in 2019–20. That is a great contribution to the upper great southern part of my electorate.

I am concerned with the budget snapshot for each region. Last night the member for Kalgoorlie spoke about \$73.2 million and the Premier spoke today about how happy the member for Kalgoorlie was with that \$73.2 million. At this stage I cannot quite pinpoint what that figure means. It is about jobs and economic development, but I cannot quite pinpoint where and how that will be spent. Over the weeks ahead I look forward to getting some more detail about that.

I am also interested in the \$22.5 million for the regional economic development grant scheme. We had a regional grant scheme and a community chest fund, so I look forward to seeing how this will translate, whether it will come through the development commissions, and how it will work so that people in the regions can access grant funding for community-driven projects. I look forward to hearing more information on that one from the government.

A major project in Esperance was the Esperance TAFE, which was budgeted for by the previous government and was in last year's budget. I am very grateful that the government has seen fit to continue its commitment to that project with \$600 000 in 2018–19, \$1.1 million in 2019–20, \$10.3 million in 2020–21 and \$5.85 million in 2021–22. I was at the announcement of it by the previous Minister for Regional Development in Esperance in late 2016, along with the member for Scarborough. Despite whether it was announced by the previous government or this government, I am very grateful that this government will continue on with that funding and I look forward to that being built. I would also like to see this government make a commitment in the not-too-distant-future to the Esperance tanker jetty. I spoke about it during debate on the Heritage Bill. The government really is focusing on tourism, and this is probably the biggest tourism icon for my electorate, as the Busselton Jetty is for the member for Vasse's electorate. It is a great opportunity for this government to show some faith and invest in a tourism asset, which will probably cost somewhere in the order of \$6 million. I would certainly love to see the government invest in that jetty.

In summing up, I am concerned about how the member for Pilbara can attack royalties for regions when his electorate received a \$2 billion investment into the Pilbara Cities program. I find it quite bizarre, to be honest. That was a revolutionary program and without the royalties for regions initiative by the previous member for Pilbara —

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**Mr K.J.J. Michel:** Do you want to take an interjection?

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, member on my right.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** No, I do not—no, thanks. I am still in a state of shock, to be honest. The slight on the previous member for Pilbara’s name is quite disturbing when he bought in, amongst other initiatives, royalties for regions, which has revolutionised spending and the backlog of funding, which certainly was never there.

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Members, quiet now! I would like to hear from the member. If everyone can settle down, we will hear from the member for Roe as he finishes his contribution.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** As I said, substitution is the other thing that really concerns me. The cost shifting and the substitution from the royalties for regions program is starting to get out of hand and I can see it getting worse in the out years. Moora Residential College, cooperative research centres, camp schools, the VacSwim program, the boarding away from home allowance and the taking of 20 per cent from the trust fund of agricultural colleges are all elements that lead into what I thought was the Labor government’s promise that no matter where a child is located in the state, they deserve an equitable education. As I have said previously, it is important that the backbenchers of the Labor Party start to speak up. They have to start defending their regional constituents. Hon Darren West in the other place keeps telling us that the Labor Party is the regional party and has the most regional members. But it is now the opportunity for backbenchers to speak up, because it is damaging both regional and metropolitan members, as we have seen by recent polling.

I heard the election promise that there will be no rise in fees. We have seen what has happened with that in the last two years. We have seen the policy—the member for Hillarys spoke about it—“We are going to pay it off slowly.” I have not seen much sign of that. The sum of \$3 billion has come into the state budget from the federal government. Out of the \$750 000-odd million line item for Metronet, \$721 million is coming from the federal government. We still have not seen a real commitment from the state government to putting state money into that project. That really worries me.

I will leave it at that. I look forward to hearing some more commentary from the backbenchers of the Labor Party supporting our regions and supporting our kids. As I said the other day, when the vice-president of the Isolated Children’s Parents’ Association said, “Do not use our regional kids for budget repair”, I think that summed it up perfectly.

**MS M.M. QUIRK (Girrawheen)** [8.36 pm]: A number of speeches from opposition members posed questions that, frankly, could have been answered had they actually opened the budget papers and read them. In any event I look forward to some characteristic forensic rigour during next week’s estimates. I am not sure that I am looking forward to that as much as I am looking forward to the royal wedding this weekend! It is a close call.

Several members interjected.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I am sorry, it is my own fault for distracting everyone.

On a serious matter, I welcome the McGowan government’s self-imposed discipline in this year’s budget. At a time when people’s expectations of the range and quality of services offered by government are high, it is difficult to please all people all of the time. Western Australians understand that unless debt is reined in, future generations will be short-changed and basic government services to the community will either be diminished or abolished.

One of the services that the community expects government to deliver is accessible health care. For that reason, the northern suburbs is extremely grateful that both state and federal governments have made a substantial financial commitment to the expansion of Joondalup Health Campus. Joondalup currently operates the second busiest emergency department in the state and there is a huge growth in demand for mental health beds. I am particularly pleased that the opening of the stroke unit is imminent. Staff recruitment for the stroke outpatients clinic will commence in the second half of this year. Funding for the new stroke unit itself is part of the government’s \$158 million commitment towards the expansion of Joondalup Health Campus. I have lobbied for this for a number of years. When Fiona Stanley Hospital opened and Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital closed, it meant that family members from the northern suburbs in my electorate had to travel a greater distance to visit their loved ones, who were often hospitalised for weeks, if not months, and similarly patients who had a long, slow road to recovery had to travel much farther as outpatients.

I am also delighted that the WA government is acting to improve stroke care for Western Australians in the community. The Department of Health is providing funding to support the Stroke Foundation to deliver community stroke education across the state, using the face, arms, speech and time model—FAST. No responsible approach to financial management in the ballooning health expenditure area would be complete without an unwavering

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commitment to preventive health. Minister Roger Cook is very vocal about initiating a number of preventive health measures. He recognises the importance of prevention to help Western Australians live longer and healthier lives. We made a number of election commitments about preventive health and we are making steady progress to ensure that they happen. We have maintained investment in the state's important population-wide public health programs, despite the tough budgetary environment. We need the evidence that these surveys provide to better target service delivery and to be more efficient in that service delivery, which in turn leads to savings.

In the context of the electorate of Girrawheen, three measures will assist older residents to maintain their mobility. First, I am working with the Council on the Ageing Western Australia. I have secured funding to deliver a mall walking training program at a local shopping centre. I hope that is imminent. Second, I am pleased to be working closely with the City of Wanneroo to build one of the first seniors' exercise parks in the state. This was a 2017 election commitment, which I made. It will be built in Monaghan Park in Darch. The equipment in that park is designed to build core strength, enhance balance and foster greater mobility, which will minimise the risk of falls and enable greater levels of independence for longer. Also aimed at our seniors, the state government has funded the refurbishment of the Girrawheen seniors club. If the club is more attractive, that encourages more people to attend, which minimises social isolation. More importantly, this refurbishment will include the installation of Exergaming equipment, which, with the help of the Seniors Recreation Council, will further encourage mobility in a fun and lighthearted fashion.

