

Mr Michael Sutherland; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John Bowler; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Vincent Catania; Acting Speaker; Ms Adele Carles; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr John McGrath; Mr John Quigley

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT) RECURRENT 2010–11 BILL 2010
APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT) CAPITAL 2010–11 BILL 2010

Second Reading — Cognate Debate

Resumed from 26 May.

MR M.W. SUTHERLAND (Mount Lawley — Deputy Speaker) [10.17 am]: I rise to commend this budget to the house. In particular, I would like to raise a number of issues that have an effect on my constituency of Mount Lawley, including the police complex, the Perth waterfront, redevelopment of the old power station in East Perth and the Northbridge Link. Those to me are the highlights of the budget as they affect the seat of Mount Lawley and, undoubtedly, the seat of Perth.

Mr J.N. Hyde: They are all in the seat of Perth.

Mr M.W. SUTHERLAND: I am sure that, for once, the member for Perth and the member for Mount Lawley will be equally happy with what is taking place in our immediate vicinities.

The amount of \$35.4 million has been set aside to continue construction of the new Perth police complex. As we drive past we can see that the piles have been driven in. That building will house a magistrates court and the Perth police complex. It is hoped that a heavy police presence in Northbridge will improve the standard of behaviour in Northbridge. I for one do not believe this is necessarily the case. I think it is up to us as members of Parliament to institute various other actions to make sure people behave themselves, including sanctioning prohibitive behaviour orders so that individuals take responsibility when they act inappropriately in public. Perhaps also, fines should be imposed on people whose drunken behaviour leads to antisocial behaviour.

The other major funding in the city is \$21.48 million to commence the redevelopment of the Perth waterfront. That is to begin in 2012. I for one have seen more ideas on the Perth waterfront than anybody else. It has been around for a long time, and there have been many competitions and different plans. I believe that the people of Perth are eager to see that this project begins as soon as possible. I noted that the member for Forrestfield said that his constituents would rather have infrastructure in the suburbs than the Perth waterfront and other developments. However, I believe that it will be a big boon for the city, and hopefully people from all the suburbs will be able to go there—and not only the residents. People will be able to take their friends from overseas to enjoy our riverfront. Perth is sadly lagging behind places such as Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne, which have very vibrant waterfronts that create jobs and tourism. This development will be on a 10-hectare site between Barrack and William Streets and will have, as I said, low-level development, boardwalks and promenades fringed by shops, cafes, restaurants, bars and other leisure activities.

I am also very pleased to note that there has been a big injection of funds for the redevelopment of the ME Bank Stadium in East Perth. An amount of \$82.5 million has been allocated to upgrade that stadium. Those of us who have been to the stadium will know that temporary stands have been there for a long time. It is very well used by soccer, as Perth Glory plays there. Western Force also plays there. A lot of temporary facilities have been erected, and it is now time to have a properly set-up stadium that can be used by these two codes. It is also very interesting to note that there is hope that rugby league will again return to Western Australia and that there will be a team from Western Australia in the National Rugby League competition from 2013. Of course, having a high-standard stadium will encourage rugby league to return to Western Australia. The stadium is used not only for those two codes, but also for many music concerts. I think that the money will be well spent on the stadium, and again it will serve the people of the metropolitan region very well.

The other thing that will be of great benefit to the populace generally is the injection of \$1.1 billion over five years into the health system, as well as an expanded ambulance service that will receive \$150 million, and \$50 million for access to community child health services.

I am a great supporter of the independent public schools program. An amount of \$19 million has been allocated over four years to further roll out the independent public schools program. Having spoken to a number of principals whose schools are part of the independent public schools program, I have heard nothing but positive comments. I am hopeful that this program will continue to roll out and take the yoke off principals, who will be able to spend money in their schools in a way that they deem prudent.

Another thing that we are facing in Western Australia is a skills shortage. On Sunday night, I, together with a number of members of Parliament from both sides, went to a function arranged by Hospitality Group Training WA, which undertakes a lot of training for the restaurant and allied trades. I must say that the jobs that it does are fabulous. An amount of \$19 million has been set aside for training and to up-skill people. There will be a large increase in the number of training places available, not only in the restaurant industry but generally across

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the board, from 134 000 in 2008 to 156 000 in 2011. This will enable many Western Australians who might not have had the opportunity to obtain a reasonable level of employment to benefit from this increase in the number of training places.

As a city MP, I have often been around the country areas and noticed that things are not what they should be. It is interesting to note that \$977 million has been committed to the Pilbara Cities initiative, including \$30 million for the first ever serviced apartments for 250 people who are not working in the mining industry. We have heard horrible tales of people who work in shops and other places and who find it very difficult to pay their rentals in places where they are competing with people who are earning huge amounts of money in the mines. That is another good initiative. We are all hoping that the cities projects up north take off and that we will be able to go up there on holiday and enjoy the sites and whatever facilities are there. Of course, a lot of people are talking about creating some type of a Dubai up north, and maybe we will live long enough to see that as well.

Another thing that remains of great importance to the inner city is transport. We have heard from the member for Scarborough about light rail—about running light rail from the Stirling train station to the Karrinyup Shopping Centre and down to the beachfront, and getting different nodes moving. I am a great believer in the extension of the central area transit bus service, but, unfortunately, unless councils are prepared to pay the parking levy, the CAT bus service will not expand. The CAT bus service has been a great success. Hopefully, during the new year I will work with the member for South Perth and other members whose electorates are along the river to also look at bringing in a RiverCat system so that we can make use of our river. When I was coming to Parliament this morning—I am sure that everybody else was in the same boat as I—the congestion on our streets was horrendous. The city cannot take many more cars, if at all. Our streets were not built for the volume of traffic that we now have moving around; therefore, we have to look at alternative ways of transport. I think that the RiverCat is staring us in the face. We have to be bold and move ahead in that direction.

I also wish to commend the Premier for the strong stance —

Ms J.M. Freeman: What about rapid transit up and down Alexander Drive?

Mr M.W. SUTHERLAND: It depends what type of rapid transit. We do not want Alexander Drive to become a freeway and ruin the ambience of every suburb from Ballajura down to Roe Street. That is something that I am going to be —

Ms J.M. Freeman: At the moment it ruins the ambience because it is like a parking lot there during peak hour.

Mr M.W. SUTHERLAND: If the member for Nollamara wants to put in two extra lanes, take out all the trees and have a freeway from Ballajura down to Roe Street, I will oppose that.

Ms J.M. Freeman: No-one said a freeway; we are talking about rapid transit. We aren't talking about cars; we are talking about a rapid transit —

Mr M.W. SUTHERLAND: We will look at that, and I am watching it with a beady eye; don't you worry about that!

Several members interjected.

Ms L.L. Baker: Would you be happy if the boats stayed under five knots?

