

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

PREMIER'S STATEMENT

Amendment to Question

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [3.13 pm]: I rise to support this amendment. I would like to clarify and articulate the point that the opposition is making with respect to the Local Projects, Local Jobs slush fund, which should have been more correctly named the “Labor vote buying slush fund” or “election commitment funding” or whatever it might be. The government is completely missing the point we are making about the Local Projects, Local Jobs grants program in that it was never a grants program. It was not designed to create jobs. There was no criteria in the applications for jobs. There was no criteria for the measurement of how many jobs were created by the Local Projects, Local Jobs slogan. It has been called a grants program, which ordinarily would come with some sort of application form and an application process. Therefore, it has been inappropriately named. That is the first dumb mistake that this government has made.

If in the budget we had seen “small sporting clubs and local community election commitments”, we would not be having this argument. If the government had, instead of trying to be clever and pretending this funding was about creating jobs and supporting local projects, called it for what it is, we would not be having this debate. Everybody in the community knows that around elections all parties in an election campaign that are trying to get elected make commitments to their local community. Everybody knows that. Everybody expects that when governments get elected, they come good with those election commitments. That is a given.

I have no doubt, like all members opposite who received some of this funding for their community groups, that members went to those community groups and asked, “What do you need?” They put that to the Labor Party machine in the lead-up to the election. The Labor Party machine said, “Yes, we’ll support that. How many people in the group? How will you promote it?” All that probably happened, but then the government got in. Instead of calling it “small election commitments for community groups and sporting organisations”, it has called it the Local Projects, Local Jobs fund. That implied that it is a grant process and that a grant process is involved. That is what the government is missing. The government is completely missing that it has been utterly misleading in naming this program. It has not been even-handed in doling out taxpayers’ funds. It has implied, by having the faces and names of individual members of Parliament on cheques, that they have handed out to community groups, saying, “I got this for you. This is my money”, as we have heard the member for Armadale say last night—“I gave \$10 000” —

Dr A.D. Buti: You’d better be careful what you say.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: No, you did not, member for Armadale. The Labor state government gave that money and you sponsored that commitment.

Dr A.D. Buti: You had better look at *Hansard* and see what I said.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: You sponsored that commitment through the Labor Party in the election campaign but it is not your money. It is not your money.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.C. Blayney): Member for Armadale, we had an extensive discussion about this last night. I did not get called to order by the person sitting next to you, but I would ask that you allow the member to speak.

Dr A.D. Buti: She is referring to me.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Yes. Member for Scarborough, direct your comments to me rather than to the member.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

I go back to the point I was making. The point I was making is that there has been a sleazy, misguided and quite frankly stupid attempt to name this \$39 million worth of funding, which is basically small commitments to sporting clubs and community groups funding—election commitments—as something else. Instead of saying that this is \$39 million worth of election commitments to small groups, they have called it Local Projects, Local Jobs grants. The name is a complete fabrication. That is what we are trying to get across to those opposite. A grants process involves an application process. There is some kind of fairness to it. An outcome is expected. None of these projects has any kind of requirement to report back to government and say how many jobs are created and how many new jobs occurred as a result of the allocation of this funding. I am completely baffled about why the

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government has called it that name. Obviously, it is just trying to get a slogan out there every time it puts this through. If it had called it “election funding”, there would be less of an issue.

The crass class politics response of the Premier has been absolutely disgraceful. When the Premier was challenged on this by the media, he said he would make no apology for not funding the Peppermint Grove Tennis Club et cetera. It was disgraceful. I have had a very close, forensic look at all the funding allocations. Members would be interested to know that around \$6 million of funding has gone to schools. In a collective \$6 million of grants that have gone to schools, some of the allocations were as small as \$10 000 for nature-based playgrounds. I have no problem with schools receiving funding for that, but the government should call it what it is. It should not pretend for a minute that one new job will be created out of a \$10 000 allocation to a school P&C association to build a nature-based playground. That will be done with volunteers from the school. Not one paid job will be created as a result of that allocation. Members opposite should not pretend that they have given money to that school to create jobs because it will not happen and it was never part of their election commitment process. The project will be done by volunteers. If we combine the funding allocated to schools across the state that received funding, it totals around \$6 million, but the amounts that have gone to the schools are too small to create even one job. The government should stop pretending—stop fabricating—in the name of the grants program that the intention is to create jobs; it is not.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, member.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Then I drilled down in response to the Premier’s crass class politics. He said, “In our schools and our electorates, we have socially disadvantaged students”, and all that hoo-ha. It was absolutely disgraceful. I went onto the My School website to look at some of the schools that received funding. Firstly, obviously, I looked at the schools in my electorate. I have about eight primary schools in my electorate that I support. I am on the board of one of them—Newborough Primary School. I looked at its index of community socio-educational advantage. The average is about 1 000. Newborough Primary School comes in at 1 082. It has 381 kids. Six per cent of them are Indigenous, 17 per cent speak a language other than English at home and 73 per cent of the kids at Newborough are in the top half of the middle segment with their marks, or in the top 25 per cent segment. So Newborough Primary School is doing really well. Did it get any funding? No. I looked at Yuluma Primary School in Innaloo. It has 213 kids. Ten per cent of students are Indigenous and 37 per cent speak a language other than English at home. Yuluma has some difficulty with a large number of families who need a lot of support. Its ICSEA score comes in at 1 016 and the median is 1 000, so it is only just nudging above the midline. Did it get any funding? Absolutely not; it got no funding. Yuluma Primary School is struggling. Only just over half its students reach the middle range of expectation in their results because of the challenges they have due to their social disadvantage. It received nothing; it received none of this funding. That school needed the funding.

Then I looked at some of the schools that did receive funding—the schools that apparently needed it more than my two schools. I do not begrudge any —

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, minister. Carry on, member.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: As I said, I support funding for schools. We funded schools incredibly generously in our term of government, and I am very proud of our achievements. However, if members opposite are going to play crass, class-war politics, they need to be able to justify where the money goes. I looked at Beaumaris Primary School. I know kids who go to that school. It is a great school. I do not begrudge it the funding, but its ICSEA score comes in at 1 084. It has 754 kids. One per cent are Indigenous, eight per cent speak a language other than English and 75 per cent of the kids are in the top 25 per cent for their achievements, or the top half of the middle range. Beaumaris received funding through the Local Projects, Local Jobs program but not Yuluma Primary School, which is just nudging 1 016 with its ICSEA score. I also looked at Bicton Primary School. I do not have a problem with it receiving money, but members opposite should not pretend that it needed the funding more than other schools because of its social disadvantage. Bicton got \$100 000 under this program. Its ICSEA reference is 1 099, which is 80 points ahead of Yuluma Primary School, which got zero dollars—diddly squat. At Bicton, 47 per cent of the students are in the top quarter for achievement and 78 per cent of them are in the top 50 per cent of achievement. Good luck to them; I am proud of that achievement on behalf of the people in that area. Two per cent of students are Indigenous and 10 per cent speak a language other than English at home. That tells me that Bicton Primary School did not need that \$100 000 more than Yuluma and Newborough Primary Schools did, which got absolutely nothing.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

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Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I also looked at St Denis School. It is another great school in the member for Balcatta's electorate. Its ICSEA score is 1 096. It received funding under this program. At St Denis, 74 per cent of kids are above the midline for achievement. The Premier should not come in here and play crass, class-war politics, making no apology for where he has put funding, saying those schools need it more when I know that my two schools, particularly Yulumu with its Indigenous kids and kids who speak a language other than English at home —

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.C. Blayney): Minister, I will have to call you if you keep interjecting.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Members opposite cannot tell me that my kids in my schools should not have access to that grant funding, if it were a grant funding program; it is not. It is a slush fund to achieve the government's election commitments and members opposite should have just called it that. If it had been called that instead of prosecuting this lie to the community, members opposite would not be in the pickle that they are in. I do not know who the brains trust was that came up with the slogan, but perhaps members opposite should go to some of the smarter brains who are still on the back bench in the Labor Party and get them to come up with slogans that reflect what the government is doing. Local Jobs, Local Projects does not reflect this allocation of cheques with members' names and photographs on them.

I also looked at some of the government's other projects. A total of \$7 million of funding is going to local governments for projects that will not create one job. Members opposite should stop pretending it is a project to create jobs. The City of Swan is getting \$10 000 for a barbecue. How many jobs will that create? The City of Bunbury is getting \$5 000 to create a business case. Will the City of Bunbury employ another person to come in to create a business case for \$5 000? No, it will not. It will be done by somebody who has an existing job. Members opposite should not pretend it is about creating jobs in Bunbury; it is not about creating jobs in Bunbury. It is about the member for Bunbury saying, "What do I need to say to get elected?" The City of Bunbury and the people who use the basketball centre told him that they really wanted some new basketball courts. No business case or planning was done so the member said, "Right; I'll get you \$5 000 so you can plan for that." He thought, "What's more, once we get into government, I'll print my face on a cheque with my name on it and pretend it's my \$5 000 that didn't come from taxpayers' pockets at all. And I'll pretend it's from a grants fund called Local Projects, Local Jobs, not that it's just achieving an election commitment." That is what he did because that is what he was told to do by the Labor Party machine—anything it takes to get elected. That is what this is all about.

Then I looked further and found a very interesting detailed document. It is really interesting to see the size of some of the grants that will apparently create local jobs. For example, \$2 000 was provided for equipment for Armadale football club. I do not begrudge these people getting this funding—not at all—but let us call it what it is. I then became fascinated for some reason by the cricket club projects. It seems to me that all cricket clubs are not equal under this grants program. At the Armadale Cricket Club, votes can apparently be bought for \$2 000 but at the Ballajura Lakers Cricket Club, it takes \$14 000 to get their votes across the line. At Bicton cricket club, it is pretty cheap—\$6 000. Kelmscott cricket club, out in red territory, needed only a \$3 000 bribe to get elected. In Kingsley, the cricket club needed \$6 000 to get the Labor Party across the line with its election slush fund. The Leederville Cricket Club got \$15 000; it must require a little bit more investment for its vote. Osborne Park cricket club was provided \$10 000 and Tuart Hill was provided \$5 000.

There are interesting totals going into the Balcatta electorate. The cricket clubs there need a fair bit of investment to get Labor votes and get the member across the line. We are going to have some fun with this because somebody in the Labor cabinet made the stupid decision to name this as a grant program to pretend it is about creating jobs when it has nothing to do with jobs. It has everything to do with election commitments, making promises and hoping people will vote a member in if they can bribe them with \$5 000 to get a sunshade shelter, some new equipment or whatever it might be. But it is not about creating jobs. We will keep drawing the attention of the community to this slush fund because it has not been fairly appropriated across electorates that need it. It has been appropriated into electorates that Labor members won. In the electorates where commitments were made and Labor members did not get across the line, there are circumstances in which those commitments have dropped completely off the radar. The commitment only counts in the main if the Labor member gets across the line, with the exception, I think, of the Dawesville electorate.

The other issue that we raised during question time today was the commitment to scouts. I am a big fan of the scouting and girl guide movement. They do sports programs with kids, leadership development programs, and they teach children about the outdoors and teamwork. They develop particularly disadvantaged kids and provide them with an opportunity to seek mentors—older kids and adults—who can provide a father or mother figure if either of those parents are absent from home. They do a terrific job. In this bizarre eclectic approach to

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governing, this government put \$92 000 worth of commitments into the scouts program through the Local Projects, Local Jobs scheme and scouts no doubt had its hopes raised that it was going to continue to be supported by this government.

Mr M.P. Murray: They are getting \$700 000 a year, thank you very much, from this government.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I thank the member for Collie–Preston, Minister for Sport and Recreation, for his interjection because I do not dispute that the government supports scouts with other funding buckets.

Mr M.P. Murray: You just said they didn't.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: No.

Mr M.P. Murray: You just said they didn't; now correct yourself.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I said that scouts no doubt had its hopes up because through various different scouting groups, it received \$92 000 of election commitments to upgrade scout facilities and provide equipment out of the last election campaign. Yes, it receives money from government to run its operations just as most of the football clubs, tennis clubs, basketball groups, soccer groups and a whole range of other groups do. They received funding commitments through not only the slush fund and the election commitment process, but also through that same process and they get funding from government to run their operations. But scouts have been booted out of the KidSport program so that all those disadvantaged kids who get year-round access to a leadership and sporting development program through scouts can now no longer get a subsidy through KidSport. Scouts' membership is dropping because disadvantaged children cannot afford to get into programs such as that without subsidisation. Why are scouts different from all the other clubs that are still eligible for KidSport? Why is it different? It provides the best value for money. If I was a parent and I had a limited income, I would think: what does my KidSport voucher get me? It gets me a year of scouts or it gets me one season of footy. Where would I put it? I would put it in a year of scouts. It is great value for money. I know my kids are going to go camping. I know my child is going to be involved in a range of activities. I know my child will go canoeing and abseiling.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Is canoeing and abseiling not a sport?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Sorry, member. Minister, I am finding it a bit difficult with your interjections. I would appreciate it if I could just hear the member in silence.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The accusation and the reason for this stupid decision is that the Department of Sport and Recreation has said that scouts are not a sporting organisation. What is sailing? What is canoeing? What is abseiling? They are sports and that is what scouts provide. Why has it been booted out of KidSport unfairly?

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [3.34 pm]: I rise to respond to the Premier's Statement with my contribution and note that I will move an amendment.

Point of Order

Mr W.R. MARMION: I think we are still on the amendment. If there are no more speakers, I suggest the amendment might be put.

The ACTING SPEAKER: The question is that the amendment be agreed to.

Division

Amendment put and a division taken, the Acting Speaker (Mr I.C. Blayney) casting his vote with the ayes, with the following result —

Ayes (15)

Mr I.C. Blayney
Ms M.J. Davies
Mrs L.M. Harvey
Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup

Mr A. Krsticevic
Mr S.K. L'Estrange
Mr R.S. Love
Mr W.R. Marmion

Mr J.E. McGrath
Dr M.D. Nahan
Mr D.C. Nalder
Mr K. O'Donnell

Mr D.T. Redman
Mr P.J. Rundle
Ms L. Mettam (*Teller*)

Extract from Hansard
[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 14 February 2018]
p193b-238a

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Noes (39)

Ms L.L. Baker	Mr M. Hughes	Mrs L.M. O'Malley	Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski
Dr A.D. Buti	Mr W.J. Johnston	Mr P. Papalia	Mr C.J. Tallentire
Mr J.N. Carey	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mr S.J. Price	Mr D.A. Templeman
Mrs R.M.J. Clarke	Mr F.M. Logan	Mr D.T. Punch	Mr P.C. Tinley
Mr R.H. Cook	Mr M. McGowan	Mr J.R. Quigley	Mr B. Urban
Ms J. Farrer	Ms S.F. McGurk	Ms M.M. Quirk	Mr R.R. Whitby
Mr M.J. Folkard	Mr K.J.J. Michel	Mrs M.H. Roberts	Ms S.E. Winton
Ms J.M. Freeman	Mr S.A. Millman	Ms C.M. Rowe	Mr B.S. Wyatt
Ms E. Hamilton	Mr Y. Mubarakai	Ms A. Sanderson	Mr D.R. Michael (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr T.J. Healy	Mr M.P. Murray	Ms J.J. Shaw	

Pair

Mr P. Katsambanis

Ms R. Saffioti

Amendment thus negated.

Consideration Resumed

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [3.40 pm]: I rise to respond to the Premier's Statement. During my contribution I will move an amendment.

I will firstly refer to what I call the "local projects, local votes" printout that I find quite disturbing. In reply to the Treasurer's pre-question time address, in 2008, after the Carpenter-Gallop government, the Liberal-National government had to deal with an \$8 billion backlog of underinvestment. That was identified by Western Australian Local Government Association, along with the Western Australian Regional Development Trust. From 2008-09, the Liberal-National government had to set about responding to that \$8 billion backlog. It went about that methodically. The Treasurer mentioned the country local government fund, the regional grants scheme and the community chest fund, with which, through my previous role as chairman of the Great Southern Development Commission, I am very familiar. All those grants processes were performed in a proper and orderly manner, and there were business cases and a panel, whether it be a development commission or the board of the development commission. It certainly was not a structure like this with 41 electorates, which, funnily enough, were Labor gains, averaging \$540 636, and Labor holds receiving \$454 189.

Ms A. Sanderson interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.C. Blayney): Member, I want to hear him myself.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Funnily enough, only three of the 18 seats the Liberal-Nationals hold received funding—the average amount being \$84 833.

Mr M.P. Murray: Sounds like royalties for the regions.

Mr D.T. Redman: Which I thought you support.

Mr M.P. Murray: But not the way you pulled it around the place.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Fifteen seats received nothing whatsoever. That is a quite bizarre method of dishing out funding after there was such a complete process. The member for Collie-Preston well knows that the now member for Bunbury was CEO of the South West Development Commission, and he was in charge of those orderly and methodical processes.

Mr M.P. Murray: The member for Bunbury put out a program for Collie into the future under the National Party!

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: It is certainly quite disturbing that the member for Collie-Preston is interjecting when we look at the haphazard way this money has been spent.

Before I move on to my amendment, which will be in relation to education, I will point out some facts on the seat of Roe, which I represent. I am quite disturbed about the way things are going and the way that the Labor state government is—I will not say treating Esperance—ignoring Esperance. There is nothing in the local projects, local votes brochure for the seat of Roe. I will point out some of the royalties for regions spending that previously happened and we hoped would continue. The member for Warren-Blackwood is well familiar with the \$18 million spent on Esperance Health Campus, the \$10 million spent on Esperance Primary School, the \$23 million spent on the Esperance foreshore and the \$14 million spent on Esperance Residential College that I mentioned yesterday in relation to the rally; the Country Women's Association was here in relation to the Moora Residential College.

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p193b-238a

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The community facilities are excellent thanks to that investment, but I now have a real concern for industry and jobs within the Esperance area. Members are aware of the recent announcement of Cliffs Natural Resources. It is looking to basically pull out of the area, on top of the First Quantum Minerals nickel project that was announced during the year. The Minister for Mines and Petroleum eventually found his way down to Ravensthorpe to check that one out about eight weeks after the event. A substantial number of jobs in the port will go. Aurizon provides rail freight between Kalgoorlie and Esperance, and most of those jobs will be going. Only last week I met with the transport union at Pier Hotel in Esperance, along with some of the Aurizon workers. They are very concerned about what will happen there, because there are 46 train movements a week that go between Kalgoorlie and Esperance; that will come down to only three.

Arc Infrastructure provides the below-rail network, as you know, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr I.C. Blayney), with your regional experience, and about 600 jobs will go at the Cliffs mining Koolyanobbing operation. I ask the government to recognise the situation, come down and do something about it. The government is well aware of the decision made prior to Christmas. Mineral Resources was looking to go in there with its Helena and Aurora Ranges resource. That would have been a perfect replacement for the Cliffs mining scenario, with 11 million-odd tonnes of iron ore going out of the region. The Min Res product would have been around six to seven million tonnes. That would have been a great scenario, but the government saw fit to knock that on the head on environmental grounds, apparently, and now, basically, we will not have any throughput for the Esperance port, apart from the usual Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd grain, some containers, some woodchips and some nickel. The volume has gone out of the port.

I would like to mention some other projects. I believe the state government can help with the negotiations on the take-or-pay contract with Cliffs mining through to 2030. When Cliffs negotiates its way out of that contract, I think it is important that the government has a look at putting that money back into our region. There could be jobs out of that with a TAFE replacement. Esperance jetty is a project in my region that is the scene of much controversy. I believe the government could bring forward those two projects. The other one is Kunming Lake causeway in the Ravensthorpe area.

I will mention a couple of other major towns in the electorate of Roe, starting with Narrogin. I congratulate the previous Liberal–National government on some of the projects there. There was a \$35 million royalties for regions spend at Narrogin Hospital. The town is very excited about that and it will open later in the year. There was also royalties for regions investment in Narrogin Residential College and Narrogin Senior High School. Probably one of the best investments in the whole royalties for regions program is the investment in Karinya Residential Aged Care, which recently saw the opening of a dementia wing. Karinya provides excellent aged care through different stages.

Moving on from there, there was a \$35 million investment in Katanning Hospital, which has recently opened its doors and, I understand, will be officially opened in late April. There was also an investment of approximately \$2 million in Katanning Senior High School and ongoing investment in the town entrance and town centre, which will provide a recreation precinct for members of the community.

Some of the best royalties for regions investments in smaller communities are for independent living units, which provide for our aged communities, and I will talk about them in a minute. These units provide an opportunity for people to stay in their community. Some of the communities involved include Lake Grace, Williams, Woodanilling, Cranbrook, Tambellup and Kojonup. It has been a fantastic result for those communities.

I also refer to the “Ageing in the Bush” report. I am a former member of the Wheatbelt Development Commission and we commissioned this report to quantify some of the issues with aged care in the regions. It provided innovative care solutions to address the increasing aged population in our regional areas. It recognised the importance of retaining our older residents in the regions, the value they have for their communities and the value of keeping them around their families. There were some interesting stats out of that. Over the period from 2011 to 2026, the number of residents in regional areas over the age of 70 will increase by 100.2 per cent, while the number over the age of 85 will increase by 124.6 per cent.

The report guided \$70 million of royalties for regions investment. Some highlights include \$25 million for aged care and housing in the wheatbelt and great southern; \$20.2 million for Ageing in Place and Growing Our South; \$16.5 million in the 38-bed Carnarvon aged-care facility; and \$4.8 million for the south west Ageing in Place, which is one that the member for Collie–Preston will be interested in. From what I can make of it, the McGowan government has cut \$46.2 million from 27 local government areas for projects in aged care in the wheatbelt and great southern. It is very disappointing that this government has seen fit to do that. The Great Southern Community Housing Association had federal investment of \$10 million. Rick Wilson, the federal member for O'Connor, was recently here in Parliament and he got that commitment from the federal government. Part of it was a pledge by the previous state government to allocate \$9 million of state funding. What happened? The \$9 million was pulled

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out and now the project has been stranded. The federal member is here, wandering around Parliament, trying to talk the Minister for Regional Development into funding what was a perfect project—a combination of local government, state and federal funding.