The health budget also focuses on areas of future demand. With an ageing population, the Western Australian government has adopted the ninth national health priority, which is dementia, providing project funding for improvements in the care of hospital patients with cognitive impairment, including dementia. This funding is vital as it will assist health service providers to identify and implement best practice care for people with dementia. In this regard, I am a carer's advocate volunteer for Alzheimer's WA. I want to thank Minister Roger Cook for his attentive consideration of a number of issues surrounding the health system and the treatment of dementia. There is still much to be done. I am confident, however, that these concerns are always taken seriously by the minister and acted upon whenever possible. Better understanding of the consumers of health care has not been done well in the past. I also welcome a recent review undertaken by the Department of Health entitled, less than concisely, "Review of Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (CaLD) Data Collection Practices in the WA Health System" by the Epidemiology Branch, Public and Aboriginal Health Division, Western Australian Department of Health, which was released in February 2018. The rationale for this report was set out in the introduction, which states —

The WA health system is committed to equal opportunity and respect for diversity. The initial step in being able to achieve an equitable health service for all Western Australians is identifying disadvantaged groups. Culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) individuals or groups may have poorer health outcomes or access issues across multiple levels of the health service. It is therefore essential health services are collecting appropriate data to assist in identifying, measuring and addressing the level of disadvantage in CaLD populations.

The report notes that CALD populations, particularly those from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds, face recognised barriers in accessing and using health services, further contributing to health inequities and adverse healthcare events. Issues include those related to physical access, in particular increased distance to healthcare services and decreased access to transport, perceived or actual cost of health care, unfamiliarity with services, competing life priorities such as securing or maintaining employment, and denial of access to Medicare for certain asylum seeker visa categories.

A further barrier identified in the report is the cultural inappropriateness of some health services relating to institutionalised or overt racism, time constraints and staff who may be inadequately trained in culturally appropriate care or the health needs of CALD groups. Health staff may tend not to use interpreters when appropriate, leading to miscommunication, misdiagnosis, under or overuse, longer hospital stays, readmissions, non-attendance at appointments, dissatisfaction with treatment services and risk of adverse events. These factors can ultimately lead to increased costs for the health system. Diverse health beliefs, mistrust of government related to historical experiences and reduced health literacy can affect attitudes to health, health care and expectations of the system. I think that summarises well why we need to target patients from CALD backgrounds and why getting data relating to that cohort of patients is incredibly important. As the report concludes —

The WA health system is committed to equal opportunity and diversity. It is essential health services are collecting appropriate data to identify, measure and address the level of disadvantage in CaLD individuals and groups. This report represents an initial review into CaLD data collection practices across key WA health services. It includes comparison to recommended guidelines and the practices of other health jurisdictions. The project found a number of issues with current data collection in terms of variables in use and the completeness and accuracy of collected data. The report makes a number of recommendations

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for improvement including development of a ‘minimum core set’ of variables for collection across health services, several measures to enhance the quality of collection, maximising the use of existing data collection, and provision of resources to implement recommendations and make other improvements.

The health department is not just sitting there thinking that it will continue to get increases in its budget to deliver services inefficiently. It has thought about how it can better target health services and be responsive to needs of patients, and that is very much welcome. I commend the report.

To continue with CALD communities, within the larger City of Girrawheen–Wanneroo community hub, the McGowan government has funded shared office space for multicultural groups to meet and organise association events and activities. Their co-location in the hub also gives these groups access to a range of other local government services such as financial counselling and job skill and small business advice. I want to thank Minister Papalia and the Office of Multicultural Interests for their role in the negotiations that brought this proposal to fruition.

Next, I thank the state government for and welcome its ongoing support in the budget of school chaplains. The federal government is also providing funding. Young people face many complex issues and having additional pastoral care on hand at schools is invaluable. Similarly, teachers and administrative staff at our schools have to accommodate and work within these complexities, and I understand that increasing numbers of staff are seeking the services of school chaplains to decompress. They are much in demand. I recently had a cuppa with chaplains in various schools who work in my electorate and they are a great mob with their priorities squarely focused on student and staff wellbeing. Many misunderstand the role of school chaplains, believing their sole and exclusive purpose is to proselytise. Nothing could be further from the truth.

I now need to reflect on several issues that can best be described as works in progress. The first of these is the so-called allowable departmental bandwidth at schools. A number of schools in my electorate are struggling with the limited 10-megabyte bandwidth permissible to be used by schools. For example, a mere three students downloading something from YouTube for an assignment completely uses up all allowable data. A number of principals have advised me that they have investigated purchasing their own bandwidth from a company that would give them the megabytes they need. They advise me, however, that as the company does not come under departmental procurement requirements there is a reluctance to accede to this proposal, even though schools would be willing to meet the cost out of their own existing budget allocations. Concerns in this context have also been expressed about the ability to deliver NAPLAN Online because of this lack of capacity, and I am advised that the new planned Websys system will also adversely affect download capacity. This is where the notion of substantive equality comes into play. The Department of Education has asserted, in response to my queries about this problem, that it allocates bandwidth to all schools on an equitable basis, regardless of location, based on the number of students per school and whether the school is primary or secondary. Substantive equality, as members know, is about equality of outcomes, and I am not convinced that the current allocation methodology achieves equality of outcomes. Many variables are being ignored.

It is further asserted that the bandwidth allocated must be solely for educational purposes. I am advised that schools are unsuccessfully trying to do this. The Department of Education contends that non-educational content, including You-Tube, is made available for download by students and that that is clearly outside the terms of the allocation of capacity. However, that is making an assumption that the material contained on YouTube is being used for non-educational purposes. Members will be all too familiar with the great work of mathematics teacher Eddie Woo, the 2018 Australian Local Hero of the Year, who makes the subject of maths fun and who has hundreds of thousands of followers on YouTube. I think the assertion that YouTube is only for recreational purposes is clearly contestable.

There is, however, light at the end of the tunnel. I am delighted to have received recent advice from the minister’s office that during 2018 the department intends to enable school-managed internet services, allowing schools to procure additional consumer-grade bandwidth through NBN providers or other service providers. This will enable schools to have secure direct access to the internet while still maintaining the required enterprise-grade connections to the central ICT division, which enables the high levels of security required within the school setting.

The next matter of contention is the announcement late last year that it was the intention of the Department of Education to no longer operate Landsdale Farm School. Initially, it was mooted that the City of Wanneroo may take this farm over, but that has been rejected by the council.

[Member’s time extended.]

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Landsdale Farm School, for those who do not know, is a demonstration farm in Landsdale in my electorate. It is used as a training facility for secondary public school students and primary school students with a disability. It also has facilities for schools and community groups to use for camps. The farm is also open during the day, including at weekends, to the general public. Its primary purpose is to provide public school students with a disability access to farm experience and facilities for training to develop independent living skills.

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Some schools use the accommodation for students with a disability, while country school groups use it as a city base for camps. An equally important purpose is to provide services and facilities for community groups for people with disabilities. The farm has alpacas, chickens, cows, donkeys, ducks et cetera, and opportunities to learn about farming practice. Family Support WA, Friends of Yellagonga, the Haystack Café, the Northern District Herb Society and the Wildflower Society have licences to base their activities at the farm. Understandably, there is community disquiet at the suggestion that the announcement meant that the school would close altogether. That is not the case. Expressions of interest are being called from organisations that might be interested in operating the farm and its activities. The registration of interest closed in late April and a decision will be made in June and July.

