

Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Roger Cook; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr David Templeman;
Mr Paul Miles; Mr Paul Papalia; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Andrew Waddell; Mr Ian Britza

PREMIER'S STATEMENT

Presentation

MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe — Premier) [5.04 pm]: Mr Speaker, on this first sitting day for 2011, I rise to present the Premier's Statement and, in doing so, outline the government's agenda for the year ahead—the third year of the Liberal–National government. Although Parliament has acknowledged recent major events throughout Australia in the condolence motion it just passed, I would like to briefly note these events again.

In December, at least 30 asylum seekers—men, women and children—lost their lives in dangerous seas off Christmas Island. This tragedy highlighted the perilous and at times tragic consequences of the people-smuggling trade. Western Australia is at the front line of that trade. The efforts of Western Australian police, emergency, health and support services, and the Royal Flying Doctor Service in responding to this incident are to be commended.

The devastation and loss of 35 lives in the floods in Queensland and Victoria, and then cyclone Yasi, reminded us all of the force and brutality of nature in all its fury. Western Australia has also experienced severe natural events this year. We have experienced floods in Carnarvon and the Gascoyne region; thunderstorms that battered towns in the Wheatbelt region and Geraldton, tragically leading to the death of a teenage girl in Geraldton; and a number of fires, including one at Lake Clifton in January and in the Roleystone–Kelmescott area just over a week ago that destroyed 72 homes, but, thankfully, no lives were lost. Again, I acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of emergency services, including the hundreds of volunteers who fought the blazes, and thank them for this. The rescues, recovery, clean-up and response to the natural disasters that have caused so much devastation and loss across Australia over this summer have shown that we are a people of bravery, resilience, fortitude and generosity. Of course, when speaking of bravery, I could not fail to mention Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith. In January, Corporal Roberts-Smith was awarded the nation's highest military honour, the Victoria Cross, for his extraordinary actions in a perilous situation in Afghanistan. On behalf of Parliament, I congratulate Corporal Roberts-Smith, a fine Western Australian of whom we are all extremely proud.

Mr Speaker, 2011 is an important year for Western Australia. For the first time in the state's history, we will host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. This will be the biggest international event held in Western Australia in almost 50 years—since the Empire Games in 1962. It will also be the largest gathering of global leaders in Australia's history. Fifty-three world leaders representing a quarter of the world's nations and over two billion people, together with around 4 000 delegates and media, will descend on Perth in October. Half of all commonwealth countries are to the west and near north of Australia. Perth is Australia's gateway to southern Asia and the Indian Ocean rim. CHOGM provides us with the opportunity to show the rest of Australia, and the rest of the world, that Perth is more than just a trading post to these international markets. It is our chance to come of age and to portray Perth as Australia's western capital—a mature, outward looking city, at the centre of the world's fastest growing and economically significant region. CHOGM will be more than just a meeting of world leaders. The state and federal governments, in conjunction with the commonwealth secretariat, are planning a business forum, youth forum, sporting events, and a cultural festival. It is also anticipated that there will be a royal visit. Facilities in Kings Park will be upgraded to create a state reception centre and a memorable meeting experience for the 53 commonwealth leaders. There will also be improvements to Government House, and a CHOGM command centre will be built, which will remain as a back-up to the existing police communications centre at Midland. The most important legacy of CHOGM will be the political, business, trade and cultural links created with world leaders and international visitors, who, hopefully, will carry back to their respective countries an unforgettable impression of Western Australia.

The Liberal–National government is looking forward to a year of further delivering on its legislative and policy priorities for the benefit of all Western Australians. The government will continue its sound economic management, with budget surpluses and strong economic growth. We will make real changes in people's lives, supporting those in need with well-targeted and effective services, intervening earlier to improve children's educational and health outcomes, and building more liveable cities and towns. We will continue to do better at protecting our unique natural environment so that it can be enjoyed by future generations.

I will take the opportunity to reflect briefly on the government's successful management of the state's economy. It is not by accident that Western Australia has emerged from the effects of the global financial crisis in a stronger economic position than it found itself prior to the international downturn. Despite the difficult economic environment of the past few years, the Liberal–National government has delivered two strong budget surpluses. We have slowed government expenses growth, cut government spending in areas such as advertising and the government car fleet, and capped the size of the public service.

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The Liberal–National government was elected to make decisions—practical, sensible, necessary and, at times, difficult decisions. And we have done that. Some of the hardest decisions have been those that have increased the cost of electricity, water and gas for Western Australian households and businesses. As Premier, I apologise once again for these increases, though necessary, and thank the community for bearing the effects of the price rises. The government recognises that increases in bills, particularly when coupled with rising interest rates, are stressful for Western Australian families and small businesses. The reality is that the cost of delivering electricity, gas and water to households and businesses throughout this vast, hot, dry state is an expensive business. In the case of electricity, the cost of providing power is still significantly above what people pay for it. The recent increases have been necessary to “catch up”, after some poor decisions in the past and years of no price rises. It is important to note that even with the increases of the past two years, taxpayers still have to contribute to cover the gap. I reiterate that although the Liberal–National government has taken the responsible course when it comes to utility prices, Western Australians will not experience increases of the same magnitude this year.

Nevertheless, it is important that the fiscal discipline that has characterised the Liberal–National government continues. Although analysts are fond of pumping up the overall strength of the state’s economy—it will continue to strengthen—the reality is that some sectors, including retail and manufacturing, remain flat. Property market activity and household spending have so far this year been relatively subdued. The government will continue to rein in recurrent spending, targeting waste, duplication and inefficiency.

We will not relent from our pursuit of a fair deal from the commonwealth government when it comes to goods and services tax revenues, the mining tax and health reform, all critical to our economic future. Commonwealth–state financial relations are in a mess. Western Australia is being penalised for its economic strength. Indeed, as I have stated previously in this place, Western Australia is under siege from the commonwealth. We do not want a special deal. We just want a fair deal. That is no more so than when it comes to the GST. Western Australians are willing to assist other weaker states through the GST carve up. But we are not prepared to cop a return of just 68c for every GST dollar we pay, let alone the scenario we will face in 2014–15, when we are forecast to receive less than 40c back for every dollar. The Liberal–National Government argues that there should be a floor at around 75c in the dollar. This is hardly unreasonable. It would give Western Australia more certainty over revenue and allow us to make the long-term investment decisions a state like Western Australia needs. If we had a 75c floor, the state would retain an additional \$5.6 billion in GST revenue over the next four years. This would allow us to get on with the business of powering Australia’s economy.

The recently announced plans for a federal takeover of gambling regulations is another cause for concern for Western Australia. It is possible this move will lead to poker machines being introduced through the back door, even though that is not the intention. Other states suffer no cuts in their GST share because of gambling revenue. On the other hand, Western Australia has its GST share cut because we collect mining royalties. We are penalised for our productive capacity and our principled stand against gambling, while other states are, in effect, rewarded for having poker machines. Historically, there has been bipartisan support for a ban on pokies in pubs and clubs in Western Australia, a position we must maintain.

As well as fighting hard to ensure we get a fair share of GST revenue, the Liberal–National Government has held fast to our right to retain control of those revenues. While this government remains in office, we will never, ever hand back our GST to the commonwealth to pay for health or anything else. At the Council of Australian Governments meeting on Sunday, in-principle agreement was reached on health. The deal broadly reflects what this government has been saying for the past year: we will not pay for health reform with our GST revenue; we are, however, prepared to pay into a pool, managed jointly by the state and commonwealth, but we would insist the money is used for Western Australian health only; and we must retain full operational responsibility for the management of our hospital system.

This argument is far more than an argument about state’s rights. This is about protecting Western Australia’s future. That future, as well as Australia’s future, is heavily reliant on our resources sector. The mining and petroleum industry and its exports are what make Australia internationally significant. Western Australia drives this. Recent figures illustrate the growing dominance of the state’s export economy. In 2010, Western Australia accounted for 44 per cent of all of Australia’s merchandise exports, and over 70 per cent of Australia’s merchandise exports to China. To threaten the resources industry through an ill-conceived and complex tax on mining is reckless, is ignorant, and is breathtakingly poor policy.

The Liberal–National government will not surrender power over royalties to the commonwealth. I am glad the Western Australian Labor Party now agrees with this position. This government will continue to urge the commonwealth not to endanger the industry, the state and the nation by imposing the mining tax and putting at risk the viability of existing and new projects, the economic benefits they generate, and the many thousands of

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jobs that go with them. Western Australia's resources sector is generating significant investment activity, the likes of which this state has not seen before. A total of \$170 billion worth of projects are either underway or in the pipeline over the next five years.

The state is entering a new era of growth that will transform our economy. This will be a defining decade for Western Australia. The Liberal-National government is absolutely committed to careful management of this transformation to ensure that all Western Australians have the opportunity to benefit from our economic success, now and in the years to come.

We will continue our policy of having an open door to potential new investors and existing resource companies, maintaining an approach that encourages development of our valuable natural resources, while protecting our unique natural and cultural environments. This means ensuring a stable political and industrial relations environment; having robust but timely approvals processes, with appropriate environmental protection standards; and providing appropriate physical and social infrastructure to facilitate project expansions and new projects. This includes not just those projects related to the extraction of minerals and petroleum, but also value-added industries built around those raw materials.

The list of existing and potential resource projects that are contributing and will contribute to our economic growth is extensive. I will comment on the progress of just a few significant projects. As members are aware, this government is working with industry to develop an onshore gas processing precinct at James Price Point. This project not only provides an opportunity to develop a new world-class liquefied natural gas export project, but will give Indigenous people in the Kimberley a real opportunity to achieve economic independence. We cannot continue to fail the Aboriginal people of the Kimberley. As Premier, I am committed to working with them to ensure this opportunity is not lost. Although the government has begun a process of compulsory acquisition under the Native Title Act, negotiations between the government, the Kimberley Land Council and Woodside have continued, with the objective of a consent agreement in the not too distant future.

The Mid West region of the state has significant mineral resources and potential mining projects. But a deepwater port and rail facilities are needed if they are to be developed. This government is continuing to work with Oakajee Port and Rail and its foundation customers to overcome timing and other logistical issues to develop a new port at Oakajee and an integrated rail network to service individual mining operations in the region. The Oakajee project will open a new frontier of resource development for Western Australia, generating jobs and the opportunity for a world-class industrial estate for value-adding industries.

The Ord irrigation expansion project, which will add 8 000 hectares of irrigable agricultural land in the Ord River region, went into construction during 2010. By the middle of this year, 14 kilometres of irrigation channels, 19 kilometres of roads and a 150-person accommodation village will be complete. Complementing the expansion of the Ord, the commonwealth and state governments are funding a suite of improvements to social infrastructure in the East Kimberley, including new housing, major upgrades and new facilities at Kununurra District High School and Wyndham TAFE, and upgrades to hospitals at both Kununurra and Wyndham.

The government is also progressing a south west gas pipeline project, which will see natural gas piped from Bunbury to Albany. A study on gas demand, the potential for a gas-fired power station, infrastructure and operating costs, and the pipeline corridor, will be completed in the next few months. There will be funding in this year's budget to establish the land corridor for the pipeline. This government has worked closely with Perdaman Chemicals to secure the \$3.5 billion Collie coal to urea project, a significant value-adding project for the South West region, and Collie in particular. The aim is for a start-up in late 2014.

As we enter this new phase of economic development, we will encounter some challenges. To ensure we have the right people to work on projects and in new industries as they emerge, the government is focusing on skills development through more apprenticeships and traineeships. In 2010, there was a 47 per cent increase in the number of people starting an apprenticeship, compared with 2009. Funding has been provided by the state government for an additional 8 000 extra training places this year to meet this growing need. To increase participation by Indigenous people, we have opened one metropolitan and four regional Aboriginal workforce development centres as part of our innovative "Training together — working together" program to boost long-term employment options for Aboriginal people and their prospective employers.

We can do better on local content on major projects, and the government will continue to push for the maximum amount of design, fabrication, manufacturing and construction work to be done in this state. Last week I visited Kwinana to meet with steel fabricators, and I also met with the heads of major mining and petroleum companies, to discuss ways to better support local businesses in securing contracts from major resource projects. We all share a responsibility to support local industry and local jobs.

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As well as a transformation of our economy, Western Australians will see a transformation of Perth and regional cities this year. The Pilbara is one of the most important regional economies in the Asia-Pacific region, accounting for almost one-fifth of Australia's exports. This year, the government's Pilbara Cities project will continue to transform the towns of the region to make them more liveable and affordable places. This is a significant commitment: almost \$1 billion over six years that will see towns replanned, apartment-style residential developments and accommodation villages built, major land releases, powerlines undergrounded and power capacity upgraded. By the end of this month, around 50 homes will be on-site in a newly developed accommodation village in Karratha. By the end of the year, the village will be home to 220 workers in the service industry who would otherwise be paying very high rents. Construction on a new apartment development in Karratha is due to begin later this month. Private sector developments are also progressing in Port Hedland and Newman on land released by the state government. Just last month, a new sports centre and cyclone shelter was opened in Onslow, and the new South Hedland recreation centre is under construction.

But the most obvious transformation this year will be in Perth. Funding for the long-awaited, much talked-about redevelopment of the Perth waterfront will be included in this year's budget. We have moved beyond big ideas and conceptual drawings: this is a real project, with a real commitment. Today, the Minister for Planning, the Lord Mayor and I released detailed design plans for the waterfront and announced that the Liberal-National government will allocate \$270 million in funding in the forthcoming budget. Work at the site between William and Barrack Streets will begin immediately after CHOGM. Construction is expected to take around 30 months, and be completed in mid-2014. The waterfront project will change the face of the city. Indeed, it will turn Perth's face towards its greatest asset—the Swan River. The area will be a major destination for locals and visitors. Cafes, bars and restaurants will open out to the waterfront from surrounding buildings, there will be a large promenade around the inlet, and people will have direct access to the water from a landing and a small beach.

To the city's north, work is underway to prepare for the sinking of the rail line that has divided Northbridge from the city for more than 100 years. The demolition of the Perth Entertainment Centre will happen shortly, followed by site works between the Perth Arena and the old Entertainment Centre site. The main construction work on sinking the rail line will start later this year. This is a historic point in the development of our city. The connection of the central business district with the central entertainment district will give people the opportunity to move freely between work and play. The Perth City Link development will be a mixture of retail, residential and commercial uses and high-quality public open space including a city square. A project that has been talked about for 100 years will now be a reality. This vibrant new development will also connect with the Perth Cultural Centre. The Liberal-National government has been transforming this area over the past two years, with better lighting and security, quality landscaping, the creation of an urban orchard and native wetlands, furniture to encourage more community initiatives and events, and upgrades to buildings. The transformation continues this year with work on the replacement of the deteriorating facade of the Art Gallery of Western Australia, beginning in March.

At the same time, the demolition of the Western Australian Museum's Francis Street building will start. The government remains committed to a new museum built within the existing precinct grounds so that the state's flagship cultural institutions, including the museum, art gallery, State Library and newly opened State Theatre Centre, continue to be co-located in the heart of the city. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the former Labor government's foresight in committing to the building of the State Theatre Centre. It is a truly spectacular venue that adds significantly to Perth's cultural landscape.

As significant as these projects are, the regeneration of Perth is not just confined to infrastructure in and around the city. The lifestyle benefits of extended retail trading hours are now being enjoyed by Perth people. The government will continue to work on deregulating shopping hours and unravelling some of the complex and often nonsensical barriers to retail trading.

We are also working with the taxi industry to ensure that Perth people and visitors to the city have access to taxis when they want them and feel secure when they get in them. A rollout of new taxi camera surveillance units will begin in July. This will see the entire metropolitan taxi fleet fitted with cameras, which will provide police with a greater ability to investigate and prosecute crimes, increasing security for both passengers and drivers. A \$2 million taxi hub in Northbridge that will improve taxi flow and safety in this key entertainment precinct is currently being built and should be completed in May.

The Liberal-National government's track record on law and order speaks for itself. We will continue to place a high priority on improving community safety. This will include looking at further improving safety on public transport.

The vibrancy of Perth will be improved by holding more national and international events. The government has brought back V8 Supercars to Western Australia, and we recently announced that Perth will host the first leg of

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the UCI World Cycling Tour event. This year, the Liberal–National government will ramp up its efforts to secure new and exciting events that will draw visitors to Western Australia, and better promote events through a new website that will be up and running in the next few months.

Of course, when talking of Perth, I cannot fail to note one particular project. One of the major decisions before the Liberal–National government this year is the location, cost, timing and capacity of a new sports stadium in Perth. The government has started the process of working out the best possible long-term option for a stadium for football, other sports and entertainment, using the Major Stadia Taskforce report chaired by John Langoulant as the starting point. We do not intend to reinvent the wheel, going over ground that has already been covered comprehensively by the report, or undertaking another extensive consultation process. The government intends to make an announcement on the stadium by midyear, and there will be money in the forthcoming budget for planning and design work. Work will begin this year on the other two major sports projects in the city—the redevelopment of NIB Stadium as a rectangular stadium, and the building of a state netball centre at Matthews.

The Liberal–National government wants the legacy of this historic period of economic development to be more than just buildings, stadiums, pipelines, ports and railways throughout the state. At the heart of this government’s policy priorities is our aim to make sure that, at a personal level, all Western Australians will have the opportunity to share in the benefits of our economic success, as individuals and as families.

There is no more important job for government than ensuring that every child in this state has access to a quality education so that they may reach their potential in life. Research shows that the number one determinant of a good education is the quality of a student’s teachers. To attract and retain good teachers, the Liberal–National government has made teachers in Western Australia amongst the highest paid educators in the country. In the first half of this year, the government will negotiate a new agreement with teachers, and we intend to maintain the significant salary gains teachers have made under this government. Of course, the environment in which teachers teach and students learn also impacts on the quality of education. Seven state-of-the-art new schools opened their doors at the start of the school year two weeks ago. During 2011, construction or redevelopment of 10 schools will begin, including the \$63 million rebuild of Governor Stirling Senior High School in Guildford. For the first time since 2002, we are reviewing the school air cooling policy, with the intention of increasing the number of schools provided with air cooling by the government. I know this issue has been raised by several members whose constituents have children at schools outside the current air cooling zones. The government will make an announcement on the outcomes of the review by midyear.

Parents, principals and local communities are better placed than governments to know what is in the best educational interest of their children. The Liberal–National government’s independent public schools program has given more decision-making power, autonomy and flexibility to school communities. This is a significant step away from the centralised, one-size-fits-all approach of the past 50 years. The program is the envy of the nation. Towards the middle of the year, we will announce which schools will become independent next year, adding to the 98 that are already part of the program.

This is a government that is not afraid to let clear responsibilities determine its priorities. This is nowhere clearer than in the area of early childhood learning and development. It is simply not acceptable that while most children reach school more or less prepared for formal education, too many do not. There are already a number of early childhood centres around the suburbs that have made amazing progress in blending early development programs with complementary services, such as child health and parenting, access to doctors, access to speech therapy, and so on. This year the government will focus on developing more of these centres on school sites, particularly in geographic areas where we know more children are at risk. They will actively involve parents and community and, importantly, become the centre for a wider range of community services. Early intervention to ensure that children start school healthy and ready and able to learn is not just an option; it is a moral imperative.

Children’s health is linked to their life and educational outcomes. That is why this government chose to put a children’s hospital ahead of a football stadium. Already, \$505 million has been set aside for the construction of the new children’s hospital at the QEII Medical Centre. Work on the building of a new central energy plant will begin shortly, followed by a new multi-deck car park later in the year. The contract for the planning and construction of the hospital is expected to be awarded in July, with building starting in January next year.

The construction of Fiona Stanley Hospital continues to be on time and on budget. By the end of this year, a preferred proponent for the Midland health campus will be selected, and construction should commence in February next year. This year, the government will begin planning the redevelopment of Royal Perth Hospital, honouring an election commitment to retain a central city hospital.

As well as these metropolitan hospital projects, the government is investing in hospitals in regional areas. Site works for the new Albany health campus have started, and the redevelopment of Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital is

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progressing on time. Planning for clinical services at Nickol Bay Hospital in Karratha has been completed, a business case is now being prepared, and construction will begin in mid-2012.

