

## **PREMIER'S STATEMENT**

### *Consideration*

Resumed from 27 November on the following question —

That the Premier's Statement be noted.

**MS E. HAMILTON (Joondalup)** [5.15 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to the Premier's Statement, which set out the government's legislative agenda for this year. Today is the final sitting day for the Legislative Assembly for 2018. It has been a great year, particularly for us in Joondalup. I would like to take some time to reflect on the positive outcomes that have been received and those that will come. Delivering local jobs is one of my priorities for the Joondalup community, and I am very focused on that.

I first want to talk about the exciting development of the Ocean Reef marina in Joondalup. That will be a world-class marina located in the heart of the northern suburbs. The development will create hundreds of local jobs in the construction phase and ongoing jobs in industries such as hospitality and tourism. This world-class waterfront precinct will include recreational, tourism and residential facilities, drawing visitors from near and far. It will be an invaluable investment in the future of the northern suburbs and a key economic driver in the region. We will make sure that it also delivers local jobs. Our community is very excited about this project. During the election campaign, it was a project that everyone in the northern corridor was aware of and about which I am told people have been talking about for some 30 years.

I am very proud to be a member of the McGowan Labor government and of our strong commitment to focus on delivering the Ocean Reef marina. The McGowan Labor government has invested \$35 million in the budget for this project and \$120 million over the life of the project. Construction is expected to commence in 2020. This is a highly anticipated project that will have an influence on people not only in my electorate but also the whole the northern corridor and more widely throughout the state. I am sure it will also be a tourism drawcard for people to come to Ocean Reef. It will be a beautiful place at which to experience the best that the Western Australian coastline has to offer and enjoy the water-based activities that are integral to what our community values. It will be a perfect spot for families and friends to socialise. I am sure it will be an important place to which people will take their families.

I am very much looking forward to the construction of the marina. I am very active in this space, not only by sitting on the steering committee, but also in making sure that I communicate to the electorate the positive steps this government is taking. The McGowan government has made some strategic decisions during this year, such as enacting the Western Australian Jobs Act and creating WA Industry Link. The purpose of WA Industry Link is to ensure that significant state government projects, one of which is the marina, stimulate employment opportunities for local residents. We want to ensure that the project provides job opportunities for people in the Joondalup area. This is a billion-dollar project, and it will take time to construct. It is expected that construction will begin with the outer seawalls. We also want to ensure that there is early activation of the land-based development so that people can see what is happening and we create an understanding that the marina is being developed and will come alive and be a place for people to visit.

At the beginning of October, we held an open day. I told everyone with whom I had a chat, particularly on the steering committee group, that it would be a very well-attended event, and it was. The open day was held between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm at the Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club for residents and the wider public to be in the vicinity of where the new marina will be constructed. People could have a chat to the project developer, LandCorp, which will lead the project on the government side, and representatives from the City of Joondalup, as this is a joint project. It was great to see my colleague the member for Kingsley there, and I am sure there were lots of other community representatives there as well. It was a really positive day, with 2 100 people attending. They were excited to see the refined concept plan. The project has had overwhelming community support over the years. A survey that was undertaken by the City of Joondalup quite some years ago showed that it had a 96 per cent support rate from the community. The open day reinforced what I am hearing at people's doors and on the phones—that is, people in the northern corridor and in Joondalup in particular are very excited to have a development of this scale. They are also excited that the McGowan Labor government is committed to this project and we are looking to construction starting in our first term.

As I have mentioned, at the open day, representatives from LandCorp, the state government's land and development agency that is responsible for managing the marina, and the City of Joondalup were on hand to have one-on-one conversations with community members. It was not designed as a theatre-style set-up and presentation, or death by PowerPoint as some people call it. It was a very interactive, fun day that also provided information, details and graphics. There was opportunity for people to get involved and have their say on what the landscape master plan might look like. There was 3D mapping and a futuristic slideshow. Residents could see the positive benefits that will be available for the community once this project is underway. It was very clear from the open

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day that the marina will be a world-class waterfront precinct. Integral to that are the recreational boating, tourism and residential facilities. It will be a place that people will come to.

Having lived and worked in the northern suburbs for some time, and with two kids—Mya and Ryan are 10 and 13 now—I am excited that this project is taking place, and I am sure that they will spend many a day at this location with their friends. It is also about making sure that as we move forward with the refined concept plan, we continue to maintain a strong relationship with the key stakeholders in the area—community representatives, schools, scout groups and the like—so that people are brought along as this project progresses. It is very exciting that this is taking place.

It was a very well attended open day. There was an opportunity for people to register their interest in being involved in a community reference group. Just today, the next few steps have been taken and LandCorp is formulating that community reference group. It is an important part of providing information to the community so that people can see this project as it continues, but also so that people can have direct input into what those public spaces will look like. The expressions of interest stage is now open. The next stage of planning is taking place and this will be focused on the design of the public realm within the marina—spaces that are publicly accessible, such as streetscapes, parks, playgrounds and the like. I suggest that the people who are interested should get involved, particularly those who live or work in or frequent the City of Joondalup on a regular basis. They will definitely want to convey their views on this exciting project. I am looking forward to continuing to inform the community of those milestone steps as we progress towards construction in 2020.

Quite a few other positive things have been happening in the Joondalup electorate over the past year. I want to take a moment to talk about the school communities. As the local member, I sit on quite a few school boards. I value the strong relationships with the school groups in my community, including principals, staff, parents and citizens associations and the like. A number of principals in the electorate have retired or moved on this year; I think there have been four or five at last count. I have had the opportunity to wish nearly all of them all the best in their next steps and to thank them for their involvement in their school communities.

We have also had some positive policy announcements in the education space that will very much deliver for the schools in the Joondalup community. Five science labs are in the process of coming into the Joondalup electorate. An additional education assistant has come to Eddystone Primary School. Edgewater Primary School has received a grant for some playground cover for the preprimary–kindy area. Mullaloo Beach Primary School is in the process of receiving a grant. Works are progressing on the performing arts centre at Ocean Reef Senior High School. I know that that school community is very excited to see it come to be, and I will very closely watch that project next year, with construction expected to start shortly. Belridge Secondary College, headed by a new principal, will also receive a performing arts centre. That is very welcome by the school community; it will allow the school to expand the programs already offered and the specialist programs, particularly fashion design. This will give Belridge and Ocean Reef a place to hold some extra events and activities, whether it be music programs or plays. I am sure the schools will utilise that additional space.

Perimeter fencing is in the process of being installed at Beaumaris Primary School and Currambine Primary School, which is right on the border of my electorate of Joondalup and my colleague Mark Folkard's electorate of Burns Beach. Again, this is a much-needed injection of funds for those school communities, both of which need the fencing for particular reasons. Unfortunately, at Beaumaris Primary School quite a lot of antisocial behaviour was happening on site and the P&C brought the issue to me very early on after I became a member. It has a big file of all the instances of problems at the school that unfortunately had direct impacts on the students. In one instance, some of the playground equipment ended up on the roof of the school. I know that the school principals are working through the process of finalising the design of those fences and I am sure that next year, as we head into the new school year, those fences will be erected.

Lots of other positive things have been happening in the Joondalup electorate. I have previously raised in this house some issues about the stroke unit at Joondalup Health Campus. The need for the continued growth of Joondalup Health Campus has been a focus, and I am really proud that we have made the commitment to expand and upgrade the hospital, but specifically my comments today are about the stroke unit that is in the process of opening. I am really pleased that that is happening. The Northern Suburbs Stroke Support Group has been advocating strongly to have this specialist care unit based in Joondalup, so it is very happy with that announcement.

