

**Extract from Hansard**

[ASSEMBLY — Tuesday, 25 September 2012]

p6428b-6480a

Mr Bill Johnston; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Andrew Waddell; Mr Martin Whitely; Mr Chris Tallentire; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Fran Logan

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**LOAN BILL 2012**

*Second Reading*

Resumed from 15 August.

**MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington)** [3.18 pm]: I note that I am not the lead speaker for the opposition on the Loan Bill 2012. The Loan Bill is a general debate, so I will start by talking about a few things in my electorate, and I will then move on to some broader issues. The first thing I want to talk about is the Quattro development in Queens Park. That development has been going on for some years. In fact, the member for Belmont tells me that the Deputy Premier might have been the Minister for Housing when that project was started.

**Dr K.D. Hames:** I pricked up my ears as soon as you mentioned it! I am sure I recall doing that.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** The member for Belmont tells me that it was in about 2000, when the Deputy Premier was the Minister for Housing, that the decision was made to bulldoze the Maniana development, which was 240 Homeswest houses that had been built in the 1950s and 1960s, basically all fibro boxes, in an older-style development in which there was quite a large crime problem.

**Dr K.D. Hames:** It was part of the New Living program. It was the extension that we did after we had done Lockridge and Balga; it was one of the next phases.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** That is right. The former Court government started the project, which was continued by the incoming Gallop and Carpenter governments. A contract was let to the then Peet and Co—now Peet Ltd—to be the developer for the project. It effectively started with a clean sheet of paper and created a very well regarded community. The last set of blocks are just about ready for sale and people will be moving in quite soon. There is a high standard of parks and gardens and well-designed streets. It literally was a completely new development. It is interesting that six individually owned houses were not sold to the developer, and they are still sitting there, with their 1960s-style bricks and tiles, next to the brand-new houses that are going up. They have their own issues and I have been dealing with them.

However, the issue I want to raise is that the Department of Housing currently has a proposal for a large unit development involving nearly 80 units on a block on the edge of the Quattro development. I do not have any problems with Homeswest houses. There is one in nine in the Quattro development itself, plus a couple of small unit developments. The problem is that 80 units on that site in Quattro is too many. Even though I know it is intended that many of the units will be sold to private owners, it is still asking for a problem. Given that governments of all persuasions and the private sector have been spending such a lot of money over such a long time in changing the nature of what used to be Maniana and is now Quattro into somewhere that people are proud to live, it would be disappointing to overdevelop that block. The point I make about that is that it is quite a good distance—a kilometre or so—from the rail line. If it were closer to the railway—to the Queens Park train station or to the Cannington train station—we could understand the government wanting to have a higher density development in a walkable location, but it is not really a walkable location up around Quattro. I have written to the Minister for Housing. I know that the development there on the edge of Quattro is of concern to local residents, and I hope the minister has a think about what is being proposed. As I say, if it were closer to the train station, I could understand it. A great block that belongs to the Department of Housing is on the corner of Cecil Avenue and Sevenoaks Street. Next to that block is another block that belongs to the Department of Health, and that is right in the City of Canning's central city precinct. I would have no trouble at all with some intense development on that site, but I think the site at Quattro is wrong.

I want to go on to the two proposed housing development sites in the suburb of Ferndale. The northern one of those is on the former Kinloch school site. The council recently rejected the Department of Housing's application for rezoning. What I ask of the minister is that, in completing the plans for that site, he is sensitive to the needs of his neighbours. There are well-established houses in that area. Most people do not have a problem with housing development on that site, so long as there is sufficient open space for the young families that are moving in. Of course, it is not just young families moving into the proposed development. As the suburb ages, the people who have been there for 35 or 40 years are now moving to other locations—things are happening for them—and young families are moving in. So, there needs to be sufficient open space for the people of that area. There also needs to be design sensitivity, making sure that roads do not exit in front of people's bedrooms and those sorts of very technical details. I hope that the Department of Housing talks to its neighbours on that site to ensure that there is a proper development. If we end up with a mini Quattro, I think the people in the local community would be pleased by that. I also say that the local council needs to assess the facilities provided in the existing parks in that location in the northern part of Ferndale to ensure that things go well for the residents.

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On the other hand, the Karri Way site, the former Ferndale school site, is a bit different. The original proposal was that the whole of the school site would be turned into a housing development. Right from the start, I have always said that I would not accept development on that site that impacted adversely on the Bush Forever site. I believe that the application made by the Department of Housing to the local council for that site retained the bushland, and that is very important. A very good volunteer group, the Bannister Creek Catchment Group, looks after Bannister Creek, which is not very far away. I have talked to some of the people involved in the volunteering for the regional park and Bannister Creek and they would be very pleased to be able to engage with that block. It is not immediately adjacent to Bannister Creek, but it is close enough that they would be very pleased to be able to be involved in maintaining that piece of land.

In regard to the balance of that site, the government chose to transfer the school buildings to Damla College, which has a great group of people. It is based on the Turkish community. I am very pleased that they have a site that looks as though it will become a permanent site. Until they get legal ownership of the school, they have problems with funding from the federal government, so they need to get security of tenure at that location, if that is where they are going to end up, which they currently do not have. Obviously, they cannot get that until the zoning is resolved. However, given that there is now a school on that school site, I think that the Department of Housing needs to reconsider its original plan for turning the school's oval into a housing development. I believe that that is now overdevelopment. I did not have a problem when there was not going to be a school there, but the school needs to have sufficient space for its kids to recreate, and the current plan by the Department of Housing does not allow for that. It is time for the Department of Housing to talk to its neighbours and reconsider its original proposal. Maybe there could be a small number of houses, but we still need to have open space. I know that Damla College would like to buy a larger parcel of land than the one it is being offered by the Department of Housing, but it is not in a position to bargain. If that is what is offered to it, that is what it will take. But given that the school is remaining on the site, and given that the Bush Forever site needs to be protected, we end up with a very small footprint for additional housing development. I do not think it is large enough for the proposal that the Department of Housing currently has before the council. We all understand the rights of the state government to override council decisions, and I imagine that is what will happen, but, in doing so, the department needs to reconsider its current proposal.

I want to move on now to some broader issues, and I will start with the proposal for the stadium. What I want to get to is this: why is it that the master plan does not tell us anything about transport? This is bizarre. The original proposal from the government has, of course, been changed. The original proposal was for the stadium to be at the Belmont race park, but given that the Premier cannot get his preferred site and has gone to the Burswood site, I want to know how long it will take to get 30 000 people across the rail bridge next to the Windan traffic bridge. There is only one lane on that bridge, so it does not matter how many platforms there are in the station at the Burswood stadium. The real limiting factor is not the station; the limiting factor is the bridge. If we have a six-car train, which I understand carries about 1 000 people, a certain number of trains will go east to Armadale and Thornlie, but all the other trains have to go into the city. So, how long is it going to take? It is not a particularly complex question. The Treasurer outlined in question time today the millions and millions of dollars that have been spent. In fact, he said that another location cannot be chosen because so much money has been spent in developing this detailed plan that covers every issue to do with the stadium. It is just a simple question. How many trains will be needed and how long will it take to get those trains from the city to Burswood? As yet, we have not received an answer from the government. That is the first question.

The second question is: will people have to change trains on their way to Burswood from wherever they live in the suburbs? We know about the Armadale and Thornlie lines; clearly, the people using those lines can arrive at the station but what about the people coming from the other direction? Do the people travelling to the stadium on the Joondalup, Midland, Fremantle and Mandurah lines have to change trains in the city? How will people queue to get across to Burswood? What process will be used to get 27 000 people from the city to Burswood? Twenty-seven individual trains will have to cross that bridge. Will people have to change trains in the city? If so, how do they know which trains they get on to next? Do they get a ticket that tells them they have to be at a train station at a particular time? Clearly, 27 000 people cannot catch the last train because only 1 000 people will fit on it. How will those 27 000 people be programmed to come across that bridge? It is a very simple question. Given the millions of dollars that have been spent, there must be an answer to those questions.

At the end of the game, how long will it take people to get the last train to leave? Under the new Perth master plan of August 2012, there is an expectation that all people will have left the stadium within an hour of the end of the match. Again, what are the procedures? What will happen to get 27 000 people onto a train and across the bridge? That is the limiting factor.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** Turn the lights off!

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**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** The member for Vasse is the Minister for Transport; I thought he might have an answer.

**Mr J.E. McGrath:** If people walk, there will be two ways they can walk to the station.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** We will talk about that in a minute. The government says that 27 000 people will cross the bridge to get to and from the game. They are not the people walking to the stadium; they are the people catching the train to the stadium.

**Mr J.E. McGrath:** And there are two bridges to the station.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** No; there is only one railway bridge.

**Mr J.E. McGrath:** There will be two bridges to the station.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** So there will be a double track.

**Mr J.E. McGrath:** There will be two ways they can leave the stadium and walk to the station.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** That is what I am asking. One thousand people will fit on a train, and the government is saying that 27 000 people will leave Burswood station and head west but there is only one line across that bridge. There is one line west and one line east, unless the government is saying trains will run on both tracks in a westerly direction. Only one train can run at a time.

**Mr J.E. McGrath:** They follow each other out.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Okay. I understand that there will be a three or four-minute gap between each train.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** At the moment I think it is three.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** It will take 81 minutes to get the trains away.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** It depends on the size of the train.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** What will the government do? Will it have a nine-car train? It has only got six-car trains.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** Why is that?

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Because that is what the government has. Where are they going to go?

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** Sorry?

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I ask the minister to tell me how it works.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** You are assuming that the maximum car set size train is six cars.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I ask the minister to explain to me how it will work.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** The most recent train station that we announced down at Aubin Grove will take a nine-car train.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** That is one station.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** We have not built Belmont station yet.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I know but that does not matter because if people get on a nine-car set, they cannot get off at a six-car set station.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** You're right, unless you get off at a nine-car set station.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** That is right. That is most likely to be the city. People will change trains in the city. That will take another 81 minutes. If we look at the government's plans, we can see that it will take people three hours to get away from the stadium. It is called mathematics. Twenty-seven times three times two equals 81. I know that the government has spent millions of dollars of taxpayers' money. So much money has been spent that the Premier cannot move the site to another location. I want somebody to explain how long it will take to get there. I asked a question previously and I was told that no planning would be done on that. Now we know that this planning is complete. It is a simple question. How long will it take for a person to get home at the end of the game? That is not an unreasonable question. Given that the government is spending \$1.5 billion on the stadium when we add all the other costs, it is not a particularly unreasonable question.

I would also like to know whether the \$90 million that has been discussed for the ancillary costs includes moving the tennis centre. Every time I see a map, including the maps that are in the design rationale for the stadium, it shows buildings on top of where the State Tennis Centre is currently. Has that been included in the costing?

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**Mr C.J. Barnett:** It's not being moved; it's staying where it is.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Why do all the designs show buildings on top of it?

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** One of the interesting computer-generated images shows a block of units along the edge of the Graham Farmer Freeway where the tennis centre is. Maybe the government is intending to build units on that site. I have no trouble with that. I am wondering whether that means there are costings for moving the tennis centre. If the tennis centre is being moved, it needs to be costed. If it is not being moved, why is the government continually putting out maps, plans and computer-generated pictures that show buildings on that location?

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** Look at the PDP; it's not going to be moved.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I have the design rationale in my hand. It shows on a number of pages —

**Mr J.E. McGrath** interjected.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Why do the other drawings include it, like the one that I am holding up, which says "Supporting infrastructure" and shows the train station where the tennis centre is? It is not clear why the government is continually putting out these misleading images that do not show what is happening.

I have some other questions that need to be answered. Is it intended that people will just catch one train to get to the stadium? For example, will the people who get on a train in Joondalup get off at Burswood? The Premier said on the radio that Burswood is the centre of Perth's transport infrastructure. Funnily enough, that is not correct because the centre of Perth's metropolitan rail line is the Perth railway station. If people get on the train in Midland, can they get off at the Burswood station? It is not an unreasonable question, given that the government has spent millions of dollars on plans that make it impossible to move the site to any other location in the state. What is the answer? Can people catch a train in Midland and get off at the Burswood station or do they have to change trains in the city?

**Mr J.E. McGrath:** No, you've got to change trains.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** That is interesting to know.

**Mr J.E. McGrath:** You can get off at the station at the powerhouse or you can go into the city. You walk across Windan Bridge.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Okay, but the plan predicts that 8 000 people will be walking across Windan Bridge —

**Mr J.E. McGrath:** How many people walk to the MCG over the bridge?

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I am not arguing that that is a bad number; I am just saying that that is the figure— 8 000. Is the member saying that they are all coming from the Midland line?

**Mr J.E. McGrath:** Some might park cars over in East Perth and walk.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Okay, so are the 27 000 people coming across Windan Bridge only from Joondalup, Fremantle and Mandurah? Is that what the member is saying?

**Mr J.E. McGrath:** If they are coming over by train, do you mean, over Windan Bridge?

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Yes. If they get on the train at Joondalup, do they have to change trains in the city?

**Mr J.E. McGrath:** Yes.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** People from Midland have to get off at East Perth, Claisebrook, and walk across the bridge.

**Mr J.E. McGrath:** Or go into the city and come back.

**Ms R. Saffioti:** People coming from Armadale have to go into the city.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I assume that the people from Armadale will get off the train at the special station but only if they are catching a train that will go to that station and not the two regular transport trains an hour from Armadale and Thornlie.

The Premier said in his press conference on 24 August that we will not be able to have a Friday night match because of the transport crush.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** You could have one but it would be difficult.

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**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Does that mean that it will be difficult to hold a concert on a Thursday night and it will be complex to hold a Twenty20 match on a Wednesday night? What about an Ashes Test? Will it be difficult to have a Test match on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays because I imagine the transport demand for those matches will be pretty high?

**Mr J.E. McGrath:** Traffic is always more problematic in Perth on a Friday night.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** That is right. I am just trying to get a picture of how difficult it will be for people to get to the stadium. We will probably have spent \$1.5 billion by the end of this project. We want to know that we are getting \$1.5 billion of value out of the project. It is not unreasonable. I do not understand why the government does not tell us these things. I do not understand why the government continually hides the issues regarding the stadium. I do not know why it is afraid of telling the truth about the stadium that it is building.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** We could not have been more open. Every three months we give updates to the media and release information as it arises.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** No, you have not once told anybody about the transport arrangements.

Another thing the Premier says is that people will not be able to park their cars there. Then on radio he said, of course, that people will be able to park at Belmont racecourse. Has that been agreed? What is the pricing structure? What about the 12 000-odd bays at Burswood? How many people are going to park? Again, it is a simple question I asked, and the government's answer was that it had not done the planning. How many people are going to park at Burswood and walk to the stadium? It is a pretty easy question. Yet the government's response to that question is that it does not know.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** Do you know what the date is? It is 25 September 2012—six years before the stadium opens.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Excuse me; if I could have some protection from the inane interjection.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Cannington, to continue.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** It is pretty damn extraordinary that I asked the government how many people are expected to park at Burswood, pay their \$10 or \$12 to do so—or free, because there is free parking at Burswood—and then walk over to the stadium. It is an unreasonable question, I know! After all the millions and millions of dollars that will be spent—so much money that the government cannot move it to another location—why cannot the government answer such a simple question?

Another simple question was: how many people is it planned will be dropped off by somebody—that is, they will actually drive to the stadium but not park? How many people are expected to do that? If we add up all the numbers of people who are going to walk across this bridge and that bridge, we get to 60 000. That means the government expects nobody to be dropped off at the stadium in a car driven by their partner, for example, or by a friend. That is unbelievable. There is no way that that is a true number. Again, what is the reasonable expectation? How come there is not a proper plan for that? What is the impact on the traffic? I have asked about the traffic plan for “Polly” Farmer freeway and Great Eastern Highway. As a Victoria Park resident, I can tell members what happens to the traffic on Great Eastern Highway on a Friday night when there is a major concert at the Burswood Dome—it is paralysed. Everybody who lives in the area knows that.

**Mr J.E. McGrath:** There'll be six beautiful lanes by then.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Great Eastern Highway past Burswood already has six lanes, and it is not part of the current redevelopment, member. Go and look at what is happening. The current redevelopment ends at the “Polly” tube, which is a way to the north east of the part that goes past Burswood.

**Mr J.E. McGrath:** That is where the traffic is going to come in from the eastern suburbs.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Member for South Perth, next time there is a concert at Burswood, go and look at what happens to the traffic. It is just an easy question. If the government has done some modelling, table it; if it has done the planning, explain it.

**Mr J.E. McGrath:** It is six years away.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** So it does not matter? We are going to spend \$1.5 billion and then solve the problems in six years' time. That is superb planning, member! That is the best planning that I have ever heard of any project ever—the government spends \$1 500 million and then works out whether it works! Eighteen high schools worth of money is being spent on one project and then they say, “Ah, it'll be all right. We don't have to worry about things like whether anybody can get there or not, or whether people can get away or not.” People will have to get on a train at Joondalup at 10 o'clock in the morning for a two o'clock bounce-down, which is what members

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opposite are currently saying is going to have to be done. A person travelling on a train will have to leave at least three or four hours before the game, according to the plan presented by the government. That is the plan. Because only 1 000 people can get across the bridge between the city and the stadium at one time, there will need to be 27 different rail movements. It does not matter how many platforms are at the Burswood stadium; only one train at a time can get across the bridge. The government is saying that 27 000 people will travel on a train across that bridge. The government has done the planning; I understand that. Everything is fine and the government knows the answer to every question. That is why I am asking the questions. That is why we would expect a simple answer to those questions.

**Mr T.K. Waldron:** Can I say one thing?

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I have only got five minutes.

**Mr T.K. Waldron:** The project—for the traffic, that is—is due to be finalised in December. That was not part of what we have accessed today. The tennis centre does not move. The tennis centre stays where it is. It is actually in the PDP.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Explain to me, minister, why the pretty pictures you gave to the TV stations show a building on top of the tennis centre.

**Mr T.K. Waldron:** I do not know about those.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** This is another example —

**Mr T.K. Waldron:** I can give you a look at it; here it is.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** It is just another example of the problems with this. The government has a bridge that comes out at Gloucester Park.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** Nile Street.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** It comes out at Gloucester Park. There is a big explanation about why that is the best location.

A member interjected.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** It is Nelson Crescent.

**Mr T.K. Waldron:** Here it is again. Here is the map. There is Gloucester Park. There is the bridge coming out down there. And there is Nile Street.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** There are six bridge options in the plan. The one that is said to be the preferred option in the plan is the one that comes out at Gloucester Park. This is the bridge that apparently will be included in the \$90 million of ancillary costs.

**Mr T.K. Waldron:** No, it is not.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** So, is it even extra on top again?

**Mr T.K. Waldron:** No, it is in the transport money.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** It is going to be part of the sport budget. The government is already spending \$1 billion, so that is in the half a billion.

A member interjected.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Or \$300 million—what are you going to say?

**Mr T.R. Buswell** interjected.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Not really; not after the inflation factor is applied to the stadium itself. The government says the stadium costs \$690 million but the bill will be \$850 million. The government has not even let the contract, so the government has no idea how much it is going to be. In fact, not only has the government not let the contract, but also it does not even know what the design looks like. It says that all these things will be in it.

I return to something the Treasurer said in estimates. He said the project would be trimmed to meet the \$700 million.

**Mr B.S. Wyatt:** The former Treasurer.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** He was at the time the Treasurer. He said that the project would be trimmed to meet the budget. Yesterday, when the revised budget was announced, the government created this new precinct fund that had never been discussed before. Originally the precinct was going to include shops, coffee shops, water parks

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and playgrounds. Now it is not going to include any of those things and it is going to cost \$90 million. That \$90 million is going to include such extras as the sewerage for the stadium.

**Ms R. Saffioti:** The electricity.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** And the electricity supply to the stadium. Just think about that. The government was going to spend \$1 billion on the stadium and not have any sewerage, any water supply or any electricity. The \$900 million stadium with those great screens—the two largest screens in the history of Australia—would not have been able to work because it would not have had an electricity supply. The cost blow-outs in the stadium have been hidden by this sleight of hand in creating a separate fund. When the government compares apples and oranges, there is a final issue that needs to be borne in mind. Members should go back and read the original report about the operational costs of the stadium. A \$10.3 million subsidy will be required from taxpayers for that stadium every year on top of its operational income. Not only will we have to pay the \$1.5 billion of debt, but also we will also have to pay \$10.3 million plus inflation for a stadium with a traffic plan that the government knows but will not tell us about; it knows but will not tell us how long it will take to get on a train to the stadium.

**MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan)** [3.48 pm]: I rise to speak on the Loan Bill 2012. I will talk a bit about the financial aggregates and a lot about my electorate. I might start by talking about the stadium, given the very good presentation that the member for Cannington has just given on it.

This has been a very interesting debate over a number of years. We are now at a new point in the debate. I want to raise a couple of issues in particular from a sporting viewpoint and from a financial viewpoint. One of the key issues for me is Friday night games. The member for Cannington alluded to it. The state is spending \$1.5 billion on a new stadium, which will be world class, because frankly no-one spends \$1.5 billion to build a second-rate stadium. Every new stadium becomes the best stadium in Australia, because no-one sets out to build the worst stadium in Australia. They always aim to build the best stadium.

Friday night games will be difficult. To me, that is a very significant problem for sports in Western Australia.

**Mr T.R. Buswell** interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** We have Friday night games, Treasurer. As we have seen in recent weeks, before every weekend of the finals, bar the grand final, there is a Friday night game. That is done primarily for the travelling teams. The idea that we would spend \$1.5 billion on a world-class stadium and not be able to host Friday night football games is completely ridiculous.

**Mr J.E. McGrath** interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Member, the way the transport infrastructure is structured means that all its capacity will be used to shuffle people in and out of the stadium. It would be logistically very difficult to hold a Friday night game. The report states that and the Premier has confirmed that.

**Mr J.E. McGrath** interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** I have been to football at Subiaco on a Friday night and it is completely different. The reliance on one train line is very different from the situation in Subiaco. Here one train line service provides nearly half the entire capacity. That places a lot of reliance on that single —

**Mr J.E. McGrath:** There's only one train line that goes into Subiaco; it is the Fremantle line.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** There are two.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** You get off the northern line at Leederville.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** There is also West Leederville train station.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** You will get off the Midland line at East Perth station and walk across. It is about the same distance.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** I know, but let us face it; the capacity mixes are very different here. The location of the new stadium puts nearly total reliance on one train line. I have read the report and I have heard the Premier talk about it; basically, Friday night games will be very difficult to host. That is a fundamental flaw that has not really received the attention that it needs. I am talking from a football lover's perspective. I am a football lover. I have been a Dockers supporter for 18 years and a West Australian Football League supporter for a very long time. The idea of spending \$1.5 billion on a stadium at which it is difficult to host Friday night games is ridiculous. The idea that we can negotiate the start times with the eastern states—for goodness sake! We know our football times are driven by TV. They wait for the green light before they do a bounce-down. The whole timetabling of

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games in WA—plus the eastern states, but predominantly WA because of the time difference—is driven by TV coverage. The idea that we can sit there and negotiate and say, “We want a start time of 7.30 pm”, which will be 9.30 pm over east, is ridiculous.

**Mr A.J. Waddell:** Extreme daylight savings!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** It is the opposite; it is the reversal of daylight savings. It will be very difficult. Historically, the start time for Friday night games has been around 6.00 pm or 6.30 pm. Such games will be impossible to host. That is football; Twenty20 games are also planned to be held at the new stadium. International Twenty20 games are now the highlight of any cricket season for the Western Australian Cricket Association ground. If it will be impossible to host Twenty20 games on a weeknight, we are significantly devaluing what we have set out to do. We will have a world-class stadium that cannot host world-class events. It is ridiculous.

I have not seen a solution to that. I have reread the 2007 Major Stadia Taskforce report. Frankly, as the shadow Minister for Finance, Hon Ken Travers, has said, this new plan, which was released yesterday, does not have much more detail than the report that was done in 2007. They have changed it a bit; the dimensions of the grounds are different and the sightlines are a bit different. They have thrown in a couple of key lines, such as “fans-first”. We expect them to be! The actual documents do not have that much detail and the issue of Friday night games is not addressed. Like I said, I think it is a fundamental flaw of the project. We will spend \$1.5 billion and find it difficult to host Friday night games. Both the Fremantle Dockers and the West Coast Eagles want Friday night games because of the significant television and advertising exposure that they bring. The fact that we will find it difficult to host Friday night games at the new stadium is a flaw that has not been explained. From a football lover’s perspective, that is a significant problem.

From a financial perspective, as the member for Cannington and the shadow Minister for Transport and Finance have outlined, there are significant questions about full cost. As we know, in June 2011 the announcement was made that we would build at Burswood at a cost of \$700 million plus \$300 million for transport infrastructure. The plan that was released yesterday is basically an analysis to try to retrofit that \$700 million figure. The \$70 million sporting precinct is a classic example. The stadium will cost \$700 million and the sporting precinct will cost \$70 million. I thought that was quite interesting, so I had a closer look at what is contained in that sporting precinct. It covers electricity, water and the public utilities charges that are required to build the stadium. The government separated that \$70 million so that it looked like the \$700 million budget was somehow right. Frankly, the \$700 million was never going to be right.