This construction, rebuilding and redevelopment of hospitals currently underway or about to start is the largest ever health infrastructure program undertaken in this state. Of course, good health care is about more than just buildings. Delivering quality health services in innovative ways is a focus of the government.

We have committed almost \$50 million over four years to improve access to child health services and already we have seen a reduction in waiting times for occupational therapy and physiotherapy by more than a third. There has been a reduction in waiting times for speech therapy of 21 per cent. This funding is making a real difference. The earlier children can access these important intervention therapies, the greater the chance of success in addressing problems that can affect their development and education. The government is confident that, by the end of June, waiting times for these therapies will be half what they were in June 2010. I would like to thank the work of the Education and Health Standing Committee, chaired by the member for Alfred Cove, which has guided the government's initiatives in this critical area.

And we have invested \$84 million in the Friend in Need—Emergency, or FINE, scheme to engage non-government organisations such as Silver Chain to provide 24/7 services for people requiring care. The funding is also being used to increase the capacity of the Hospital in the Home program, post-acute care and community nursing, freeing up hospital beds.

The Liberal–National government is absolutely committed to assisting the most vulnerable in our community with practical initiatives that have a positive impact on people's lives.

Around 241 000 seniors received a cost-of-living rebate last year. In July this year, seniors will again receive their rebate. Seniors have taken 12.7 million free trips on public transport since the government introduced free public transport for seniors on weekdays between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm and all day on weekends and public holidays.

This year, legislation will be introduced to allow for long-term foster carers to be able to apply for legal guardianship of a child in their care, giving foster children more stability and security. In a few months, the government will open a secure care facility for up to nine young people who are at high risk of self-harm or a significant risk to those around them and are in need of intensive therapeutic treatment.

I meet regularly with the Council of Churches of WA and representatives from the non-government sector. One of the results of these meetings is that the government is progressing a proposal for a homeless “crash” centre within the city.

This government came to office promising to make inroads in the long neglected area of mental health. Although there is still much to do to help the many thousands of Western Australians suffering mental illness, the government has already delivered on its election commitment to have Western Australia's first Minister for Mental Health, establish Australia's first Mental Health Commission and appoint the state's first Mental Health Commissioner. This year, legislation will be progressed strengthening the rights of consumers and carers to information and advocacy services. Additional funding has been provided to the non-government sector to deliver critical suicide prevention programs this year, including to Lifeline. Aboriginal people will have better access to mental health services, with 80 additional specialist staff being employed across the state.

The link between drug use and mental illness is well established. Last year, the government introduced legislation that overturned Labor's soft-on-drugs approach. This year, statewide mandatory cannabis intervention treatment sessions for both adult and juvenile minor cannabis offenders will be introduced and delivered by trained alcohol and drug counsellors. The government will fund a comprehensive public education campaign on the harmful effects of cannabis use. We will also progress legislation for harsher penalties for people who sell drugs to children or endanger children through the manufacture and cultivation of drugs.

The government has provided record levels of funding for the disability sector. The first respite facility for carers of people with disabilities has opened in Broome, and similar centres will be built at Rockingham and Clarkson this year. Planning is underway for two more facilities at York and Gosnells, honouring the government's election commitment to build five respite centres throughout the state, so those who work tirelessly to support their loved ones can have a well-deserved break.

The Liberal–National government is not focusing on just increased funding to help support the most vulnerable. We want to ensure the services and care they receive are appropriately targeted and of the highest quality. That means doing things a bit differently, not just for the sake of it but to make real improvements. The government has established a productive working relationship with the community sector and will this year set about implementing a range of reforms that represent a paradigm shift in the relationship between government and

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non-government providers. These reforms aim to address historical funding imbalances, reduce bureaucratic processes and reinvigorate the sector. We recognise that governments are not always best placed to deliver services and care to those who most need assistance. The government wants to build the capacity of the community sector, so that the people working in it can focus on the welfare and wellbeing of the people for whom they care.

In the next few months, we will announce the first recipients of the social innovation grants scheme, which will fund innovative and new ways for community organisations to deliver services. Already this financial year, around 1 800 social housing dwellings have been built and another 800 are under construction. We are continuing to work to deliver more innovative ways to provide affordable housing and reduce pressure on the social housing waiting list.

For most of Western Australia's agricultural regions, 2010 was the driest year on record. The measures announced last year in the \$5 million dry season assistance scheme are continuing to roll out to rural communities. The government will take further measures to respond to this historic dry season as they are needed. Rural communities can be assured that the Liberal-National government will continue to work with them to recover.

The government is absolutely committed to ensuring that the benefits of a strong economy flow through to the wider community, creating jobs and new business opportunities; building infrastructure such as hospitals, schools and better cities and towns; improving services; and providing effective support and assistance where it is really needed.

Economic development, and the activity it generates, brings with it another important responsibility: the need to preserve and protect Western Australia's unique environment. Striking the right balance is a focus of this government. Arguably, our most important environmental responsibility is the protection of the unique Kimberley region. Last year the government launched its landmark Kimberley science and conservation strategy, creating four new marine parks, a new national park and additional conservation reserves. This increased the area of marine parks and reserves in Western Australia almost threefold to more than four million hectares. This is an area of land and sea more than half the size of the state of Tasmania. This year indicative management plans will be developed and implemented for each park. Following discussions with traditional owners, landholders and the community, the government will be announcing further initiatives in tourism, marine research and Indigenous employment as part of the Kimberley science and conservation strategy. This will complement the \$20 million in additional funding provided in last year's budget for improvements to national park infrastructure and roads to help Western Australians rediscover their national parks, which are a treasure-trove of environmental diversity.

As members are aware, the Liberal-National government has a minister for both the environment and for water. This is a deliberate reflection of the fact that issues around environment and water are inextricably linked. These are critical areas for the government. In recognising this, the Liberal-National government will look at the potential to strengthen the policy, standards, approvals, licensing and regulatory functions of government agencies that deal with environmental and water issues, possibly through a structural re-alignment that reduces duplication.

I have spoken about the Liberal-National government's economic record and its continued focus on strengthening Western Australia's economy. The Department of Treasury and Finance has become too large and will be split. The government believes that separate departments of treasury and finance are needed to steer us through the state's next era of economic development. A stand-alone Department of Treasury, dedicated to providing government with high-level economic policy advice and forecasting for our increasingly sophisticated economy, with record investments in major projects, complex commonwealth-state relations and preparation of state budgets, is critical. The finance department will concentrate on revenue, management of government building projects and works, and administration, including the Office of Shared Services, which is currently under review.

I have already noted a number of important pieces of legislation that the government will introduce this year, covering areas such as guardianship, mental health and drugs. This year the government also intends to progress legislation providing for fixed-term elections and four-year terms, and lobbyists legislation that will specify in law the rules for dealings between government and professional lobbyists.

The government's legislative agenda also includes legislation to allow the Corruption and Crime Commission to focus more on organised crime; to give police the legislative power to shut down suburban brothels; to provide for a register of known sex offenders; to provide for a small business commissioner to protect small business operators and the next step in deregulating trading hours; and to broaden community representation on juries. This agenda aims to realise the simple, but most eloquently expressed, provisions of the Westminster model

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upon which this Parliament is based, which are contained within Western Australian constitutional documents: “to pass laws for the peace, order and good government of the state”. I am confident that each bill put before the Parliament by the Liberal–National government this year will fulfil that intention.

In conclusion, there is much that the Liberal–National government wants to achieve in 2011. Western Australia is on the verge of change through the transformation of our economy, Perth and regional cities; the impact the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting will have on the way we project ourselves to the world; and by virtue of our geopolitical position on the edge of the Asia–Pacific region and Indian Ocean rim.

Western Australians can be assured that this government will make decisions for the right reasons—not to appease certain interest groups, not to fit in with the news cycle, and not for political self-interest. There is a lot at stake. We have a great responsibility to ensure that the next period of prosperity in this state is shared more widely, and, importantly, that the legacy of the opportunities provided and the growth achieved is a lasting one that can be enjoyed by future generations.

I wish all members well for the forthcoming parliamentary year.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is —

That the Premier’s Statement be noted.

Consideration

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [5.44 pm]: There is a clear point of difference between the Labor opposition and the Barnett government; that is, a commitment by the Labor opposition to maintain strong public services in the public’s hand. We have opposite a government convinced by its own ideological extremism to privatise everything in its path. On the one hand, it might point to something like the outsourcing of certain government services to non-government organisations, and on the other hand it might talk about outsourcing parts of certain institutions—but it is still privatisation.

There can be no clearer point of difference between us than in health. The Barnett government is obsessed with the privatisation of the health system, and we can see its privatisation agenda marching on. Before Christmas we heard the announcement that Serco was to be the preferred tenderer for the privatisation of health services at Fiona Stanley Hospital. The Western Australian public, and indeed the people of the southern suburbs, should be particularly concerned by this development. Serco is a company that has no experience in Australia in operating hospitals: it operates prisons and detention centres. However, the government is taking our premium new hospital system, our premier new hospital, and is going to flog part of it off to the corporate sector, simply as part of some ideological agenda on privatisation. Of course, the minister will bark and whine that Serco has a lot of experience operating hospitals in England. We saw how Serco operated hospitals in England. Along with a bunch of the other consortia associated with the Norwich and Norfolk hospitals, Serco ripped off United Kingdom taxpayers to the tune of tens of millions of pounds through the refinancing of that hospital project.

Dr K.D. Hames: Say that outside and see what happens to you!

Mr R.H. COOK: It is good to see the Minister for Health back to his whinging, interventionist self, because we want to see what he has been doing over the Christmas holidays. The minister announced proudly that he would conclude negotiations with Serco before Christmas—that is, before the end of December—but we have not seen any proud announcement since then about a great result or how the negotiations have gone. Of course, we will not, which is the nub of the problem: those negotiations were shrouded in secrecy, like a lot of the other elements to do with public–private partnerships, and will take place behind closed doors away from the prying eyes of taxpayers and the Parliament. They will take place behind closed doors under the cloak of commercial in confidence. This is the problem when the government goes about privatising public services—the contract will be secret. WA taxpayers will be none the wiser about the folly that this government will enter into with this new big contract with the private sector with our newest public hospital. The key performance indicators will be as ambiguous as usual. We will see hospitals with the problems that we see out in Peel, as that hospital still holds onto its contracts. The public will probably never see those KPIs, and we will never see a public–private comparator because no such study exists.

Despite the fact that we come to this place time and again to ask the minister to explain why this is such a great deal for WA taxpayers, we get nothing. We do not see any sort of comparator. We do not see what the company is offering. We do not see what the company is saying about staffing numbers. We do not see what the company is suggesting it will do to ensure that services are provided to the same standard they would be provided under public hands. We do not see anything that would suggest the company will be held to account once it gets its hands on that contract. We never do; we never will. This is of particular concern to the people of southern suburbs, particularly those who thought that they would get a premium public hospital that would be the envy of

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the nation. Instead, what they see is a public hospital paid for by the previous Labor government and flogged off by the Barnett Liberal government.

The government also announced that it has two preferred tenderers for the privatised Midland health campus, being Ramsay Health Care and St John of God hospitals. Again, secret discussions will take place, and the minister will scurry around in private with the corporate sector, making sure that they are comfortable and happy with the way the contracts are coming together. They will make sure that they can carve up the hospital in just the right way, so that they can eke out a profit from the public sector. They will cleverly go about constructing the contract, so that it is all hidden in commercial-in-confidence details. They will masterfully go about hiding from the people of Midland the fact that the hospital that was going to be in the hands of the people of Midland is now going to disappear off into the corporate sector.

Mr F.A. Alban: At least they're getting one!

Dr K.D. Hames: The reality is that the same people will do the contract negotiations as did the one for Joondalup, under your government. Exactly the same people will do the contract negotiations as did them under your government.

Mr R.H. COOK: Will the minister go to the people of Midland and walk around the suburbs of Midland and Forrestfield and the member for Swan Hills' electorate and ask, "Do you want a public hospital in public hands? Do you want to have control over that public hospital and its services, or do you want to see it flogged off to the private sector?" I know the answer, and so does the minister. The minister has to have secret negotiations with the corporate sector to ensure that he gets his way.

Several members interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: There will be secret discussions again, Mr Acting Speaker, and, again, a failure by the government to demonstrate where the value for money is. Why are we doing this? Why are we going down this route? Why have we decided, all of a sudden, that something that should be held by the public—in the public's hands, delivered for the public's benefit—will be sent off to the corporate sector, and the government be trusted to negotiate a decent contract?

Members would have thought that this would have been of some concern to the new federal member for Hasluck, and that he, of all people—having just been elected—would be concerned about the privatisation of the Midland health campus. But, no; he thinks it is a wonderful idea. He writes, in a letter to one of my colleagues —

Your claim of poorer wages and conditions for workers and inferior levels of care for the public are unfounded.

Clearly, the member for Hasluck has never been to Peel. He has never been to Peel and talked to the nurses of Peel whose salaries are significantly below those in the public sector, and he should know, because he has had some experience in the health department. He should know the sort of conditions under which some of the people operating in that sector are working.

But, of course, he has decided that he is going to stand by the privatisation of the Midland health campus. He has decided he is going to let his voters down—good Lord, he has only just got there! Why is he going to do that? Because, according to the member for Hasluck —

... the Department of Treasury and Finance has found that engaging with the private sector to deliver the Midland Health Campus will deliver best value for money for Western Australian taxpayers.

If it is good enough for the member for Hasluck to have that information, minister, why is it not good enough for the members of this Parliament and for the constituents of Midland and other electorates to have that study as well? Let us see the Department of Treasury and Finance's breakdown; let us see the public-private comparator; let us see the evidence that, somehow, this will magically deliver better value for money for the people of Midland. Better still, why does the government not go out and conduct a referendum with the people of Midland?

Mrs M.H. Roberts: So far, all it's delivered is a three and a half-year delay. That's what it's delivered so far!

Dr K.D. Hames: You've got to be joking! You had nothing prepared!

Mr R.H. COOK: Why does the minister not go out and seek the views of the people of Midland? The minister has nothing to offer them, other than the privatisation—the flogging off of their new public hospital. Indeed, as the member for Midland points out, the government's dilly-dallying, mucking around with the contracts, trying to be so squeaky-clean to make sure that it has a great commercial-in-confidence negotiation behind the backs of the taxpayers of Western Australia, means there will be further delays to this hospital and ongoing equivocation.

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While the federal government continues to have negotiations with the WA government to make our health system more transparent, more accountable, better controlled by the local area networks and the communities in which those hospitals exist, this government is travelling hell-bent on a course to remove public control of public hospitals from the WA people. Sure as eggs, the moment we go down the path of privatising our public health system, the capacity of the WA public to control the standard of services and the way those services are delivered will be removed. The federal government has heard the message loud and clear that we want to see these hospitals come further under the control of the public, particularly the public in their areas, but it is a pity this government is continuing to go down the path of wanting to remove it from the public's control.

Dr K.D. Hames: They didn't oppose what we were doing with Midland; they paid half the money.

Mr R.H. COOK: Labor is not anti-private operator. For instance, the Joondalup Health Campus is competently run by its dedicated team, led by Kempton Cowan, but the Labor Party is unashamedly pro-public sector. We believe that important public services such as education and health should remain in the public sector and in the public's hands.

I want to repeat the commitment made by the Leader of the Opposition last year at the time of the debate on the No Privatisation of Hospitals and Schools Bill 2010. Upon coming to office, Labor will respect the legal agreements and contracts in place at the time of being elected, but we will bring back in-house all those health services that have been privatised by the Barnett government. We want to be crystal-clear on this: we are anti-privatisation, and we believe that these services should be brought back in-house. We did it with the cleaners at Royal Perth Hospital upon coming into office after they were privatised in the 1990s; we did it with the orderlies at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital; we did it with the school cleaners; and we will do it again. Labor will oppose privatisation wherever it exists, and we particularly oppose this ideologically driven campaign by the Minister for Health to simply put as much of the health system in the control of the private sector as possible.

While the minister is busily negotiating contracts with private companies to put as much of the public health system in private hands as he can, he has not been watching the elective surgery waiting list. As reported in the media recently, the elective surgery waiting list is at a three and a half-year high. No longer can the government blame the previous government on an ongoing basis, making excuses for its performance. After the great work of the previous Labor government in elective surgery, which saw the elective surgery waiting list driven down, we are now seeing the waitlist continue to climb under this government. More than 1 600 people have been added to that waitlist alone in the last 12 months. Where is the minister when it comes to the public criticism of the performance of his department in elective surgery? Nowhere. He is a minister who likes only good news stories. When it comes to his performance and criticism of that performance, he quickly scampers off and allows the Director General of Health to come forward and take the barbs, take the criticisms, and make sure that he is always defending the department. It is never the minister defending the department; it is always the director general. Every time there is a criticism of the department, the minister just abandons it and just disowns it and calls it as part of their issue. But, of course, what we are looking forward to most this year is seeing some metropolitan hospitals—any beyond Princess Margaret Hospital for Children—meet the four-hour rule as set out in the government's policies.

The government has made much today, in terms of rhetoric, about responding to Labor's criticism of the fact that this government is driving a two-speed economy. There are those who are benefiting from the resources boom, and those people in the community for whom the new boom is a hollow promise.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.00 pm

[Quorum formed.]

[Member's time extended.]

Mr R.H. COOK: Before the break I talked about Labor's commitment and belief in the maintenance of public services in public hands. The Labor Party believes that it is important for the community to be able to have confidence in services such as health and education. Health and education are important public service areas that operate under the public guidance of government. Public sector workers work as part of a family in a coordinated organisation that provides services to the community that are accountable and in keeping with the priorities of the day. Over summer we were again reminded of the impact of WA's two-speed economy. Many people are not benefiting from the boom that the economy is experiencing.

As the member for Kwinana, I find it particularly disturbing to see that the unemployment rate in Kwinana has increased yet again. It is two per cent higher than last year's rate and now stands at around 11.7 per cent. As all members would be aware, Kwinana sits on the perimeter of the Kwinana industrial strip. There is no reason for people in that community to be suffering such entrenched unemployment and deskilling. However, it is true to say that the benefits from the strip that would normally be accrued by the people of Kwinana continue to elude

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them. The benefits of the boom pass by many of the metal fabricators and small engineering companies that would otherwise benefit from providing services to our mining industry. I am very supportive of the new campaign being run in Western Australia by a coalition of organisations, including unions and steel fabricators, to raise community awareness and to make sure that the level of local content in our resources industry is increased. I have spoken about these important issues before in this place and in the media, but we continue to see a government that is not providing leadership or a clear policy direction on how it will deliver to local companies a greater component of the opportunities in the resources industry to provide services and engineering content.

My attention was drawn to a newsletter recently put out by Chevron titled “Gorgon Project Update”, issue 23, January 2011, in which Chevron proudly announced a major fabrication of different modules of the Gorgon project. Chevron proudly announces that in late November, fabrication started on the project’s main modules, the core of the project’s three liquefied natural gas processing trains. Where did fabrication of these take place? It was in Hyundai Heavy Industries’ fabrication yard in Ulsan, South Korea. Chevron goes on in the newsletter to proudly announce —

Within days the Project also saw the first steel cut for its critical subsea structures that are being provided by Vetco Gray at its subcontractor McDermott’s fabrication yard in Batam, Indonesia.

There is more. Gorgon details almost 200 000 tonnes of fabrication in this particular newsletter, and discusses the manufacturing of the first subsea trees for the project, which is also being commenced by VetcoGray at its facility in Aberdeen, Scotland. Companies like Chevron should be tarred, feathered and run out of this town. It is ridiculous that there are enormous mining and resource opportunities that the rest of the WA economy is missing out on. It must give the Western Australian executives of Chevron great delight to look into their kids’ eyes each morning and say, “Well, daddy or mummy is off to work again today but of course this is not the sort of opportunity you’ll have because there won’t be any jobs in it for you. We are sending as much as possible of this project overseas. There will be fewer jobs for you because there are fewer apprenticeships available. There will be fewer jobs for you because a lot of the metal fabrication warehouses and facilities in Kwinana are at a standstill.”