Mr M.P. Murray: Funny, that—that's exactly what happened with Collie Senior High School.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: That is very disappointing, member for Collie—Preston.

[Quorum formed.]

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: As I was saying, there was a very disappointing response to the Great Southern Community Housing Association project by the state government. There was the withdrawal of that approximately \$9 million in funding for some \$22.4 million out there in the never-never. All the applicants for these projects that had already been organised have to apply again. They were excellent projects and now those poor local governments have to start afresh. That is very disappointing.

I move now to education. Hon Darren West, a member for Agricultural Region in the other place and president of Country Labor, says, "We are the party of the regions; we have the most regional MPs." I am not seeing a demonstration of that, apart from the fact that yesterday the member for Albany said that he was keen to have further education cuts put on the agenda.

Mr D.T. Redman: Didn't look like he got a blood nose, though.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: No; I did not see a positive result from that. I certainly congratulate the Country Women's Association members for their passion and the way in which they came out of the woodwork yesterday. It was the first time the CWA had been in a protest in 94 years, and the passion was fantastic. I have seen Hon Darren West, MLC, front the residents of Moora to say that, yes, he is sorry about that and that he would like to see it reversed, but I have not actually seen any impact from our Country Labor MPs. I am not seeing the results come through. As I said yesterday, it appears to me that the Treasurer and the Premier have said to the Minister for Education and Training, "Look, we need \$64 million. You just take it from wherever you need to. I'm not too fussed, but we need that money for our new school, 200 metres from Perth Mod, so let's get this show on the road."

One example of where the money has been taken from is VacSwim. I was in Esperance before Christmas and there had already been a 50 per cent drop in the number of participants in VacSwim. We had a 122 per cent increase from \$13.50 to \$30, and that was already having an impact within the space of a week or two of that cut being introduced. More than 15 000 kids in the state participate in VacSwim. Just for interest's sake, a regional child is 3.7 times more likely to drown than a metropolitan child. That is a really important statistic when we are looking at that program.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I am glad that the Minister for Sport and Recreation is in the chamber because KidSport is something that I would like to talk about. I have spent quite a bit of time with the scout troop in Esperance. Carmel Halls and her team do a fantastic job there. The reduction from 1 January from \$200 to \$150 is very disappointing. I went to Katanning and found the same thing with the scouts and girl guides there. They cannot believe that they have been taken off the register. There will be a drop from \$200 to \$150 over the next six months and then, from 1 July, the scouts will no longer be considered eligible for KidSport. I find it amazing that the Minister for Sport and Recreation has not considered the activities that the scouts do, with the likes of canoeing, sailing, camping, walking and horseriding, and many other activities. To me, that is quite a short-sighted attitude when we look at the 750 scouts in regional Western Australia and the 250-odd girl guides who will be affected. The minister would now like the scouts to reapply to become a sport. That will mean that the scouts will be required to have an anti-doping policy, if we do not mind.

Several members interjected.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Seriously, I cannot believe that the minister is forcing the scouts into having an anti-doping policy so that they can be considered a sport. That is how ridiculous this is. This is just a short-sighted grab for cash. I certainly sympathise with the scouts in the whole of regional Western Australia. I add that sport is all about dealing with the challenge of obesity and getting kids involved. I find the short-sighted approach of this state government quite incredible.

I move now to the boarding away from home allowance. Over the period of the former Liberal–National government, the government increased the boarding away from home allowance through royalties for regions by \$785 to \$2 105. That was a fantastic result for country students and families, some of whom we saw at Parliament House yesterday at the rally for Moora Residential College. That allowance made a great difference to them. Now, lo and behold, the new state government will reduce the boarding away from home allowance over

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the next few years from \$2 105 to \$1 477. As I said yesterday, I am surprised and disappointed that the Labor Party is now quoting itself as being the regional party because it has the highest number of regional members. It does not appear that the Labor Party has grasped the concept of how regional communities and regional families work.

A classic example is the cut to regional education professionals. I have heard some numbers quoted. I can tell members that 35 positions have been taken out of regional education offices, and that 23 of those positions are Aboriginal officers. I cannot understand where the government is going with this cut. I am glad the member for Kimberley is in the chamber. We will be left with one Aboriginal staff position in the Kimberley, and the Pilbara, midwest, wheatbelt, goldfields and south west regional offices will have no Aboriginal education staff. One of the regional managers told me a few weeks ago that they have very good quality Aboriginal education officers, and they are distraught that those officers will be offloaded in the latest round of cuts.

What I also find bizarre is the edict that came out before Christmas in which the government said that every primary school in the state will be required to teach a language. There are 259 schools in this state that do not have a language teacher. I do not know how that equates with the 3 000-odd public sector cuts. It is hard to believe, to be honest.

I would now like to move to the raiding of the agricultural colleges in this state. I will give members an understanding of how the agricultural colleges work. There are five agricultural colleges in this state, located in Narrogin, Harvey, Denmark, Morawa and Cunderdin, along with the Esperance farm school. The colleges put 40 per cent of their farm revenue into a trust fund. Last year, that trust fund provided \$1.699 million for those colleges. The purpose of that fund is to purchase equipment and goods to ensure that the colleges can operate in a safe environment. The first priority is to ensure that the colleges have up-to-date and modern equipment so that the students and teachers can work in a safe environment. What we have seen from this government is a cash grab. A self-sustaining model that has been successful since the 1980s is now in jeopardy because the state government has decided that it will take money from this fund and have a cash grab of about \$340 000. Yesterday, I was talking to Murray Williams, who is one of the members of the combined advisory council of these agricultural colleges. These colleges take their role seriously. A couple of members of the advisory council of each college sit on a combined panel that provides advice on how that money will be spent. They have been doing this in a self-sustaining and sensible manner since the 1980s. However, that trust fund will now be raided by this government. I was told by Murray Williams, who was on the steps of Parliament House yesterday to protest, that he cannot believe what the government is doing, because the colleges have such a good process in place, and now the trust fund will be raided.

I would like to read part of a letter to the editor that was printed in *The West Australian* of Thursday, 4 January 2018. It is from Mr George Wittorff of Bunbury, who was the principal of Harvey Agricultural Senior High School from 1989 to 1994. He said —

To raid this fund shows a serious lack of judgment, as well as an inability to comprehend its value to agricultural education across the State, not to mention the real cost savings it provides to the Government.

Please show some sensible leadership, minister, and reverse this counter-productive decision.

That sums it up perfectly.

I now want to move on briefly to camp schools. The member for Warren–Blackwood will add to this, because he is well aware of a couple of the camp schools in his electorate. I am appalled at the treatment of the camp schools and the fact that they have been left unclear about their future. We have seen many letters to the editor about the camp schools at Geraldton and Kalgoorlie. The camp schools do a fantastic job. I know that first hand, because Paul Wright, my brother-in-law, used to work at the Kalgoorlie camp school. He has told me on numerous occasions about the value of those camp schools to not only country kids, but also city kids. What we have from the government is what I would call a handball. The Minister for Education and Training has said, “Let someone else run the camp schools. It is not our problem. Let us look for a non-government organisation or the Department of Sport and Recreation to have a bit of a think about how they can run the camp schools. We need to wash our hands of the camp schools.” I cannot believe the attitude of this government. The camp schools need constant funding. The value of the camp schools in regional Western Australia is very high as far as my constituents and I are concerned. With those words, I would like to move an amendment to the Premier’s Statement.

Amendment to Question

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I move an amendment to the question that the Premier’s Statement be noted —

That the following words be added after “noted” —

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and calls on the McGowan government to reverse the closure of camp schools and the raid on the agricultural education farms provision trust, recognising that their rushed decision-making in regional education is creating stress and uncertainty in regional areas and undermining regional development

MR D.T. REDMAN (Warren–Blackwood) [4.09 pm]: What a fantastic speech from the member for Roe. He is very, very passionate about his patch and of course the issues as they apply to regional Western Australia. He has quite rightly moved an amendment to the Premier's address, focusing on two areas: what is happening in camp schools and what is happening in agricultural education in this state. Agriculture is supposedly one of the government's priorities in trying to diversify the economy. Although it is running its rhetoric on that, it seems as though this decision will be totally counter to that.

Yesterday, when the Minister for Tourism responded to the last amendment that was moved to the Premier's address, it became patently clear. I was putting out a bit of a view that maybe these cuts to regional education were in response to the National and Liberal Parties' lack of support for the revenue coming from the gold tax. We thought that surely the government cannot be doing that. Surely it cannot be pushing for smacking regional people in the face in the hope that regional constituents would come knocking on our doors to try to change the position. But it was. The Minister for Tourism said, "Yes, we effectively put that in place because you did not support the gold tax." It absolutely backfired on the government. Right now we still have a massive view in regional Western Australia in particular about the impacts of decisions of this government.

Today, in following this amendment of the member for Roe, we are talking about camp schools and agricultural education. In the first instance, I refer to camp schools. I asked the Premier a question today. I said that I had noted that the minister for education, in correspondence to constituents, had said, "By the way, we are not going to reverse our decision on closing five camp schools." That was in correspondence that went out to constituents who had raised the issue with the minister. I said to the Premier, "The first media release that went out on this said that you were closing six camp schools, so I assume you've changed your position and now it's only five that are closing. Which one is going to stay open?" The Premier totally stepped around the question. There are only two reasons he could have stepped around that question. One is that the Minister for Education and Training made a unilateral decision that the Premier was not aware of. That may have been the case. I know that a bit of power sits behind the minister for education, so perhaps that is an outcome. Alternatively, the Premier has no idea how many camp schools will be closing. I guess that is the disdain that regional people have for this government when it comes down to not appreciating the impact that these decisions will have. Is it five or six? The difference between five and six is massive when it comes to a camp school in someone's community.

The comments went on. I want to paint a picture about the reality of camp schools. They are a government-owned resource that both public and private schools, and even private groups, utilise to expand and expose students to a variety of experiences—outdoor for the most part. They provide exposure to regional Western Australia—exposure to all the different parts of our diverse state. Camp schools therefore enrich students' educational experiences. To say that that does not have a value is absolutely sticking one's head in the sand as it applies to education in this state.

That position is reinforced by a number of groups. I have here a letter to Hon Sue Ellery, the Minister for Education and Training, from Outdoors WA. It raises a number of concerns about the commentary. The letter challenges what she has been saying in the media about her view on camp schools. In the first instance she was asked, "Is it five camp schools or six, minister?" That was her first stuff-up. The minister's letters said it was five. If one were to stay open, Outdoors WA asked which one. That is the same question I asked today. Secondly, it refers to the fact that education is provided in these facilities that is consistent with the curriculum, and expanding and enriching the educational experience of students. It is not just a camp or a place to go, or a caravan park, as the Premier or the minister suggested; it is more than that. Outdoors WA states in its correspondence —

It is education that expands the minds, immerses students in nature and new experiences and is not confined to the four walls of the classroom. This is exactly the sort of holistic education that students need more of, not less.

I could not agree more. Camp schools offer that opportunity.

The minister also said that occupancy rates are declining over time. Of the seven camp schools across the state, two are in my area—the Pemberton camp school and the Bridgetown camp school. Occupancy rates are rising. Bridgetown was full when I spoke to the people there at the end of last year. I have been back there but I have not reconciled the numbers from January this year. Terms 1, 2 and 4 are full, and they said earlier in the year that term 3 would be full. Bridgetown is full and Pemberton is exactly the same—it is full. I am sure the member for Kimberley, who is in the chamber, would argue that the Broome camp school is well utilised. Outdoors WA

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

challenges the notion that occupancy rates are declining. They are on the rise. These camp schools, in fact, enrich educational opportunities for students.

Referring to other options, the correspondence also states —

These provide an essential, but different service to the community ...

It is making a judgement: if camp schools close, what are the other choices? It refers to the schools that come under the Minister for Sport and Recreation. It asks the minister for clarification. It makes a point about those sport and recreation schools. There are a number of them, including Quaranup, Bickley, Ern Halliday, Point Walter and Woodman Point, as well as a number of private operators, but those are the government-owned ones. Outdoors WA makes the following point about those facilities —

These provide an essential, but different service to the community, they are also booked out around the year so are unlikely to be able to adsorb the amount of students and schools displaced by any camp schools closure.

It makes the very direct point that the alternatives that are being put up, including the government's, are not there. They are different and they do not match the cultural and educational experiences that camp schools provide. The camps are full and they are highly unlikely, as pointed out in the correspondence, to take up any capacity once the camp schools close. Sitting on an island somewhere, it leaves the people who would normally utilise these camps with no choices and no alternatives.

Another point that Outdoors WA quite rightly makes is that camp schools are an affordable camp experience. An affordable camp experience is really critical to those schools, particularly the schools in lower socioeconomic areas. They enable students to be able to access other parts of our state by exposing them to the diversity of opportunities—recreational, educational, cultural and environmental. They provide opportunities well beyond the four walls of a classroom.

I will touch on this while the member for Kimberley is here. It would be interesting to know why the Broome facility was chosen not to close. The camp schools around the state have a fairly big catchment. I use Kalgoorlie as an example. The member for Kalgoorlie is here. Kalgoorlie has a pretty substantial catchment. I do not really see why Kalgoorlie's catchment is any different from Broome's; that is, if geographic catchment is considered as one of the criteria. The Premier said today that Broome is there because of the catchment that it provides. I make the point to the Premier and to the member for Kimberley today that kids from Fitzroy Crossing go to Pemberton camp school on a reasonably regular basis. I cannot think of a better experience for those kids from a geographically isolated area, generally with a lower socioeconomic status, accessing an affordable option in another part of the state, exposing them to and enriching them with the opportunities that this state provides and magnificently enhancing their educational opportunities.

Another point that has been made to me, quite rightly, is that one of the other options that the Broome camp school offers—albeit it is not closing—is to the Western Desert kids. I understand that many of those kids have never seen the ocean—the member for Kimberley might correct me if I am wrong. Going to a camp school like that gives them that first opportunity and exposes them to choices. I would argue that the same applies to the other camp schools in the state. There are the same opportunities as for those Western Desert kids who go to Broome. Other students in isolated parts of the state would go to Pemberton, Bridgetown or even Point Peron to be exposed to some of those choices and opportunities. It is just a sad reality that we are making a decision to shut down opportunities to take the class outside of the physical classroom into the environment and to give students choices.

The other group that has run some commentary on this issue is the Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, which strongly disagreed with the media statement referring to camp schools put out by the minister on 13 December 2017. It states —

These are not the core business of education and there are other government and commercial providers of similar services.

The letter from the Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation states —

ACHPER WA disagrees on the grounds that **wellbeing** is, and should, remain the core business of all educational sectors across Australia and that the opportunities and challenges presented in an intensive, affordable, outdoors environment supports and strengthens healthier, safer and more physically active living.

The Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation absolutely supports camp schools as providing the necessary diversity to enhance educational opportunity and get kids out of the classroom and get them active. We dearly need to see that happen.

I will quote an article from *The West Australian* of 25 January this year that mentions all the falsehoods that have been prosecuted by this government about available alternative choices to camp schools. It states —

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

Further, there are no equivalent local government or Department of Sport and Recreation facilities, and certainly —

Mr P. Papalia: Who wrote that?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: This is written by Reg Whiteley from Geraldton. It is a letter to *The West* published on 25 January 2018. I will read it again. It states —

Further, there are no equivalent local government or Department of Sport and Recreation facilities, and certainly none with experienced educators familiar with the Australian curriculum, capable of planning, preparing and running the programs required for delivery of those lessons.

...

The description “camp sites” suggests they are similar to caravan parks or bush camping areas. What a falsehood.

The letter goes on to mention the absolute misnomers that the government is prosecuting in this debate, and that is by someone who has experience in Geraldton, which is the location of one of the camp schools. Within all schools there is a camp culture. I remember when I was at school the importance of going away to the camp and exposing ourselves, getting out of the classroom, getting out of the school and seeing other things—the value of that and how we looked forward to it. There is a camp culture that is supported in Western Australia that is now going to be cut off at the knees. I will read from a letter to the editor published on 31 January this year from Caroline Ward in Wiluna that refers to camp schools. It states —

... a chance to learn, to socialise and to grow up in a secure and structured environment.

The minister has stated that the Camp Schools are not “the core business of education”.

I disagree.

They provide an educational service to the whole community which is neither duplicated elsewhere, nor surpassed by any other.

These camps are the most anticipated social events of the students’ school year.

Again, we are cutting off at the knees that affordable opportunity to have an enriched education, which all the education providers aspire to do. I will read from another letter; this one is from A. Van Wees from Dianella and appeared in *The Weekend West* of 3 February this year. It refers to childhood obesity. It states —

With childhood obesity and mental health issues on the rise, do we really want to further limit our children’s access to the benefits of nature and time spent outdoors away from technology and other more sedentary pursuits?

We need to offer these opportunities to widen the experience for students. Other letters refer to unique experiences. I have another one from the goldfields, member for Kalgoorlie, discussing the unique experience that those options provide. As the minister and the Premier have said, there are alternatives, including those that come under the responsibility of the Minister for Sport and Recreation. It is interesting that of the five letters I have, and I quoted five earlier on, only one comes from a regional area. All the rest come from metropolitan Perth and relatively urban environments. That itself says that the alternatives are not proper available choices.

Arguments were prosecuted by the Premier that the government is looking to transition these camp schools to non-government organisations. I will quote what the Premier said yesterday. This is a transcript of his address to the Country Women’s Association, that fantastic group of people we do not usually see step up like they did yesterday, but, indeed, they are massively passionate about this issue. I quote the transcript from that address.

Mr P. Papalia: Who wrote the transcript?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Our office, but it is off a —

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Is the minister suggesting that the transcript is wrong? Let me read it.

Mr P. Papalia: I am just getting on the *Hansard* that you wrote it.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I am saying it as it is. I am saying that it is a transcript that was taken from audio.

Mr P. Papalia: You have been known for—you have been guilty in the past of—putting words in people’s mouths.

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The minister is welcome to check it. I am reading from a transcript from the Premier's address yesterday. He said —

“In the case of the camp schools what we're seeking to do is transition those to non-government organisations. If we can obtain non-government organisations to run those camp schools and take the burden off the education budget we think that's a reasonable thing to do. On top of that, across WA there are 20 separate camp school-type organisations out there that students can attend in the city and the country. It's a significant saving to the government budget and there are good alternatives out there which is the reason why we made that decision.”

That was reinforced by the Premier today and I have just said that those other government-owned facilities are not an option. Can I have an extension please, Mr Acting Speaker?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr T.J. Healy): It is an amendment to the motion. I believe that we cannot, so no.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I am going to shorten my address about camp schools, but there are very good reasons that private-sector alternatives are not options.

I turn to the agricultural trust fund. I was a former principal of an agricultural college. There is a strong history of support from those in the industry. They pitch entry-level training to those colleges, consistent with the national training framework, so they are registered training organisations. For a long time they have had advisory councils, similar to what schools have now with school councils. Many of these people have driven a process in the schools to self-fund growing and building up the colleges. I can say without a fear of a doubt that the people who have been involved with those farm advisory councils over many, many years have actually built the ag college system up. Industry has built the colleges up to where they are today, and that trust fund is fundamental to how things play out now, with contemporary and safe facilities. They are self-funding. There is a slight commercial opportunity for them to return funds to themselves, including for small schools, to maintain a strong agricultural education system in this state. I will run off a few names. They are probably names that people in this chamber are not familiar with. They are Stan Ravenhill; Ron Sounness; Phillip Marshall; Phillip Middleton from Denmark; Murray Montgomery, who was a member in the other place; they played a historical role in Denmark. There is Peter Trefort; Bill Butler from Narrogin ag college; Ian Eckersley; Ray Blackburn from Harvey; Arnold Lundy; Alan Carter from Cunderdin; John Nunn; John Pulbrook from Cunderdin; John Bradshaw; Ken Peck from Gnowangerup; Janno and Michael Faulkes Taylor, who are involved with Morawa; Owen Catto from Morawa; Robin Newman from Narrogin; and Ivan Manning, who is a former member for Wellington and is involved with Harvey. There are many others on top of these people. These were stalwarts who got involved and drove a system that allowed the retention of resources from the farms to build up those farms. This government is attacking that history and that commitment from the farming community of Western Australia to build up an industry support training mechanism to support their sector. The government is cutting it out by taking 20 per cent of the funds out of those programs. It is a massive poke in the face of industry, which has a unique pride in the maintenance of a secondary education training facility in agriculture that no other state has. No other state is even near this. They sold their farms. They rationalised and got rid of the farms and now there are these two-bit organisations that, quite frankly, do not have any sort of commercial focus. These farms do. As the member for Roe said, the retention of the trust fund supports facilities and equipment and maintains safety. I remember that it allowed chemical sheds to be put into schools and it allowed for silos so that people could safely climb up them. There was all that stuff to support safety. It also supports those small agricultural farms attached to schools. Two examples in the metropolitan area are Lockridge and Kelmscott Senior High Schools. Examples in my electorate are Margaret River, Manjimup and Mt Barker. They are smaller schools and do not receive revenue from the sale of produce to retain and replace equipment, so the trust supports those colleges. It is a fantastic system that is supported by the agricultural sector in Western Australia. However, the government is going to cut that and take money away from them indefinitely, and that is an absolute disgrace.

MR I.C. BLAYNEY (Geraldton) [4.30 pm]: I want to speak briefly about the agricultural education provisions trust. It is interesting that we are debating this issue today because only the other day I was talking about this matter with a person who runs the TAFE college in Geraldton. As it happens, I also read an article in a recent edition of *The Economist*, titled “Time to end the academic arms race”, which refers to the strong switch in focus on university education throughout the wealthy part of the western world. The article points out that the pursuit of academic qualifications—in this case, university qualifications—are not needed for particular jobs and that degrees are simply used to screen applicants. It stated that young people would frequently be better off undertaking other types of learning. I agree with that, and that is very much in place here in Australia. Since being an MP, I have often heard that technical education and trade-type education is devalued compared with virtually any university degree.