Mr M.W. SUTHERLAND: We can look at that, member for Maylands. Never mind about Joh Bjelke-Petersen; what about Madame Dufarge at the guillotine? Anyway, member for Maylands, these are things that we can look at.

I would like to also congratulate the Premier for the strong stance that he has taken with the federal government on the mining tax and also on the health issue. If we give away all our sources of revenue and become pawns of the federal government, we might as well close up shop, and Western Australia will suffer as a result of being ruled by Canberra.

MS A.J.G. MacTIERNAN (Armadale) [10.29 am]: Member for Mount Lawley, that might not be such a bad thing when we look at the relative qualities of the two governments.

I will make a few comments on the budget.

Several members interjected.

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN: I can see they are all getting very excited and I have not even started!

Of course the first thing we need to focus on is the rises in taxes and charges. It is true, and I think everyone understands this, that we will go through a period in which we will be paying more for energy and water. There will be an upward trajectory, we all understand that; but it is very important that we do a number of things—

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firstly, we must be very mindful of the disproportionate impact this will have on low and moderate income families. Members have seen that the Premier—Treasurer, and indeed most of the people on the other side, has quite a cavalier approach to this. The Premier says of our increase in water charges, “Oh, well; we could have done less than 17 per cent, but we decided let’s get it over in one bite.” Think about the impact of this on families who earn \$25 000 to \$30 000 a year. There are many families in my electorate who are on incomes of that scale. The government takes this cavalier approach that we will ignore what the economic regulator says. The economic regulator—whom you would expect by nature to be fairly fiscally conservative—recommended a price increase of only 10 per cent, yet the government has gone for a 17 per cent increase because “it would just be better to get it out of the way in one swoop.” That shows the complete disconnect that so many members on the other side have. I am not saying all members, but I would say that the Premier in particular, representing the seat of Cottesloe, is completely disengaged from the realities of people’s lives in places like Armadale and Kelmscott.

I was very alarmed also by the ill-informed comments made yesterday by the Minister for Water when he said that water is underpriced in Western Australia. The very reason we have the economic regulator is to ensure that utilities properly charge for water. It is true that as we need to go to new methods of harnessing and harvesting water, such as desalination, it becomes more expensive, but the whole purpose of the economic regulator is to make an assessment of what the costs are, spread over all the different water-harvesting types, and to make recommendations. The regulator’s recommendation was a 10 per cent increase. Members might have questions, as the shadow Minister for Water has, about whether the Water Corporation is as efficient as it may be. There may be ways in which we can drive those costs down, but to suggest that we have not got a system in place that properly prices water is totally incorrect and totally misunderstands the role of having an economic regulator that stands outside the utility. It is very disappointing for families in my area grappling with the increased energy cost; and, of course, at the same time we have the cutting of the Waterwise rebate that gives people the capacity and the incentive to do something more—to install water-reduction measures.

I want to make special reference, too, in terms of the energy cost, to the great deal of old public housing stock in my area—homes built in the 1970s and 1980s—that have never been retrofitted and are the most extraordinarily energy-inefficient homes. They are homes that are very hard to keep cool and very hard to warm up. The state government has entered into a Council of Australian Governments agreement, through the housing portfolio, to undertake an audit of all these properties. As far as we can see, no work has been done on that. There has been very little movement. We have done some work, through our pressure to change the policy, to at least allow people over 80 years of age to have some insulation. No real systematic attention has been given to this critical issue as energy prices get higher.

Public transport is, again, a real loser in this budget. We know that the conservatives have very little interest in public transport. I think one of the great tragedies and one of the issues that many members will face as they go into the next election is indeed the failure of this government to order any new trains. This is not something that can be done in 2011 to put a train on track in 2012, or even 2013. The lead time for the acquisition of new trains is around three to four years. We put in a major order, doubling the size of the rail fleet, in 2003. Those trains started to come on stream in 2006. In 2006, while those trains were still coming on, we put in a new order for trains to come online in 2009. All the new trains are coming in to cater for the growing demand. Believe me, that demand is growing—our population is growing and the demand will go up. All those trains that are now coming in are coming in as a consequence of our order in 2006. A new order needed to be made by the end of 2008 for any new trains to come online in 2012. By 2011, the order for the new trains that we placed in 2006 will be complete. Our population will continue to grow and we have nothing in place. This government has refused to bite the bullet and place a new order.

I tell members who have constituencies along the rail line that they will face pressure, coming into an election in late 2012 to 2013, when the government will not be able to promise any new trains before 2014–15. That will in fact be a great disadvantage. It will be a great disadvantage for people in Armadale. We rely very heavily on the train as a public transport mechanism. The trains will become fuller and fuller. There will be situations, in the lead-up to this new lot of trains coming on, in which people will simply not be able to be collected. It will be a disincentive to use public transport; indeed, it will be a real capacity constraint. I urge the more sensible members to start pressuring the government to place an order now. Whilst it is probably too late to get any trains for 2012, at least it might mean that we will get trains for 2014. There is not a zilch in the budget for new trains. This is a big problem in public transport in Western Australia. We had a Labor regime that invests heavily in public transport, particularly the rail, then we get a Liberal regime and it does nothing. When Labor comes back in, it has to spend a massive amount of money. In each budget the government should be putting more into public transport. We should have the same sort of approach to the expansion of our rail system, which includes rolling stock and track, that we have to our road system.

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I was looking at the minister's press release on all the fabulous new roads that this government is building. The overwhelming majority of these roads are, of course, largely federally funded. Most of the major projects in the budget are substantially federally funded projects, and, indeed, federally funded projects that we negotiated with the Rudd government, or the Rudd opposition as it then was, in the lead-up to the 2007 federal election. We see in the budget the Roe Highway interchange, \$35 million for this year, but it does not mention that \$30 million of that will come from the federal government. The Mandurah entrance road project has been allocated \$30 million, but \$12.5 million is coming from the federal government. The government boasted in its media release about the Dampier highway. There is \$45 million in the budget for that—\$35 million of it will come from the federal government. There is an amount of \$36 million for the Great Eastern Highway through Belmont—\$26 million of that will come from the federal government. The Port Hedland upgrade has \$29 million for this year; overwhelmingly that will come from the federal government. If we take out those road projects that we negotiated with the federal government and those projects that we started, we see that there is virtually nothing in that roads budget that is in any way new. In reality, the failure to invest in road transport has been propped up by the massive injection of federal funding that we have had.