One other thing that has benefited the community in Joondalup is the jobs and skills centre at North Metropolitan TAFE. It is a fantastic new service that I have been told is quite well utilised. Again, it is a great initiative, particularly at a time when people are facing challenges in deciding what path they will take straight out of school or whether they need to get back into the workforce. This initiative was part of our plan for jobs. It is a great initiative that will support local businesses and employers to build a skilled workforce and will create employment, apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities. Again, this particular issue was brought up quite regularly at the doors and on the phones. Even now when I get out and about I see that we need to continue to make apprenticeships

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and traineeships more easily accessible and make sure—this is what the jobs and skills centre will do—we have strong partnerships between TAFE and industry to increase those opportunities.

The other exciting project as part of Metronet is the extension of the rail line north to Yanchep, again something I am very pleased to see taking place and I am looking forward to its construction. Quite a bit of growth has happened in the northern corridor. Putting infrastructure and funding into this rail line is a fantastic way to make sure people perhaps further north than Joondalup have an easy way to get into the CBD and are able to receive all the services or training they need. For whatever reason they come to Joondalup, there will not be any need to continue further along the train line, because we have everything there—a fantastic learning precinct, shopping experience, healthcare services and the like.

I will touch on a couple of other things. We had a recent announcement about the former Joondalup basketball site, which will be transformed into a multi-generational living location in the heart of the Joondalup City centre. This is an issue that the community in Joondalup is particularly aware of at the moment. Without going too much into detail around the issues there, the focus, particularly today, was to show that this announcement is again an opportunity for those jobs to come into the Joondalup City centre to provide people with the opportunity to perhaps downsize and live in a location that will be easily accessible to transport, shopping and, again, healthcare, as I mentioned. The basketball site is another exciting project along with Connect Joondalup, which will take place in Joondalup. I think one of benefits of having a conversation towards the end of the year is being able to talk about what has happened in the electorate throughout the year.

I could continue to talk on the positive things that have happened in Joondalup under this government and will take every opportunity. I suppose the only other one I want to touch on is that being in an electorate that has a business park and lots of other small-to-medium businesses, it is exciting to see that there are locations like Aloha Surfhouse.

**Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup:** Good spot.

**Ms E. HAMILTON:** It is a fantastic spot.

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

**Ms E. HAMILTON:** Yes. Aloha Surfhouse is in the Winton Road business park. I wanted to use that as an example. There is some clip-and-climb equipment there and I think it is the first in WA that is providing a way kids can rock climb indoor. It also has a wave that people can ride. It is one of those extra curricula activities that I am sure a lot of people are taking up. I believe the technology used to create that wave is the first of its kind in Australia.

I was reflecting on the business community, using Aloha as an example, because there is a new-found confidence in our local business community directly due to the steps the McGowan Labor government has taken in this space. It is good to see with the opening of a small business like this that 75 local kids can gain employment in the northern suburbs. A significant investment has been made for a business this size and calibre to come in. I could probably use a few other examples. It is good to see that there is a renewed sense of confidence in the electorate.

We obviously have a strong legislative agenda and the examples I have given today are just a few. As I said, I could continue with a few examples of how the different communities inside the electorate of Joondalup have been positively impacted, showing that we are getting on and delivering on our election commitments. I will continue to work and ensure Joondalup is a priority for this government. Thank you.

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** You are a great member, member.

**MS J.J. SHAW (Swan Hills)** [5.34 pm]: It is a genuine pleasure this evening, on the final sitting day for 2018, to be speaking to the Premier's Statement delivered at the very beginning of this year's parliamentary term and to reflect on the many achievements of the McGowan Labor government over the course of this year. I have stood at various points of the year and spoken about all the wonderful things that have happened in my electorate. I have only 20 minutes or half an hour this evening, so I will confine myself to all the achievements that have happened in the last few months. I cannot tell members how excited I am to rattle them off.

This government really has focused on delivering the services and infrastructure into my community that have been neglected for a very long time. We have had long-overdue assets delivered into my community. I am very proud to be part of a government that is taking seriously the considerations of the people in the north east metropolitan corridor. As I am sure many people know, in 2006, the town of Ellenbrook had a population of 14 000. In the 2016 census, it had 40 000 people. The population has absolutely ballooned out there and we have not had services and infrastructure follow through. It is great to start delivering them.

My community has experienced some absolutely tragic events resulting from a lack of attention and a lack of services. I do not want to go into that but I want to talk about what this government has done in response to my community's needs. In November, I held a mental health roundtable discussion with a number of organisations that provide a range of mental health services into my community. There were 40 people sitting around a table at

the Aveley Community Centre. It was the very first time all those organisations had sat in a room together and talked about the things that were affecting the frontline delivery of services into my community. It was fantastic to hear about the frontline experiences that service deliverers have and the lived experiences of my constituents. The organisations in the room included 8DoW, Soldiers and Sirens, Midland Mental Health Service, 360 Health, YouthCARE chaplain, the City of Swan, Ellenbrook Youth Services, St John of God Midland social workers, St John of God Midland mental health workers, St John of God Midland emergency department workers, Midland mental health, Royal Perth Bentley Group, Centrecare, Therapy Focus, Lifeline, Holyoake, Midvale Hub Parenting Service, CLAN Midland and HelpingMinds. For the very first time, they all sat around a table in my electorate talking about their struggles. I wanted to hear from those people directly about their challenges and concerns so that I could advocate for them for the sorts of services and facilities we need.

I met also with the Ellenbrook school principals' network to understand what is happening in the schools because very often people have nowhere else to go. Parents facing mental health crises are presenting at high schools and primary schools looking for assistance because there is nowhere for them to go in the Ellenbrook area. It is an absolute disgrace that the north east metropolitan area has been the only part of the Perth metropolitan area in which those experiencing mental health crisis have had nowhere to present. In the north of Perth people can present to Joondalup Health Campus; in the south, they can present to Murdoch; in the east they have absolutely nowhere to go; in the west they can go to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital; and in the city they can go to Royal Perth Hospital. We have had nothing and that is just not good enough. I asked the Minister for Mental Health to look at this issue. I consulted with my community and thousands of people expressed their support for the delivery of a better mental health service in the north east metropolitan area. Last week I was absolutely thrilled to attend St John of God Midland Public Hospital with the Premier and the Minister for Mental Health to announce the creation of a mental health crisis centre at Midland St John of God Hospital. This government has taken direct action and responded to the needs of my community that have been identified for a long time and have gone unaddressed for long enough. I would really like to thank the Minister for Mental Health in particular for his support for this initiative. I know it has taken a lot of work. At a time when the finances are tight, I appreciate what he has done to bring this long-overdue facility into my community.

This reflects an ongoing issue in the north east metropolitan corridor of access to health services. I want to acknowledge the advocacy of the federal candidate for the electorate of Pearce, Superintendent Kim Travers—a highly decorated Western Australia Police Force officer—on that issue and on the need for MRI services at Midland Health Campus. Yet again, the north east metropolitan area of Perth was the only place in the metropolitan area at which people could not access full MRI services under Medicare. Kim Travers and I got out there and campaigned hard on this issue. We managed to secure from Bill Shorten a commitment to deliver a full MRI licence at St John of God Midland Health Campus. Again, this is Labor delivering for the north east metropolitan corridor, after years of neglect by the federal and state Liberal governments.

These are not the only facilities that the federal Labor Party and state Labor government have committed to deliver to my community. I was delighted a few weeks ago when Bill Shorten and Kim Travers held a big town hall meeting at the Ellenbrook district open space. Hundreds of people turned up to that event; it was standing room only. Bill Shorten gave a really inspiring speech about the things he would like to deliver to the community of Ellenbrook. He was late getting to Ellenbrook. I drove to the event and was listening to ABC radio news; he was doing an interview on ABC Drive, and I thought, "This is going to be interesting because he's in Perth and he needs to get to Ellenbrook by 6.30. Good luck with that!" Indeed, he was late, but he made the trip up there. I think it was his seventy-fifth visit to Western Australia since he has been federal Leader of the Opposition. He made the trip to Ellenbrook and made the point to the room that you really cannot understand the sorts of infrastructure concerns that my community has until you actually get out there and see it, and he has been out there, alongside Kim Travers, to acknowledge the need that my community has for better services and facilities. I was absolutely thrilled to hear him commit \$17 million to a new recreation centre in Ellenbrook, complementing the state government's \$7 million co-contribution towards that facility, which will give the people of Ellenbrook access to indoor sports facilities and a pool. At the moment we have to drive miles to get even remotely close to facilities like that. When you consider that we have upwards of 40 000 people out there and that by 2030 we are talking about 70 000 people there, we really need to start delivering those facilities. It is great that the federal Labor Party is so in tune with what my people want. We have an absolutely fantastic candidate in Kim Travers. She is local, she has worked the beat in Ellenbrook, she understands our community, she is visible in our community and she is present, which is a lot more than can be said for the current member for Pearce. He has a big bus in the electorate, but that is all we ever see of his face.