Transport infrastructure is the other key spend. We have been given the figure of \$300 million, but, as I understand it, we will not get the final figure until December. New components include changes to the platforms at Belmont; reconfiguration of Perth train station, which I think is being done as part of the Perth City Link project; a new iconic bridge from Nile Street to the stadium; widening of Windan Bridge to increase its capacity for pedestrians; a new or expanded pedestrian footbridge over to Belmont, plus another footbridge over Victoria Park Drive; new bus platforms; a new roundabout; and an upgraded interchange on Great Eastern Highway. I am keen to see the total cost of that. Again, I think \$300 million will be a bit on the low side. We also have to escalate it to be in what will be out-turned dollars.

There are two perspectives. The first is basically a sporting perspective. Not being able to host Friday night games is a very significant problem. The other issue, which has not gained as much media attention as it has in previous years, is the relationship between the West Australian Football Commission and junior and country football in this state and those sort of cash flows. For example, will football be worse off? I suspect that if another side deal is not done, football will be worse off and less money will go to grassroots football in WA.

There is the sporting aspect and then there is the financial aspect, which is the total cost of the project. Given the information that has come out, we believe that the total cost of the project will be between \$1.3 billion and \$1.5 billion. There will also be operating expenditure, which has not been canvassed at this stage. It is a significant decision. We tend to highlight these issues because of the amount of money that is being spent in the CBD compared with what is being spent in the suburbs. The stadium, Elizabeth Quay and the Premier’s office are three examples of the government making the decision to spend significant amounts of money in the CBD at the expense of the suburbs. I want to go through a couple of examples of spending on key infrastructure in West Swan that has not taken place. I want to talk about Gngangara Road, which I have spoken about in this place numerous times before.

Gngangara Road needs to be upgraded to a dual carriageway. The City of Swan has estimated that it will take about \$10 million, on top of current funds and expected funds from other sources, to make Gngangara Road a dual carriageway. I would be surprised if Gngangara Road was not ranked the worst road in the metropolitan area in the next RAC Red Spots survey. Gngangara Road has an enormous amount of traffic on it daily and has terrible



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black spots and red spots, such as at the intersection of Gngangara Road and Beechboro Road and the intersection of Gngangara Road and West Swan Road. Frankly, these intersections are deathtraps. People have died on Gngangara Road in the past few months. Some work is being undertaken but the question is: why can we not make that carriageway a fully dual carriageway? Most people in the area and I believe that such a commitment is needed, necessary and urgent. The road is being used far beyond its capacity. It was not originally designed to be one of the major east–west connectors throughout the metropolitan area. With the completion of Ocean Reef Road—the City of Wanneroo did a very good job with that road—finishing at Alexander Drive, more and more traffic on Ocean Reef Road is crossing Alexander Drive onto Gngangara Road. The Deputy Speaker would be well aware of that issue. We are seeing significant urban development in south and east Landsdale, continued work in Ellenbrook and the expansion of Aveley, and the Lord Street corridor has a number of housing developments such as Whiteman Edge, St Leonards and Brookleigh Estate. I cannot stress enough how important it is to fix Gngangara Road. I do not know why this government will not fund it. It is very hard to listen to the government talk about not having enough money to fix dangerous roads when in another breath we hear about business-class seats in the proposed Burswood stadium on which the government is spending \$500 million more than it needs to. It is very hard for people to understand that. We will build a world-class stadium for \$1.5 billion when we could have built a world-class stadium for \$1 billion. The government is spending an extra \$500 million to get the same stadium built in a different location, yet it cannot allocate \$10 million to save people’s lives on Gngangara Road. That is a classic case of the government’s priorities being wrong. The government has lost itself in the glossy brochures showing the West Coast Eagles and Fremantle Dockers running onto a field and is not actually listening to the people in the suburbs.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** We are putting some money into the initial phase of Gngangara Road, and also down at West Swan, but you are right; it was really sad —

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The mother who died.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** Yes. I think that was within two weeks of when we announced the funding for the City of Swan.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** It was very sad when the mother died with her family watching; it was awful. That is just one example. Other people have died on that road. Given the amount of money that is being requested, it would be the sensible and correct decision to allocate funding to commit to a dual carriageway now. I also believe—I have written to the minister about this, and the Cities of Wanneroo and Swan support it—that Gngangara Road needs to become a Main Roads road because it is no longer a suburban road. The road needs to be taken under Main Roads’ wing and given that level of importance and recognition. It is now carrying significant traffic east–west and its importance has increased significantly because of the amount of traffic on it. Regardless of what happens to the Perth–Darwin national highway and what its alignment is, Gngangara Road will continue to be, and will increasingly become, a feeder road to the Perth–Darwin highway.

Another less talked about but significant road in the overall scheme of what is happening in the valley is Henley Brook Avenue. That is a local government road that was designed to be one of the key entrances to Ellenbrook. Ellenbrook is moving away from having just two entrances.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** Is that the one that is east of the residential developments on Lord Street?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Yes. It almost follows the pipeline corridor. Henley Brook Avenue, north of Gngangara Road, is the key separator of Ellenbrook on the left and Aveley on the right. It has been built north of Gngangara Road but needs to be completed to Reid Highway. An issue that has occurred slowly, but predominantly over the past five years, is the enormous increase in residential traffic throughout the area. With the developments of the Lord Street growth corridor such as St Leonards, both Lord Street and West Swan Road are becoming very heavily used. That is creating enormous problems for the people who live in the area and tourists. West Swan Road is meant to be a major tourism road in the area but it is becoming a congestion hotspot. Lord Street and West Swan Road are becoming heavily used, which is encouraging more people to use the more rural roads in the area as alternative rat runs. We are creating more dangerous local roads throughout the suburbs and semi-rural areas. The government needs to work with the City of Swan to advance the development of Henley Brook Avenue. There is a lot of confusion about its route and alignment and who should fund it, but I think it is a priority road to make the whole area safer.

[Member’s time extended.]

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Reid Highway is another major east–west connecting road. Reid Highway is an MRD road. It goes from a single lane to two lanes and then down to a single lane again, which causes enormous traffic

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problems. We also need to look at whether we should make Reid Highway and Roe Highway a designated ring-road with the necessary overpasses. If the finances allowed it, that would be a good project.

I want to touch on a couple of other issues about the Swan Valley in my electorate. Last week I asked the Minister for Planning about the review of the Swan Valley Planning Act 1995. I understand that the review will be released soon in the form of a discussion paper seeking consultation and feedback. I get quizzed daily about what is happening with the Swan Valley review. People want to know what is in store for the Swan Valley, particularly those who have been living there for a long time. They have seen significant changes in the valley. The Swan Valley Planning Act came into effect in 1995. Most people support it and believe it is a good act. Some people do not believe it is good but I think that the majority of people believe that the objectives outlined in the act are good. However, there is a lot of concern about the reality versus the objectives. Is the act strong enough and prescriptive enough? Does the act provide enough support and contain other mechanisms to enhance and preserve the Swan Valley for future generations?

When we look at a picture of the CBD and the Swan Valley, we can see that it is a little jewel in our suburbs. It is a rural zone that allows people in the metropolitan area quick access to rural living. Viticulture in particular has a strong history in the region. The table grape growers and wine grape growers have great stories about their role in the valley and what they have done to preserve and enhance the valley. We know that there are always competing demands with these types of issues, but a number of issues need to be addressed to strengthen the future of the Swan Valley, including governance, water allocation, the focus on tourism and how to better balance and promote tourism while still retaining and enhancing the integrity of some of the historic viticulture operations. Transport is another issue. As I said, West Swan Road is one of the major roads through the valley and is becoming a congestion point. More and more people who live in Ellenbrook and Aveley and along the new subdivisions in the growth corridor are using West Swan Road as the main road to get into and out of the valley—sometimes they are forced to because the other roads are not open. These issues, and the transport issue in particular, are creating enormous pressure points in the valley. I am looking forward to seeing this discussion paper and to developing a plan for the valley which is supported by the majority of people and which, most importantly, retains, promotes and enhances the valley for future generations. It really is a jewel in our north east corridor—a jewel in our CBD. Compared and contrasted to other areas, we are very lucky to have places like the Swan Valley in such close proximity to the city centre that add to the tourism experience of people from overseas. I do not really think we do tourism as well as we could in Western Australia, and one of the things we miss out on doing is highlighting some of those jewels in our suburbs. I think places like Rottneest Island are highlighted, but we can do more to promote places like the Swan Valley as a great day destination for international tourists.

I also promoted last week the idea of a pioneers monument in the Swan Valley based on a similar idea found in Fremantle. With such a monument, we would stop to recognise and honour, as a state and a community, the contribution made by the pioneers of the valley. As I said, there are enormous stories, in particular from the southern Italian and Croatian influences in the valley. However, there are a wide range of influences, whether it is the table grape grower, the wine grape grower or those little family companies who do a bit of value adding—a bit of olive oil here and there. There are some great stories. I think the Fremantle fishermen's monument is a great addition to Fremantle, and whenever I take my interstate or international visitors on a tour, one of the first destinations is the fishing monument down near the water to have our photos taken. It is a great bit of art, but it also recognises the significant contribution made by all those in Fremantle. I think a similar but bigger sculpture in the valley would be a great recognition. I have put that forward as an idea and it has received a lot of enthusiasm; it is something that we will be committing to. It will be a great addition to the valley.

I want to finish off with a couple of other issues relating to my electorate. I want to talk about Ballajura and some related issues. I have spoken before at length about the closure of the Ballajura Police Station, and I am glad that one of Labor's first commitments was to a police station in Ballajura. Some of the issues I have not been able to get final resolution on, but which I am working towards, relate to antisocial behaviour. Issues arise with laneways between people's homes. In one instance, we have sought to have a laneway closed because of significant antisocial behaviour that is encouraged by the laneway's existence. The City of Swan has not been too proactive, to put it mildly, in addressing this issue. The whole issue of suburban design is a little different for newer suburbs. Designing out crime and some of the new theories about how we design our suburbs to try to limit antisocial behaviour on the streets is very good, but some of the suburbs built in previous decades when cul-de-sacs were planning's buzz philosophy —

**Mr A.J. Waddell:** Cutting-edge design!

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**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Yes; it has created some significant problems where there are dead alleyways and cul-de-sacs that make policing the suburb a bit more difficult. I have asked the City of Swan—I have even put forward some ideas from other councils—to be really proactive and try to address this issue. Let us try to work with the local community on closing those laneways that the majority of the community do not support, in particular where those laneways do not lead to a significant community resource such as a shopping centre or library. We have situations in which laneways just exist for their own sake and they cause significant antisocial behaviour problems. I have put that to the City of Swan, and I hope to gain traction on the issue over the next few years.

I want to talk about Ellenbrook. As I said, I have been meeting a lot of people from Ellenbrook and getting to understand their concerns and priorities. One key issue, of course, is transport infrastructure, and I am happy that Labor has committed to the duplication of Gngangara Road. It is the number one road transport issue raised with me, and I am glad that Labor has committed to it. Labor is doing this for a number of reasons, but particularly for road safety. As I said, I do not think people should be afraid to drive along a road. I hear story after story of grandparents who look after their grandchildren worrying about their son or daughter going to work that day using Gngangara Road. I hear sons and daughters talk about how they worry about their parents leaving to use that road. Gngangara Road is now a road that people would avoid if they could, but because it is the only road going in and out of the area, people are forced to use it. There is a lot of fear and resentment in the community about that road not being properly fixed.

Of course, I talk to a lot of people about the Ellenbrook train line issue, which is raised constantly with me. I know members opposite do not believe people in Ellenbrook want or deserve a train line —

**Mr A.J. Waddell:** They did at the last election.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** They did at the last election, and of course the government never apologised for breaking that election promise. The Ellenbrook train line is an issue that is constantly raised with me. The member for Swan Hills, who I think technically still looks after Ellenbrook—maybe not—stated in this house that no-one has ever raised the Ellenbrook rail line issue with him. Everyone raises it with me. It is a serious issue, and this government has done nothing to progress it but done everything to discredit it, including some very, very questionable assumptions regarding patronage. It has never released any study. Hon Alyssa Hayden was on the front page of the newspaper saying that Ellenbrook basically does not deserve a train line and citing a study as the reason for that view, but we have never seen a copy of that study. I think she was quoted as saying that she wished everyone could read the report. Make it public.

There is no doubt in my mind that the government has seriously underestimated the patronage figures for the Ellenbrook train line. It has not taken into account the real impact of the growth corridor along Lord Street, the further expansion of Ellenbrook and Aveyley, some of the other associated towns that are increasing in size such as Bullsbrook, and some of the other things happening in north Ellenbrook that were recently mentioned in this chamber while debating a metropolitan region scheme amendment last week—in particular, further industrial areas and possible further residential areas. Significant growth is happening now and will continue to happen over the next five to 10 years. There is no freeway going to Ellenbrook. The road infrastructure is basically non-existent. It needs a better public transport system. The fact that this government has spent four years of government resources discrediting a rail line and not helping to support it shows me that it was never serious about the Ellenbrook train line. It effectively lied to the people at the last election and has done nothing to try to help those people over the past four years. This seems to be something that the government is very proud of; that is, it is very proud that it is not building the Ellenbrook rail line. To me, that says a lot about the contempt that this government shows to people in the suburbs, especially when it starts talking about business-class seats at a stadium to be built in six years without addressing some of the real congestion and public transport issues in our suburbs.

The last thing I mention is a swimming pool in Ellenbrook, which is another issue raised with me constantly. It seems quite questionable why there is not a public swimming pool in Ellenbrook given, again, not only the current population but also the growing population that will be served over the next five to 10 years. There is a proposed new recreation hub, and I have written to the City of Swan asking that a new public swimming pool be included as part of its plans for a new recreation hub. I think the people of Ellenbrook deserve a public swimming pool and I am surprised it is not included in any plans.

**MR A.J. WADDELL (Forrestfield)** [4.19 pm]: I rise to speak on the Loan Bill 2012, which seeks authority to borrow an additional \$5 billion for public purposes to meet the financing requirements of the consolidated accounts. It is before us today because I understand we are running short. We are down to our last \$1 billion in an account, and, “Brother, can you spare a dime? Let’s go out and borrow another \$5 billion.” That really

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highlights to some extent the greatest achievement of this government, which has been to deliver the highest level of debt that the state has ever seen. When this government came to power, state debt was \$3.634 billion; according to this year's budget, it will be \$18.902 billion this year and is projected in the forward estimates to increase to as much as \$23 billion. We are back at the trough today to ask for another \$5 billion to feed this monster of debt that continues to grow under this government.

When I talk to people about state debt, they ask me a very simple question: what are we spending the money on? Out my way, they do not really see that we have had \$18 billion worth of value out of this debt; they do not see that they are getting a great deal of value at all out of this money. There is no doubt that debt has increased considerably under this government, but there is not a great deal to show for it.

I was pondering that and, being a student of politics, I often look up political speeches from the past. I came across a speech made by former US President Ronald Reagan during the presidential debates just prior to the November 1980 presidential elections; he was, of course, at the time up against the one-term President, Jimmy Carter. Ronald Reagan was considered a great communicator because he boiled matters down very simply and, I think, spoke to a lot of people. During that debate, he put a simple proposition: "Are you better off today than you were four years ago? Do you feel safer today than you did four years ago? Is the country doing better than it was four years ago?" He boiled the debate down to that, and I started to ponder the same question. We are now past four years in the term of this government as we get to the pointy end of the electoral cycle, and I pose the question to people: are they better off than they were four years ago, in any substantial way whatsoever? The government is very good at producing three-dimensional renderings of visionary ideas, and minister after minister rolls in here with large, laminated posters, artists' impressions of programs and advertising campaigns showing us the "big picture". All these things are really fiction, because they are not real at all; they are impressions of what might be. They certainly do not demonstrate anything that this huge debt is being spent on.

We could look at several different layers and ask ourselves: are people better off than they were four years ago? The issue that the Labor Party has been talking about for quite some time is the cost of living. Are people better off than they were four years ago in respect of the cost of living? The answer is absolutely not. Over four years there has been a 62 per cent increase in the price of electricity, a 57 per cent increase in the price of gas, and a 47 per cent increase in the price of water. Council rates are up absolutely everywhere. Last year alone, 10 000 people had their gas cut off and 8 000 people had their electricity cut off. Are those people better off? I think the answer is, quite absolutely, no; they are not better off. Under the Barnett government, the cost of living is completely out of control and we are in no way better off than we were four years ago.

What about community services? Is it easier to access quality community services now than it was four years ago? Again, no; we have seen cuts. We have seen programs such as police and community youth centres slashed and police officers ripped out of them. We have seen programs cut back that were fundamentally working to deliver quality services to our community. Are we better off than we were four years ago? No, we are not better off than we were four years ago, if we are looking at the question of community services.

What about the environment? Are we any better off in terms of the environment than we were four years ago? What has this government done? It ripped out the solar feed-in tariff, thus taking away the incentive for solar power generation on people's roofs, further adding to the community's cost burden. The government scrapped subsidies for water tanks, because apparently we do not have a water problem in Western Australia. It has taken away any community incentive to actually reduce its dependence on generated power and reliance on scheme water. The government took away the green energy program, essentially because Western Power and Synergy were unable to determine whether green generation attracted the carbon tax, which is the most absurd proposition: they have charged people a carbon tax on non-carbon produced energy. What has everyone done as a result? They have walked away from the scheme. Did the government intervene in any way? No, it did not. Why? It is because it is not interested in anything that is slightly green. What about the hardship efficiency program, in which audits were carried out on household electricity usage to reduce the energy use of people on low incomes and help them determine ways of cutting their energy costs? What happened? It has been completely de-funded—gone. Are people better off as a result of that? We are assuming that all the savings went somewhere useful, perhaps; but the reality is that nobody is seeing any benefit from it. All they are seeing are cuts, cuts, cuts.

Let us look at housing. Is it any easier to find a home today than it was four years ago? No; absolutely not. There is a housing crisis in Western Australia. Seven months ago the Premier promised to complete a 30-unit Department of Housing complex in Maddington; they are all sitting empty today. I drive through my electorate and I see houses that have been sitting empty, boarded up for more than a year because the government has implemented a failed maintenance program. Houses are sitting empty because they are in dire need of

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maintenance. Meanwhile, the waiting lists for housing are blowing out. I have had people come to my office to tell me that they have been on a Homeswest waiting list for more than six years; some have been on a priority list for up to two years. They cannot get a home, yet we have these empty houses sitting there. In 2011 the census showed that Western Australia experienced the greatest increase in housing costs in the country between 2006 and 2011. The median rent in Perth right now is about \$430 a week, an increase of 20 per cent since this government took office. I recall sitting here and listening to lectures about how the government was going to solve the housing problem and get more properties on the market. Has that happened? No, it has not. Are the 20 000 people on the public housing waiting list better off than they were four years ago? Absolutely not. In terms of housing, are we better off than we were four years ago? I do not think so.

What about feeding the family? Are we better off there now than we were four years ago? Let us see; what has this government done in respect of food? It has thrown caution to the wind and adopted genetically modified food, at a time when the warning bells are beginning to be sounded right across the world about the dangers associated with GM food. Yet the government has run headlong into GM food and warmly embraced Monsanto and other great multinational corporations, permitting commercial-scale GM farming, and we are about to reap the consequences of that. There is a lack of understanding of the science involved, and we will be paying the price for many, many years to come. Are we better off? No, we are not better off in that respect.

What about health? It is a big issue. Is it easier to get a nurse to a person's bedside now than it was four years ago? I do not think this government likes nurses a great deal; it has just massively increased parking fees for nurses and other ancillary hospital staff to up to \$2 000 a year for some workers. Public transport is not an option for them; we have heard the debates about public transport and the fact that they are night shift workers, working on call, and they cannot rely on public transport. So they are very much reliant on the ability to park their vehicles at our hospitals. But the government's reward to these people, who are performing this lifesaving service to our community, is to hit them with increased parking fees.

What is the government's track record on health? The government is privatising the new Midland Health Campus. That will be run by a private operator. The government is on record as saying, "We are not going to privatise the existing hospitals—just the new ones—and we will tell you after the next election what our agenda is about privatising our hospitals." It is clear that privatisation of the health system is a failed ideology. It never, ever delivers what it is supposed to deliver. The state ends up picking up the cost, and the patients end up paying the price for it. It is just ideology gone wild.

What has happened in health? The dental waitlist has blown out by 145 per cent since this government took office. Specialist referrals are up by 31 per cent, and surgery waitlists are up by 40 per cent. There are massive blow-outs in the waiting times for procedures such as colonoscopies. These are procedures that could potentially save lives. But the waiting times for these procedures have blown out under this government. Are we better off? No. What is the solution? What is the government doing about the ongoing conga line of ambulances ramping in front of our hospitals? We are hearing solutions like, "I know how we will save money in the health system. We will introduce paper sheets." That is the type of penny-pinching that we are seeing here. Are people better off under this government in respect to health? No.

What about schools? These days I seem to be contacted constantly by parents who are very concerned about the fact that they cannot get their children into their preferred high school. The belated decision by the government to introduce year 7 into high schools has, frankly, not been properly planned.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** You must hate living here! Why not go and live in South Australia or somewhere like that?

**Mr A.J. WADDELL:** The Premier is getting very grumpy! It is a bit late. Go back to sleep, Premier; go back to sleep, please!

Parents cannot get their children into their preferred high school. Why? It is because schools have not had the capacity delivered to them to deal with the year 7 entry. Schools are trying to manage that capacity now by ensuring that family groups are not split up, so they are drawing a line in the sand today, and that means that kids who will be going into high school next year are being denied entry to the school to which they otherwise would have been able to go. Why? It is because there was a lack of planning—it was a back-of-the-envelope decision.

Earlier in this government's term there was a debate about the Schools of Isolated and Distance Education. The decision to rip that out of schools was another planning disaster, because it had the effect of reducing the choice of topics that students could study. We were hearing about schools in regional areas being shut down and students having to catch buses for up to two hours a day to get to school. The government has abolished the It Pays to Learn allowance, which was encouraging people to come into our schools. Again, what is this government's great achievement in education?

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**Mr C.J. Barnett:** Independent public schools!

**Mr A.J. WADDELL:** Yes, independent public schools! Thank you for the softball, Premier! What difference has independent public schools made to anyone's education? None! My daughter goes to an independent public school, and I cannot tell the difference between the quality of education at that school—which is excellent—to that of a school across the road that is not an independent public school. The only thing I see as a result of the independent public schools policy is a principal who is working her fingers to the bone to keep on top of the paperwork and the bureaucracy that the government has put before her. In terms of real decisions and real choices that independent public schools can make, whenever I hear of anything, it is, "We need to refer back to the department; we cannot do that because of departmental regulations." It is a paper tiger. It is not real. There is no true independence in these schools. It is just a lot of work and a lot of talk. The reality is that independent public schools have not delivered any substantial outcomes for education. Are our kids in our education system better off as a result? The only substantial thing that has occurred in the education system in the past four years is the Building the Education Revolution. That has delivered a huge amount of infrastructure into our schools. That is a positive. But unfortunately I cannot put that in the government's ledger, because that was an expenditure not of this government, but of the federal government, as is the case with many of this government's expenditure initiatives.

I turn now to fees, fees, fees. I had a lady call me up the other day. She is a nice lady. She is a small business owner in Maddington. She has a saddlery shop—she sells saddles for horses. She said she had a problem. When I asked her what her problem was and how I could help her, she said that because she sells second-hand saddles, she needs to have a second-hand dealer's licence. She said she has just received the invoice for that licence, and it is \$3 500 for a year. When I said, "That sounds a lot", she said that it has gone up quite a bit; it was \$530 last year. The fee for a second-hand dealer's licence has gone up by 556 per cent. I looked up the cost of a pawnbroker's licence. That has gone up from \$390 last year to \$3 399 this year. That is a 772 per cent increase in one year. This is the hidden story. A lot of the little fees and charges that are out there have been slowly creeping up. That is because every time the government announces that it is going to have another efficiency dividend, the departments, rather than bring about efficiency, work out how they can increase their revenue.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr A.J. WADDELL:** So they ramp up fees. They ramp them up under cost recovery—yes, we are now moving to 100 per cent cost recovery. I am fascinated to know why someone who sells a couple of second-hand saddles has to incur a cost of \$3 500 for a licence. I am fascinated to know how the government can possibly justify that increase. But that is just one small example of the costs that have been creeping up. Everyone knows it. Everyone is feeling the constant pull from their pockets of the money that this government is trying to drag out of them.

What else can we talk about it? Is it easier to put out a bushfire today than it was four years ago? There have been some horrific bushfires in this state over the past four years. I am not going to lay the blame for that at the government's feet. But what I will lay at the government's feet is its reaction to those fires. We have learnt that there were problems with the former Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia. We have learnt that a report that was commissioned by the Department of Environment and Conservation warned, just weeks before the Margaret River fires, that the state's firefighters were at breaking point. But nothing was done. There are real dangers in that area. We have learnt that this state has an ageing infrastructure of power poles that threaten to light up at any moment, yet, again, where is the pressure from the government to correct that? We have heard that the government has failed, in response to the Keelty report, to put ember guards on schools. So schools are as much at risk of fire today as they were prior to the Roleystone fires. It is as though we cannot learn. Are we better off? No. We should be better off. A disaster has happened, and lessons can be learnt. We should be implementing those lessons and making ourselves better off. Are we better off? No, we are not better off.

Is it easier today to get on a plane than it was four years ago? No.

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** Not unless you're the Minister for Regional Development!