I want to refer briefly to one paragraph of the tender document because I believe it will reassure those who have this disquiet that Landsdale Farm School will not operate similarly to how it is operating at the moment. The tender document at 2.5, “Conditions of Use”, states in part —

The Department’s key requirements for use of the ... Landsdale farm are that:

1. Public school students have priority access ...
- ...
3. Programs and courses continue to be provided for students with disability at Landsdale Farm;
4. All safety and duty of care requirements of school-aged children are met; and
5. The majority use of the sites retain an educational focus and use.

In addition to the requirements above, interested parties are encouraged to propose innovative and contemporary ways of operating and managing the facilities and associated activities ...

In addition to these requirements, the Department will consider favourably proposals to lease all facilities as a package, or more than one facility. In any case each submission will be assessed on its merits against the criteria set out ...

Those criteria are contained in another paragraph.

I do not have the information nor would it be proper for me to inquire as to the identity, level or number of organisations that have registered an interest. I am heartened by the conditions that I have read out—that Landsdale Farm School as we know it will continue to operate, albeit under a different management structure. I am aware that eight to 10 staff members, who enjoy their jobs, face either voluntary redundancy or redeployment. In their roles they will have acquired skills that enable them to relate effectively to children with disabilities. Those skills are much needed throughout the education system and I am hopeful that those people can be found roles commensurate with their experience and which recognise and rely on those special skills—an all too rare capacity.

Finally, I mention that provision has been made in this budget for flyovers at the Wanneroo Road–Joondalup Drive intersection and at Wanneroo Road and Ocean Reef Road. In the last week, we have heard from the member for Wanneroo and the member for Scarborough on this matter, so these roadworks are much discussed. However, in future budgets we must consider improvements for Gngangara Road. Although work has been done at the eastern end of that road, an increase in housing density in Madeley, a greater volume of heavy haulage trucks and increased activity in the Wangara industrial area have created problems, not the least of which are speed, noise at all hours, lack of access and congestion at peak times for commuters. There is some contention about how this will be best resolved. This is compounded by responsibility for the road being divided between state and local governments, with each having responsibility for parts of the section that need upgrading. A roundabout was mooted very late in the piece by the former member for Wanneroo, but the amount promised significantly underestimated the actual and real cost. Also, the City of Wanneroo now does not favour that solution. It wants to assess the impact of the two flyovers to the north, which I have mentioned, and to wait until they are operating to devise the ideal solution for Gngangara Road. Although that is sensible, it will require residents to be patient for longer than they should have to be. I have discussed with Minister Saffioti the need for us to do all the necessary preparatory work, such as acquiring land, to ensure that no delay occurs once the other road projects have been completed and evaluated. I thank Minister Saffioti for being receptive and I look forward to inviting her and the Mayor of Wanneroo to the electorate in the not-too-distant future so that we can consult with community members about any remedial measures that can be taken in the meantime. I have been advised that once the road is fixed, there will be higher levels of activity to the east and in the Wangara industrial area. Some work has been undertaken that suggests that an additional 300 jobs could be created in that area should the road be more amenable to the traffic that generates from Wangara. We all agree that the availability of jobs within the local area has positive benefits by relieving congestion and reducing commuting time, resulting in more family time and less fatigue and stress all around.

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I look forward with relish to pursuing these matters with my characteristic persistence and determination, and I commend Treasurer Wyatt and the McGowan government for their excellent endeavours in presenting this budget.

**MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Parliamentary Secretary)** [9.00 pm]: It is my pleasure to speak on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2018–19) Bill 2018 and the Appropriation (Capital 2018–19) Bill 2018—the budget. I have to say it has been entertaining to watch the opposition’s response to the budget. I do love being lectured by the former Minister for Transport on transport planning and Metronet. That is particularly because the former minister had such an incredible journey as transport minister and there was so much consistent flip-flopping on public transport planning in Western Australia, yet he had the audacity to lecture us and argue that his plans for transport were coherent. I want members to remember “Mr Flip Flopper”, the former Minister for Transport. When he first became Minister for Transport, he said that MAX light rail had to be split. He then said, “Wait a minute. We might get more bang for our buck if we do it as a transit bus system, but it will still be MAX light rail.” I remember this. He said, “We will still deliver MAX. We will deliver something that is exactly the same experience, but the vehicle we will use will be powered by something else, other than overhead wires.” What he was saying is, “I want to deliver something that is exactly the same, and I want to deliver it with the exact same run times for the same customer experience.” That sounds to me like that is something different. I do not know about members opposite, but that does not sound to me like MAX light rail. That sounds to me like a bus. In February 2016, the former Minister for Transport ditched MAX light rail—to do what?

**Ms C.M. Rowe:** A bus!

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** No, underground along Charles Street. The northern suburbs are going to get underground rail. Woo hoo! We can believe that! I loved it when *The Sunday Times* said that the then minister’s latest proposal, which has no cost or time line details, comes after he had previously said that he wanted MAX to run on rubber-wheeled buses rather than light rail. Seriously! This is comedy in action. I know it is late, but it is comedy in action. The former minister should be doing comedy performances. Members will remember that at that time the then Treasurer, the member for Riverton, was asked, “Someone has called this a brain fart. How would you respond to that?” The then Treasurer said, “Some may call it a brain fart. Others may call it blah, blah, blah.” It was extraordinary. In around June 2016, the former minister actually killed MAX. He axed it. He then flagged new plans, which were then leaked. This is the proud record of the former transport minister, and he has the audacity to lecture us on our record!

I now want to address a key policy issue that is referred to in the budget. This issue does not get a lot of limelight but it is critical for the metropolitan area. I am talking about planning reform. The budget refers to the fact that this government is funding a planning reform process and will be releasing a green paper that will lead to a series of legislation aiming for short-term wins and long-term wins. I will get to that. It is a pity the member for Cottesloe is not here, because I want to address the issues of density and planning reform that are critical for the future growth of our city. For a few reasons I found the member for Cottesloe’s maiden speech extraordinary. Firstly, as an aside, it was the most brilliant Wikipedia entry reading of Cottesloe I have ever seen. He did not talk about his values, what inspired him to be in this place or why he was a Liberal; he told us how many schools there are and the square metreage of the electorate, and then he went on to this sort of bizarre comparison between Rockingham and Cottesloe. He said, “Well, we’ve got an average of R12 in the Cottesloe district and an average of R8 in Rockingham, so on that basis”—I will quote him —

... the Western Australian Planning Commission and some enthusiastic developers should look further south to Fremantle and Rockingham to increase residential density.

That is just genius policy! Let us compare inner Cottesloe with Rockingham and discover that there is a difference in density! By God, we are onto something here! My electorate—inner-city Vincent—is an average of R30 because we are closer to the city and have higher density.

I noted one thing about the member for Cottesloe’s speech. I could see a sigh of relief among the other members of the Liberal Party because when he gave that speech, there was the realisation in Parliament that that man would never be the Leader of the Liberal Party! He would never be the Leader of the Liberal Party because that was not a leadership speech. It was not about aspirations; there was nothing to hang it on.