Extract from *Hansard*

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 14 February 2018]

p193b-238a

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

Mr W.J. Johnston: Can I ask a question about that? Do you think that making it harder to get into TAFE colleges is a good or bad idea?

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: That is a very good question, minister. For a while TAFE education was virtually free, was it not?

Mr W.J. Johnston: No, it wasn't.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: It was. It was quite some time ago now. I was surprised by how much TAFE fees had to increase and I was surprised that the impact on student numbers was not as great as I thought it would be. I am glad that the government has frozen fees. I am sure the minister would agree that it would be better for the government to reduce them.

Mr W.J. Johnston: We didn't increase them; you did.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: The government did not increase fees, but has frozen them at a time of very low inflation.

Mr W.J. Johnston: We would have happily reduced them if we had had a better budget.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: We increased them significantly.

Mr W.J. Johnston: By 500 per cent—five times.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: As I said, it did not have the impact that I thought it would have. Remember, if a person is on a low income or in a low socioeconomic group, they pay a much lower fee.

Mr W.J. Johnston: That's not true.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: Yes; I had to pay my son's fees last year.

Mr W.J. Johnston: Yes, but what's the fee?

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: For a six-month course, I think I had to pay \$3 300. If I had had a lower income, it would have been about \$1 200.

Mr W.J. Johnston: You would have to be a pensioner to get a discount like that.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: A person would probably have to be on welfare to get that discount. I think there is an income test as well.

Mr W.J. Johnston: If you are on welfare—but most Australians are not on welfare.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: No, but the fee is based on low incomes as well, I think. I did not bother to argue. The lady who did the paperwork, believe it or not, was the Labor Party's candidate against me in the last state election.

Mr W.J. Johnston: A very good candidate.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: I agree. She was a very good candidate; a nice lady. I did not bother arguing with her about how much the fee was because she knew what I earned and I knew what I earned.

Mr W.J. Johnston: It is not income dependent; it is the same as universities. They're not income dependent. There may be assistance programs, but that does not make them income dependent.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: I did not go into it deeply because I was fairly sure that whatever the income level was, I would be above it.

Mr W.J. Johnston: All of us in this room are.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: I just paid the money and moved on. I have not seen any studies that suggest what an optimum level of payment for TAFE would be. For example, a friend in my Rotary club lectures in metal fabrication at the local TAFE. I think he earns about \$65 000 a year and turns out young blokes, and some young ladies I am sure, who work in metal fabrication on mines. They start on about \$120 000 a year. He pointed out that plenty of people come out of university with sizeable HECS debts who would be lucky to earn half that. Not all courses in TAFE colleges are equal, but does that mean we start to discriminate heavily between courses on not so much what it costs to present the course but what the earning potential of that job will be? It becomes very difficult and problematic. I suppose that is done at universities for medical degrees. We charge people more to do a medical degree than some other degrees. Some are much cheaper to run than others. Do we reflect earning potential when setting the charge or reflect the cost of offering the course?

Mr W.J. Johnston: It is what happened during your period of government with TAFE. You cut the number of courses.

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: Yes. I think that that naturally happens when fees are increased.

Mr W.J. Johnston: But you actually cut programs. Programs were discontinued so you could not do courses that used to be done.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: Just remember that some trades get left behind. I remember the boss of our TAFE college telling me a year or two ago that cabinet making, for example, is no longer offered as a trade; it is considered a craft.

Mr W.J. Johnston: You haven't been to my house.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: The member would know if he had had a new kitchen built in his house that the design is just put into a computer and a machine spits out all the cut pieces and they are then just whacked together. That happens in Geraldton, not in Perth or Singapore or Sweden.

Mr W.J. Johnston: What I would argue is that the course should have kept up to date with industry needs. That is what the state training board was supposed to do.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: They probably are, but those courses are in programming and servicing the machines that cut those bits up. They probably offer that in other places, but they do not offer cabinet making anymore in my area; it has moved on. The other day there was a program on TV about building hedges. Only two people in Australia can do it. Once again, that is not really a trade; it is a craft.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: Hedges?

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: Yes, hedges like they have in the UK—proper hedges.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: Like a bush?

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: A living thing.

Mr W.J. Johnston: Topiary, they call that.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: No, that is cutting plants into shapes. We could have a good long discussion about it, but I would like to get back to the ag colleges.

I want to talk about that space in which young people are taught technical skills, rather than paper qualifications and degrees. That is exactly where agricultural colleges fit. Of course, it is accepted that agriculture in Western Australia has substantial growth potential, especially with the emergence of significant economies in ASEAN countries to our north, the massive expansion in north east Asia over the last decade and with the emergence of India in recent years. There are countries in those regions that will buy substantial amounts of produce from us for years, decades or even centuries to come. We will not ever be the granary of Asia, but we can, of course, be the gourmet deli.

What we need as much as anything else are skilled, technocratic people who can work properties. They are highly skilled jobs, and young people with those skills will have no trouble getting jobs and they will be quite well paid. When I was a student, there were many arguments about accepting that students who had been to agricultural college should get direct entry into Muresk, which is part of Curtin University. Interestingly, the objections came from the academics at Muresk. They said, "The easier you make entry into our college, the more you are devaluing our job." We had to say, "To be really honest, we are not worried about the status of your job. We want those students to be able to have a pathway into your college if they want to improve their qualifications and go further up."

The role of the trust is really important in maintaining standards across all colleges. The college closest to where I live—the WA College of Agriculture, Morawa—is in a drought-prone area, but it plays an important role training young people in the northern wheatbelt and the pastoral zone. Other colleges are in more favourable areas environmentally, and the funds are shifted around so that they are all at about the same level. The member for Warren–Blackwood mentioned that some funds go into a couple of small schools that have small farms attached to them in the metropolitan area. That is a very good thing because it introduces urban people to agriculture.

Farming, of course, does not have an apprenticeship scheme. For a short period, we came up with an apprenticeship scheme but it did not continue. I have come to know a young German bloke who is working in Western Australia on an exchange. He completed a formal apprenticeship in agriculture in Germany. He is taking a year off, then he will go to university for a number of years to come out with a university qualification. That is a separate pathway. For anybody who has looked at education and training in technical areas, I think Germany is regarded as the gold standard. We should look at it and try to model ourselves, to a degree, on the German system. The concern with the traditional apprenticeship approach is that when the economy turns down badly, companies stop taking on apprentices or, in worse situations, they get rid of the apprentices that they have. It is an interesting subject. I was talking about this the other day with a bloke from TAFE. I asked whether it was possible anywhere for a young

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person, instead of getting an apprenticeship let us say as an electrician or a mechanic, to go to college to study that full time. We do not offer that in Australia. He thought there were some countries in the world where it was offered, but he could not recall them. In our future, we have focus more on technical education. I think it is very important. If we look back at how the world has changed over the last 40 or 50 years —

Mr W.J. Johnston: I'll send you a copy of the Carmichael report.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: The Carmichael report—that was a federal report, wasn't it?

Mr W.J. Johnston: Yes, from the 1990s.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: I think technocrats are taking over the world. The old Ivy League universities are gradually losing their power and the technocrats are taking over the world. Traditional university education is also being heavily impacted by technology, so the cost of providing a traditional university education is falling and there is a lot more competition in that space. I suggest that Australia might be better off if we can offer it cheaper, then some of those funds should be put into technical education.

Finally, I will say a couple of things. I have talked before a bit about the camp schools. The one in Geraldton, of course, is very valuable. It is right next to the School of the Air and it is used by the wider community as well. I understand that it is fully booked for 2018. Someone said that they did not think it had classrooms; I am pretty sure that this one has a couple of classrooms. It is important that the government decides what it is going to do with them as quickly as possible. I do not see any problem with the current situation if their costs are covered, but, in other areas, we are saying that if the private sector can be involved, we are quite happy for the private sector to do so and for the government to exit that area. We have done that in heaps of areas. It is also quite important for the government to decide whether all the camp schools will be run by one not-for-profit organisation or whether they will be split up and each will be run by a different not-for-profit organisation.

The member for Warren–Blackwood read the names of a few people whom I know very well. He mentioned Caroline, who is a mum from Meekatharra School of the Air; I know her quite well. I also know Reg who was a maths teacher at Beachlands Primary School for some 20 years. They are both well known to me and I know what they were talking about—certainly Reg with the value of education in schools. He is quite an expert. With that, I will say thank you very much.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr T.J. Healy): The member for Moore.

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore) [4.44 pm]: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I did not even get time to call out to you, and you recognised me; that is very nice.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I do apologise.

Mr R.S. LOVE: No, it is good; I am pleased.

I would like to make a brief contribution to this reasoned amendment to the Premier's Statement. I will start by talking briefly about camp schools. As the member for Geraldton said, the camp school in Geraldton is important for the region. My electorate surrounds Geraldton; the closest point probably comes within less than 10 kilometres from the camp school. It is certainly valued by the many small schools in my electorate. If members look at the rollcall for membership of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association, they will find that many people come from the electorate of Moore—in fact, most of the executive. We, as an electorate, are very interested in opportunities for children to come together and learn new experiences from being able to go to a larger centre with a different environment on the coast, which the Geraldton camp school offers. The Geraldton camp school is at Bluff Point. Once upon a time, I think it was a primary school—was it not, member for Geraldton?

Mr I.C. Blayney: It would have been, yes.

Mr R.S. LOVE: It has all the appropriate classrooms and everything else. Of course, the Meekatharra School of the Air's physical structures are located adjacent to the Geraldton camp school. For the school of the air students, it is a valuable opportunity and a great place for them to get together et cetera. The camp school has 10 staff, so it is quite a large organisation with quite a busy book. As the member for Geraldton said, it is fully booked for 2018. When we are talking about jobs as a priority, I think it is important to respect the jobs of those 10 people as well. I would be very interested to know what the government's plans are for those people and all the staff at the camp schools. If the camp schools are going to be kept open in some form, does that mean those people will have some sort of job security going forward? What will the process be for selection of ongoing staff? What will the process be for the redundancies or severances for those staff who will not be retained? I understand that there is already talk of voluntary severances being offered. If people do not take up that option, there will be a bit of a cliff after 12 months; they will fall off it and have no job. They are damned if they do and damned if they don't. If the camp schools will be kept open, they will surely need some staff, so I think some sort of consideration for those local

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jobs and the people involved would be very good. Both previous speakers read out comments from people who have experienced firsthand the need for camp schools, so I will not go much further into that. Camp schools have been a very valuable part of the education experience for generations of children in Western Australia. We do not want a future in which our kids have fewer opportunities than the current generation and the generations that have gone before them. I am very keen to ensure that the camp schools remain open in some form or another, that schools continue to have access to those facilities, and that the dedicated staff who have served for a long time through those facilities are well treated.

The other aspect of this amendment refers to the agricultural colleges. The member for Warren–Blackwood has much experience with them. I do not know how many ag colleges he has worked at, but I know he was in Morawa for a while and also ended up as a principal.

Mr D.T. Redman: It was three.

Mr R.S. LOVE: He worked for three ag colleges and was principal of the WA College of Agriculture in Denmark. He knows very well the importance and the structures of that very important facility.

I heard the member for Geraldton talk about Morawa. I was at Morawa earlier this week, talking to people. Over the last week or two, I have had the opportunity to talk to people, not necessarily in Morawa but elsewhere, who are closely involved with the facility there and have been closely involved with the structure of the agricultural colleges over the years. My understanding is that that trust has been in place for a long time, since the mid-1980s—1985 or so. At one point, it used to take about 25 per cent of the gross revenue from the colleges for distribution through the trust. It has now been put up to 40 per cent of the gross revenue. That is the gross revenue from these operations, not profit. People on the other side probably do not understand how business works, but the gross is the amount of money that a business gets before it has to pay for all its expenses. That is what gross income is. Net income is something quite different—just to put it on the record.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Mr R.S. LOVE: I am not taking interjections. I am taking my lessons from what happened with the member for Armadale.

Several members interjected.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I ask for your protection, Mr Acting Speaker.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Mr R.S. LOVE: Thank you; I am not taking interjections. Obviously, the Minister for Education and Training does not understand this, so I am trying to outline it to members opposite because some of them may understand. I am sure that a couple of them back there may have some business experience. I do not know how successful they were; they are here now.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Mr R.S. LOVE: They might not have been very good at their job. Anyway, it is all good.

Several members interjected.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I am glad that they have woken up. They have been sitting there, sound asleep. They might as well not be here. They are earning \$164 000 a year now.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Mr R.S. LOVE: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. Forty per cent of the gross—that is the money before we pay for everything, guys; that is the gross—is a lot of money. It is put into the trust. The government is proposing that it take 20 per cent of the 40 per cent of gross as a skim for the government—money for jam.

Mr P. Papalia: You are wrong.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I am wrong?

Mr P. Papalia: I will explain how you are wrong when you sit down.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I am wrong. Okay; the minister will have his chance to speak.

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Mr R.S. LOVE: My understanding is that the gross this year —

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

Mr R.S. LOVE: The minister is a marvellous brain; I am looking forward to it.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister, the member has indicated that he is not taking interjections.

Mr P. Papalia: I am giving them, though.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I realise that.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Contrary to the directions of the Chair, and he knows what that means.

The 40 per cent of the gross it represented this year was \$1.699 million, which meant that the amount that the government would skim off is about \$340 000, if it was based on this year's figures. That can vary, as I understand it from discussions with people, from around \$200 000 up to about that level. That is a pretty good level. That was a fairly profitable year, despite the poor year at Morawa. As has been mentioned, it was a bad year up there, but overall Morawa is a pretty strong contributor to that trust, so do not let people give the wrong idea that it is some sort of mendicant. It is certainly pulling its weight in the trust. Farm businesses are not just about growing grain. The thing about the agriculture colleges and why it is important to have them spread across the state is that each of them perform somewhat of a different function. Morawa is up in that vast wheat-growing area with sometimes challenging conditions and it is the only one that is north of the Great Eastern Highway. For people who know anything about grain growing and everything else, Great Eastern Highway is recognised as a bit of a change line of climatic challenge. With people working in that area, we need the government to understand the scale and the challenges that come with farming in the area north of Great Eastern Highway. Morawa is very important in that respect. In Denmark, where the member for Warren–Blackwood ended up as the principal, it is a different scenario. It is all about dairy farming and probably a bit of wine and all those other things, plus knowing how to farm coarse grains and all the other bits and pieces that go with that area.

There are different variances throughout the other remaining colleges, with Narrogin and Cunderdin also being in an area that is still fairly safe. Harvey is the one that is squarely in irrigation country, so it is another important aspect to the whole structure. All those contribute to the trust, and what makes it a really strong arrangement is that that diversity means there is usually a good deal of income and a steady stream of income coming in and the trust funds are used to support not only some of the activities of the ag colleges, but also other facilities in a range of other schools. Some of those schools are in regional areas and some are in the city. Over the last 10 years, from 2006 to 2017, about \$852 000 from the trust has gone to those other schools—not the farm schools themselves, but the five colleges plus Esperance, the other contributor. Those other schools receive support and it is very important that people who live outside traditional farming areas in the metropolitan area understand and have an opportunity to be involved in agriculture. There is no one-way drafting gate between Perth and the agriculture regions. We do not have to see people come from there and settle in Perth. It is possible for people to drive out of Perth and have a career and a life outside Perth, and we would very much like people to consider agricultural opportunities as a pathway for themselves into the future.

The money from the trust itself goes towards buying a lot of things. It helps with the running of the farm and for buying bits and pieces of small machinery for fencing and for things such as the development of the robotic dairy in Denmark. Those types of things drive the profitability of the farm business and that further drives the contributions back into the trust for the future. Members opposite who are not involved in farming might consider farms as something that have sat still in the last 40 years, but it is a constantly changing field. For a farming environment to remain profitable, it is very important that it adapt with the times, and we have to continually invest in the business. If we do not continually invest in the business, the business will go broke. We do not want the farm trust to go backwards; we want it to go forwards. When it invests in things such as the robotic dairy, it will mean an increase in profitability in the farm and therefore an increase in contributions to the trust. At the moment, Morawa has a very old piggery and it now has a proposal with the trust for a substantial amount of money for the redevelopment and further development of the piggery.

Mr C.J. Tallentire: Would it be looking at something innovative like free range, recognising that there is a premium price to be paid for that?

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 14 February 2018]

p193b-238a

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

Mr R.S. LOVE: It is a bit too warm in Morawa for free range, I think. Most of the free-range piggeries we find are south.

Mr C.J. Tallentire: Is Narrogin really that different?

Mr R.S. LOVE: Yes; they have to be considerably further south than Morawa. At the moment, they will not consider it north of Great Eastern Highway because of climatic conditions.

Mr C.J. Tallentire: Can they not just provide shade for the animals?

Mr R.S. LOVE: They can, but it is just not considered.

Mr C.J. Tallentire: To get the premium price—that is the innovation we would like to hear about, though.

Mr R.S. LOVE: That innovation is happening and if the member for Gosnells goes to some of the professional piggery operators, he will see that a lot of free range piggeries are going in around the place. There is nothing up there at the moment.

Anyway, the proposed piggery would in fact be profitable. The current piggery is profitable. It would further expand its profitability and therefore contributions to the trust going forwards.

The member for Gosnells was talking about innovation. One of the things that is exciting people in agriculture, especially people in broadacre agriculture, is the future use of robotics and communications. We need that to be something that our students are very much aware of and working in. Traditionally, in the last 30, 40, 50 to 100 years, we have seen farm equipment growing bigger and heavier because we have to make sure that the labour components are used as efficiently as possible and the machinery can cover as much land as possible as quickly as possible.

Mr C.J. Tallentire: Therefore, the sector has become a smaller and smaller employer.

Mr R.S. LOVE: It has, because that has led to those sorts of things. This is how robotics could make quite an exciting change in agriculture, because they might reverse some of that big scale and go back to smaller machines that are far more efficient. In the case of herbicides, for instance, instead of spraying whole areas, they may spray plants so that they do not have to blanket spray an area to get rid of a pest. Instead, they spray the pests. Those types of machines could also theoretically have many small machines doing the job of one large one, which leads to less ground compaction, better soil structures and more profit in the future.

Some very important changes are coming in agriculture. There always has been and will be changes in agriculture. We need the agricultural colleges to take an innovative view and be able to invest in and grow their businesses so that the students are at the forefront of changes in agriculture and are au fait with what is going on today, not what went on in the 1980s. We need them to not just take a position in agriculture, but have innovation as a core part of their principle and work life so that they can help drive those changes in the future. If we take away their incentives, people will not do those sorts of things. When we are asking these people to work hard on the farm and make money, then the government sits back and takes its 20 per cent cut for doing nothing, that smacks a little of what Joseph Stalin tried when he came in. We all know how well that went!

Several members interjected.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Collective agriculture was such a success in the Soviet Union that it became food importers, I think. That was a great effort and a great way to treat our very successful system that been around for 30-something years now. It has been working very well. It is there to encourage people to reinvest, grow their businesses, be more dynamic and diverse and do all the sorts of things the member for Gosnells was talking about. I do not know the full range of projects that has been put up; I am talking just about the one Morawa has. They may well be things of the type the member was talking about. But taking away those incentives is breaking the heart of people involved in this. Twenty per cent of the trust, which is 40 per cent of the gross, is a lot of the income of the business.

I ask the government to reconsider that, and consider that it is a very important investment in the future of those agricultural colleges and the agricultural sector. The impact of cutting the relatively small amount of money—a few hundred thousand dollars a year—that will flow back into the coffers of government, when that is spread across the five colleges, will be much greater in the negative than any positive impact on the state from a return of a quarter of a million dollars in consolidated revenue.

MR V.A. CATANIA (North West Central) [5.02 pm]: I rise to support my colleague the member for Roe's very important amendment that highlights how important camp schools are, particularly in my electorate. The people in my electorate use the Dampier, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie camp sites offered for the Schools of the Air and regional and remote people. I want to highlight how important this issue is and how silent the so-called party for

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regional Western Australia, being the Labor Party, has been, particularly the member for Pilbara who has not said one word on this issue; even if he stood up and defended this poor decision—this stupid decision—made by this government. When we had the protest in Karratha —

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: You will get a chance to speak in a second.

When we had the protest in Karratha, to which hundreds of people turned up, it is interesting that the member for Pilbara's community were coming up and saying, "I'm sorry. We did not vote for Brendon because we wanted change, but we regret voting for an ineffective member of Parliament." It could be said that the member for Kimberley has been effective because her camp site has been saved. Perhaps she is an effective member of Parliament who at least voiced her concern that she was not consulted on these changes.

Point of Order

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: It has just been drawn to my attention that the member has a political logo in the chamber. Several members interjected.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: That is a breach of procedures of the chamber. I would appreciate it —

Several members interjected.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: As everybody knows, members cannot have —

Several members interjected.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: No; nobody does. It is not permitted to have political logos in the chamber.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms J.M. Freeman): Member, can you take off your lanyard, please. Thank you.

Several members interjected.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: It is a longstanding procedure.

Debate Resumed

Mr V.A. CATANIA: We are trying to focus on regional education here because regional students matter. Clearly, it does not matter to the member for Cannington, because he wants to point out what someone is wearing. So I am quite offended that what I am wearing offends you. Perhaps the minister wants to tweet that?

Several members interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: When we were in Karratha protesting against these stupid, dumb—whatever we want to call them—cuts to regional education, people were coming up and saying, "We apologise. We really voted for the Premier, and unfortunately we got who we got."

Mr P. Papalia: Name them!

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Name them? Have a look at every petition they have signed!

Several members interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: They are people who work at the camp school and live in Dampier and Karratha.

Mr P. Papalia: You just make stuff up!