**Mr A.J. WADDELL:** A rail line to the airport is still in the initial study phase. At the last election, the Liberals promised to develop a new rapid transport service to connect with the airport. What we got from this government was in fact a rapid thought bubble of a plan to get to the airport. The idea of a rail line to the airport, and beyond, is an idea that is very near and dear to my electorate. There are a lot of fly in, fly out workers in the Forrestfield electorate. We saw the thought bubble from the Minister for Transport, that, "Yes, this is an idea whose time has come; but it will not be an idea whose time has come for at least another 10 years, and then we probably will not see it for another 10 years after that". So, in around 2031, we might get that rail line—2031! I do not know about

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other members, but I tend not to plan out to 2031 for my transport needs, and I have some difficulty imagining exactly what the population flows of Perth will be, what the demands for travel to the airport will be and even what type of vehicles we will be driving in 2031, let alone having to wait that long.

**Mr P. Abetz:** I'll still be driving the same one.

**Mr A.J. WADDELL:** The member will still be driving the same one. Let me tell the member that he may have trouble filling it up with that old fossil fuel in 2031. It is a thought bubble. It is there to distract, and it is a huge disappointment to people in the seat of Forrestfield that we do not have anything firmer than that. What we have is a map with a "There might be sea monsters over here" type of question mark on it, because we do not even have a location for the proposed station; it is just somewhere out there. As we heard earlier, people say, "Well, that's six years away. Why do we have to worry about that?" This is nearly 20 years away, so I am sure that many people in this place will intend to be well into retirement, and possibly beyond that, by the time that rolls around.

Is it easier for a person to get an email from their grandmother than it was four years ago?

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** An email?

**Mr A.J. WADDELL:** An email.

**Mr P. Abetz:** So that's our problem.

**Mr A.J. WADDELL:** Yes, it is the government's problem, and I will tell the member why it is the government's problem. It is because the government axed the First Click and Second Click programs for seniors, putting them back in the dark ages. They were great programs. I ran a training course myself through the Foothills Learning Centre, in which I was training seniors on how to use computers. They were hesitant to start with, and I was taking them step by step. By the end of it, I had them Skyping, I had them sending pictures of their grandkids to their friends, and I had them communicating with children who were on the other side of the world, and it was truly enriching their lives. It was a simple case of giving them the knowledge, giving them the ability and teaching them how to act safely online; that is what they needed. The reality is that the digital age is not going away. The First Click and Second Click programs empowered thousands of Western Australian seniors to gain those skills to become part of the social networks out there now. The fact is that for the sake of a few gold coins, the government has scrapped those programs, denying a real quality of life to seniors. Are seniors better off? No, they are not better off in any way in that respect.

**Mr P. Abetz:** I don't know too many seniors who want to go and do it who can't do it now.

**Mr A.J. WADDELL:** The member should get out more. He should try meeting some of his constituents.

Are we better off under our policing? I can tell members that I do not get the sense that people feel they are safer. I read the headlines and I do not get that sense. We constantly hear the rhetoric from the government: "We need to bring in tougher, stronger, harder, able to leap tall building-type laws." It has to pump it up and pump it up. We are now going to have these new laws to deal with parties and all that, but does any of it actually work? We have had four years of the government's rhetoric. Are people safer? After four years of rhetoric, we are not. When the government came to office, its big thing was its hoon laws. It was going to chew up the cars and drop them on the hoon's front yards. I can tell government members that they can come out to any part of Forrestfield because the hoon's are everywhere. They have not slowed down in any way; they are still tearing around corners, leaving rubber all over the road; they are still running into people's front yards with their cars; they are still not being stopped by the police; and they are still an absolute terror to the community. The government's laws have absolutely failed. The government demonstrates the usual rhetoric—law and order, law and order—but it does not deliver on that whatsoever.

What about the government's red tape reduction plan? Do government members remember that? It was the government's big policy on how it would get rid of red tape. Did the government get rid of any red tape? I do not think it got rid of a single form; I do not think it got rid of a single process. There has been a complete lack of reform. That is what the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia is on about—the lack of reform from this government, because it is simply seat warming.

What about jobs? Are we training our kids? What are we doing about actually skilling up our children to take advantage of some of the great opportunities? There was a big thing last year. We were trying to see whether we could get the government to encourage training. We were talking about mandatory local content. Where is the activity? What has the government done to ensure that our kids will have jobs in the future? The boom will not last forever. We need to be investing in skills today to ensure that our kids have the trades and so on to survive when the economy takes a downturn. Has it happened? No, it has not. Are our kids better off? No, they are not.

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Local government reform was the government's great plan, was it not? Where did that go? How much money has been flushed away on local government? It has been an absolute bucketload of money, but we have not seen any result whatsoever. In the meantime, while local government departments have been obsessed with that, there has been a complete lack of oversight. Today, my own local shire, the Shire of Kalamunda, is in an absolute mess. It has had to stand down its chief executive officer, and the minister says, "We're trying to feed in the appropriate information." I sat across the table from that CEO and he boasted about the \$1 000-a-head Liberal Party functions that he went to. I suppose he cannot afford to go to a lot of those now. The fact of the matter is that the Minister for Local Government has been fiddling while Rome has been burning in respect of local government.

What has the government done? Where is the maternity hospital that the government promised in Kalamunda? I was told that the government could not convince anyone to go and work there, so it just threw that promise away. It tried to deliver a detention centre in a residential street in Kenwick until it realised, "Oh my God; that's not going to be popular", shock, surprise, and it had to back down and backflip on that. We have seen the Midland Health Campus delayed. I think we finally dug up a sod the other day, but I do not know when we will actually see that up and running; and, when it is, the government will have to decide, "Oh my God; is this going to offend the Catholic Church or not?" to determine which door we go into.

We have continuous overcrowding on the Armadale rail line. People are crushed in the trains like sardines. There is absolutely no redevelopment of the Maddington or Kenwick stations, not to talk about the parlous state of public transport throughout the rest of the electorate. Goodness knows that any person who wanted to catch a bus out to the Midland Health Campus or anywhere else would have to forget it. People can forget about seven-day trading if they need to work on something.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** I'm going to leave the state. It's terrible!

**Mr A.J. WADDELL:** Please do, Premier. We would all be better off.

I call the local police station, and the police do not even answer the phone; it goes through to an answering service. I get that all the time. The Minister for Planning has been sitting on his hands for a couple of years over an aged-care site in Wattle Grove. What have we got to show —

**Mr J.H.D. Day:** What do you think the decision on that issue should be?

**Mr A.J. WADDELL:** I think the community would like a decision. I think we need more aged care, and I think it would be handy —

**Mr J.H.D. Day:** No; what decision do you think it should be?

**Mr A.J. WADDELL:** If the minister wants to make me the Minister for Planning, I will be quite happy to make a decision for him. But the minister has had a couple of years now; it is time he made a decision.

Royalty rates have gone up massively for this government; it is now making \$4.9 billion. It is raking in the money, it is ramping up the debt, and what are we getting for it? The government is CBD focused. The member for Perth must be thrilled, because everything the government is building is in his electorate. If people are in the eastern suburbs, they can forget it. They are not going to get anything; they are seriously not going to get anything. We have listened to the government go on about its stadium. I am still to hear a solid idea about how anyone in Forrestfield could actually get to the stadium because no public transport will be there. There will be no train line. There is no suggestion that public transport out there will be increased. Yet again we have been forgotten about.

In answer to Ronald Reagan's question, "Are we better off than we were four years ago?" I think the answer is a resounding "Absolutely not." The real problem is that the government is burying the state in so much debt that we are going to take a decade or so to dig ourselves out of the mess that the government has made. If this government has done anything, it has demonstrated the great lie of Australian politics, which is that the Liberal Party is the great economic manager, because it is not. It has not managed the public sector, it has not managed the debt, and it has not delivered anything. In fact, it is an absolute disgrace, and the sooner we get to that next election, the better.

**MR M.P. WHITELEY (Bassendean)** [4.49 pm]: I want to use this opportunity to talk about some very serious concerns I have about the direction of the mental health policy in Australia. My basic contention is that personalities, rhetoric and charisma are driving the direction of mental health rather than science and evidence. In May 2011, the Gillard government announced that it would spend \$2.2 billion on mental health initiatives over five years. The biggest program it announced expenditure on, costing \$222.4 million and which would be matched by state governments, was for the rollout of 16 Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centre sites



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nationally, which would have “the capacity to assist more than 11 000 Australians with, or at risk of developing, psychotic mental illness”. A month later, amid growing criticisms of the ability to help those at risk of becoming psychotic, Patrick McGorry, the chief architect of EPPIC services, told *The Australian* —

EPPICs do not treat people with psychosis risk but only patients who have had their first psychotic episode ...

That is in direct contravention to what was said in the May 2011 announcement. Since then the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler—once in December 2011 and again in June 2012—indicated that EPPICs may not treat those perceived to be at ultra-high risk of becoming psychotic, which is in conflict with what he said in the May 2011 rollout.

Frankly, confusion reigns supreme. I asked a question in the May 2012 estimates process in the Western Australian Parliament about the functions of the planned Western Australian EPPIC services. The response that came back as supplementary information after the estimates process stated —

The Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centre (EPPIC) services are for young people with first episode early psychosis and for detecting those with ultra high risk of developing psychosis.

Members can see the confusion. The initial announcement was that they would be for the purpose of assessing those at ultra-high risk of developing psychosis. Then there was a backdown by both McGorry, the architect of EPPIC, and the mental health minister. Then the state government indicated that that was one of the chief functions. How could the functions of the most expensive program that has been rolled out nationally be so confused? There are two reasons for this: first, because we have been let down by the politicians in Canberra on all sides—in politics I am one of the rare critics of what is happening—and, second, because we have been let down by the media. They have been inattentive to the detail of what is on offer. The problem is that the politicians have let a handful of gurus relying on rhetoric, charisma and hype drive the direction of the mental health policy in Australia. They have accepted their overblown claims without scrutiny. The danger is that young Australians will suffer as a result.

Patrick McGorry is undoubtedly the biggest of those gurus. EPPIC is very much his baby. Patrick McGorry has two claims to fame. The first is obviously the fact that in 2010 he was made Australian of the Year. The second is that he is one of the world’s most prominent advocates of preventive psychiatry. The philosophy of preventive psychiatry is basically the idea that a stitch in time saves nine. In other words, if we get in pre-emptively before people become mentally ill, we can help them—we can prevent it. He uses the language of early intervention when he is really not talking about early intervention. He is not talking about getting in when people become psychotic; he is talking about getting in prior to the advent of psychosis. The theory is that we can spot and stop psychosis and a range of mental illnesses before they happen. Intuitively, it seems like a reasonable theory. However, the independent evidence that is available shows that there are two problems with that theory. First, we cannot predict with any accuracy who will become mentally ill. In the case of psychosis, the accuracy of predictions is between eight per cent and 36 per cent. Second, even when we do predict those who will go on to become psychotic, the interventions that are on offer simply do not help in the long term. There is little evidence of sustained benefits. The problem that we are all saddled with is that Patrick McGorry has been unable to accept that his theory does not stand up to the evidence; he has been unable to accept that, even when this theory has been rejected internationally. We should be doing a double take on what we are doing in Australia. We can thank Professor McGorry for putting mental health on the political agenda in the lead-up to the 2010 election. His status as Australian of the Year allowed him to do that. But we cannot continue to blindly follow him where he tells us to go. Frankly, that is just what is happening.

In the lead-up to the 2010 election, as I said, mental health was on the agenda for the first time. Anybody who watched *Insight* on SBS in July 2010 would have noticed just how deferential the presenters and the politicians were to Patrick McGorry—in particular Peter Dutton on behalf of the Liberal Party and Mark Butler on behalf of the Labor Party. Peter Dutton went the furthest; he said —

Well, we’re going to roll out a national scheme based on advice by people like John Mendoza, Pat McGorry, Ian Hickey, David Crosby and others.

He added that “early intervention is proven, without any doubt, to work”. Frankly, that is just complete and utter rubbish. The independent evidence shows us anything but that. In fact, Patrick McGorry used an address to the National Press Club in the lead-up to the 2010 election to say that we had “twenty-first century solutions” that were just waiting to be implemented if only government would urgently fund these “proven approaches”.

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The rhetoric continued after the election. In March 2011 Professor McGorry was the co-author of a blueprint for mental health that significantly said —

EPPIC has the largest international evidence base of any mental health model of care, demonstrating not only their clinical effectiveness but also their financial and social return on investment. This is a mature model simply requiring implementation in Australia.

Frankly, the hype is not backed up by the evidence. In 2011 the Cochrane Collaboration, which is acknowledged internationally as one of the world's most rigorous, systematic and comprehensive sources of independent, reliable medical information, found that there was “inconclusive evidence” that early intervention could prevent psychosis and that “there is a question of whether the gains are maintained”. Professor McGorry responded by attacking the Cochrane review, saying it used flawed methodology. As I pointed out, Cochrane is widely regarded as the gold standard for international research.

Other evidence that the claims are not sustained was provided by Queensland psychiatrist and economist—he has dual training—Andrew Amos, who wrote an article in the June edition of the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry* entitled “Assessing the cost of early intervention in psychosis: A systemic review”. He wrote about the methodology used in his study, saying that 11 articles were included in the review. He made reference to one that was co-authored by Patrick McGorry, writing —

One small case-control study with evidence of significant bias concluded annual early-intervention costs were one-third of treatment-as-usual costs.

That is the only one that found positive outcomes. He said there was significant bias in that study. Andrew Amos's paper concluded —

The published literature does not support the contention that early intervention for psychosis reduces costs or achieves cost-effectiveness.

We have to bear that against Professor McGorry's claim that EPPIC is supported by “the largest international evidence base of any mental health model of care”. It simply does not stack up. The problem is that after the 2010 election, there was no independent review process. The then mental health minister, Mark Butler, tried in a sense when he set up the Mental Health Expert Working Group, which included a number of mental health practitioners, including Professor McGorry and Ian Hickey, and Monsignor David Cappo, who was the vice-chair. For some unknown reason, those three gentlemen decided to step outside the process and produce their own blueprint for mental health. They termed themselves the “independent mental health reform group”. Basically, they produced a \$3.5 billion, five-year wish list, which was completely devoid of evidence. Mark Butler should have resisted it at that stage but the media pressure was enormous because there is an enormous cheer squad for this group. He should have ordered an independent review of the evidence underlying the claims that were made in that blueprint. Instead, he adopted so much of it, which led to the \$2.2 billion announcement and the \$222.4 million for EPPIC, being half of the total expenditure when it is supplemented by the states.

Soon after, the debate started to change for Professor McGorry. In fact, science started to catch up with some of his claims last year when international debate about the inclusion of attenuated psychosis syndrome in DSM-5 took place. The basic theory underlying Professor McGorry's work and the proposed diagnosis of attenuated psychosis syndrome was that mental illness has a prodromal phase, and in that phase mental illnesses can be predicted, treated and prevented. There was very strong international backlash to that. As a result of that, we saw a change in the attitude of Professor McGorry to the inclusion of attenuated psychosis syndrome in DSM-5. In May 2010, he was quoted in an article in *Psychiatry Update* entitled “DSM-V ‘risk syndrome’: a good start, should go further”, as saying —

The proposal for DSM-V to include a ‘risk syndrome’ reflecting an increased likelihood of mental illness is welcome but does not go far enough ...

Also, Professor McGorry wrote a piece for *Science Digest* in 2010, entitled “Schizophrenia Research”, in which he said —

The proposal to consider including the concept of the risk syndrome in the forthcoming revision of the DSM classification is innovative and timely. It has not come out of left field, however, and is based upon a series of conceptual and empirical foundations built over the past 15 years.

That is a very strong endorsement, saying it was based on 15 years of research. That was Professor McGorry, the great enthusiast for its inclusion in DSM-5.

Then the heat started to go on. In June 2011, McGorry, the great enthusiast became McGorry, the indifferent, when he wrote a blog on my website at my invitation. He wrote —

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Personally, I am not concerned whether it —

Being attenuated psychosis syndrome —

enters the DSM V or not ...

So he backed away from it. Later, when pushed on the issue, McGorry the great enthusiast, who had become McGorry, the indifferent, went on to become McGorry, the denier, denying his previous position. He was on the ABC *World Today* program of 12 May 2011. I had said that Professor McGorry was a leading international proponent of psychosis risk syndrome as a new psychiatric disorder for inclusion in the next edition of DSM-5. Professor McGorry responded by saying—

Contrary to Mr Whitely's statements, I haven't been pushing for it to be included in DSM-5. Now that hasn't been my position.

But it's a new area of work. It's only been studied for the last 15 years ...

So if we take those three positions—the great enthusiast, the indifferent, the denier—and recap, in 2010 he described the proposal to put attenuated psychosis syndrome in the DSM-5 as —

... innovative and timely ... has not come out of left field and is based upon a series of conceptual and empirical foundations built over the past 15 years.

The heat goes on. In 2011 the response becomes —

I haven't been pushing for it to be included in DSM-5. Now that hasn't been my position.

... It's only been studied for the last 15 years or so, so you know we haven't got all the answers.

Frankly, I was aware of the hypocrisy in that statement, but I did not actually make much of it at the time because Professor McGorry and I were engaged in some very productive discourse. In fact I was very encouraged when in February 2012, in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, in an article entitled "About-turn on treatment of the young", Professor McGorry acknowledged the widespread international concern with the inclusion of psychosis risk syndrome in DSM-5 and said that he now opposed it. In fact I wrote a blog entitled "Patrick McGorry deserves praise for about-turn on Psychosis Risk Disorder". I was very encouraged. I was prepared to forgive him the dishonesty and the inconsistency of his position.

It is important to understand why the idea of psychosis risk disorder, attenuated psychosis syndrome, was removed from DSM-5. It was removed basically for three reasons. The first was the rate of false positives. It is an accurate diagnosis of between eight per cent, if members believe some of the independent evidence, and 36 per cent, if members believe Professor McGorry's research. So, it is somewhere between a 64 per cent and a 92 per cent false positive rate. The second was the idea that labelling someone as being pre-psychotic could be stigmatising and could be a self-fulfilling prophecy. The third concern was the inappropriate use of antipsychotics in people who had never been psychotic and are unlikely to go on and become psychotic.

As I said, when Professor McGorry seemingly abandoned supporting its inclusion in DSM-5, that was the high point of the trust that had developed between Professor McGorry and me. But I have to say that I now distrust him for two very clear reasons. One is that he has acknowledged that it is a problem when other people do it but not a problem when he diagnoses it. He wrote in 2010 that —

Both of these concerns are valid, —

That is, the concern about extending the use of antipsychotic medication and the concern about labelling and stigmatising people —

though both can and have been addressed in our work and systems of care in Melbourne.

Basically he is saying, "Look, nobody else is good enough to do it, but we are good enough to do it in our Melbourne-based system."

What really turned me around was when I got access to a training DVD produced by Patrick McGorry's Orygen Youth Health, which actually teaches mental health clinicians how to diagnose and treat psychosis risk syndrome.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr M.P. WHITELEY:** This DVD trains people in how to diagnose attenuated psychosis syndrome. This DVD is still for sale, even though this syndrome has been removed from DSM-5 and even though Professor McGorry said he did not support its inclusion. I encourage people to go to my blog and look at an excerpt from that DVD. There is a video blog there and members can look at an excerpt from the training DVD and see if it passes the

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commonsense test. Jon Jureidini, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Adelaide, and somebody for whom I have great respect, looked at the training DVD and said that it is a great training tool, because it “demonstrates how not to carry out a psychiatric interview and interact with young people”—a damning comment.

The diagnosis of attenuated psychosis syndrome is a very controversial issue, but more controversial than that has been the use of antipsychotics in the treatment of people who are not psychotic and who are considered to be at risk of being psychotic. Again, Professor McGorry has spun his own position, and, again, until I saw some of his recent utterances, I was prepared to forgive him those, but I am not now. In 2010, in response to my blog, he wrote —

... our clinical guidelines do not (and have never done so in the past) recommend the use of anti-psychotic medication as the first line or standard treatment for this Ultra High Risk group.

It is true in the sense that final endorsed clinical guidelines have never actually recommended it, but Professor McGorry has produced draft guidelines recommending their use, and, for well over a decade, Professor McGorry has experimented with, and he continues to experiment with, the pre-emptive prescription of psychotropics to adolescents.

Three examples of his earlier advocacy were that in 2006 in the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry* he proposed a clinical staging framework for psychosis and identified “atypical antipsychotic agents” as one of the “potential interventions” for individuals who are at “ultra-high risk” of developing first-episode psychosis. In 2007 in an article in the *British Medical Journal* that he jointly authored he extolled the potential of pre-psychotic use of pharmacological interventions. Again in the *British Medical Journal* in 2008, in an article entitled “Is early intervention in the major psychiatric disorders justified?” he wrote —

Early intervention ... It should be as central in psychiatry as it is in cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease ... Several randomised controlled trials have shown that it is possible to delay the onset of fully fledged psychotic illness in young people at very high risk of early transition with either low dose antipsychotic drugs or cognitive behavioural therapy.

I easily found three instances when he advocated for it, which is in conflict with his December 2010 claim that he has not been an advocate. After the pressure from the debate on the inclusion of attenuated psychosis syndrome in DSM-5, Professor McGorry began to adjust his position. In December 2010 he wrote that —

Antipsychotic medications should not be considered unless there is a clear-cut and sustained progression to frank psychotic disorder meeting full DSM 4 criteria.

He outlined that the only exception to the previous statement is when there has been a definite failure to respond to the first and second line interventions. That was written in late 2010 in response to some concerns I had raised with him. In November 2010, in an article in *The Weekend West* titled “Mental health ‘guru’ stumbles into public policy minefield”, a spokesman from Orygen Youth Health said on Professor McGorry’s behalf that antipsychotics are not recommended as a standard treatment and —

“There has been a substantial amount of research and we do change according to the research.”

All of that kept me happy at the time, as I thought Professor McGorry had realised that the research showed that antipsychotics are not a good way to treat people perceived to be at risk of becoming psychotic. The problem is that he continued to do research on this topic. A 2011 article referred to the Neuropro-Q trial being conducted by Patrick McGorry. Thirteen international critics lodged an appeal against the trial, saying that it was unethical because of the potential harms of the use of Seroquel, an antipsychotic, in this nonpsychotic group, the very high false positive rate of misdiagnosis, which I have talked about, and a number of other reasons. The heat was on and in August 2011, Melbourne’s *The Age* quoted Professor McGorry as saying that the trial had been abandoned because of “feasibility issues recruiting participants”. It seems he never gave up on his treasured theory. He acknowledged, “We have all this evidence that we should not use antipsychotics in this way”, yet he continued to do this trial. I contend that if he cannot prove it in 15 years of trialling antipsychotics on people who are not psychotic and are never likely to become psychotic, why would he continue to do it?

That is not the only evidence. There are more reasons to be concerned that Professor McGorry has still not abandoned his favourite theory, which is that we can use psychotropic medication as a preventive measure and a way of immunising young people against future mental illness. He has 10 million good reasons not to abandon this research—a grant that was provided to Professor McGorry and others. He is the principal investigator for a National Health and Medical Research Council grant for “Emerging mental disorders in young people: using

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clinical staging for prediction, prevention and early intervention”. They received a \$10 million grant from the NHMRC. He said —

This money will allow us to continue our research into the causes of mental illness and help the one in four young people suffering a mental disorder.

This \$10 million trial will include the testing of psychotropic drugs as a preventive measure—in other words, as an attempt to immunise people against getting future mental illness. Far from having given up the notion of using psychotropic drugs as a way to prevent mental illness, Professor McGorry is conducting a \$10 million taxpayer-funded trial right now. So, go back to the claim that Professor McGorry used in the lead-up to the 2010 election. He said that the Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centre has “the largest international evidence base of any mental health model of care”. If that were true, after 15 years of trialling, we would have a mature model and there would not have been these backdowns. We also need to be concerned about some of the disease mongering that comes out of the mouth of Professor McGorry and his allies. In March 2010 on the ABC’s *Lateline* program he said —

4 million Australians have mental health problems in any given year.

... there are 1 million young Australians aged 12 to 25 with a mental disorder in any given year. ... And 750,000 of them have no access to mental health care currently.

I was at an excellent conference in Perth in June, hosted by the Richmond Fellowship of Western Australia. Patrick McGorry cited a New Zealand study, from memory, and claimed that between the ages of 18 and 25 years, 51 per cent of people had a psychiatric disorder. This is disease mongering. This is turning normality into disease. People who are ill and need treatment will be denied resources because we spread resources too thin. It is very upsetting that not only these statements are being made, but also the media is not questioning them. They are letting them go straight through to the keeper as though they are the absolute truth. Professor McGorry has appropriated the language of early intervention, but in truth he is engaged in preventive psychiatry—preventive being pre-intervening; that is, stepping in and aggressively interfering with people who will probably never go on to be diseased.

In June 2012, in response to an article I wrote in *The West Australian*, Professor McGorry criticised me for describing him as a proponent of preventive psychiatry, but his own organisation, Orygen Youth Health Research Centre, registered EPPIC as a trademark in 2011. Part of its registration program listed Orygen as providing “education and training services”, including in the “field of youth-specific preventive psychiatry”. He registered it as a trademark and then a year later criticised me for describing him as an advocate of preventive psychiatry. One of his great debating tricks is to describe people such as me and those who work in the field, such as Jon Jureidini and others, as being proponents of late intervention. We are not. We are arguing for early intervention. When people become psychotic or become mentally ill, we should get in there and intervene and help them. It is completely disingenuous of Professor McGorry to paint his opponents as being proponents of late intervention.