Mr P. Abetz: There are more apprenticeships now than ever before!

Mr R.H. COOK: There are not more apprenticeships being undertaken, member for Southern River. That is precisely the problem that we pointed out to the government late last year in this very place. The metal fabricators in Kwinana used to be proud employers of apprentices. One metal fabricator, for instance, was employing 20 apprentices two years ago but now employs five. There are two reasons for that: first, companies such as Chevron are sending projects overseas; and, second, the local metal fabricators do not have any sort of pipeline or notice of what sort of workload they can expect in the future. As a result, they are reluctant to put on the young people in my electorate who are now unemployed and make up the unemployment rate of over 10 per cent. Western Australians are enjoying some of the best economic times at the moment, yet people in my area are suffering from ongoing high unemployment, which is now becoming multigenerational. The policies that are in place at the moment will ensure that that will continue into the future. We want that to stop. It is a reasonable proposition. It is also a reasonable proposition to expect the government to detail its policies, other than that it has called a few mining executives in for a cosy afternoon tea in a boardroom to have a bit of a chat about jobs and things like that. We want to know what concrete policies are being put in place to ensure that more local content is incorporated in our resources projects.

I will now talk about a number of other issues impacting upon the electorate of Kwinana. I once again wish to recognise the incredible contribution of the volunteer firefighting services in my electorate, and in particular the way in which they worked with the career firefighters, rangers and other officers from the Town of Kwinana to fight the bushfire in bushland near Challenger Avenue, which recently threatened homes in Parmelia. This bushland is adjacent to not only homes but also St Vincent’s Primary School. The wind that day was horrendous and I was amazed at the speed with which the fire was brought under control. I was also incredibly impressed by the coordination at all levels of government in terms of information flow, the mobilisation of services and ensuring that this incident did not result in a loss of life—only one house was extensively damaged by the fire.

Another government decision that will impact upon Kwinana is the decision to close some tier 3 grain rail lines that service the Wheatbelt. Kwinana has a significant Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd facility at Kwinana Beach. It has been estimated that the closure of those rail lines will result in an extra 57 000 truck movements each year. Obviously, not all those truck movements will impact upon Kwinana—there are also large bulk-handling facilities at Forrestfield—but the roads in and around Kwinana are already struggling. Thomas Road will be heavily impacted by these truck movements. Kwinana is increasingly becoming an area to which people come to enjoy its bushland and the opportunities that come with living in that community. It is important that the

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government implements a policy that not only does not increase traffic flows upon local roads but also ensures that the increase in grain truck flows does not impact negatively on the community. I am worried about the impact on Thomas Road, which is already suffering significant traffic congestion, and the impact this will have on residents living in that part of Kwinana, particularly in Medina and Orelia. The Town of Kwinana and I are also worried about the impact this decision will have on Rockingham Beach Road and Kwinana Beach Road. These roads are not main roads; they are maintained by the councils based upon what is a fairly modest flow of traffic. There could be a significant increase in grain truck movements along these routes, as the trucks come from the freeway down Thomas Road, up Patterson Road and along Kwinana Beach Road and Rockingham Beach Road. This would have a significant impact upon roads that are really quite low grade. The government has an obligation to ensure that the Town of Kwinana is adequately resourced so that it can upgrade these transport routes and maintain these roads in a manner that does not see the transport corridors deteriorate significantly. It goes without saying that if the government had a commitment to the rail network, we would not be in this position of expecting local roads and local communities to bear the brunt of the government's transport policies. It is a time-honoured tradition of Liberal governments in this state to close down railway lines. It is typical that this government should fall back on this great tradition of Liberal governments by continuing to close down our important rail networks.

Mr J.E. McGrath: We were going to build the Mandurah line. We were going to take the train to Mandurah.

Mr R.H. COOK: If the member for South Perth wants to talk about the government's commitment to public transport, we can perhaps have that debate another day. I thank him for his interjection.

The people of Wellard are concerned about the erosion of their bushland communities as a result of increasing activity from sand mining in that area. There is a block on Banksia Road that Urban Resources is targeting for development. This block is an important feeding ground for black cockatoos, which are an important part of the Kwinana environment. I urge the government to work with the people of Wellard to ensure that sand mining in that area does not have a negative impact on not only the black cockatoos, which use this area for feeding, but also the people living in that area who would be heavily impacted by sand, dust and other elements if the development of that lot goes ahead.

I will conclude by drawing attention to the Premier's comments on the development of one-stop early childhood intervention centres. I call on the government to use the facilities of primary schools in my area for the development of such centres, in particular the extra facilities that Medina Primary School has at its beautiful little campus. Many kids who go to school in Kwinana are disadvantaged and are waiting for opportunities to get occupational therapy and counselling. Those kids would benefit from the sorts of facilities that exist in Armadale. I know that the government is giving active consideration to rolling out a number of these one-stop centres so that kids can get the best possible start in life. It is a great model for delivering early childhood services and I strongly advocate for Medina Primary School to be the site of such a facility.

There is a distinct difference between the Labor Party and the Liberal Party, which is our commitment to ensure that our health system stays in the hands of the public and is not sold off by an ideologically driven government that is hell-bent on privatising as much of the health system as possible.

MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot) [7.18 pm]: Before I get stuck into my comments, I acknowledge the remarks of the member for Kwinana about the Carnaby's black cockatoo. It is a fairly serious issue when so much land is being cleared, particularly pristine banksia bushland. Cockatoos do not recognise when they are flying across electorate boundaries. The member for Kwinana's electorate is directly to the south of mine so I understand the issues surrounding those beautiful birds. I encourage the government to continue to look after them in whatever way it can.

Towards the end of last year a new business—the Spud Shed—opened in my electorate, owned by some great guys, the Galati brothers. They are great businessmen. I recommend that all members of this house pay a visit to that shop. I am sure it would top the list as the largest supermarket in Western Australia. The price point and the quality of produce would be pretty difficult to match. I have shopped there quite a few times already. I have always believed that free enterprise trumps government red tape every day of the week. Because this supermarket is built at Jandakot airport under federal jurisdiction, it is not subject to the archaic retail trading hours regulations that some members of this house continue to support.

Several members interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: The member for South Perth will find this speech very interesting! I am not talking about parties.

Unchained by the burden of regulatory red tape, the Spud Shed at Jandakot now trades 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For those members who argue that there is no need and no demand for extended trading hours, I

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say, “Get out of your pro-regulation, pro-shoppies union headset and your ivory tower and have a look at the Spud Shed in Jandakot at eight or nine o’clock on a Sunday night and tell the people there that you do not think there is a demand for extended trading hours in Western Australia.”

Mr J.E. McGrath interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: That is a good point. Is there anyone there at three o’clock in the morning? I will answer that question with another question: does anyone really believe that it is the job of the Parliament of Western Australia to tell any business when it can and cannot trade? If that guy wants to open his business at three o’clock in the morning and no-one goes shopping, that is his problem. Even if there were no demand for extended trading hours, who the hell are we to dictate when this guy opens and shuts his doors? He will open and shut his doors depending on when consumers spend money. If he wants to open his doors 24 hours a day, seven days a week, good luck to him.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Cannington!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I say that they have a pro-shoppies union attitude. They are the people who pull the strings, which is why there is so much division in the Labor Party on this particular issue. Given the past four weeks among the crew of the *Titanic* opposite, I do not really think they have much of a case on this issue. We will just let Dave Kelly and Joe Bullock pull their little puppet strings for a bit longer. We know that they pull them on this issue.

As I said, the decision about when a business opens and shuts should be its decision, not the government’s, as it should be in everyone’s electorates, regardless of whether they are Labor, Liberal, National, Greens or Independent. It is a very important principle. The member for Cockburn referred to me last year as a crazy, mad deregulator, but I still do not accept, nor can I understand, how any member of this house —

Ms J.M. Freeman interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I know what the member is getting at.

Ms J.M. Freeman interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Nollamara, if you want to make a speech, you can stand and make one.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I will take the member’s interjection. As a society, it is like regulating law and order, animal welfare or how society should act in a certain circumstance.

Ms J.M. Freeman interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: If the member wants to talk about nightclubs in Northbridge —

Ms J.M. Freeman interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Is the member going to let me answer her interjection? If she wants to talk about nightclubs in Northbridge, animal welfare or things that impact on law and order, that is a different thing. Where is the law and order issue in the fact that Bunnings can sell an outdoor furniture setting and a gas barbecue on a Sunday, but Harvey Norman cannot? It is madness. The member knows it is madness. It is not a law and order issue. It is not like alcohol or drugs or police rules. It is a totally different issue. We are talking about normal businessmen opening and shutting their stores when they want to. It is very different.

I still ask: how can anyone seriously suggest that it is the job of this Parliament to tell any legitimate business when it can and cannot open? It is the same self-regulation drivel that comes from those who have a pecuniary interest in maintaining the pro-regulation regime in this city. For example, I have learnt to ignore anything that John Cummings from the Western Australian Independent Grocers Association ever sends me. The worst kind of protection that anyone can put on a business is stopping their competitors from trading against them. It is not like subsidies or tariffs; it is stopping someone’s competitors from opening their doors. It is a disgrace, and it is about time that regulators in this house woke up to it. It is not just the hours of trade that I am referring to; there are many jobs at stake. I am referring, of course, to the 13-person bar. That rule provides that a business is no longer a small, general retail business but a large business when the number of people it has on the floor goes from 13 to 14. If a business has 13 people on the floor and it can trade on a Sunday at the moment but it wants to employ one more person, which would take it from a small business to a big business and therefore it would not be able to open on a Sunday, all it does is prevents a small business from becoming a big business. It is madness.

The member for West Swan raised this issue at the end of last year. I do not want to misquote her, but her comment was something like “Let’s look at raising this.” If the number is raised to 17, 30 or 300, all we will have done is moved the problem. The only solution to this is abolishing the regulation that provides that a

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business is no longer a small retail business but a big retail business when it employs one more person. Let us stop keeping small businesses from becoming big businesses. Let us allow them to determine how many people they want to employ and when they want to open and shut. I urge the government and every member of this house, especially members opposite, to go back to their communities and regauge public opinion. I have spoken to the Leader of the Opposition and he is dead wrong when he says that there is no demand in the community for extended trading. I do not mean that members should go to the shops in their electorates in the middle of a weekday, because if they went there at 12 o'clock on a Tuesday or Wednesday, the people they would see walking around the shopping centres generally are those who do not have a need for extended trading hours. They are pensioners, the unemployed or stay-at-home mums. They do not have a requirement to go shopping outside the hours during which they can shop at the moment.

Dr K.D. Hames: Member for Jandakot, why will you take their interjections but you won't take mine?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I am more than willing to; go for it, minister.

Dr K.D. Hames: I would have disagreed with you just a year ago, but Galleria opened on a Sunday —

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: And the minister could not move in the place, could he?

Dr K.D. Hames: Not only could I not move, but also I saw families who had been to church in the morning and had then gone to Galleria. I saw kids eating ice-cream. The shopping centre was packed with families with kids. It totally changed my mind.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Now I ask the question: why is there a different set of rules for everyone outside of metropolitan Perth from those for people inside metropolitan Perth? People who drive down Armadale Road, where my electorate ends and the member for Armadale's electorate starts. It is where the council boundary is between Cockburn and Armadale. There is a great big sign right inside the member's electorate—I am very jealous because I do not have one in my electorate—that says "Welcome to Armadale. Open seven days." If I go to the western side of my electorate, which is in either the Attorney General's or the member for Willagee's part of the state, The Good Guys and Harvey Norman on Stock Road can trade on a Sunday because they are part of the Fremantle special trading precinct. Shops in Armadale can trade on a Sunday because they are part of the Armadale special trading precinct, but The Good Guys, Harvey Norman and JB Hi-Fi in my electorate or in the member for Cockburn's electorate cannot trade on a Sunday. I still ask, with all due respect to the members for Willagee, Armadale and Midland: what is so special about Willagee, Armadale and Midland that is not special about Jandakot? Why can those shops open and mine cannot?

Mr W.J. Johnston: Because you're the member!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: No; I support it. That is a great interjection. I will tell the member the reason for that. He knows that the truth is going to hurt on this one. Members know why we have those special little trading precincts. The member for Joondalup, the former member for Armadale and the member for Midland rolled over. They stood up to their union bosses, who did not want them to do it, and said that they would support extended trading hours in their areas. The Labor Party came out with a policy to accept those three areas. If the member for Cockburn went into his electorate on a Saturday—I know it is a fair drive from where he lives—and spoke to the people who need extended trading hours and he spoke to the manager of JB Hi-Fi, who is now losing sales on a Saturday to shops in Armadale and Fremantle on a Sunday and who is laying off staff and asked them, "Do you want extended trading hours; and, if you do, I will change my party's position", Cockburn would become a special trading precinct, with one person's support—the member for Cockburn. If he walked in here and said he supported this, it would be a different situation. But as I said, there is nothing special about all these other areas that is more so than the electorates of any other members in this house. If they can open their shops on Sunday, why can my shop owners not?

I quickly want to move on to a few other issues because I do not want to take up too much time.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Can you please ask the member for Dawesville to interject more!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I am glad the Minister for Health is in the chamber, because next weekend marks the start of DonateLife Week. We used to call this organ donor week, but now we call it DonateLife Week. Clearly, as this campaign refers to the act of being an organ donor and saving someone's life, it is a more appropriate title for this particular campaign, because there is no doubt that organ donations save lives. My own views on this subject may be a little bit over the top, and I know it sounds cold and I have said this before, but organs are no good to us when we are gone. There is probably not much in my body that is of any use to anyone, but on principle, my organs will be no good to me when I am gone and I would encourage more and more people to sign up to become organ donors because we know that it helps other people. Now that the health minister is in

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the chamber, I encourage him to get on with the job of increasing, by any means possible, the number of names on the donor list in Western Australia.

In closing on this topic, I want to acknowledge in this house a number of people who deserve some formal recognition of the work that they do. The first is young Simone McMahon. Simone is an organ recipient herself. I have known Simone since 2000. When she first left school I gave her her first job. Simone has been doing some amazing work in the field of organ donation and she deserves our congratulations for continuing to raise this issue in the public eye. I want to formally recognise a few other people, such as my friend Catherine, who is recovering from burns in Royal Perth Hospital at the moment. Catherine is a great submarine sailor who was injured last week off the coast of Western Australia in what appears to be a premature ignition of a submerged signal flare. I am sure she will get a kick out of her name being put into *Hansard* and getting a plug in Parliament! Lieutenant Commander Jack Tha has been selected for command. I hope he enjoys his patrol boat time; it is very rewarding up there —

Mr P. Papalia: Jack Tha?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: A submariner, he is a good bloke. In fact, I should also acknowledge the crew of HMAS *Pirie* and the very difficult job they did when they faced the tragic rescue of people and survivors of *SIEV 221*. I know there are a couple of people here who have been to Christmas Island from the sea side. The coastline is as rough as it is unforgiving and all Australians are very proud of the crew's actions and endeavours in saving as many lives as possible on that fateful day.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the naming of the Royal Australian Navy. I have been trying to assist a group of navy veterans confirm a site in Fremantle in order to build a suitable memorial to the Australian sailor. This is a project that I know has the support of the government and the Premier. It has been a little more painful than pulling teeth for almost a year now, but I am grateful for the cooperation of the Fremantle Port Authority to finally help resolve this quest, and I would like to acknowledge that small group of veterans who have been pushing this project and I am looking forward to some rapid progress in the very near future in finalising this particular issue.

Over the Christmas period, Captain Brett Dowsing—top bloke—relinquished command of HMAS *Stirling* to Captain Brett Wolski. Captain Dowsing will be taking up his new job as defence attaché to South Korea and I would like to wish him well and all the best in his new posting in what is no doubt still a very volatile part of the world. Likewise, I would like to wish all the best to Captain Wolski in his new role as commanding officer of HMAS *Stirling*. Another man I have great admiration for is Commodore Steve Davies, who has just retired suddenly. Commodore Davies has provided outstanding leadership to the submarine squadron and he will be sorely missed. Steve is a great Australian and I wish him and his family all the best in this difficult time.

Finally, I would like to wish all the best to the parents, kids and staff of the brand-new Aubin Grove Primary School, which just opened two weeks ago. Under the stewardship of principal Frank Pansini, Aubin Grove Primary School will go from strength to strength.

In closing, I would like to commend the Premier for his comments. If I take my Liberal Party hat off and be as impartial as possible, I think he is doing an outstanding job and leading this state into greater and greater things. I commend the motion to the house.

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington) [7.35 pm]: I would like to start by noting the fire that recently burnt 65 hectares in the Canning River Regional Park—that is out of 266 hectares. The regional park is one of the great facilities of our local community; it is one of the great things that knit it together. It runs along six kilometres of the Canning River. It appears—I am not saying that the particular person is guilty—that the fire was deliberately lit. I know of the hard work of a lot of the volunteers and volunteer groups in the local area, and it is distressing to see that part of the park burnt. I was cooking sausages with the Rotary Club at Bunnings on the day of the fire and to see the hard work of firemen fighting the fire and water bombers was quite remarkable. I know how close the fire burnt to a number of houses in Ferndale in particular, and the work that they did was excellent.

I would like to move on to talk about an issue that has been raised with me by a local resident, Mr Russell Gorton, who is actually in the public gallery tonight. He is one of those community leaders that make the Cannington area a great place to live. He has raised with me the question of the residential feed-in tariff. Believe it or not, Mr Gorton's arrangements are that he generates electricity from the solar panel on his roof. He actually gets a bill for generating electricity. He generates more electricity than he uses and he still gets a bill from Synergy for the electricity that he is using. The reason is that at the moment he gets the 40c feed-in tariff that is paid for by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, but he is paying 19c a unit for electricity to Synergy and Synergy is buying back the electricity that he generates for only 7c. That means that he can produce more power

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in a day than he uses, but Synergy will still send him a bill. Now, it is true that the current FIT arrangement will cover that, but the FIT arrangement only lasts for 10 years and that is not quite the way that this issue is being presented in the media. I give an example of some of the things that are being said. I refer to an article in *The West Australian* of 10 January, which quotes a Mr de Waard —

“In the first 15 years, yes, we’ll pay for the cost (of the system) but after that it’s just pure profit and what is even more important is that we don’t demand energy from a power plant,” Mr de Waard said.

The point here is, of course, that in 15 years the FIT will not exist, because it is only a 10-year policy and these people will be paying for their electricity, even when they generate more power than they use. I quote a little bit from correspondence from Russel Gorton to me. He says —

As a consumer/producer of energy on a small scale, I raise with you the following to be considered a grievance against the WA Government and SYNERGY.

As an early leader with regard to energy conservation and sustainability in the community, I and I believe others will incur a large bill increase in ten years time when the .40c Feed in Tariff (FIT) payment runs out. Currently there are no plans to pay cent for cent from SYNERGY for a unit of energy, post FIT.

The figures and values/unit used below are based on current figures from SYNERGY and are what they will pay for a single unit of electricity at present.

Russell then goes on to give examples of how he generated more energy on a particular day—the day he chose was 1 November 2010—and he shows that even though he generated electricity on the day, he goes on after his calculations to say —

So I am zero kwh in credit and debit and yet in a post FIT no plan for the future and applying the current REB’s payment, I will have to pay Synergy \$1.04 for this day as an example, taking into consideration the amount of .56c that SYNERGY owes me for the same day of energy use and supply in which I feed into SYNERGY’s grid 8 kwh of power as a small scale energy producer and consumer.

In a post FIT WA Government world and with the current value of .07c/unit of energy being considered the going rate for SYNERGY to pay at this time, the effect to me as a consumer/producer will be negative ...

Even though he can generate more energy than he produces, he still has to pay a bill. That is not right. Yes, there is the 40c FIT payment, but it is not explained to people that that is a 10-year policy and that at the end of that policy that FIT payment disappears.