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Do not worry; on three per cent, he is gone anyway.

We also had the Minister for Regional Development, Alannah MacTiernan, there.

Several members interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Hon Alannah MacTiernan; sorry.

The Minister for Regional Development stood in front of everyone saying, "Well, well, well, well, we don't need to have a camp site because you just can go get some accommodation. Go to a hotel. Go to a hotel." She said that; it is on the Pilbara Facebook page if members want to see it. At the same time the member for Pilbara said, "There's going to be more cuts and more cuts"!

Several members interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: But, anyway, member for Pilbara, stand and defend these cuts to regional WA, because he has been silent on this matter. The Premier stands and says, "We're the party for regional WA because we have

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more members”, but I cannot find a member who actually stands up for regional WA. The member for Kimberley is the only one who has been vocal and said she was not consulted and it is stupid. I support the member for Kimberley because I think she is right. She has been able to save her Broome camp school, but the member for Pilbara has not. The member for Pilbara is absent. If we want to talk about camps, he would like the Woodside camp to be built in town. The member for Pilbara likes to have camps for Woodside, but not for students who live in regional and remote Western Australia. This is the problem: the priorities of the member for Pilbara and those of the regional members of the Labor Party. They have been absent from this debate, and that will contribute to that three per cent going to four per cent by the end of this year.

The members for Roe, Warren–Blackwood, Moore and Geraldton made great contributions that highlighted how important camp schools are and how important it is not to touch the trust money of the agricultural colleges. Those camps schools are vital for the people of my electorate who use them regularly because they are absolutely part of the school environment that the Schools of the Air bring. It is a school community. That school community meets at those camp sites to perform the normal functions of a school. That is why they are so important.

The other problem we currently have is that redundancies have been offered. Perhaps the Minister for Education and Training can clarify the redundancies that have been offered to Schools of the Air teachers and workers at camp sites run by the Department of Education, all to meet the government target of cutting 3 000 public service jobs. That is what it is all about, members.

Mr D.T. Redman: It’s interesting to note that they have to have expressions of interest first. If they take it up, they have to be out by 31 March. Does that mean they’re going to employ more people to the end of the year?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: That is it. There you have it. By the end of March, people will have to have made a decision about whether they want to take a redundancy, so it is happening by stealth. We may have saved the Schools of the Air —

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms J.M. Freeman): Member for North West Central, do you want to get back to the amendment? I thought you were having a general discussion on the Premier’s Statement, but you are speaking on the amendment; is that correct?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: It is about councils. That is what I am speaking about.

The ACTING SPEAKER: You are talking about redundancies at the moment. Come to the amendment.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Madam Acting Speaker, that is the whole reason the government is offering redundancies to those in the position of running the camp schools—that is part of the argument. Perhaps that is the reason we are in this position. Anyway, I will just leave that with the members.

We are seeing it occur by stealth, anyway, to meet that target of 3 000. That is why it is March. Is it not funny? March is an interesting date—getting ready for a May budget, perhaps. I may be a conspiracy theorist here, but I think it is pretty spot-on when the targets are there, aimed for by the Minister for Education and Training, doing her job, which is being supported by cabinet members and approved by cabinet to reach the targets. I cannot remember how many education staff are going—is it 180, 300 or 800? I cannot remember, but it is a large number and those redundancies have been put in place. We may have saved the Schools of the Air, but it will be interesting to see whether there are going to be any teachers. The fear that teachers have in the Schools of the Air, and the fears that people have in the camp schools, is that if they do not take the redundancy, they will be transferred somewhere else.

Mr D.T. Redman: Or an involuntary redundancy, which is in emails that camp school people are getting.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: That is right—an involuntary redundancy. The threat is already there. We can see that, even though we have these debates and these rallies, and the minister says that we are negotiating one thing. The minister also said, “I’m going to visit every School of the Air and every person who goes to a School of the Air”. I think she looked at the map and went, “Oh, my God, I can’t travel that far!” Here we have the minister negotiating with the people who are affected, but by stealth we are seeing the full-time equivalents in camps and the Schools of the Air disappear. It is concerning that we are seeing this being done by stealth regardless of the rhetoric being propounded by this anti–regional education government.

As for Country Labor members, the member for Collie–Preston is silent and the member for Pilbara is silent. The member for Kimberley is probably the only one who has actually spoken up. I cannot hear the member for Bunbury’s voice. Members need to stand up. Sometimes they have to go across party political lines to represent their communities, and they are not doing it. Regional people know. Like I said, three per cent has now gone to four per cent.

Several members interjected.

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

Withdrawal of Remark

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms J.M. Freeman): Member for Collie–Preston, can you withdraw that, please?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I withdraw the term “rat”.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Sit down, member for Collie–Preston.

Debate Resumed

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Unqualified, obviously! I know I have to speak louder to the member for Collie–Preston sometimes so he can actually hear me! Anyway, at least the member for Collie–Preston stood up. Even the member for Albany spoke up. The member for —

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members, I get that you do not respect each other at this point of the conversation, but you do respect Hansard, and Hansard is trying to take the transcript, so can we stop the wall of noise. Thank you very much.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I just want to say that I miss the member for Albany because sometimes, as Speaker in this place, he does not get a chance to speak, but he spoke on radio I think yesterday and said that he played a major role in reversing the disgraceful cuts to the Schools of the Air and that he believes that Country Labor is going to do the same with Moora, the camps and the ag colleges. I think it is going to be a struggle; he may be tough on radio, but this place is where he has to stand up, and his party room is where he has to stand up, and I cannot see that happening. Members’ electorates will know that and, like I said, three per cent is moving to four per cent. It is coming closer to the member for Bunbury.

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Tourism) [5.15 pm]: I am representing the Minister for Education and Training in the lower house, so I am responding to the rabble opposite and their incredibly poorly researched contributions.

As a genuine country boy, someone who was born in the country, grew up in the country and went to state schools in the country, it is probably valuable for me to make a contribution. I actually lived in the country, unlike the member for North West Central; I think he is sometimes North West Central, but he is mostly Victoria Park or North Perth. He has never lived in the country as far as I know. What he certainly did not do —

Point of Order

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Madam Acting Speaker, you made the point very delicately earlier on to bring the member for North West Central back to the agenda. I make the same point with the minister’s response.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Madam Acting Speaker, I am actually demonstrating the paucity of experience on the other side with regard to living in the country as a child and going to a state school. The entire debate is about —

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms J.M. Freeman): Minister, you do not have to canvass my ruling, okay? I will give my ruling. I had a point of order and I would direct you to come back to the amendment. Thank you.

Debate Resumed

Mr P. PAPALIA: I was returning to the amendment, which I will read out in part: “and calls on the McGowan government to reverse the closure of camp schools”. Unlike the member who just made a contribution, I went to a camp school as a child because I was a genuine country boy. I grew up in the country and I went to a state school. I remember distinctly, in fact, my experience as a 12-year-old at Burekup Primary School going to a camp site at Point Peron. The member for North West Central might want to stay and listen, because he would never have experienced it. I am going to tell him a couple of stories about camp sites. They are actually not schools. I know this because I went to one. They should not be called camp schools; it is a misnomer and incorrect to call them camp schools. They are not schools, they are camp sites. Many of them are not operated by —

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I am not taking the interjection from the member for Moore. He would not know about Western Australian camp schools either because he did not grow up here, so he did not go to any. I know about them because I attended one.

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Moore!

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

Mr P. PAPALIA: Get upset all you want, mate, because I am telling you a few home truths. The National Party is the least agricultural regional party in the entire Parliament. As the Treasurer says, most of the members reside on the CAT bus route, and those who do not do not get out to the country very often. I am talking about an experience at a camp school, and I say that in inverted commas because they are not schools; they are camp sites. I went to the Point Peron one as a country boy from Burekup Primary School. I remember it distinctly. Does the member the Nedlands know why?

Mr W.R. Marmion: It was freezing cold?

Mr P. PAPALIA: No, it was great; it was in summer! The reason I remember it is that we had a bit of an edgy PT teacher who was running the show at the time and he showed all the kids *Alvin Purple* as our movie! It was an old reel-to-reel movie and he showed us *Alvin Purple*, so do not worry—that was locked in as a 12-year-old! I remember the experience of going to the Point Peron —

Mr W.J. Johnston: Purple Valiant!

Mr P. PAPALIA: There are a lot of images that I retain from that visit, amongst them paddling out to Seal Island and getting a bit concerned on the way back when the tide came back in, but it was great fun. All the observations that have been made about the value of camp sites and the benefits for children, particularly children from environments that are different from the locations of those sites, being able to go and experience them, are valid; they are true. That is why the government is looking to —

Point of Order

Mr V.A. CATANIA: The member has misled Parliament by saying that they are camp sites, but I have just googled the camp schools of Kalgoorlie, Dampier and Geraldton, and it clearly shows “camp schools”. He is misleading the Parliament.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms J.M. Freeman): Member, that is not a point of order.

Debate Resumed

Mr P. PAPALIA: Thank you, Madam Acting Speaker. As someone who has actually attended one of the camp sites, as opposed to the member for North West Central, who spent most of his time at Trinity College—I got to go to one of the camp sites as a child—I vividly remember *Alvin Purple* and the other experiences of the camp site. As I recall, it was not a school; it was a camp site. That is my impression of them; that is my view. It is a misnomer that they are termed “camp schools” on the website. In my view, it is a misnomer; it is incorrect to call these places camp schools. They are not schools. That aside, the government has indicated that it is seeking a not-for-profit to take over operation of these sites, in the same fashion as they are currently delivered. The savings will come from not having to run them with Department of Education staff. It is a ridiculous suggestion to say that camp schools are being shut. That aside, the previous government shut a camp school in my electorate. It was not run by the Department of Education; it was run by the Department for Child Protection and Family Support. It provided holidays for Aboriginal kids from remote communities in the far north and east of the state. They were able to come to Port Kennedy Scientific Park and Secret Harbour. They were able to camp there at Christmas time and have the opportunity to go to the beach. The previous government shut it—incredible. It is a misnomer to call these sites camp schools. They are not camp schools; they are camp sites. They will be retained. As members heard, the Premier has one in his own electorate. He is making a decision based on the necessity to fix the mess that we inherited from the clowns opposite. That is what is driving the decision.

Having addressed the member for North West Central, who does not know anything about the regions—he has never lived there, never grew up there, never went to a state school and does not know anything about this debate—I will now go back and consider some of the other contributions. Member for Moore, the government is not taking 20 per cent. I will explain to the member the allocation of funds that are accrued as a consequence of produce sale.

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Does the member want to hear about it or not?

I am talking about the allocation of funds accrued from the sale of produce from the agricultural schools. At the determination of the Combined Agricultural Advisory Committee—not the government—60 per cent of the gross that the member referred to is retained by the colleges. The other 40 per cent goes to a fund that the member was calling a trust. It is not a trust in the sense that the member, and people listening to this debate, might assume it to be. It is not a trust in those terms; it is a fund.

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Can the member let me make the contribution, and then he can criticise it?

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

As a consequence of the determination of the advisory committee, that fund is available for a number of things, one of which the member has identified, but he incorrectly implied that the funds were being used solely for city-based schools that have farm schools attached to them. That is not the case. Just to be very clear, and to place this on the record so that anyone who might choose to read this interesting debate can be completely clear as to where the distribution goes, nine schools of the nature to which the member referred receive the funding, at the behest of that committee. It is a longstanding decision and determination, dating from 1985. Those schools are predominantly in the regions. There are three in the city and six in the regions. The regional schools that receive funding are Margaret River Senior High School, Mount Barker Community College, Pinjarra Senior High School, Merredin College, Manjimup Senior High School and Kojonup District High School. They receive the funds, so obviously the lion's share of the distribution determined by the advisory committee currently goes to support those schools. The 40 per cent does not entirely go to that purpose. A determination is made annually by that committee on the distribution. In addition to all those factors, other distributions are authorised by the committee. It is not just for those schools, and the remaining money does not just stay in a bucket and sit there forever untouched. It also goes to cover bad season conditions; to purchase items of a capital nature, such as machinery, tractors and fencing, not provided for in college or school farm operational funding; to fund projects for small farm schools—those are the ones we referred to—and to purchase other capital items at the discretion of the committee. Nothing has changed about that. In addition, the colleges are all being funded for all their operational costs in exactly the same fashion they were prior to the minister having to find money to fix the budget mess that the previous government left us with.

The one thing that is not happening, which the member distorted in his contribution—perhaps inadvertently—was to suggest that the government is going to take 20 per cent of the gross amount received.

Mr R.S. Love: I did not say that.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I wrote down what you said. If you subsequently corrected yourself after I pointed out you were wrong —

Mr R.S. Love: I was going to do the maths, but I did not want to insult your intelligence, minister. It is 20 per cent of 40 per cent, and you know what that equals.

Mr P. PAPALIA: It is eight per cent of the gross.

Mr R.S. Love: I was going to mention that figure.

Mr P. PAPALIA: What you implied —

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister, you should direct your comments to me. That is the protocol of the house. If you are talking to me, even if the member is yelling at you, Hansard can hear. Please direct your comments to me. You have actively got your back to me at this point.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I do not have to look at you all the time, though, do I?

Several members interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I do not know that that is a protocol. It may be an observation made by the Chair. I am just seeking clarification, because I do not think that is correct.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I have given you that clarification.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I think if you are going to say that, that is a bit interesting. I am speaking through you, Acting Speaker, but looking around the chamber to embrace the entire chamber.

Mr D.A. Templeman: You are very inclusive.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I am an inclusive individual.

Members of the National Party are actively seeking to turn country people against city people. They actively do it; that is what they do every time they find themselves in opposition. They have no policy and no reason for existence. It is their only pursuit at the time of going into opposition, having trashed the state to an extent never seen before in any jurisdiction in the nation.

Several members interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I am looking now at the member for Dawesville, and ignoring the interjections.

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Moore, enough! I have given you latitude, but if you do it again, I will call you to order.

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

Mr P. PAPALIA: Having financially trashed the state beyond recognition, and having impacted in a way that has never been seen in the history of Australia, the National Party is now reverting to type, leaving the poor old Liberal Party to pick up the mess and try to look a bit more structured and responsible, although, frighteningly, the Leader of the Opposition is inclined to try to get in front of the Nationals as far as wrecking goes. National Party members are going out on their own, independently, pretending that they have no responsibility for what happened. The motion ignores what drove the need to make a relatively small demand on that revenue stream to try to fix the mess we inherited.

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: There is no reason to expect that the agricultural colleges will be in any way impacted beyond potentially a marginally small contribution to the ultimate fund from which they can draw. But in the event capital works are required —

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I am looking at you, Acting Speaker.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Moore, I call you for the first time. Can we let the minister proceed and speak to the amendment. Thank you.

Mr P. PAPALIA: In the event that any of the colleges —

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I am not looking at him.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Moore, I call you for the second time.

Mr P. PAPALIA: In the event that any of the colleges —

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Moore, I call you for the third time.

Mr P. PAPALIA: In the event that any of the colleges, or even the small schools that also rely upon the funds, need capital infrastructure spending or spending for their operational obligations, that will be met. It is being met now. It is part of their budget process. None of that has changed. There is a temporary, small obligation on the advisory committee to contribute 20 per cent of the 40 per cent that is gross, which is currently passed on to the trust and that is all it is.

I would dearly love not to be standing in this place explaining why we have to do this, but we are compelled to do it. Firstly, there are 40 000 million reasons why we have to do it. The debt accrued under the Liberal–National government that the Nationals were part of—in fact, they were significant contributors to the damage—is one of the reasons. The other reason is that the opposition collectively chose to block a revenue measure. Had it not been blocked it, it would have meant that these additional savings measures would not have had to be found. There is a consequence because we employ the forward estimates and the budget process as a planning tool to ensure that we achieve our outcome over the forward estimates. We set a target. Each year we can see the government's intention. We can see the budget for this year. Unlike the previous government, we do not ignore the forward estimates. We use them as a tool. To us the forward estimates are real. That means we have to try to achieve the outcome at the end. If we take away \$400 million in revenue from the forward estimates, we have to replace it in some other fashion. That is no choice. It is a zero sum gain. It is required for fiscal responsibility, budget repair and fixing the mess we inherited. Honestly, it is extraordinary that, due to the malapportionment in the other place, many of the party room compatriots of members opposite have not realised that they lost the election. They think they are still in government in the other place. That is a sad thing. It is overwhelmingly clear that we won the election in this place because we are democratic in this place. The people of Western Australia voted for us to fix the previous government's mess. They did not vote for us to listen to a minority malapportioned, unrepresentative group in the other place tell us what we can and cannot do. That is not what they did. Had they chosen to allow members opposite to continue to run the treasury bench, there would be more members opposite in here. They did not do that. They chose to rely on us to fix their mess. That means members opposite have an obligation. I am looking at the slightly more responsible party. I am particularly looking at the member for Kalgoorlie because I know he is a reasonable man. I am not convinced that it is any more responsive in light of recent activities in the upper house, but I am hoping that I can appeal to the historic relationship between the Liberal Party and its claim to be a reasonable fiscal manager. I know it does not have much cred in that department right now, but some of those who joined the Liberal Party in the hope they might be able to make that claim, can, hopefully, revert to kind

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

and consider that it is more important that they do the right thing rather than pursue the wrecking pathway set by this mob over here—these fiscal wreckers.

They should not let their leader continue to drive down the path of trying to get in front of the Liberal Party's continued fiscal damage. He has abandoned every single semblance of his entire life. Everything he has stood for his entire life he has abandoned. He is now acting in a fashion that the old civilian public observer, Mr Nahan prior to becoming Hon Mike Nahan, would have derided as disgraceful behaviour. He is acting in that fashion and that is a very sad thing because he is taking the Liberal Party with him. Members opposite need to look inside their heart and consider what they are doing to the state. When they stop us from fixing their mess, they are hurting the state. I will reach out to anyone in the upper house. Hopefully, on the crossbenches there is a little more responsibility than resides with this lot in the National Party and, sadly, what appears to be the same lack of integrity in the Liberal Party. Of course, we do not support this amendment and we will oppose it.

Division

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

Ayes (16)

Mr I.C. Blayney	Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup	Mr W.R. Marmion	Mr K. O'Donnell
Mr V.A. Catania	Mr A. Krsticevic	Mr J.E. McGrath	Mr D.T. Redman
Ms M.J. Davies	Mr S.K. L'Estrange	Dr M.D. Nahan	Mr P.J. Rundle
Mrs L.M. Harvey	Mr R.S. Love	Mr D.C. Nalder	Ms L. Mettam (<i>Teller</i>)

Noes (35)

Ms L.L. Baker	Mr T.J. Healy	Mrs L.M. O'Malley	Ms J.J. Shaw
Dr A.D. Buti	Mr M. Hughes	Mr P. Papalia	Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski
Mr J.N. Carey	Mr W.J. Johnston	Mr S.J. Price	Mr C.J. Tallentire
Mrs R.M.J. Clarke	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mr D.T. Punch	Mr D.A. Templeman
Mr R.H. Cook	Mr F.M. Logan	Ms M.M. Quirk	Mr P.C. Tinley
Ms J. Farrer	Mr K.J.J. Michel	Mrs M.H. Roberts	Mr R.R. Whitby
Mr M.J. Folkard	Mr S.A. Millman	Ms C.M. Rowe	Ms S.E. Winton
Ms J.M. Freeman	Mr Y. Mubarakai	Ms R. Saffioti	Mr D.R. Michael (<i>Teller</i>)
Ms E. Hamilton	Mr M.P. Murray	Ms A. Sanderson	

Pair

Mr M. McGowan

Mr P.A. Katsambanis

Amendment thus negatived.

Consideration Resumed

MRS R.M.J. CLARKE (Murray–Wellington) [5.40 pm]: I acknowledge the opportunity to respond to the Premier's Statement, which outlined some of the great work that this government has done over the past year, particularly in creating jobs in the regions, and its plan for jobs for this year.

Before I begin, I would like to recognise an important figure in the south west who, sadly, passed away suddenly last week. John Watson—known to many as “Watto”—was a superintendent based in Bunbury and, in his final years of service, in Albany. In 2005, he and his wife Lorraine retired to Preston Beach and lived there until he died of a suspected heart attack on 7 February 2018. The superintendent served in the WA Police Force for 36 years and was awarded an Australian police medal in 1993. After his retirement, he continued to be a community leader in Preston Beach in his role as president of the Preston Beach Progress Association. No matter where he lived, he was always devoted to the community and to bettering it in any way that he could. He was a mate, a mentor, and the love of his wife Lorraine's life. Vale, John Watson.

I recently undertook a community engagement tour throughout my electorate to visit tourist spots and community hubs in every town. The community groups that I met included the Coolup Progress Association, which consists of a group of locals who are committed to the development of their small town while still maintaining the country charm that attracts residents to the area. I also met with staff at the Brunswick Community Resource Centre, who are doing a lot of important work in Brunswick Junction to improve the lives of those around them and to increase business engagement in the area. The centre will hold a “women in business” sundowner later this month. Another community group that I met was the Pinjarra Community Garden. The community garden is an excellent initiative that is run by volunteers where locally grown plants, fruits and vegetables are available for sale to the public on

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 14 February 2018]

p193b-238a

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Friday and Saturday mornings between 9.00 am and 12.00 pm at very reasonable prices. People can also lease a patch to grow their own plants. All the money the garden makes goes into the maintenance and upkeep of the garden and new plants or produce that the community requests.

Along with meeting these groups, I held a number of events at which I was able to meet and talk to members of communities throughout the electorate. Two events were held in coastal towns, being a breakfast in Preston Beach and an afternoon barbecue in Binningup. I would like to thank the people of those beachside communities for welcoming me into their towns and for coming along to those events. I would also like to acknowledge the Australind Lions Club, which ran the barbecue for the Binningup community. I also held an afternoon tea in Harvey with a number of locals I have had the privilege to get to know over the past year. I want to thank those people both for coming and for the support that they have provided over the past 12 months.