**Ms S.E. Winton:** And there’s one of them!

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** This is the man they said would be the future Liberal leader! They all sighed with relief!

**Mrs R.M.J. Clarke:** There he is—right there!

**Ms S.E. Winton:** How do you feel? Do you want me to sit with you, member for Dawesville? Good on you, member for Balcatta!

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**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I knew the member for Balcatta had aspirations for Liberal leadership!

Several members interjected.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** No, we cannot! We are the government.

I have made some jokes about the member for Cottesloe's speech, but in all seriousness there is an intrinsic difference between Liberal and Labor on planning values, and it is encapsulated by the simple proposition that the Liberals believe that everyone else should have density—the working suburbs of the east metropolitan area, the north, the south—but that the western suburbs is some sanctimonious area that should not be bound to the woes of density and infill, and that when difficult decisions regarding that area, such as Cambridge, have come to Liberal governments, they have knocked back density. What a wonderful position for the safe Liberal seats in the western suburbs—they are given this glorious protection, yet everyone else is not afforded that. That is the absurdity of the member for Cottesloe's arguments regarding density, and it shows that he is out of touch. The simple reality we face is that we must all share the burden of the density across the metropolitan area. That is the burden we have to shoulder. We have to make sure we do it right and density is done well. That is the key challenge we face, and I put to Parliament that only Labor will deliver the planning reform needed for Perth. The Liberal government and the former planning minister, Hon Donna Faragher, were missing in action; the development industry will tell members that no decisions were coming out of there. Labor will deliver strata reform, planning reform, Design WA and a range of other planning tools to drive density, but density done well.

This is quite interesting. Numerous reports show that we have to embrace infill. A Curtin University report released in 2016 found that the government could save close to \$95 million for every 1 000 infill lots developed, compared with greenfields sites. It makes sense because greenfields sites need infrastructure—water, electricity, roads. The difference in infrastructure costs was \$150 000 to \$55 000 for infill sites. That is quite extraordinary. We know we have a big job ahead of us because in the last year there were 20 000 new residential home approvals in Wanneroo, Stirling, Cockburn and Swan. Not Cottesloe, Nedlands or Subiaco; not the enclave of suburbs protected under the former Liberal government. We have to accommodate an extra 1.5 million people in the Perth and Peel areas over the next 32 years. That is 800 000 new homes. We have to ensure that we create those homes and provide real and affordable choice for aspiring working families; that choice includes being close to public transport, schools and hospitals. We have to deliver that planning system and Labor will deliver it, not the Liberals and their protected western suburbs.

**Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup** interjected.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** We know that the member for Dawesville really wanted to be the member for Cottesloe or the member for Nedlands. The member got Dawesville. That is a bit odd for him; it does not match his suit and all his aspirations of the monarchy. I am very sorry that the member has an outer-metro area but he has to lump it. The reality is that Labor will deliver this much needed reform. Through the Metronet plan and the Metronet hubs, we will deliver that type of housing. We saw it yesterday. The Premier, the Minister for Planning and the wonderful member for Joondalup, who is a rock star, announced 5 000 houses in Joondalup, Bentley, Beaconsfield and Cannington over the next 15 years. We backed that with a social and affordable housing package that will build an estimated 1 390 new homes that are on new Metronet precincts and, more importantly, around heritage line stations, including the Deputy Speaker's own Bayswater station and stations at Redcliffe, Forrestfield, Midland and the Perth central district. Critically, this plan will create community hubs that connect local residents with community facilities, employment, economic activity, public transport and social services.

As part of the broader planning reform system, it is fair to say that there are currently a lot of complaints from developers, residents and the property industry—I saw you half-yawning there, Madam Deputy Speaker; I would say that you were just stretching your chin. I understand that there has been in part a backlash to density for two reasons. The first is genuine concern about the loss of amenity, trees and landscaping, and the impacts of car parking and traffic. Of course, part of that is the failure of the former Liberal government. It stood in time and did nothing on proper planning reform. It did not release Design WA to lift the basic benchmarks for apartment buildings and tackle head-on part of that concern regarding density. It sat there. The former minister, Donna Faragher was sort of—I do not know what she was doing. She was just waving from the sidelines because she did not make many decisions. That was well known in the property industry, and I am sure the former senior adviser to the former Premier also received those complaints.

We are doing Design WA. We are getting to the end stages. That will set clear benchmarks for apartment design. It will ensure that apartments are not built without windows, so bedrooms are not built without outdoor —

**Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup:** You cannot build them without windows now anyway.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Yes, you can. Bedrooms are being built where the only light is from —

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**Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup:** Internal light.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** It is terrible.

I have also seen examples of a courtyard wall being three-quarters high so they could not sell the units. The irony is that the low-level developers cannot sell those types of units because they have been designed so badly. I have been working with the Urban Development Institute of Australia and the property industry and the messages I am getting—they will want to see some tweets—is that we should get there. It will not only mean better landscaping, quality of life and better design, but also provide greater consistency across all local governments by having a similar standard.

**Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup:** Does it deal with exteriors?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Yes, and articulation as well.

At a broader level of reform of our planning system there are many complaints. I have referred to them before. The complaints are that it is costly, uncertain, frustrating, inconsistent and inefficient and lacks transparency. That is perhaps best captured in this one statistic: there are 146 local planning schemes in Western Australia, which runs to 13 091 pages—yes; I am a nerd—and there are 1 065 general zones and 1 365 special zones. Imagine the developer who is trying to get a couple of projects up that will create jobs, create density and create vibrancy in a town centre, yet from local government to local government, it is a different story. There are different processes, different cultures and, ultimately, different rules. For a resident who is being consulted on a project the processes can be unclear. Consultation for residents can be different from council to council. I see that planning reform can create a win for both sides. We can give industry, developers and property owners more certainty and more consistency across local government, but at the same time, for residents and those concerned about the planning system, we can create greater transparency and accountability in the process. We can do both.

These are the four key principles I genuinely believe any planning system should hold. The first is fairness. There should be fairness for residents and fairness for applicants regarding the process, time frames and certainty. There should be transparency in the process with clear lines, so that applicants know there is a clear beginning and end and a process to do that, and residents understand where decisions are heading. There should be integrity in the process, and both sides should have confidence about the planning decision and the decision made. They may not like the decision, but they understand how that decision has been made.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** The final one, and critical for industry, is efficiency in the planning system. We will do this with the release of —

A member interjected.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Everyone else has done it.

**Ms J.J. Shaw:** I am not going to do it.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Good on you. But I gave a performance before.

We will be releasing a green paper, which will attract serious engagement. We will get the findings back from that and a final white paper will come out. We are also planning new, consistent policies across the state, starting from the top—strategic policy, precinct planning that makes sense, apartment design, then a new category of medium density, looking at two-storey developments et cetera, which is probably the worst design.

The final thing I want to finish on is that, for the first time, we will also need clear performance benchmarking of local government. It is fair to say that local governments hate their performance being compared. They hate that accountability, but it is critical that we create a competitive environment in local government for planning and that there is some sense of public accountability about approval times, about processes, about community consultation and so forth. I hope that the opposition will support that and that we get clear performance accounting of local government.