It is also interesting that, even though Russell has been placed on the renewable energy buyback scheme and FIT, he has never actually signed an agreement to do that. He was on a former arrangement with Synergy, which he had agreed to. When he read all the details of this, which is so rarely done by people, he refused to sign on to the REBS and FIT agreement, but Synergy has applied it to him anyway. That is quite an interesting thing.

I make the point that Synergy is promoting the feed-in tariff very heavily. As an example, an advertising feature drawn from *The West Australian* from last year states —

There is the net feed-in tariff, implemented by the Office of Energy and administered by Synergy. It is a subsidy meant to encourage the installation of residential renewable energy systems and is paid per unit of net energy electricity exported to the electricity grid from eligible systems.

The net feed-in tariff scheme has been set at 40 cents per kiloWatt hour on electricity imported to the South West interconnected System and regional grids.

It goes on —

However, there is a range of conditions, especially for those owning multiple properties.

It then says to go online, and it references the Synergy website. It does not explain that this is a temporary thing and that if people invest their money in rooftop solar voltaics, when the FIT runs out, they will be paying for electricity even though they are not using any on a net basis or are generating electricity. Not only that, Synergy is taking advantage of the energy being produced by these rooftop solar voltaics, because they produce the most power when Synergy has the most trouble sourcing electricity. At the peak, in the afternoons, when the network in the south west system is going flat out and the cost of electricity is at its highest for Synergy, it is still paying

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only 7c for that electricity. Synergy might be paying literally hundreds of dollars in the commercial market to buy it from a peaking plant, but it is paying only 7c to the retail generator, and that is not fair.

There should be a review of this process. The current arrangements disadvantage people in the south west interconnected system. Even with the FIT payment—which is taxpayers' money; it is not being paid by Synergy—Synergy is still killing the pig from these rooftop photovoltaics, because it is getting power at 7c a unit, which is all it is paying the domestic producer, when it is paying literally hundreds of dollars, potentially, to peaking plants. This is not a fair thing, and the government should carefully examine this, because the current arrangements are not fair.

Dr K.D. Hames: I think you should send a copy of that speech to Synergy.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I will indeed, minister.

Mr I.C. Blayney: And show us the answer.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: The answer is to have a properly based gross feed-in tariff so that people are paid for all the energy they produce. That was actually the Labor Party's policy at the last election. The gross feed-in tariff is the proper way to deal with it, so that every unit of electricity that is generated is paid for rather than—

Mr I.C. Blayney: It's horribly expensive.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: The member says that gets horribly expensive. All the government is doing is shifting the cost from everybody else to those individual users and not telling them the truth. Nowhere in any of the material provided by Synergy does it explain what is happening. I am happy for the minister's interjection. I have told Mr Russell Gorton that I will be making sure the minister hears the message that he has delivered. Interestingly enough, Russell has actually gone as far as he can himself with Synergy. It has basically told him that that is the political decision and there is nothing more it can do, which is why he came to me and I have raised it in Parliament.

I want to note the Premier's announcement about early childhood intervention in his statement today. I am very pleased that I am the patron of Canning Early Years Group. I am one of the sponsors of its work. The Canning Early Years Group works very hard on that zero to eight age group to try to ensure that people in the Canning area receive all the support we can give them. The suburbs that make up the electorate of Cannington are often areas of great need. I urge the government, if it is going to roll out those early childhood intervention centres, to look very quickly to the electorate of Cannington, because we are an area of great need on that topic of early childhood intervention. The former member for Armadale Alannah MacTiernan spoke a number of times in this chamber about the effectiveness of early intervention on outcomes later in life. I think the government should follow up on that. I note the policy paper released by the opposition spokesperson on early childhood issues, Hon Linda Savage. I urge the government to act in that area.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P.B. Watson): Member for South Perth, if you are going to walk across the chamber, you can acknowledge the Chair.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: It is very important that you keep control of the rabble over there, Mr Acting Speaker.

During summer I was pleased to be asked to take on responsibilities for the opposition in respect of emerging industries. Emerging industries is very interesting in Western Australia, because there is a real risk that the mining boom will drive out opportunity for other industries. I am a big supporter, as every member of this Parliament is, of the resources sector; that is the foundation of the wealth of the state. But we do have to think about what is happening in other industries.

I give the example of Quickstep. I am looking forward to visiting the Quickstep factory next week. I was pleased to talk to its executive last week. For many years I have been following through the pages of *Australian Aviation* the progress of Quickstep, which has created a new way of manufacturing advanced materials. It is a world-leading technology, and Quickstep has a really exciting future. Despite what Hon Simon O'Brien said in the media, the Australian government did not give it assistance to move to Sydney. The Australian government gave it assistance to remain in Australia, because the big challenge in this area, of course, is that most of the dynamic companies involved in aerospace are in either Europe or America, so it was very important that the federal government give assistance to Quickstep to remain in Australia. It is true that it got assistance to move to New South Wales. I am surprised that Minister O'Brien said that Quickstep had not contacted the state government for 16 months. I also point out to the minister that that means that the government had not contacted Quickstep for 16 months. One of the problems we have in this state is that the government focuses only on the easy projects—the big projects; the projects that are based on very high levels of payment for resources—and it does not think about these more difficult projects, such as Quickstep. At the end of the day, Quickstep's move to New

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South Wales is as much about labour costs and skills shortages as it is about the assistance given by the New South Wales state government. But that is a risk for this economy, and we need to start thinking about how we are going to go forward. What is the plan for the state government to ensure that we do not hollow out the economy in Western Australia to the extent that all we end up with is fly in, fly out workers servicing the offshore oil and gas industry or mining in the north of the state? We need a more dynamic economy than that, and I do not see any plan from the current government that will deliver a more broad-based economy in this state.

I would like to move on to another issue related to health care—I do not know whether the Minister for Health is still in the chamber; he has just walked back in. I have recently been talking to Parkinson’s Western Australia about the Parkinson’s nurse specialist service.

Dr K.D. Hames: Don’t tell me about them. They lobbied for ages and ages, so I squeezed some money out to get them a new person. When I was there at the function announcing the funding for a new person, they asked me for another one.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: That is what I am getting to.

Dr K.D. Hames: Now they have started again.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I am here to ask for another one, minister. I make the point that I do not have any family issues involved with Parkinson’s. I do not have any personal connection to that disease. I am not saying that that makes me better or worse; I am saying that is the situation. I think this is an area of great need. I will not bore the minister with all the details because I know that he is aware of them. The association talked about the fact that the minister gave it funding for the third nurse specialist. However, there is no doubt that there is a clear need in our community for additional services in this area. The great thing about the association’s plan for the nurse specialist is that it is about working in the community and connecting service providers to the clients so that they can stay in the community, be as productive as possible and have all the services connected to each other. They are not trying to replace the work of specialists in the medical profession or the work of hospitals. They are trying to work in the community to ensure a better life for people suffering from this affliction. In my notes here, minister, I acknowledge that the government provided additional funding in July 2010 for a third nurse specialist.

Dr K.D. Hames: The only thing that worries me is that if I agree to the next request and give them another one, they will be back again for the next one before the ink is dry.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Yes, that is true, but I think that perhaps what the minister needs to do —

Dr K.D. Hames: I acknowledge it is a great service.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: It is a great service and in the great scheme of the billions of dollars splashed around in the health system, \$210 000, which is what the association is saying it would like for its additional nurse specialist, is not that much money.

Dr K.D. Hames: Except it does not actually cost that much.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: No; \$210 000 is the rounding error in the department’s budget! The minister is perhaps raising a legitimate issue for any government dealing with the not-for-profit sector.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: There are always legitimate issues in dealing with the not-for-profit organisations, such as how reasonable their requests are. I think this is a reasonable request. If the minister is afraid of signing another deal and of the organisation making another request, he could provide a formula-driven funding arrangement so that in the richest state in the country, we can have a —

Dr K.D. Hames: They’re not the only need in town, as you know.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Of course; I am not saying it is.

Dr K.D. Hames: There are lots of other legitimate organisations that provide tremendous services that also chase funds. It just goes on.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Absolutely. I am here lobbying on behalf of one that I think is very worthwhile. Russell Gorton comes from the Wilson Wetlands Action Group. I lobby on behalf of him too, but today I am particularly lobbying —

Dr K.D. Hames: But you know how they lobby. I got a letter from every single member of Parliament on both sides.

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Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I have no doubt the minister did.

Dr K.D. Hames: He is a good lobbyist.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: It is a genuinely good issue. The minister can make himself a hero and he can tell me all about it at father–daughter camp, I am sure.

Dr K.D. Hames: I thought I did that last time.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I note too in the Premier’s Statement his comments about the review of air conditioning in schools. I welcome the government’s review in that area. I think I know the answer: we need air conditioning in schools in Western Australia. It is pretty simple. My electorate is quite interesting because I am right on the boundary. In fact, the boundary for mechanical air cooling is the boundary of my electorate on the eastern side. I am right on the edge. Cannington Community College and Gibb Street Primary School are examples of schools for which money has been allocated for Building the Education Revolution works, but which cannot install the air conditioning, even though both schools have money in their parents and citizens association funds, because the contractor will not let them into the building until the 12-month defect period ends. The cheapest point at which to install it was during the construction phase of the building, and they could not do it even though they had the resources to do it. Quite frankly, for \$20 000 or \$30 000 in a \$1.2 million project, I think it should have been done. I am very pleased the government funded air conditioning in the BER buildings for Queens Park and Beckenham Primary Schools because they have noise issues. But, quite frankly, I think Gibbs Street Primary School and Cannington Community College have the same noise problems. Beckenham’s problems come from the train line and Queens Park’s problems are obviously from the flight path. Gibbs Street Primary School is in the flight path. It has an aircraft noise monitoring station, as does Queens Park Primary School. Someone from Cannington Community College said that perhaps the planes fly over the college to get the cool air before they fly to the airport! The school clearly has noise problems and therefore needs air conditioning. Interestingly, Cannington Community College has ceiling fans but the windows cannot be opened because the building specification did not include flyscreens. The school built an art room, which is fabulous; it also built three early-years classrooms for kindy and preprimary kids but it cannot open the windows because there are no flyscreens, so it really needs air conditioning. The Premier says that Perth does not need air conditioning, but I know it does. He should come out to Cannington and to East Cannington —

Dr K.D. Hames: He didn’t say people didn’t need it. He said it is not regarded as an essential item. Normally water and the like are.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I think it is an essential item, minister. That is it.

Dr K.D. Hames: I have one.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I will go on to a couple of things in my electorate. Queens Park and Beckenham train stations need upgrades. The former minister had been promising me since November 2008 that Queens Park train station would be upgraded. Two and a half years later we have heard nothing. Money is allocated in the budget for these projects, but the government cannot get its contracting act together to get the work done. It needs to be done. I will continue to raise the issue. I think it is probably about the tenth time I have raised Queens Park and Beckenham train stations. They need to be upgraded. These are only interim measures. In the long term we need a proper plan to deal with Queens Park, Beckenham and Cannington stations, plus the William Street, Hamilton Street and Wharf Street level crossings. They do not work. At some time the government will have to invest a considerable amount of capital to get these three train stations and three level crossings right. They are not right yet.

On that same issue of infrastructure in the local community, I urge Racing and Wagering WA to make a decision to support moving the Cannington dog track from its current location to the rear of the Cannington showgrounds. That would then unleash a range of other infrastructure opportunities for the local community, some of them funded by the Canning Agricultural, Horticultural and Recreational Society—not even by government. It is time for Racing and Wagering WA to deliver. I was very pleased to be at the Cannington dogs Perth Cup the other night. I could not believe that the prize money was, I think, \$300 000 for the main race. First-place stakes were something like \$210 000, which, in my view, is a pretty big amount of money.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: We certainly could, member for Armadale. There were 4 500 people at the race. That is the biggest dog crowd in Australia.

Dr K.D. Hames: How many people?

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Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Be careful, minister; I will get that in *Hansard*! Someone in Racing and Wagering WA is lobbying to close the Cannington track and move the dogs to the existing track in Mandurah and have two dog tracks in Mandurah. Quite frankly, we will not get 4 500 people at the dog track in Mandurah. I am not criticising Mandurah; it has a dog track, as does Northam.

Mr D.A. Templeman: It is a very good track.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: It is. We have the premier track and we would like to keep it that way. The infrastructure at Cannington is tired. Even if Racing and Wagering WA was not minded to kick in to move the track, it will have to kick in millions to upgrade the infrastructure, so it is time for this. That would then allow for other things such as connecting Liege Street to Gerard Street to get across the existing rail bridge and through to Welshpool Road. It is a facilitation for other changes in the local community, and I urge Racing and Wagering Western Australia to kick in. I know that GreyhoundsWA is lobbying very hard for that. I have spoken to the minister in the past, and I know that he is not opposed to it. He was not at the Perth Cup this year because he was where he should have been—at his one-year-old grandson's birthday. I know that the minister is keen on the dogs, too. Let us hope we get some joy out of that process.

I want to finish on a bigger picture issue; that is, the question of nuclear generation of electricity for Western Australia. I note that this issue is often raised by journalists and politicians, but never by people with chequebooks; it is never the investors who raise these issues. When I was state secretary of the Labor Party, plenty of people came to me to lobby about the mining of uranium, but I never had anybody come to talk to me about building a nuclear power station, and I want to tell members why: it cannot be done in Western Australia; it does not work.

I have been interested to read a lot of the different things that have been said by a lot of different people, and I make the point that the overnight capacity for our electricity system in Western Australia is about 1 000 megawatts. People talk about 5 000 megawatts of installed capacity in the south west interconnected grid. That is true. But that is our peak demand, which is, as I said, at three o'clock or four o'clock in the afternoon. Our overnight demand is 1 000 megawatts or less. In fact, the publicly available evidence provided to the Economics and Industry Standing Committee explains how Verve Energy has to turn down its power units at night. Already the coal-fired power stations are not being operated at most efficient capacity overnight because there is almost no demand in the great scheme of things. Reading around the topic, one gigawatt or 1000 megawatts is about the standard installation size of a western European or American nuclear energy plant. In fact, the capacity of the plant in Finland that everybody refers to is about 1.3 gigawatts. People say that there are incredible efficiencies in nuclear power plants and that they are very cost competitive; however, they are cost competitive only when run flat out. If they have to be turned down at night, guess what? They are not as efficient in that case because the cost is in the capital; that is, the fixed cost of building the plant directly impacts on the cost of the electricity it produces. If the plant has to be turned down at night, it will be less efficient. Also, if we were to install a nuclear power plant in Western Australia, we would have to shut down every coal-fired power station because none of them would be able to be operated at night because the nuclear power station would have to be kept online. Not only that, instead of having 5 000 megawatts of installed capacity in the south west grid, we would have to have 6 000 megawatts. We would have to build an additional 1 000 megawatts because reserve capacity is needed to cover the largest unit on the system. If that were the nuclear power station, we would have to have 1 000 megawatts of additional capacity to cover for the nuclear power station if something went wrong and it went down. That means that we face not only the capital costs of 1 000 megawatts of nuclear power, but also the provision of a spare 1 000-megawatt capacity spinning, ready to go if something went wrong with the nuclear power plant. People have complained about the spinning reserve on wind generators, which is a couple of hundred megawatt hours. Imagine if we had 1 000 megawatt hours in a tiny little system like ours. Another matter that people have not thought about is that every aspect of a nuclear power station would have to be imported. No element of the power station would be produced in Western Australia. We would have to import the technology to build the station. We would have to import the operators because we have absolutely nobody in Australia capable of running a nuclear power station at an industrial level. We would have to bring in the fuel. People say Australia has these massive reserves of uranium, and, yes, we do, but we neither enrich uranium nor do we make fuel rods. Therefore, we would be importing a very expensive piece of kit in the power station itself. In the Finnish example, €6 billion is being spent. According to the World Nuclear Association—it is not exactly the Greens telling me this information—the original estimate contract price was €3.2 billion, but there has been a €2.7 billion overrun on costs. The plant has taken three years or four years longer to build than was originally intended. This is a financial disaster. The idea in the community and the odd throwaway line in the newspaper about needing to confront greenhouse issues by building a nuclear power station is wrong.

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MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [8.05 pm]: I would like very much to address the Premier's Statement and want to highlight to the house some grave concerns current in my electorate and certainly in the region of Peel.

I start with the caravan park issue. Members will be aware that I was a seconded member of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee that carried out an inquiry into caravan parks and camping grounds and that brought down a report in late 2009 containing a series of recommendations focused on—apart from a number of industry concerns—the future of caravan parks and the caravan-park lifestyle in Western Australia, as well as issues about camping grounds in the state. The chair of that committee is here, along with a couple of the other members. That report highlighted the situation in the Mandurah and Peel areas. The chair coined the term about Mandurah being the “canary in the coalmine”.

Mr P. Papalia: Insightful.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: It was actually a very important indicator in 2009. We waited, unfortunately, a little longer than I believe we should have for government and the relevant ministers to respond. We got a response from government in which a lot was stated. However, I am now questioning the progress of that report. I now need to tell members—the member for Dawesville is well aware of this, and I am pleased that he is now the Minister for Tourism—that this is now not just about people and their lifestyles. I speak in particular of permanent residents in caravan parks. It has serious implications for affordable housing and the tourism industry. I now have two caravan parks in my electorate—one, the Aqua Caravan Park on Pinjarra Road in the Shire of Murray where the residents, including up to 50 permanent residents, were given termination notices advising them to vacate by June of this year.

Dr M.D. Nahan: When were they given that notice?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I have one letter here that I will mention, but they were given that notice at the end of last year, just before Christmas. They were given the notice before Christmas.

Almost at the same time, the up to 200 permanent residents at the Belvedere Caravan Park, which the standing committee looked at closely, were not advised of a departure date or the termination of their leases, but were given notice that the park owners, as is their right, had applied to council for a development plan guideline over the land. For those people, it highlighted very clearly the very dark cloud over the future of that caravan park. I have, collectively, over 200 people in my electorate who now face the imminent closure of their park, with the Aqua Caravan Park people, or who face the possible future closure of their park, with the Belvedere Caravan Park people, and thereby a great deal of uncertainty for these people now exists.

I want to highlight to the house that these are real people and that they have real stories. I asked them at a meeting I went to before Christmas at Belvedere Caravan Park and at Aqua Caravan Park—I have been back there on a number of occasions—to tell me their stories because it is important that I can bring them to this chamber to give an insight into the sorts of issues these people are facing. I have more than 150 letters in my office but I will quickly mention a couple so that members can get a flavour of who I am talking about. The first story is from a 93-year-old lady, Mrs Lillian McAuliffe. She wrote —

Dear Sir,

I am age 93 and have lived in Mandurah for 25 years. I have lived at the Peninsular Caravan Park —

That is now closed —

and the Belvedere Caravan Park for thirteen and twelve years respectively.

Personally I believe the proposed development of the Belvedere Caravan Park is further evidence of a development at all cost with little regard for human welfare.

It is another example Mandurah becoming a millionaires' playground and we pensioners will be left without accommodation and to fend for ourselves.

It is my opinion that this development is 10 years ahead of its time. There are many examples of over development and vacant high rise accommodation which is unsold.

I appeal to you as our elected representative to give us due consideration and see that our interests and welfare are looked after. All we ask is that we get a fair go.

That is from a 93-year-old.

I will paraphrase some parts of a letter written in December 2010 by a lady called Sally Fletcher from Belvedere. She wrote —

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In February last year I made the decision to quit my job. It was an awful environment to work in and I was being used. I was feeling very depressed.

What next!!!

I then came to the conclusion that something different and out of character for me, was required to get me going again. I decided that a sea change was needed and so my move to Mandurah.

I sold my house in Perth, purchased the park home at site 4 in the Belvedere Caravan Park —

Members, listen to this price —

for \$129,000 and moved in on Tuesday 12 May 2009. It was absolutely fabulous, nice neighbours, great house, secure environment and I gained a new lease of life.

Unfortunately, despite my constant efforts I was unable to obtain full-time employment ...

At this point I had only received correspondence from the owners as per copy attached.

There is a copy attached with some notification from the owners. She then goes on to talk about the cost of her park home and the renovations she did to it. Her plan was, as she says —

... to leave this home for my children.