With regard to the state government also delivering additional services into the community of Ellenbrook, a few weeks ago I was again absolutely delighted, along with the Minister for Youth, to open a youth and community services centre on the main street of Ellenbrook. Again, up until this point, with a population of 40 000 people, there has been absolutely nowhere for people to go to get the sorts of social services and support that are needed if they need help for their kids, if they need a bit of counselling, or if they need direction to family legal services.

There was absolutely nowhere in place in Ellenbrook where people could access those things. They either had to drive into Midland or they had to drive to Joondalup. If they have a car, that might be okay, but if they have to catch public transport, it might take up to a day to get to their destination for a one-hour appointment. It just was not good enough. We acknowledged that need and I worked collaboratively with the City of Swan and a number of different community organisations to deliver a youth and community services space. That would not have been possible without an incredibly generous donation from Joe Passione of Prime Projects, who gave us 500 square metres of commercial office space for five years, which the City of Swan then fitted out. He gave that to us to make sure the community of Ellenbrook had the services and facilities it needs. This project is absolutely fantastic. It exemplifies what can be done when the local community, the local government, the state government and the business community work together to deliver services into our community. We all stand to gain so much when we work together, and the opening of the youth and community services centre is a fantastic thing for our local community and just exemplifies what can happen when we all work together.

Already, Consumers of Mental Health WA, Communicare Inc, HelpingMinds, Midlas and Therapy Focus have all established a presence working out of that youth and community services space, and many other organisations have also indicated a willingness to attend. The really important thing about having a facility there is that when you are in a time of crisis or when you need some support, it is hard enough to get through that without then thinking about, “Who can I turn to for help? Where can I go?” If there is a facility in your community and you just know if you go there, somebody is going to be able to help, that considerably eases the burden and really helps local families in my area, so I was absolutely thrilled to open that facility. It is an interim step towards the delivery of a \$1.86 million commitment that the state government made before the last election to deliver a purpose-built youth centre in the heart of Ellenbrook. At the moment, all that the kids in Ellenbrook have is a tiny community room in the back of a sports hall and people meet there twice a week for three hours; that is it. In a population in which 32 per cent of people are under the age of 18 years, compared with a state average in the mid-20 per cent, so we have a disproportionately young and growing population, these kids have nowhere to go and nothing to do. That comes with a whole series of low-level crime and boredom. So when we start delivering these services and facilities into my community, we are really going to start giving kids somewhere to go and things to do. More importantly, we are going to welcome them into the heart of Ellenbrook itself, right where they belong, so they are not feared by some elements of the community—a lot of people are nervous when kids are around—but are welcomed, right where they belong, in the heart of our town. I just cannot wait to continue to work as collaboratively as I have with the City of Swan to deliver that project. It is going to be a great day.

Focusing again on the services and facilities that my community needs, we also this year put plans into the forward estimates for a child and parent centre in Ellenbrook, at Arbor Grove Primary School. There is a high population growth rate in Ellenbrook—we are breeders!—with a hell of a lot of kids being produced, but we were the only part of the metropolitan area that did not have a child and parent centre. People who were pregnant or had a young family had absolutely nowhere to go to access any form of support. Again, it is the fastest growing part of the metropolitan area and long overlooked in the provision of services and facilities to support young families. We are fixing that and delivering a child and parent centre at Arbor Grove Primary School, and it is going to be a really fantastic facility for my community.

We are also delivering an education support centre for both primary school and high school-aged kids—again, for the first time. Ellenbrook is the only part of the metropolitan area in which people could not access education support services for children with disabilities, and finally we are going to get those things.

[Member’s time extended.]

**Ms J.J. SHAW:** I want to talk about something that is really quite important. As I have gone through the journey of understanding what my community needs and requires in the electorate of Swan Hills, I have had the incredible privilege of working with an absolutely fantastic organisation, and I would just like to talk about it. I refer to CLAN Midland. CLAN Midland is a not-for-profit community-based support service organisation providing support to enhance skills and the quality of the home environment for parents and families with children under the age of 18 years. CLAN Midland is fantastic. It proactively reaches out to the community to help families to function better and to reduce risk factors around families, which adds strength and protective factors. It does a whole heap of community outreach programs and runs community events and workshop programs that are designed to build resilience and strengthen bonds within and between families. It is absolutely fantastic. It provides wraparound support and programs that enhance a holistic approach for schools and communities in my area.

I want to talk about a few of the programs that CLAN Midland delivers, because it is really quite fantastic. CLAN Midland has been operating for over 25 years. In terms of its underpinning philosophy, it quotes from anthropologist Margaret Mead, who said —

We now expect a family to achieve alone what no society has ever expected an individual family to accomplish unaided. In effect, we call upon the individual family to do what a whole clan used to do.

That is why it calls itself “CLAN”. It is based on the idea that a village, not just a family, raises a child. It provides services and events that bring people together and helps support families. One program CLAN delivers is the Tuning Into Kids program. That program recognises that children and parents can go through a particular emotional journey and it can be very difficult for new parents to connect with children as they establish their emotional boundaries and understanding of emotional regulation. The Tuning into Kids program equips parents with the skills they need to understand their children. It also offers a Tuning into Teens program, which offers similar things for teenagers as they go through their hormonal ebbs and flows. It offers a Circle of Security program, which is all about providing secure parent and child relationships and helping parents understand their child’s emotional world.

One of the most fantastic programs it delivers is Families and Schools Together. I have had the great privilege of attending a number of FAST events, particularly at Malvern Springs Primary School. The FAST program identifies the 15 most vulnerable families within a school community and then brings them together on a regular basis. The parents and children cook food together, and each week two families take turns serving the other families with food. Some of these families would never, ever sit down with their children to eat a meal, let alone prepare a meal together. When the kids go off to play, the families are encouraged to talk about the kinds of challenges they encounter raising their kids and whatever is on their minds. In isolated communities and at a time when some families can feel quite isolated and alone, this program brings families together. It has been demonstrated that after that 12-week program, those bonds of friendship endure. It builds community resilience as well as family resilience, and is such a fantastic program. I want to congratulate Fiona Lee and the team at CLAN, which is mainly staffed on a volunteer basis, for the absolutely fantastic work they do.

The other amazing program CLAN Midland delivers, particularly in Ellenbrook, Midland and throughout the Midland region, is the Paint the Swan REaD program, which encourages early literacy. It recognises that if kids can read and write before they go to school, they will have an advantage in their learning and life outcomes. Paint the Swan REaD is all about how to get kids engaged in reading and how to help parents teach their children to read. I have a Paint the Swan REaD book exchange box in my office, and I am so pleased to go along to the event every year.

I cannot underscore enough what a fantastic job CLAN does. I was incredibly proud and humbled, to be honest, to be asked to be CLAN Midland’s ambassador. I want to take the opportunity today to talk up the absolutely fantastic work they do. If anybody is interested in participating in CLAN Midland’s work, please volunteer. It needs the help. It demonstrates that communities can be strengthened when we all join together and support families and communities.