There are other things of concern. In July 2012 *The Sunday Age* in Melbourne published an article on a 2007 Orygen Youth Health antidepressant prescribing audit. The article highlighted the concern that antidepressants were being prescribed at Orygen “to a majority of depressed 15 to 25-year-olds before they had received adequate counselling”. It also found that “75 per cent of those diagnosed with depression were given the drugs too early”. Orygen’s own “Evidence Summary: Using SSRI Antidepressants to Treat Depression in Young People: What are the Issues and What is the Evidence?”, produced in 2009, builds a very compelling case for not using anti-depressants in young people, but then goes on to conclude that we should use them. The only rationale that is offered—all the evidence is ignored—is that it is better to do something than nothing.

Am I alone? It is a relevant question. I am not an expert; I am a politician. I am probably the only politician who has stood and said, “We need to be concerned about this major investment in mental health in Australia.” I may be alone in politics, but I am not isolated within psychiatry. A range of very prominent psychiatrists are very critical of where we are going. One of the most revealing things was that *Psychiatry Update* in October 2011 published a survey of psychiatrists in Australia. It revealed —

Almost 60% of psychiatrists think the Federal Government’s focus on EPPIC is inappropriate ...

Others who have had plenty to say include Professor Allen Frances, the chief author of the DSM–IV, the current edition of the bible of psychiatry. He has been a fierce critic of Professor McGorry, although he is very charitable in what he says about McGorry’s intentions. He said —

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McGorry's intentions are clearly noble, but so were Don Quixote's. The kindly knight's delusional good intentions and misguided interventions wreaked havoc and confusion at every turn.

He goes on to say that Australia is really in danger of following him blindly down "an unknown path that is fraught with dangers". Another who has been critical is Professor George Patton, who told *The Age* that the Orygen antidepressant prescribing audit revealed how much we needed to look at the evidence base of these programs. Clinical Professor David Castle, a very high profile psychiatrist from Melbourne, is also critical. Professor Vaughan Carr from the University of New South Wales wrote an opinion piece that was very dismissive of Professor McGorry's claims that this was the most cost-effective treatment. He described his claims as "a utopian fantasy" based on published evidence that is not credible. I have run out of time. The message I want to put out there is that we need to go back to the evidence. I have met Patrick McGorry and I like him. He is a very charismatic individual and I think probably well intentioned, but that is not the point. The point is that we cannot have mental health policy driven by rhetoric; it needs to be driven by evidence.

**MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells)** [5.20 pm]: I rise to speak to the Loan Bill 2012. This is a good opportunity for us to assess the financial benefits that the state has reaped during the boom and to see how those benefits have applied to individual electorates. I am keen to address how well the proceeds of the boom have been utilised in my electorate of Gosnells, which has many needs. Like many electorates, Gosnells suffers from congestion problems and traffic bottlenecks. Back in 2009 I brought to the attention of the then Minister for Transport the Nicholson Road–Yale Road–Garden Street roundabout. I asked the then Minister for Transport what action was being taken to alleviate traffic congestion at the roundabout. At the time, the minister said that because it was not a Main Roads road, he did not have direct responsibility for it but that his department was working with the City of Gosnells to investigate traffic management options that could be considered to improve traffic flow on that section of Nicholson Road. The investigation and analysis was expected to be completed over the next three months. That was in response to a question on notice that was received in the house on 9 June 2009. I am pleased to say that at long last, after the question was asked in June 2009, we are seeing the commencement of works on that roundabout. This has given me, as a new member who entered this place in 2008, a sobering insight into the delays that sometimes occur to get things done from the moment a member raises an issue to the time the works begin. However, the job is not complete and I fear that the improvements to the traffic flow in the area will not be felt by my constituents for quite some time yet.

**Mr P. Abetz:** It should be done by Christmas.

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** I thank the member for Southern River. I hope he is right and that the initial phase will be completed by Christmas. However, I understand that that is just the initial phase and there are further phases such as the installation of the traffic metering program. It takes a long time for these things to be fixed. The other problems just up the road are the turn-off into Bannister Road and the boom gates at the freight railway line crossing Nicholson Road. When the boom gates come down during peak hour, all sorts of chaos occurs.

The improvements to which I have referred are an example of some government expenditure in my electorate, but it is only a small amount. The total budget for them was about \$1.5 million. When we consider the total amount of money that is expended in this state, the expenditure of \$1.5 million over a four-year period for the major project that is impacting on my electorate is a very tiny sum. The people in my electorate have every reason to feel aggrieved and forgotten about. The proceeds of the state's great wealth are not reaching them in the form of infrastructure projects in Gosnells. If that is the best the government has been able to do for them over four years, it is a very disappointing result.

I will turn to some of the positive things that are going on in my electorate. Playgroups were initiated by the community, not the government, although they do receive some support from the government. They are great institutions—I am sure that is true across the state—for young mothers and sometimes fathers to come along and be involved in the early socialisation events of their children. The centres give the parents the opportunity to discuss problems and the development of their children compared with others. The parents learn a lot, including where resources are and, if they are having problems, where to get information. The benefits of these types of playgroups are absolutely enormous and we should be doing a lot more to encourage them. From time to time in this place we hear about the educational benefits for children who have an opportunity to mix with other youngsters at a very early age. Those children are so much more ready and prepared for pre-primary school and primary school when they are old enough to go than children who do not mix with other youngsters. They are ahead at the start and will do very well. Unfortunately, in my electorate I have a significant representation of children who do not have an opportunity to go to playgroups, and parents who do not get parental support. The children of parents who do not read to them, for example, do not get the wonderful start to their educational

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development that they should be entitled to. Nevertheless, we have a good institution in place in Gosnells and I believe we should provide more funding and encourage and promote it.

Unfortunately, I still meet young mums who do not know that these places exist or, if they know about them, they are unable to get to them for one reason or another. Often that is because they have work commitments or they are isolated because of transport limitations. They might not have a car or they might be newly arrived in Australia and do not hold a driver's licence and are therefore isolated in another kind of way; they are not only geographically isolated, but also socially isolated. That is a real problem that we have to be aware of because it could increase dramatically due to our tendency to support more and more urban sprawl. Going beyond the electorate of Gosnells to the far-flung limits of the metropolitan region scheme area, there is a tendency for urbanisation to push ever forward, but that places people at the outer limits of suburbia in very isolated circumstances. The people there feel isolated if they come from a background for which English is a second language and they are often isolated from family and friends because of the transport constraints and costs that they face if they want to travel to meet with friends and family. Isolation in our community is a very serious problem. I think that is a theme that we should look at when spending government finances. We should counter social isolation in whatever form it takes, whether it is because people are from a non-English speaking background or they do not have access to public transport and cannot afford to run a private vehicle. Countering isolation is absolutely critical to how we help society progress.

The government's decision to close the tier 3 rail network is a huge mistake that will have implications on the people living in my electorate. The decision to not fund the maintenance, upkeep and repair of the tier 3 rail network will lead to more trucks being on the road, which will impact on people in my electorate. There will be more very big trucks carrying wheat on Roe Highway. Drivers will have to deal with not only congestion on the roads, but also high speeds and big vehicles. That is unnecessary and could be avoided. We could make sure that our wheat harvests go to the port via rail. Closing the tier 3 network will encourage road transporters to truck the grain from the tier 3 rail heads all the way to the port. That is a real shame and will put people's lives in danger. It will also have serious economic consequences. There is no doubt that when there are more trucks on the road, it causes more wear and tear on our roads, which in turn leads to a societal cost in the form of the upkeep of the roads. That is an unfortunate consequence of this kind of poor decision making. Those members who represent wheatbelt electorates must be receiving a lot of information about this issue and a lot of complaints from their constituents that their interests have been forgotten and that they will have to endure this problem of more trucks when there was an alternative. The core of the problem I think is that some poor decisions have been made when it comes to privatisation. The tier 3 network is now maintained by Brookfield Rail. It has contractual arrangements to give it the power to decide on levels of investment. Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd is also involved. We must make sure that essential pieces of infrastructure are run by the state for the benefit of the state. This example shows that if that is not done, we end up with an important piece of infrastructure falling into decline such that we make a poor decision to eventually close it altogether with some significant consequences.

Other forms of expenditure are going on in the Gosnells electorate, and I am pleased to say that the City of Gosnells is investing in the area where it can. Its funds primarily come from its ratepayer base, but it is putting significant funds into the maintenance, upkeep and, indeed, improvements of various reserves in the city. I am very pleased to acknowledge that. One particular reserve, the Yilgarn Way reserve, is receiving some \$400 000. That is very exciting, and it means that the amenity for people who live in that part of my electorate will be enhanced significantly. People will be able to enjoy that area, which goes on to the Southern River and Wungong Brook, as an area for dog walking, evening walks, wandering and catching up with neighbours. It is a really delightful asset. When I have been doing my street corner meetings, I have been meeting up with people there who have said that they do it every evening and that they enjoy it. It is a great way for the community to unwind at the end of the day, and for the community to come together as well. We need to work at encouraging people to use those parks as an opportunity to be the cement of society—for that social bonding to take place. It is an important thing that we have and an asset that we need to build on.

Returning to state government decisions that have disappointed me, this one relates to that much-talked-about subject of electricity charges and the price people face with their electricity bills. I put it to the house that people have been receiving highly inflated Synergy bills when they are concession card holders, simply because some decision has been made by Synergy to make the assumption that if someone has a concession card, perhaps they may no longer be entitled to the benefits or discounts that they receive. Synergy is making people pay more until they realise and ask questions about why they have to pay so much more. They ask: "Suddenly my bill has gone up; how come?" They then realise that they have lost their discount because they are a concession card holder. They then have to go to see Synergy and ask what is going on. Synergy then comes up with a vague excuse that Centrelink had tipped it off that the person was perhaps no longer entitled to the concession card holder discount, when in fact Centrelink, to my knowledge, was not doing anything of the kind. Nevertheless, Synergy has been

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using this as an excuse and testing peoples' diligence and their ability to read the fine print on Synergy bills—to check things and not just to accept things at face value. That is not a very healthy way to proceed at all.

I want to touch on the issue of electronic school zone signs. I know I have mentioned this a number of times in the house, but when I see the poor treatment that Yale Primary School is getting in this regard, I feel compelled to repeat the issue. I have written to the Minister for Transport a number of times on this issue, and the sorts of dismissive responses I have received are most disappointing. I just have to say that the people of the electorate will not be fooled by that; they are aware that they had every right to expect that Yale Primary School should have been considered as a priority for the installation of electronic school zone signs, yet it has not received one. The latest Children's Crossing and Road Safety Committee review report showed that this is a very busy crossing, and one that means that that school should have received priority treatment.

The area is benefiting in some way from some planning consultation, but this is again something that the City of Gosnells is undertaking with the development of a huge area of land—some 500-odd hectares—where 15 000 residents will eventually live. We call this area the Della-Vedova land, and I have already assisted the City of Gosnells with some community consultation on what sort of things people would like to see on that land. People have already been responding that they would like to see things available such as an aquatic centre, the retention of the bushland and wetland, skate parks and quality shopping facilities—not on a grand scale, but in some form of shopping and cafe arrangement. Those are the sorts of things people are looking forward to. People in the electorate are also aware that the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority is ignoring us. We are told it is too busy working on things like the Elizabeth Quay development. It is a real shame that we are being forgotten. There are projects in the central business district part of Gosnells crying out for some sort of development that could bring them along. We have derelict buildings with opportunities in their proximity to the train station and their development would enhance the lives of many. It would make people's lives so much more secure as well. People often complain about the degree of insecurity that they feel because of the run-down nature of some parts of the CBD.

People are very keen to see some planning decisions made. I know that the Minister for Planning on a number of occasions has indicated his interest in doing this, but the facts are that we have not seen any progress to date and that leaves people wondering what is going on. When they hear bodies such as the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority say that it is too busy and cannot intervene on this issue because it has the central Perth matters to contend with, it leaves people very disappointed.

**Mr J.H.D. Day:** On that, if you wanted some comment, my recollection is that the ball is in the court of the City of Gosnells. The Director General of the Department of Planning met with the CEO of the City of Gosnells with a view to possibly putting in place an improvement scheme over the area, and as far as I recall, we are waiting for the City of Gosnells to come back with a more specific proposal.

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** I thank the Minister for Planning for that comment. I will certainly take the matter up with the City of Gosnells and I am keen to know the latest development.

I want to get to a local matter of training for young people in the Gosnells area, and I brought this up in question time.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** In Maddington and Armadale we have the Australian Trades College, which is a private institution that has been providing training to young people. It has had a healthy reputation for providing a quality training program. It has somehow gone off the rails, though, and we have a situation in which some 61 students in school-based traineeships from Thornlie, Gosnells and Armadale, as I understand, were asked to suspend their training. These are young people who go to high school and they were convinced to undertake the courses by the promotional material put out by the ATC. I have a copy of an advertisement that they would have received last year, which states —

In year 10?

Looking for a future in the Trades?

- Carpentry and Joinery
- Cabinetmaker
- Boilermaker / Welder
- Automotive Mechanic



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It implied that students should consider coming to the Australian Trades College. The arrangement is that students spend three days a week in the high school, then one day a week at the ATC getting the technical training, and one day a week in the workforce with a host employer. I thought that sounded like a pretty good program, and the students and their parents were quite convinced by it and thought it sounded very good too. The commitment was that the students would be paid an amount—I think about eight dollars an hour—while working in the workforce. Unfortunately, though, it seems that ATC’s business model was not properly developed or designed and it found that it was not in a position to pay the students for that one day a week in the workforce. That led to the ATC deciding to send out a letter to ask the students to sign a letter of suspension. I have a copy of the letter that was sent by the ATC to parents. It reads —

I am writing to you regarding the School Based Traineeship (SBT) program at the Australian Trades College WA (ATC WA).

During the past 2 years, ATC WA (the training provider) and ATC Group Training (the employer), —

It is important to note that ATC Group Training was the employer —

in partnership with schools, has engaged SBTs in the Engineering, Automotive and Construction Industries. This was seen as an excellent option for students to pursue a career in the traditional trades.

That all sounds good, but then the letter continues, further along —

We have written to the principal of your child’s school, informing them of this situation.

That is, the situation of being asked to suspend the students. The letter continues —

We ask that you sign and return the attached form, providing your agreement to the suspension of the school based traineeship.

I have a copy of the form that the parents were asked to sign: “Application to Suspend Apprenticeship/Traineeship”. I think that is a great shame, and it is no way to treat young people who are seeking traineeships to break a commitment like that. Perhaps it was the case that the ATC did not do its business planning properly and was going to be out of pocket in some way, but when an organisation makes a contractual commitment to young people or to anyone, it should be forced to honour it. For the ATC to try to get out of its commitment like this, by asking people to sign a suspension, just does not seem right.

When I raised this matter with the Minister for Training and Workforce Development a couple of weeks ago, I am not sure how well briefed he was on it, but he seemed to go down the default defence of blaming the federal government. I do not think it is at all fair to blame the federal government; the fact is that the federal government provides funding to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development’s agencies so that they can provide this sort of training support at a state government level. It is not the fault of the federal government that this scheme has come to an end; it is the result of poor business planning and young people in our community being misled. I do not think that is fair at all. As I understand it, the Australian Trades College has had difficulty locating host employers, which was the reason for the suspension of the 61 reported school student apprenticeships. I also understand that in the context of a wider review of some of these private training colleges, the ATC is currently under investigation by federal government agencies, so there are some issues around training. That is a real shame, because it undermines the credibility of training colleges and training in general. That is not fair on young people at all and will only damage the confidence people have in those sorts of institutions.

In the time I have left I want to touch on a couple of other issues. One issue that I am sure many members will be turning their minds to in the coming months is the drying weather. As summer nears, the threat of bushfire again increases. We need to put our minds to making sure that we are managing our landscape to best effect for human safety, looking after it in terms of environmental requirements, and making sure that we are fire safe. I recently came across an excellent book titled *The Biggest Estate on Earth*, by Professor Bill Gammage, who is a historian at the Australian National University. Professor Gammage has gone through a whole series of paintings by very early European arrivals in Australia—people who took the trouble to draw or paint the landscape of Australia post-1788. Professor Gammage’s analysis is that those early images, which give us a glimpse of Australia’s past prior to 1788, give us an idea of the appearance of the Australian landscape that many early European arrivals described in their journals when they likened the landscape to a “gentleman’s estate”. Professor Gammage puts forward the idea that Aboriginal people were the first land managers and that they were very serious about land management, using mosaic burning. The descriptions are of a gentleman’s estate, a landscape that has isolated trees and grassed areas. That was a recurring theme throughout the landscape. I do question some of Professor Gammage’s work, in that I am not sure that one can make generalisations across the entire continent, although he

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claims that one can; he believes that some communication went on. I encourage members to look at this work because it gives us an insight into how our landscape could be better managed and made more fire safe. It also puts another nail in the coffin of the idea of terra nullius, which clearly might have been a difficult thing for some people to swallow, especially people in the early part of the nineteenth century. On one hand, they described Australia as a “gentleman’s estate”, while on the other hand, they were not prepared to acknowledge that Aboriginal people, the land managers, were even entitled to ownership of the land; there was a contradiction there. I think it is an important work that can help us learn more about the management of the ecology of Australia. That is an area in which we still have so much work to do.

In the final moments I have left, I want to mention a report released by CSIRO titled “The implications of climate change for biodiversity conservation and the National Reserve System: Final synthesis”. The report is about the need for whole-of-landscape reserve systems that enable the movement of individual species, plant or animal, to take place. We have to protect and allow for movements with changing climate bands and changing climate patterns. That is a very important thing now. In its executive summary the report reads, in part —

The project predicts dramatic environmental change due to climate change: these changes will be ecologically very significant, and will result in many novel environments quite unlike those currently occurring anywhere on the continent, and the disappearance of many environments currently occupied by Australian biodiversity. While biodiversity impacts from these changed environments may be buffered when species exploit natural variation in the environment, our results suggest that the magnitude of change will overcome these buffering effects by 2070.

There is a real concern that if we do not manage things, we will suffer incredible environmental loss. The report puts forward the idea of managing the continent through systems that are not dissimilar to the Gondwana Link project in the south west. The intention of the people involved in the Gondwana Link project is to manage the landscape so that there is some interconnectedness—interspersed, of course, with some areas of human settlement—and the region from Margaret River right through to the goldfields is seen as a whole ecological corridor so that we can have the gene flows of all sorts of species through the area. That then provides them with scope to move as the climate changes.

I conclude my contribution to the second reading debate by saying that we need to make sure that the wealth of this state is shared amongst all and across a range of projects, so that we can leave this place in a better state than we found it in.

**MS L.L. BAKER (Maylands)** [5.50 pm]: I rise to speak on the Loan Bill 2012. Yesterday, I was handed a copy of a media release by the federal government, dated 19 September. This media release brought back a lot of old memories. It is about how the federal government is planning to introduce legislation to ban gag clauses in contracts in the not-for-profit sector. Those members who were around or interested in the community sector during the time that the Howard government was in power would remember that he directly attacked the rights and legitimate role of the not-for-profit sector and diminished its capacity to represent and advocate for its members by imposing what were called gag clauses. The purpose of those gag clauses was to restrict the sector from engaging in any kind of political or policy debate. Indeed, people involved in some projects in the south west of the state that were federally funded were told that if they spoke to the media about the unmet demand in their neck of the woods, whether it was Albany or Katanning or wherever, their funding would be under threat.

At that time, between 2001 and 2007, I was the chief executive officer of the Western Australian Council of Social Service, and I remember that the University of New South Wales put out a paper called “Silencing Dissent”, which we spent a lot of time analysing, and agreeing with, I guess. So I find it interesting that the federal government is now introducing this legislation—but for a different reason. The reason the federal government is introducing legislation to ban gag clauses from being put into contracts is to ensure that the not-for-profit sector can keep speaking out publicly. That is because of some of the threats that are coming out of Queensland at the moment with the Cameron Newman government —

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** Campbell.

**Ms L.L. BAKER:** Sorry, Cameron, Campbell—it is all a plate of soup, really.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** Cameron is the one in the United Kingdom.

**Ms L.L. BAKER:** Yes, that is him!

It brought back memories of my time in WACOSS and the under-funding that the community sector was talking about during those years. Members may remember that when Dr Gallop was Premier, he approved an additional \$185 million per annum in funding to bring indexation into community-based projects. I had been running the

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policy for state government contracting. So when I came into the community sector and found that the contracts that were being struck by the government with community groups were not indexed, I was incredulous. I thought that if it were Woodside or Serco or any one of a number of private sector contractors, they would not accept the government running its contracts in that way; the government would not be able to get away with it. So I was very grateful that Dr Gallop responded to our lobbying and brought indexation into the community sector. However, there was still some reticence about applying indexation across all government departments. I remember that we had a great deal of difficulty in particular with the Department of Health at the time, which held out quite strongly against indexing funding for the community sector.

In 2011, the Barnett government announced what appeared to be a huge bonus for charities and not-for-profits when it committed \$600 million over four years for that sector. The Premier told ABC radio at that time that there had been no parallel in Western Australia, perhaps even in Australian history at a state level, when so much money had been put into those people, and their families, who were in most need in our community. I think the Premier was probably right at that time. Things were looking pretty good. Before this happened, when I was running WACOSS, we knew that there was a gap of about 30 per cent between what we needed to fund the services that we were delivering, and the money that we were being given under contract to deliver those services. Therefore, what the Barnett government did at that time was welcomed by the sector, because it effectively brought in an increase of about 15 per cent across the board for all eligible human services contracts, and that was a very good thing indeed.

However, I note that it is still not possible to find out how those funds were expended by the agencies. It could be that with the work that is being done at the moment to review contracting in the sector, that information will come forward. But there is no evidence that any of that money was directed into the low wages that are paid to people in this sector. That was the employers' choice. Indeed, I am sure my colleagues in the government would think ideologically that that was the right way to go—leave it to the employer to fund wages, because we can trust employers to do that. But unfortunately I can tell members that that certainly has not happened. It certainly has not happened in the disability services agencies. I have been lobbied by some of the members who work in the disability services sector, and they have said that in their agency, the money was used to pay off debt. That reminds me a bit of the current government, really, except that this government is accruing debt, not paying it off. So, rather than use that money to increase the salaries of the workers in the sector, who are already on chronically low wages, that money was used to retire debt. That may have a long-term benefit. Maybe next year or the year after, or in five years, we will see a 15 per cent increase in the wages of the people who have arguably some of the most difficult jobs in our community; but I am not that confident that that will happen.

That was stage 1 of the government's new contracting regime. As I have said, the measure was welcomed by the sector. The funds were supplied to agencies under contract to the state government, and the funds were highly valued by the sector. However, not all agencies received that funding, and there was some contention about that. One of the agencies that missed out on that funding was the Women's Council on Family and Domestic Violence. That is because federally-funded projects were not beneficiaries of that funding. We know also that we cannot track exactly where the funds have been directed in every agency. Therefore, we cannot say how effective that funding will be in managing the skills crisis and the staff crisis in the sector.

The second phase of this funding injection is due to be rolled out from 1 July 2013 over a two-year period. This second tranche of funding is an amount of approximately \$117 million, which is equivalent to an average increase of 10 per cent across eligible contracts. I want to talk a bit about what this second tranche of funding is about. I have taken this from a paper from the Department of Treasury funding unit, headed, "Sustainable Funding and Contracting with the Not-for-profit Community Sector". The paper states that component II of this funding allows for an average—average—price adjustment of 10 per cent across eligible contracts. It goes on to state —

Component II is linked to progressing key contracting reforms consistent with the *Delivering Community Services in Partnership Policy*. These reforms relate to the relationship between the public and not-for-profit community sectors, funding and contracting arrangements between government and not-for-profit organisations and reducing the administrative burden. Additional funding will be allocated to contracts to ensure that services are purchased and funded in a sustainable manner.

This paper goes on to state —

The approach to Component II funding and its link to key contracting reforms is aimed at:

- Enabling a fair and appropriate price is paid for services provided by the not-for-profit community sector;
- Addressing further funding pressures —

**Extract from Hansard**

[ASSEMBLY — Tuesday, 25 September 2012]

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Mr Bill Johnston; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Andrew Waddell; Mr Martin Whitely; Mr Chris Tallentire; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Peter Watson; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Fran Logan

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This is a fantastic aim —

not addressed in some contracts by the upfront 15% adjustment, including historical funding inequities in the level of funding provided by different services;

- Supporting the implementation of contracting reforms under the *Delivering Community Services in Partnership Policy*, including addressing issues for regional and remote service providers;
- Ensuring contracts focus on outcomes, rather than prescribed inputs, to better meet the needs of clients; and
- Providing more flexibility for innovation in the not-for-profit community sector.

I am very mindful of the time, and I understand that my presentation tonight will straddle the dinner break, so rather than go on in detail about that, I now wish to look at the challenges and possible risks to the community sector from the reforms and contracting that the Barnett government is about to attempt. The most important direction in the allocation of funding is that we consult with the community sector fairly and equitably to make sure that even the small not-for-profits in the sector understand the reforms and the direction that they will be required to take.

*Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.00 pm*

**Ms L.L. BAKER:** I am keen to continue my speech around the implementation of component II of the government's contracting reforms in its relationship with the community sector. This is of particular interest in this debate because I note that the implementation of component II—the extra \$115 million—will be based on a review process of individual contracts. This will allow an opportunity for not-for-profit community sector organisations to tender a fair and appropriate price for the services they deliver. This information is to be submitted to government agencies for consideration by government as part of the 2012–13 midyear review process in November 2012. The peak community agencies have been working on the funding reform initiatives. There is a group in the partnership forum that has been doing some really fantastic work around that. The reason I am speaking about this tonight, though, is that I see some potential risks in this model of contracting with the sector. These are risks that I know very well and that I have spoken about on many occasions around Australia in my former job as the CEO of the Western Australian Council of Social Service. Whilst not-for-profit agencies are expected to engage with government agencies to develop what is called their agency implementation plans and to prepare for and engage in these contract reviews, including by reviewing how services are delivered and understanding the cost of service delivery, the government thinks this will enable organisations to submit a sustainable service model and price as part of contract reviews. That is the process that the government and the community sector have agreed to. What brings me tonight to this speech is that not all is well in the community sector; not all is happy. There are some very concerned not-for-profit organisations. I want to talk firstly about what their concerns are and then outline how that might work in the real world—how their concerns would be played out in contracting and the delivery of services.