Education, of course, is a huge issue. The shadow Minister for Education in a debate yesterday had the Minister for Education table a document of these charges that all of a sudden have been imposed on schools for students studying by distance education. Two schools in particular in my electorate, Armadale Senior High School and Cecil Andrews Senior High School, are struggling to keep a reasonable tertiary entrance examination product on offer for their students—absolutely struggling. There are many subjects that they simply cannot provide. The mechanism therefore has been to allow students to do a couple of courses by distance education, particularly in the maths and sciences areas. These schools got notice about a month ago, without any negotiation or warning, that they would have their budgets reduced by an amount of money that would be calculated. Armadale Senior High School, according to the list on the document tabled by the minister, is being charged more than any other school in the metropolitan area; it is being charged \$16 715. That is an enormous impost on a school like that, which does not have a wealthy parents and citizens association—not like Shenton College, which has an enormous array of subjects, and which is being charged only \$1 000. Shenton College has a big, active P&C and lots of money. However, for schools like Armadale and Cecil Andrews—which have principals and staff who work hard to stop these schools going into a downward spiral to the point of being unable to offer TEE—what do we see? Has this minister, who has been the greatest disappointment and whose pontificating we listened to for years on this side of the house, shown one ounce of interest in the real challenges for low socioeconomic groups? No. This is an absolute example. This money will be deducted from these schools. These schools had their budgets set and suddenly they have been told, “Well, your budget's not going to be what it was. No question of you sending the money in. We're just taking it out of your account; you just don't get it.” It is an absolutely and completely unfair impost on the schools that are having the greatest difficulty providing education and a decent choice to their students.

I have another concern. I am pleased to see that a little more money will be put into measures such as speech therapy, because we have a massive problem. More than 50 per cent of students in some schools in my area have been diagnosed as requiring speech therapy. That is a huge problem, and the waiting lists for therapy have expanded. I am glad to see that the government is putting some money into that. However, we are not dealing in any way, shape or form with the fundamental problem that is causing this problem to arise. No neutron bomb or nuclear power station has been built in Armadale recently that has resulted in some great genetic problem so that 50 per cent of kids are presenting to school needing speech therapy. Clearly other factors are at play. Some very exhaustive work and a huge amount of research has been done on this problem by the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research and the Australian Institute of Family Studies, and even work by our humble little committee, the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee. That research and work has shown what we need to do. We need to get in there with the zero to three-year-olds and work on those children during the time of their maximum neuroplasticity. We need to work with them and we need to work with their parents to turn around this problem. We know which children to target, because we now have the Australian Early Development Index, which is the most extraordinary tool that enables us to locate those concerns and those areas of greatest need. What do we see from the minister? We see yet another pontificating press release, which came out yesterday, saying, “I went to the conference and it was really wonderful. We've learnt so much about children.” However, we see none of the practical solutions. I am talking about schools like Challis Primary School that has a principal who has taken the initiative and has set up parent support centres to provide playgroups for the zeros to threes to work with parents and to turn around these problems. That is an example of projects that we were funding when we were in government. This minister, notwithstanding all her appearances at all of the conferences saying, “Oh, gosh, yes—look, I really support it. It's all terribly wonderful”, has spent not one cent on those projects. In fact this minister is saying to schools like Challis, “You take the money out of your federal literacy money. You've been given special money by the federal government to try to deal with

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your literacy issues for the fives to 11s, but we are saying to you that if you want your parent support group, you take it out of that literacy money.” That is an outrage and a disgrace. As I say, I stand by what I said: the Minister for Education has been the biggest disappointment in this entire government. Never have there been more tools available to someone to do something about this problem. Never has there been better research about how we can deal with it. All the minister does is say, “I agree so much.” But in fact she does nothing.

The final item I want to raise is an issue of animal welfare. I note that the member for Maylands spoke well on this issue in her budget presentation. We are very concerned about what is going on in the animal welfare unit of the Department of Local Government. It is true, and we must acknowledge it, that Labor built up that unit to a stage at which it had a manager and six inspectors.

Mr J.M. Francis interjected.

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN: No, I think it was a manager and six inspectors; I think it was a total of seven.

That unit was funded and was a two-year project. The funding ran out at the end of 2008; I acknowledge that. There is an argument that we should have kept that funding ongoing. Indeed we would like to think that had we been in government and faced the reality of this problem, we would have addressed it. But it is now two years on. We have the inspectorate that comprises one manager and one inspector whose charter is to go out and look after the welfare of animals, particularly farm animals and those involved in livestock transport. I am talking about not just the conduct of live sheep exports, but also the conduct at saleyards and the conduct on land transport.

My very real concern from all the information we are getting is that enormous pressure is being put on the inspectorate from parts of the farming sector and transport industry that do not want this unit to be properly equipped to go out and look after the welfare of animals. I have to say that when I first became a member of Parliament, the welfare of animals was a very small part—probably non-existent—of my agenda, but I have become increasingly conscious, as I believe has the broader community, that what reflects our level of civilisation is the way in which we treat animals. Our humanity is indeed tested and calibrated against the way in which we treat those creatures that we have made dependent upon us, and by our acknowledgement of their capacity for pain and the need for us to act humanely. My view is that there is an enormous groundswell of concern in the community about the way in which we treat animals. The failure to make it clear that animal welfare is an issue of concern and is not an issue that can be overtaken by the farming lobby is critically important, and I urge the government to reconsider its budget decision in this regard.

MR J.J.M. BOWLER (Kalgoorlie) [10.49 am]: I will speak on the budget and some other matters affecting my electorate and the industries associated with the Goldfields. One of the more welcome parts of the budget was an allocation of \$11.1 million for a new courthouse in Kalgoorlie. This process was started by the previous Attorney General and is one that initially attracted a lot of objection and opposition. It in fact became a rallying point for two of my opponents at the last election. Their opposition was, I understand, reasonable in that the people of the Goldfields wanted to keep the post office in the post office, but the fact is that Australia Post was moving out—it has since moved out—and that wonderful building in Hannan Street that members will probably all have seen is now vacant. There is now a realisation amongst the people of the Goldfields that if we are not going to have a post office there, that building should be used. The only group that would use one of those old buildings that are very costly to maintain is government. The previous Attorney General came up with an excellent plan, which has now been adopted by the new Attorney General and will eventually see around \$44 million spent on bringing the courthouse from Brookman Street back to Hannan Street, where it was located over 100 years ago. We will have new court services there. There is still some opposition in Kalgoorlie to that project. Some have a fear of antisocial behaviour spilling onto Hannan Street, but I believe the new design of the courthouse will take those problems out to the laneway. I believe that acceptance of this project is growing by the day.