In October this year I turned 64 and was granted the aged pension, my only current source of income.

David, —

This is very important —

at the present moment I feel very restless. I love and am so happy living in Mandurah. I am within an hour and a half of my children and grand children. There are medical and hospital facilities, public transport, shopping centre, public open space and coastline to enjoy. I am a member of the Mandurah Bowling Club ...

Her comment that she is now restless is reflected in a range of other letters I received. Here is another one from an Aqua Caravan Park resident —

I Doreen Hilda Leith brought this park home in June of this year 2010, I paid \$50,000 and was told by the women at reception it was called the Taj Mahal of the caravan park.

NEVER once while paying the rent was there a hint of the future sale, all seemed good, laughed and joked with the owner ... and the 2 other women who worked there on many occasions.

One of the women at reception told me just one week ago, her husband who **also worked for the park**, rang the Murray Shire (anonymously claiming to be a resident of the park) when there were rumours floating about regarding the sale, the man in question was told there was nothing happening and be assured you have nothing to worry about being a resident, the Caravan Park will be there for ever and a day. ...

The person I bought this park home off, went to Pinjarra and Mandurah Shire, They told him this park was zoned a caravan park and always will be....so he brought a much more expensive Park home, so I brought this one knowing he would not be wasting his money if he knew it was all going to be in vain and down the drain.

Just one month ago —

This letter is dated back in December last year —

we asked to build another shed on the land, the park said go ahead.

I am a permanent resident, and work in Falcon, was in a smaller van before the sale of this one came up.

I am a strong person, however I feel very upset with the way I have been lied to, and may lose my home (life savings), I am sure the men are shedding a tear too!

That was from Doreen.

I will finish with a letter from D.H. Prosser of Aqua Caravan Park —

Dear Mr Templeman,

I want you to know the far reaching effects on me and my son, due to the closure of this park.

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I am 74 years old and in very ill health, having cancer and other complaints and cannot stand the stress of not knowing what to do so I have had to sell my home to a house transporter for a pittance. \$35000. We have lived here for seven years and originally paid \$75000 for it.

Now, in our later years, we must leave for the sake of my health.

I have lost \$40000 on my home and had to spend what I did get on a caravan and vehicle to pull it so we have somewhere to live.

We thought we were here for life and it turned out to be a life sentence.

We cannot stay but if possible would like compensation on what we have lost. It would help us to enjoy the life that is left to us.

They are just some of the more than 150 letters from people.

At the end of the day, the owners of these caravan parks have made a decision. I am not criticising their decision; they are the owners of the caravan parks and have the right to decide on things. But what we need to be focusing on is: what obligations, moral and in a sense caring for these people, do we have as parliamentarians and ultimately as government to protect these people and indeed to assist them to live a life that is not, as some of them have already said, causing them great ill health, great worry and great concern? Many people who live in Belvedere Caravan Park are in the older age bracket. Many people in Aqua have nowhere else to go. They are not wealthy people. Many of them are on fixed incomes—pensioners. The people in Aqua are now faced with the situation of having to be out by June, and the people in Belvedere have a very big question mark over their future.

I want to return to the recommendations of the report by the Economics and Industry Standing Committee. There were some telling recommendations in that report; firstly, about government responsibility in either purchasing land or indeed looking at allocating crown land for the purposes of caravan parks, park home parks and/or camping grounds. Some members of this place would say it is not the responsibility of government. If we genuinely want caravan parks to remain, if we genuinely want caravan parks to provide affordable accommodation and if we genuinely want caravan parks—I am sure the Minister for Tourism will agree—to provide tourist bays for the many thousands of Australians and international visitors who travel around the country pulling caravans or motorhomes or whatever, then we must draw a line in the sand and say, “If the market is not going to provide these in the future, we have to.” It is quite simple.

Dr K.D. Hames: I agree.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I ask the Minister for Tourism, as he is a new minister, to re-look at the recommendations in that report that focus on tourism; I ask the Minister for Housing to re-look at the recommendations in the report focused on housing; and I ask the ministers responsible for some of the social portfolios to look at those recommendations. They are very good recommendations, but are they the answer to whether or not we want caravan parks as a lifestyle option for many Western Australians into the future. If the answer is, “No, we don’t”, then let it go on as it is now, as I must tell members that wherever we live, we will lose them. Mandurah is losing them now. Peel is losing them hand over fist. I am concerned about the other caravan parks that are left in Mandurah–Peel. There will possibly be very few, if any, caravan parks in the next five years. I believe the existing Pinjarra Road–based caravan parks have no certain future because the land they are on has become valuable for commercial reasons.

I therefore urge the government to consider this issue, particularly the minister who has responsibility for the environment. Having been a minister, I know how the Department of Environment and Conservation will tell the minister constantly that he cannot put a camping ground there or he cannot do this or that. We must look at this issue again. I believe DEC has a very big responsibility, particularly on the camping ground issue, but the Department of Housing must also consider every region where suitable crown land exists. The Minister for Planning was present in the chamber before. I cannot remember the name of his electorate. He is the honourable member for —

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr A.P. O’Gorman): Kalamunda.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The member for Kalamunda. If he were present in the chamber, I would tell him to please look at fast-tracking those proposals that actually want to develop lifestyle village–type accommodation for park homes and caravans that would allow the absolute certainty of a future for these people. Do not allow them to do a five-year stint whereby they do it for five years, then the land becomes valuable and they sell it off and do something else. However, if they are prepared in the market to provide the land, the services, the infrastructure and the head works, or government is looking at a partnership to provide for some of that, let us do it. Let us think outside the square because this is a massive problem I face in my electorate right now. The

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member for Forrestfield has seen it happen in his electorate, the member for Vasse is going to see it happen in his electorate. “Don’t you worry about that”—I sound like Joh Bjelke-Petersen—but as soon as we see land becoming even more valuable on that coastal strip in the Vasse–Busselton area, they will be under pressure. Do not wait for it to be too late. I have a great fear that it is too late for Mandurah, to be quite honest. I actually fear that it is too late for Mandurah now, unless we can allocate some land and unless government can identify land for caravan parks that includes providing for the people who need to shift their park homes and their caravans on to that land to give them some certainty. This is a matter of urgency. The answer lies in this report I am holding. Here we can get the answers. Therefore, I urge the members opposite who will face this problem in their own electorates to recognise that, please, this is a bipartisan thing. I do not want to play politics with this; I just want to see these people looked after. I want to see the D.H. Prossers of the world, the Doreen Leiths of the world, the Sally Fletchers of the world, the 93-year-old Lillian McAuliffes of the world not live every week wondering where they are going to be in the next couple of months or maybe 12 months. We cannot do that.

Dr K.D. Hames: Can I put a question to you? I know you’re short of time. Given that you were on the caravan park committee and I’m really keen to do what you’re talking about not just in our electorate but all over the state, but if you and I and Murray can work on what’s available, what fits your criteria in our Peel region, then I’m happy to work with you, working with them, trying to make it happen.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Excellent, and I take that offer up and I thank you for that, Minister for Tourism.

I will finish that there because there are a couple of other things that I want to mention, which I believe are important. Again, I am going to ask the government to assist us with another one. I tell you what: this is a beauty! It is the amendment to the retirement villages act. In October last year, the member for Joondalup who has been a tireless fighter—can I ask for an extension?

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I was sure you would, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr A.P. O’Gorman)—I knew you would!

The member for Joondalup took up this issue in Karrinyup, which is not even in his electorate. The member took up this issue for the people in the Karrinyup Lakes Lifestyle Village—people who have been severely treated. As I said in the debate we had in this place, if that was my mum, dad or grandparents who were living under this threat I would be ropeable. People from Karrinyup Lakes were here that afternoon. In that parliamentary debate I said that I do not want to come back to this place in a year’s time to debate the amendments. Members opposite, the information I have is that the amendments proposed for that legislation will probably not be presented to this house until the spring session—nearly a year from when we had that debate in October last year. It is a real problem. Members will be lobbied by the industry representatives who will say, “If you try to amend this act you’re going to destroy the viability of retirement villages in Western Australia.” Members will have them come to them saying, “Don’t you dare put these amendments in!” I tell you what: if members have any ounce of understanding of what is happening, they will have a look at what the association of retirement villages residents body is saying, and they are getting organised. I went to a meeting on 3 February at the Lady Brand Lifestyle Village in Mandurah. A huge crowd turned up, people from all around the region—people from the member for Murray–Wellington’s area, the member for Dawesville’s area and my area—to talk about these amendments and to talk about their key concerns. I want to remind members—I am sure they will all be written to by the WA Retirement Complexes Residents Association—and just highlight some of the things that retirement village residents are concerned about. They are concerned about having amendments that allow clarity in regard to recurrent charges. They are concerned about having clarity in the legislation with regard to the use and control of reserve funds that many retirement villages have as part of their setup. They are very concerned about the changes that are needed in relation to residents who have to leave a retirement village, usually for health reasons. Usually someone’s health has declined, they have been assessed by an aged care assessment team and their care needs have changed, so they actually have to get out of their unit or dwelling but, as the current legislation has it, many of them have to pay months of rental after they have left. Some have paid for years. A couple of examples have been given to me and, again, I will bring this matter up when the legislation is debated—I hope it is before the spring session—and I will highlight some of these examples.

There is the issue of the removal of a non-performing manager. Here is the classic example of what we have seen in the Karrinyup Lakes Lifestyle Village, but there is no provision in the legislation. There is a genuine disagreement and, in fact, in the case of Karrinyup Lakes Lifestyle Village, an appalling bullying of residents, but there is no effective method in the legislation to remove a non-performing manager. There is not even an actual description of exactly what qualifications a manager of these places should have.

Mr A.J. Waddell: They need to be a fit person.

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Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: That is right; they need to be a fit person—that could be anything! I am a fit person but I do not think I would be able to manage a centre like that, though.

They are very keen to see the establishment of a seniors housing information service. We all know the population of Australia continues to age. We know that within the next 20 years, I think it is, over 25 per cent of our population will be over 65 or 60—a massive number! Then we have a wave of baby boomers who are sort of surfing down that wave of population change. We will have a massive issue if we do not look at this legislation and get it right. We have to get it right but we also must ensure that it is not slanted totally in favour of the operators. The residents have rights and they certainly want to have those rights respected. Then of course there are also the issues that they raise about residents' liability for legal fees. Although members may not have any retirement villages in their electorates—some electorates do not have any—everyone has a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother and a father, if they are still alive, of course. Everyone has a family member who is a potential retirement village dweller and we have a responsibility to this very large sector of people to ensure that we get this legislation right. But do not drag it out! The member for Joondalup brought up the Karrinyup Lakes issue years ago—I think it was at least two years ago. One of the things the previous minister, who is in the house, said at the end of that debate was, “We had the review and I am trying to get the amendments done so we can get this legislation into this house.” The information we have is that those amendments will not see the light of day until the spring session. That is a real concern. I was angry that afternoon—the previous minister probably remembers—I stormed out of this chamber because I pointed at him, probably rudely, and said, “I do not want to be back in here in a year's time still having not solved this issue.” I fear that is where we are heading. If the new minister is not prepared or able to bring this legislation into this place before the spring session—look out! I tell you what: I always said this, do not get between a senior and a concession—that is the first thing we do not do. The second thing is: do not dilly-dally. There is a great bloke who stood—I cannot remember his name; I wish I could remember his name—at the meeting and gave a very beautifully veiled threat; about as subtle as a smack in the face. Hon Sally Talbot was there, too. The man said, “You people better remember that this is a big issue for us and we'll remember.” I tell members that a lot of them will remember if we do not get it right and if we do not get the legislation into this house as soon as possible.

We are going to put pressure on the minister. I want to know why it will take until the spring session to get the bill into this place. I want to know what the amendments are. We do not know what the amendments are yet. I suspect that all government members will be lobbied. The Retirement Villages Association will get on to them and say that they should not allow that legislation because it will ruin these retirement villages and they will collapse. They will say that it will be terrible and retirement villages will have no future. Members opposite should not be sold a pup. They should also listen to the many thousands of people who choose to live in retirement villages as a lifestyle option. These people are as important, if not even more important, than a lobby group from the sector. I will talk to them. If the RBA wants to talk to me, I have no problem with that. I will listen to what it has to say and see what amendments it has and how it may destroy the viability of the industry. The government must not be hoodwinked.

In the five minutes that I have left, I want to speak about a couple of issues that are of real concern to me. The first issue relates to police resources. Late last year the member for Girrawheen and I went out on patrol on a Saturday night with Senior Sergeant Chris Hoath, the officer in charge of the Mandurah police station, and another senior officer. It was very worthwhile to do that. I am sure other members have done that. It was very interesting. I take my hat off to the policemen and women in my electorate. The Peel police officers are fantastic. They are amazing. The one thing that concerns me is that it is quite feasible and possible, even in a place such as Mandurah, that we will have only up to two cars on the road, particularly on weekends or a weeknight. As Senior Sergeant Hoath highlighted, if an incident takes one or two cars off the road, whether it is a fight or a violent attack, the police have to rely on backup from other districts, and sometimes that can take time. I want more police in the Peel district even though it is now part of the south metropolitan district, which I do not agree with but I will not go into that tonight. I believe that the Peel region, with its growing population, particularly in view of a number of unfortunate recent incidents, needs more resources. I am appealing to the minister. We need at least 20 officers stationed at Mandurah–Peel.

The final issue I would like to raise is one that I know the member for Dawesville, the Minister for Health, is concerned about. I know that because I have written to him and he wrote back to me, and I appreciate his letter. We are having a major problem with mosquitoes in the Peel region. I am now concerned that the impact of this could be felt. I do not even like saying this publicly, particularly in a place such as Parliament, but I have to say it. We have a problem with mosquitoes in the region. The minister knows about it, the councils know about it and the residents know about it very much. It was very sad to have parents ring my office and say that they have active kids—young boys and girls—who love to get outdoors in the summer holidays but cannot. When they go outside, they get absolutely attacked by mosquitoes. It does not matter whether parents put insect repellent on

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their kids or dress them in clothes so that they look like they are dressed for winter, the mosquitoes still attack. The mosquitoes are attacking everyone, no matter where they are in Mandurah. I know that the minister would have received complaints in his office. It does not matter where people live, whether it be near the estuary, by the ocean, on the ridges, down south, up in the northern part or around the Mandurah Ocean Marina. I could not believe it when people told me they stayed at the Mandurah Ocean Marina a few weeks ago and got attacked by mosquitoes there. It is a real problem.

I think the problem for the government and the local shires is that even though they have been told—it is true; I do not have any problem with the minister's letter—that the increased numbers of mosquitoes is due to the extreme high tides, people are not buying it. They are saying they want more done about it because it is affecting their lifestyle. People cannot have mates down to visit. The minister should read the one-line letter to the editor in today's *The West Australian* from a lady. I will not say what she said because I am too embarrassed. It is awful. If that message starts to get out strongly, my region will have an identity problem. I am asking the Minister for Health to work even harder. It is our electorate. I live there every day. I do not want to send my kids outside because they are babies and I do not want them to get Ross River virus or Barmah Forest virus. We have to revisit what is happening because the people are not buying what the minister is saying about the unusual high tides and that sort of stuff. We have to do something more. It will affect our tourism and our local economy and the image of Mandurah and the region. We have a responsibility to do whatever we can and we should not allow this to continue.

MR P.T. MILES (Wanneroo) [8.36 pm]: I rise to support the government's agenda for the forthcoming year, as outlined by the Premier earlier today. There have been several government achievements in my electorate of Wanneroo over the past 12 months. Perhaps the most significant is the finalisation of the structure plan for east Wanneroo. The structure plan responds to the items raised in last year's draft version and subsequent public submissions and provides a degree of certainty to landowners affected by the plan. This is a high-level strategic document that will guide future amendments to the metropolitan region scheme and will provide a framework for preparation of more detailed localised plans for the locality. It outlines the necessary steps for urbanisation to occur, which will guide the future development of east Wanneroo.

This is one issue that has dogged residents in the rural areas of Wanneroo for more than two decades. Many rural residents in my electorate have struggled with their retirement planning and associated financial issues because of the lack of a finalised structure plan for the area. Unfortunately, this has meant that they have been unable to start new ventures on their properties or redevelop existing properties, which has caused them much heartache and frustration. Consequently, it has been one of my top priorities since my election to Parliament two years ago, so I am very pleased that the Minister for Planning, Hon John Day, has now responded to their need to know how future urbanisation is likely to unfold in their locality. I am personally delighted that the Barnett–Grylls government has been able to achieve, in Wanneroo in two years, what the Labor government could not achieve in eight years of incumbency. More importantly, 20 years of uncertainty for the residents of Wanneroo, Mariginiup, Jandabup and Gnangara is now over and they can now make plans to move forward with much greater confidence.

Another achievement this year was the return of the V8 Supercars Championship Series to Barbagallo Raceway. The state government is committing more than \$10.5 million to upgrade the facility to ensure that the venue is suitable for local motorsports all year round and can host the 70 000 local, interstate and overseas guests expected to attend the two-day 2011 V8 Supercars Championship Series. Safety issues with the track and the pits will be addressed in stage 1, and stage 2 will provide a new hard stand as well as back-of-house services and corporate and race control facilities. There will be new medical facilities, and the communications infrastructure will also be greatly improved. I am delighted that the championship will involve significant marketing both locally, nationally and internationally. Some exciting promotional activities, including a city street parade, are planned to promote this event at Wanneroo.

Members in this house may have heard me speak before about the need to improve safety on Wanneroo Road, especially in the Wanneroo town site.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr A.P. O'Gorman): Member, I point out to you that at this point it seems to me that you are reading your speech. Normally you can use extensive notes, but you are not permitted to read your speech.

Mr P.T. MILES: Dual roadworks to the value of \$18 million were completed earlier this year on a three kilometre stretch of Wanneroo Road from Wallawa Street to Joondalup Drive. This has overcome a number of traffic hazards in that notorious black spot area. It also created problems on the corner of Clarkson Avenue and Wanneroo Road. The improved road conditions are a great boon, particularly to the Tapping and Ashby residents along that strip of Wanneroo Road.

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Still on the topic of road safety, the improvement of the state government's black spot funding for line marking on a lot of our rural roads, including Sydney and Gngangara Roads, has also made huge changes out the back of Wanneroo. Some original residents have had huge issues with traffic management including people wandering all over the road causing near head-on collisions, and people having to run off road because of safety concerns.

I also thank the government for three more independent public schools, namely Hocking, Wanneroo and Carramar Primary Schools. I congratulate the schools on the quality of their applications given that over 130 schools applied for IPS status in the 2010 round. I am sure that these three school communities will welcome the opportunity to run their schools autonomously and make decisions that meet the specific needs of their students. They also join the other IPS schools in my electorate: Ashdale Secondary College, Ashdale Primary School, Madeley Primary School and of course Landsdale Primary School, which is part of the member for West Swan's electorate. It encompasses an IPS cluster in that portion of my electorate.

The state government has also provided \$6 million funding to Wanneroo Senior High School. The work included a new dance performance facility. It also upgraded some of the facilities in the science department as well as the maths classrooms and laboratories. The music area now has a sprung floor and a dance studio for the dance students. It has a fully-equipped studio where students can record their own music.

Over the Christmas period, Kingsway Christian College and Ashdale Primary School received much-needed LED flashing electronic lights on Hartman Drive. Unfortunately, people still do not see those flashing signs. There was a blitz in the first week of the school year. Twenty-six drivers were pulled over for speeding above the 40-kilometre-an-hour school zone. It seems that no matter what is put in place, the message is not getting through. Our local police are obviously very frustrated. They are constantly targeting this area to try to improve road safety.

The state government's commitment to the Wanneroo electorate has been amply demonstrated in the past 12 months by the Premier and 14 ministers visiting various parts of the electorate. They have visited constituents in their business premises and they have visited community leaders. They have also attended a volunteer function, which was very well received by the electorate of Wanneroo. We have been able to show ministers where the needs are and where the problems are in order to have them fixed. The wish list for this year is not that long. Although much has been achieved, more needs to be done. We are moving in the right direction. We need a couple of big-ticket items. We clearly need —

An opposition member interjected.