As I said, the second phase of the plan to reform the sector needs agencies to accept the government's new contracting model. The new contracting model comes with names such as outcomes-based contracting, lead contracting, individualised funding models and payment by results. What that all really boils down to could be more bureaucracy and a series of unintended consequences and risks for agencies. This is what I want to put on the public record. This is what small agencies have been talking to me about. This is the concern and risk in what could be a very positive way forward. This government has made it clear that it believes in a competitive market as being the best way to deliver human and community services. Accordingly, it is choosing to expand the amount of work that is contracted to not-for-profit providers and also welcoming corporate and for-profit providers to tender for that work. An enormous amount of energy goes in to winning and managing contracts, usually at the expense of other aspects of work, such as advocacy, policy and campaigning. Those of us who have been involved in the community sector would be very, very familiar with what happens when an agency spends all its time involved in a process, a reform or a contracting development model and does not get on with delivering its services. Some service providers face serious cash flow problems where payments are tied to predefined outcomes. This may see them dipping into sparse reserves to provide cash flow for their work, leaving them exposed to greater risk. These things were starting to emerge under the former federal government regime, which I referred to when I started my speech tonight. We are seeing some aspects of this re-emerge, and that is what the government needs to be very careful about.

Agencies have to compete with one another for government dollars. Often they must fundamentally change the leadership, management, culture and the way in which they operate, as well as how they respond to client needs. The consequence of these actions has been described by Lucy Morris, a WA academic. She wrote in a journal article —

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The dominant story is of a corporatised, economically driven sector, where leaders are promoted on their ability to run businesses that happen to be charities.

The lead contractor model being promoted by the Barnett government is also being actively promoted by corporate and for-profit organisations like Serco. The lead contractor model may deliver services on a larger scale and then subcontract other providers to deliver additional services. This increases layers of bureaucracy in the agencies and leads to multiple levels of accountability, although, and quite ironically, it does not really add to public accountability of funds. In Western Australia, and even in my electorate, I have already seen small agencies struggling because they have received no referrals from the lead contractor. There are concerns that the lead contractors cherry pick the easiest and most profitable cases, leaving the more complex and difficult cases to poorly paid subcontractors. Many years ago there was a federal program called the Employment Services Regulatory Authority, which funded employment activities around Australia. That was a model I was very familiar with because I was running an agency at the time that was delivering ESRA.

[Member's time extended.]

**Ms L.L. BAKER:** It ended up that the most complicated cases also had the biggest dollars attached to them, but because of the need to be efficient and to deliver services and meet outputs, the agencies steered away from these really difficult cases because it was simply too hard to get to the \$1 000-per-outcome goal. There ended up being a gap in the services that were able to be provided by government. Particular concerns have been voiced in relation to one place in which this model is being used in WA. I refer to the suicide prevention model. There have been real difficulties with a failure to spend allocated money, perhaps to generate a cash reserve—I do not know—and a significant time delay in local community responses. I am told that this is attributed to over-administration in the system, with multiple layers of accountability. We and the government need to learn from these mistakes and to learn what works well and to not repeat these disasters that are happening, and particularly not repeat things that are happening with vulnerable people's lives.

The small and local communities are the losers here. Small services, particularly regional services, are organised to meet community needs. They provide very localised services and help to keep communities together. They act as advocates and do not have the economies of scale and sometimes do not have the skills to produce the tender documents they need to get government money. Services once delivered locally by local people in places like Albany, Collie, Geraldton, Carnarvon or indeed any country town, services that were in place to meet local needs, are really no longer viable and do not provide that service any more. They are provided by an irregular outreach based in a larger regional centre, because they are the ones that can afford to win the contracts. The overall effect is to reduce the ability of local people to influence the quality of life and service responses in their communities.

But the real devil in the detail is the growing threat from the large corporate and for-profit providers that will muscle their way into human service delivery. Fundamental to the Barnett government reforms is its intention to open up human and community services to any willing provider, which includes for-profit and corporate providers. In the United Kingdom, 35 of the 40 main contracts awarded under the government's work program went to large corporations like Serco, Ingeus Deloitte and A4E. That was despite government assurances that the contracting process would provide more opportunities for not-for-profits. In Western Australia, services we have always expected to be best provided by public or the not-for-profit sectors—services like employment, aged care, health, justice and education—are being increasingly offered to corporate and for-profit providers. Increasingly, the contracting-out of services in these areas—for example, employment services—has benefited large corporations and for-profit entities. In WA, more and more corporate providers are winning contracts to deliver human and community services. They use their experience and contracts in one field to secure a new contract in another field, without necessarily having experience in the delivery of that service. The growth of the UK's multinational corporation Serco in WA is a case in point. In the UK, Serco is now one of the largest corporate providers of human and community services, and has contracts to deliver services in areas as diverse as prisons, community justice, transport, policing, community health, hospitals, disability, welfare to work, welfare, employment, children's services, families at risk, accommodation, and service eligibility assessments.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** Education.

**Mr M.J. Cowper:** Airlines.

**Ms L.L. BAKER:** I said education, minister.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** Just checking.

**Ms L.L. BAKER:** If I did not, we will add it to the list.

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In WA, Serco is now the largest provider of justice services outside the public sector, and is actively seeking to leverage contracts in the health and justice fields to seek out new opportunities in other human and community services. The human and community services sector is facing a radical upheaval in its funding and service environment, and its relationship with government and the market. A key feature of the change is that the relationship between not-for-profit human services agencies and the people who rely on the services is also being transformed by the individual models of funding, service delivery and care being developed. The community sector now faces nothing less than privatisation by stealth, and it is high time the basic question was debated in the public arena. There has been no public airing of this issue, and no mandate or contract has been entered into with the people of this state to sell these services. As citizens we deserve to not be taken for mugs; we deserve to have these matters clearly debated in the public arena. Let the government put its case that state social services should be delivered by a competitive model, and the contrary arguments heard. So far, there has been no debate or discussion, merely a tacit acceptance that this is the way we are going. This is not about protecting one's patch, but about hearing the voice of people who know about human services and are expert in meeting needs and ministering to the elderly, disadvantaged, marginalised or afflicted. Their voices deserve to be heard every bit as much as the technocrats with their management models and quality assurance strategies. Contracts create consequences, particularly the fear that they will be varied, cancelled or not renewed. This is despite growing evidence that many service users, particularly those most marginalised, disadvantaged and reliant on public services, are likely to be worse off as a result of these changes to human and community services. I say this should never be part of the government's bigger picture. This is a way of unpicking service quality and delivery; it is a way of narrowing the diversity of the sector. At the very least, it is time this debate was had in public, with all community service providers heard and listened to on the subject.

Just before I move from the community sector, I note that the \$600 million in funding over four years, which is welcomed, will be directed at these reform processes. Indeed, the documentation states several times that this is not about unmet demand. If this is not money for unmet demand, over the four years it has been in office how much has the government put into meeting the increasing demand for community services for the disadvantaged and vulnerable in this state? I will really be looking for that figure in the midyear review in December to see the dollars that went to unmet demand.

In my last few minutes I will turn to a couple of issues relevant to my electorate of Maylands that I think deserve mention. One in particular, quite surprisingly, arrived in my email this morning—I suspect Minister Buswell may have also received it, but it has probably not filtered through to him yet. It seems that a woman who has been catching the train is a wee bit miffed about the congestion, and I would like to voice her complaints in this house. She apologised for the use of language; we can clearly sense her frustration. The email reads —

*Dear lowly Customer Service Representative who is employed to filter comments like these from the Head of Passenger and Ticketing Services,*

*I don't understand what is wrong with the people making decisions regarding how many cars are used at the busiest time of the day.*

*The A pattern train which arrives at Maylands station at 8:08am is the busiest in the mornings however your staff "upstairs" at East Perth who probably have a lovely car bay with their name on it choose to only allow a 2 car to service passengers at this time.*

*Every other train before and after is a 4 car however those are B patterns and take longer to reach Perth.*

*What vacuous person decided to make the most popular train half the size surely needs to know that it is not acceptable and that at least 70 people are left standing at Maylands station every day due to this failure of common sense. The decision makers 'upstairs' (who clearly have nothing 'upstairs') do not even listen to your own staff as is clear from conversing with equally frustrated railway guards —*

As they try to push people onto trains. The email continues —

*If you can't even listen to your own people who work on the platforms every day that just shows how blinded you must be by your own self importance and you definitely won't be listening to the second class citizens of the Midland line anytime soon.*

*When I first expressed concern over this decision, which involved a passenger being so frustrated as to assault another passenger, a customer service representative on your helpline told me that there was a problem connecting the carriages at Midland and that was the reason for only 2 cars being used on that particular day. Its good to know that the values of the upper level staff are being passed down the ranks and encouraging dishonesty in answering queries.*

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*So much for encouraging our use of public transport. Understandably you will give the reason that work is being done to improve our public transport system ready for this new and improved Perth that slaps us in the face every time we turn on the TV or open a newspaper. I do understand that there will be some delays and problems associated during this period however see no reason for it to affect this particular service.*

That email is from a very cranky lady who clearly has been competing with 70 others to get on the train at Maylands station.

**Mr J.E. McGrath:** The minister has had to deal with a lot of cranky women in his time!

**Ms L.L. BAKER:** I am sure, and indeed, member, so have we—lots of cranky people—which begs the question: why did the government not move to fix it when it first got elected by ordering train carriages back then instead of recently?

In the two minutes I have left I will talk about the Swan River recreational users survey that was initiated by the Swan River Trust, which passed on the results to the Department of Transport. I have in my hand a very well written letter from Environment House, which is housed on the banks of the Swan River, stating that it supports the opposition of Maylands Yacht Club to the extension or expansion of a waterski area in the Maylands–Belmont stretch of the river. Environment House points out the sensitivity of the shores around that area to boat wash. It points to the bird breeding migration wetlands on the edge of the river. It points to the young man who was killed in a boating accident when he was on a tyre, I think—a doughnut. Environment House says that with the attraction of Perth’s wineries upstream, it is hard to imagine our cruise boats being banned from going up there. However, there are only fairly predictable, low numbers of these, and because they have now been limited to five knots—which is fantastic—they do less damage. However, if other powerboats were to be banned, many more people would take to the water for more healthy active recreational pursuits such as canoeing, kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding, which is a new sport to Western Australia. This would make it a more appealing area and definitely much safer for the users of the river. Other of my colleagues who have the Swan River running through their electorates will understand what I mean. It is very difficult to accommodate high-powered speedboats and skiers in recreational areas of the river.

**MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston) [7.20 pm]:** I rise to speak on the Loan Bill 2012 and to query where the government is headed. With years of very good returns from the mining industry, the south west has been starved of money, without any consideration of what the mining industry in the south west has contributed over many, many years. We are talking about more than 100 years of coalmining and probably 50 years of sandmining, along with many other smaller mines. A lot of people probably do not realise that one of the biggest goldmines in the Southern Hemisphere is in the south west. We see the National Party advertisements about royalties for regions, and we see the green badge come up. It is all divided into little squares, and the gold coin falls in every place bar the south west, and I think the National Party has got it right. It has forgotten that the south west has for many years underpinned many of the industries in this state. We can look at the horticultural industry and the viticultural industry, along with the mining industries in those areas. Not only that; we have produced the majority of the power for the state for many years. Now we have a problem. We had two companies that were probably overenthusiastic in their attempts to gain a government contract—I must say under a Labor Party—for the supply of coal to the generation systems, and we now have companies running at a loss. They are big losses, and I do not know for how much longer they can sustain those losses. They are Yancoal Australia Ltd and Griffin Coal under the Lanco Infratech Ltd brand. Both those companies have been to see me and have said that they cannot sustain the losses occurring in the coal industry. Forty per cent of the state’s power is still produced by coal. That is something that people do not quite understand. If both those companies fall over, the state will have a big problem. It will be very similar to what happened following the Varanus Island incident, when 40 per cent of the power went out because there was no supply of gas. That cost this state billions of dollars, and it is not finished yet.

I am asking, through this house, that we have immediate action through a series of meetings to work our way forward in the coal industry. On the ground, there are roughly 600 jobs in a small town such as Collie, where there are only 9 000 people, and underpinning that are contractors, subcontractors and local shops—all those ancillary-type businesses that go with it. It has got to a stage at which, in one company, people are buying out of their own pockets some of the goods needed to keep vehicles going. Just recently, one of the foremen paid for the air cleaners so that the vehicles could keep going in the mine, which is very dusty, and it would not take long before those vehicles were in trouble. It is time for a summit, with across-government meetings, to look at the future of the coal industry and the future of our power generation industry that comes from coal. If we do not do that, this state will suffer badly. It is no good saying, “All right; shut the gates and we’ll see if we can get gas.” Sure, we can do that, but we know that the gas pipeline is at nearly full capacity at the moment. We know that

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this government is reluctant to expand the gas pipeline from the Bunbury area down to the Acting Speaker's area of Albany, because it made a promise on that—a \$300 million promise—and it never fulfilled it. If we look in the budget, we will see a couple of hundred thousand dollars for planning, and nothing else. So, I am asking, through this house, that we have a round-table sit-down to discuss the future with the miners, the miners' union, the companies and everyone concerned.

We have seen the headlines about coal being finished. If that is the case, I point out that places such as America, including California, the so-called green state, are still building new coal-fired power stations. We had hoped that Collie would be able to export coal to India. Lanco still expects to do that, and hopefully it can do that. However, it is having problems getting access to the port and access to the rail. The alternative is to build its own, at a cost that makes it not viable to send the coal across to India. So, we have a lot of problems in that area, and if we do not do something about it—it does not matter which government is in power—we will continue to have some problems. I think it is incumbent on the government of the day, and all ministers, to do something about it.

I will go back. These times would be nowhere near the Tom Jones era. According to Tom, there was only one thing in Western Australia, and that was coal. The only problem was that people could not drink it and they could not eat it. But Tom had a passion for it, and at the time he forced the government to stack some coal in a valley at the back. We got the coal out, so people did not lose jobs, and it was stacked away; it was energy for the future, which proves that it can be stacked and put away for the future. Over time, it was used. It is quite ironic that when I first came into Parliament in 2001, I went out to what is now the Verve Energy power station—Muja. Verve itself was saying, "Look at this pile of coal we've got here. We've got to get rid of it." So it dumped it on the short-term market. It was going to go to Worsley; the first load was going to go offshore to India. All of a sudden there was a demand for power, and Verve bought it back at double the price that it had sold it for. That is a disgrace in any public utility—an absolute disgrace.

I have concerns about how we go forward. We do not want to see the same thing happen in the future under this government. Of course, many in today's government say, "Why should we help Collie?" It has been a strong Labor town for a long time. In fact, in some areas, my vote at the last election was 80 per cent. I do not think that getting back at a few is a reason to make the rest of Western Australia suffer. It is time that this government opened its eyes and looked at the way forward and how we will go forward. If we do not have a dual fuel policy, we will be in a huge amount of bother, because we have already seen what can happen. A Court government tried to wipe out the coal industry because of its strong affinity with the Labor Party. What happened? The government went over to oil, and within a few years the price of oil went through the roof, and we had to convert back to coal, at a huge cost to this state. At that time the cost was about \$60 million or \$70 million, which in today's terms would be considered to be about \$1 billion. We have seen those issues. We have seen the government move in and encourage Wesfarmers to shut down the underground mine because it believed that would make the price for coal cheaper. Probably in some ways it was right. However, the guys on the ground in the Collie coalfields area have changed their work habits. When I first started in the mines, we did two shifts of seven hours. If we got our four cuts out, which meant drilling, blasting and loading the coal, we could go home unofficially. However, if we were injured on the way home, we had problems. We would work and we would get the coal out. Those times have changed. Miners now work 12 hours a day driving the trucks up and down. Wesfarmers brought in very large electric shovels, which people said would not work. They have been a boon for the coal industry, otherwise it would not have survived until today.

This government also dislikes the unions. If it had not been for the unions, the coal mined by Yancoal Australia Ltd, which was previously mined by Wesfarmers' Premier Coal, would not be mined today because the unions put a stop to what they call short dumping. To make it easier and cheaper for the company, the miners would get a little way out of the pit and drop their overburden and then head back so they could get the easy coal, the cheap coal. The unions would not allow that. They said, "There's coal under there; we need it for the future." Twenty years on, the companies are mining coal that could have been sterilised if the unions had not stood their ground. It is to the detriment of the state that we could have allowed that to happen and kept the jobs going, but we did not. We took a stand. We stood out on the grass and said, "If you don't put the overburden up further, we will not load it." It is very important to understand that the people who do the job understand the job. Sometimes we in this place get too far detached from that.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** If we're anti-union, why did we reappoint Gary Wood to the port authority?

**Mr P.C. Tinley:** You had no choice.



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**Mr T.R. Buswell:** Of course we had a choice. Why did we reappoint Gary Wood to the port authority if we're anti-union?

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** The government is anti-union; there is no doubt about that. The Treasurer has stood up in this place many times and criticised other unions—I am not talking about the miners' union in this case—including the service unions, that have been up here. The Treasurer has been critical and he has taken a stance and said they should not be doing this.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** It doesn't mean you're anti-union; it just means you have a different point of view.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** The Treasurer would rather see them out of the system. Good unions work with the companies and they can be the third arm of management. That is how it worked in the coal industry for many, many years. When other companies come in, they say they have to change the culture. They get a new manager in and they start employing people from all over the state. I have said before that once those people come in and realise they can be part of a safe and well-paid workplace and they know that their job will be there for the future because the company is working in the right direction, those people who were previously anti-union become very, very strong union people. I have seen it. Sometimes they become absolute mongrels as well and they become so comfortable that they want to go out the gate at any time. I am not talking about the local people. The local people have an affinity with the coal industry and work with it, not against it. I can be corrected on these figures very, very quickly by some of my union colleagues, but I think about 40 per cent of people who work for Griffin Coal now live on the Bunbury flats whereas about 10 per cent of those who work for Yancoal live on the Bunbury flats. That is quite different from what it used to be.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** How many are playing for the Collie Eagles?

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** If someone is six foot eight and a good ruckman, I will make sure they get a good job in the mines. If the Treasurer wants to put a few dollars on the bar for the match the week after next, when we might be playing against each other, the winner takes all and we can donate that to the winning club. I am quite willing to take a few bob on that. We will not take wine because they will probably pour it on the ground in Collie.

Over time we have seen changes within our community and its members have embraced change. One change that they have embraced is the mining tax. They believe that there should be a mining tax. Why do they believe that? It is because they have seen what the companies have put back into Collie over the years. If it was not for the Coal Miners' Welfare Board—I hope the Treasurer is listening very intently here—not much would have gone into the town at all. A small levy on the production of coal goes into a well-managed fund for people in the community. It is also enshrined in an act of Parliament. The money goes back into the community. It was first designed so that the underground miners had an urn and somewhere to sit to have their crib. At that time there were horses underground and rats and other nasties that went with them. The miners were able to get hot tea and pies from the pie warmer. That continued. As the money has grown, it has helped build a swimming pool and helped many underprivileged kids. A lot of people do not understand what goes on. We have a couple of schools, and the bottom 10 per cent of kids certainly get money from that fund, not the children of miners who have a reasonable income. We make sure that our town is well balanced. That is something that country towns do and something that many city people do not understand.

I will just conclude my remarks on the coal industry. I spoke to the Premier about this some time ago when Griffin Coal went into administration. After looking at the new owners, it is about time we sat down and looked at the prices. I will say one final thing on this issue. In my view, if it were not for coal, the price of electricity would be up by another 15 or 20 per cent because of the cheapness of fuel. There is room to move. If we do not, we could all suffer in the long term.

Getting off that subject, I move to another issue that concerns me. I met with the furniture makers group recently. It put its concerns to me about what is going to happen in the future with its industry. It has been mooted that whole jarrah logs will be sent to places such as Vietnam to be cut up and sent back to Australia as jarrah furniture, something that we cannot afford again. We have a unique product, something that only grows here. It is very similar to mahogany. We should utilise that only for ourselves to be exported as furniture, not as anything else. It should not be exported as a log that is turned into veneer and patched over the top of a pine base. We should be ensuring that resources such as that—they are not infinite—are utilised exactly as we want for furniture of some of the greatest quality. We should look at the walls in this chamber. I do not know how long ago it was built, but for over 100 years this place has reeked of the smell of jarrah, and the visuals are something to behold. People walk in and look at that jarrah timber, something that is really special. Again, I ask the government to consider that when it gives out export licences, it does not give them to businesses that export whole jarrah logs. That is detrimental to not only jobs in this state, but also the furniture makers themselves. It is a long time in the making to get to that high standard in the craft of furniture making. A lot of people pay large

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amounts of money for jarrah furniture to show off in their house or business. It is something that we should not cheapen by allowing cheap imports that sometimes have a tag on them which says they are Australian—that is, made of Australian wood—not “Made in Australia”, so they get out under that branding. The federal government has a role to play as well.

The recent visit to the south west by the Minister for Police was disappointing. I must give her her due as she did follow up and come down. The former minister said he was going to come down. It was disappointing to hear her dismissal of the actions of police and the way the police work in the south west.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey:** I did not dismiss their concerns at all.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** The minister should not bite yet; she should wait her time and I will get her on the hook in a minute. After she left, there was an accident on the Bussell Highway near Capel. It took 40 minutes before police attended. The people involved in that accident had been removed, the cars had been removed and then the police turned up. That proves the point that we as a group tried to put to the minister. The people there were quite passionate about that. I would like to see the minister stand in this place tonight, or any other night or day, and commit to putting a police station in Capel. The hub system under this police commissioner is not working. Who wants to be bashed up and then the police arrive? Who wants to be in a car accident and there are no police there? Who wants to ring up police about hoons in their street at Capel and wait 25 minutes for the police? It has to be said that we need a police station in Capel. The sooner the minister makes that announcement, the happier I will be. Even if she tries to gazump me and put two extra rooms and four more coppers in it, I do not care.

While I have 50 seconds left, the last thing I want to say is this: what a disgraceful exhibition we have seen on police and community youth centres. The minister has been done over by the department—absolutely screwed over by the department! The Premier said one thing in this place and the department went out and did another. There is no doubt in my mind that the doors of the Collie PCYC will shut in the near future.

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah)** [7.40 pm]: While the member for Collie–Preston is on a roll about policing, I will start with policing on this second reading debate on the Loan Bill 2012. The last time we had a chance in this house to discuss policing, I raised the issue of the change that occurred under this government when the Peel police district, as it was then constituted, was absorbed into the south metropolitan super hub. I rallied against that and was the only local member to do so. I got no support from the Deputy Premier, the member for Dawesville, or from the member for Murray–Wellington. I did that because I saw that this was going to dilute the effectiveness of the great policemen and policewomen who serve the Mandurah and Peel communities. That, I believe, has happened. I want to give an example of that.

Prior to the change to putting the Peel police district in with Rockingham–Kwinana, we had a number of very effective policing programs including a program called Street Net. Street Net still exists. However, prior to the changes, Street Net had two designated police officers. One, a highly regarded police officer called Phil Tuffin, had been part of Street Net for many years and he had a number of other officers who assisted him over the time. Street Net delivered an effective community policing program in that the police and youth workers who worked on Street Net worked with the local kids in our community and with local families, including vulnerable families. The police knew the kids, the kids knew the police, the police knew the families and the families knew the police. There was trust, and high-quality communication took place. A previous superintendent decided that that was no longer one of the ways to go; he was also a supporter of taking the Peel police district into the south metro region. As I have said in this place before, I believe that has failed—and failed dismally. I have asked the minister in this place to hear my plea to return the Peel police district as a distinct police district to Mandurah–Peel; to recognise the growth that has occurred in Mandurah–Peel region in population, policing issues and community policing needs; and to respond by recognising that Mandurah itself is a viable, vital hub and should be seen so from a policing perspective. Since the change more than two and a half years ago—during this term of government—community policing officers were taken from Mandurah but still supposedly expected to police Mandurah–Peel, and their offices were transferred to Rockingham. That is where their desk was and where they operated out of initially. I used the example of Street Net and the example of community policing officers, or crime prevention officers, to highlight that this model has failed.

I note that the minister has again sanctioned conducting community forums with the Commissioner of Police. I welcome that. I disagree with the commissioner that previous forums were hijacked. I do not know why he used the Rockingham forum as an example of a forum that was hijacked. I was there, Hon Phil Edman from the other place was there and the member for Warnbro was there. We were the three members of Parliament there. I asked one question, the member for Warnbro asked one question and Hon Phil Edman asked one question—or actually made a statement about police and community youth centres. That is all; the rest of the questions came from the public—people who were concerned about general policing matters in the Rockingham–Peel–Mandurah region.

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**Mr J.M. Francis:** How many public members were there?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** About 200.

That forum was not hijacked. It is absolute bunkum to say that the Rockingham forum was hijacked. I was there and I can honestly tell the minister that if we hijacked it, we did a pretty good job asking three questions—one each! The general public raised some absolutely important, key issues. The issues included that people consider parts of that new super region to be police-free zones. Those are the words of the public. People from the Singleton–Golden Bay area, including, for example, Councillor Elliott who represents the area, highlighted that issue on a number of occasions.