Another allocation in the budget was \$13 million for short-stay facilities for Indigenous people in Boulder and Broome. I have not seen an exact break-up of that, but it is something that I welcome. It was a previous Treasurer and Minister for Housing who drove this. People have dilly-dallied around this issue ever since I was elected in 2001. The fact is that the Spinifex people from Tjuntjuntjara and Coonana live on the streets of Boulder in appalling conditions at what we call zone 6. For the first time, we had a minister who was prepared to say, “Well, we’re going to build it and it’s going to be here”. I have to say that the location has now changed to an excellent location; that is, the current Boulder golf course. As members know, the three golf courses in Kalgoorlie will be closing in coming months and moving to a new grass course. That short-stay facility for Indigenous people has received a \$13 million allocation in the budget, which I welcome. Talking about the Spinifex people, I recently said in the local media that the Coonana settlement, which is 200 kilometres east of Kalgoorlie, should close. This settlement is 400 to 500 kilometres outside these people’s traditional lands. They have no historical and cultural link to this land. Because of that, it has really become a halfway house between

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Tjuntjuntjara and Boulder and they do not treat it with any respect. They have not done so for the 30 years it has been there, and I think that situation will continue for some time. Once the housing deteriorates to the stage that people can no longer live in those houses, the Department of Housing should offer them a choice of either a new house in Tjuntjuntjara or a house in Boulder. I believe that Coonana should close in the near future.

Another allocation in the budget that will be very welcome in my electorate is \$120 million over the next three years for new mobile phone towers and improved communications. I see the Minister for Police in the chamber. The police will be a big beneficiary of this in regional Western Australia. There are a number of black spots for mobile coverage in my electorate, including on major highways. This funding is expected to reduce those black spots. To give an example of why police need better communications, I recently went camping with some friends near Niagara Dam, which is a replica of Mundaring Weir. We got there late in the afternoon. An elderly gentleman came up to me and asked whether I had seen two women walking through the bush as we came in. I said no and asked why, and he said that they had been missing since two o'clock that afternoon. One lady was 73 and the other was 65. It was raining and cold. We had two satellite phones with us—there is no mobile coverage at the dam—so we contacted Kalgoorlie police. They were there within two hours—it was a fantastic response. They had a sniffer dog with them. I say to the Minister for Police that the police had to borrow our satellite phone because they had no communications. This allocation of funding to improve police communications in the bush is a welcome addition. By the way, the two ladies were found just after midnight in scant clothing—just shorts and T-shirts. They were very cold and a bit scared from their experience, but they were found and it was a great effort by police and local pastoralists.

The budget also includes continuing funding for the \$55 million upgrade of Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital, which was the first project to attract funding from royalties for regions and which the Premier and the Deputy Premier flew to Kalgoorlie within days of gaining government to announce. That is one project I am very supportive of and thankful for.

There is also \$13 million in the budget for a work camp at Warburton in the eastern part of my electorate. We have a work camp at Mt Morgans between Leonora and Laverton that has been very successful. They do a lot of work for the community. It keeps these people in their lands, so when they are released back to their homes, it is a very smooth transition. The recidivism rate is actually lower than it was before. I believe that the Warburton facility for the people in the Narrandera lands will be an equally successful project.

I have a bit of a concern in that I cannot see funding for the new 350-bed Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison. I warn the government about even considering a privately operated hospital—sorry, prison.

Ms J.M. Freeman: And hospital, no doubt.

Mr J.J.M. BOWLER: Well, yes.

The government may get clever accountants to show that the privately operated prison in the hills operates cheaper for taxpayers, but it would be foolhardy to believe that that could be transposed to Kalgoorlie. Staffing problems at Kalgoorlie will be a problem. It could not be done at the same cost that it is done in Perth. One of the good things for prison officers in Kalgoorlie is that they are part of a system and have a career path, so they can go to Perth, Albany, Geraldton or wherever. That has been a big incentive. Many of them get to Kalgoorlie and love the lifestyle to the point that they stay there and retire—many are still there years after retiring—but for those who want a career path, it is not available with a privately operated prison. Costs will balloon out. I worry when people make money out of dealing with human lives. We saw what happens in the long run with the tragedy with Mr Ward. When the object is not to run a prison but to make money, corners will eventually be cut and tragedy is the result. I warn the government that Kalgoorlie should be treated differently and this should not become a privately operated prison.

One thing I have noted in the 18 months that royalties for regions has been around is the combative nature at times between consolidated revenue and royalties for regions. There is no doubt that royalties for regions wants to get as much and keep as much of R for R for the bush, and the bean counters in Perth want to use as much of the R for R that would normally be used by consolidated revenue. There was one such incident in the last financial year when the Australian Mining Hall of Fame in Kalgoorlie was facing an uncertain future. There was a stand-off between consolidated revenue and royalties for regions. I contacted the Premier, the Premier intervened and a decision was made. I welcome the fact that over \$300 000 is being provided to maintain the Mining Hall of Fame so that it can go forward. What a disgrace it would have been if the Mining Hall of Fame for Australia had been closed down in the midst of a mining boom. It will not be. I believe there is now more harmonisation between royalties for regions and consolidated revenue, and things are gradually moving in a more positive direction.

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I have one disappointment with the budget; that is, the lack of funding for education in my electorate. However, I have since spoken to the Minister for Education and I am very pleased with her attitude. I am hopeful of a way forward in next year's budget and the one after that.

I now move to the area of legislation. I believe the time has come to license cats on a statewide basis. When I was Minister for Local Government and Regional Development, cat people came to see me, so I raised the issue with my cabinet colleagues in an informal discussion. One would have thought that I had talked about bulldozing John Hyde's beloved belltower!

Ms L.L. Baker: I don't think he built it.

Mr J.J.M. BOWLER: But he takes credit for it, does he not?

The time has come to license cats. I believe it may be very unpopular and governments do not like doing things that are unpopular—the first thing they want to do is get re-elected—but the time has come to license cats. People do not realise just how much damage cats do. They destroy flora and fauna in my electorate. Members might ask how they destroy flora. What do they do—eat trees? I will tell members how cats destroy flora. There is a little marsupial called the woylie. For the sake of *Hansard*, it is about nine inches high. The woylie was prevalent across the rangelands of Western Australia and South Australia and going into the Northern Territory and western New South Wales. That same belt had a massive sandalwood industry—Western Australia's first ever industry and one that is still going today and provides a lot of jobs and income. Sandalwood is gradually being taken away and the amount of natural sandalwood is diminishing. In fact, in the past 30 to 40 years hardly any new sandalwood has grown. It has been found, through some trials at Narrogin where the woylie has been reintroduced, that at night the woylie collects and buries sandalwood nuts and a couple of weeks later digs up what it has buried because the wet soil has softened the husk of the nut. The woylie chips away at the nut, but its memory is not good enough for it to remember to dig up all the nuts it buried; hence, the sandalwood tree grows. What has destroyed the woylie? None other than the cat. Not only is the cat destroying birds and other animals, but also it is affecting the flora in my electorate and throughout much of Western Australia. I urge the Liberal members in this place to get onto their parliamentary leaders and get legislation to license cats.

Another piece of legislation that I want to see and that I have been promised by Hon Norman Moore, the responsible minister, is legislation providing for fixed elections. I look forward to that legislation coming before this house some time this year.