I would like to talk about a few other things that have been happening in the past few months in my electorate. In September, I joined the Minister for Emergency Services in west Giddegannup to announce a record \$1.3 million investment for a standalone volunteer bush fire brigade facility. It represents the single largest investment ever made by any state government to a volunteer bush fire brigade. It was a bit of a challenge getting there. We were herding cats, trying to find out what the volunteer bush fire brigade wanted, what the Department of Fire and Emergency Services guys wanted and what the City of Swan wanted. It took us a while to negotiate exactly what that project would look like, but we came up with an absolutely first-rate firefighting facility in Swan Hills. It will house four appliances and includes incident control and radio rooms across 400 square metres. It is just fantastic. It is right on Toodyay Road just down the road from where I live in Giddegannup.

On the same day that we announced that fantastic state-of-the-art bush fire brigade facility, we then hopped in our cars and drove to the Chidlow Tavern, which I will say is a fantastic local pub, run by Fran and Norm Berry. They do incredible amounts for the community. That afternoon they hosted a meeting between the Minister for Emergency Services and Commissioner Klemm with the women’s volunteer bush fire brigade network, which I was very pleased to support the establishment of. Volunteer bush fire brigades are quite male-dominated, but there are women in the brigades who fight the fires just as hard as the men do. They are fantastic leaders in their communities. They have decided to form a mentoring and friendship group to help develop their leadership skills and allow women to workshop the issues that they encounter as they fight fires in the seat of Swan Hills. I was very pleased to support the establishment of the women’s volunteer bush fire brigade mentoring network and I was absolutely thrilled that Minister Logan came with me and sat down and listened to the women talk about the particular challenges that they encounter when they volunteer in bush fire brigades. What an awesome job they do.

In October, there was yet another fantastic investment in the seat of Swan Hills. I was delighted to go with Minister Kelly, the Minister for Water, to the back end of Ellenbrook, into the pine plantation just off Gngangara Road, to turn the valve on the state’s largest-ever water tank. This thing is absolutely huge. It is 15 metres high —

**Mrs R.M.J. Clarke:** I can see you struggling with that.

**Ms J.J. SHAW:** I can tell the member for Murray–Wellington, it was quite a challenge to get the valve open. I was a bit worried that I was going to thread it and then we would not have been able to do anything with it.

**Mrs R.M.J. Clarke:** Live on television.

**Ms J.J. SHAW:** Exactly, live on TV would have been a bit awkward. The Ellenbrook water tank can hold enough water to fill 35 Olympic swimming pools. It is the largest tank ever built by the state government and holds 80 million litres. The plans are for two more tanks over the next 40 years as the population grows out there. It was in response to issues they were having particularly in Ellenbrook, Aveley and The Vines. A lot of people came to me to say that, at peak times, the water pressure is really bad in Ellenbrook. That is certainly not too good. Everybody would get home and want to have a shower, the kids would come in from school and want to get cleaned up, and the water pressure would be just absolutely terrible. Since the installation of the water tank, those water pressure problems have considerably abated. This has been a fantastic initiative and I would like to thank the Minister for Water for allowing me to accompany him to Ellenbrook to open the water tank.

It is not all about Ellenbrook. Some awesome things have been happening in the hills in addition to the volunteer bush fire brigade project that I announced earlier. A few weeks ago we had the most fantastic day. The Premier came to open the inaugural Hills Billy Cart Festival in Mount Helena, a town that is very dear to my heart. It is these sorts of things that make the hills a great place in which to live. The Hills Billy Cart Festival was accompanied by an antique and vintage festival. Everybody got dressed up in old-world clothes, and 80 billy carts entered the Hills Billy Cart Festival. It was a gorgeous thing to see. Before I was even a member of Parliament, I sat with the Mount Helena ratepayers and we wondered about the sorts of things we could do to bring vibrancy and life to our sleepy little town. One Mount Helena ratepayer, John Bell, said, “Why don’t we do a billy cart festival?” We thought that it would never get up—that there would be insurance problems and the Shire of Mundaring would never let it happen. But we got incredible support from the shire. A whole heap of organisations sponsored us.

The event was well organised, and what a day it was. Eighty bilycarts were built by the local men’s sheds, the local bush fire brigades, the local schools, and parents working with their kids in their backyard sheds. Some of these bilycarts were a sight to behold. We saw bilycarts made to look like aeroplanes, converted wine barrels, bathtubs with wheels, and fire engines. They were just incredible. The event was a huge success. Thousands of people came to our tiny town of Mount Helena. It was so successful that we are definitely going to do it again next year. We will combine it with the Whim Festival. I am looking forward to really getting behind this particular event and many others like it in the hills. The hills is a hidden gem. It has all these beautiful little locations, with all these exciting little markets and fairs. It is a fantastic place for day trips from the CBD. We need to capitalise on that.

One of the things that sprung up alongside the Hills Billy Cart Festival was the formation of a hills tourism group. We got together to talk about what we could do to try to promote the hills, drive some economic growth up there and get people into our local cafes. I am thrilled that the Shire of Mundaring has been so willing to discuss this with the Mundaring Chamber of Commerce, which has a new board and is full of energy and excitement. We are all working to look at the sorts of things that we can do to grow economic development in the hills. It perfectly complements the sorts of initiatives that have been announced by the state government around broadening the scope of the Margaret River Gourmet Escape, which now incorporates the Swan Valley along with Margaret River. It will mean that people can come into the hills and see all the wonderful things that our area has to offer. The Swan Valley hop on, hop off bus is yet another fantastic thing. My staff and I are thinking of using that for our work Christmas party. Fantastic things are happening in my electorate that drive economic growth and provide opportunities for small business.

There is one more thing that I would really like to talk about this evening. It is a small thing that happened in my electorate but it has worldwide significance. Back in August, I had the very great privilege, on behalf of the Minister for Environment, to release 14 western swamp tortoises into the Ellen Brook Twin Swamps Nature Reserve. The western swamp tortoise is one of the most critically endangered reptiles on the planet. There are only 50 left in the world. They naturally occur in only one place in the world, and that is the Ellen Brook reserve. It is a tiny part of the world within which one of the world’s most critically endangered species exists. It is right next to 40 000 people in a corridor that will be developed over the coming years. Areas like this need to be preserved. I want to highlight the fantastic work being done by just a few groups that preserve that environment and, in turn, support the preservation of the western swamp tortoise—Chittering Landcare Centre and Friends of the Western Swamp Tortoise. They do an absolutely fantastic job. I would also like to acknowledge the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, WWF-Australia and Perth Zoo for all the work that they do to protect and preserve the western swamp tortoise. I think they live for 50 years but even when they reach sexual maturity at seven years old, they are no bigger than the palm of our hand. They take years to develop. We have to preserve our unique and very beautiful environs.

I am blessed to represent the seat of Swan Hills. We have some of the most beautiful national parks and rolling hills. We are at the top end of the Swan Valley but we are also lucky to have one of the most vibrant, exciting, young, resilient communities in the whole of the state. It is a deep privilege to represent the seat of Swan Hills. It

is great to be part of a government that is delivering infrastructure and facilities for the people of Swan Hills. What a genuine pleasure it is to speak at the end of this parliamentary year about the wonderful things that this government has delivered, which were outlined at the beginning of this parliamentary year.

**MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont)** [6.04 pm]: I rise this evening to make a brief contribution to the Premier's Statement, as other members have done. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts and work done by our Premier and his team in cabinet, particularly relating to debt management and getting our state back on track. We have achieved some really significant legislative outcomes as well as delivering on all of our election commitments thus far across all of our electorates. I would like to touch on those later.

I would like to talk about some of the things that the McGowan Labor government has achieved during its 20 months in office. I will highlight some of those this evening. One of the most important things that we talked about in the lead-up to the 2017 election was jobs. Across all of our communities, the importance of having secure jobs shone through. We listened to our respective electorates. When we got into government, our real priority was to ensure that we had jobs for the future, so we passed the Western Australian Jobs Bill. That demonstrated our real commitment to creating jobs right across this state. Some of the other things that we have done have been equally important. In my electorate, the Matagarup Bridge is now complete and looks absolutely beautiful. It connects my electorate to the rest of the city.