I am asking the minister whether she will conduct a commissioner’s community forum in Mandurah to give the people of Mandurah an opportunity to raise important community policing and general policing concerns. I ask that it be held in Mandurah and that the commissioner come down there. I will go, and I will guarantee that I will ask probably one question. I will not hijack it. But I ask the minister to consider that seriously because I must tell her that the people of Mandurah should be given the opportunity to have the police commissioner attend.

I want to highlight in this place a couple of important issues. I am glad to see the Minister for Health, the member for Dawesville, present in the chamber. These matters relate to a theme that I have been raising in this place over a period and are related to gaps in service, particularly in the health education area. Only recently a number of people have come to me with their concerns about the gaps in the provision of important support and intervention services for their children. I was just on the phone to the parent of a young fellow called Matthew, who is nine years of age and has been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. He has been receiving medication to treat his condition; however, his paediatrician recently decided to trial different medication that actually aggravated Matthew’s condition rather than stabilised it. Matthew, it is suspected, has a mental health condition as well, and of course he is only primary school age. His family lives in the Minister for Health’s electorate. I know the family has written to the minister and the minister has probably followed up this matter; however, it is important to highlight that this is one of a number of examples to which I have been alerted of the lack of services that are causing a great deal of difficulty for parents and families in Mandurah and Peel. Matthew was referred to a psychologist at Mandurah CAMHS, as they call it, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service. He was also booked in to see a psychiatrist at Peel Health Campus. He has gone from school to school and has been expelled from one school because of his behaviour. The Department of Education, as the father of Matthew said to me tonight, has been doing everything it can to assist, and it looks like he might be permanently accommodated at the behaviour centre at Mandurah Primary School, which is great news for the family.

The services this family wants and which it regards as a great need are referred to in the report by the Commissioner for Children and Young People that was released last year. The report considered the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in WA and made a number of recommendations. Recommendation 4 of that report is that integrated early childhood services on school sites be implemented and recommendation 39 is that this model be established as a pilot. I am pleased that is happening now in Mandurah, as the Minister for Health would know, in his electorate of Dawesville. A lot of students from my electorate come across to that school. We need to make sure that works. As the minister knows, that school has an excellent principal and he has a great staff. We need to make sure that that early intervention integrated centre is up and running as soon as possible and delivering for kids like Matthew. Matthew’s father also said to me that one of the key things he sees is —

Whilst Mandurah lacks a dedicated education facility for primary school students with a mental health condition, these children will miss out on a proper education, and our community will be the poorer for it.

I agree with him that we need dedicated education support facilities for Mandurah primary school children with a mental disability. This is the key. He highlighted to me, as have a number of other parents, that to a large extent children with physical and intellectual disabilities are catered for in Mandurah–Peel, because we have a number of education support centres or, if they are severely intellectually disabled, they have the special schools further north. However, there is no service currently dedicated to children with a mental disability. That is something that really needs to be acted upon urgently in Mandurah.

I come to the issue of autism, and members will be well aware that the autism spectrum continues to attract a lot of attention, and more and more families are having their children diagnosed with Asperger’s or indeed an autism diagnosis. I will read into *Hansard* what a good friend of mine highlighted to me only the other night on Facebook. I am interested in this because even though I do not know a lot about autism diagnoses, I am aware of

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a number of families who have approached me with the difficulties they are having now with their children who have been diagnosed and put on the autism spectrum. This friend of mine writes —

- Just wanted to bring to your attention if you weren't already aware, how long an Autism diagnosis and associated child development services take to access in WA despite the Federal Government package.

If you go through the child development commission, (and it can take up to 6 months or more to get seen from your referral from child health nurse or paediatrician), it can take another 6 – 8 months waiting for your autism assessment. If you go through Disabilities Service Commission, looking at a 4 – 6 month wait for the assessment. Privately I've been told it takes 6 + months because their books are full.

My friend lives in the metropolitan area, north of Perth. She continues by giving an example in which the federal government has the funding package available but in fact the wait for assessment causes a problem. The daughter of this family cannot access the federal government package until they have had the assessment. My friend writes that their child —

... had Global Development Delay and they think she has Autism Spectrum Disorder. She had an EEG recently also which showed abnormal brain development and will need an MRI. A paediatric MRI in WA can only be done at PMH (even if you have private cover there is no where to get it done), because the children need a general anaesthetic. Urgent MRIs in WA (suspect tumours, bleeding etc) take 30 days. Semi Urgent take 3 – 8 months. Non urgent (which ... is listed as) take 8 + months (although the paediatrician said 12 – 18 mths is his experience and we should be prepared for this). 10 years ago we were raising the issue of the delay in paediatric MRIs in WA. The situation has worsened, not got better, since then.

This family is saying that if there is any way to raise this issue in Parliament it would be good, because there is a federally funded program for autism, but in this family's experience, and I am sure in that of many other families, people cannot get a formal diagnosis early enough to then access the federal package.

**Dr K.D. Hames:** You have not been listening to the member for Bassendean.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** He is more learned than I am.

This family highlights this. Again, I think it is a serious issue, Minister for Health. A family came to see me who are at their wits' end. They live in the minister's electorate, again, but they are building a house in Lakelands.

**Dr K.D. Hames:** How come you keep seeing people from my electorate?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Probably because they cannot get to see the minister!

This is genuine. This family is literally breaking apart. They have a young boy who has severe autism. I will tell the minister what happened to this family. I have written to the Minister for Police about this. They had moved into a rental in Halls Head. The grandparents live down there, and that is why they moved to Halls Head earlier this year. I am not having a go at police, but this is an example of where the police perhaps should have done a follow-up. This is a real story. Early one morning there was a bang at the door; it was the police from East Perth. If they had not opened the door, the police were going to smash into the house. Again, this happens; the address apparently was known previously to have housed someone the police were looking for. The police stormed in. It happened that in this house was this little boy who has autism. He witnessed men in uniforms storming into the house, yelling; his parents were trying to calm them. I am not having a go at the coppers, because I know this happens, but if they are going to break into a place because they suspect a person is there, they need to take care. This little boy witnessed this, and then the police, after a little while, realised that although they had the right house, it was a previous tenant they were looking for. This is not funny, member for Southern River. This has had an effect on this boy who has autism.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** This boy has changed since that night. The police asked this boy's parents where this guy was; they did not know who the guy was, so the police left. I honestly believe that what should have happened then was a follow-up call. By the way, this was not the local police; this was the tactical response team from Perth. What should have happened was this team should have alerted the local police, and a local policeman or woman should have come around to that family at an appropriate time and said that it was obviously an operational matter and apologised. That would have been the sensible and effective thing to do. This family heard nothing. The problem is that this little boy's mother has had to go to school with him every

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single day. There were days when he screamed and would not go into the class, causing disruption, and they had to take him away.

**Dr K.D. Hames:** How old is he?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I think he is nine. He has been going to the Meadow Springs Education Support Centre. His mum has had to give up her job, because she has to go into school every day with him; she has to be with him constantly, and up until now she has been taking him home around recess time. That is as long as he lasts at school. The situation is now starting to affect the relationship between the mum and dad. The dad is getting really mad, frustrated and aggressive. It is breaking the family apart and causing all sorts of conflict between the mum and dad. The mum is trying to hold it together. One night a week or so ago, the dad looked as though he might harm the kid. No, I should not say that—he got so frustrated and angry and that was the potential, so the mum had to get out of the house. She ran to her parents' place—the grandparents. This family came to see me because they are absolutely at their wits' end. I have written to the Minister for Police about what happened with the police because they have a community obligation. They were not aware that a boy with autism was in the house and that he would be affected in such a way. But that was the end result. I am not being critical of the coppers, but there should have been a follow-up process. The latest I have heard is that the peak body for autism has issues with boundaries and with how far it can assist. The member for Dawesville and I are continually up against this in our debates about regional issues. A lot of these services do not stretch as far as Mandurah. On paper and on maps they say that they do, but the reality is that they do not. The two examples I have just mentioned about early detection and assessment and the services that help that family and young Matthew are real and genuine issues that face us.

**Mr I.C. Blayney:** How old was he when he was first diagnosed?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** He was diagnosed very early. Which one?

**Mr I.C. Blayney:** The little bloke —

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The boy who was affected because of what happened with the police? He was diagnosed very early when he lived in Perth. I am talking about real families. We have heated debates about building new stadiums and foreshore developments and the hundreds of millions of dollars that go into them. But in my community, I have families who are genuinely in need. After hearing these stories, I would rather the hundreds of millions of dollars that are spent to build monuments to ourselves go towards making sure that those families get the best and have access to the best possible resources so that they can help their kids lead the lives they deserve to lead.

I will tell members about Kylie, whom I went to see yesterday in Coodanup. Kylie is a diabetic and a mum of two children, who are aged nine and seven years. She is also 24 months' pregnant. She came to see me about a housing issue. She had been living in Timbertop Caravan Park.

A member: Twenty-four months' pregnant?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Sorry! She is 24 weeks' pregnant. She has had a very long gestation period!

Up until recently, Kylie and her two kids, who go to Mandurah Primary School, had been living in a caravan in Timbertop Caravan Park. At 24 weeks' pregnant, she has 10 or so weeks to go before she is close to the birth of her third child. She is on Homeswest's priority listing, which she has been on for at least three months. She suffers from depression so she has been trying to get Access Housing to assist her. She is prepared to go anywhere in the state, although she would prefer to stay in Mandurah because that is where her mum and dad live. That is where I was yesterday. She was forced to move out of Timbertop Caravan Park because living there became untenable. She had nowhere else to go —

**Dr K.D. Hames:** Why did she move out?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The caravan park wanted them to move out because the kids were always running around. Reluctantly, Kylie's mum and dad said that they would take her in. Kylie's mum has a disability; she is confined to a wheelchair. Kylie's dad is carer for not only her mum, but also her grandmother, who is 93. She is a great lady. They are all living together and now they have two active kids living with them, one of whom—the seven-year-old—has a behavioural problem. They are all living under the one roof. Kylie told me yesterday in tears—I understand why she was in tears—that she is trying to get out of her situation and that she is not just sitting on her bum expecting someone to hand her something. She has a few debts. She has a payment process in place for a small debt. Her doctor at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women is concerned about Kylie, particularly because her pregnancy has to be monitored fairly closely. He has written to Homeswest about Kylie's health and wellbeing and that of her unborn bub. When I go to a place like that I think, "What in

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goodness name can I do to help her?” I can talk to Homeswest, which I have done. I can look into what crisis housing is available. There is none; it is all chockers. It has been chockers in Peel for a long time. The five crisis houses run by WestAus are all being used.

**Dr K.D. Hames:** Has the father nicked off or something?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Yes.

We need more crisis housing. Kylie is not a lone example. There are Kylies throughout Western Australia in both regional communities and the metropolitan area. In a country that is so wealthy and in a state that continues to talk up how good everything is, people are missing out. I refer to Kylie and to the families I mentioned, who are having real problems finding services and resources to help their kids. All they want, and all we want for them, is for those kids to have a secure roof over their head, have their needs responded to, have every opportunity to progress, positively take part in the community and fulfil their dreams and aspirations.

**Dr K.D. Hames:** Without being too political about it, when I was Minister for Housing, the government built 1 400 units a year. In your last year of government, you built 800 or 900 units a year.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** It is not good enough.

**Dr K.D. Hames:** You were building 800 or 900 a year.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** It is not good enough. I am not blaming the member for Dawesville; I am not blaming anyone. I am saying that it is not good enough. We have big debates about how wonderful a \$900 million stadium will be. But that will not help the Kylies of the world, the Matthews of this world or the lady who is tearing her hair out because of her son.

I will highlight one last issue before I finish tonight. I want a new primary school at Lakelands. I will tell members why. I was proud that I got the former Minister for Education to visit my area. The former member who represented the area also fought for a school in Meadow Springs. It is to our credit, quite frankly, that that school was achieved at the start of this year.

**Mr M.J. Cowper:** It’s a great school.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** It is a great school. It opened this year with nearly 480 students. It now has an enrolment of just on 600 students, and next year it will have an enrolment of 712. Sixteen demountables will be needed to house that school population. That school was a long time coming. No new school had been built north of Gordon Road, which is a state primary school. The Meadow Springs and Lakelands communities have grown exponentially over the past eight years. We got a primary school at Meadow Springs. I am proud the former Minister for Education came down. I showed her Lakelands. I drove her through Lakelands and Meadow Springs. I said to her, “Look how far we’ve driven. There ain’t no primary school here; the nearest is north Mandurah.” The numbers show that we now need a school in Lakelands—and we need it urgently. I have taught in schools that are too big; they are not the best schools, particularly big primary schools. I went on the internet because I wanted to compare the new schools that opened this year, of which there were four. Meadow Springs is one of those schools. It opened with 480 students. Malvern Springs Primary School—I do not know where that is; maybe Ellenbrook—opened with 268 students. Not far away, Aveley Primary School, which is also in Ellenbrook, opened with 206 students. The enrolment numbers for those schools combined is not as much as the enrolment numbers for Meadow Springs when it opened. Piara Waters Primary School opened with 309 students.

**Mr M.J. Cowper** interjected.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I cannot take an interjection; I have to finish.

The growth of Meadow Springs Primary School is unprecedented. Kids come from all sorts of backgrounds, some from overseas. The class profiles are unbelievable. It is time now for Lakelands primary school to be built because that will do two things. First, it will take the pressure off Meadow Springs Primary School. If an announcement were made today that we were going to build a primary school at Lakelands, it could be ready for the school year of 2014 or maybe even late next year. That would take the pressure off Meadow Springs straight away. Second, it would provide for that growth corridor north. We need only visit Lakelands every couple of weeks, as I do, to see new houses being built there all the time. What is the profile of the families there? Six hundred households contain under 40-year-olds. I think there are about 1 200 houses at the moment, so more than half of them are young families with kids. The kindergarten at Meadow Springs will require about five classrooms just for that age group. We need a school in Lakelands now.

**MR P.C. TINLEY (Willagee)** [8.10 pm]: I thank the member for Mandurah for his comments about schools. I could spend my time on my feet railing against the government for the excessive increases in household fees and

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charges and I might come back to that. It is a well-trodden path and worthy of repeating, regardless of what is turning into a cliché about this government's policies. But I want to spend my time talking about my patch, which I do not often get the chance to do as we move into our shadow portfolios and undertake the accountability function we have on our side of the house. A particular area of interest to me, picking up where the member for Mandurah left off, is the schools. Although he spoke about massive growth, I am talking about massive underspend in making the schools in my patch viable, particularly the primary schools, although my four high schools are no less deserving of the attention, certainly from their local member, if not their government.

The key school I want to start with is Hilton Primary School, which reflects a great story of a school's turnaround. For a range of reasons, deserved and not so deserved, Hilton Primary School never had the best of reputations. Hilton Primary School was an at-risk school and was marked with a red flag for the way it was not meeting its benchmarks. The Department of Education made, I believe, a very wise decision when it installed what I would call a young tyro—the only way to describe the principal it placed there—who strongly deserves any commendation I as a local member of this place can give. His name is Aaron Thomas and he transformed that school from one that was lucky to have attendance of above 70 per cent to one that achieved attendances in the 90 percentile area and established things that are fundamental to the correct operation of any school; namely, a P&C. It never had a P&C or other programs that are now being delivered into that school. Unfortunately, Aaron was not permanent and had to move on. He took that opportunity and we wish him well. But he leaves a legacy of a very good start with a turnaround in a school with a population of 47 per cent—I think it has increased, but that is the latest figure I have—of Aboriginal kids, who are from the local area. To have achieved an attendance rate in excess of 85 per cent was fantastic. Aaron did that using a lot of volunteer support from the community and the P&C to engage them. As I said, he has moved on and our very best wishes go with him for his career. I am sure he will turn up elsewhere as he moves up through the ranks. We really appreciate his contribution to our little community in Hilton. He also established the Hilton harvest inside the precinct of Hilton Primary School—a community garden. This community garden is quite interesting. There are many, many square metres of vegie patches and the kids make outdoor art and sculptures for it. There is a big sea container there and lots of equipment around. Do you know what? The school is fenced by a low chain-mail fence, so it is completely open to the community and there has been not one piece of vandalism or stolen gear—nothing. It is a really good example of a primary school reaching over the fence to bring the community inside and it not being a closed, cloistered group that is removed from the community. It is part of the community and as one of its initiatives, the school brings in people with a disability to undertake the landscaping. The P&C has started to raise funds and it runs a fantastic spring carnival. It has been a really good story since I have been the member for Willagee.

Graeme Thorpe is the new principal. We lobbied hard to ensure the department delivered a permanent position there. One of the most destabilising things I have ever seen in my professional life is the practice of acting principals sitting in those positions for a long period without the certainty of being able to command their ship. I find that particularly disturbing. I know that of itself ultimately requires an industrial relations conversation but it is something I think would be worthwhile tackling. We welcome Graeme Thorpe and his team. He hit the ground running as a permanent principal, who owns the entire school and all that happens within it. He is a fantastic addition to the staff. We also thank, of course, Sonia Watts, who was the principal energy behind the P&C. I can imagine that starting the P&C from scratch was no easy task. They hold all sorts of festivals and all sorts of events happen at their assemblies. I was there for Book Week recently. It was fantastic to see three deep at the back of the assembly areas the parents of this very small school of only about 170 kids. It was not just the kids getting a certificate or the kids being up for a mention or doing their little item; there was a genuine interest from the local community. How many people of any P&C do not have kids at the school? There is a “C” in P&C, for the community component, or what used to stand for “citizens”. This school has its fair share of those who take a genuine interest in their local school. They live two or three streets away and they do a very good job.

I move now to an adjacent school that needs special attention and gets particular attention from me—Coolbellup Community School. It is one of those schools that is the product of rationalisation and amalgamation of two schools in Coolbellup. It is now a brand-new school in a lovely building, right next to a recreation centre on a big set of community ovals next to the shopping centre in the heart of the suburb of Coolbellup. It has a great feel to it. But Coolbellup Community School has struggled. I suppose it is insightful to look at the Coolbellup Community School because, as any change comes along, it creates a degree of turbulence and uncertainty. Coolbellup Community School suffered because that amalgamation process, which was done according to Hoyle, created an uncertainty in the community about the future of what would or would not eventuate. I identified some years later that part of the changed management process ought to be comprehensive communication with the community about what was happening. It was a genuine marketing opportunity and a

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good way to spend taxpayers' money to communicate to the community what to expect and to ensure that the initial viability of the school was guaranteed.

It has taken a long struggle, but it got there. The school has some good numbers but it can do with more. The school still has three more classrooms that it can fill. It has nine teachers and some teaching assistants. Once again, it is an example of the uncertainty that centres on teachers and the way they are placed in our schools. Margaret Gold, who is the deputy principal, has been filling in as principal all this year because Karen Jones, the permanent principal, had to go to another school and act in that capacity. Alongside Coolbellup Community School is a demographic change in Coolbellup whereby a lot of younger families are moving in and renovating these homes that represent very good value. These families have an expectation and ambition to send their children, who typically are toddlers, to the local school. The little group we assisted in setting up through my office is called Cooby Now! Cooby Now! has been absolutely driven to market the school to the community and assist the school in getting on. Unfortunately, there is a state of flux, as I can only describe it, that exists with the leadership of that school, with the permanent principal being placed in another school and the deputy having to step up. The deputy, despite her very best efforts, is unable to make binding commitments and have complete control of the school because she will hand back to Karen Jones, the permanent principal, when she comes back into the school. That highlights a problem that we have, again, from this bump-along idea of acting here and permanent there and no-one is any the wiser. However, Coolbellup Community School will work with the community. Cooby Now! has more than 100 members in that little group and runs things alongside and outside the school to engage young families and ensure that they are completely awake to the idea that Coolbellup Community School absolutely has a go-forward approach.

It also has the early learning centre and has had for some time a breakfast club, which it does not call a breakfast club. One of the things I learnt is that the idea of parents sending their kid or allowing their child to go to school early to get a feed actually is quite stigmatising, particularly for some of the more disadvantaged families. There is a lot of stigma around the idea that "my kid needs to go there to get a feed" or "he chooses to go there". In fact, despite meeting the need of getting the kids to school and the health need of getting them fed so that they can concentrate, certainly through to mid-morning and lunchtime, it is more often than not a social component for those kids to engage with their peer group. So, the school does not call it a breakfast club; it is just called the early starters or the activity centre—it does anything but say that it is about charity, but, unfortunately, it is. Unfortunately, it is simply about delivering 50 meals every morning to kids. One of the enjoyable things I do as the local member is wander down at 7.30 am and assist in delivering that sort of service and interacting with the kids to make sure that I have some sense of it.

I need to thank wholeheartedly the new chaplain at Coolbellup Community School, Jane Snare. She is a fantastic story all by herself. With my hat on as the shadow housing minister, I advocated on behalf of Jane Snare, who was living in her van with her son, moving around from park to park and friend to friend because she had fallen out of the system for a range of reasons that are best left silent in this place. She is a well-educated, articulate, capable, passionate woman who just happened, through a set of circumstances, to find herself falling out of the system through injury and bad luck, which, I suppose, is the only way to determine it. Jane Snare is a classic story of somebody who pulled herself up by her bootstraps. With some minor assistance from me and various people, Jane now lives in private rental accommodation in Coolbellup. She dusted herself off and got herself sorted out in every which way she needed to ensure that she was employable. She has now been employed, I am happy to say, as the chaplain at Coolbellup Community School and I could not think of anybody who would make a better addition to that school and the community than somebody who lives just down the road, who is Coolbellup, and who has a great story of not only survival, but also thriving.

Coolbellup is, as I said, an amalgamation school. At the other end of my electorate, Caralee Community School, similarly, is the amalgamation of two old schools and is a good example of getting it right. I understand through the former member for Willagee, Alan Carpenter, that the school undertook a great deal of work to ensure that the amalgamation was marketed through good strong community links and using sporting clubs and any other conduit it could to let the community know that Caralee Community School was not going to be the victim of any whispers that it would not be up to the task. It is a fantastic school that does some fantastic work with both the early learning centre and language centre, as well as the primary school itself. It is a good example of how to get it right.

Another point that is worthy of mention before I move to high schools is that one of the fundamental things I believe is really important—I have said it before and I will say it again—is that, as the member for Mandurah knows, virtually every suburb has a primary school. If primary schools have the view that they are attending to the rounded education of their students, prior to even getting to primary school, be it from P1 onwards, through to their departure at what is now the end of year 6, they can actually become a great addition to the centre of the



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community and not just something that is nested inside the community and removed or separate from, in a cloistered sense, the community. It is absolutely fundamental to ensure that there is inclusion of the community with the primary school and the school with the community; they do not sit in isolation. I see a lot of schools, not necessarily in my patch, that for various reasons of security and maintenance want to have a ring fence around the entire school, including the school grounds, ovals and so on. I resist that at every opportunity. I resisted that in two schools this year. I understand the need for security around the administration buildings, but I could never understand the need for a school to close itself off in such a way. The message that sends to a school's community is fundamentally wrong; it says that it is removed from the community regardless of the problems that may exist in that primary school and then that primary school nests inside. The primary school needs to be part of the solution, not part of the problem by isolating itself, so I will always be a complete advocate for the integration.

I also believe that primary schools are one of those very special places in a community where we get a lot more parental engagement than in high school for various reasons, not least of which is that kids do not want to know anything about their parents when they go to high school, so they stay away from them as much as they can. Primary schools engage parents at a significant level—greater than at any other part of the education system. I believe that primary schools are the place, particularly in low socioeconomic areas, where we can deliver through-the-door family services and at-the-point-of-need delivery of some of the social services that are crying out to make a difference, particularly if we start to look at whole families as a case management process. If one kid with a problem turns up in year 1, we can bet our bottom dollar that there is a sister or brother at home who is in more trouble and who may not even be there, so why would we not use that as a red flag to deliver services over the fence and through the door?

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** I will move on to another school that is pretty dear to my heart, which is the Port School. Not many in the chamber will have heard about it. I particularly want to use this time to advertise that it is a very unique school that does a very unique thing. The school takes on some of the hardest cases. It has 71 students. The school takes high school students who fall out of the system for various reasons and who are some of the hardest nuts. Many years ago an old squash court in Carrington Street, Hamilton Hill was converted to create this school. The school has etched out a path in the delivery of education in this state that I think is worthy of high praise. Yes, it is 71 students—between 50 and 70 kids is roughly the sort of number that it puts through—but it is 71 kids who would never get an education in the mainstream system, not with their behavioural problems and things like that. Barry Finch is the leader down there. They have a fairly flat management, because they are all hands-on. He is one of seven teachers and one teaching assistant who deliver a phenomenal outcome with those kids, which either sees them go back into mainstream education or move on to other training or ambitions. It is a fantastic little place. The students who are currently at the Port School are not the only ones they are looking at; the Port School is looking to grow. Next to the Port School in Wheeler Road is a Homeswest duplex pair, which is derelict on one side and tenanted on the other. I have been advocating, at the school's urging, to see whether the department can somehow sell, transfer, lease, give or grant the duplex to the school, which is right next door, for the purposes of delivering education to young mums. They want to convert one side of that duplex to a crèche and the other side to a home skills classroom. It is a great opportunity. Despite this modern day of contraception and the education of younger people about sexual health there is still an unnecessary number of mums of school age, and they are absolutely deserving of a second chance to get their education done. I have written to the minister seeking direct support to see whether something can be done. It seems logical that something like that could be transferred to assist the school. Barry Finch and the school board are doing a fantastic job down there. It is very important work that they do.