Mr P.T. MILES: It did not work for her, so I am going to use it!

One big-ticket item is something that the members for Joondalup, Ocean Reef and Kingsley have also been promoting; that is, the third lane extension on our freeway north. It is a vital piece of infrastructure that is missing. It was not delivered by previous governments. I know both sides of Parliament have lobbied for this. We are hoping to see some result in the upcoming budget. An extension of the freeway further north is needed. It is a vital piece of infrastructure. Just to the north of my electorate, in Neerabup, we have an industrial estate, Meridian Park, that can accommodate up to 60 000 jobs given the right road infrastructure to get people in and out of the area. It is vital we get that link in place. We need to assist both the Joondalup and Wanneroo councils to build road networks as local roads are involved as well. I am sure we will see money in the budget this year for a further extension of the freeway.

I would like to point out some other budget items I have been requesting from the government over the past few months. Wanneroo Road north needs to be addressed. Joondalup Drive to Hall Road—but there is no road there!—about \$45 million to \$48 million is required to dual lane that piece of road. Major earthworks are required. For safety reasons, I would like to see that in the budget. Wanneroo Road is a major arterial road north, particularly with the link-up to Cervantes Road that went in a couple of months ago. Traffic numbers are quite high. The Wanneroo Road dual link needs to extend further north. That is one of the issues for my electorate, especially the Carramar residents in the northern area of the electorate.

Traffic lights seem to be an issue all the way around—some people want them; some people do not want them. We need to put a couple of sets of traffic lights in this year. One of those sets would enable the residents of Lake Joondalup Lifestyle Village to exit right. At the moment they can only turn left. They have to travel about three kilometres before they can do a U-turn safely and travel back north on Wanneroo Road. The Minister for Transport, Troy Buswell, is getting some design works and costings done for those traffic lights. Traffic lights are also required on Joondalup Drive in Banksia Grove. A lot of young kids cross Joondalup Drive from the northern part of Banksia Grove to the southern part of Banksia Grove where the primary school is. It is quite a serious issue. We have had a couple of young girls knocked over—one by a bus; the other by a truck. Unfortunately, one of those children was severely injured and will never walk again. There is a school crossing

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there but kids do not seem to use that. The installation of traffic lights would slow traffic down enough, especially the trucks, so kids will be able to judge the speed a bit better and cross that road safely.

The Tapping residents got a second campus as part of their primary school. That issue existed before this Liberal-National government came to office. Thirteen hundred students were registered at Tapping Primary School this year. To alleviate the immediate issue, the Department of Education built a second campus to Tapping Primary School—Spring Hill campus. It has got to a stage where we need to actually make that a full-size school—a K-7 or K-6; whichever way the government goes. The parents of students travel between the two schools. One or two parents I have spoken to actually travel between three schools. One mum said she has a child at Wanneroo Senior High School, one child in kindy at one of the Tapping schools, and one child in year 5. This mum now has to travel between three schools to get her children to school. Quite frankly, it is unacceptable. We need to convert that school into a full school as soon as we can. The population growth in the area is phenomenal —

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr A.P. O’Gorman): Members, it is getting more and more difficult for Hansard to hear and certainly for me to hear the member for Wanneroo. I ask that if you need to have conversations, you take them outside. The member for Kimberley, I can hear you quite distinctly up here but I cannot hear the member for Wanneroo.

Mr P.T. MILES: I think most people can see the growth in the Wanneroo electorate from the statistics on the Electoral Commission site. When I was elected in 2008, there were 22 000 electors in my electorate. Today, there are 31 000 electors on the electoral roll, and I am 35 per cent over the quota that has just been set by the Electoral Commission. That growth will increase even further. The population growth in my electorate means that the demand for new schools, new infrastructure and public transport is quite high. I know that this government is looking at all those issues quite seriously. Hopefully, we will see some action on them in the coming months.

In summary, I am looking forward to the 2011 parliamentary year. I think we have all gone through a learning curve, even if we are reading from bits of paper! I guess we need to rely on what we know. However, I am looking forward to the 2011 parliamentary year and continuing to work in my local community to help to achieve all the things that my electorate expects from a local member of Parliament.

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro) [8.51 pm]: It is a pleasure to reply to the Premier’s Statement this evening because I am the bearer of good news.

Mr P. Abetz interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Possibly for the other side it may be that I have only one shadow portfolio instead of the two that I used to have. However, I have good news as regards the seat of Warnbro and the suburbs within that seat. Like most members in this chamber, I come bearing a shopping list. Invariably, that is what we do at this time of the year. When we have this chance to speak on any subject that we choose, we talk about our electorates. In the previous year, we identified a lot of things that each of our electorates require. Everyone has done that. I have done the same. No doubt all members will take the opportunity to list a few things with which they might want to pique the interest of the Treasurer in the lead-up to his budget deliberations. I have done that. The only difference is that I have the means for the Treasurer to pay for all the things on the shopping list—not just pay for them, but pay for them and make a lot more money besides for a revenue stream for the government. It is all down to the Minister for Housing.

I congratulate the new Minister for Housing on his reappointment to the cabinet. It is good to see him back there because I have a shopping list for him that I want to discuss. I am going to air it tonight. The previous Minister for Housing is fully aware of what I am talking about because I wrote to him last year about it. Fortunately for him, he will no longer be bothered by me because he no longer has responsibility for the subject that I am about to discuss. However, I am going to refer to a media release that the former minister distributed in June last year. That was about three housing developments that the Department of Housing is undertaking in an effort, according to the minister, to provide more housing opportunities for the people of Western Australia—that is, to provide land and affordable housing. In fact, he said —

The State Government is addressing the shortage of affordable housing in Western Australia by moving ahead with three major developments in Perth’s southern and north-eastern corridors.

Fortunately for the people of the electorate of Warnbro, one of those developments is in the suburb of Golden Bay, which is mentioned specifically in this media statement by the minister. The minister said —

“I am committed to bringing forward the release of Department of Housing land in an orderly way, as part of the Government’s commitment to ensure sufficient land is available to meet ongoing demand, especially for affordable housing.” ...

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So said Minister Marmion at that time. He went on to specifically address the development in Golden Bay, which is the one I am referring to also. He said that it —

... will be developed into residential lots, a primary school site and a commercial area, and is ideally located, with close proximity —

This is very interesting to me —

to Rockingham, Mandurah and the proposed Karnup Train Station on the Mandurah line.

That is one of the key factors in determining whether to go ahead with the Golden Bay development. It is because this Golden Bay development is close to the future Karnup train station. I found that announcement very interesting, because in last year's budget there is no mention of the Karnup train station. Land is allocated for a station in Karnup, on Paganoni Road. It is sitting there waiting nicely and assigned especially for a transport-oriented development to go ahead in the future. The much-vaunted Keralup town site is on the other side of that railway station. Diagonally opposite the Keralup site, on the ocean side, is the Golden Bay site. So on the western side we have the Golden Bay site and on the eastern side is the Keralup site, but the Golden Bay site is going ahead right now. Keralup appears to be a bit of a pipe dream for the future.

Mr J.E. McGrath: It has environmental issues.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Yes, it does, particularly in light of the member for Mandurah's reference to mosquitoes. That may be part of the consideration.

The fact that the Golden Bay development is going ahead is very relevant to the minister's mention of the train station, because, as I said, there was no money in last year's budget for a train station, yet part of the justification for the development is the Karnup train station. The reason that is significant is that it is a significant development. We are talking about an additional 2 100 residential lots. In the order of—it is only a rough estimate, and I suspect it may be quite a conservative estimate—4 500 new residents will be living in that housing development once it is completed. The reason I say that that figure might be a little conservative is that one in nine of the residences in this new development will be Homeswest houses—state housing. One in nine is a bit higher than the normal proportion. That has raised some concerns amongst people in the electorate. It is undeniable that some people have come into my office and raised concerns about the fact that that ratio appears to be a little higher than normal. I am not too concerned about that fact. I am concerned that the ratio is a little higher, but only in the event that appropriate facilities and services are not provided. That would then be a concern. If, as the minister suggests, we are going to get a brand-new train station in Karnup and that will provide public transport, there will be additional feeder bus routes. The bus routes will have to be changed, because currently they go from south to north. They all head up towards Warnbro, and mostly miss Warnbro and go on up to Rockingham. Therefore, the suburbs of Singleton, Golden Bay, Secret Harbour, Port Kennedy and Warnbro are not necessarily well serviced by those feeder buses. However, in the event that a new station is developed at Karnup, it would be possible for feeder bus services to go from the coastal suburbs across to that station. That would facilitate public transport and people would be able to live there, particularly those who might be on lower incomes and occupying those Homeswest residences. They would be able to access public transport.

I said earlier that I have a shopping list, but that is only one item on the shopping list. That is a big-ticket item, and I do not necessarily expect the Minister for Transport; Housing, or even the former Minister for Housing, to snap his fingers and make that one happen in the next budget. I highlight right now that there will be a lot of talk, focus and pressure on the government over the next year or so to bring that project forward. I know that the project is going ahead. One has only to go down there and see the land that has been cleared. The earthworks for the Golden Bay development are pushing along at a mighty rate. It is very impressive. However, one can see that there will be a demand. Questions will be asked. For a long time now, ever since the magnificent southern suburbs railway was opened just before Christmas in the year that I was elected, there has been pressure on governments of both persuasions—initially the Labor government and now the Liberal-National government—to provide a station in that gap between Mandurah and Warnbro. It is a big gap. There are a lot of rapidly growing suburbs in the outer suburbs. The member for Wanneroo referred to the fact that his suburbs are growing rapidly. We are at the other end of the metropolitan area and the same thing is happening. There is rapid growth in an outer metropolitan area where there are not that many established services. These sorts of things are required, particularly if we are going to put people in state housing where there is not that much in the way of public transport. My real reason for raising the issue tonight is a much more immediate demand. I will be pushing for a station in Karnup; rest assured Treasurer, Minister for Transport, Minister for Housing—whoever is responsible.

Dr A.D. Buti: What about royalties for regions?

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Mr P. PAPALIA: Unfortunately, the areas eligible for royalties for regions extend right up to Madora Bay, one suburb south of my electorate, which ends at the municipality of Rockingham boundaries, at the southern end of Singleton. As I have said many times before in this place, someone could pick up a stone in Singleton and throw it into royalties for regions land and it will land in Madora Bay. The fortunate residents who live in the member for Mandurah's seat will receive royalties for regions funding of some description—a limited amount compared with what some other very fortunate electorates receive—but we will not get any in the metropolitan area. That is not where we will get the money from. Where we will get the money from for the things I am about to talk about will be from within the Golden Bay development. As I said, the previous minister announced in June that he was about to cram another 4 500 or so residents into the suburb of Golden Bay. We have quite possibly the premier sporting facility in the whole state, if not the entire nation, at Lark Hill, which is between Secret Harbour and Port Kennedy.

Mr J.E. McGrath: Better than the MCG?

Mr P. PAPALIA: I am talking about a range of facilities. Lark Hill caters for rugby league and rugby union, with mirrored stadium-clubrooms in the middle and change rooms underneath. That is one sporting facility. The next ones along are hockey and cricket grounds. There are multiple cricket and soccer facilities. All sports are catered for there, with the exception of Australian football. Within the confines of the Lark Hill development there are earthworks for two Australian football grounds. In the middle is adequate space for a magnificent double-sided stadium with clubrooms above it and change rooms below, replicating what is there for rugby, hockey, cricket and soccer. The only thing that is missing is the funding. This Australian football facility had been budgeted in the 10-year business plan of the Rockingham City Council. Unfortunately, in March or April this year, due to even more demand in the Baldivis part of the Rockingham municipality, funding for Lark Hill stage 2, the Australian football ground, was removed from the 10-year business plan. That funding was redirected to Baldivis, so Baldivis, which desperately needs Australian football facilities, will be funded in the City of Rockingham's 10-year business plan. That is a rapidly growing area. Settlers Hills is there. Many, many suburbs are filling up out there and they desperately need Australian football facilities. But the coastal suburbs of Port Kennedy, Secret Harbour, Golden Bay and Singleton will not be serviced by those facilities. With the minister throwing 4 500 additional people into those coastal suburbs, there is a desperate need for recreational facilities for the children who will be coming to live there.

Right now there is a Secret Harbour Football Club that services the children of the coastal strip. It is a very well managed and magnificent club that focuses primarily on teaching young people how to be good young adults, and, secondly, on teaching them about winning and losing. It is a mentoring organisation. It targets in particular young boys and young men who, if they are not provided with this service of safe male mentoring, will get themselves into trouble and will go on to cause us all problems and will cost the community in the long run through entering a life that is not on the straight and narrow. That club is the perfect example of what we want in our community. We want clubs that not only provide sporting training to keep kids fit and healthy but also teach them how to be good young members of the community. Their president, Peter McClay, is a gift to the community. I commend him and his committee for their efforts. Already there are 500 young boys in that football club. It is an impressive club. It came to me with a business plan to grow to 1 000 in the next five years based on the Golden Bay development. Do members know what happened when the club went to the City of Rockingham with that plan?

Mr P. Abetz: No sports grounds.

Mr P. PAPALIA: They have an inadequate ground in Rhonda Scarrott Oval in Golden Bay, which cannot be expanded and will never meet the club's requirements. It split its games between Rhonda Scarrott Oval and the Secret Harbour Primary School oval, which is also inadequate and dangerous. Children have been injured due to its inadequate facilities. When the club asked Rockingham City Council about its expansion plans with the intention of moving to Lark Hill stage 2, which they had always planned, they were told, "Don't grow your club." The response was entirely inappropriate. I am not condemning the City of Rockingham council. The mayor, Barry Sammels, is a good bloke; he means well and if he had the money, he would do it. The chief executive officer, Andrew Hammond, is a wonderful CEO who performs a magnificent service for the people of Rockingham. If he had the money, he would do it. They had to prioritise. There are rapidly growing suburbs right across the southern and eastern suburbs of Rockingham, and they had to do one thing or the other. They could not do both Lark Hill and Baldivis, so they went to Baldivis, which has more capacity to expand in coming years. Fortunately, it occurred to me shortly after I learnt of this advice given to the club by the City of Rockingham that perhaps some additional funding might be available when the government develops Golden Bay, because not all of it will be state housing—far from it.

Mr J.E. McGrath: It's very expensive land.

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Mr P. PAPALIA: Yes, it is expensive land, as the member for South Perth identified. It is interesting to consider what a lot might bring to the government in this development at Golden Bay. Given there are about 2 100 lots, at current market values, taking off possible development costs, we could be looking at \$190 000 per block. I am looking at the previous Minister for Housing, but he is ignoring me because he does not want to tell me whether I am anywhere near being accurate; he is hoping I will go away, or he is just busy. Either way I reckon that estimate is pretty accurate. If it is accurate, the revenue stream to the state from the Golden Bay development would be in the order of \$400 million. I know that these developments go towards funding our state housing.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr P. PAPALIA: I would never dream of extracting all that money; I would not be so greedy. Even though I am asking on behalf of my electorate, I would not dare to come into this place and suggest a minister of the Crown give all that money to the electorate that is generating it. That would be somewhat akin to what the National Party does every day of the week. I would not do that. I am being reasonable and responsible. I am making the suggestion to the Minister for Housing, Hon Troy Buswell. In fairness, I have to say that I have written to him, so he is aware of it and I drew his attention to it again tonight, but I have not told him about the train station. I have told him about the funding required for the Australian football grounds at Lark Hill. It is a little bit out of the box. The bureaucrats in the Department of Housing will say, "No, we can't do it; our brain hurts because the development is in this suburb of Golden Bay, and Lark Hill is just a kilometre or so up the road, therefore it is all too difficult." That is ridiculous. It is completely legal and it is completely achievable for a contribution to be gained for the Lark Hill development, or at least for the completion of the Australian football grounds at Lark Hill, from the Golden Bay development. I have checked that, and there is no real impediment other than bureaucratic resistance. Therefore, it is quite possible for the government to take a chunk of money from the \$400 million that it is going to generate out of the Golden Bay development and assign what I have determined is in the order of, at the most, \$15 million to build the football grounds and the clubrooms, and to build a new Secret Harbour Surf Life Saving Club facility.

The Secret Harbour Surf Life Saving Club is one of the most rapidly growing surf clubs in the state; it provides a magnificent service. Once again, it is another club that focuses on mentoring young people towards being good young adults and good community members and then, secondly, does its other activities of being a sporting club and providing a service on the beach. That club had 700 or so members the last time I checked, and they have been scraping around trying to find the money to build an adequate surf club facility. It has a surf club facility that is very old and was built by Satterley when it built the Secret Harbour development, and it is in dire need of renewal. There has been a long, ongoing process by a committee, in conjunction with the City of Rockingham, working towards trying to accrue adequate money and the plans to go ahead and build that club facility. Beyond that, the \$15 million could also cover the refurbishing of Rhonda Scarrott Oval, which is currently inadequate for the football club but is still in Golden Bay and will remain there after the development. That could be used for a minor sport other than Australian football, something like lacrosse for which people do not get facilities —

Mr J.E. McGrath: It will end up like the Gold Coast pretty soon! They will have so many facilities out there it will be magnificent; we'll all be going there.

Mr P. PAPALIA: The member has been to Lark Hill; he knows it is a magnificent facility. This is a regional facility. The other side of the Lark Hill facility is Port Kennedy, and Port Kennedy has a junior football club that is just starting. It was established this year. The Secret Harbour Dockers football club is much more advanced. It has plans to grow to 1 000 members. This year it is going into colts, so it is becoming a seniors club. It has girls playing football, and it intends to also expand into a cricket club. Therefore, it will be an all-year-round club providing facilities, training and mentoring for all these fine young Western Australians, and keeping them out of trouble. Also, as the kids grow to that age at which it becomes legal for them to go into pubs and other facilities that serve alcohol, instead of them leaving the sport and going into other activities, which may be far more negative, they can stay with the club. They will have a social facility—a facility at which their mums and dads are present as well. However, those mums and dads can stay and have their own young kids all together inside a licensed premises, but it would be within the confines of this secure club, which, as I said, is a great asset to the community and is focused very much on mentoring people towards a good outcome.

I have looked at the figures. The development is going to bring \$400 million into the kitty. I understand that the developer's take out of that will be about \$25 million. There is a tender process. I do not know whether it is completed, but there are about 11 tenderers for that process, and the successful tenderer will get \$25 million out of that \$400 million. We are therefore down to around \$375 million. I said that \$399 million was the original amount, so that makes it \$374 million. Take out the \$15 million that we need for our football clubs, stadiums, change rooms, clubrooms, the two grounds, all the car parks and that sort of thing, and the Secret Harbour Surf

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Life Saving Club; and I would not mind throwing in there another 150 grand to finish the dual-use path between Mandurah and Singleton.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Hear, hear!

Mr P. PAPALIA: Incredibly, as the member for Mandurah knows, there is a dual-use path that goes to nowhere.

Mr D.A. Templeman: It ends! We've built our bit; you haven't built your bit!

Mr P. PAPALIA: The City of Mandurah built its dual-use path, and it goes from Mandurah city, continuing the extensive dual-use paths in that part of the world, up to the boundary of the City of Rockingham where it abruptly ends. There is a sign that says "Path Ends", and it does! On the other side of that is just sand, so there is a gap of about a kilometre.

Mr J.E. McGrath: Didn't your government spend any money down there?

Mr P. PAPALIA: As the member knows, the money is given to the council and it allocates it to its five-year path plan. The Mandurah City Council finished its path only last year, which drew to the attention of the residents of Singleton the fact that there is a slight gap—a bit of a drama!

Mr D.A. Templeman: The city is worried that if it finishes the path, people will all start moving south to Mandurah!