Settler's Lakeside Village in Ravenswood is a vibrant aged-living community where I got to catch up with Edna Morris, whose 100th birthday I attended just over six months ago. At 100 she is still living independently and is full of life and wisdom that she is more than happy to share with anyone who is willing to listen. The opportunity to sit down and have a chat with her, and to see how well she is looked after, was one of the highlights of my visit to the village. You are truly a treasure, Edna.

I believe that tourism is one of the industries in my electorate with the most potential. There are a number of great tourism locations throughout the region, and there is a strong opportunity for this industry to be developed further, which will create much-needed jobs for the area. I visited a number of locations that attract tourists, and met some of the people who run them and who volunteer their time to make them work.

Fairbridge Village is a heritage-listed location that operates both as a tourism spot, particularly through the annual Fairbridge Festival, and as an education centre for teenagers who are not succeeding in mainstream education and for young Indigenous men who are trying to break the cycle of incarceration. I was able to visit the village and Fairbridge School to get an understanding of what the organisation has planned for its future and how it is evolving to attract more people to the site. Fairbridge has education programs that often allow the students to work at the village as part of their training. It also allows volunteer groups such as Riding for the Disabled to use its facilities.

I also visited the Forest Heritage Centre in Dwellingup, which offers a range of activities, including craft workshops and activities, walk trails through Dwellingup's pristine jarrah forest, and activities for children. It also provides accommodation. The centre has recently undergone a renaming process and has changed its name to the Forest Discovery Centre, which more accurately reflects the role and goal of the centre, which is to be a vibrant regional hub that nurtures learning and creativity in the arts, the natural environment and heritage.

One of the most unique, but incredible, locations I visited was the West Coast Motor Museum in Stake Hill. The museum has a massive range of historic cars and former speedway cars that are all in pristine condition. It features a 1950s-style diner, complete with a working jukebox. What is truly special about all these locations is that they are all community oriented. The motor museum regularly has aged-care and Alzheimer's groups visit either free of charge or at a heavily discounted rate. When they see vehicles and items from their past, those visitors often experience a sense of nostalgia.

Visitor centres are often one of the first places tourists go when they arrive in a new area. The Waroona Visitor Centre has developed into a tourism attraction in its own right and doubles as an art gallery that displays the work of local artists. The front of the centre features Mooriel the cow, who sits on the side of South Western Highway on display to everyone who drives through the town. Mooriel is dressed up in different outfits depending on the time of the year and has been a major part of encouraging people to stop in Waroona when they pass through.

In a number of small regional towns, the centre of town is the local pub. I visited the Lake Clifton Tavern, the Wokalup Tavern and the Brunswick Tavern. These are all tourist attractions for the towns.

Mr D.A. Templeman: This is a drinking tour!

Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE: I know—and I do not drink!

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE: Yes.

Those taverns act as a central point for the locals. The Brunswick Tavern has only recently been reopened following renovations by the new owner. In recent years, the Lake Clifton Tavern has also undergone work. However, all three taverns have maintained their significant historical components. In particular, the Wokalup Tavern is over 100 years old and regularly attracts people from surrounding areas, despite being one of the only non-residential buildings at the town site.

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 14 February 2018]

p193b-238a

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Small business is the backbone of regional towns, so I really enjoyed the opportunity to visit a number of small businesses in North Yunderup, Pinjarra and Dwellingup. They included cafés such as the Blue Wren Café in Dwellingup and Jarra Infusion in Pinjarra that not only provide incredible food, but also employ local young people and give back to their local communities in a number of different ways. I also visited North Yunderup's general store, which acts as the central point of the small community and is the town's only location to get groceries and supplies. Fusion Hair in North Yunderup is a vibrant salon that also provides home visits to cater for community members who find it difficult to get out and about. These businesses are great contributors to the local economies and communities.

When I visited Yarloop, I visited what has been the most important part of the rebuilding of the town to date—that is, Yarloop Fire Station. The station, along with most of the town, was destroyed in the 2016 bushfires that devastated the region. The station received funding from the state government last year and is nearly ready to be reopened. Once the station is opened, it will be able to serve as not only a home for the Yarloop Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, but also a training area for volunteer firefighters from around the region. The rebuilding of this station has been regularly identified as a critical component of re-establishing the town, and it is wonderful to see that progress is finally being made on this station.

As Yarloop recovers, it has also been incredible to see how strong and resilient the community is. Marking the second anniversary of the fires, the *Recovery & Regrowth* exhibition in Harvey showcased the artwork of those who lived in the Shires of Harvey and Waroona during the 2016 fires. The exhibition and the art classes that preceded it saw adults and children all putting their artwork on display for the public, and many were able to sell their art. For many, this art exhibition became an important part of the recovery process and a way for them to express their experiences during the difficult time.

The state government has shown that it is dedicated to improving sport and recreation in the regions through a number of projects in Murray–Wellington that have been funded. For the final part of the community engagement tour, I met with the Shire of Harvey regarding two projects in Australind that have recently received government funding. Leschenault Leisure Centre is the largest sport and recreation centre in Australind; however, sporting activities cannot be undertaken at night-time due to a lack of lighting facilities on the ovals. Funding has been provided to the shire to enable the centre to install lighting so that sports clubs will be able to safely train and play after dark.

Ridley Place, located on the Australind foreshore on the border of my electorate, is also in need of an upgrade to replace ageing facilities and to cater for the booming population in the area. Funding has been provided to enable the barbecue facilities and ablutions to be upgraded, with the aim of attracting more people to the foreshore and encouraging recreational activities in the area.

In the Shire of Murray, the playground at Moondyne Ramble Park has recently been reopened following an upgrade that was made possible through state government funding that the shire received late last year. In South Yunderup, which is a rapidly increasing community as a result of housing estates in the area, funding has been awarded towards the expansion of the local oval, which will provide room for a soccer pitch and meet community demand for a wider range of sporting activities.

This government is serious about education. The electorate of Murray–Wellington has 14 public schools. Every single one of these schools has benefited from at least one of the following—a new science lab, an additional level 3 classroom teacher allocation, an additional education assistant, or an additional Aboriginal and Islander education officer. Carcoola and Harvey Primary Schools are two of the first 100 schools in this state to receive a science lab. Kingston, North Dandalup, Parkfield and Treendale Primary Schools and Pinjarra Senior High School have received an additional level 3 teacher allocation. Australind Senior High School, which sits outside the electorate but has an intake area that includes the southern part of the electorate, has also benefited. Brunswick Junction and Yarloop Primary Schools and Waroona District High School have received additional education assistants. Harvey Senior High School has this year benefited from an Aboriginal and Islander education officer.

For these schools, this is making an immense difference. These are schools that have regularly been overlooked in the past. Many of these schools have exploded in population over the last few years but up until now have not been given extra support to meet the new demands that they face. This government has changed this, and these regional schools are finally receiving the attention they deserve.

As the Premier made clear in his Premier's Statement, jobs is this government's number one priority. The number of jobs in the regions is increasing. I have seen this in Pinjarra, where a few weeks ago I visited local manufacturing company Murray Engineering with the Minister for Regional Development. This company is undertaking a lot of

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innovative work that has the potential to turn the area into the country's centre of heavy vehicle manufacturing. This will potentially double the size of the company, which already employs 200 local people and 30 apprentices.

There is also potential for the creation of regional growth and jobs through the establishment of a lithium refinery site at Kemerton Industrial Park, located 10 kilometres north of Australind. If this site is chosen, nearly 200 jobs will be created, boosting employment prospects for people in Australind, Harvey, Brunswick and Leschenault.

The Peel business park and Peel food zone in Nambelup, which are currently in development, will create massive economic opportunities for the region. An aerial survey into groundwater availability and quality has recently taken place, providing detailed information on potential water sources in the park. The state government, through the Peel Development Commission, has also seen strong interest from a number of groups that are exploring the possibility of investing and bringing projects into the food zone and business park. Once this project is fully developed, it will create tens of thousands of jobs for the greater region, including the hubs of Pinjarra and Mandurah.

Jobs in the regions are growing, and that is developing the local economy and giving more people the opportunity to work close to home. The schools in my region are benefiting from the recent announcement. This government is getting on with the job of delivering for the regions.

MR W.R. MARMION (Nedlands) [5.55 pm]: I rise to speak on the motion that the Premier's Statement be noted. I want to begin by recognising the career of Colin Barnett, who was Premier of this state for eight and a half years. Not many people can be Premier of Western Australia, and certainly not for eight and a half years. That was a wonderful achievement, and I believe that as time goes by, Colin Barnett's achievements will be recognised more and more.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

Mr W.R. MARMION: I think the member for Cannington also appreciates the wonderful service that Colin Barnett provided as Premier. Colin Barnett also served under Premier Richard Court as Minister for Resources Development, Minister for Energy and Minister for Education.

I want to talk about four different topics. The first is my new shadow portfolio positions, one of which is shadow Minister for Mines and Petroleum. The member for Murray–Wellington, who has just left the chamber, mentioned the opportunities in Kemerton for lithium processing. Lithium is a key area that I hope the Minister for Mines and Petroleum will take up and support strongly because of the value-adding it can offer to Western Australia. I will expand on that later.

Another issue under the mines and petroleum portfolio is the gold royalty. I was very disappointed that the Labor government singled out the gold industry for a hit by proposing to increase the gold royalty. If members understand how the gold industry works, they would know that the majority of the goldmining companies that are actually making a profit and not just exploring return their profits into exploration expenditure. Indeed, without exploration expenditure, these companies would die. That is adding to the royalty revenue for Western Australia. Some work was done recently by the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies that shows that if the gold industry were to carry on with business as usual, the royalty return from gold would halve in approximately 20 years' time. It is essential that the government supports the gold industry, because that will provide jobs through exploration, and that means there will be a steady income stream for the government from gold royalties.

I am very pleased the government has continued to fund the exploration incentive scheme. I have to say that we pinched that scheme from South Australia. When we came into government in 2008, Western Australia was not the best state in Australia in which to invest. It is hard to believe, but South Australia is above Western Australia. I have to give credit to the former member for Kalgoorlie, Wendy Duncan, who found out why that was so. South Australia had an exploration incentive scheme. She was the one who suggested that WA adopt the same scheme that South Australia had, which we did. Western Australia jumped above South Australia. In the second to last year we were in government, Western Australia was voted the number one place in the world to invest capital. Western Australia is still the number one place in Australia. One hopes that the policies that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum adopts maintains Western Australia's position as at least the number one place in Australia. I hope that we maintain our place in the top one, two or three in the world in overseas capital investment.

The mining rehabilitation fund is something I have not heard much about from the new government in the last 12 months. It was an initiative that was implemented by me. In fairness, it was started by a previous Minister for Mines and Petroleum, Norman Moore. I might point out that these initiatives are not necessarily to the credit of the government or the minister because it is an idea that usually emanates from the department. It is very nice for a minister to say that his or her government brought it in. In reality, the department comes up with the idea and the minister decides whether it is a good or bad idea. One could argue that there is that responsibility. I happened to be the minister when the mining and rehabilitation fund came into existence. It was a very important policy

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initiative. It was possibly the first one in the world. It is the first policy in Australia. It meant that all mining companies that had capital tied up in environmental bonds totalling \$1.2 billion had it released back to the company. Firstly, the department had to ensure they were not going into liquidation so obviously the company's probity was looked at. If they passed that, they paid into a fund that was started when I was the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; now it has grown. That fund has saved the industry. It has kept it in business. It will provide a nice capital fund. Treasury will like that because it can be shown in the budget as a nice lot of money to offset against any borrowings. Over time, that will grow to a considerable amount. The interest earned on that fund is being used to rehabilitate legacy mine sites. It will clean up some of the mess of days gone by. That is a policy that I hope the new Minister for Mines and Petroleum and the government continues.

Another area I think that the minister needs to keep a watching brief on is the mines safety levy. I will not go through how the mines safety levy is calculated because it is reasonably complex. Mines that have a certain number of people employed onsite pay another levy to make sure that the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety has inspectors of the right calibre, which means they have to be paid more money. Mr Acting Speaker (Mr S.J. Price) knows about this. That is so they can be paid at a suitable level. The industry agreed that they should come on site with a certain level of expertise. During the boom years of 2009 and 2010, industry was concerned that the former Department of Mines and Petroleum was losing inspectors because they could work in the mining industry and earn more money than in DMP. The mines safety levy was introduced so that we could have inspectors of the right calibre. One could argue that that situation does not apply anymore and that we do not need to have such a high levy. The industry is not only concerned about that, it is also concerned that the levy is being used to cross-subsidise other elements of the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety's operations.

Mr S.A. Millman interjected.

Mr W.R. MARMION: I have a very long speech. I am putting that on the table for the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, who is not here. I want him to keep a watching brief on that. These are some ideas but I am not saying the government should do them.

Mr S.A. Millman: Have there been job advertisements for those inspectors?

Mr W.R. MARMION: I am just picking up this portfolio as a new shadow. I do not know; I am just suggesting. There were concerns when I was the Minister for Mines and Petroleum. I have met with the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies recently, picking up the portfolio. I personally analysed it some years back but I do not know whether it has changed. Under the mines safety levy, I remember that there was an element for supplies. The levy was \$1 million. I do not know why mines and safety inspectors needed \$1 million worth of supplies. There is a possibility that it was supplies for other sections of DMP. I am throwing that in as something for the minister to look at.

The other initiative that I wanted to bring in, which Treasury was not happy about—I had to fight very hard; I was trying to do all sorts of deals—was the actual mining licence. Treasury wants to reduce consolidated account expenditure. The former Department of Mines and Petroleum had someone who worked out all the royalties. Obviously it has gone down a lot, but it is in the billions—\$3.5 billion was the lowest and it can go up to \$6 billion. People in the department worked that out. That revenue is not shown in DMP's accounts; it goes into Treasury's accounts. Fair enough. A fee is paid per annum for every single mining licence. There is also a requirement to expend a certain amount of money to retain that licence. That provides jobs, which is good, but I was trying to get the licence fee itself shown in the accounts of the Department of Mines and Petroleum like a revenue source. My concern was if that were not highlighted as a revenue source to offset the cost of the department, eventually the money given by CRF to run the department would be eroded. There would be pressure on very important elements of the Department of Mines and Petroleum such as Geological Survey of Western Australia. Elements of Geological Survey are free. It has a core library. A geology student at the University of Western Australia or at Curtin University can look at all the rocks. It is a fantastic resource and it does not cost anything. Treasury people, who do not understand mining, say, "That's a waste. Let's get some money. Let's get a return. That is a great resource." But that resource is why Western Australia is the number one place to invest in Australia. I would be very upset if Treasury, which has no idea how to run a mine site; it just number-crunches —

Mr S.A. Millman: You won't be the Treasurer!

Mr W.R. MARMION: This is the danger. I am sure that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum is alert to that and his radar is up and it will not be eroding Geological Survey's wonderful efforts. That is point one; I wanted to get on to others. That is all I will say on mines and petroleum.

Innovation and disruptive technologies is a very important aspect of the economy. How are we going to diversify WA's economy through innovation? The definition of innovation is interesting. By the way, innovation should be in everything. Innovation is used to develop new technologies, new ways of doing things, including new services.

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If Western Australia develops them with intellectual property, we can export those and provide another economy to Western Australia. Disruptive technologies such as photovoltaic cells obviously caused a disruption to the energy industry in Western Australia. Uber is another one. That is in transportation. Those are the things that are causing the state government to consider different types of policies. That is an important element to be on the front foot of.

In terms of a strategy for innovation, I was very pleased once upon a time to be the Minister for Innovation. When I was Minister for Innovation, we produced Western Australia's first innovation strategy. It was good to see that when I googled it, I managed to download it still, with my photo on the front! The important part of this is that someone gets a start-up industry going, because is a bit of a jump from the idea to its commercialisation. The innovation strategy is an important thing to support, and I know the new government is keen to support it, although I have not seen too much in the way of media releases on innovation.

The other element of innovation that is directly related to government is its own information technology. When I was the Minister for Innovation and information and communications technology came under my control we produced "Digital WA", which I downloaded conveniently again off the website. It is a pity that the minister is not here. It is interesting because in implementing this "Digital WA" strategy, which basically is trying to get all departments to get rid of their clunky hardware and go into the cloud and just pay for IT services, we wanted to know how we could fund it. This is a bit of history for everybody. We could not identify how much money the state government spent on IT, but we guessed it was about \$1 billion. The Treasurer is not here, but we decided to suggest to cut \$150 million out of the IT budget across the state. As the Minister for Innovation responsible for ICT at the time I expected some ministers to come with their cap in hand saying they could not handle it, but not one minister or department said they could not handle that reduction, which led me to think we could have perhaps made a bigger cut. It is a bit of a black hole, and I think it is important for Treasury. If anyone wants to get a handle on the waste of expenditure, they have to make sure they get a handle on the ICT expenditure, because it is a black hole. We all get computers and we are not sure how much that costs, and in-house hardware, which we are gradually getting rid of, is an important issue. That is an area I am looking forward to keeping an eye on in my new shadow portfolio of innovation.

I turned to defence issues. I am now the shadow Minister for Defence Issues.

Mr D.A. Templeman: You did not like health?

Mr W.R. MARMION: I have a lot to do! I love health. I have been in about 20 different portfolios, but defence issues —

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

Mr W.R. MARMION: Can you shut him up please, Mr Acting Speaker!

The ACTING SPEAKER: Talk to me, member. I will listen!

Mr W.R. MARMION: I must say that defence issues is an area that I have to do a bit of research into. It is not an area I have been following in the last year, but it is very important for Western Australia. As members know, we are lucky to have the Henderson base, the Australian Maritime Complex and the common-user facility there.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr W.R. MARMION: We have to thank the Deputy Premier from way back in about the mid-1990s, Hedy Cowan, for investing in the Australian Maritime Complex and the common-user facility. That has created an industry down at Henderson that puts us in a position to build ships and be in the running to get a large slice of the potential defence sector spending, including submarines and other ships. I will be looking forward to going down there and catching up on, and renewing my interest in, that area.

I turn to science, which is my last shadow portfolio. I strongly support the role of the Chief Scientist. Indeed, when I was Minister for Science; Innovation, Lyn Beazley was initially the Chief Scientist. She did a wonderful job. She was appointed by the Labor Party and we kept rolling her term over. She continues to pop up, even though she is no longer Chief Scientist. We then appointed Peter Klinken. I was not minister then, but I knew Peter Klinken and I supported his appointment. Peter Klinken has taken on the baton. Even though Lyn is still around, Peter rocks up at lots of functions and is doing a terrific job. The support he provides is certainly recognised by us. He is a strong supporter of the Square Kilometre Array project. We are lucky to have the Pawsey Supercomputing Centre, with a massive computer, which means we are in a really good place to have start-ups and the capacity to do big data analysis. That is just a quick rundown on my new portfolios. I am looking forward to getting stuck into those and working with the government to achieve great outcomes.

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I move on to a few minor electoral issues in my electorate of Nedlands. I am very pleased that a new school is being built very close to West Leederville station. In fairness, it is probably not ideally located for the electorate, because it means there will be three schools within three stations. In the centroid of the area there will be three schools. If we had been planning 50 years ago, we probably would have liked to have had them spread out, but I guess it is very hard to do that. One of the issues arising from having two schools very close together in the new school's catchment area of Subiaco is that it will take in children going to Shenton College now. I have put the new boundaries up on my electorate office door so people can see them and I also put them in the newsletter I distribute. I think there needs to be some flexibility from the education department for the children who go to Shenton College and are now in the catchment for the Subiaco school and their families so child number two, three, four or whatever can still go to Shenton College if they so choose. I am seeking feedback from the community about that and some people have raised some concerns. The other issue is that I have not seen a design of the new school. I know what is being done. I regularly met with the new Mayor of Subiaco, who ran against me for the seat of Nedlands, and she has had some contact with the government about the new school. Another issue will be the drop off of children, because anyone who knows the area of Roberts Road around Perth Modern School will know that traffic banks up both in the morning and afternoon during drop-off time. It banks up on the left-hand side and that is where the new school will be. There will be some traffic and pedestrian management issues in the master plan for that area. I have been told that the school design and the master plan are being done at the same time, so I am concerned about how they will come together, especially traffic management issues. I hope drop off will be possible on the other side of Subiaco Road, but then that will cause a problem if it is opened up through to Haydn Bunton Drive with locality to the railway line and other traffic lights. It is a difficult issue, but I am sure some traffic engineers will be able to solve it. I will be keeping an eye on it.

Probably the major issue in my electorate, which is very interesting, is the Western Australian Planning Commission's proposed zonings for the council of Nedlands. One could say that the council has been reasonably tardy in town planning scheme 3. It has transpired that the WA Planning Commission has surprisingly put out its own zoning plan.

Ms A. Sanderson interjected.

Mr W.R. MARMION: That is correct.

The commission zoning plan conservatively doubles the R-codes that the Nedlands council was trying to achieve over many years. The area also seems to have doubled as well. That has caused controversy among some people who do not like change. What I have done to seek feedback from the electorate is to make sure that I have all the zonings on A3 plans in my electorate office.

Mr D.A. Templeman: How does your block fare?

Mr W.R. MARMION: I do not get anything, but I have to say that one person has said to me quietly, "I won't be going to the electors' meeting and complaining because I think it is quite a good idea. My property is doubling in value." Those people might mention the matter to me at the coffee shop but they are keeping a low profile.

Several members interjected.

Mr W.R. MARMION: I do not know what the number is, but I might suggest that more than 50 per cent could very well be in that category.

I say to the people who come in and are upset about it that a lot of stuff in my electorate was rezoned decades ago. The houses on Broadway were there when I was a university student and they are still there; uni students still rent them. There has been no change. It will take a long time for it to happen. In my view, if ever some of those properties are subdivided, it will be the next generation that will reap the benefits. That is one matter I wanted to raise in this debate.