Several members interjected.

Mr J.J.M. BOWLER: I am sure that both parties want fixed elections! I mean fixed-term elections. That is something that both parties always promised in opposition and always promised leading into an election, but they always found ways to not do it —

Mr M.P. Whitely: We tried to do it in government and they blocked it. We didn't promise it in opposition. In fact, you were one of us when we tried to do it in government and they blocked it.

Mr J.J.M. BOWLER: As the member for Bassendean knows, it was linked to some very unpopular measures rather than being stand-alone legislation for one purpose. If we wanted to get it through, we should have made it stand-alone legislation.

Mr M.P. Whitely: Aren't you against those in cabinet?

Mr J.J.M. BOWLER: Exactly. As I say, when the opposition becomes the government, suddenly it suits it to have the opportunity to call an early election, as members opposite learnt to their folly last time.

Mr M.P. Whitely: We tried to legislate for fixed-term elections, and Barnett blocked it.

Mr J.J.M. BOWLER: Another piece of legislation that I would like to be introduced in the forthcoming term, and one that I will look to introduce as a private member's bill, is legislation to certify, delineate and formalise the great western woodlands. When I first heard about the great western woodlands, I was totally opposed to it. There are millions of dollars of funding for an American-based organisation called the Pew foundation. The Pew foundation was an extreme right-wing organisation when it started; it got its money from oil and gas and is now a left-wing organisation that looks after the environment. I have come to the realisation that if we delineate the great western woodlands and formalise the way in which all industries can operate in that area, it would be best for the mining industry. I do not want an extreme left-wing government in the future to say that further exploration is banned in the great western woodlands, the heart of which is Kalgoorlie. That is what I fear. I want legislation which protects that right and the rights of other users of the area, but which at the same time gets rid of the feral animals and weeds and improves the biodiversity of that wonderful woodland that is unique in the world. I believe that it should be overseen by the development commission, not by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

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Mr M.P. Murray: Do I detect a tinge of green coming from the member for Kalgoorlie?

Mr J.J.M. BOWLER: A little bit. I am a tree hugger!

Mr M.P. Murray: You must have changed in the past week!

Mr J.J.M. BOWLER: I got it last night!

I also think the government needs to revisit the Heritage of Western Australia Act. The heritage act now just divides Indigenous people in my electorate. Families fight each other; they hate each other. Where there was harmony there is now division. We need a new heritage act, perhaps along the lines of the South Australian legislation whereby the government does the survey in consultation with the people who speak for those lands.

I urge the government to revert to the Mining Act. The previous government introduced towards the end of its reign a policy of banning exploration in conservation reserves. This is stopping exploration in large tracts of my electorate and in large tracts of Western Australia. This policy of the previous government was never on its agenda when it went to the last election. It was slipped in by the bureaucrats.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr J.J.M. BOWLER: I call on the government to revert to the Mining Act. Some people might be concerned about someone walking into Kings Park with a drilling rig and ruining Kings Park. This is how the act previously worked and I believe there are plenty of safeguards in the act. If a company applied to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum to explore in, say, Kings Park, but it did not know what it wanted to explore, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum would obviously reject that. If it wanted to explore in the Plumridge Lakes Nature Reserve, which is just a white man's line drawn on a map in Perth, or in the Queen Victoria Springs Nature Reserve, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum would ask what the company was going to explore for. If the company said that it wanted to explore that reserve for low-grade sand worth \$2 a tonne, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum would say no. However, if the company wanted to explore for gold, uranium or diamonds, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum in almost every case would say yes. That application would then go to the Minister for Environment who would then say yes or no. If there is division—in other words, if the Minister for Mines and Petroleum said yes and the Minister for Environment said no—cabinet would then adjudicate. I think that is an excellent system, and it operated under Liberal and Labor governments for many years until the Department of Environment and Conservation, with its hungry little claws, changed it without any fanfare or public announcements by the previous government. I think we should get rid of that policy. I also welcome the continued exploration dollars in the budget for incentives for mining companies, much along the same lines as the Plan for Accelerating Exploration program in South Australia.

Finally, I want to talk about the people in my office. One of my longest serving office workers, Beth Richardson, left yesterday. It is no wonder that Beth left because the pressure and workload in my office is so great. In some ways I see her leaving as a result of my failure to administer the office better. Her place has been taken by a young girl called Rebecca Andrew who has moved from Perth to Kalgoorlie. Beth Richardson and Steve Kean in my Kalgoorlie office and Alexis Johnson, who runs the Leonora office, have done a fantastic job. But the workload is becoming horrendous. Why is that? I have virtually the only political office in Kalgoorlie and, in fact, in the entire Goldfields north of Norseman. The member for Eyre, Hon Graham Jacobs, has an office in Boulder—my old office—but he is a minister. His main office is in Esperance. He is a minister and, as a minister, I do not expect him to spend any more time in Boulder than he currently does. The fact of the matter is that he does not have any extra resources. When people go there, nine times out of 10 his Boulder office is closed. Where do they go? Even though they are not my constituents, they come to see me. It is the same with federal issues. I am continually inundated with questions about federal issues because the federal member for Kalgoorlie, Hon Barry Haase, has not cared about Kalgoorlie since changes in the electorate boundaries were announced—he has not cared about Kalgoorlie for months! The federal member is rarely there and, if he is, he is only passing through on his campaign trail. Therefore, my office is inundated with federal matters.

The Labor upper house member for Mining and Pastoral Region, Hon Helen Bullock, has an office in Kalgoorlie—good on her; I praise Hon Helen Bullock for that—but, once again, she does not live there. Like so many upper house members, she does not live in the Mining and Pastoral Region—and it is about time they did. I know that the member for Victoria Park supports me in this; that is a disgrace.

Mr M. McGowan interjected.

Mr J.J.M. BOWLER: No, the member for North West does not live in his electorate, nor does the member for Pilbara. I do not think that the member for Kimberley lives in her electorate any more either. In fact, of the 11 upper and lower house members representing Mining and Pastoral areas—I could stand corrected—only two live in their electorates. That is a disgrace. Both major parties should change their preselection criteria. Worse still is Hon Norman Moore, who does not even have an electorate office in his electorate. I have told him to his face. I

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have criticised him, and I will do it again. I am almost due for another press release on that! It is time that both major parties, the Labor Party and the Liberal Party—I know that factions exist in both parties; although the mob on this side say they do not, they do—asked candidates whether they would live in the electorate, and if they will not live in the electorate, the parties should say, “See you later!” People should stand for the electorate in which they are going to live.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: The most outrageous statistic, which is something I have raised previously, is that, of the 12 Western Australian senators, the greatest distance any of their offices is from the Perth CBD is 20 kilometres. Senators supposedly represent the entire state. The Australian Electoral Commission needs to start looking at making a compulsory arrangement for where Senate offices must be located, or start looking at a component of direct election of senators—then I could guarantee we might have a few more Senate offices outside the Perth CBD.