We are manufacturing trains and rail lines locally. That is another fantastic initiative that is not only creating jobs for locals, but it is also stimulating those manufacturing sectors and supporting local industries, which is fantastic and something that I am really proud of this Labor government for doing. We are taking real measures to rein in the astronomical debt that we inherited from the former Liberal government. Critically, we have done that without having to sell Western Power. We have frozen the pay of politicians, which everyone acknowledges is a good step, and senior public servants. We are also building the transformative public transport project, Metronet. It is absolutely well and truly underway, especially in my electorate. That demonstrates yet again Labor's commitment to public transport in WA. It is also creating thousands of jobs for locals, which is fantastic.

Importantly, we froze TAFE fees. It was raised time and again, certainly in my electorate of Belmont, that people were extraordinarily frustrated at how inaccessible TAFE fees had become under the former Liberal government. They rose to astronomical levels; in fact, beyond about 500 per cent over its time in government, which is an absolute disgrace. As soon as we came in, we took steps to freeze TAFE fees.

We are taking domestic violence in this state really seriously for the first time. The biggest signal to that is the fact that for the first time ever in WA we have a Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, who is sitting in the chamber. She does an absolutely outstanding job day in and day out to try to get rid of this scourge of domestic violence in our community.

We are delivering respectful relationship programs in schools as part of a primary prevention program. This is a really critical step. It is about intervening early and trying to change those attitudes that can lead to unhealthy and disrespectful attitudes down the track. We want to make sure that we do not give licence to disrespectful relationships. We are establishing two additional women's refuges. That work commenced this year, which is fantastic because obviously it is critically important that when women take those often dangerous steps to remove themselves from a violent relationship, they have somewhere safe to go. We are making sure that we are doing our bit to make provision for their safe exit from those relationships. We are reinstating and expanding financial counselling services with an extra \$7.4 million of funding. We are funding for the RSPCA to support the pets in crisis program. I really admire this program. It is vitally important because often pets are used as a way to get at victims and what happens to pets can be quite atrocious. This will help victims and families who experience domestic violence to look after their pets, which is a big issue for a lot of families. Victims do not want to leave their pets behind, particularly if the pet is being exposed to violence as well by the perpetrator. We introduced legislation that makes revenge porn a criminal offence. Again, that is something that we should be very proud of. Importantly—this is something that I was really pleased to be able to contribute to—we passed the legislation adopting the National Redress Scheme. This is designed to help victims of child sexual abuse seek redress for their pain and suffering. Of course, it will not remove that pain or suffering but it acknowledges that suffering and we hope that in time it will ease. Furthermore, we passed reforms to remove the statute of limitations on civil actions for victims of child sexual abuse. That is important because on average it takes approximately 22 years for a victim of child sexual abuse to come to terms with what has happened to them and actually come forward. We introduced laws to increase penalties and payouts for workplace safety violations and deaths. We have dealt with the Residential Parks (Long-stay Tenants) Amendment Bill 2018. I also spoke on this bill last week. I was really pleased to see this bill come before the house because it provides greater security for long-term tenants of caravan parks. We know that long-term residents of caravan parks are over the age of 50 and predominantly on fixed and/or low incomes. It is critically important that support and protection mechanisms are put in place for those tenants, especially when a caravan park might be bought by a developer and potentially developed. We need to make sure



that those residents are protected as far as possible. Today I also spoke on the Consumer Protection Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I am pleased that that bill has highlighted an issue under the current legislation. Tragically, the legislation was brought about by the death of a 21-month-old toddler in 2015. His mother went to her landlord and requested permission to fix the furniture to the wall in her rental home to protect her child from the furniture, such as a television or a chest of drawers, from toppling over. Tragically, that was not permitted and her child subsequently died when furniture toppled onto him. This legislation deals with 10 pieces of legislation, but just on that one matter it is vitally important because it will ensure that that does not happen again in future, which will save lives. I am really saddened that it did not come sooner to save the life of poor, young Reef.

As part of this government's election promises, we committed to increasing the number of jobs in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. We have done that by starting to provide more science labs in schools to encourage the interest and curiosity that young children, hopefully, have in STEM-related subjects. To ensure that happens, we have committed to 200 new science laboratories right across schools in Western Australia. The first 100 are being rolled out and I am really pleased to say that the very first one was rolled out in my electorate of Belmont at Belmont Primary School. The Premier opened it a few months ago. The school is absolutely rapt because it now has this brand-new science lab and \$25 000 to put towards new equipment, which the children are really excited to be using each and every day to stimulate that interest in STEM. Another one of my schools was also lucky enough to receive funding for a new science lab. Rivervale Primary School is hoping that its lab will be ready by the new school year next year, which is fantastic. A couple of months ago it was also announced that Belmay Primary School and Carlisle Primary School are also going to be receiving funding for a new science lab, which is fantastic. This year we are delivering 100 of the 300 additional education assistants back into classrooms, which we committed to doing as part of our election promises. As a mum with one child at school and another about to start kindergarten, I can absolutely see firsthand, like so many other parents, how critically important it is for children to get that additional one-on-one support that education assistants provide in a classroom environment. I know for sure that their support is very much appreciated by the teachers as well.

Another great achievement of this Labor government is the tightening of the laws around dangerous sex offenders to enhance the community's safety. We have expunged historical homosexual convictions, righting an historical wrong that saw state-sanctioned discrimination and persecution towards gay men. We introduced the no body, no parole legislation in the hope of helping grief-stricken families find some sense of closure to their tragedy. We are introducing and implementing the "Western Australian Meth Strategy 2016" to combat this very deeply destructive scourge in our community. This includes the Methamphetamine Action Plan Taskforce and the meth border force, which is made up of 100-sworn police officers and 20 dedicated and specialised intelligence staff. It also includes funding for the Western Australia Police Force to target roadside and alcohol drug testing and \$12 million for residential and community-based treatment facilities. We have also converted one of our prisons to a meth rehabilitation prison. We have launched Target 120, an early intervention program that targets the at-risk youth offenders by aiming to change their trajectory. A new museum is being constructed, which is scheduled to open in 2020. This will not only stimulate additional tourism, but also generate, importantly, 3 000 construction jobs and 400 jobs in creative industries. We listened to the community and we stopped the development of Roe 8. We took steps to protect the unique Helena and Aurora Ranges and we are doing our bit for the environment this year by banning single-use plastic bags. These bags are not biodegradable and have a catastrophic impact on our environment. I am really proud of this policy. We have also announced a container deposit scheme, which is another great environmental initiative to address waste in our communities. "Charlotte's Law" was introduced to bring penalties for dangerous drivers in line with community expectations when they kill or seriously injure another driver. The new Perth Children's Hospital was opened and we have extended the free meningococcal vaccine for young children in our community. Importantly, we have launched a police redress scheme, which is long overdue. I am very proud that this government will act to rectify that situation.

I would now like to touch on some of the election commitments in my electorate of Belmont because they have been well received and, in many instances, the funds were desperately needed. Firstly, I would like to talk about Metronet. The Forresterfield–Airport Link has two new stations in my electorate: Redcliffe station and Airport Central station, which is very much underway. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Minister for Transport and thank her for listening to the locals. She allowed them to have their say on the naming of the train station, which was originally put forward by the previous government as "Belmont station", even though it is not located in Belmont but, rather, the heart of Redcliffe. We ran a community survey and had an overwhelming response from locals who said that they wanted it to be named Redcliffe station, and that was honoured. There is funding in forward estimates for a new performing arts centre for Belmont City College. This is an election commitment that we will deliver. Belmont City College offers a contemporary drama program and this centre will allow students to learn in a modern and up-to-date facility. This new performing arts centre will feature stadium seating for more than 350 people, large screens and an open space for exhibitions, shows and performances. Construction is due to commence in 2020 and is expected to be completed by 2021. I note that many students at that school want to participate in its drama program because it has a special

relationship with the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in Perth. The drama program at Belmont City College is very well regarded. It is fantastic that going forward this facility will be able to accommodate more students who wish to do that specialised drama program in year 12. As I mentioned, we have committed to delivering 300 additional education assistants and 120 teachers, as well as 50 Aboriginal and Islander education officers to be employed right across Western Australian schools. My local schools will be very keen to receive these additional resources.