In the five minutes I have left, I will spend a couple of minutes talking about the disappointment I felt as I read about the 750 projects that add up to the expenditure of \$39 million. As members will see, I went through them and marked them with my yellow pen, right through to the last page, which was about page 18. I was very disappointed that there was no mention of anything being spent in Nedlands or Subiaco but that massive amounts had been spent in Armadale and Bassendean.

Mr M. Hughes: Kalamunda as well.

Mr W.R. MARMION: In Kalamunda as well. The issue for me is that there are lots of sporting clubs and a scouting club in my electorate that go through the normal process of applying for Lotterywest funding. Members who have put in Lotterywest applications would know that it takes a long time to make those applications. If someone applies for funding through the community sporting and recreation facilities fund, they have to get the council onside and find a third of the funding. I have been president and treasurer of many clubs and have done

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that all over the state. The process is difficult for people to go through. They may need to get a letter from their local member saying that they support the application and they have to go through a process. The spending on Local Projects, Local Jobs seems to have circumvented that process and it looks as though people have been able to jump the queue. It would be interesting to know about the Alexander Park Tennis Club. Years ago when I was playing pennants, I played tennis at the Alexander Park Tennis Club. For those members who have never been there, it is a very nice club. It got \$100 000. I am not saying that it was not warranted.

Mr P.J. Rundle: The member for Mount Lawley is here.

Mr W.R. MARMION: He has popped his head down. Has he ever played tennis at that very nice club?

Mr S.A. Millman: It is Alexander Park. People keep calling it the Mt Lawley Tennis Club, but it is actually Alexander Park that was the recipient.

Mr W.R. MARMION: I called it Alexander Park.

Mr S.A. Millman: It is a beautiful park and tennis club. It is well supported by the local community and well supported by the local member.

Mr W.R. MARMION: The issue I have is with the \$100 000. I know the member would rate it, and if I was in that situation and it was in my electorate and it was coming up for a sport and rec grant, I would write a supporting letter too. However, sport and rec may not have had it as its number one priority. It might have had to fund other tennis clubs or indeed football clubs, hockey clubs, lacrosse clubs or scouting clubs. That raises another issue about how to acquit the funding for these projects. Some of them, such as those for equipment, involve massive amounts of money—either \$10 000 or \$20 000 for equipment. I can understand \$20 000 might be spent on upgrading a building because it would involve a design for the upgrade and what has been done can be measured. They can get a quantity surveyor's certificate or at least a builder to say how much it will cost. But when \$20 000 is proposed to be spent on equipment, how do they acquit that? Is there a process in place for all these projects? One would hope that there is, and that we will get an answer one day. I see on the list that someone received \$40 000 to buy a second-hand bus. Whose vehicle was it? Who did they buy it off? How did they come up with that? When something is purchased with government money, there needs to be a process to ensure that we get value for money for that purchase. If there is an application for \$20 000 worth of equipment, one hopes that they get \$20 000 worth of equipment and do not just spend \$5 000 on equipment. That \$20 000 needs to be acquitted through receipts and purchases of equipment so that an auditor can see the asset is there. That is one issue. I think everyone is waiting for that. I will finish there on that matter.

I have one minute left, so I will speak very quickly about what we need to do with lithium. It is very sad that I have not been able to talk about the lithium project, but I will be able to do that later. Regional Development Australia has a plan about what we should be doing. I will not have time to read that out, but we should be going further. We should set up a committee. The Minister for Mines and Petroleum or the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade should get a team to work on how we can get batteries produced at Kwinana. We produce 15 of the 16 minerals required to manufacture a battery. We do not have the technology, so we should encourage those who have the technology to come to Kwinana and find out what they need so that we can develop a battery manufacturing plant.

The ACTING SPEAKER: That is a good idea. I think you should follow that one up.

MS L. METTAM (Vasse) [6.26 pm]: I want to make a contribution to this debate as well, starting with my shadow portfolio of tourism. Arguably one of the proudest moments in recent times in this portfolio area was the opening of the Perth Stadium, or Optus Stadium. It is a five-level stadium, seating 60 000 people. It is infrastructure that has brought great pride to the people of WA and it is a great legacy of the former government. Although WA Labor made much issue about the cost of this piece of infrastructure in the lead-up to the last election and about the location of the stadium at Burswood, when it came to the opening and in the lead-up to the opening, we saw a great deal of support from both the opposition and the government for what is an outstanding tourism asset. The Minister for Sport and Recreation, the member for Belmont, the Premier and the Minister for Tourism were all pictured standing together with their hard hats on, admiring the stadium. Clint Thomas wrote that several ministers were jostling to have their faces associated with this state-of-the-art announcement. As the Minister for Tourism noted in his lead-up to the opening —

This is going to be the best stadium in the world when it opens, and it's right here in Perth.

The Tourism Council of WA also underlined its value when it stated —

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 14 February 2018]

p193b-238a

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

Recent economic analysis acquired by Tourism Council WA and published in *Perth Stadium: Economic Game Changer* shows Perth Stadium has the potential to attract more than 65,000 new visitors and deliver more than \$291 million and 1300 jobs to the State economy through tourism each year.

That is an outstanding achievement in that portfolio area and a great contribution.

However, when it has come to utilising this great asset to further market the city and the state to international audiences, the government has dropped the ball, selling out to a sponsor and the tourism industry, by allowing “Perth” to be dropped from the stadium name, forgoing millions in lost tourism opportunities to promote the state of WA. There was a plan to get into government but not a plan to govern. A WAtoday article states —

Tourism Council WA chief Evan Hall said it was critical that the stadium name included that of the destination.

“We want every sports and event commentator to be proclaiming the name ‘Perth’ on all international and interstate broadcasts from the stadium, building the world’s awareness of Perth and the city’s recognition among potential visitors,” ...

Last November, the Minister for Tourism announced that Optus’ naming rights would not extend to international cricket matches because of Cricket Australia’s contractual obligations, but unfortunately, this was not the case. The deal was effectively bungled because the government was unable to honour its commitment to all international cricket events and, as it turned out, the very first event—the one-day international event—did not carry the Perth Stadium name, but instead carried the Optus name. This was a missed opportunity to promote Perth to the rest of the world via televising the match to tens of millions of potential international tourists. It obviously appealed to the market in India, which is a big target for Western Australian tourism and for cricket. It is a shame that although the Minister for Tourism had at least conceded that international cricket events would carry the name Perth Stadium, that was not the case for the first few months of this year, particularly for the first International Cricket Council match. Capping the number of Perth Scorchers fans who could attend the historic first cricket match was another stuff-up by a new government that had little idea how to govern. Up to 15 000 fans missed out on watching their team play a semifinal in the Big Bash League. Punters at Perth Stadium were capped at 40 000 people to avoid peak-hour traffic congestion.

Ms A. Sanderson interjected.

Ms L. METTAM: I have a lot to get through; I am not taking interjections.

Ms A. Sanderson interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Morley!

Ms L. METTAM: Western Australian Cricket Association chief executive Christina Matthews was surprised to hear of the government’s decision, given that cricket fans could arrive early. She supported calls from the shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation to scrap the cap. The issue went national and only further added to Western Australia’s embarrassing reputation as a nanny state. It was best summed up by Dave Hughes, who tweeted —

Melbourne manages to get 90k plus to Friday night 7pm games at a stadium next to the CBD; get a grip, Perth govt.

There was a plan to get into government, but not to govern. Bumbling along, making it up as it went, the government had no clear direction for the future. But it got better. This government not only capped patron numbers for the first game and sold out Perth’s biggest opportunity to market itself on an international stage, it then made the decision to dictate what strength alcohol patrons could consume. Perth Stadium patrons would get mid-strength beer lest it fuel any future alcohol-related violence among sports fans. That is unless, of course, they were sports fans going to the Perth Ultimate Fighting Championship.

Ms A. Sanderson interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Morley!

Ms L. METTAM: In that case, the government allowed patrons to drink full-strength alcohol from 7.00 am for a seven-hour event. The hypocrisy is extraordinary. The Premier has claimed he is the Premier for all Western Australia but this decision shows there are some rules for one group and different rules for another.

Ms J.J. Shaw interjected.

Ms L. METTAM: The jobs platform and the fake jobs bill is another example of government members saying one thing and doing another. The Western Australian Jobs Bill, which defines local contractors as businesses that

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are not only from Western Australia but also from over east and New Zealand, is more smoke and mirrors from the Labor government. Clause 8 of the bill states that it may take into account and be consistent with the values of procurement process and value for money. Two of the major contracts for Perth Stadium went to companies outside Western Australia, despite the support from a local operator.

Ms J.J. Shaw interjected.

Ms L. METTAM: Why promise something that could not be delivered? Why call it a WA jobs bill and say the government is going to prioritise local jobs when the bill clearly states that the government was never able to do that?

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Ms L. METTAM: Lloyd Events —

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, thank you. Hansard has no chance of recording this. Can you please keep the interjections down and let the member for Vasse get through what she needs to say.

Ms L. METTAM: Lloyd Events, which managed the light and sound at Subiaco Oval, was in the running to continue to do that at the new stadium. It had glowing references from Subi oval, including from the West Coast Eagles and Fremantle Dockers, but it was told that an Adelaide business had all but secured the deal and that has become the case. A week later, we heard about the cutlery contract. This time, it went to a French-based firm that has links in Queensland. So much for local jobs and local projects. What about this government's inability to protect its own labour force that forms the foundation of the Labor Party? In 2016, the Premier was full of promises about his subbies reforms that would protect small business subcontractors on both government and private contracts. I quote the Premier's webpage. It states —

A McGowan Labor government would act to protect subcontractors working on government and private projects with a range of much-needed reforms for the troubled Western Australian subcontracting industry.

Mr McGowan stated —

“There have been too many horror stories of small family businesses in WA going broke.

...

“These reforms are about protecting subbies and providing a fairer system and more certainty for subcontractors and their families.

Ms J.J. Shaw interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Swan Hills!

Ms L. METTAM: It seems that is except when it is all too complicated. Last week when construction giant Cooper and Oxley went into voluntary administration, subcontractors were left millions of dollars out of pocket and the reform is nowhere to be seen. In fact, the upper house is not sitting until the middle of next month.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Morley! Member for Geraldton!

Ms L. METTAM: A former Labor backbencher and member for South Metropolitan Region admitted on 6PR radio —

Ms A. Sanderson interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Morley!

Mr I.C. Blayney: You've done nothing since.

Ms L. METTAM: Nothing. It is worth pointing out and underlining the urgency of the legislative agenda of the Labor government. It is quite extraordinary that the upper house is not sitting until the middle of March when all pieces of legislation have been supported by the opposition, despite calls about the upper house being dysfunctional. If the no body, no parole legislation was so urgent, the upper house would not be sitting at an extraordinarily late date in the middle of March.

Point of Order

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

Ms J.J. SHAW: I ask that the member stick to the matter under debate at the moment. I do not believe that the timing of sitting in the Legislative Council has any relevance whatsoever to the matter at hand.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, member. There is no point of order.

Debate Resumed

Ms L. METTAM: I was referring to the fact that although when in opposition, the Labor Party talked much about addressing the issue of subbies, it has done nothing about it. The Labor member for South Metro admitted as much on 6PR recently when she said that her party had not adequately prioritised the building reform program to protect subcontractors. It has been put on the backburner. Again, there was a plan to get into government but not to govern.

I will now talk about tourism and accreditation. We heard some more today about liquor reforms. Last year under the McGowan government, we saw an added layer of cost and bureaucracy to liquor regulations. This restricted the number of tourism operators that can provide alcohol during a tourism experience. Under the new regulations, an operator will have to complete training with the Australian Tourism Accreditation Program, run by the Tourism Council of Western Australia. That means a person has to be a member of the Tourism Council, with fees starting at \$289, not to mention the hours of administration, which is a heavy burden for small businesses. That is an extra burden of red tape and a further cost to our tourism operators that have already been hit by fees and taxes by the new government.

Talking about small business, one of the first actions of the McGowan government was to remove Perth from the regional sponsored migration scheme and reduce the state's skills list dramatically from 178 to 18 occupations, removing the hospitality sector from the opportunity to gain skilled staff in an area that has not been available locally. This has been a massive issue for the hospitality industry and will become a chronic issue as the economy continues to pick up. A skilled workforce is fundamental to the sustainability of industry and it will always be the priority of small businesses to employ locally. However, in the absence of skilled staff, small businesses must have the opportunity to employ who they want and be able to bring in skilled staff. Settlers Tavern proprietor Rob Gough said that the move was absurd and demonstrated the state government's lack of knowledge and consideration of the area and industry. Settlers Tavern is in the process of hiring a qualified chef through a recruitment agency in Perth and Mr Gough lamented the additional expenses associated with the change of policy. He said that he has to supply this person with meals, accommodation and travel expenses. Chefs are his business and his top priority. These changes effectively make it much more difficult.

These changes also have an impact in the area of international education. This is an area that has great support and provides a lot to the tourism industry, acknowledging that one overseas student represents five international visits, or three students effectively represent one job. For this reason, the McGowan opposition talked much about building up this sector when coming to government. At the time, Perth was seen as not getting its fair share of international students and as too expensive for students during the mining boom. Over this time, we saw an investment in our transformed city, greater collaboration between universities, thanks largely to some leadership amongst those universities, and the work undertaken by Study Perth, which the McGowan government seems pretty intent on reversing. An article in *The Australian* of 31 January states —

The \$30 billion international education industry has warned that Western Australia is losing large numbers of valuable overseas students to other states following last year's decision by the incoming McGowan Labor government to slash migration incentives.

It was another baffling move, as I had stated earlier. International education is considered to be our third-largest export industry, growing at about 20 per cent, but WA is not seeing that growth. Education agencies are now recommending South Australia, the Northern Territory and Tasmania, where students can get the five-point bonus that many are seeking. Phil Honeywood, CEO of International Education Association Australia, said —

“SA, the NT and Tasmania all celebrated when the WA government withdrew the regional migration points,” ... “They saw advantage coming to their state to the detriment of WA.”

That was also a real kick in the guts to the international education sector. I hear much about the WA government investing in marketing in this area to the tune of \$2 million over five years, but given that those incentives have been removed, that \$2 million falls well short, particularly when we consider that Victoria has set aside \$30 million, in addition to 12 full-time counsellors that we do not have.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms L. METTAM: In relation to the Margaret River Gourmet Escape, there has been talk of a new format for an iconic event with its own international brand. I am sincerely hoping that the event works. I see value in promoting Rottneest for a seafood festival, as couched by our Minister for Tourism; I just have concerns about how we will

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 14 February 2018]

p193b-238a

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

be promoting Rottneest, the Swan Valley and Margaret River over two weekends, with a week in between. I wonder whether it is worth Rottneest having a seafood festival in its own right, and dedicated marketing for it, at a unique time of the year. There was much criticism by the Minister for Tourism of the Gourmet Escape. He said —

Rather than spending all its energy on giving a holiday to celebrity chefs and bloggers, the government is focusing on bringing interstate and overseas visitors to an expanded event, ...

He criticised the previous Gourmet Escape as “fluffy brand awareness”, but when it came to the McGowan government’s Roger Federer visit to Rottneest, which I believe was very well supported amongst all Western Australians, it seems that he changed his tune on the value of brand awareness. There is value not only in Roger Federer visiting Rottneest during the Hopman Cup, but also in having international wine and food influencers such as Nigella Lawson promoting this region to their very unique international market. There is value in having one of Asia’s most recognised chefs being in Margaret River tweeting, using social media, promoting and talking about the region as a wonderful place for food lovers in those unique markets to visit. It is an event that has attracted over 90 000 visitors to the region since 2013. The direct expenditure into the local economy from last year’s event was over \$9.5 million. It is not just about bums on seats, as the CEO of the Tourism Council and our Minister for Tourism has often said; in the case of an event such as the Gourmet Escape, it helps to sell our produce to the rest of the world. It is our wine and food, which is supporting our agriculture as well.

Finally, on the issue of shark mitigation, the facts cannot be ignored. CSRIO analysis shows up to 10 000 great white sharks off the south west coast. That is supported by Surf Life Saving aerial patrols reporting a big increase in the number of sharks off Perth and south west beaches in the last seven months of last year, with 184 spottings compared with just over 100 the year before. Quindalup boat ramp, which is a short walk for me, has had the highest number of sightings, but, most importantly, there have been 15 fatalities since 2000. Five were in the Vasse electorate and had a big impact on the local community.

They have also had a big impact on the way events are run. In the last 12 months two water legs of major events have been cancelled; another was delayed due to this issue. I believe that we need to take a serious look at how we manage this issue going forward; more certainly needs to be done to address it. For example, the organisers of the Busselton Jetty Swim have been given advice that participants should not swim around the jetty anymore. There was a lot of concern about the event this year, but they were basically told that it should be an event that follows the coastline instead of the iconic jetty. Only a few months before, swimmers were literally having to be pulled out of the water during two ironman events within 12 months, which caused great distress. There is concern about how we manage this issue in future. We are not calling for shark culls or anything hysterical like that.

Ms A. Sanderson: What are you calling for? What is your policy?

Ms L. METTAM: We are asking the government to do more and take this issue a bit more seriously.

Several members interjected.

Ms L. METTAM: There is increasing evidence about the use of smart drum lines as a safe and effective measure on the east coast.

Several members interjected.

Ms L. METTAM: Just on the science. In 2014, when the petition was presented to the upper house committee, the CSIRO responded by saying there were as few as 2 000 great white sharks in the world at that time. We are now seeing figures for the south west coast that are significantly more than that.

Ms A. Sanderson: What are you saying about the science? What is your point?

Ms L. METTAM: I am saying we should take into account the science, but the science we are now seeing only backs up what fishers, surfers and people out in the water have been saying for a very long time; that is —

Ms L. O’Malley interjected.

Ms L. METTAM: A friend of mine who has been surfing for 55 years up until five years ago had never seen a great white shark.

Several members interjected.

Ms L. METTAM: Now he sees them regularly.

Several members interjected.

Ms L. METTAM: It is a serious issue. It was reported in *The Sunday Telegraph* that a New South Wales trial of more than 100 smart drum lines along the New South Wales coastline has already provided a change in behaviour of great whites. I will quote from *The Daily Telegraph* —

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 14 February 2018]

p193b-238a

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Scientists monitoring the behaviour of sharks report that once they have an encounter with a smart drumline and released they are not coming back. This is surely good news for swimmers but it also should help appease the hysterical movement against drumlines because it keeps people and the sharks alive. The government is scheduled to make a decision on extending the drumline program later this year. Surely it won't take long to give this scheme the tick of approval.

We need to consider the conditions on the Western Australian coastline, and drum lines did not work here for a range of reasons. But it is time to ditch the hysteria over the approach we take and look at how this issue should be dealt with in future.

The merger of Tourism WA into a megadepartment is a backflip that the tourism sector is still hoping the government will reverse. Every state that has merged their tourism marketing organisation within a megadepartment has regretted it and later reversed the decision. I hope that happens here as well.

We have heard much in this place about the Local Projects, Local Jobs program—the pork-barrelling that has gone too far. Looking at the state budget papers, the south west region was not mentioned. There is every other region; there is the Pilbara and the midwest, but when it comes to the south west, there is only pictured Collie, Albany and Bunbury. Busselton does not even exist, but neither does the south west region. I would love to ask the former CEO of the South West Development Commission what he thinks about that. It has certainly been very disappointing to the people of the south west region who feel they have been ignored by the McGowan government.

The regional taxi industry has been hit hard. Once again, this government is looking to regional WA to pay for its metro-centric election promises. The 10 per cent levy that will be applied to pay for the metro taxi buyback scheme will be sought not only from taxidriviers in Perth, but also those across the whole of Western Australia for a compensation package they will not receive a cent from. In fact, these reforms will only hurt the regional taxi industry and the community.

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Parliamentary Secretary) [6.56 pm]: Sorry to disappoint my learned friend the member for Kalgoorlie, but we have heard a lot from the opposition over the last two days and this is an opportunity for other members to have their say and reply to the Premier's Statement.

The Premier's Statement was a positive opening to the beginning of Parliament that outlined the government's achievements over the last 12 months and looked to the coming agenda. We have had an incredibly ambitious agenda over the 10 months we have been in government and achieved a lot, but there is certainly a lot more to do, particularly given the chronic mess that we inherited from the previous Liberal–National government.

One of the important focuses we had, and as a Labor government will always have, was on education. I make no apologies for Labor's full commitment to public education. Public education is the greatest involvement that anyone in any government can have in any individual's life. It can really make an enormous and positive change to people's and families' futures. It has always been and always will be the centrepiece of a Labor government. We have been delivering on our education commitments. A number of programs were committed to by the now opposition that were not in the budget. There was no money to provide for those commitments. We have had to make some really difficult decisions in government to deliver good educational services and the election commitments we were voted in to deliver. The community chose and made the decision on whose commitments they wanted delivered; they chose WA Labor. Part of those commitments was delivering 300 more education assistants over the next three years, and an extra 50 Aboriginal and Islander education officers will be employed across regional and metropolitan WA. It is always mind-boggling to me that the opposition continues to criticise that policy; that somehow putting education assistants back in classrooms is a bad thing and is something we should be cutting back or not delivering on. They need to spend more time at their local school, if that is what those members think. Education assistants are the lifeblood of our public school system. The support they provide kids individually—classrooms individually—is immeasurable in its value.

We saw \$183 million ripped out of the public education system between 2013 and 2015 under the Liberal–National government. The gall and hypocrisy of members opposite to complain about targeted savings put in place by this government is quite astounding. A big part of that \$183 million cut was from the cuts to the number of education assistants in the early years of primary school. There is any amount of research to show how important early years education is for our children's education. We are putting them back in classrooms. Two schools in my electorate, Dianella Primary College and Nollamara Primary School, will receive education assistants, including an Aboriginal and Islander education assistant at Dianella Primary College. That is such a great asset for the college; the community is so pleased. The day we announced it, a grandfather of one of the kids at the school came up to me and said, "This is an amazing policy. We're so happy." There is a significant Aboriginal cohort in that school and it lost its Aboriginal and Islander education officer under the previous government. This is a real and genuine impact in the classrooms. We will be putting 120 teachers back into public school classrooms and level 3 classroom

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

teachers will go back into classrooms to provide that specific support for those students. It is an important and progressive policy through which we are supporting our school communities.