My other favourite high school—sorry; I have three other favourite high schools, I should say—is one that is unique in my area. North Lake Senior Campus, under the guidance of Mary Margetts, is what I call a re-tread high school; it has an adult college function for those kids who missed out on the score they needed from year 12 and who need to have another go at it. The school also provides English language training and integration into the education system to ensure that it picks up a wide range of kids. A lot of kids come to the school from refugee programs; they have different ethnic backgrounds and English is sometimes a distant second language to them. The school does a fantastic job of normalising all their educational backgrounds to bring them to a single level in order to take them forward. I am very proud to say that I am a member of the school council there. The school struggles through, toils away and works hard at achieving some fantastic outcomes. I really look forward to joining Mary Margetts and the rest of the faculty at the graduation that is coming up. I am sure all members of this place will be looking forward to the next round of inevitable year 7 and year 12 graduations. The North Lake Senior Campus school council also grappled with the idea of the school seeking independent public school

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status. We decided against it. The reason we decided against it was that the finances of the school, the operations of the school, the unique educational programs that are delivered at the school, and the innovative approach that is taken to integrating children from diverse ethnic backgrounds into the school actually far and away exceed even the most modest ambitions that an independent public school might have. This school is particularly special for what it delivers. It does fantastic work.

Another school, which I am again proud to say I am on the board of, is Hamilton Senior High School. Hamilton is my largest public high school. It is emblematic of some of the problems that confront public education, both in built form infrastructure support and also some of the challenges that it has in competition with the private sector. Donna McDonald is a fantastic leader of that school as principal. She is the former principal of Port Hedland High School, where she was an awarded principal. She has done a fantastic job. Again, they are looking for a game changer. They are looking for something that will ensure that the school continues to attract students from that catchment well into the future. There are about 680 students at the moment. They definitely need to be at 1 100-plus—we know that. Schools need a minimum of 1 100 students if they want to provide pure academic streams in years 11 and 12 to ensure that they have enough to offer the kids who are capable of going to university. Right now they have to share the resources between Melville Senior High School, South Fremantle Senior High School, Applecross Senior High School and Hamilton Senior High School to ensure that they can offer all the academic streams that are required to allow the kids who are most able to get to university. To use consulting terminology, it is sub-optimal to have kids getting on buses and public transport and moving between schools in order to do maths at one school, science at another, physics at another and so on. Something needs to give. Some hard decisions no doubt need to be made.

One thing that can be said about Hamilton Senior High School is that under the leadership of Donna McDonald and one of the most stable teaching staff of any of the schools I have looked at in terms of time in service, it is absolutely clear that they are into innovation; they are really open to the idea of integrating their school with all the streams. They fundamentally get that these schools need to deliberately make themselves relevant to the tertiary institutions that they service—they are a service provider of students to the tertiary institutions around this city and state. They get that. I absolutely support that idea. They have genuine partnerships with Rio Tinto, Newcrest Mining Ltd and Newmont Mining Corporation that provide genuine resources to assist the kids on a career path. They have a hospitality discipline that is a great provider of students to the TAFE system, and I have followed this through. They always produce award-winning outcomes for those kids in those fields and the other vocational fields. Jeanette Sealy, who is the assistant principal responsible for delivering those vocational services, does a fantastic job. She works with South Metropolitan Youth Link and a range of other institutions that are able to deliver the services that are required to ensure that these kids are job ready.

Hamilton Senior High School unfortunately missed out with its IPS application. The key problem with IPS is that there is no life after a failed bid—not for some of the staff. They have to manage a staff expectation that is rife with rumour and concern about the fact that they have missed out on IPS. One would have thought it would be the other way round, but it is not in this particular case. They are concerned about what not winning that status might mean for their job security and what they are doing now. They have already lost a fantastic music teacher who could not fit within the bid because the school did not have the flexibility it needed. I know that IPS and things around public education, particularly in the secondary schools area, is ultimately an industrial relations discussion. We cannot shy away from the fact that we ultimately need to engage the profession. When I go out and spend half days around Curtin University of Technology, Murdoch University and Edith Cowan University and speak to any and all that I can in the tertiary institutions, the only conclusion I can draw is that, as a generalised view, the secondary education system of this state is absolutely failing the tertiary sector. We have a tertiary sector that has virtually been deregulated—it is certainly entrepreneurial in its attitude and flexible about the way it delivers education—and we have a secondary education system that is failing it. It will not meet this state's organically grown skilled workforce requirements into the future. We would not be having such a vociferous debate on enterprise migration agreements and skilled migration generally if, hand on heart, we could say that the money being spent on our secondary education system is absolutely best value for dollar for what it produces to support the skill requirements of this state into the future.

That is my contribution to this debate. It is about our communities and the students who attend the primary and secondary schools of this state and who are absolutely the conduit for our future economic wealth.

**MR P.B. WATSON (Albany)** [8.41 pm]: When I was recently in Canberra, I spoke with Martin Fisk, the chief executive officer of Menslink. Menslink provides at-risk youth with mentors to try to get them back on the straight and narrow. Martin gave some background information on the organisation and what it does in Canberra. Youth suicide is prevalent in the Albany region, between Albany and Esperance, and I feel there must be

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something we can do. Martin gave me some examples of the typical cries for help that Menslink gets, one of which I will read. According to my notes the email states —

I'm really struggling with my teenage son (Sean 14), he's skipping classes at school, smoking, disrespectful and very lazy. I've tried talking to him, had him in counselling and nothing seems to work.

I'm a single parent with two boys and trying to hold down my full time job with the stress of Jack, I get calls from his school almost daily, and I can't take the stress anymore. His father has chosen not to be a part of his life and I've tried to get his dad to help support him and have access to him, but I just get abused by his father.

Sean was diagnosed with ADHD when he was 6 years old; he constantly stirs his brother up and fights, and controls him.

Menslink gets these types of emails on a regular basis.

An article in *The Sydney Morning Herald* stated —

Why are some young men so angry? Psychologists speak of a lost generation of teenage boys with little engagement or purpose in life and a worryingly blase attitude to violence and authority. Police took legal action against one in 10 18-year-old men last year, a slight increase on previous years.

The article continues —

There is a typical profile of a violent teenager, says Professor Paul Mazerolle, the director of the Violence Research and Prevention Program at Griffith University.

He often has an absent father or a violent one. He mimics those traits or adopts his idea of masculinity from Hollywood and from his peers. He is often disengaged from school or work. He feels he has little to contribute to society. He is disconnected from the structures that might lead him away from violence.

A 2012 study by Inspire Foundation showed that of the one in four young men—teenagers—suffering from a mental disorder, fewer than 14 per cent sought help; the rest suffered in silence. Lonely young people—those without a trusted confidante—are between two and three times more likely to experience depressive symptoms than those with a trusted relationship. What causes this? It is social isolation, including lack of positive male role models, and no community engagement or connection to family and neighbours. As to the importance of social skills, it is 33 times more important to have good social skills in obtaining a job.

The statistics on the cost to the community are pretty glaring. School dropout rates have nearly doubled; youth unemployment is 20 per cent higher; in the juvenile justice system, there is a nine to one ratio of young men to women; illicit drug use has increased by 14 per cent; and four out of five youth suicides are young men. As to the cost to the community, a high school dropout costs the community around \$500 000, a heavy drug user costs the community between \$600 000 and \$1.5 million, and a typical career criminal costs the community around \$2 million. This year's report by Inspire Foundation and Ernst and Young entitled "Counting the Cost: The Impact of Young Men's Mental Health on the Australian Economy" states —

Mental illness in young men aged 12–25 costs the Australian economy \$3.27 billion per annum or \$387,000 per hour across a year in lost productivity

So what can be done? Prevention is cheaper than intervention. Services such as Menslink provide a helping hand to young blokes to avoid these behaviours. Volunteer mentoring helps with social skills and role modelling, and group activities give the young guys links to different communities and other people outside their school or neighbourhood and non-parental adults. Activities and support help self-esteem and resilience, and counselling and group sessions can be used when young guys need extra support through difficult times. Mentors benefit too; a community of men with a common purpose can reconnect with young people.

Sadly, more young men in our community need help than we can deal with. That is why I am calling on everybody, not only people in my electorate. When I go out doorknocking, there are people everywhere in my electorate—seniors—who, when I knock on the door and ask what they are doing, say, "I've retired", and when I ask what they do in the community, they say, "There's just nothing for me to do." This could be a tremendous opportunity for people in our community to give back. These young men are losing their way, and this is a perfect opportunity for people to help them. We see on the television every Saturday and Sunday night that these young people have these big parties and are involved in violence and alcohol; we just cannot sit back and do nothing. We have to make tougher laws—I agree with that—but we have to look at where the problem stems from. We have to look at why these people are out on the streets and why are they doing it. The scary part is that four out of five young people who commit suicide are men. That is a terrible statistic, and we just cannot let it

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keep happening. When I was in Canberra I was told that, of the young men who commit suicide, for most it is after their first failure. It is the first thing they have come up against that they cannot handle. Do we let our kids today take risks and experience failure early on? We make the playgrounds safe so that they cannot fall over and break an arm or fall out of a tree like we used to when we were younger. I am probably the same with my grandchildren, but we have to make people learn to make decisions early on. Guys do not like to talk to people; they do not go out and say, "Look, I've broken up with my girlfriend." I had probably been in this job about two or three years when we had a spate of suicides in Albany. Two or three young boys had broken up with their girlfriends so they went to a tree in a certain place in Albany—I will not mention it because it has been chopped down now—and hanged themselves. They had broken up with their girlfriends and could not tell their mates or parents. Three young lives were lost.

I will be encouraging people to get involved; I will be getting on to people and going to all the community groups. We have to find ways to get these young people on the right track. They are not all bad. A constituent came in the other day and said, "Society is going bad. All our young kids are on drugs; everyone is on this and that." There are some good kids out there—some really good people—but they just need a bit of direction. I congratulate Menslink on what it is doing in Canberra, and I have all the information and I am going to try to set one up in Albany for the great southern, because it does a tremendous job. Every life we can send in the right direction will be an achievement.

I turn to the issue of the stadium. As every member knows, I have a great interest in sport. I am disappointed that the stadium is going where it is, but that is the government's prerogative; it is in government. I am not saying that we should shift anywhere else. I just think that \$1 billion, or whatever it is going to cost, is just way too much in the current environment. I am not sure, Premier, but will there be no Friday football there?

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** No, that is not the case, it is just that Friday night will create some congestion problems. There will be Friday night football there.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** It would be very hard for the sponsors of the West Coast Eagles and the Fremantle Dockers to sell their packages if there was not a Friday night component, because that goes all over Australia.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** I am not going to argue with you. You have your view, but while you say you are disappointed in the site of the stadium, as an Olympian, as you are, you could host a world athletics event at that stadium. You could not do that at Subiaco. That is one of the reasons for the decision.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** Fair enough. This is just my opinion. Olympians compete at individual sports. I am talking about the overall effect on my electorate. There are so many things in my electorate, such as roads and health services. I congratulate the government on the brand-new Albany Hospital and also the funding for the Albany hospice. I am on the board there. I think it is tremendous, even though we are having a bit of trouble with the site. I know the Minister for Health is a little disappointed with the health department stuffing around the Albany hospice board, but I think the minister has sorted that out for us.

I am disappointed, though, that if a woman has a baby somewhere between Albany and Perth, there are only two places she can go. She can go to a hospital in Perth or a hospital in Albany. I do not know if they are going to give farmers in that area bromide so they will not be having babies there anymore for a time. It is a huge concern. A big machine has been put in at Katanning Hospital. The only trouble is that women cannot have babies there, and this machine is for those babies. I understand that the reason that the local doctors at a lot of these smaller hospitals will not deliver babies is insurance costs. But when someone in Katanning has to think, "Oops, look, I'm going to have a baby. I have to get to either Albany or Perth," that is a huge impost on someone in regional areas. A woman would not want the baby to come early, otherwise she will be having it in the back of the ambulance going up Albany Highway, which is not the safest road in the world anyway. She would not want to bring a young child into the world in the back of a country ambulance between Albany and Perth.

I just think that in this day and age we deserve better in the country. I know that if it was in the Pilbara or in the Minister for Regional Development's seat, there would be something, because all the money seems to be going up north. I note that the member for Collie-Preston has spoken about the fact that not much money is going to the south west. I am sure people in the great southern feel the same; they cannot get a maternity hospital anywhere between probably Albany and Perth. I think that in this day and age it is just a horror situation.

I congratulate Justice Blaxell on a tremendous report of the Katanning inquiry. It is a gruesome report; if anyone reads the report, it is not the best report in the world to read, but it is the truth. It is shame it has had to come over such a long period of time. I cannot believe that the councillor from Katanning, Ainslie Evans, would have the hide to say, "Oh well, someone else did not do anything, so I should not resign." She says that people in local government are appointed by the people. She was appointed by the people, but she let the people down. She not

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only let down the people of Katanning but she let down the young boys who went to the hostel, and they suffered greatly.

On behalf of the young men who have come to me in Albany, they are very disappointed with the \$45 000. They did not go in it for the money. The Premier said that they can sue the government. The thing is that if they sue the government, they have to go through all the horror again; they have to relive everything. Have these people not gone through enough over 20 or 30 years? Now if they want to sue the government, they have to relive everything they have done. I know that they have not decided what they are going to do, but what we have to do is say, “Okay, we will take the evidence from the Katanning inquiry. You don’t have to come any more. We will work it out from that.” But how will they work it out? If someone was molested 10 times, do they get \$45 000? If someone was molested five times, do they get \$25 000? I just cannot understand it; unless the government is going to give \$45 000 to everyone. As one of the young guys who came and saw me the other day said, that \$45 000 would not even cover his doctor’s bills, his psychologist’s bills and his psychiatrist’s bills over a long period of time.

I am concerned about the counselling for the follow on for these young boys—or men as they are now. I note that Centrelink allows five or six counselling sessions.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** You get five, and I think you can do it twice; you get 10.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** Some people might need only one or two counselling sessions, but some people are very close to suicide and might need 10, 15 or 20. We cannot forget these people. We have done the inquiry. One of the other concerns of the young men I spoke to was that Mr Murray, the principal at the high school, was awarded an Order of Australia. Is that going to be taken off him? Will Councillor Evans be sacked? I do not think, under the Local Government Act, councillors can be sacked, but surely she has the ticker to resign. It is the most horrible thing that I have seen since I have been in Parliament. We just cannot let it rest now. We have done the inquiry, but if those people get away with it—Mr Murray and Ainslie Evans—there is still not closure for those people who have been through this horrible tragedy.

Once again, I congratulate those three brave guys who came to my office that day and told me the most horrible things. Now they will get some sort of closure. They will never get full closure. But I said to them, “You should go to bed every night being the proudest people in the world.” As I said, we have bravery awards, but I think what they have done is just tremendous.

I would like to talk about the 100 Women Walk. Normally I would probably mention the 100 women, but unfortunately I have not got their names. One hundred women walked over last weekend to raise money for local community groups and also the Grey Man Project, a charity that rescues children from the sex industry in South-East Asia. I would like to congratulate Noelene Evans, who organised it. Poor old Noelene; she walked the first day —

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** She is not that old, Noelene.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** What did I say?

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** “Poor old”.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** I say “poor old” because she only lasted the first day. Then they had to take her to hospital.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** Really?

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** Yes, she had trouble with her legs. I flew up in the plane with her on Monday night and she was heading to Asia to take up some of the money.

[Member’s time extended.]

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** Is that Noelene from The Rocks?

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** Yes.

I congratulate all those women who walked.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** Member, how did they walk 100 kilometres? She told me it was from Mt Barker to Albany. They must have done the wobbles.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** There are a few wineries. We were worried about them. Everyone was thinking, “Oh, the poor people out there.” Noelene said they were at a winery under lots of cover with lots of red wine. This is something that happens in the country. These women get together. One hundred women—imagine the oxygen

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required for all the talking going on during that time. Congratulations to Noelene and the other 99 women. It is a tremendous performance. I think each woman raised \$1 000, which is tremendous and I congratulate all of them.

The member for Collie–Preston talked today about Basketball WA. I cannot believe a government that is trying to stop obesity, trying to target people not playing sport, has done this. When it left Perry Lakes, Basketball WA—the minister said today that no promises were made, but they were and we will find the documentation—was told that it would not be worse off when it went to the new stadium. All of a sudden, Basketball WA has to pay \$100 000 extra. This affects people in not only the city, but also Albany, Busselton, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie who go to Country Week 2012 Basketball. The main thing for all country basketball teams is to go to Country Week basketball. Two summers ago, the temperature was so very hot and the stadium did not put on the air conditioning because it cost too much money. One of the things everybody used to say when they played in the old tin shed at Perry Lakes was how hot it was. Everyone thought once they got the new stadium, it would be great. Unfortunately, to cut costs, the stadium did not put the air conditioning on; that is a worry. The member for Balcatta was the minister when the stadium started construction and the current government finished it off. It did a great job, but we want to encourage people to play basketball. We will spend \$1 billion on a football stadium. The Minister for Sport and Recreation has played football and cricket—he mentioned both today—but he never mentioned basketball.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** We have funded the new netball centre. We finished the basketball centre.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** I am talking just about basketball. I am a life member of the Albany Basketball Association.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** I played basketball at Perry Lakes.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** Yes—very hot, wasn't it, minister?

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** I think the Minister for Sport and Recreation pointed out that we are still in negotiations. Even if we have to pay a little bit more, you couldn't argue that the facility now is not far better. I mean, Perry Lakes was unhealthy; it was full of asbestos.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** Yes, minister, but it had its own cash flow. This is the thing.

**Mr J.J.M. Bowler:** Why have we got Eventscorp running something at taxpayers' expense? It's illogical.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** If we take out the Eventscorp costs, how much different would that be?

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** It's not Eventscorp; it's VenuesWest.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** VenuesWest. It has all its operating costs.

**Mr J.J.M. Bowler:** It's illogical. It can't be sustained.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** Basketball is one of the biggest growing sports —

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** I am not saying there is not more work to be done, and I am sure we will come up with a landing. I know the member for Albany is very passionate and I know the member for Kalgoorlie has his playbook still in his office from his days as a coach of —

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** The Kalgoorlie minors!

I have been told by Basketball WA that it has put a proposal to the government, which both organisations will be happy with, but the Treasurer is the one who probably makes these final decisions. What flows away from there goes to regional basketball, development and stuff like that. It is therefore very important, but I appreciate the Treasurer listening to what I have to say.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** And we have been supporting Perth Wildcats in their move to Perth Arena, which will be really good for them; and a successful Wildcats is good for basketball in WA.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** I agree and I must congratulate Andrew Vlahov, who I used to bounce up and down on my knee when he was six months old while his mum and dad were competing —

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** He would have been taller than you at six months old!

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** I think he was heavier than me! He is doing a tremendous job. He brought the Chinese Olympic team and the Australian team to Albany and played in front of, I think, three and a half thousand people. So I congratulate all the work he has done. We thought he was big, yet we saw a photograph of him standing next to Yao Ming the other day. Yao Ming is about seven feet two inches, and Andrew looked like a little boy!

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It was interesting to note all the controversy about trading seven days a week in Perth. The City of Albany passed it, but it had to go to a consultation process and got knocked back. I think the largest vote for knocking it back was from small business people who just did not want to open or did not want trading seven days a week. Their biggest concern was that they could not play sport or be with their families on Sunday. The issue may be viewed in a slightly different way in regional areas, but I am glad that local government can make that decision in individual towns. I understand why the government made that decision for Perth, but I will continue to fight—as I will with bottle shops opening to sell alcohol on Sunday—to allow the local government to make that decision. I think it is an important part of democracy, especially in regional areas.

Police accommodation is another issue about which I have been briefed. A gentleman from the Western Australian Police Union came to see me. He said that a police officer who is transferred to Katanning gets \$2 000 a year for accommodation and transfer costs, but a police officer who goes to Port Hedland gets between \$28 000 and \$30 000. When jobs in Port Hedland were advertised, there were 25 applications, but in Katanning and in a couple of other small towns nearby, there were none. That is something the Treasurer needs to look at. I know that have to get people up north, but we also have to get people into some of those small towns in the great southern, such as Jerramungup and others.

Housing maintenance is a real issue. A question about that was directed to the Minister for Housing today. A young lady came to see me about six weeks ago in a very excited state. She had come from Perth and said, “I’ve just come down and I just want to come in and say hello. I’ve only been here a day but I’ve been told my house will be ready tomorrow.” She came back six weeks later and still did not have a house. Apparently there is an issue to do with the backyard. The inside of the house is excellent. She waited six weeks after being told it would be ready the next day. She is living with four children in a shed at the home of her mother and father.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** Have you followed that up with the department down there?

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** Yes, I have.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** They’re pretty good down there.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** The people in the department are very good, I must admit. I would not have their job for quids. We do not call it Homeswest now.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** It is the Department of Housing.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** The staff at the Department of Housing in Albany are excellent. As I say, I would not have their job for quids—everybody has an answer—but they have always been very helpful to my staff and people who seek assistance.

An issue about the First Click and Second Click programs was raised today. There are a lot of seniors in my electorate, and I managed to get some old computers from TAFE for a lot of them at RAAFA Amity Village in Albany. They all went along to the First Click and Second Click programs. The only trouble is that now the seniors send me lots of emails with complaints and issues like that, whereas they would not have bothered before; I do not know whether that is a bonus but I think it is something for our seniors! The world is changing. Just because someone is a senior does not mean they should not change with it. A lot of people there are very disappointed with what has happened.

I now want to refer to police and community youth centres.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** I thought you were going to mention your flashing lights!

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** No. I think that was tremendous and I am glad the Treasurer took notice of the petitions I brought to Parliament. I am a bit disappointed he did not have me in the photograph!

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** You would’ve made me look bad.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** I thought it might increase my vote! It was great to get the flashing lights at the school; it is very important in Albany. However, I was very disappointed about one thing the Treasurer said on the radio. He said, “We had to get the ones done in Perth first.”

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** No.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** The Treasurer did say that; we have the transcript.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** I think what I said was that there was a focus on getting them done in Perth.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** Yes. Of course, Albany kids are just as important as Perth kids.

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**Mr T.R. Buswell:** Yes, but, with due respect, I have been to all four schools where we are putting them in. The traffic volumes on a lot of the roads in Perth are very high.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** Yes, I know—but a car is a car and a child is a child.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** I am not disputing that, but you've got four now.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** I will just quickly refer to PCYCs. Terry Eaton has been at the PCYC in Albany for more than 20 years. He has been policeman of the year. He keeps young kids off the streets; I have said that before in Parliament. I was talking to a young Nyoongah boy at basketball one night and said, "How're you going, Warren?" He said, "Good. That PCYC is good." I said, "Oh, yeah; how did you go?" He said, "I go down every Friday night." I said, "Why is that?" He said, "Well, that Terry Eaton—he's a human being. You know, he's the only copper I know who's a human being. The only ones I ever see are out either locking up my dad or my mum or my neighbours or stopping them fighting." Terry Eaton is someone the kids look up to. The government is going to take him out of the PCYC and we do not know where he is going. I have been advised that the job he has been offered will come out of Katanning. Terry has lived in Albany for a long time. People reckon he will then go to Narrogin and all through the great southern. I took the Commissioner of Police down there to the PCYC in Albany when he came down there with his band one night. I showed him everything that happened down there, and he assured me and said, "No, we won't take anyone away from here." The Premier stood in Parliament and said, "We will definitely keep the police and PCYCs", but he is not doing that. How can people trust the government if it says that policemen will not come out of police and community youth centres, and they do? I was speaking to the shadow minister today. Labor Party policy will be that policemen will stay in PCYCs, because they are so important. It is no good taking policemen out and dealing with the offenders after they have offended. Terry Eaton and other police officers at PCYCs have programs that stop kids offending in the first place. PCYCs are all about education and teaching them the right thing and about team work. There are sports at the PCYCs. The kids see role models. But if the government only intends to work on reoffenders, we will have a group who may have been kept off the streets but who will be causing problems in the future.

**DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale)** [9.10 pm]: I rise to contribute to debate on the Loan Bill 2012, and I have a number of comments to make on a number of issues. I would like to inform the house about, and hopefully engage members so they will attend, the Armadale Film Festival that will be held in the last week of November. The inaugural film festival was held last year to great success. The feature film last year was *Red Dog* and we even had a visit from the star, Koko. This year's festival will be a two-day event, and *Mad Bastards* will be the feature film on Friday night and *The Sapphires* on Saturday night, as well as a number of film-making categories, being Indigenous Australian filmmaker, the narrative film category, the documentary film category, and then a 48-hour challenge for high school and primary school students in which they will be given a theme and 48 hours to make their maximum 15-minute film. I hope that the member for Southern River might be able to come across the border and spend a lovely summer's evening in Armadale at the Memorial Park amphitheatre. I am sure the member for Southern River will be thoroughly engaged and entertained.

**Mr P.B. Watson:** As long as he gets his passport.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Yes, if he has his passport! When people talk about Armadale, they give it a bad rap, but it actually has a great community spirit. The centre of Armadale has a great village feel, and it has many outstanding individuals, one of whom is Steve Aldersea. Of his own volition, Steve Aldersea commenced a community service about three or four years ago—maybe a bit longer—and he spends each Saturday and Sunday morning cleaning graffiti that unfortunately is put around the town. The City of Armadale has sponsored this task by providing equipment and a van, and Steve Aldersea goes around with a support group and they clean the graffiti. Steve and his crew perform an outstanding community service. That is the sort of spirit we have in Armadale and other suburbs. I worry about this government, which seems to have a CBD-centric focus because all the development seems to be occurring in the CBD of Perth. The member for Albany quite rightly mentioned some lack of focus in the Albany region by this government. It can also be said to be the case in many of the suburbs of the Perth metropolitan area. Perth as a city is more than the CBD of Perth. The majority of people live and work in the suburbs. It is about time that this government paid more attention to that aspect, whether in regard to police stations or overcrowded trains.