I will now talk about some of the local sporting commitments that were made across the electorate of Belmont. I gave the Belmont Bombers, the football club in my electorate, \$80 000 as part of the Local Projects, Local Jobs — Several members interjected.

**Ms C.M. ROWE:** The government gave it to the club. It was really exciting to have lighting put in at Forster Park so that the Bombers can train in the evening.

[Member's time extended.]

**Ms C.M. ROWE:** The Belmont Cricket Club was given \$35 000 to go towards upgrading some of its facilities, which again, is a lot of money for a voluntary sports club. The club was extraordinarily grateful to get that funding towards upgrading its nets, turfs and so forth. I will take this opportunity to quickly acknowledge the work of its new committee members, in particular Darren Kavanagh. The committee is really committed to improving the club's culture. It has engaged in the Good Sports program to assist it with that, which is fantastic. It is committed to getting a lot more young women and girls in our community playing cricket. I commend the club for the great work it does.

Tennis is a sport played by many in my community. Belmont Park Tennis Club received \$31 000 to go towards the resurfacing of its hard courts. We are about to formally open those courts in a few weeks' time, which will be great to see, just in time for the summer season. Belmont City College also received \$80 000 as part of this program to upgrade its gymnasium toilet room. It was in need of urgent repair, so that is fantastic. Hazelmere Hall received \$100 000 to go towards its community hall. A couple of months ago, I formally opened that with the City of Swan. It looks fantastic. It has been completely rejuvenated with that money and the locals, from what I can gather, are really appreciative, especially the mothers group and playgroups that meet there. It is now an absolutely top-class facility. I committed to getting \$150 000 towards a bridge to connect South Guildford to Guildford all year round. At the moment it is not accessible all year round, particularly in winter when there is flooding. Belmont Community Growers received \$10 000 under the Local Projects, Local Jobs program and that went towards building its garden beds, which look fantastic. It is a great community group that attracts many locals, and is a bit of a hub. It does great work there.

Belmont Men's Shed was given \$20 000 for new equipment. A few weeks ago, I met with people there. The men's shed had an open day and the place was just buzzing with men making some beautiful handmade children's toys and cabinets and so forth. One of them had just received a prize for woodwork at the Royal Show and had started learning how to do woodwork only 12 months prior. The men's shed is doing some great things. Every person with whom I spoke at the men's shed said to me that it is like their second home. It is a real social highlight for all of them, even those who just go down for a cup of tea and a chat. These are great community organisations and I was very happy that our government could support the local men's shed.

I was pleased to give \$50 000 for upgrading some of the play equipment at Selby Park in Redcliffe in my electorate. That funding updated a very tired park, which was very well received by the locals and is now well utilised by a lot of young families. The Belmont Sports and Recreation Centre also received \$50 000 under this program. That funding has gone towards updating its CCTV and it is looking to put some of that money towards a farmers market, which is fantastic. While I am talking about some of our community groups and sporting clubs in the area, it is important to note that they really are the life and soul of any community. Many dedicated people make sure that these events happen every weekend. For example, the Cloverdale Comets and cricket clubs and football clubs—I do not want to name them all, because I will forget some of them—would not exist if it was not for the dedication of the parents who umpire and score and set up and pack up and bring, watch and support their children each and every weekend. I take the opportunity to acknowledge them and the volunteers involved in making these clubs viable. It is really important for our community.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Vasse! You are not to pass between the Speaker and the member on her feet.

Several members interjected.

**Ms C.M. ROWE:** I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the Belmont Redcliffe Junior Football Academy, set up by Leigh Searle. He set up this academy on the smell of an oily rag to allow access to formal sports for children who might not otherwise be able to afford it and for families who might have multiple children. He runs

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it at a really low cost and goes around and gets sponsorship from local organisations. I want to give a shout-out to Leigh Searle.

I will talk about some of the announcements and commitments that have been honoured under the Local Projects, Local Jobs program. The Belmont Junior Soccer Club received \$10 000 to make sure that Miles Park in Cloverdale would have some fencing to protect those younger players. It is on a major road and the government wanted to make sure that there would be extra safety for those young players in particular. Belmont Villa Soccer Club at Gerry Archer Reserve in Belmont needed additional storage for its sporting equipment and was given \$30 000 for that.

I also note that as part of the election commitments, each state primary school in the Belmont electorate was given \$50 000. Most of that went towards upgrading existing playgrounds, but in some instances, they did not have nature playgrounds at all, so this funding was vital for them to provide that for their students. The schools have been very grateful to have that money to upgrade their facilities that were very tired in many cases. Funding went to Belmont Primary School, Carlisle Primary School, Kewdale Primary School, Cloverdale Primary School, Belmay Primary School, Rivervale Primary School and Redcliffe Primary School.

While I am on the topic of schools, I take this opportunity to acknowledge all the hard work of the principals. They do an immensely hard and difficult job but a wonderful job and, of course, I also acknowledge all the staff and teachers at my local schools. I would also like to acknowledge an important group that sometimes is not thanked as much as it should be, and that is the P&Cs of these schools. I am very proud of the P&Cs in my electorate. They do a great job in fundraising for their school communities. It is a hard job to do. As soon as someone says yes to being on a P&C, they know that their key job is to fundraise. I was proud to invite the members of the P&Cs in my electorate to Parliament House for morning tea as a thankyou. I think they had a ball when they came here. I would also like to donate a bike to all the P&Cs in my electorate to help them fundraise. It is a pleasure to work with all the schools in my electorate. They are doing a fantastic job.

Another commitment that our government has delivered in the last 20 months was to extend the opening hours of Belmont Police Station. Prior to the government acting on this commitment, Belmont Police Station closed at four o'clock in the afternoon. It is now open until seven o'clock at night. I know that many locals are grateful for those additional opening hours. There is a fair bit of crime in our area, as is the case in many areas, so that is very important. I am proud that our government has honoured that commitment.

I also want to highlight the Save Garvey Park group in my community. I am very proud to have had the privilege of meeting and working with that group earlier this year. It did a fantastic job in getting a groundswell of support from all the locals in the area to save a parcel of land in Garvey Park that was potentially available to be developed. That land was important ecologically, because it not only has a rare species of eucalyptus, but also is home to long-necked turtles and rare migratory birds. The group organised a petition containing 3 500 signatures opposing any development on this special parcel of land. I was pleased when Minister Saffioti, the Minister for Lands, said that the government would save that parcel of land. I am extremely proud of the work the community did to bring about this change and was very happy to work with it, and I particularly acknowledge those ladies, particularly Joanne Fabling, who was the engine for making this change happen. It shone a light on the importance of the environment to many locals in my electorate, which obviously takes in the beautiful Swan River. It was also a pleasure to work with them to set up a Community Rivercare group and to see all the locals come together to get better outcomes for the environment in and around our river, which includes pelicans, ducks and fish. I am proud to work with that group and to advocate for better outcomes, whether it be from the state or federal government, or local council.

In closing, I congratulate the Premier and his cabinet for all their achievements, some of which I have highlighted, during our 20 months in government. I especially note that the funding for the Local Projects, Local Jobs program across Belmont has been very well received and has been critical in assisting some of the schools, sporting clubs and community groups in my electorate to fund projects that they desperately wanted and needed.

**MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley)** [6.33 pm]: I am incredibly enthusiastic to stand here tonight on the last day of sitting for 2018 to make a contribution to the debate on the Premier's Statement. It has been a very busy year in the electorate of Kingsley. My staff and I have been engaging a lot with our community. The community has told me repeatedly this year that that was a foreign concept to them.