I certainly did not see any Liberal or National members putting science labs into primary schools over the last eight or nine years. They do not believe in science. The independent sector understands. If members go to any Catholic or Anglican school, particularly primary schools, they will see that they have science, technology, engineering and mathematics centres. They have had them for years and they have understood the importance of science and STEM for a number of years. They have resourced that area and government schools have seriously lagged behind. We are putting science labs back in and we are introducing coding into the curriculum for WA primary schools. These are the jobs of the future. The jobs my children will do do not even exist now—that is how rapidly the workforce is changing.

Mr S.A. Millman: Making up for eight and a half years of lost opportunities.

Ms A. SANDERSON: And doing it in incredibly difficult financial circumstances.

Two primary schools were beneficiaries of the new science labs in the first round: Hampton Park Primary School and Nollamara Primary School. Each school will have a classroom converted and will receive \$25 000 of equipment to kit out the science labs to enable them to actually run them. This is a fantastic policy. I certainly did not see any Liberal or National members putting science labs in primary schools, whether in metro or regional areas, over the last eight and a half years. We are investing in local primary schools in my electorate. The budget handed down late last year covered all the major commitments for the electorate of Morley that were committed to prior to the election. North Morley Primary School has a library in a very old, shabby demountable. It will get \$1.5 million for a brand-new library, and planning has already begun for that. Weld Square Primary School, another ageing, mid-century primary school, will get \$1.5 million for a new admin block. Camboon Primary School received \$250 000 for upgrades and Morley Senior High School received \$1.5 million for an undercover area. That school currently cannot hold school assemblies undercover because it is too big; the students all come home with sunburn and the parents quite rightly complain, so they have to split up the school and it is really not good for the school community and the culture of the school. I think the best election commitment in the local area is for my old high school, John Forrest Senior High School, which will get a \$50 million upgrade over the next four years. I am really, really proud to be part of a Labor government delivering that upgrade. We have a lot to be proud of in education. Over the last two days we have listened to complaints from the other side, but we have a lot to be proud of with our education policy, and we are delivering to our electorates.

If people spend any time with school principals and P&Cs, one of the biggest gripes they will hear is about common-user agreements with schools. That is one of the greatest irritations. Formerly with Spotless, it was recently changed over to Programmed. It is well-known that as soon as a contractor realises it is a government project or a government school, the cream goes on top of the contractor rates. It drives them bananas.

Mr S.A. Millman: The member for Kalgoorlie knows this; he's nodding his head!

Ms A. SANDERSON: Yes, it drives them bananas. The Labor government is giving schools the opportunity to go direct to market with any school upgrades or maintenance of up to \$20 000. That is a very, very welcome policy. Some of the costings that come back from these contractors are extraordinary. P&Cs work really hard to fundraise and provide money for their school, and they end up having to pay exorbitant contractor fees because of common-user agreements in government. This will allow those principals, with appropriate checks and balances, to go direct to market for anything up to \$20 000, which is a really great initiative. West Morley Primary School, in the electorate of the member for Mount Lawley, is a fantastic school. A large part of the cohort also lives in my electorate and it will be one of the first to use direct-to-market, and we are really pleased to see it grabbing that policy.

The first thing we did in government was to freeze TAFE fees. We saw a 500 per cent increase in some TAFE courses under the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party. We do not have the financial circumstances to reduce TAFE fees right now; we simply do not because the previous government left such a mess. We have put them on hold, we have frozen them, and we are using the foreign investor tax to pay for the hold, so it is not going to contribute any further to the debt and deficit we have inherited from the previous government.

In health we have seen real leadership from the Minister for Health. The member for Kwinana took control of the Perth Children's Hospital, which the previous government could not and did not do, and we are very, very confident about opening it in May, finally resolving those issues. Any parent who has spent any time at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children over the last two years will have seen empty cupboards and unchanged lightbulbs. They are not replacing fittings because they have been expecting to move to the new hospital over the last 18 months to two years, and the incredible staff continue working in those appalling conditions. The children

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 14 February 2018]

p193b-238a

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

are having to stay in those conditions as well. It will be a huge relief to parents and staff for us to finally open the Perth Children's Hospital after the appalling handling of the contract by the previous government.

One of the things I am really proud of recently is the announcement of the meningococcal ACWY vaccination program; we took the lead on that ahead of the federal government. The state Labor government made that available free for children aged one to five because the federal government was dragging its heels. As a mother of children, including a small toddler, meningococcal disease absolutely terrifies me. The cost of vaccination is high and it is incredibly difficult to obtain. I managed to get the B vaccination; it took months and it cost about \$500 to vaccinate both my children. I am really lucky that I can do that, but most people cannot. I still have not been able to get hold of the W strain, so it is really fantastic news that the WA government has made it available, and we have seen the federal government follow suit. I pay tribute to Robbie Schofield's mum. Whenever I see that little boy, my heart breaks. They are incredible parents to be able to support their son and campaign so vocally for this. This is really, in large part, their work. While I am talking about vaccinations and the importance of vaccines, it is also important to mention Catherine Hughes and all the parents who have lost children to preventable diseases. WA really lags behind in vaccination rates and it is not good enough. It is a community responsibility. It would have been Riley's third birthday about two or three days ago. I want to pay tribute to Catherine, her husband and their other two children for their fight and for the work they continue to do. I do not know how they keep going. I guess when you have other children that is what you do, and you have to make it meaningful. They are making a huge contribution to the vaccination debate and to educating the community. I think the majority of those who do not vaccinate are too busy or they forget. I do not think it is an ideological stance for the majority of people who do not do it. Therefore, it is important to remind people of the consequences of not vaccinating, and the government cannot do that on its own.

Jobs is without doubt this government's priority. This government has been very focused in the last 12 months on delivering jobs. We passed the Western Australian Jobs Bill, despite the protestations from members on the other side. That is an important step ahead of our huge infrastructure program with Metronet. It will ensure that as much as possible of that project is built by local contractors, with local content. We have made a firm commitment to that. We want to send a strong signal to the sector, particularly the corporate sector, that the government expects local content on government jobs.

We have turned one project, Roe 8, into numerous projects across the metropolitan area. That project did not have community support, was not complete and would not have provided a road that would get to the port. We managed to turn that one project into a number of infrastructure road projects across the CBD. That is a great credit to the government and the Minister for Transport.

We have spent \$4.2 million to establish an industry participation advisory service to support small to medium-sized businesses to compete for government contracts. It is always the big multinationals that have the slick tendering departments and processes, and, as the Leader of the Opposition has acknowledged, local contractors do not always have the skills, capacity, time and energy to tender for government work. Therefore, the government will provide support through the industry participation advisory service to enable local companies to tender for that work.

We saw recently the success of Gage Roads Brewing Company in securing the beer and cider contract for Perth Stadium. I am a particular fan of the Alby beer from Gage Roads. That is a very nice beer. Gage Roads is a local brewing company that uses local wheat and produce and is doing a great job in supporting Western Australian farmers, as well as the brewers. The winning of that contract was an outstanding outcome for that company.

I also give a big shout out to Mrs Mac's Pies in Morley, which won the contract for providing pies at Perth Stadium. When I see pies, I see indigestion and half a bottle of Gaviscon, but that is not the case for everyone. Mrs Mac's Pies employs a lot of people in my electorate at its manufacturing base. It is fantastic that it won that contract and can continue to employ local people.

We cannot go by without discussing the Swan River pedestrian bridge. When we came into government, that bridge had been sent to Malaysia. It was in several pieces and was nowhere near to being ready in time for the opening of the stadium. It was extraordinary to listen to the complaints from members on the other side about the cap on the number of people who could go to the cricket at the stadium. The former government chose the location of the stadium. When the scoping studies were done, that was never the preferred location for the stadium. That was because of the exorbitant cost of transport and the difficulty in getting a large number of people in and out of that very challenging area. The former government failed to deliver the pedestrian bridge on time. Therefore, it is extraordinary to see the hypocrisy from members on the other side and their failure to acknowledge their part in that. The bridge is on its way. We brought it back to Western Australia and created about 200 local jobs with

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Civmec Construction and Engineering, local fabricators and local people to deliver that bridge in a far better timeframe than would ever have happened had it been left in bits in Malaysia.

One of the first things we did when we came into government was that we reduced the number of occupations on the Western Australian skilled occupations list from 178 to 18. At a time of record unemployment, companies and businesses were bringing people such as nurses into this state. Western Australia already has too many nurse graduates, yet the St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals were bringing in nurses from Ireland. It was ridiculous that the former government allowed them to do that. That is because it had not taken nurses off the skilled occupation list. We may need to do some tweaking of that policy to address the issue of international students. However, occupations such as bricklaying and nursing should never have been on that list.

The SPEAKER: Member, because the bell is not linked to the timer, I just want to let you know that you have less than three minutes to go, if you want to seek an extension.

Ms A. SANDERSON: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms A. SANDERSON: I come back to Local Projects, Local Jobs. I do not back away from that project at all. That project has delivered fantastic outcomes for local organisations, schools and community groups.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Just for the benefit of the chamber, the noise that members are hearing is sirens from the Perth Festival, so don't panic. It's a cultural installation as part of the Perth Festival.

Ms A. SANDERSON: I will continue despite the distraction. The Local Projects, Local Jobs program has delivered things like shade sails at Noranda Primary School and grants to enable local kids to participate in schools. The Autumn Centre in Nollamara has been given a grant to enable it to make some modest upgrades to its audiovisual facilities. These are very important projects. The lack of closed-circuit television is a great bane in the lives of people who live near Nollamara Shopping Centre and the public access ways. They will now get fully digital CCTV. The local police are very happy and the local residents are very happy. It will make a real difference in that shopping area. These projects will be delivered by local contractors, mostly via the local government. That program is creating jobs and work. I do not back away from that program at all.

There are some positive signs in the economy, absolutely. However, I am always of the view that it is never over until people feel it in their pay packets. Many people are still not feeling in their pay packets that the economy is picking up. It is true that jobs are being created, but not for everyone. People are still struggling, wages are still flat, and we still have a long way to go and lot of work to do. However, this government's infrastructure projects and infrastructure plans have already begun to help stimulate the economy. The government will soon be releasing a lot of contracts to enable us to implement our election commitments. That in itself will help to support the local economy. We take credit for a lot of the positivity and green shoots in the economy. The unemployment rate is starting to come down. Local businesses say to me that they are feeling a bit more positive and are spending a bit more money on marketing and on staff. They are feeling that the economy is starting to improve.

The government is getting on with the job of delivering Metronet. In my electorate, the Morley–Ellenbrook line is absolutely key to that. There is an understandable cynicism in the electorate and in the entire corridor about whether that rail line will ever be delivered, because it has been promised so many times. We are focused on delivering it. We have put \$23 million towards planning. We have begun the community consultation. We have invited local residents to participate online. We will be holding community meetings to get people's view about the route and the train stations. With that will come a land-use package. Metronet is not just about transport and moving people from A to B en masse. It is also about how we use water in a smarter way, how we deal with our residential codes, and how we manage traffic and congestion and all the other things that come with appropriate land use. In the seat that I live in, the suburbs that will benefit most from the development around Metronet are Morley and Noranda. We will continue with that project with the \$700 million commitment from federal Labor. That was very welcome. I look toward to a similar commitment from the federal Liberal Party. Even though it does not generally do rail—it is not in its knitting!—it does roads. We have already had a whopping great road through there called NorthLink. We are just coming to the end of that project and now it is time for rail.

The Galleria development, just outside my electorate, is also a huge opportunity and can connect really nicely with Metronet plans. The City of Bayswater committed to the Morley structure plan, which I welcome. It is really good to see. It has been difficult for the city for the last five or six years because it was expecting Metro Area Express light rail, but not necessarily through Morley. In fact, Morley was completely ignored in MAX light rail. They were very unhappy with MAX. We are really at a loss. Essentially, Morley was a strategic centre in all of the significant planning documents, but certainly was not treated that way by the previous government. It is a very important centre, particularly in that transit route from the airport. There was a lot of toing and froing with MAX.

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 14 February 2018]

p193b-238a

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

It left the council at a loss as to what to do. It has had very clear direction from this government that we are building rail in Morley. That has also allowed the developers of Galleria to finalise their plans. They put forward an application to the joint development assessment panel over a year ago, which was approved. There has been a state election and a whole change in transport commitments. Now they are in a position to put in an amended application. All things being well, they will be able to start construction towards the end of this year. That is a really important development for Morley. I remember that when Galleria first opened, it was amazing. Now it is pretty tired and it is incredibly inaccessible for pedestrians. It operates in a very insular manner within Morley. I hope to work with the developers of Galleria and with the council in a much more outward-focused manner so that we are working with the Public Transport Authority and local businesses to really develop Morley as a community and a precinct rather than a single shopping centre destination. That is really the future. That is the only way that that development will work.

The Water Corporation recently made quite a significant commitment to converting one of the drainage sites. A lot of drainage sites in the member for Mount Lawley's electorate and in my own electorate are completely closed off. They are just fenced off green space. They are very useful for putting election posters on, but not very useful for anything else in the community! They are going through a program of converting them into open space. One of those is a ninja playground opposite the Morley bus station, which will have that open drainage area and will be a really nice park. When driving through there at the moment—it is not pedestrian-friendly; no-one would want to walk—there is nowhere to stop. It is not pleasant; it is very industrial. I think it will really improve that commercial-residential mix in Morley, and maintain affordability. That is the key for people. We cannot be pricing people out into the suburbs. We have to provide affordable housing for people in areas like Morley, Mount Lawley, Noranda, Dianella and Nollamara—not tiny boxes, but actual liveable areas and liveable communities for people who do not require cars and who are able to access good public transport. That is a vision I have for Morley over the next 10 to 15 years.

The government has been very active in the area of law reform. The Attorney General and certainly the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence have been very busy. I am very proud to be part of a government that takes seriously the issue of domestic violence. It takes a whole-of-government approach. Our minister is not someone who has to manage a very difficult issue, but someone who is actually an advocate for women. She is a strong voice and an advocate for women. By far, it is women and children who are the biggest victims of domestic violence. Rather than it being an issue that government has to deal with, we have someone who advocates and fights for them at the cabinet table, in the community and in Parliament. That is really refreshing to see.

Part of the reforms that we have developed is the tenancy law changes to support victims of domestic violence. This was done in consultation with the sector. It was welcomed by the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia and by landlords and tenants. It protects both landlords and tenants when we get into circumstances involving tenants who are no longer able to remain in their home and need to break a lease. It provides opportunities to do that without penalty. We have introduced 10 days of family and domestic violence leave for public sector employees. It is very important that the public sector is a leader in employment relations. It sends a strong signal to the community and to private sector employers. Ten days' domestic violence leave is a really positive step.

The government provided \$100 000 to the RSPCA to support Pets in Crisis. It is something that I had never particularly thought about, but leaving a pet behind is like leaving a member of the family behind when people have to leave a home. Pets are one of the reasons people stay in really dangerous relationships. To give people the ability to put a pet into foster care while they establish themselves in safe accommodation is a really important reform. We look forward to further reforms in this space and further cultural change in how everyone deals with it. It is a whole-of-government issue.

We saw the 16 Days in WA to Stop Violence Against Women campaign at the end of last year. Every government department was involved in that—wearing orange, demonstrating what is being done in workplaces to promote women's safety and to promote people dealing with family and domestic violence. That is an important step forward for government.

Another important piece of legislative reform is the Civil Liability Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Bill. It really should have been done many years ago to allow survivors of child sexual abuse to seek compensation from their abusers. Those survivors have fought incredibly hard. I pay tribute to them doing that. I am very pleased that we are able to do that. I hope we can move that through the Parliament relatively quickly. Let us be honest, the royal commission found that far and away most of those organisations were Catholic. They perpetrated appalling abuses on children. Still, in my view, they are relatively unapologetic and not willing to reform. It is up to government to ensure that they do the right thing. I am very proud of that. I hope we can move that through the Parliament.

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As a member of this government, we have a lot to be proud of. We have a lot to step forward. We have a lot to talk about and a lot of positivity. We are delivering all of these things despite inheriting an appalling mess and an appalling state of finances. We have listened for the last two days at all of that and now it is time to hear about what is happening and what we will continue to do over the next three years.

MR I.C. BLAYNEY (Geraldton) [7.30 pm]: I have been sitting here reflecting and have come to the conclusion that in my position I cannot win! When I am in my electorate of Geraldton I have Hon Darren West running around telling everyone that Geraldton missed out and got nothing in eight years under the former government and when I come here I am told that we get everything. I was just quietly reflecting on the fact that Geraldton and Albany were both in line for a new hospital. The Barnett government gave the new hospital to Albany, and Geraldton is still waiting. But that is life I am afraid. As I said, I cannot really win. Wherever I go, I am copping it.

We have been dealing with education issues for the last couple of days. As I said, Schools of the Air was a huge issue in my electorate, but thankfully that one has been put right. The agricultural education farms provisions trust is a significant issue for everybody. It is surprising how many students go through the agricultural colleges over a year, and of course for Geraldton, the camp schools are a significant issue as well.

Local Projects, Local Jobs, according to *The Sunday Times*, should have been called cash for votes. It is actually a very clever program. Whoever thought it up was quite smart because the ratio of the number of votes that were able to be garnered for what was not actually a huge amount of money was obviously very successful. We keep coming back to it: there was no open call and there was no advertising. How were the projects assessed? Who decided? How many jobs were created? As for the big cheque thing: handing out government money like that, up until now, has always been wrong. That just was not done. Looking at the actual figures, here I am conflicted again, because Geraldton did reasonably well out of the program compared with other electorates. We got \$780 000 committed, but when we look at that a bit closer, it was for things the government will probably be doing in the year or two anyway in a lot of cases. It said that \$780 000 came in, but as best as I can establish, about \$80 million was taken out over the Mid West Development Commission and that was going to expand the museum in Geraldton, it was going to seal the road between Meekatharra and Wiluna and there was also money for the new Geraldton hospital. It can be said that Geraldton did well out of this program, but —

Mr S.J. Price: What was \$780 000 spent on?

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: I am coming to that.

When I looked for a list of projects funded in Geraldton, one of the interesting things that I found about the allocation of funds is that quite a large amount of the money was given to Geraldton for information technology upgrades in schools. There was \$190 000 of that for IT in government schools, \$25 000 to private schools and none for Catholic schools, which I thought was interesting. I am curious about the IT money because is that extra money on top of what the government would be spending on IT in the schools anyway; and, if so, why is there this line drawn around Geraldton where all the government schools got extra money for IT? Is it just rebadging of existing government expenditure that was going to go into IT in government schools anyway? There was competition going on here a while ago with the socio-economic status of various schools, how much money they got and whether their status had any correlation with the amount of money that came into them. I am on the board of only one school in Geraldton, which is the school I went to. It has 450 students, 65 per cent of the students are Aboriginal, 87 per cent of those students are in the lowest quartile and its index is 729. That is about 300 under what most of those other schools seem to be. I am sure that the member for Albany would have a similar school in his electorate. I know there is a school with similar characteristics in Northam. I would look at that school and say that surely it is deserving of this extra money going around. I know it will get another Aboriginal aide, but after three years that aide's salary has to come out of the school's normal budget.

As I said, I think it was a clever program. I am not questioning where the projects went, but I question the methodology. I would not for one moment suggest that the member for Armadale, whom I hold in very high regard, would have done anything that was not 100 per cent proper. I want to put on the record, because we had a bit of a to-do last night, that I am uncomfortable with the process. I read in the paper the other day that since 2012 Australia has dropped from seventh to thirteenth on the Transparency International measure of corruption. This argument is generally used as a case to have a federal Independent Commission Against Corruption-type body. We are in there as well and I think we have to have a serious look at how we fund and run elections. I will repeat the comments made by Peter Kennedy when he was talking about this program. I hold Peter Kennedy in pretty high regard. He is a very experienced and long-time journalist. He is quoted in an article that appeared in *The Sunday Times*. It states —

... the program could be fairly described as a “slush fund” and was pork-barrelling that went too far.
“It’s pretty crude,” he said. “It’s essentially buying votes with taxpayers’ money.

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“There is no consistent Statewide policy position about how to apply for grants. It’s available, not for all seats, it’s for seats considered marginal—strategists might say carefully targeted.

Further, the article states —

Notre Dame University politics lecturer Martin Drum said it wasn’t uncommon for backbench MPs to lobby for specific projects in their electorates but it was “PR spin” to describe it as a grants program for broad-based economic development.

“This is not a program of grants,” ... “That term is completely misleading. You can’t have a grant scheme without an application process.”

The other point I made to my local paper in Geraldton is to ask whether this is where we are heading. I said that if we are not careful, we are going to end up like Papua New Guinea, where candidates drive around handing out cartons of beer to anybody who wants one. That is something I keep saying. The other point is that the government says it has given an amount of money to a women’s refuge, which is probably one of the most worthy things it can give money to, but just remember that is a one-off. The refuge gets the money this year, but it does not have it next year. If it fixes an immediate problem, that is good, but if a longer term funding source is needed, it has just put the problem back for another year.

I turn to support for subbies. Obviously, we got beaten around the head by this last year and the year before. It is one of those great issues for an opposition, because it can make a lot of it and say that if it gets elected, it will fix it. An editorial in *The West Australian* sums up the issue well. It states —

As it stands, the State Government has little to show for so much campaign rhetoric.

Even Ms Doust, who stood next to Mr McGowan in 2016 when he unveiled his plan to protect subbies, admits the Government has fallen short in its ambitions.