I have focused on planning reform. As members know, I am passionate about it, but this is one of the critical issues that we face as a state in the next decade. We have a choice. The first is to have a sensible and confident discussion with our community about the realities and the need for infill and density—that it brings economic activity and vibrancy and life, it supports small business, and we need it for social inclusion. Alternatively, we can continue with unfettered urban sprawl, which will have an incredible cost on not just infrastructure, but also the economy, public transport and climate change. There are two clear options for us and I believe that this state government is embracing the first.

**Extract from Hansard**

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**MS J.J. SHAW (Swan Hills)** [9.20 pm]: It is genuinely an exciting time to be the member for Swan Hills. On Monday evening, I was at the Pearce Chamber of Commerce and Community launch event and the sense of excitement in the air was palpable. It is a really great initiative of the Ellenbrook community. I take my hat off to Kelly Marshall and Peter McLean and congratulate them for their hard work. They are trying to knit together small businesses and communities. It is really important to build capacity, build networks and create opportunities in our communities for small businesses to flourish, for community groups to benefit and for everyday residents to just do well.

It is an exciting time to be the member for Swan Hills because I think this state budget does great things to support my community in transport and jobs, and support for small business and young people. These are the core issues that matter to people in Swan Hills. When it comes down to first principles—core things that really matter to people in the community—this government understands them and delivers them. It is an exciting time. I must admit that one of the things people in Swan Hills wanted to speak to me about on Monday night was the Morley–Ellenbrook railway line. I am incredibly excited about the delivery of this project. We have already started the work. Through the Lord Street duplication project, the preliminary earthworks for the train line have been initiated. We have completed the project to relocate the telecommunications tower at the train station site. The business case development tender has been awarded. In October last year, I was absolutely thrilled to stand on the platform at Perth train station with Bill Shorten when he announced \$700 million for the Morley–Ellenbrook railway line. What a great day! But I wondered whether the Liberals could do it; I wondered whether the Liberals' former Treasurer, the current member for Pearce, could have an epiphany and somehow convince the Liberals that a railway line to Morley and Ellenbrook is justified and deserved, and was a project that warrants support. What do you know? Only a few short weeks ago, I had the very great pleasure to again stand on the platform at Perth train station, this time behind the current Prime Minister, as the Liberals agreed—not quite to \$700 million, but I will take it—to \$500 million towards the delivery of the Morley–Ellenbrook railway line. What a fantastic initiative. As a community in Swan Hills, we have to realise that finally, the Morley–Ellenbrook railway line has bipartisan support. I would particularly like to acknowledge Kim Travers, the Labor candidate for Pearce, for her fierce advocacy for the Morley–Ellenbrook railway line. I recognise that the project has bipartisan support, so it is time to get back to first principles when we are talking about the differences between a Liberal agenda and a Labor agenda. The difference could not be starker than in the presentations that have been made on the budget by this government and the response made by the Liberals opposite, which has frankly been atrocious.

This budget is about jobs. The construction of the Morley–Ellenbrook line will deliver jobs into my community. The creation of the Metronet precinct around the station will also generate commercial opportunities and jobs. In this budget, \$1.6 billion has been set aside for the manufacturing of railcars. Again, that will deliver jobs because it will require 50 per cent local content for the manufacturer of those railcars. We are not just talking about construction jobs and we are not just talking about commercial precinct jobs in the heart of Ellenbrook; we are talking about ongoing manufacturing jobs. That is what Western Australians want and that is what this government is delivering.

Another really interesting part of the budget, particularly for people right across Swan Hills, was the announcement of the government's \$394 million social and affordable housing project, which is intended to vitalise Metronet precincts. It will create 1 390 transit-aligned homes, 320 social housing homes and 400 affordable purchase opportunities. That is a really important thing for people in Swan Hills because fundamentally we have a disproportionately large number of small businesses, particularly in the construction trades. In fact, out of my entire family, I am the only one who went off to uni. The rest of them are in the trades—they are brickies, sparkies or chippies. These sorts of opportunities that spur growth in the construction sector will inject so much wealth into my local community that it will have a disproportionately fantastic effect. I am really excited about that. That is jobs for tradies throughout Swan Hills.

When I was reading through the budget papers, it is not just about jobs generation; there is also a really important element of supporting small businesses in Swan Hills, which recognises that building and construction industry workers and small businesses actually have a bit of a rough deal around securing payment for contracts that they undertake. Basically, they are seeing a real diminution in security payments for subcontractors and suppliers. It was very pleasing to see in the budget that the Small Business Development Corporation will continue to support the construction and building industry companies, it will continue to support those subbies who are putting themselves into work and getting out there, and it will continue to advocate for fairer contracting practices and work with government agencies to enhance the protections for subcontractors. It is so important in Swan Hills to protect not just the jobs of employees, but also the jobs and the revenue streams of the small business owners.

Another really important part of this budget relates to training and workforce development. We have a high proportion of construction workers. There are a number of small businesses in the game. That means that there is also a very high number of kids who are looking for traineeships and apprenticeships. I was very pleased to see

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that the vocational education fee freeze has continued in this budget. However, I was devastated to see commonwealth funding stripped out of TAFE. There is a little line in there that says, “Adjustments to Commonwealth Grants”, reflecting the fact that the commonwealth government is terminating the national partnership agreement on skills reform. The sum of \$54 million has been stripped out of traineeship and apprenticeship positions in the TAFE system. This state government has decided to tighten up payroll tax reform. Members will see this in the budget. We will tighten it up so that traineeship positions will be made available for people who are genuinely seeking traineeship positions. We will stop people who dress up—high six-figure salary employees, executives—from somehow claiming that they are trainees. We will stop that tax dodge, basically. We are tightening that up and applying that revenue to generate 43 000 new traineeship and apprenticeship positions.

The Liberals are blocking that, which I think is absolutely disgraceful. It disproportionately affects my community. The 83 per cent of kids at Ellenbrook high school who are doing vocational education and training genuinely need those traineeships and apprenticeships, yet the Liberals are blocking measures that would deliver them into my community. It is an absolute disgrace. I think they should be absolutely ashamed. I come back to the core issue I raised at the beginning of my speech, that this is about first principles and values. Labor understands them and wants to deliver apprenticeships and traineeships into areas like mine. The Liberals do not because they do not get it. Again, talking about apprenticeships and traineeships, I was very pleased to see that the Priority Start policy will be expanded to cover all major state-funded construction and investment. I think that is fantastic. A lot of the kids in my area go into trades and a lot of people run small businesses, so that is really important.

A couple of other things are going on that deliver jobs but also provide support for youth. I was very pleased to see funding in the budget to construct the child and parent centre at Arbor Grove Primary School, again delivering those trades jobs but also providing support on an ongoing basis into my community for families with children between zero and eight years. It is the fastest growing part of the metropolitan region and the only part of the metropolitan region not to have received a child and parent centre. It is great to see that we are addressing that in this budget. We are finally addressing the needs of my community, coming back to first principles, focusing on what people genuinely care about in Swan Hills, and delivering.