They have not had a member who has engaged with them in this way in quite a number of years. I would like to start with —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI:** Members, it is sad. One of the first things my community had this year was the community cabinet, which was shared with the member for Balcatta. It was an opportunity for members of our

communities to have some face time with the Premier and ministers. It consisted of a number of different things. On the Sunday afternoon and evening there was a town hall meeting and then on the Monday there were various community group meetings and breakfast and lunch with people in the community. When the invites went out to the people in my community for the town hall meeting, my office started to get a number of phone calls asking what this was about. We said, “Well, this is an opportunity for you to meet with the Premier and the ministers and to have your say, or ask questions of them.” We started asking why they were asking that, and they said, “We’ve never had a town hall meeting. We don’t know where the town hall is.” It was actually quite surprising to me. I think the member for Balcatta mentioned that at the town hall on the Sunday, the Kingsley community members were a little quiet. Indeed, they were gobsmacked, because they had never had this opportunity to speak face to face with ministers or to ask questions of the Premier directly and have them answered. They found that foreign. By the end of the night they had warmed up and were starting to engage.

The Monday was a fantastic day of community engagement, particularly for young people in my electorate who were able to get in front of the ministers and ask them questions and raise issues that are important to them. These are the young people who will be voting at the next election. I was particularly proud of my student leaders. The Premier and all the ministers came up to Woodvale Secondary College for lunch. Woodvale is a fantastic school with a beautiful hospitality training program and venue. We brought the cabinet up to Woodvale and the students used this Premier’s lunch event as part of the events for their curriculum for the year. We invited the student leaders from Woodvale Secondary College, Greenwood College, Warwick Senior High School and Balcatta Senior High School, which is the only high school in the member for Balcatta’s electorate, and put them in front of the cabinet to ask questions. We told them that they could ask whatever they would like to know about. I think all of the ministers who were there that day would agree that they did not go easy on them. They were asking them hard-hitting questions—questions about euthanasia and about what the government is going to do to stop the bullying that they live with day in and day out from their peers and people online. These students from my community and the member for Balcatta’s community will be making some very important decisions in 2021 for the very first time. This was an opportunity for them to actually speak to the people who make decisions that affect their lives. That was a great event.

We also had a couple of great announcements during the community cabinet for my community. We announced that we would give North Woodvale Primary School \$25 000 to create a nature playground. The school had spoken to me about wanting to create a nature playground. It had some really enthusiastic teachers and parents who wanted to build this nature playground in the school grounds, but as much as they could fundraise every year, they were never going to have enough to build their vision. I advocated on their behalf with the minister and the Department of Education to progress their wish to have a nature playground built in their school. They were very excited to have not only the Minister for Education and Training but also the Premier out there, along with the Labor candidate for Moore for the federal election, Tony O’Gorman. We all went out there on site to meet them.

**Ms L.L. Baker:** Who was that again, member?

**Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI:** I believe his name is Tony O’Gorman!

A government member interjected.

**Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI:** In fact, member, he does stay awake, particularly when there are children who are interested in what we have to say. We all went onto the North Woodvale Primary School site and announced that it would get \$20 000 in funding for its nature play space. I cannot tell members how many hugs I received that day from teachers and parents who just could not believe that this was happening for their school.

Another big announcement that we made during the community cabinet was the very generous offer by the Minister for Planning for \$150 000 for the City of Joondalup to restore the culturally significant Duffy House in my electorate in the heart of Woodvale. It represents the heart and soul of Woodvale. Duffy House was built by two members of the pioneering families in the Wanneroo–Joondalup area, the Duffy and Cockman families. They worked the land around it. That land is now the beautiful Yellagonga Regional Park, which runs through the heart of my electorate. This house represents the cultural ties to our future and also the cultural ties to the development of Woodvale and the Wanneroo–Joondalup area.

As I said, my office had a very busy year with events. I am sure that my team rolls their eyes at me every time I walk in and say, “I’ve had an idea.” They just know another event to engage with the community is coming their way! We had a small business forum earlier in the year. The Minister for Small Business met with small business owners in my community to talk to them face to face and to listen to their issues. We also brought out representatives from the Small Business Development Corporation, which runs numerous programs throughout the year to help small businesses that want to set up, but also to expand their skill set once they have established themselves a little bit to ensure that they are a success. This is another demonstration of how committed the McGowan Labor government is to jobs in WA. We are not talking about jobs in just the big mining ventures or jobs in the health or education sectors; we are talking about supporting small businesses that employ one or

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two people or sole traders, because they are supporting our economy. The small business forum was a fantastic forum and I got some great feedback from the people who attended.

One thing that is near and dear to my heart is mums returning to work. I am a working mum. I have two children—one in primary school and one in day care. Mr Speaker, I know that you know how difficult the struggle has been for me in the transition to full-time-and-a-half work. I thought that if it was hard for me, it must be hard for other mums who want to transition to work after having children. I spoke to the Minister for Women's Interests, who was very gracious with her time. She came to the electorate to speak to these mums returning to work. A number of other people also spoke to these mums to give them all the information to fill up their toolkit about what they have to do, what they can do and the things they can access. Some of the speakers were from UnionsWA; the Department of Human Services, which talked about the changes to childcare subsidies; Juggler, which is a new gig economy platform; and the North Metropolitan TAFE jobs and skills centre. I will not go into that too much because I know my colleague the member for Joondalup gave it quite a good rap earlier, but the jobs and skills centre is a fantastic skills identification and growing space where mums, or anybody really, can identify the skills gaps in their résumés and also have a chat to people about interview skills and things like that.

One of my favourite events this year was a Women in STEM workshop. I invited some of these women to Parliament House for dinner the other night. They are four of the most impressive women I have ever met. They are all leaders in their field of science, and one is quite literally searching for life on Mars. At dinner the other night, she very excitedly told us all about the landing of the NASA *InSight* probe, and how exciting that will be over the next few years. When the women were doing a leadership program in 2017–18, they approached me to see whether I could help out. I of course said I could, but that they needed to do something for me. So they came to my electorate, where we held two events on one night—one for primary school-aged students and one for high school-aged students. The students came to Warwick Senior High School, where these four amazing women spoke about the types of work they did in science, women in leadership, and what it is like to work in a male-dominated industry like science and how they found their place. They also gave these girls who love science and want to pursue it as a career a window into their Antarctic expedition. There was much excitement after the girls left the workshops, and the feedback from parents and schoolteachers was that the girls were very excited to explore the idea of what they could be as young scientists.

Another recent event was WA Seniors Week. Twenty-four per cent of my electorate is aged over 60, so I make a special effort to engage with them in not only a social sense when I go to their sundowners or their morning or afternoon teas, but also I provide them with some really great and engaging outings in my electorate. During Seniors Week this year, I held a number of tours to Parliament House, during which the seniors saw a fantastic presentation. At this point, I would like to sincerely thank the members of the Parliamentary Education Office for not only all their hard work during Seniors Week, but also all the work they do with all our schools. The students come in and are taught about our Parliament, civics, citizenship and their responsibility as members of our society. On this occasion, the Parliamentary Education Office created a wonderful, whimsical presentation about Parliament—it was just after Remembrance Day—and parliamentarians who served for Australia in the wars. We watched that, and then the seniors came into both chambers and got to sit in the Premier's chair. A few were jostling to get other people out of the way so that they got to sit in the Premier's chair! It was a really wonderful experience for them.

Also during Seniors Week I put on the Kingsley Cabaret. I love to sing—I am sure my Labor caucus colleagues are aware of that! I thought it would be great to get some musical groups in and put on a bit of a cabaret for the seniors, give them some afternoon tea and have a really nice afternoon with them. We organised a local singing group called The Honey B's to come in and serenade them. The Honey B's sing wonderful songs by artists like The Andrews Sisters and Elvis, right through to The Beach Boys and The Beatles. They came in and sang, and the seniors loved having a bit of a singalong. We then brought in students from Creaney Primary School, which is right next to where the cabaret was held. Its students have been working very hard all year, creating pieces to perform at various events. They performed at the One Big Voice festival and numerous assemblies throughout the year. The set that they performed was very uplifting. They took the idea of being happy and sending positive messages and positive vibes into the universe. The songs they chose for our seniors were songs of happiness and joy. I know a lot of the seniors did not know the songs, but they appreciated that the kids from Creaney Primary School had taken the time out to go and see them.