Mr J.J.M. BOWLER: Excellent idea, member for Victoria Park. I know that the member is a Kalgoorlie boy with a lot of links to regional Western Australia and he is pretty passionate about this, as I am. It is beholden on both major parties to deal with this issue. I know they have their problems in doing that, and it may take them some time, and I know that the incumbents will be there for some time and that they are not going to kick them out in one election. But, as a country member for the Mining and Pastoral area, I hope that transpires because, without it, our representation will always be weakened. The worst example is Hon Norman Moore, who does not even have his electorate office in his electorate—it is over in West Perth somewhere. I wonder how many constituents he sees!

Lastly, I want to talk to Kevin Rudd. This is an open letter to Kevin Rudd: Mr Prime Minister, I think that a six per cent threshold for the super tax is too much; I think two per cent is better. I think that when it kicks in, it should not be 40 per cent. I want to see 50 per cent because that will drive the Australian dollar down and will totally ruin the Australian economy. And when that happens, what happens to gold? Gold will go through the roof and my beloved Kalgoorlie will prosper better than ever! Since the Prime Minister made the announcement, we have already seen the highest ever Australian dollar price for gold. I must admit that it coincided with the Greek debt problem, but I say to the Prime Minister that, just for Kalgoorlie’s sake, I think two per cent is better than six per cent and 50 per cent is better than 40 per cent. The value of the Australian dollar will rise and the price of gold will go up to \$2 000 an ounce and the people in my electorate will be living in luxury—bugger the rest of you! But I do not care about the rest of you.

MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot) [11.13 am]: I am sorry that the member for Armadale, the candidate for the federal seat of Canning is not here, because I sat through her speech, which was the biggest load of rubbish I think I have heard in this place for many months. And I have listened in silence to every other member from the other side who gave their speech this week. All I heard was Labor untruth after Labor untruth, and the river of deceit that runs through the other side of the house just keeps flowing. Members opposite will prove it once again. They will say or do anything—whatever it takes—to get their grubby little mitts on the benches of power. If members want any proof of the morality of the Labor Party saying or doing anything to win power in this state or this country, they need only look at the current Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd. Other than the member for Kalgoorlie with his tongue in his cheek, the only other person from the other side of the house who has mentioned this super mining tax was the member for Collie–Preston. Good on him for having the kahunas to stand up and say that he supports this tax. I will be sending the *Hansard* of his speech to his local newspaper. I think the guy has a bit of guts, considering the type of electorate that he represents, to stand up and say that he supports a tax that will have grave impacts on the working people of his electorate. This tax will not just affect iron ore or goldmining; it will equally affect coal and alumina. Good on the member for Collie–Preston! I would love to know where all other Labor members stand on this issue. There was silence. The member for Rockingham would have a large percentage of fly in, fly out workers in his electorate and I have not heard that member say where he stands on this issue. Does he or does he not support the Prime Minister’s tax?

Mr M. McGowan: You have raised the issue and you say that you have not heard what I have to say. I made a half-hour speech on the issue last week—the member for South Perth is nodding. I think you were overseas at the time, so that is probably why you did not hear it.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Will the member for Rockingham answer the question now? Does he or does he not support the tax?

Mr M. McGowan: Go and read *Hansard*, my friend.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: The member cannot answer that question now—he does not want to answer the question.

Mr M. McGowan: Come back from overseas and do some work for your electors!

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Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Members opposite do not want to play the game. This is work for my electorate, my friend, because this tax will have a greater impact on the future financial stability of people in my electorate than anything that this state government does. It has been said before, and I will say it again here, that this tax is not a normal tax on super profits; it is a super tax on normal profits.

Mr M.P. Murray: I have a serious question. What about the companies that are not playing the game by training our youth or getting the welding done offshore? No wonder they are being belted!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Excellent question! Did the member for Collie–Preston watch *Lateline* last night?

Mr M.P. Murray: I was in here.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: The house had risen—the bells had gone—when Tom Albanese, who is Rio Tinto’s chief executive, described Australia as his number one sovereign risk globally. He said —

“This is affecting our Australian businesses and investment decisions as we speak ... just over the past 10 years we’ve reinvested every dollar we’ve made,

He said that Rio Tinto had reinvested \$38 billion into what has been a stable tax regime, and now the rules on those tens of billions of dollars of investment are suddenly changing and it not just tweaking but is a whole new tax regime. Essentially 40 per cent of largely written-down profits are going to a silent partner.

He continued —

It’s as if they’re coming to us saying we want to be your 40 per cent partner, ignore the fact you’ve taken all the risks, ignore the fact you’ve taken all the lumps we want 40 per cent of your pre-tax profits.

That’s sovereign risk and that’s why I’ve said it’s the number one priority on my plate, globally, around sovereign risks.

He made this point also, and I think it is worth people watching this interview last night on *Lateline*. He said —

We can invest on a global basis. We’ve got mines in Canada, we’ve got mines in the US, we’ve got mines in Africa, in South America, we will have mines in Asia. And we will be investing and we’ll be allocating those investments based upon the combination of the merits of the investment, of the quality of the ore body, the capabilities that we can deliver there, but also the stability of the tax regime. And if you make a tax regime less stable or more risky anywhere it tends to attract capital away from that and toward the more stable regimes.

There is one person in here who could perhaps pick up the phone to his friend the Prime Minister—other than the Premier—and that is the Leader of the Opposition. I would love to know whether the Leader of the Opposition has the kahunas to pick up the phone to the Prime Minister and say, “Do not do this to our state. I am going to stand up for our state”, and not be a gutless wonder. I cannot use the other terms I would normally use.

Several members interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Eric Ripper could say, “I am the leader of the Labor Party and we will speak out publicly against this tax”. The point is, if he does not stand up to the Prime Minister, we will know that he agrees with the Prime Minister. It is incumbent on him to do the right thing by his state, the people of my electorate and the people of every other electorate, and say, “Our economy depends on this industry and the federal government is screwing it up; stop it and stop it now.” The Leader of the Opposition needs to grow a spine, stand up for his state and tell the Prime Minister to get his head out of the sand. As I said before, the question that every member opposite should answer—because I always believe that voters deserve to know where members of Parliament stand on issues that matter—is: do they or do they not individually support this rent tax? We know that the candidate for the federal seat of Canning does because she was quoted in *The Australian* last week as saying so. We know that the member for Collie–Preston supports it, as I said, and good on him for having the guts to say so, but be it on his head. Mark my words, this will come back to bite both the federal and state governments. Members opposite know it and we know it.