Ms Doust said last week she hoped the Cooper & Oxley episode would encourage Mr McGowan and Treasurer Ben Wyatt to “refocus” on the issue.

Mr McGowan must make good on the promises he took to the last election.

I understand this is a very complicated issue. When we were going through it last year, I had quite regular contact with the Master Builders Association of WA and it said that this whole issue of project accounts has the potential to become a bureaucratic and paperwork nightmare. I understand why this issue is taking time, because once we start looking at it, it becomes incredibly complicated, but at the same time the government said it was going to do something about it. However, we have not seen any legislation yet.

I am glad to see that we have our Minister for Local Government here. My council, the City of Greater Geraldton, has had three audits since the state election: one on procurement processes, one on sponsorship and gifts, and an annual audit of the city’s financial process. That is a lot of extra work for the council. I do not think many other councils have had three audits. It is sort of known that our mayor is quite strongly aligned with the National Party. There was an issue last election with a Labor candidate who was also a councillor. The council told me all the processes it had gone through. It had dealt with them in the approved way through the Western Australian Local Government Association and, knowing the CEO fairly well, I have absolutely no doubt that everything would have been done by the book. Some people are saying we are getting it back now because of what happened then. That is just what is being said around town, but I find it extraordinary that we have had three audits in one year, and one was seven days before Christmas. I will just pass on that comment.

Mr D.A. Templeman: What is your view on the issue about the memorial, your personal opinion?

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: What about it?

Mr D.A. Templeman: What is your personal view on the *Sydney* memorial and the issues around it?

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: It is a bit difficult for me, because the advocate for this \$1.5 million underground project is my Rotary club. I have been through it with the council. Yesterday, I think, I had a talk with the Minister for Veterans Issues and he is trying to get them together to see whether they can find some common ground and be happy with it. I understand the council’s position on not agreeing with the underground proposal, and maybe what the council wants to do can be done in a different way that they find more aesthetically pleasing. I was very encouraged talking to the Minister for Veterans Issues, because he is trying to bring them together, and I hope that that works. We need more facilities up there. I do not think anybody has ever heard so much to-do about a toilet before, apart from the famous singing toilet in Bunbury, which comes up regularly.

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KidSport was a very popular innovation of the previous government. Like others, I am disappointed that the scouts, guides and cadets have been excluded from the program. I must declare an interest: I was made a scout the other day at the age of 55 years because of the work I have done with local scouts. This program is fantastic. I think that they have a record number of scouts in the unit, which is about 60, and a third of those kids are funded by KidSport. Those kids get those opportunities because they get KidSport funding and if they did not get that funding, they would no longer have those opportunities. I hope that the government will reconsider that matter.

Another issue I have been pursuing with the minister is to trying to get KidSport funding to help a cohort in a number of primary schools whose parents are never able to pay for their children to do swimming lessons. Those kids turn up at school when the other kids are going to swimming lessons and they get left behind at school. They do not like that. As a result, they usually do not come to school on those days. That often means that they generally get into trouble. It would not take a huge amount of KidSport funding to pay for those kids' swimming lessons. Of course, swimming lessons are a regular education activity, so KidSport funding should not cover it. However, I would like consideration to be given for an exemption in this case whereby those students get the opportunity to do swimming lessons like everyone else.

I have been very disappointed about the closure of the Geraldton Sobering Up Centre, which has been there for a quite a long time and of course was funded all the time during our time in government. Its closure has increased the workload of local police and the hospital's emergency department.

Tomorrow, I am spending at home. Four education projects that I managed to get across the line during the time of our government are being opened or inspected by the minister. I have been invited along, so I appreciate that. One high school has been separated into two standalone high schools, which will give us a total expenditure across the two schools of \$25 million. The minister will be opening the second stage of Wandina Primary School, which is the first primary school to be built in Geraldton since 1979. He will also be opening the new therapy pool at Holland Street School, which is a very positive place despite the fact that most of the kids there have pretty severe disabilities. There is a brand-new therapy pool for them and it is great. I am still hopeful that one commitment we made in the last election to build a new block of classrooms for Waggrakine Primary School, which is the largest government primary school in Geraldton now, the only one north of the river, will get some consideration sooner or later.

The sale of the TAB is a big issue in the regions. I think people have got to the point now that they really want an answer. My feeling about this is the same as it was when we were in government; that is, I would like to see a business case. The now government, I think, opposed the sale during the last term. I know my local race club certainly does not support it. I remain to be convinced. It really will revolve around what it is worth when it is put on the open market.

I will speak briefly about my portfolios. In the last year, I have spent about 10 days in the Kimberley and have visited the south coast. I visited a couple of fishing communities, a forestry on the south coast, the south west dairy industry and of course attended quite a few field days and attended many industry meetings. In the area of agriculture, there has been talk about restructuring. It has been nearly 12 months. People are now expecting that the future structure of the Department of Agriculture and Food should be starting to be seen. There is also the issue about the department's headquarters. I note that the annual report states that it has been moved and that the headquarters will be sold. If that site is sold, where will the department go? There are two other issues: the south west saleyards, currently located in Boyanup, need to find a new location. The issue of the week, if you like, has been chooks in cages. We are working on those issues to come up with a position on those.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: I would like to address a number of issues in fisheries, in particular the south coast herring fishery. I am told a report is sitting on the Minister for Fisheries' desk. The industry wants to know what is in it, what is the decision, and whether it is being deliberately sat on so that the fishery is not opened this year.

Forestry is interesting. It is a smallish industry although it employs about 5 000 people in the region, so that is significant in the regions. It is a positive industry. I got the feeling that the only limitation to where we can go with forestry is to do with the availability of land. Of course, the forestry industry needs areas of pretty high rainfall. It was interesting visiting a blue gum plantation and processor in Albany when I was there on holidays.

Finally, I have always been interested in the mineral sands industry because Geraldton is quite significant in the mineral sands game. I visited a mine in the electorate of the member for Kimberley. I hope the member for Kimberley is not offended at my taking an interest in a mine in her electorate. The Thunderbird mine is about halfway between Broome and Derby and I think that it deserves as much support as the government can give it. It is committed to not having a fly in, fly out workforce; it will be drive in, drive out, starting with a workforce of about 220 and going up to 280 in five years. Thunderbird will have a 42-year mine life. It is committed to

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employing many Aboriginal people. Its target is to have a 30 to 40 per cent Aboriginal workforce. I think it is a really exciting project. The company is trying very hard. It is still having problems with native title, but going along with all the other processes, hoping that the native title issue will be fixed. I say again to the government: please do everything you can to help the mine with this native title issue. I was pleased to see a photo of Hon Peter Tinley, Minister for Housing, appearing in the most recent newsletter I got the other day. He has visited Thunderbird. Next time the minister is in the Kimberley, and we pass by each other in a Qantas aeroplane, I would ask him to look at Thunderbird. I am sure the member for Kimberley will be happy to show him around. That is me. Thank you for hearing me out and I wish everybody all the best for the coming year.

MR K.M. O'DONNELL (Kalgoorlie) [7.48 pm]: Greetings, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Greetings, member for Kalgoorlie.

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: I would just like to begin by making one comment. I was going to send a text to Colin Barnett asking, "Gee, Colin, where are you? We are back at work." I feel naked not having him here with me.

The SPEAKER: I am glad you are only feeling naked, member for Kalgoorlie!

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: Within the goldfields and in my electorate of Kalgoorlie many programs have come and gone over the years that have aimed to improve opportunities for Aboriginal people and their communities in employment, health and wellbeing. There is still much more we can do and various initiatives yet to be implemented that have the potential to offer great outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities. What we know is that people benefit from opportunities that are empowering and help build self-sufficiency rather than those that encourage an ongoing reliance on services. Whenever programs are put in place for people in the community, we should look at how the approach will help to build the individual's skills and capacity for the long term. I recently proposed that people in Aboriginal communities should be given the option of home ownership assistance. More to the point, I talked about ways in which we could implement programs that have the additional benefit of building skills within the community, which could also then be shared with other communities in the region.

Providing opportunities such as trade traineeships and apprenticeships on projects, such as building homes within communities, brings a range of benefits. An instant motivation comes with this type of project as the participants are working towards something for themselves and their community. Making the program about their own community and producing something useful, such as a house or community facility, makes the whole experience more meaningful and, in the process, participants learn valuable skills that will be retained within the community. Whatever cost is involved will be reinvested within the community, and this will pay off in the long run. I see this type of thing has been introduced by the government in the north west; I commend that. It is of course always cheaper and faster to bring qualified external contractors into an area and have projects completed independently; however, I propose to bring these contractors into the community for the duration of a training project. This approach would, of course, involve a much greater time frame, cost and would require the right contractors with the right approach, who could share their knowledge, skills and experience with community members. This type of project could have great outcomes, building the confidence and capacity of, and employment opportunities for, Aboriginal people. Whatever initiatives are implemented and whoever the group is that the initiatives target, we really need to look at the big picture and future outcomes. Community service providers do a great job supporting a range of groups, including families, people with disabilities, cultural groups and the disadvantaged. We need to be careful where supports lead to preventing these groups from building the capacity to support themselves and really it is a case of finding a balance.

Aboriginal communities have a great capacity and a strong culture that should be incorporated into training opportunities. That will lead to the creation of Aboriginal-led businesses and subsequent programs that can be delivered throughout the state. I believe this space has great potential and it may just take some thinking outside the box to put alternative programs in place to create great opportunities. Doing so could have a positive flow-on effect and influence other issues that exist in the region.

On the subject of services, I would like to mention the Kalgoorlie–Boulder step-up, step-down facility. A significant gap exists between the community and acute services for people with mental health issues. Those responsible for providing both the government and non-government community and acute hospital services in my electorate are doing the very best they can to meet their patients' needs. However, there is such a great demand for these services, as there is in many regional towns, that I feel that our region's facility cannot arrive fast enough. Mental health is a significant issue in the goldfields region and this is made worse by the level of drug use in the area. Many people are unaware that drug use has the potential to trigger an underlying, or worsen an existing, mental health condition. The step-up, step-down facility will offer people in the region an alternative to hospitalisation. Currently, when a patient's mental health condition worsens and remaining in the community is not an option, their only alternative is to be admitted to the mental health ward of the Kalgoorlie–Boulder hospital.

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Often, the environment of a hospital mental health ward can be confronting for patients, particularly if there are other patients on the ward at the time with significant challenging behaviour. In some cases, just the stigma of being on the ward is difficult for individuals. Many of these patients would find the step-up, step-down facility more appropriate and conducive to their recovery. It is good to see that Albany will also have a similar facility.

At the moment, without this facility when patients are released from the mental health ward of the hospital, they go from having intensive support to quite limited support. This change can be detrimental to their recovery. These individuals need an option in which they can ease their way back to being independent and having the capacity to navigate day-to-day life with mental illness. The step-up, step-down facility will offer a great balance of therapeutic mental health care in a home-like environment. The project for this facility in Kalgoorlie–Boulder is set to commence in the 2018–19 financial year; however, it will not be completed until 2020–21. We are still grateful.

A very long list of government and non-government services operate in the goldfields region that are attempting to address a number of issues with service provision. Challenges come with so many service providers operating in an area and in bringing together these groups to achieve a joint approach, or at least some kind of overlap. Avoiding a double up of services offered by these various groups will enable a better focus and delivery on priority areas. When Aboriginal-focused services are involved, it is important that service providers and key Aboriginal groups have a joint approach to the planning and delivery of initiatives. It was good to see recently that a number of community service providers are actively seeking to work hand in hand with agencies such as the WA Police Force in order to achieve better results through information sharing and cooperation. This type of joint effort between services and organisations is vital to the effective management and outcomes in the areas of social issues. I also believe that the more that workers from various agencies get out and about, engaging with their clients, the more that can be achieved, particularly by targeting those who are responsible for the bulk of the antisocial issues. Many groups in our region are doing some great work with the people who they assist and I believe that if these agencies and community groups continue to be open to joint efforts and sharing of information, some great progress could be made on the current issues in our region.

Regarding police community liaison roles, these days we are increasingly doing more with less. However, when it comes to the core business of the WA Police, a reduction in resources increases risk and has a significant impact on the community. Safety of the community is non-negotiable and we must find ways to ensure that police are resourced appropriately to enable a satisfactory response to incidents. Many tasks that could be effectively undertaken by auxiliary and community relations officers are carried out by frontline police officers. I do not mean to repeat previous speeches, but I am. At present, police officers are often utilised at the front counters of police stations to respond to enquiries and the public's concerns. However, I do not believe this can be justified any longer in certain instances. With the time constraints and pressure on police responses, I do not believe that police should be required to carry out administrative or non-policing tasks such as the witnessing of paperwork. If a police officer goes out and arrests someone or a group, there is nothing more annoying when they bring them back to the station and they are trying to process them and office staff ask, "Could you please come and sign a passport for a person?" They think, "Oh, really?" They try to do their best and once the arrested person is dealt with, they will go out and sign it. Then they may sit down to start typing. Again, there is nothing worse if they are trying to concentrate on typing the material facts, saying what the person has allegedly done, and they are again asked whether they could come out and witness marriage or divorce paperwork. The signing of paperwork is a non-policing function and it should stop. People in Queensland have to go to a shopping centre to get papers signed. I believe in Western Australia it would be great if we stop having police sign paperwork, especially in cities. I can understand it in Warburton, Warakurna or Tjuntjuntjara.

Ms M.M. Quirk: Do you mean witnessing paperwork, member?

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: Yes, there is a column headed "police" so people go straight to a police station to ask officers to sign papers. As police officers, we have no issue helping the community but people do not realise it is time-consuming behind the scenes, behind the counter. I dare say that as ministers, there is nothing worse than trying to do something, then someone asks them to do something else. They then have to think, "Where were we?" and have to try to get back to things. That is basically what I am talking about.

Regarding sobering-up shelters, there is one in Kalgoorlie–Boulder that is run by the Aboriginal organisation Bega Garnbirringu. It does a fantastic job. This is an important service and is well utilised; however, the service is offered only on weekdays, from Monday to Friday, which leaves the community without access to this service on weekends. It is something I hope to see extended. The service is looking into that, trying to go for seven days a week. There is also the need for an additional shelter to be established in Boulder to help meet the demand for support and accommodation within the community. It may sound as though a second sobering-up shelter in a regional town would be doubling up; however, with the cultural groups in the region and associated cultural sensitivities, it is not possible to accommodate all individuals within the same shelter service. It just cannot be

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done. Anybody who has lived in regions would understand that. Limiting the community to one shelter would result in many individuals who require the support of a shelter avoiding support, thereby being placed in vulnerable positions. At present, we have the sobering-up shelter. Police convey people there and the Wunnagututu patrol bus conveys people there, but as soon as it reaches its limit, it has to turn people away. It needs to expand. I hate to say it, but business is booming in Kalgoorlie–Boulder.

Dr A.D. Buti: You don't hate to say it; you're happy about it.

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: No, in relation to people at the sobering-up shelter. In regard to that.

Dr A.D. Buti: I understand. My mistake; I apologise.

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: No! I thought I said the wrong thing. I will hurry.

The Wiluna–Meekatharra road is not within my electorate, but I want to repeat that the upgrade of this road would offer a range of new and valuable opportunities to the goldfields and WA. The works required to upgrade the final section of unsealed road comes at a fairly reasonable cost, with the potential to be more affordable through the use of local services. Sealing the 180-kilometre stretch will create an important transport link, improving the access for heavy transport, freight and other travel within the region and making way for greater employment and industry opportunities. The completion of these roadworks will also provide the opportunity to create a transport hub in Kalgoorlie–Boulder, serving as a link between WA and the north and the eastern states.

The people of Laverton are still waiting for their hospital upgrade. Laverton is an isolated town that receives many travellers passing through from the Northern Territory and the eastern states, as well as from fly in, fly out mining communities and the surrounding areas. The current facility is outdated and does not meet the needs of the local residents, Aboriginal communities and visitors to the area who rely on the facility. The community is in desperate need of a hospital that can offer a greater range of services, including a 24-hour emergency department, population health facilities, a general practitioner, home and community care, clinical facilities for the visiting services and overnight holding beds. Given the isolated nature of Laverton and the outlying communities that rely on its services, it is unfair that the people of Laverton have been let down over many years—under both governments—during its fight for this upgrade.

Dr A.D. Buti: Credit where credit is due.

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: I will always say that, and when the government does something good, I will say thank you. I am not one-eyed.

Mr W.J. Johnston: Don't you barrack for Collingwood?

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: Yes, but that is different.

The upgrade and subsequent services that Laverton is fighting for are standard provisions in the metropolitan area. Laverton is not asking for anything special, and given the isolation of Laverton and the outlying communities that rely on its services, it should be a no-brainer that Laverton Hospital receives its upgrade to ensure that it can respond to and accommodate the needs of its community. When things go wrong in an isolated location, there is an even greater need to have functional and effective facilities and services. Given the factors of mine sites, outlying Aboriginal communities, travellers and heavy transport that exist in the area, there is a great potential for significant incidents to occur and for this reason I believe that the upgrade of Laverton Hospital should be prioritised.

The town of Eucla is located in the south-east corner of my electorate on the border of WA and South Australia. This is yet another remote town that is approximately 10 hours' drive from Kalgoorlie.

Mr M.J. Folkard: If you're speeding!

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: Okay; it is an 11 to 12-hour drive from Kalgoorlie. It is an important location where the border between the two states is managed. The town relies on services being flown and trucked into the town. During and after periods of rain, the Eucla airstrip cannot be utilised, leaving the only option of landing a plane being to block off Eyre Highway for a period to enable a road landing. Eyre Highway connects WA with the eastern states via the Nullarbor, so members can imagine that blocking off this road has an impact on traffic passing through. On each occasion that a road landing is required, the closure of the highway involves the assistance of police, who are then taken away from their role for quite some time. When incidents occur in the vicinity that require the response of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, having an airstrip that is limited to use in only dry conditions is not acceptable. Given that there are limited emergency and medical supports in the area, it is essential that the airstrip is upgraded to enable its use throughout the year.

I will not need an extension, Mr Speaker.

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

The SPEAKER: That is good news! I mean thank you.

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: I am trying to hurry for everyone.

The SPEAKER: No; you are doing a very good job.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leave him alone; he is doing a great job.

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: I have just two more subjects. Firstly, on the Coolgardie post office upgrade, it is disappointing that the people of Coolgardie have not received their post office redevelopment. This is an important multipurpose facility that would provide much-needed accommodation for local businesses and community services, including the housing of the Coolgardie Aboriginal corporation. The Coolgardie post office precinct would offer the community greater opportunities, including employment, so it is disappointing that it has not been able to move forward with its plans. Coolgardie is a very small town, 40 kilometres from Kalgoorlie–Boulder, and developments like the post office redevelopment would make a significant difference for its community.

Our regional taxi plate owners are feeling hard done by at the moment. These people originally purchased their taxi plates for hundreds of thousands of dollars, just like those in the metropolitan area. However, they are being excluded from the buyback scheme, but they must pay the 10 per cent levy. Personally, I disagree with that. My opinion is to include them in the buyback scheme but to have criteria. If they do not meet the criteria, they miss out—that is, if the government is going to include the 10 per cent levy. My personal opinion is to include them in the buyback scheme and then say no if they do not meet the criteria. There might be a couple of owners who meet the criteria, similar to those in the metropolitan area.

Dr A.D. Buti: They don't actually own the plates at a certain point.

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: Yes, I have mentioned to some of them that as a business, I think they have purchased —
Several members interjected.

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: Could I seek an extension to finish? I did not plan on it.

The SPEAKER: No, you said that you did not want one!

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: All right.

The SPEAKER: No; I am only joking. Extension granted.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: I will not utilise it all.

We are still trying to go through that and are trying to find taxi plate owners who, if they are similar to metropolitan area owners, should not be disadvantaged. My opinion is that it highlights the significant bias that the scheme is city-based rather than for the regions, and I just hope the government revisits it and has a rethink.

Dr A.D. Buti: About the taxi stuff, I was recently in Vancouver and because they don't have Uber at the moment, they have an inquiry. I met up with the parliamentary committee during the inquiry, and they thought that our reforms were innovative and creative and made a lot of sense.

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: I am not disputing the buyback. We just tend to think that the government should include everybody but have a criteria. If the regional taxi plate owner cannot meet the criteria, the government says no, but if the regional taxi plate owner gets in —

Dr A.D. Buti: The point is that they do not own the plates.

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: The government could quite easily just say, "Here is the criteria everybody; it applies right throughout the state." Then it would be an even playing field. That is where I am coming from.

Dr A.D. Buti: Don't you understand? You are buying back property. The buyback is actually buying property, which are the plates.

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: My understanding is that some regional people are covered under the bill. Is the member saying that they cannot purchase them?

Dr A.D. Buti: No, they don't own the plates. They might own a business and they might have purchased a plate from someone else, but they didn't purchase a plate from the government.

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: All right. I will look into it more —

Dr A.D. Buti: Yes, we'll talk about it later. No worries.

Extract from *Hansard*

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 14 February 2018]

p193b-238a

Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr Terry Redman; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Shane Love; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Bill Johnston; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Jessica Shaw; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Kyran O'Donnell

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: — with ours, because they keep telling me they have.

Last but not least, we keep talking about promises and election commitments. All I wish to say is that we should never—it will not change—promise something we cannot deliver unless we have a really good look at it first. No pie in the sky.

A member interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the Attorney General to the order for the first time. You are not in your seat.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Perth, we are trying to wind up here!

Several members interjected.

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: When I say that I am a politician—I am proud of that; I am—there is some perception in the community that we are not that well regarded on some standards.

Mr J.N. Carey: That's an understatement!

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: All right.

I would like that if we say something, we go through with it. During the election, I never committed to anything other than hard work, and I said that I would give to the community. I have told all members before that I never committed one cent in an election promise. I just hope that out of all this throwing back and forth to each other, we can work through it and find common ground.

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

House adjourned at 8.11 pm