Again, at Aveley North Primary School, we are delivering an education support centre. As I said, it is the fastest growing part of the metropolitan area. Prior to this, there was no education support centre, despite 32 per cent of people being under 18 years. My electorate goes all the way out to Morangup, almost to Toodyay. Some of the kids at primary school have to be driven all the way to Bayswater—I know that that is in your electorate, Madam Deputy Speaker; you know how far Bayswater is from my homeland—just to access the sorts of services that other kids throughout the metropolitan area are able to access. We are finally delivering, coming back to first principles and giving the people of Swan Hills what they need and what they deserve.

I am quite passionate about youth issues, and people know this about me. The other thing that I was very pleased to see in the education part of the budget were programs promoting resilience, emotional regulation and behaviour of children and young people. I was really pleased to see that it is being further supported in public schools through the training of mental health coordinators in key school-based preventive mental health programs. That is great. That is absolutely fantastic. The other thing I was very pleased to see in the education budget is new specialist programs for students with autism in public schools. Again, that is fantastic. One of the great things that I have observed as I have come into this job is the extent of need and neglect for children’s mental health that we have seen over the last eight and a half years. It is great to see line items in the budget—again, first principles—focusing on what people need and what kids in our area need, and delivering. I was also thrilled to see that the investing in science program has another \$3 million per annum for three years over the forward estimates. I was with the Premier when that election announcement was made—about three days after I was preselected. That announcement was made at Gidgegannup Primary School. I am so pleased to see that program now being rolled out.

I will very quickly wrap up. A couple of things that are quite material to the hills are very important to mention. The first is fire and emergency services initiatives. I would like to congratulate Minister Logan for that. No pun intended, but it is such a hot issue in the hills. A total of \$128.5 million has been allocated over the forward estimates, with \$80.3 million being allocated for a rural fire division. That has been very well received in my electorate. I also want to acknowledge the fantastic work that all the volunteer fire brigade guys and girls do for us up there, protecting our homes and our lives every summer. We will support them with \$80.3 million for a rural fire division, \$34.6 million for bushfire mitigation, and \$18.1 million to establish a bushfire centre of excellence. How fantastic if that could be located in the hills. How wonderful that would be. Also, \$15 million has been allocated for bushfire risk mitigation planning. It is very important to get ahead of the game and be prepared. A total of \$8.7 million has been allocated for crew cab and protection measures. Again, those funds will be really important for our guys on the front line. Also, \$8 million has been allocated to replace volunteer fire stations. I would like to acknowledge the west Gidgegannup fire brigade for its advocacy for a fire station. I am really hoping that we will have some good news for it very soon.

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A couple of other things are in the budget for the hills, including another \$2.4 million for Toodyay Road on top of the work that we are already doing on the Stoneville Road–Reen Road intersection and the O’Brien Road–Roland Road intersection. Those intersections are deathtraps. The roads are a little slow around there at the moment. It is great to see that they are being upgraded and that another \$2.4 million will be spent on a road that has been voted one of Western Australia’s top 10 deadliest and most dangerous. It is great to see that it is finally being prioritised.

The final thing I think is a really noteworthy observation for the people of the hills in particular are the upgrades proposed to Midland train station. Moving the train station eastwards brings it closer to home for us in the hills and makes it far more accessible. It will be a more modern facility located near the hospital and it is going to make things so much easier for those who, like me, commute into the city every day. This budget is great. I will not talk about the generalities, other than to say that it demonstrates significant restraint in expenditure growth that those opposite were never able to demonstrate. It charts a way back to surplus, it tackles debt meaningfully, it means jobs, it means opportunities for youth, it means public transport and Metronet, it gets us back to first principles, it focuses on what my people need and deserve, and I congratulate the Treasurer.

**MR S.A. MILLMAN (Mount Lawley)** [9.35 pm]: Like my colleagues, I rise this evening to make a brief contribution in support of the Appropriation (Recurrent 2018–19) Bill 2018 and the Appropriation (Capital 2018–19) Bill 2018. I start by thanking my colleague the member for Swan Hills for her contribution, as a fierce advocate of the hills region and the outer suburban regions around Ellenbrook. She is testament to how well the Labor Party can represent those regions, and I look forward to the new member for Darling Range being a Labor member to carry on the torch on behalf of those residents in exactly the same way as the member for Swan Hills represents her constituents in Ellenbrook and the foothills of Perth. Hers was an excellent contribution that focused on values and priorities, two issues I would also like to canvass in the time I have this evening.

The McGowan Labor government’s state budget continues to deliver on election commitments in my electorate in Mount Lawley, creating jobs for Western Australians and delivering quality health care, education and community services. This budget, much like last year’s budget, has a strong focus on responsible financial management, and as a result the budget is back on track to return to surplus. We, the McGowan Labor government, are getting on with the job of implementing the new WA jobs law, helping local businesses in the Mount Lawley electorate secure work from government spending. The key election commitment to create more manufacturing jobs is on track, with a \$1.6 billion project to deliver 246 new railcars over the next 10 years as part of Metronet. The McGowan Labor government is committed to improving infrastructure and services across Perth suburbs. As I say, this budget includes \$1.6 billion for the new Metronet railcars; a \$394 million investment in social and affordable housing, which has already been addressed by my colleagues; \$275 million in additional funding over the next five years towards new and upgraded health facilities across WA; a \$1.2 billion investment over the next four years to build and improve WA’s public schools; and \$181 million from the road trauma trust account for road safety initiatives. An initiative that is particularly dear to my heart and popular amongst the voters of Mount Lawley is \$134 million over the next four years for improvements to cycling infrastructure and \$10.3 million in additional funding for preventive maintenance to refurbish older schools and upgrade schools in bushfire-risk areas.

That is at a statewide level, but there are also a number of commitments contained in this year’s budget that are pertinent to the people of Mount Lawley. For example, the Inner City College at Kitchener Park in Subiaco is due to open in 2020 due to a commitment of \$68 million. There is \$4.5 million to continue upgrades at Mount Hawthorn Primary School; \$1.5 million to upgrade the administration facilities at Yokine and Weld Square Primary Schools; \$4 million in upgrades for Mount Lawley Senior High School; an \$11.8 million funding boost to implement the mental health observation area at Royal Perth Hospital, which again delivers on another election commitment; and funding for the redevelopment of the Highgate Police Station and ventilation stack from the heritage revolving fund. We can see that this is a budget that does a number of things. It delivers on our election commitments, it continues the hard work that the government did in last year’s budget to rein in spending and it diversifies income streams to make sure there is a fair share of the burden in delivering budget repair.

This government understands thrift, much like some of the hardworking people in the electorate of Mount Lawley. I would like to commend to the chamber some of the parents and citizens associations that we have in Mount Lawley such as at Coolbinia Primary School, with president David Foot and vice-president Christine Jordan. They know through the hardworking efforts that they put in to fundraise, provide services and facilities for students who attend Coolbinia that it is important to take care of the money they are able to raise. I also commend Mount Lawley Primary School P&C and its chair Brad Farrell. Yokine Primary School P&C, with former long-serving president Kelly Barnes, put in a herculean effort in the time she was president making sure that it was sufficiently funded to do things like invest in a nature playground. It now has a new president in Kate Hammer. I also mention the Sutherland Dianella Primary School, with its new president Sherron Papamihail, and former president Natalie Ray. I particularly want to single out the P&C of West Morley Primary School, and its president Anthea Rogers. When we were elected into office, we made an election commitment to deliver

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\$50 000 to the West Morley Primary School to pay for a new roof on its outdoor covered learning area. Anthea Rogers and the West Morley Primary School P&C knew that they could take advantage of that money and leverage it, through hard work and thrift, to get the greatest possible return on investment. In addition to putting the new roof on the covered learning area, they also used our direct-to-market policy to source local contractors to paint the floor and install the cabinetry. They paid for that through fundraising in the local community. We have the government making a contribution, the local community making a contribution, and the legislative framework in place to make sure that we get good value for money. This is exactly what the McGowan Labor government stands for.