Armadale has seen a significant decrease in certain services. In the City of Armadale, one of the main areas in which there has been a decrease in services is in the Armadale–Kelmescott Memorial Hospital. I have raised the de-servicing of the Armadale–Kelmescott hospital a number of times in this house. Not quite 12 months ago we had the cessation of the private maternity ward at the Armadale–Kelmescott hospital, and expectant mothers were given only a couple of weeks' notice that the private maternity ward was to close down. Then, quite recently, patients at the Armadale–Kelmescott hospital who were booked to have elective surgery were told that all elective



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surgery would be put on hold until 16 November. One such patient came to me. Her name is Carol Morton and she had a spur in her nose that was causing her major sinus and headache problems. She was in excruciating pain. After her husband and I made certain inquiries, the hospital changed its tune from saying that all elective surgery was to be put on hold until 16 November to a position whereby each doctor could perform one elective surgery a day for a patient requiring an overnight stay. Their reasoning was a shortage of beds. Then we had a further backflip by the hospital, and I would like to read from a piece in the *Armadale Examiner* newspaper dated 13 September, which has a photograph of Mrs Morton and me on the front page; I am sure the member for Southern River has seen this before. It is one of five photographs in the newspaper, I must say. The article reads —

Armadale Kelmscott Memorial Hospital yesterday reversed its decision to only allow surgeons to operate on one elective surgery patient requiring an overnight stay per day, admitting it was inconsistent with statewide policy.

Armadale Health Service executive director Chris Bone said the strategy was implemented due to a recent spike in the number of patients presenting to the emergency department needing to be admitted.

As a result, patients were notified their elective surgeries would be postponed.

Mr Bone said upon closer revision it was found the strategy was inconsistent with statewide policy for elective surgery access and had been discontinued.

This is just a continuation of what we have seen in the administration and servicing of this hospital under this government; it is nothing but a shambles. Mr Bone continues —

“To reiterate, Armadale Kelmscott Memorial Hospital’s Bickley Ward is a part of the hospital’s maternity service and is open to private and public patients,” he said.

That may be the case, but the private wing, the Galliers maternity ward of the hospital, has been closed down. When this was brought up last year, the Minister for Health promised that he would make every effort to ensure that staff were employed so that private ward could be opened. We see no sign of that happening at this stage.

I need to mention another thing about health services in the Armadale region. Tonight I was having dinner with some people, one of whom works for some doctors in the Fremantle region. She said that a number of people from Armadale had sought medical services from doctors in Fremantle. The reason is that even though a number of people in the Armadale region are considered to be in the low economic strata of society, I do not think there are any bulk-billing doctors in Armadale—there may be one. A number of patients present themselves to the emergency department of the hospital where, of course, they do not have to pay a fee and also they can receive medication for free. We have people going to the emergency section of the Armadale–Kelmscott hospital who should not go there, although after-hours they have no choice because apart from the hospital there is no other after-hours service in the Armadale region, as far as I am aware, and there is also a lack of doctors in the Armadale region who bulk-bill. Of course, the government cannot be held to be at fault because doctors in the Armadale region do not bulk-bill, but it is creating a significant problem in the Armadale region.

Another issue gathering momentum in my electorate and that of the member for Darling Range is the issue of off-road motorbikes. The complaints I have been receiving about off-road motorbikes in one particular area of my electorate, Camillo, formally Westfield, have increased exponentially. It is not only about the noise factor, but also the safety. Quite recently I was involved in a community project planting various trees and other vegetation near Grovelands Primary School, just off Westfield Road, which is a very long stretch of road in Camillo. It was a Saturday afternoon and an off-road motorbike, which was probably unlicensed—the rider seemed to be underage—was going up and down a busy road, very close to cars. I did not see the particular incident but it was relayed to me that the rider turned around and chased a car that had honked at it, did a wheelie and put the bike’s front wheel onto the back of the car. The car would have been travelling at 60 to 70 kilometres an hour. That, of course, is a recipe for disaster. We need to do something about the volume and frequency of off-road motorbikes using the roads and various recreational facilities in residential areas. The government must look at earmarking specific tracts of land in non-residential areas where people can enjoy the use of off-road motorbikes. That is an issue that is becoming of great concern to my community.

With regard to education I want to read an email I received quite recently that reads —

Hi Tony

What has happened over the last 11 years is that Colin Barnett when Minister of Education changed the starting age for students and as a result the present year 10’s about to be year 11’s have come through with half the normal number of students to normal cohorts. When this happened Barnett said that

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students would be in no way disadvantaged as they passed through the education system. He also said that funding would be available to ease the impact of the half cohort.

We have since been informed that classes of less than 15 would not be running as the formula for staffing would not be changed. What this means is that next year, —

A teacher wrote this email. It continues —

where we usually have 2 year 11 chem, 2 year 11 physics, 1 year 11 biology and 3 year 11 Human Biology. In 2013 we will be running one of each chem, physics, human biology and no biology. This means less choice for students and less staff.

... is losing approximately 7 FTE, that is 7 full time staff will be without positions in the school next year. Since many schools are in the same position we will not be able to transfer within the system since there will be no positions in any other school. In theory we could have 7 supernumerary staff on full salary and no schools. State wide the union has estimated there will be 1600 teachers in this position.

That presents, of course, a major problem for schools as they enter year 11 next year with the half cohort and, as we heard quite recently, universities are concerned about what the situation will be in two years' time. There is also the issue of the present year 7s in primary school in, I think 2014, commencing high school as year 7s. That will, of course, impose a cost on the government to fund the necessary extra classrooms and teachers to cope with the influx of the year 7s, the question the government needs to answer is: how will that be achieved when the government has earmarked a two per cent efficiency cut in the education budget in 2014? In 2014 there will need to be a significant injection of funding to accommodate the year 7s commencing high school. Of course there will be some savings because those kids will not be in primary school any more, but that will not offset the expense incurred of children being in high school. How that will be managed when the government has earmarked the two per cent efficiency savings in the education system is something that the Treasurer, the Minister for Education and the Premier will need to answer. They should answer that before the next state election.

I want to move on to an area that does not receive much coverage in this house. Many people may not see it as important, but it relates to horseracing. Last week the Minister for Racing and Gaming launched a report that had been commissioned by the horseracing industry. When he released this report Hon Terry Waldron noted that the Western Australian horse racing industry contributes \$594.6 million in value adding to the Western Australian economy and more than 33 000 people are employed or participate in the production of racing animals. He also stated that the economic and social impact report confirms the importance of the racing industry to the economy and the sporting culture of Western Australia. There is no doubt that the racing industry is a significant player in the economic and cultural aspect of the Western Australian fabric. What Minister Waldron did not tell us—to be fair to him, it was not part of the report's agenda—is the problem of drugs in the industry. I am not referring to doping horses; I am referring to drugs taken by jockeys. Consider this: in the 2011–12 racing season, up to the end of June, 110 drug test samples were taken from 25 track riders, 22 apprentices and 63 jockeys. Of the 22 apprentice jockeys who were tested—there are only about 25-odd in Western Australia—nearly 13 per cent tested positive to a prohibited substance, including a derivative of cocaine.

[Member's time extended.]

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Amphetamines were also detected in the apprentice jockeys. Nearly 13 per cent of apprentice jockeys in Western Australia who were tested up to June this racing season tested positive for a prohibited substance. Can we imagine what would happen if 13 per cent of rookies in the Australian Football League system tested positive to a prohibited substance in the first two years after being drafted? There would be major uproar. Consider the danger associated with horse racing. These jockeys are in control of half a tonne of machinery that moves at high velocity. Would the mining industry be happy to have people who were on drugs operating half a tonne of machinery at a minesite? No, of course they would not. It would be a major occupational health and safety issue. The question to be asked is: what is the minister doing about it? He was made aware of this issue, because I asked him a question during the estimates process after the May budget. He did not seem to have much knowledge of the testing regime. But at the time, the person who was doing the testing was off work—the only person who was responsible for testing the racing industry had been suspended. I am led to believe that after that estimates hearing he was brought in by the racing industry authorities who demanded that he get back to work. This is a serious issue. Although horseracing does not receive the attention that Aussie Rules football does, or cricket during the summer season, it has a major economic effect on our economy and our sporting culture. I repeat: nearly 13 per cent of apprentice jockeys tested positive for a prohibited substance.

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**Mr M.P. Whitely:** What were the substances again, sorry?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** There were various substances, including cocaine and amphetamines.

**Mr M.P. Whitely:** Both of which will keep your weight down.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Part of the reason, I imagine, for some would be weight reduction —

**Mr M.P. Whitely:** Appetite suppressants.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** But not necessarily so. These are young people who go off to parties et cetera.

**Mr M.P. Whitely:** And they take risks too.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Exactly. The point is that another factor needs to be considered. When an apprentice jockey wins a race, the owner may give them a \$500 or \$600 cash bonus. Of course, young jockeys go out and have a good time at night. Of course, people who sell drugs will know that these jockeys received a bonus. I recommend that the minister make it a requirement that the connections of a horse declare any cash bonus that they give to a jockey, particularly an apprentice jockey. That should happen under taxation law in any case, but I think that needs to be made clear. We need to understand that these jockeys often have heaps of dough; they go out for a good night at a nightclub or the casino, and of course they come into contact with people seeking to peddle drugs. This is a serious issue that I am sure the minister has never even turned his mind to. I urge the minister to turn his mind to this issue and to consider that testing should not just stop with the jockeys; what about the strappers and stablehands who handle and have control over the horses? They are not tested and they should be tested. Track riders have sometimes been tested, but not to the degree that they should be tested. In New South Wales, it was decided to test strappers, but it was stopped a week or so after a number of them tested positive. The industry does not want these people to be suspended, so the way to not suspend them is to not test them. Drug-taking among people who participate in the horseracing industry in Western Australia is a major problem that Minister Waldron has not turned his mind to; he has failed in his duty and there is a major occupational health and safety issue that needs to be addressed. It is no good producing reports that laud the fact that the racing industry contributes X amount of dollars to the Western Australian economy if we do not also look at this serious issue of drug-taking among jockeys and others in the horse fraternity.

In the time remaining, I will turn to something else. In my inaugural speech in Parliament, I spent considerable time talking about Professor Peter Singer. People may know of Professor Peter Singer, who is an Australian professor based at Princeton University. As we all know, recently Senator Cory Bernardi tried to connect homosexuality with the possibility of bestiality. Of course, I find that abhorrent and I am sure —

**Mr P. Abetz:** Have you read his speech?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I have read his speech and I also know that he then made a comment the next day on Adelaide radio, so do not tell me that was out of context, because I have read his speech.

**Mr P. Abetz:** What about Singer?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Is the member talking about Singer?

**Mr P. Abetz:** You can quote Singer who advocates bestiality.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I am going to get on to that in a minute, so just hold your horses there! I am no fan of Peter Singer, as the member would gather from my speech!

**Mr P. Abetz:** I'm not impressed either.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Anyway, as I said, Cory Bernardi tried to link homosexuality with bestiality, and of course Professor Singer basically sees no problem with bestiality. This is a man who received a Companion of the Order of Australia earlier this year for “eminent service to philosophy and bioethics”. Basically, this is equivalent to a knighthood. Peter Singer has defended consensual sex between humans and animals. One must ask how does one actually know that the animal is consenting? What really annoys me is that this man is lauded by the academic world of Australia and America—that this person is a great intellect. I have to say, the Premier has beautiful dogs that I saw this morning. They are lovely. Are they golden retrievers?

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** No, they're labradors.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** They are very nice dogs. I must say they are very nice dogs, not that I am trying to make any link! I did not mean to make any link.

Getting back to Peter Singer, this is a man also who does not believe there is any problem in the killing of infants who have disabilities. This is an Australian professor of bioethics at Princeton University.

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**Extract from Hansard**

[ASSEMBLY — Tuesday, 25 September 2012]

p6428b-6480a

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**Mr P. Abetz** interjected.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** It is a certain form of ethics. His argument that it is okay to kill babies—I am talking about babies who have been born—if they have a defect is that they are not going to be of any great use to society. Therefore, it is up to a parent if they wish to have that child’s existence terminated because then they will be able to enjoy the second child better. There is a great article in *The Conversation*. *The Conversation* is an online magazine that is brought out every day and is written by numerous academics. I will quote part of the article in today’s *The Conversation* by Clive Hamilton called “Cory Bernardi is right, in Peter Singer’s anti-human world”, which states —

Singer explicitly rejects all notions of the sanctity of human life. He has argued that the decision over whether an infant with even a mild disability should live or die can be left to the parents. If the parents believe that they will be blessed with a healthy baby next time around then they may kill the defective one because doing so will maximize the amount of happiness of all concerned.

...

The victims are first dehumanised, although usually not in such a clinical fashion as Singer does when he equates humans with great apes and replaces the sanctity of human life with an evaluation of the individual’s “rationality, autonomy, and self-consciousness”. The disturbing proximity of Singer’s defence of infanticide and eugenics explains why he is *persona non grata* in Germany.

The philosophy that leads Singer to these and other anti-human conclusions ... is rooted in an autistic faith in rationality at the expense of feelings of empathy and compassion. In Singer’s —

Philosophy —

... there is nothing inherently good or bad; there are only decisions based on the assessment of preferences.

Singer’s philosophy is the same bloodless moral calculus that underpins free market economics ...

Professor Singer has a right to be heard and the fact that his views are contrary to the shared ethical sentiments of Australian society should not in itself disqualify him from official recognition. But the weird glossing over of his cold-blooded views is hard to comprehend when the same views expressed by others are met with widespread condemnation.

It is one thing to regard Singer’s defence of infanticide and bestiality as provocative contributions to public debate; yet if Cory Bernardi has been spurned by respectable society because he used the near-universal revulsion at bestiality to smear a social group, why has respectable society given legitimacy to Singer’s support for bestiality by bestowing on him its highest form of official esteem?

As I say, I just shake my head when I hear people say that they think Peter Singer is fantastic. Someone put something on Twitter about half a year ago that Peter Singer is a great champion of foreign aid. I tweeted back saying, “But what about his views on infanticide?” The person tweeted me back saying, “Don’t you believe in foreign aid?” It is just appalling. It is about time that people like Peter Singer are brought to account. Unfortunately, many people in my former academic profession seem to think that Peter Singer is fantastic. He is a very clever man who can present a very cogent argument. I say shame on Peter Singer, who lost people in the holocaust, for holding those views, which were common in Nazi Germany, and shame on anyone else who supports him and goes to his lectures.

**MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn)** [9.39 pm]: I will be the last speaker from our side tonight on the Loan Bill 2012. I will not go anywhere near the abhorrent statements of Peter Singer as outlined by the member for Armadale. My contribution will be far more mundane and relates to a bit of the history of what we have experienced as a state over the past four years of the Liberal–National government in Western Australia. The Premier suggests that I keep it short! I commit, Mr Speaker, that I will keep to 20 minutes, which will take us up to just on 10 o’clock.

I will pick up where the member for Forrestfield left off. He summarised the four years of the Liberal–National government particularly as one of increasing pain and suffering for families and households because of the massive increases in electricity, water and gas prices. My approach will be slightly different; that is a given. The government itself accepts those huge increases. The impacts of those utility price increases are certainly acknowledged by the media, and people in Western Australia are being continuously reminded of them by the opposition. My approach is slightly different. I will look at what we have experienced as a community and as an opposition in Western Australia over the past four years of the Liberal–National government.

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The Loan Bill is a piece of legislation that will allow the authorisation of \$5 billion to meet planned general government purpose borrowing requirements to 30 June 2016. That \$5 billion comes on top of \$1 billion that was rolled over from the previous financial year. It is a fairly standard piece of legislation. It is a fairly standard request for the operations of government, but it goes to the heart of the problems that have arisen over the term of the Liberal–National government—that is, increasing levels of expenditure, increasing levels of debt and increasing commitments given by this government for future governments in Western Australia. We can cast our minds back to the Court period of office between 1993 and 2001. Members will remember the outcome of that period of two terms of Liberal–National government in Western Australia. The outcome of that experience was that the incoming Labor government was saddled with \$11 billion of debt, which had been accumulated by members who are still in this chamber today; the contracting out of hospitals and prisons to the private sector, and many to the very same contractors that are present in our community today; and the commitment to future expenditure and future contracts, which then locked in the incoming Labor government in 2001. That was the wash-up of eight years of Liberal–National government under the Court period of office. We had hospitals contracted out to the private sector; we had prisons contracted out to the private sector; we had a massive blow-out in expenditure, so much so that the then Under Treasurer, Mr John Langoulant, made significant criticisms of the government and the Treasurer of the day. The incoming Labor government was burdened with a massive debt. It all sounds very, very familiar, because that is exactly where we are today. Four years after a new Liberal–National government—the Barnett government—we are facing exactly the same situation. The Liberal–National government of the Barnett period of office has repeated all the mistakes that occurred during the Court period of government. We are left today with debt rising to \$18 billion by June next year and increasing to \$24 billion in the out years. That was after the government inherited a budget surplus but a total debt structure of \$3.4 billion. That will have blown out by June next year to \$18 billion in four years of government, with a projected debt structure of nearly \$24 billion. We have had further privatisation of hospital services. The Minister for Health, who at that time was the member for Mount Lawley, if I remember correctly —

**Dr K.D. Hames:** Yokine.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** That is right; he was the member for Yokine. He was the Minister for Water Resources at that time, if I remember rightly.

**Dr K.D. Hames:** That was when I introduced the proposal for the desal plant.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** That is right; the minister did, but he did not go through with it. That is one thing we discussed.

**Dr K.D. Hames:** That is because we lost government.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** The Water Corporation suggested that to the minister as one strategy to attack the problem of declining rainfall.

**Dr K.D. Hames:** Not true; they were dragged kicking and screaming.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** It did not come from the minister.

**Dr K.D. Hames:** It did.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Did it come to the minister when he was lying in bed one night?

**Dr K.D. Hames:** Seriously, it did. Jim Gill was totally against it, even though he now claims credit. I took him and the director general of the Water and Rivers Commission at the time to Eilat in southern Israel and to San Diego to look at the plants there and then told them to develop a proposal for the current one. What happened is that because they didn't want it, they shoved it in the bottom drawer. It was only when Gallop heard about it that he made them pull it out and made them do it.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** He made them pull it out. That is interesting.

**Dr K.D. Hames:** He needs lots of credit for doing it.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Yes. I had not heard that before. That is interesting.

**Dr K.D. Hames:** That's because Jim Gill wouldn't tell you.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** It is an interesting piece of information and one that history requires be recorded in *Hansard*. I am glad that the minister interjected on me on that and that we have put that on the record, because it is something that needs to be recorded, simply because it shows that ministers need to take responsibility and show drive rather than getting bureaucrats to drive them. The point I am making is that the minister was also an

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advocate for the privatisation of health services and was heavily arguing the case, if he remembers, for Joondalup and also the Mandurah and Bunbury hospitals.

**Dr K.D. Hames:** No; I wasn't involved. It was Kevin Prince.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** I realise that the minister was not involved; nevertheless, he was part of the responsible cabinet. Here we are again. The point I am making is that here we are again with the privatisation of not just prisons, such as the Acacia contract under the then Attorney General, Hon Peter Foss, but also hospitals. After four years of a Liberal–National government, simply because this is the government's philosophical approach to things, here we are again visiting the same process and going through the same experience.

**Dr K.D. Hames:** Sorry to interrupt, but to correct history again, this time I don't have any great philosophical bent about the contracting of services. It was the health department and Treasury saying to me, "Look, this is the best proposal." I'm not against it; neither was I against Joondalup and Peel health, but it wasn't like the desalination plant, which I initiated; it was one where I agreed with department officials who said it was a good idea. It just shows you how these things can come around.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Yes. Minister, it may simply be coincidence, but it is a very strange coincidence that it always occurs on a Liberal government's watch.

But that is exactly what we are doing. We are again going through the whole process of contracting-out services to the private sector, increasing debt, and committing future governments to massive, massive expenditures, which is exactly where we ended up in 2001 following eight years of a previous Liberal–National government.

If we look at some of the projects in the pipeline, we then have to question how far the \$5 billion for this Loan Bill is going to go. There are still commitments to Roe Highway stage 8, which will be one of the most expensive pieces of road, I think—if it ever gets constructed, which I do not think it ever will—ever built. In 2011 dollars it was proposed to be \$700 million, and it is still on the books and accounted for. There is no money for it in the forward estimates, but the current government still has a commitment to expend that money. One of the questions about Roe Highway stage 8 that I believe should be answered by the government is: when will it be built? The answer to that question is never, ever given; questions about when Roe Highway stage 8 will be built are never answered.

Again, this \$5 billion that will take the government through to 30 June next year is laughable when we compare it with how much is needed for these committed projects, such as the light rail project. The wording used by the Treasurer in terms of the costing of the light rail is, "Well north of \$1 billion." There is no scientific or financial evidence to show exactly the costings of the light rail, but there are lots of nice pictures; I am sure lots of nice advertisements will come up during the election period to show what the big picture holds for Western Australia! The big picture holds light rail! But the only problem is that we do not know how much the big picture will cost; we just do not know, particularly when the big picture includes photographs of light rail. The best estimate so far from the Treasurer is, as I said, "Well north of \$1 billion."

The next project has been committed to—it is in the current budget, and part of the \$5 billion forms part of that expenditure—and it is of course the Elizabeth Quay project. An amount of \$440 million has been allocated for the construction of that project, \$106 million has been spent on the congestion plan for while Elizabeth Quay is being constructed and thereafter, and it will cost \$25 million to move the Western Power substation, which totals about \$571 million. That does not even take into account some of the geotechnical problems that may be incurred during the construction of that project. What the Labor opposition raised about the Elizabeth Quay project blowing out towards \$1 billion may well occur because of the geotechnical problems that may be encountered once that construction goes ahead. Interestingly enough, friends of mine who work in office blocks down the Terrace talk to me about how the Elizabeth Quay project is proceeding at the moment, and they have indicated that there is quite a bit of activity pushing dirt around and around and around on Elizabeth Quay, but the hole does not ever seem to get any bigger. The dirt gets pushed around from one place to another, but the hole needed to allow the water in just does not get bigger. They are fascinated when they look down out of the windows of their offices every day and that bit of dirt has been moved from one end of the proposed Elizabeth Quay to the other, but no digging has been going on.

**Mr J.H.D. Day:** What you might like to know is that it is still in forward works phase, and the main contract for the excavation has not actually been granted. So that part of the project has not actually started as yet.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Is that right, minister?

**Mr J.H.D. Day:** Yes, it is—as long as you understand.

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**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** That is nice to hear, minister; it is also nice to hear that at least someone is being paid to move dirt down round there, even if no hole is being dug. But as I indicated, and as the minister well knows—it has been raised with him on many occasions—that \$571 million, if we take into account the traffic and the movement of the substation and stuff such as that, is not enough. The cost, I believe—it has been put to the minister on many occasions by others—will continue to increase as the government faces more and more geotechnical problems.

**Mr J.H.D. Day:** You are talking about gross cost of course; you are not talking about final cost after land sales.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Yes, well, we will see about that, minister.

**Mr J.H.D. Day:** We will indeed.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Let us deal with the actual cost of building it first before we go into forward land sales.

**Mr J.H.D. Day:** And the actual gross cost, of course, is \$440 million.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** The other interesting commitment that has been made and will be lumbered on future governments is, of course, the \$9.5 billion that has been requested by Water Corp over 10 years. The Water Corp annual report indicates that that is what it seeks for investment over the next 10 years—\$9.5 billion. If we look at the Water Corp website, it argues that the \$9.5 billion 10-year plan has been endorsed as part of this year's budget. I do not remember reading that in this year's budget and I do not remember the minister talking about that in this year's budget, so I am not too sure where Water Corp is coming from, but if it genuinely believes that it has locked future governments into a commitment of \$9.5 billion over the next 10 years, we have real problems. We have real problems; the current government has real problems and future governments have real problems, and, unfortunately, because of water tariffs being directly linked into the borrowing costs of Water Corp, future households and families have big problems because there will be a flow-on effect from those borrowings, being higher water prices. There is an inevitable link between the borrowings of Water Corp and the tariffs that households and families pay for the consumption of water.

Those are just some of the projects this government has committed future governments to. I will summarise, once again, the situation we will find ourselves in after four years. It is just like the situation we found ourselves in in February 2001 when Labor came into office. We found a legacy left by the Court government of privatisation of public assets, massive debt—increasing, at that time, to more than \$11 billion—and future projects committed to and contracts signed up that the incoming Labor government could not get out of. What do we have four years later? We have exactly the same situation. The debt levels are far, far, far higher. State debt was \$3.4 billion when this government came into office in 2008; it will be \$18 billion by next year, rising to \$24 billion. There is the contracting-out of services that should be held in the private sector, such as the Fiona Stanley Hospital services, and the Rangeview prison, which has been privatised, as Wandoo will be, and commitments for future governments such as the projects I have referred to tonight. It an absolute disgrace that we have to live through, once again, the type of behaviour that we have seen by previous Liberal–National governments.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Dr K.D. Hames (Leader of the House)**.