Mr P. PAPALIA: Possibly. There is a lovely lady called Kristene Palmer, who has something in the order of 500 signatories to a petition, and she has been harassing the City of Rockingham and urging it to get this path built so that children who reside in Singleton, Golden Bay and Secret Harbour and who go to some of the non-government schools in the northern suburbs of Mandurah can use it in a healthy and safe fashion. Instead of having to ride along the side of the road or get their mum and dad to drive them, they can actually ride, and we all want that as an outcome. There is Bikewest! But I understand there is only so much in the bucket. However, this suburb and these people will contribute \$400 million to the bucket, so 150 grand for this end of the bike path is a drop in the ocean. Therefore, we will throw that on the list as well!

Poor old Minister Buswell saw me this evening, and at that stage I did not have a train station; I had only the football club. But now I am throwing in the football club, the surf club and a kilometre of bike path, and I will be harassing him, I will be haranguing him and I will be torturing the Minister for Transport in coming months to ensure that if it is not done this year, at least in the out years we have planning for that station at Paganoni Road, that Karnup station, because that is essential to ensure that the people who will reside in this development have the ability to use public transport. It is not possible to use the current public transport, which is already inadequate. The buses travel from Mandurah and go up through the Mandurah suburbs. They go right to the top of Madora Bay and then they turn right. They go into Mandurah Road, chuck a left, travel a couple of kilometres and then go into Singleton Road. But, they do not turn left and go down to the southern suburbs of Singleton; they just head north. An old person living in the southern suburbs of Singleton would have no chance. People either drive or someone comes and picks them up. The buses do not go down there because, as we know, there are very clever people at the Public Transport Authority. They do all the calculations to ensure that the rubber on the tyres does not get worn out by doing too many hard turns, and I commend them for that. They do a good job and should not be criticised for this. We should have a road between Madora Bay and Singleton, but that is another subject that I will not come to right now.

In the meantime, I give notice to all responsible ministers that the Karnup station is a priority, particularly in light of the massive injection of funds that will come from the Golden Bay development. As an absolute priority, right now, this year in the budget, money should be allocated for the Lark Hill Australian football clubrooms and two grounds, the Secret Harbour Surf Life Saving Club, and that path that links up to Mandurah's path almost all the way to Singleton.

I have another few minutes, so I will briefly cover one other subject. It stems from the shadow portfolio I used to have. I am disappointed that the Attorney General is not here, even though he is no longer Minister for Corrective Services. But the Minister for Corrective Services is here; Terry, this might be of interest to you!

Several members interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Sorry! In September last year the then Minister for Corrective Services told us in this place that he had cancelled what was then called the family intensive team program because it did not work. Earlier in 2009 he had commissioned an independent review of this program, which was an Australian first. It was an international program based on multi-systemic therapy developed overseas in many different countries and brought to Australia by the previous Labor government. It was designed for and targets specifically the worst juvenile offenders who would otherwise have to go to prison—to Banksia Hill Detention Centre—and cost us

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\$220 000 a year to house each of them in Banksia Hill. The minister told us in his speech that it was not working. He said —

Unfortunately, it has not been very successful. I have determined that we will scrap that program and divert the money to other working programs, such as the one I just mentioned inside the Department of Corrective Services. At my request, an independent review and audit of the family intensive program was undertaken in 2009. The idea of the program was that the worst juvenile offenders, who came from the most dysfunctional families, would be seen on an intensive basis. That is a good policy. It was admirably undertaken. However, it was very difficult to achieve and unfortunately it has not worked.

He gave the impression that the report suggested that it did not work. He said it cost \$110 000 for each juvenile who completed the program. It cost \$220 000 to lock them up in Banksia Hill. These are the guys who are going to Banksia Hill if this program does not run. It beats me how that is logical. It beats me how that can be determined as a reason for scrapping the program. Nevertheless, I asked for that report, and he said he would give it to me at that time. He said across the chamber he would give it to me. Subsequently I asked him, and he said he would give it to me. He did not give it to me, so I sought it from the department under freedom of information. Ultimately, on the very last sitting day of Parliament last year I received a report—coincidentally, I suppose—from the department. The findings were that there was general agreement among those consulted in the course of this evaluation that the intensive supervision program fills an important need in terms of family systemic intervention in cases where the young person is at high risk of a criminal career. The recommendations stated —

The Department of Corrective Services should persevere with Multi-systemic Therapy. The alternative of developing an equivalent intensive family intervention program for young offenders in-house would be extremely costly and unlikely to be very different in character or more effective.

In fact, I would say that the minister categorically misled the house.

MS A.R. MITCHELL (Kingsley) [9.21 pm]: I am very pleased to rise to respond to the Premier's Statement because there is no doubt that the economy of Western Australia and the position that we hold within the nation is at a very high level. We are in a very fortunate position, and I must say that it is very pleasing to be part of this Liberal-National government. At the end of last year I spent quite a bit of time talking about the positive things that are occurring in my electorate with the independent public schools and the decrease in crime, so I am going to take a slightly different approach to this response to the Premier's Statement and talk much more about the social fabric that this government is also doing a lot of work on. It was triggered for me because, as we have all discussed in condolence motions, our country and not just our state has been through a pretty rough time over December, January and February. I, for one, certainly would like to express my condolences to all those people who have been through some very difficult circumstances. Daily, we have seen people go through some very difficult circumstances. Nobody wants to see that sort of devastation and no-one wants to experience that sort of loss, but we are facing it, and it has been a very interesting experience.

As I watched what was going on, and particularly in its aftermath, I noticed that there was a very good spirit. We have talked about it before; we have heard the words "mateship" and "spirit" and all those sorts of things. I was watching the events in Queensland in particular, because I think it was more evident there. The phenomenon that residents went through was enormous. The spirit, this mateship, this getting involved, is actually going to be the basis for the regrowth of Queensland. It is not just bricks and mortar. What Queensland has—we also have it in Western Australia but I saw it first in Queensland—is this spirit, this growth and this support of each other. This is going to build a much better state—more than just the buildings and bridges. I am talking about social capital. I am talking about the spirit of people who just got out, without even introducing themselves, and started working. They gave people clothes, they gave people food, they gave people a bed; they did not ask. What do we normally do? We say, "We can't do that; we can't go there", but it was happening. It happened at Lake Clifton, it happened at Carnarvon, and it happened just recently in the Perth hills. The social capital that Queensland has at the moment is going to see growth in the state's sense of purpose. I am very proud about that, because I am also very proud that it will occur in Western Australia—and it is occurring. Social capital is something that many members talked about in their speeches, particularly when we get down to what is happening in the culture in our community.

I will take the opportunity to quote from a book by Hugh Mackay titled *What Makes Us Tick?* He talks about social capital. According to my notes, he says —

... when we complain that we are losing our sense of community and our moral clarity, we don't always realise that the second complaint is an inevitable consequence of the first.

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Our moral sense is a social sense, derived from the experience of living in a community and learning to take the needs and wellbeing of others into account, especially those who are not in our personal circle of friends.

That is why local neighbourhoods—the actual places where we share the experience of living in communities—play such a crucial role in our moral formation. The local neighbourhood is the test bed of our values.

If we were interested in restoring or raising the moral tone of a community, the best way would be to put people back together.

This disaster—disasters often do this—brought people back together.

There are many other ways to do this. Mackay also points out that we do not raise the moral tone of the community by passing laws and making legislation. We have all acknowledged that at different times in our speeches in the Parliament: connecting with people, giving people a purpose, and getting people together is really important. I had a very pleasant experience yesterday afternoon. I love conducting street meetings. I held one at five o'clock yesterday, and twenty-five people came. Once again it was an unfortunate circumstance that caused it, but people were saying, "You know, it is a shame—we should get together more often." We all thought the same. It is that simple connecting people in the community that gets that community working together. It does not have to be a disaster.

I then started thinking: how does this work? How is our government contributing to the social capital of Western Australia? It became quite evident to me. I am going to refer to the Queen's message from 2010. For those members who happened to miss it, and if it is acceptable to the Speaker, I will read a section of it —

... it is as important as ever to build communities and create harmony, and one of the most powerful ways of doing this is through sport and games. During this past year of abundant sporting events, I have seen for myself just how important sport is in bringing people together from all backgrounds, from all walks of life and from all age-groups.

In the parks of towns and cities, and on village greens up and down the country, countless thousands of people every week give up their time to participate in sport and exercise of all sorts, or simply encourage others to do so.

...

Apart from developing physical fitness, sport and games can also teach vital social skills. None can be enjoyed without abiding by the rules, and no team can hope to succeed without cooperation between the players. This sort of positive team spirit can benefit communities, companies and enterprises of all kinds.

Many members may know I have a background in sport and recreation. It is a passion of mine, but I know that there are many other activities such as music and the arts that have a very similar ability to create all the things that I am talking about. As I said, I wanted to know how I can demonstrate that the Liberal-National government is using these things to connect people and to build social capital that will create a better Western Australia. I went through some of the portfolios, and I acknowledge that many of them, certainly in the areas of health, music, sport and recreation, are using these avenues to create that social capital. An obvious example is the obesity problem that everyone is saying we have. We have to do something. We do not want the health budget to get any bigger, so we have to do something about it. Activities that create connections and harmony, and in this case physical activity, are particularly useful. There are many programs within health that are doing that.

I add another one, which is the swimming program and swimming pools in Indigenous communities. The Minister for Health first introduced swimming pools into remote communities. I know that a lot of people questioned the point of that. But the benefits of that have been fantastic not just for health but also for education. Most programs have community rules and it is also an understanding of and compliance with the rules that create a community. There are many more programs in health, but I will not go into detail.

I will go on to education. Once again there are programs using sport and recreation to achieve broader-based community outcomes. The obvious one, and I guess the biggest one that we know about, is Clontarf Aboriginal College, which has successfully brought in Indigenous young people, initially through the Australian Football League, but also through many other programs. The benefits are enormous, not just in their football playing, but also in their ability to be educated and to be better participants in the community. We need only look around to see that in just about every secondary school in Western Australia there is a specialist sports program of some sort. There is no doubt that it is a hook to get students to go to school and to keep them at school, but they also learn many other things. Some of the programs that are on offer are so inventive that they are quite remarkable to

see. Others, of course, are a little scared to go outside the boundaries, but with the ability of the independent public schools now, I think we will see much more creativity from those programs.

There are many programs on offer within the area of law and order and crime prevention. Once again I will refer to sport and recreation programs that are being used to create a safer environment and to give our kids a safer place to be. Police and citizens youth centres have been doing some very good work; also with their midnight and street basketball programs. There are many programs that are using sport and recreation to build that social capital in Western Australia. As I said, I am sure there are many other activities through music and the arts as well.

Even within the environment area there are many sporting codes and organisations that are cognisant of the environment and that are working within the environment to make sure that it is looked after. We are all very much aware of the Bibbulmun Track and the Munda Biddi Trail Foundation and many other groups that are connecting through that, creating a positive environment and giving us a very good social network.

Through training and workforce development there are courses in sport and recreation. There are so many people employed in the sport and recreation industry that we do not necessarily acknowledge them because they are not in an organisation or a club, although there are some there. These people are right throughout many industries and places, as the sport and recreation field is one of those vehicles that can achieve so very much.

I want to also refer to a recent initiative, but not so much in the sport and recreation field. I must acknowledge Hon Robyn McSweeney for her work in this area. Last year I talked about meeting with a group called Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. It was, once again, about discovering different people in the community who are doing a remarkable amount of work, and not for any praise or anything. This group of people informed me—I was unaware of this—that many grandparents are now raising grandchildren for reasons that are not of their choice but are mostly unfortunate. I am very pleased that the minister has already responded to this need. She informed us that from 1 January some of these people will be eligible to receive some funding. It will not solve all the problems straightaway, but this funding occurred as an immediate response from the minister. I know that the funding will grow in future, but it was very important that we had that response to a community need to support people who are doing a wonderful job under difficult circumstances.

I have focused on the social capital side, but we can achieve much more in social capital if we have the resources and the infrastructure to support the community in this way. We are very fortunate in Western Australia because we have that. We have the resources and the infrastructure that can support and develop that social capital as well. I will go through some of those. Because I have spoken about sport and recreation, I will start there first. I refer to the community sporting and recreation facilities fund. We doubled the amount of money in that fund in our first year; money that goes back to the community. The money from that fund goes to those community clubs that the member for Warnbro talked about. They are clubs that people want in their communities to make sure they have places for people to be connected. The member for Warnbro referred to situations in his electorate where these funds could be of advantage. However, this government has done that, as the Minister for Sport and Recreation has often told us.

I go back to those other areas such as the major stadiums. The nib Stadium and the Matthews Netball Centre are important because they are at the top of the ladders that people climb. They also provide a way for people to connect. Going to the football is like going to battle. That is healthy. It provides the competition that people need to express on the football field in a controlled way—well, mostly controlled, is it not, Minister for Sport and Recreation? They are the sorts of things that are very important. At the same time, music, culture and the arts, the Perth Cultural Centre and the State Theatre Centre of WA all provide similar sorts of areas that enable this to occur.

I did not touch on tourism before; I apologise to the Minister for Tourism. I should say that sport and recreation figure prominently in tourism and events. I have heard the minister say many times and also today that the government intends to continue bringing into WA events relating to sport and recreation, music, and culture and the arts because they are significant areas for bringing people together. As I said, we do need resources and infrastructure. This government can do that and it will do that so that there is a good balance.

We do not need natural disasters to bring people together to create that social capital. We need small businesses and we need big businesses. It is the strength of our government that it is supporting both of those. The economy supports the social capital. The best we can do is have both the social capital and the economic capital working together; then we will get some promising results. I am very pleased that the Premier leads a government that has these aspects in balance. I therefore believe that the future of Western Australia is in very good hands in this Liberal–National government.

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MR A.J. WADDELL (Forrestfield) [9.35 pm]: It is a joy to be back on my feet in this place after what feels like absolutely years of events that have occurred since I was last in this chamber. It is with great pleasure that I rise to address the Premier's Statement today. I will first offer the bouquets, which will be brief, and which come in the form of congratulations on the announcement that there is to be a reconsideration of the air conditioning policy in schools. I and many other members have spoken at length in this place about the inequities of that policy as it stands at the moment and how wealthier schools seem to have fared better simply because they have parents and citizens associations that have the means and the ability to raise the appropriate capital to air-condition their school. There is a situation in my electorate in which one school qualifies for air conditioning while another school that is barely 700 metres away does not. I for one, therefore, welcome that completely. I think members of my community will welcome that with open arms, and certainly the children will be able to achieve better outcomes in their schooling as a result.

It seems that the general theme we have had today is a bit of a wish list. Members have been talking about the things they want in their communities. I did not intend to dwell on that, but I feel I would be remiss if I did not throw my wish list into the pot as well. Probably the number one issue that comes across my desk is that of public transport. That is, again, an issue I have raised in this place before. Public transport throughout the eastern suburbs generally, and particularly through the electorate of Forrestfield, is fairly woeful. One of the problems is that Transperth has a depot in Kalamunda that is unable to support natural gas buses. As a consequence, the bus routes through my electorate tend to be filled with the older diesel-type buses. We are always dealing with older stock, which leads to a sense that it is a second-rate service that barely comes on a frequent basis and has very limited routes; therefore, people do not use it. Naturally, in front of every house there are one, two or three cars because the only way people can survive is with private transport. Therefore, when Transperth people come through the area saying they are doing a survey to find out where people want public transport, naturally they determine that the demand is not there because everyone has private vehicles. This is one of those classic cases in which we have to take that leap of faith. We have to build a public transport system before the people will actually come to it. It is only when we have an adequate public transport system that people will make the choice not to have that second or third car to enable their families to function properly. Therefore, public transport is certainly number one on my list, particularly extending routes out to the new Midland health campus in 2015 when it comes on board. Although the new health campus will be the closest health facility for people in my electorate, most people will find it much faster to get to a range of other facilities, such as Royal Perth Hospital or even potentially Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, than it will be to get a bus out to Midland simply because of the nature of the routes there. Therefore, we need to address that problem.

The High Wycombe community has developed a project for a community hub, which is a multipurpose centre to bring various elements of the community together. That is probably one of the most exciting projects that is happening out there at the moment simply because it is a community coming together where a community has not come together before. The project is an attempt to create a focus with child health nurses, sporting facilities, a library and a range of other services in one area. I am a big supporter of this project. I understand the community is searching for about \$5 million for it and it is certainly something that I think we should consider going forward.

The member for Cannington raised the issue of the woeful state of the train stations on the Armadale line. Again, I have in the past talked about the Maddington and Kenwick stations. As much as I would like to support my friend from Warnbro in his play for another train station, I think we ought to get the ones that exist now brought up to a working level. When the Premier visited Kenwick station last year, he was quite shocked and appalled at the state that it was in. I think it is time that we invested a bit of the dividend we are getting from the boom into improving the train stations out there.

Dr A.D. Buti: And better trains, too!

Mr A.J. WADDELL: And better trains, too—yes!

That is my wish list, but I will spend a little more time just talking about a couple of issues that have come in front of me lately. Over the break I took the opportunity to do a bit of volunteer work. Foothills Learning Centre runs adult computing classes. I volunteered to teach a computing class, so on Monday evenings I teach a group of people how to use computers. Whilst talking to them during a coffee break, they all raised something that I thought was quite bizarre; that is, they had all received a telephone call from an Indian call centre, which I suppose most people in this place would say is not that unusual. However, the unusual part is that they had all received the same phone call and it was one that I had received only two weeks earlier. I did not really think too much of it at the time. A young lady phoned me and told me that my computer had a problem and proceeded to tell me that the company she worked for had detected that there were viruses and spam coming from my computer and that I needed to turn it on and give her access to it. Unfortunately for this poor woman, I have a certain level of literacy and a Macintosh computer. Having a Mac, I knew that it was a complete con from the

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beginning because, as we know, it is a fairly superior system and does not suffer the same fate that those poor Windows machines do! I quickly pointed out to the lady that I was on the “do not call” list, that the company should not be phoning me as a cold call, that it really was a scam and that she really should not be doing this. I did not think anything of it until, as I say, that night I met these ladies who told me that they had all received the same phone call. Several of them had gotten so far through the call to the point at which it became apparent that they were going to be up for money that they actually terminated the call. I thought this was quite a concern. Coincidentally, the next day I had a constituent see me who runs a computer support service. He showed me an invoice from this company. One of his clients whom he had sold a computer to only the week earlier had been scammed by these people and was charged about \$300 to fix a computer that clearly had no faults on it because it was only about two days old when they attacked it. In fact, these people are installing malicious software on these computers. This is quite a problem in our community; a lot of people do not understand that Microsoft or whomever these people purport to represent do not call people up to tell them that they have viruses on their computer. Elderly people are becoming victims of this scam. People are often too embarrassed to admit that they have been caught up in a scam like this, so this company is getting away with it. The company is operating here in Australia out of Sydney and the call centre is operating out of India. I have tried to do what I can to notify various authorities that we have this problem. I think it is something that everyone should be aware of and I hope that we can, through consumer affairs or something like that, actually bring a bit of publicity to the problem so that people can be forewarned not to fall for it.

I had to come to IT because that is my thing. I think the very first thing said to me today when I arrived at Parliament House was, “Are you for the wireless?” I had no idea what they were talking about at first but after a few seconds I realised they were quizzing me on my position on the national broadband network. As I have said in this place before, I am very much in favour of the NBN; I think it is crucial to Western Australia moving into the digital age. If we really are serious about developing alternative economies and alternative industries within WA, we need to ensure that this investment is made that will actually put us dead centre in the map because when we are online, it does not matter where we are—we are everywhere at the same time. The debate at the moment, of course, is about this new wireless network that Telstra announced it wanted to deliver. This is a network known as the Long-term Evolution, LTE, network—a fourth generation network. It will not work—or, it will work, but only as long as not too many people use it. It is like anything in the wireless world: in theory it works great until lots of people are taking a small sip of it and the collective sipping away at a bit of bandwidth here and a bit of bandwidth there creates a drain on the system that ultimately slows it down and it simply cannot be delivered fast enough.

Mr P. Abetz: A little sip should prevent binge-drinking, shouldn't it?

Mr A.J. WADDELL: Yes, but I like to binge on my bandwidth!