Some of the sporting clubs in my electorate also understand the importance of thrift. Rob Geerson and Shawn Pearson at the Coolbinia Bombers Junior Football Club work assiduously and with great dedication to promote and encourage participation at the club. It has beautifully refurbished clubrooms, and is always on the lookout for new opportunities to make the club even better. Through that hard work, and the appreciation and understanding of the importance of looking after the finances, they are able to achieve great things for their community and for that football club.

There are people who take the initiative in making sure their communities are safe, working with me, as their local member, the local councils, the rangers and the police to make sure that there is a sufficient presence so that crime rates are pushed down. In this regard I would like to commend Adeline Hillen, from Coolbinia–Menora, Robert Benolo and many others, particularly at the Loop in Mt Lawley, who work together, collaboratively with their community, to promote community safety in an affordable and responsible way.

All these community organisations, primary schools and sporting groups in my electorate understand the need to exercise financial responsibility with great care and diligence—something that was absent, unfortunately, in the previous Liberal–National government. That is why we are tackling the hardest political issue of our time and the hardest economic issue of our time; that is, how do we go about addressing the debt and deficit, restoring surpluses in the recurrent expenditure and paying down the debt? The trouble is that it seems to me, having heard all the contributions made during the course of this debate, that only the Labor Party gets that. It seems to me that members opposite exist in some magic pudding world in which they are not prepared to make the difficult decisions that a responsible government makes. We have to pay down the debt, but not at the expense of developing the economy. We have to invest in economic infrastructure, but only in a way that we can afford. We have to pay for community services such as health, education and police in a way that continues to deliver for WA. We can increase revenue, we can reduce expenditure, and we can invest wisely. This constellation of levers at our disposal will make the difference. The Labor Party understands that, but the Nationals and the Liberal Party do not understand it. We know that we need to invest in Metronet, because it will provide jobs, economic activity and value capture. We know that we need to invest in education so that we can give people opportunities for meaningful participation in society. We know, because the evidence tells us, that if people have the choice of going to TAFE, they are much less likely to fall into antisocial behaviour or criminal activity. That evidence is direct from Victoria. We are chasing investments like the pilot training school for Qantas.

The people in my neighbourhood get it. They understand the challenges facing the government; but, sadly, the opposition does not. Some members opposite say we need to sell assets like Western Power, thereby breaking our election promises, which shows just how little regard they have for the community. Some say we should not make changes to the size of the public sector or the size of the government, which would prompt unrestrained spending in the future and burden our children and our grandchildren with an incredible debt that will never be paid off. Some say we should not increase revenue. It appears as though the opposition has quickly adapted to the all care, no responsibility approach, and it appears that that suits it. Sadly, unless the opposition begins to grasp the nettle and understand the challenges facing this state because of eight and a half years of economic mismanagement, it will be continually consigned to opposition because it is demonstrating that it has no concept of the responsibility required to govern this state. Let me make it clear for members of the opposition: we will not scrap Metronet, we will not sell Western Power, we will not build Roe 8, we will keep royalties for regions and we will return the budget to surplus.

I commend the Treasurer for the continuation of the excellent work he put in last year in developing the budget in a way that will promote economic growth, restrain profligate spending and put this state back on the track to financial recovery.

**MS J.M. FREEMAN (Mirrabooka)** [9.46 pm]: I also rise to speak in the second reading cognate debate on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2018–19) Bill 2018 and the Appropriation (Capital 2018–19) Bill 2018. I want to speak specifically about WA Labor’s employment agenda, because the Mirrabooka–Balga electorate continues to experience unacceptable rates of employment, at 21.5 per cent. That has improved since an unemployment rate of 25 per cent that the electorate had to endure during the period of the Barnett Liberal government, under Treasurer Mike Nahan, now Leader of the Opposition. We may not be saying one in four people now, but 21 per cent is still

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unacceptable. Treasurer Ben Wyatt is therefore to be commended for delivering a budget that creates jobs and strengthens the economy to underpin stable employment. Under this government, since March 2018 we have already seen an increase of 30 000 jobs and a commitment to another 20 000 in the year ahead. That, coupled with the 246 railcars being built locally and local content increasing from two per cent to a goal of 50 per cent, bodes well for the Mirrabooka electorate, as its residents are keen to take up those job opportunities.

The reasons for this high unemployment in Mirrabooka are many, but one reason is the number of newly arrived migrants in the area. Forty-six per cent of the Mirrabooka community was born overseas and 60 per cent of parents were born overseas. There are many challenges facing those people entering the job market, not least of which is racism. Data provided by the federal Department of Jobs and Small Business illustrates that migrants experience greater difficulty gaining employment. Mirrabooka has had 26 800 people arrive in the area in the last five years. In addition to a downturn in employment, of the many skilled migrants in that 26 800, 67 per cent were skilled migrants or migrants who have gained qualifications in Australia and have struggled to find employment.

It is not all bleak. I want to point out that this government is focusing on employment and jobs and it has funded the Kaleidoscope program, which, in collaboration with the City of Stirling, aims to harness the benefits of migration and diversity by supporting newcomers to obtain employment, and employers will reap the rewards of that diverse workforce. It was welcome news when the second stage of that program, the mentoring initiative partnership program, was announced. It is being funded after it secured federal Strong and Resilient Communities Activity grant funding of \$482 507. It will operate in partnership with the City of Canning and the Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre over the next three years. This collaborative relationship is based on the international best practice of the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council, which aims to boost the economic participation of refugees and migrants by connecting them with occupationally specific mentoring and assisting them to achieve their career goals. The evidence that this works has been demonstrated by the success of the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council. In 2017, 91 per cent of the mentees were employed in their field within six months of completing the program. This program includes a metropolitan migrant centre aspect of increased school engagement and retention for refugee and migrant students through connecting youth, family, school and community at Balga Senior High School and Dianella Secondary College. This will include information on post-school options and how parents can support their children and reduce conflict caused by cultural expectations within families.

Clearly, the emphasis of this government in the budget is on diverse job creation, combined with strengthening employment, and it gives much hope to the communities I represent. In particular, the implementation of the Western Australian Jobs Act 2017 will create more jobs for local workers through ensuring that Western Australian businesses get a great share of the contracts to supply goods, services and works to the government. That will be welcomed by the residents of Mirrabooka. I particularly welcome the government's commitment to introducing a skilled local jobs bill for major resource projects and its focus on increasing training opportunities for people to fill these positions.