Talking about the candidate for the federal seat of Canning, she must be squirming like a bucket of worms at the moment. She should be very, very careful about trusting the Prime Minister.

Mr M.J. Cowper: She won’t go.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: This is a great conversation! If I were her, would I surrender a safe Labor seat to go on a suicide mission at the moment?

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

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Mr J.M. FRANCIS: This guy cannot help himself. Most members of this place grow old gracefully, but the member for Albany is growing old disgracefully.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Where is that dummy; does he have his dummy? For the past 18 months that guy has sat in his chair, swinging the dummy around at every single member on this side. The biggest dummy spitter in the history of this Parliament in the past 18 months is the member for Albany and his fellow Acting Speakers. Where is his dummy; has he spat it out lately? He is the biggest dummy spitter in this place.

Mr P.B. Watson: Do you want to talk about what happened in the chair yesterday?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: You go and spit your little dummy somewhere else, mate.

Mr P.B. Watson: Did you come up to me yesterday and beg for forgiveness?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I listened to your speech in silence.

Mr P.B. Watson: Did you come up and beg for forgiveness?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I did not beg for forgiveness.

Mr P.B. Watson: Yes, you did. You have already written to the Speaker about it.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: If I was a candidate for the federal seat of Canning, I would be very worried.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Albany, let the member for Jandakot continue.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. We know that when the member for Armadale was first considering the idea of running against Don Randall, she met with the Prime Minister at Kirribilli House and he promised funding for her campaign. We know that she had a cup of coffee with him a few weeks ago when he was over here. She is a bit upset that the money is not coming. But, after all, why would people want to back a loser? Maybe she has an insurance policy covering her, such as a Senate seat, if she does not win the seat of Canning.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Tony Abbott is a very good friend of mine; I had dinner with him two weeks ago, so the member for Albany should be very careful.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Cannington!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: As I said, I listened to every single Labor member's speech in total silence, as did most members on this side. I think we deserve the same respect.

If I were the member for Armadale, I would be very careful about what I did. Her bid for the federal seat of Canning is one of the great little political stories of the year and it will be interesting to see what she does. If I were a betting man, I would bet that she will not go anywhere. Maybe the Leader of the Opposition opened that little champagne bottle too soon when he heard she was leaving, because I think she will be around this place for a long time. I will move on because I want to touch on other issues.

There has been some talk in this debate about the impact of increases in charges and fees on the family budget.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: The member for Cannington cannot help himself; he is a serial offender.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Cannington! Member for Jandakot, continue.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr W.J. Johnston: We all saw the protection yesterday in this chamber.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Cannington, I call you for the first time.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: We talked a lot about the impact of fees and charges on family budgets. I think that is a fair and proper debate to have and I acknowledge that a number of fees and utility price increases will have a detrimental effect on the budgets of many families. However, the one big thing in this country that is having a greater impact than anything this government is doing is the increase in interest rates. Interest rates have increased six times since October 2009. Our cash rate is now four and a half per cent and most mortgages are close on almost eight per cent. In fact, Australia now has the highest interest rates of any Organisation for

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Economic Cooperation and Development country. On average, if a 0.25 per cent basis point increase equates to \$50 a month or \$600 a year on a \$300 000 mortgage —

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: The member for Albany is like a rabid poodle.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members! Member for Jandakot, continue.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Six interest rate increases totalling \$300 a month amount to \$3 600 a year. The average \$300 000 mortgage interest bill has gone up in the past nine months by \$3 600. That is having a far greater impact on the family budget than anything this state government has done. Struggling families are asking this question: why is the Labor Party —

Mr W.J. Johnston: What are you saying now?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I am not even going talk to you; you are pathetic. If you cannot keep your mouth shut, go somewhere else.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Jandakot, just continue.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Struggling families are asking the very worthwhile question: why is the federal Labor Party continually wasting money on a failed stimulus package in order to stimulate the economy?

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Why is the government wasting money trying to stimulate the economy when the Reserve Bank is putting up interest rates to slow it down? It is the great economic contradiction of our time. Who is right? Is the Prime Minister right or is the Reserve Bank right? They cannot both be right. Because of the federal government's failed management, we have a massive impost —

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: At least I live in my electorate, unlike most members opposite.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: He is a rabid poodle. It is the great contradiction and no-one can answer it. The federal government and the Reserve Bank cannot both be right. Someone is right and someone is wrong. As I said, interest rates are having a far greater impact on family budgets than anything the state government has done. The people in my electorate are very aware of that.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I am getting to my police station. I am over the moon about it.

Point of Order

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I am sure that, as am I, the rest of the chamber is finding it hard to hear the member speaking. The member for Cannington and the member for Albany seem to have one cell between them.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There have been a lot of interjections. Points are being made by members opposite. Please let the member for Jandakot continue.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member for Jandakot is being deliberately and continually provocative. If in his commentary he is deliberately referring to members on this side in derogatory terms, he is inviting interjections. Perhaps if his speech was a little more sedate, these situations would not go on.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Jandakot, please direct your comments to the Chair.

Debate Resumed

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker; I will play nice and ignore the other side of the house totally.

I want to touch on the budget and how it affects my electorate. This is a great opportunity to compare what the Labor Party promised the people in my electorate in 2005 with what this government has promised. For example, I am holding this great little card that I sent out during the campaign. It states —

The Liberal Party has a strong plan to make our community safer:

Then there are four dot points —

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- By building a new 24-hour police station near Cockburn Central;
- Installing more CCTVs ...
- Laws to protect our police and send the thugs that bash them to jail; and
- Scrapping Labor's special sentencing discount for criminals.

There were four points. All four were delivered—excellent. I will compare that with the Labor Party's campaign in 2005. This is a great ad that was run by the Labor candidate in my area. It is headed "Tougher Penalties and Safer Streets: A top priority for Mark, Norm and Francis"—the three Labor illuminati. It states that the member for Rockingham is determined, active and well qualified; the member for Cockburn is committed, determined, approachable; and I do not know who Norm is. Norm was more approachable, but, according to the ad, he is friendly, caring and hardworking. That was Labor's commitment in 2005 to build the police station, and it went nowhere. Labor did nothing in four years. I have to say that other than the education minister, the police minister is now my next most favourite minister in this government, because we have come good on our promise, and I am over the moon, as are the people of Jandakot, to see funding for that particular —

Mr P. Papalia: Did you get the car parking?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I have the car parking as well. An extra 160 bays have opened in Murdoch and an extra 580 bays are going in at Cockburn. The first 180 of those will be opened next week. So we are all for the car parking and the station, because we remember what it was like before the election.