I did a bit of research and found that this same technology has been trialled over the world. In fact, Cox, which is a large communications company in the United States, tested the same LTE network and its conclusion was that it was complementary to a wired service but it would never handle the traffic loads that fully wired internet users would generate. That is why we cannot really rely on that sort of wireless technology; if we want to deliver fast bandwidth to everyone, we need to ensure that they have a fixed connection. That does not mean people cannot have wireless in their homes or communities that will take them back to that fixed connection, but we need that high-speed connection. It is not simply surfing the internet as we know it today; this is about creating an investment in the information communications technology industry within Western Australia. It is about delivering the foundations for an e-health platform that will enable us to deliver health services to people in their homes without them going out to emergency departments. It will enable us to do things such as help elderly folk, who might otherwise need to go into a nursing home or other sorts of care, to stay within their homes for much longer simply because they will have a virtual system available to them. It will enable families to operate over a wider space. It will enable education opportunities that we have not imagined at the moment. Once it has actually been delivered, it is really going to revolutionise the way we approach just about every aspect of our lives in the future.

Information and communications technology is a fairly large sector of the Western Australian economy, particularly within the government sector. We would probably have the makings of a fairly significant industry here in WA if we were to set the conditions up correctly to allow it to prosper. To do that we would have to make a few changes. One of the most fundamental changes that we would have to implement is how government deals with ICT. One of the most difficult problems that companies in WA have is accessing government contracts. They tend to be outbid by national or international players quite regularly, because there is a tendency to buy into the known product or somebody with larger expertise, simply because government is risk averse. It makes sense that a manager in charge of a significant contract, who has a choice between a 10-person operation here in Perth or a global corporation with 1 000 people and the depth of experience that comes with that, will

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choose the organisation with 1 000 people. That means that the 10-person operation here in Perth never manages to get the contracts, gain the experience and start that snowballing ride to that 1 000 person corporation that can compete for those international contracts. We need to address the way that we issue these contracts out of government itself.

One of the ways that we should really reform our approach to computer software within government is to make a move to the open source movement. I will explain what open source is for members who are not familiar with it. Members would be familiar with proprietary software. That is the stuff we use pretty much every day—Microsoft Office, Microsoft Windows, Apple software and those sorts of things. These are owned by a company and sold by a company. These companies regularly deliver updates, and it is a completely closed system. Open source software is generally software that is freely available and is created by an open community. Anybody can see the source code, modify the source code and contribute to it. One of the obvious examples of open source software is the Linux operating system, which runs the majority of internet servers in the community. There is a high level of resistance in government towards open source software. There is an argument that anybody in government will run if it is suggested that they should adopt open source software. One would think that is a no-brainer. A copy of Microsoft Windows Professional costs about \$150, while a copy of Linux costs nothing. It would be a fairly easy argument to suggest that Linux be run as a desktop operating system comparable with Microsoft Office. Imagine the number of desktops that are installed throughout government and the saving that would accumulate. Managers within government will argue that the support costs are higher, and they cannot get support from a vendor because there is no vendor who will provide the support. If we drill down a little further, as occurred in some Senate hearings in about 2003, we can find out these exact costs.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr A.J. WADDELL: If we did that, we would find that they cannot quantify these additional costs because the act of measuring and supporting the open source software is greater than the cost of doing it itself. Therefore, it is cheaper to stay with what we know and what we have and never take the chance to see whether it is a better and cheaper option to go to open source. The large companies have contributed a fair bit to this. They have conducted studies that show their software is cheaper in the long run and they lock companies into it.

All members are probably going through upgrades at the moment. I believe that we are all getting new computers in our electorate offices. That is not because the old computers have stopped working but because it is an upgrade cycle; that is, we are going to get a new version of the operating system and we are going to get a new version of Microsoft Office and other software that comes with it. For what end? It will still be word processing at the end of the day and we will still be doing pretty much exactly what we were doing before. In our case, I would argue that we will probably be worse off than before simply because the new versions require further training, which our staff is not being given. In fact, they are going backwards. Productivity is going backwards and the state is paying out hundreds of dollars in licensing fees per computer to Microsoft. That does not make a lot of sense to me and it does not make a lot of sense to a lot of other people as well.

We should start to consider mandating the examination of open source software as an alternative to proprietary software in all government contracts in the future. I am not necessarily saying that we cannot have proprietary software, but we have to develop the business case for A or develop the business case for B and then go with whatever is the most cost-effective solution. If it comes down to the argument of technical support, there is the question of whether we can start to build that expertise into the government and train staff to provide that support, as opposed to being reliant on third party vendors. The spin-off to that is that in our economy trained people will ultimately create their own opportunities. They will create businesses, which becomes a pivotal point for bringing new opportunities into the Western Australian economy. They will start competing on a global scale. The advantage to government could literally be in the hundreds of millions of dollars. We could provide adequate training programs within government and we would not be reliant on the whims of the upgrade cycle of the vendors. We would end up with a better trained workforce within Western Australia. It is a win all around. All we need to do to create that circumstance is simply to mandate the consideration of open source software. It does not necessarily cost us anything and there are advantages to be had.

I turn to the training opportunities that I was talking about. The other thing I would like to see us invest in moving forward is trying to create special academies of IT speciality in our high schools. We have heard that about every second school has an elite sports program these days. It strikes me that we really should be looking at having an elite geeks program in our schools as well. It might sound silly but this year it is estimated that the global market for video games is \$US48 billion. That exceeds the music industry and the movie industry. This is a significant industry. There is absolutely no impediment to this happening in Western Australia. We have talented people and we have everything we would need to bring together that video game industry within the confines of Western Australia. If we created incubators and programs in our high schools that essentially encouraged those kids who were interested to go down that path, to pick up the tools to develop the early stages

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of the software, a lot of these things would start to snowball. It takes between 50 and 100 people to create one of the major games. It is a very large-scale operation. It does not happen overnight; it can literally take years for a program to come to fruition. I have been waiting for 10 years for *Duke Nukem* and I do not think I will ever see it. It does not always have to be at that level. The biggest-selling game that can be played on the Apple iPhone or iPad is called *Angry Birds*. It is very simple. It was created by a very small studio. Something like that could quite easily be created here in Western Australia. It was recently knocked off the charts by another game called *Bubble Ball*. *Bubble Ball* was written by a 14-year-old kid. He wrote it in his spare time, got it into the App Store, and it became the number one game. We can imagine what kind of a future this child has when he is creating a program like *Bubble Ball* at the age of 14. I would like to see us creating our own little amateur programmers like that here. That may create the seed to get a foot in the door for a games industry in Western Australia. I note that the Queensland government has been making definite steps to develop a games industry within that state. It sees it as a strategic investment for the future. That is one industry that we should certainly be looking at as well. We are not going to be digging up rocks here forever; we need to look beyond the boom.

The final thing I will talk about within this IT sphere is the general approach to IT within government. One of the greatest criticisms I always had as an IT manager was how fragmented the entire system throughout government was; that is, one department had a different platform from the next department. Information could not be exchanged. One department would create software that it considered to be its intellectual property and another department would not be able to see that. We are reinventing the wheel over and over again. We are simply not opening up our own intellectual property within our state government and sharing that as widely as possible. I suspect some very innovative and clever bits of software have been developed within various government agencies that are either sitting on a shelf or being used exclusively within that agency, and there is another agency somewhere paying hundreds of thousands of dollars for a proprietary piece of software that could probably have been easily adapted from the other agency's work. I propose we look at creating a set of open standards within government to ensure that everyone has the exact same platform—for example, the same desktops—so that we do not have to retrain staff every time they move from one agency to another. That same specification move across to our software development environment would allow us to attract a particularly skilled group of people to work within that development environment. It would create a clearing house for us to share and open up the software we develop. I do not think there is an advantage for us as a state to be proprietary about what we create. We are not in the business of writing computer software and on-selling it; we should simply see everything that we create as the property of the general community, and therefore share it with the community as much as we possibly can. I am advocating here that we join the open source movement and open source all our work within the state. That will enable a department such as the Department of Transport to see what the police department is up to in terms of its software. It might say, "I like that, I like that; I'll take that, I'll take this from over here at the Department of Environment and Conservation and take a bit of what the Water Corporation has over there, stick it together and see what they can create from that." Somebody else might take that and modify it a little further. It is not centralising it; it is simply sharing it across the entire platform. That is something we need to look at. An incredible amount of money goes down the drain every year by government agencies in their software development processes. We can make significant savings. That is the sort of thing we need to do if we want to continue to expand the programs that we deliver to the community without having to increase charges. That is something we can all agree is an admirable goal.

MR I.M. BRITZA (Morley) [10.04 pm]: I am delighted to stand and affirm our government's agenda for this year, and also share a few things that have occurred in my electorate that I am delighted about.

First of all, I want to extend genuine thanks to my colleagues in this chamber for their goodwill, prayer and support during my absence last year from the house due to a brief encounter with some heartfelt issues. I can assure members that I am alive and well, and am ready for the verbal skirmishes that await us. I remember Minister Johnson telling us during our induction, "Keep quiet; keep still on that back bench for two years and observe and listen." My two years are up; I have got a few things to say! I am delighted to be back, and it is good to be back where I feel the most comfortable.

Last year Morley Senior High School celebrated its fortieth anniversary at a cocktail meeting at which I was invited to speak. I was delighted. Past and present students caught up with each other. The school principal, Mrs Gay Fortune, hosted the evening and introduced two very special guests. One was Mrs Watkins, who is the widow of the very first principal in 1970, Mr Glyn Watkins; and the first head girl from 1973, Lynn Goddard. It was a wonderful time because Morley Senior High School has had its share of adversity and tragedy. The school has experienced student deaths. The way the student body and staff have dealt with those tragedies has been outstanding, yet it is how the school has responded through these demanding circumstances that actually remains at the forefront of most people's memories. In this respect I feel that the school has triumphed in the area it has really needed to—it has shown leadership when it was really needed. People do not really remember everything when all is going well; however, their memories are full of how people and schools, and especially governments,

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respond when tragedy, despair and hopelessness strike at the heart of our daily lives. As the elected representative of Morley, I can clearly see the value and high expectation that this school aims for and will achieve. I am very proud and honoured that this school is in my electorate. I am proud of the staff and students that call this school their academic home. I am proud of the parents who support the school by sending their children there to further their academic goals and to prepare them for life beyond the confines of the school walls. The parents and teachers can be assured that it is my responsibility to constantly put the needs of the school before my government. That is my role. I, along with many other members here, have certainly raised my voice about air conditioning and still shake my head at the bureaucratic ruling in this area.

I also have the pleasure of the Morley Women's Probus Association holding meetings in my electoral office. This wonderful group of women cater for the interests of retired and semi-retired professionals or businesspeople in our community. Each club is autonomous; the movement is almost worldwide. They are renowned for their informality. Meetings may consist of a rendezvous for a morning coffee followed by a talk by a speaker on a topic of interest to them. Members of the group even contribute to the program with accounts of their experiences providing entertainment at these times. I am delighted they use my office to hold their meetings.

The Noranda Child Care Centre in my electorate received a wonderful grant of \$59 232 towards the upgrading of its facilities to cater for the childcare needs of almost 100 families. Kelly Stephens, who is the centre coordinator, said that the money will go towards putting in another couple of sheds, replacing worn lawn areas in the playground with durable artificial grass, and a complete makeover of the kitchen facilities. It is a delight to see this childcare centre, knowing how difficult it is for parents to find a facility where they can safely leave their children to be looked after, and will learn and have a wonderful time.

A character in my electorate left—or retired. I should not say “left”, but he is going to leave; he is going to Sydney eventually. The principal of the Morley Primary School, Mr Bert Kravevich retired in December last year after a 51-year career in school education. He spent 19 of those years at Morley Primary School. He started his career in the Wheatbelt town of Kulin in 1960. He did not take one sick day in his entire school career. I am sure his more than 650 days of accrued sick leave is a record. He reckons that back then rote learning was the whole deal; it was good memory training. He reckons that children today come to school with more intellectual knowledge than they had 50 years ago, but other skills are missing, such as manners and self-reliance. Education, he believes, should not become too reliant on technology. Mr Kravevich's influence left a lasting impression on many students. At his farewell, fellow staff members and former student Amanda Box paid tribute to him at a school assembly, recalling a fond childhood memory of Bert directing a school play of the children's tale *Brer Rabbit*. In a moving gesture, she brought the memory back to life with her own class. Bert reckoned it was a wonderful moment, as traditional folk stories such as this one may eventually disappear. Bert represents a bygone era. However, there is always room for those involved in education to possess the kind of ideals that Bert Kravevich enjoyed and owned.

Before November last year I asked several primary schools in my electorate to reflect on and then to illustrate on a card the significance of Christmas on a personal level. The winning cards were printed and used to send Christmas greetings to my family, friends and associates all around the world. Each winner was presented with a certificate and a copy of *Has a Book Got a Spine?* personally autographed by the author. This is a great book to get children's brains thinking outside the box and to help them pick up plenty of new vocabulary on the way, while learning just how unusual and peculiar words can be. The names of the Christmas card winners from the primary school were Morgan Ross and Lachlan Tang from Dianella Heights Primary School, Sarah Chai from Morley Primary School and Isabella from North Morley Primary School. The cards were delightful.

I am also delighted to say that the Coventry Square development is finally on the go after many years of waiting for it to go through the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and for council approval, with delay after delay. Thousands of dollars have been paid while waiting for approval. Approval was finally given only a week and a half or two weeks ago. Building is now taking place. Already people in my electorate have been asking me: when is this Morley market finally going to be completed? I am happy to say that all things being equal, it should be completed in late June, early July. I acknowledge Mr Greg Poland, whose vision was to put something back into the area he grew up in. He and his team have worked tirelessly to establish this development and they will have every right to fully celebrate its completion this year. Having finally received that permit to go ahead, I am sure the people of Morley and the greater metropolitan area will be delighted when this venture is at long last completed. I am delighted about that.

I would like now to direct my attention to three matters of importance and relevance to me that I feel bound and obliged to bring to the attention of the house. The three issues I will highlight are the grievous and dreadful plight of three specific groups of people, the Aboriginal people of our state, the Christian Coptic community of our nation and the Karen people of Burma. On New Year's Eve in 2011 in Cairo, Egypt, members of the Coptic community were exposed to the appalling and shocking experience of being targeted by a suicide bomber

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terrorist, which resulted in the death of 24 members of this Christian community. I realise that terrorist attacks are becoming outrageously common these days; however, the unique twist with this particular attack was that four people who had family in Australia were among those who lost their lives on that terrible night. To add insult and personal heartache to the Australian Coptic community, the Prime Minister and the federal government have, to this day, not even either acknowledged or sent a letter of condolence to the national spiritual leadership of this community. The four people whose lives were lost in Cairo even had family—brothers and sisters I believe—in Melbourne. Despite several communications to the various departments involved, the community has still to receive an acknowledgement of their extreme loss and to hear forthright condemnation of the terrorist actions. In an ecumenical remembrance service held at St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday, 12 February, where the federal member for Cowan and I were the only politicians present, the federal government's submission was referred to as "... pouring vinegar on a salted wound ..." I share this in the chamber today because I believe it is time we put a halt to selective international and national acknowledgements when acts of terrorism and violent oppression are continuously inflicted on religious faiths worldwide. Grandparents, fathers, mothers, teenagers, children and infants were among the victims. I am deeply saddened that we could not at the very least publicly share their anguish, torment and distress.

The Karen people of Burma are also a displaced and persecuted people within their own country. Vast refugee camps are scattered along the Burma–Thailand border and many atrocities, violence and slaughter frequently occur among these people, who simply want their own identity and autonomy acknowledged and respected. They appear to have been forgotten by the world community at large, while experiencing violent, brutal and sadistic persecution by a vicious and cruel military junta. The members for Perth and Girrawheen have visited these camps and were instrumental in bringing the plight of these people to the attention of the then federal Minister for Immigration, who in turn went herself to see what was happening and made the necessary decisions to accommodate the exodus and resettlement of many of these people in Australia. They have taken their place among us here in Western Australia with distinction and honour. I take this opportunity to mention the name of Mr Paul Kyaw because of his untiring, determined and persistent desire to represent these people not only in Australia but also throughout the world. It has been primarily through his resolute and unwavering aspirations and objectives that we have seen the Karen people settle with tranquillity and delight in Katanning and recently in Albany and, of course, here in Perth. His driving passion to look after and zealously guard these people is simply inspirational and moving to observe and experience firsthand. I not only recommend to this house that the people are sought out and visited, I also strongly call for official recognition of their independence and autonomy.

In my closing remarks I would like to take this occasion to speak about my perceptions of the dilemma of and indifference towards the Aboriginal people in our state. I would like to declare from the beginning that I have not been authorised or given permission and consent to speak out about the observations that I intend to share here today.

Mr J.M. Francis interjected.

Mr I.M. BRITZA: That is true; maybe I am doing that. This is simply to place on record what I have observed and perceived while in dialogue with these people. I, as do many members in this chamber, have many Aboriginal people living in my electorate. On many occasions I have had the honour of not only dealing with their issues but also meeting and engaging with them on a more personal basis. Over the years, like many others, I have spent a great deal of time developing friendships and some kind of understanding and familiarity that would allow me to appreciate and comprehend their constant and relentless dilemma of not being taken seriously or dealt with sincerely. With all the political rhetoric engaged in over the past several decades these people, whose nations and country we seem to constantly affirm at most functions, are still not even closely understood, listened to or even received today. I am fully aware that it is publicly acknowledged; however, I am absolutely convinced that it is not as seriously given or received because of our lack of understanding of what country means to them. In many ways the Aboriginal people are a displaced people within their own country. Many do not know from what family they come; many do not know what country or nation they come from; many do not know their language or even their own culture; many do not know their elders and what place these elders have in their lives for the completion of their total wellbeing; and many do not know or understand the significance of the sacredness and importance of various sites within their own nation and country. If some of these Aboriginals are struggling with these basic issues of life, how can we claim to have such an understanding, considerate and thoughtful attitude towards the matters that are important, vital and significant to them, such as native title, national and state recognition and acknowledgement? The real irony here is that we, the bipartisan government, actually believe that this has been achieved to a certain extent. However, I perceive that nothing could be further from the truth. Some of the reasons for a lack of genuine understanding towards the Aboriginal nation include the following four points. Number one is fear. The seventeenth century American colonist William Penn advised, "Neither despise, nor oppose, what thou dost not understand." When one does not understand the other,

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fear will be the result, and no lasting policy has ever resulted from fear. The second is self-centeredness. Someone once remarked that there are two sides to every question, as long as it does not concern us personally. That is the way too many people think. Everyone is not self-centred on purpose; it is just in the nature of people to think of their own interests first. The third is a failure to appreciate differences. We often try to cast others in our own image, instead of learning to appreciate their differences, which is why we must learn to celebrate people's differences in patient temperament.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr I.M. BRITZA: The fourth is a failure to acknowledge similarities. We all have an emotional reaction to what is happening around us, so to foster understanding we simply need to think what we would do if we were in the other person's position. We all have hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, and victories and problems. We just have to remember these things when negotiating and collaborating with people.

This is probably the most important aspect of what I am going to share: I sense that there is great expectation, anticipation and hope among the Nyoongah people for the soon-to-be-released report on their native title claim. However, their expectation and belief is tempered by the fact that, in my judgement, they still do not think they have been listened to, received and understood, or even comprehended. An understanding is needed of native title and what country means to the Aboriginal people; it is far more than just legal jargon, terminology and an official outcome—it is life to them. It is who they are. Every part of their being resonates with the knowledge that they must protect, look after, appreciate and educate those who are willing to listen and receive the real and genuine reasons behind the desire to acknowledge their claim to their land, nation and country.

I share these matters with the house to enhance and increase a small portion of understanding to the knowledge already gained in this house, knowing full well that I am still on this journey of grasping in its entirety the wisdom and insight behind the Aboriginal's heartfelt cry for, and to, his land of birthright. These things are very important. They need to be spoken about. These are the things that are spoken about in my office to me, and while I do not have a handle on everything, I believe it is important that our government strives to have a legacy in this area that will do us proud and our state proud.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr R.F. Johnson (Leader of the House)**.