I refer to the third act of my Kingsley cabaret. I am particularly close to my uncle, who is a founding member of the Mucky Duck Bush Band. I am sure members who have grown up in Western Australia would know very well of the Mucky Duck Bush Band. It was a band that used to travel to lots of primary schools, including mine. I have had some very proud days in my life seeing my uncle on stage. The Mucky Duck Bush Band sings lots of bush ballads and folk songs. My uncle came in and we had a singing session where we sang lots of Irish and Australian folk songs. I think there is even some embarrassing footage of me singing *Home Among the Gumtrees* with the actions, so that the oldies knew what they had to do. I have to tell members that I got many responses from people

in attendance. They were very excited and happy to see a member of Parliament, and somebody so young, engaging with them in a meaningful way.

The other thing we did for seniors, not in Seniors Week but just before, was a cybersecurity forum. We got David Cook and the Council on the Ageing in WA. David gave some great tips that even some of us should definitely look at taking up about password protection and how to make sure we are safe when we get those very annoying phone calls that we know are scammers from a different country. For those who are interested, they should say, “Thank you; no, thank you”, and hang up. We filled the hall with 60 seniors, who were in awe of what David was able to tell us. I am sure they are a lot safer online nowadays.

They are a couple of events we held in the electorate. As I said, it was a very busy year. We held a grants workshop to help local community groups in their pursuit of accessing grant funding from various things. The member for Girrawheen and I had a very important workshop about midge management. For those who live in the suburb of Kingsley and the suburbs of Darch and Madeley in the member for Girrawheen’s electorate, the midges that come off Lake Goollelal in the hotter months are a real amenity issue, and have been an issue for a number of years. They used to be at Lake Joondalup. I remember reading the former member for Joondalup’s inaugural speech in 2001. Even he mentioned midges.

[Member’s time extended.]

**Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI:** We managed to get together the City of Wanneroo, the City of Joondalup and a representative from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, who came and explained to people in our electorates what they can do, what the department is doing and what the plan is for managing midges from Lake Goollelal this year. The issue fluctuates every year with heat and rainfall, but I know the member for Girrawheen has been dealing with it for many more years than I have. The forum allowed people to get a really good understanding of why we cannot just spray the lake every time a midge gets in their front door and what we can do about it. They are some of the events we had in my electorate this year.

I would like to also talk about schools and education, if I may. Anybody who knows me knows that I am a passionate advocate for education.

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** You are!

**Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI:** I know! I sit on four school boards in my electorate, which means I am out at least once a week to attend a meeting on a school board or parents and citizens association. I am proud that the McGowan government has made unprecedented investment in the local schools across my electorate. The Halidon Primary School administration block opened this year. Two primary schools received funding for nature play spaces. It has also been announced that five primary schools will be getting science labs over the coming years. I recently attended the opening of Dalmain Primary School’s science lab and I cannot tell members how excited the kids were. The energy in the classroom and their thirst for learning was sparked by a space in which they could be themselves, explore their scientific hypotheses, have a look at how kinetic energy works and perform experiments where they could see chemical reactions happening in front of their eyes. This type of investment in our schools is going to prepare our kids for the jobs of the future. If we have heard it once, we have heard it a million times: we need to focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics for the future of our kids because they will have jobs that have not even been invented yet. We need to teach them the skill set to be collaborative, to be freethinkers and to question their surroundings. These school labs are going to give them the foundation that they need. My electorate will have five new science labs. It is unprecedented and we are extremely excited about the science labs coming into the electorate of Kingsley.

While I am on the subject of schools, I really need to give a shout-out to Warwick Senior High School. It has had an enormous year this year. Not only did one of the teachers, Ben Garnaut, receive an award for Beginning Teacher of the Year at the WA Education Awards, but on the same day, it was awarded the Governor’s School STEM Award for its inclusive STEM program. Lesley Wintle and all the staff at Warwick need to be commended. They have had a focus on STEM for the last few years and that focus is finally coming to fruition. Those kids are getting the benefits. It is not just the high-level kids who strive to be scientists, but all kids at all levels are getting the exposure to STEM in the classroom because of the program at Warwick Senior High School.

Just before I wrap up, at a policy level, one of the things that the McGowan Labor government has brought in this year that is really important to my community in Kingsley is the plastic bag ban. This was huge for my community. Every time I spoke to somebody and every time I posted anything on Facebook about banning plastic bags, I would have an enormous response. I actually had primary school students writing to me to tell me how great the plastic bag ban was, and asking what our next things were going to be. I even did a grievance to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment asking about the government’s next steps. The grievance was prompted by a letter I received from a primary school student in my electorate. Yesterday, I was very pleased to sit here while the parliamentary secretary read in the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Amendment (Container Deposit) Bill 2018. I am really excited to debate that next year.

**Extract from Hansard**

[ASSEMBLY — Thursday, 29 November 2018]

p9008b-9022a

Ms Emily Hamilton; Ms Jessica Shaw; Ms Cassandra Rowe; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski

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The widening of Mitchell Freeway is another really important project for my electorate. We live in Kingsley, but many of us work in the city or further south. The travel down to the city is a bit of a Russian roulette sometimes. I left home this morning at eight o'clock and I was here by 8.30 am. Sometimes if I leave home at 8.10 am, I will get here at 9.05 am. The widening of the freeway to bust that congestion will make a real difference for the people who live in the electorate of Kingsley.

I would like to congratulate the Treasurer and the entire cabinet for bringing down a boring budget. In these hard financial times, when we were left with record state debt after the financial mismanagement of the former Liberal government, to then deliver a boring budget is probably the best thing we could have done this year. It is what people in my electorate do. If they are undergoing hard financial times, they tighten their belts. They do not go out and do the fancy things they would like to do. They do not take holidays and they do not go out to fancy dinners. That is essentially what the Treasurer, the Premier and the cabinet have done—they have cut out the fancy meals and the holidays and tightened their belts so that the people of Western Australia can actually reap the benefits.

The GST was an amazing feat and I am surprised by the opposition's commentary on it because it is not that it could not even grapple with it; it just would not grapple with it. It just did not do anything about it. Our Treasurer and Premier have gone over and fought tooth and nail in the face of opposition from all the other states to actually fight for a fair share of our GST in Western Australia. I know it is not what everybody would want, but it is definitely a start. It was responsible action by this government. It might not have been an exciting thing to do; I am sure we could all spend our new GST revenue multiple times. I could probably spend it just in my electorate or just in the northern suburbs and be perfectly happy with that, but the responsible action of our government to use it to pay down debt is going to pay great dividends to our state. That is what we would do—if we had extra money in our household and we had a debt that we were unable to manage or that was hugely exorbitant, that is what we would do. If we found ourselves with extra revenue, we would use it to pay down our debt. The Treasurer, Premier and cabinet need to be commended for their forethought on how to use the GST.

I also want to speak very briefly about the strong legislative agenda we have had this year. The Attorney General has been particularly prolific in bringing bills to the house. Although some of them just tidy up loose ends, some of them have been extraordinarily important for future generations. The one that particularly comes to mind is the intimate images legislation. I talk about this one with the students I regularly speak to at my high schools. It is something that they deal with in their lives and something that we never had to deal with. The fact that we have recognised that and put in some protection for them so that revenge porn cannot be done to them is really important to them.

Our government is also really strong on supporting small businesses. Both the Liquor Control Amendment Bill and the Gaming and Wagering Legislation Amendment Bill are examples of how the McGowan Labor government has the back of small businesses.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. That is all I have for you today!

Question put and passed.