Given our new cooperative federalism—apart from the arguments around the GST—the impetus for many is the effective delivery of employment services. As Rob Sturrock said this month in his article in *Inside Story*, the best employment services are local, linking organisations and understanding local areas and employers. Unfortunately, the Jobactive model does not fulfil that. With the Jobactive model being under consideration, it is imperative that the state government plays a role in ensuring the successor model delivers to Western Australians seeking employment. The outsourcing of human services, such as Jobactive that occurred 20 years ago when the Job Network commenced in 1998, has not been successful in delivering to unemployed citizens. That is my firm belief. When we consider that Jobactive receives \$7.3 billion over five years for 65 private and not-for-profit providers, it is failing in its service to jobseekers. It has simply adopted a role for the federal government to monitor the adherence of jobseekers to the prescriptive rules around payments and Newstart, with a view, I think, to giving government the capacity to breach. I am not blaming the staff. The staff are doing the best they can, given their limited training—which is supported by research around their training levels—and support. With an average case load of some 19 clients a day, it is very difficult for the staff to deliver the necessary services to their clients. In Mirrabooka, they see a lot more than 19 clients a day. It is clear from the 2015 analysis of Jobactive prepared by the Centre for Policy Development that although Jobactive might be fine for a person who is skilled and connected, for low income, low skilled or disadvantaged groups, such as culturally and linguistically diverse groups, Jobactive struggles. This is certainly the experience of the community members I see, who go next door to the Jobactive provider and then come to my office frustrated and sad that they cannot get work.

The data for the 12 months to March 2017 illustrates that although 60 per cent of stream A, the most employable jobseekers, gain employment within three months, stream C, the most disadvantaged, lack the same opportunities and outcomes, with only 27 per cent gaining employment. The data shows also that 62 per cent of that 27 per cent

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are mostly casually employed. However, they are much better off than the 44 per cent who remain unemployed and the 29 per cent who leave the labour force because of frustration or other situations. We can see that Jobactive is just not delivering to those people. There are reports that many of the Jobactive providers stream CALD communities into stream A and not into the streams that can provide further assistance.

The Committee for Economic Development of Australia released a report in April this year titled “How unequal—Insights on inequality”. It is clear from that report that the prolonged period of economic growth that we experienced in Western Australia was not shared equally, and that the impact is detrimental on society as a whole. Coupled with previous research on entrenched disadvantage, which showed that between four and six per cent of our society experiences chronic or persistent poverty or deprivation, Patricia Faulkner notes in that report that 13 per cent of Australia’s population is living below the poverty line. In addressing this, CEDA recommends more effectively tailored job search assistance for the long-term unemployed.

The average weekly household income in Mirrabooka sits at \$1 094. This can be compared with the state average weekly income of \$1 595. With a population six years younger than the state average of 36 years, youth unemployment is also a significant problem. This was highlighted in the recent Brotherhood of St Laurence report that highlighted the 16 per cent youth unemployment rate in Perth’s north west. Further, Jesuit Social Services illustrates that the entrenched disadvantage in geographically concentrated areas results in increased indicators for unemployment, domestic violence, criminal convictions and disengaged young adults. The Committee for Economic Development of Australia report highlights research that locality in the early years can impact on lifetime income, and requires governments to address locality-based disadvantage to give all Western Australians increased opportunities in their lifetime.

These things really matter, and a focus on educational attainment and delivery of an equitable education system is at the core of WA Labor values, and the budget commitment to success for every student and best possible teaching practice remains a key priority in delivering high-quality education. This will be accomplished through engaging students and increasing attendance, as the research from Hancock, backed by The Smith Family, clearly illustrates a strong association between school attendance and achievement for students across all socioeconomic backgrounds. We need to focus on getting our kids to school and getting them a good education. This sort of commitment to excellence in teaching is on display at Warriapendi Primary School and has been recognised by the Department of Education in awarding the school for excellence in public education. Warriapendi, with its students drawn from over 46 different nationalities, speaking 36 languages other than English, and 21 Aboriginal students, has overcome the challenge of a low index of community socio-educational advantage through committed, skilled teachers, united leadership teams with clear aims, and an inclusive and respectful school. I congratulate them.

I will finish on a very contemporary issue given the recent preselection in Queensland of a male to replace a woman. Clearly, the parliamentary representation of women has a problem called the Liberal Party. On 26 March, Ged Kearney was sworn into the commonwealth Parliament as the member for Batman, increasing the representation of Labor women in the federal Parliament to 48 per cent. When David Honey, member for Cottesloe, took his WA parliamentary seat on 10 April, WA Liberal women remained at less than 14 per cent of the WA Parliamentary Liberal Party—well below its federal counterparts at 22 per cent. But we can give some credit to the state Liberal Party: with the recent federal Liberal preselection, it will go down to 17 per cent representation—the lowest since 1993. Currently, the WA Parliament has 30.5 per cent of women parliamentarians—the heavy lifting being done by the Labor Party, with 40 per cent of women in its ranks. Since Edith Cowan was elected in 1921, the participation of women in the WA Parliament has grown at an average of 1.1 per cent each election. At this rate, WA will have to wait until the end of this century to see women’s representation reach parity. The 2016 UK parliamentary committee report “Women in the House of Commons” highlighted how society is better overall when women occupy seats in Parliament. The UK report stated that to deliver better representation, what matters most is preselection in seats most likely to successfully return women MPs. The result of the 2017 state election and the Cottesloe preselection demonstrate how Liberals rely on their women members of Parliament to work marginal electorates that are difficult to retain. Indeed, in the 2017 election 70 per cent of Liberal women either lost their seats through preselection or were in unsafe seats. When the majority of safe seats go almost exclusively to men at the expense of young and talented women, as in the case of Cottesloe, it is not about merit. Compare this with WA Labor’s organisational response in affirmative action targets. The Labor Party’s target recognises that although men and women might be equally capable, electorates are not. WA Labor adopted its first target in 1994 of 30 per cent female representation by 1997. It now stands at 50 per cent by 2020–25, ensuring that it will meet the Australian Parliament’s commitment to the 1979 United Nations’ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. In contrast, 25 per cent of Liberal candidates at the 2017 election were women, but only men were preselected in the winnable seats of Dawesville,

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Hillarys and Kalgoorlie. It was a similar story in 2013 when men were preselected in the safe Liberal seats of Churchlands, Bateman and Alfred Cove. Although the Liberal Party argued that their women candidates are women of merit, it has clearly chosen to award safe seats—with the exception of Vasse—to men. Certainly, the merit of Liberal members of Parliament Hon Helen Morton, Hon Robyn McSweeney and Hon Liz Behjat was not recognised, as they were effectively dumped from the 2017 upper house election. The Cottesloe result demonstrates that something is seriously wrong with the Liberal Party's structure, which impacts on overall parliamentary representation. That is the issue—overall parliamentary representation of women.

Research shows that targets do not falsely elevate women. Quite the opposite, they ensure that women of merit are put into positions in which they will be successful. Although the electorate decides who represents them, equality is evidenced only in results, and guaranteed outcomes are in safe winnable seats. As Paul Keating said, when half the population is more strongly represented, we will all be stronger for it. This will not happen while one side of politics fails to acknowledge that its structures hinder equal representation.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.R. Michael**.

*House adjourned at 10.01 pm*

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