I want to briefly touch on education, because —

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Albany and member for Bassendean! Carry on, member for Jandakot.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

There have been two absolutely brilliant moves by this government since we won the election; that is, the allocation of \$31 million to complete stage 2 of Atwell College for years 11 and 12, which is so desperately needed; and the other thing is to build a new Aubin Grove primary school. The Minister for Education, as I said, is now my favourite minister in the government. I wholeheartedly reject all the criticism of her. She does a great job. In fact, she came down to my electorate a couple of weeks ago and we turned the first sod for the new Aubin Grove primary school, which is greatly needed. The total cost is \$15 million. In fact, I have to make a confession: I think I am in love with her. She does such a great job, she is so approachable, she is so over her portfolio and she so listens to the needs of people that she is my favourite minister.

Mr M.P. Whitely: She's definitely over her portfolio. She doesn't want to be in it any more.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: She is my favourite minister. Maybe it is the way my friend speaks to her.

On top of that, we have the \$33 million to continue construction of the emergency services complex down there. The people of Jandakot are absolutely over the moon with this budget, because for the first time they are not being treated as dumb sheep who can be misled by the Labor Party but as real people whom this government and I take extremely seriously.

MR V.A. CATANIA (North West) [11.33 am]: It is with great pleasure that I stand here to talk about the 2010–11 budget, because what a wonderful budget it is for the north west—something that the north west has probably missed out on for the past 20 years. The level of investment that has been put into the Pilbara is probably the best since Sir Richard Court's days. For the first time we are seeing —

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members! I have not been able to hear a thing that the member for North West has said. Member for North West.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean, I have just asked you to please be quiet and let the member for North West continue.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: It is great to be on this side of the fence when I hear the members opposite who laugh and joke about how the north west is getting its fair share for the first time. The level of investment in the Pilbara will be more than \$1 billion by the end of the term of this government, so I think it is hard to argue —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you for the first time.

Point of Order

Mr M. McGOWAN: We have now had the member for North West undertake two infringements of what should ordinarily be customary in one of these speeches. First of all, he is being deliberately provocative again and inviting interjections from members opposite; and, secondly, he has incorrectly identified a former Premier of this house, who I think deserves a little more respect than to be given titles that he does not have. I am sure that he would prefer to be addressed by his correct name.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: There is no point of order from the manager of opposition business, and he knows that very well. Members are very often provocative in this house, and that is part of their duty, I suggest. As far as a former member of this house is concerned, there is nothing in standing orders that says that we have to refer to a former member in any way in particular.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for North West, before you continue with your speech, just try to get it on track by addressing your remarks to the Chair, and we will take it from there.

Debate Resumed

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will address my remarks to you, because I would like to share with you and the house that, as I said, more than \$1 billion will have been invested in the Pilbara by the end of this government's term—more than \$1 billion will have been returned to the Pilbara. This is basically righting the wrongs of past governments—not only the previous government, but governments before that. As I said, when members opposite laugh and carry on and say that the north west is being pork-barrelled, or whatever members want to call it, it is hard to have that argument in my electorate, especially when it comes to Karratha, when only two and a half years ago a woman could not have a baby at the local hospital. Now the government is putting \$150 million into the new Nickol Bay Hospital in Karratha, which is a magnificent achievement and one that the community of Karratha pursued vigorously for many years with the previous government, but to no avail. I was a member of that previous government, and I remember having those conversations with the previous health minister and the previous Premier, and I got nowhere. The former member was quick to say, "We've put 10 doctors into Karratha since we came to government." That is a good achievement, but the Pilbara, and particularly Karratha, has moved on. Karratha is becoming a city, and this government is going to make sure that it becomes a city in its own right.

As I said, more than \$1 billion will go into the Pilbara. That is to encourage people to come and work and live in the Pilbara. It is to attract families to and retain them in the Pilbara. The only way we can attract and retain families is by ensuring that we have an excellent health system, an excellent education system and facilities to ensure that children are not bored and that they have opportunities to engage in recreational pursuits. That is what we are seeing being invested in the Pilbara. With the massive growth that is occurring in Karratha, the government is also ensuring that it is looking after small business. As members all know, rents in Karratha are very, very high. They were high under the previous government, and they are still way too high. The way that we are addressing that is by looking after small businesses and ensuring that we are building serviced accommodation for workers in small businesses specifically. There will be 100 units, and that will keep rents at a very low level—between \$350 and \$450 a week. While we are going through these good economic times in the Pilbara, that project is designed to ensure that small businesses will stay open. Under the previous government, businesses were closing, and that was having a huge effect on the attraction of people to and the retention of people living in the Pilbara. That is going some way to addressing that issue. It is 100 units, which I am sure will be taken up by a majority of small businesses. But that is just the start.

I touched on Karratha becoming a city. The Pilbara Cities concept that the government launched last year is a plan to ensure that Karratha becomes a city. One of the first steps that has been taken is to get high-rise built in Karratha. Only a few months ago we had the first announcement of high-rise in Karratha by the property developer Finbar, which will build more than 300 units in Karratha. This will have a dramatic effect, obviously, on rental prices. More importantly, what Karratha lacks is commercial space. Part of that development will have 3 000 square metres of commercial space that is desperately needed for not only the private sector but also government. We want to bring government services back into Karratha. We need commercial space. Karratha is being transformed. The plans are there. Companies are coming into Karratha and saying that they want to develop and they want to build high-rise buildings. They want to be a part of the solution and they want to be involved in making Karratha a city.

As I said, \$1 billion will be invested in the Pilbara. Imagine what we could do if the federal government came on board and also spent \$1 billion in the Pilbara! Everyone likes to talk about the Pilbara as the engine room of the Western Australian and Australian economy. It rolls off the tip of the Prime Minister's tongue that the Pilbara is

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the economic powerhouse of the nation, yet we have not seen one cent go into the Pilbara from the federal government—not one cent. The state government will invest over \$1 billion in the Pilbara from the royalties for regions fund, but imagine what we could do if the federal government actually took notice. Instead, we have a federal government that wants to tax and reduce the influence of the Pilbara, reduce employment and reduce small business. It is already having an effect on contractors and mining companies. They are already cutting employment. That is stopping the growth that has been projected for the Pilbara. That will have a dramatic effect not only on the Pilbara and here in Perth, but also on the east coast because many people from the east coast come to the west to look for employment.

Mr M.P. Murray: They fly in, fly out from Queensland.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Queensland; yes.

Mr M.P. Murray: Fly in, fly out—but no benefit to the north west.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Even if members opposite agree with the tax—which I know they do—they cannot agree with \$5 billion coming out of Western Australia, going over to the east coast and our receiving 0.002 per cent in return. Members opposite cannot agree with that. We need something like royalties for regions at a federal level. We need to reverse that rip-off. We are currently being ripped off by the east coast. If members opposite do not stand up and lobby their federal colleagues —

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Warnbro! Carry on, member for North West.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: As I said, members opposite should lobby their federal colleagues. Even if members opposite agree, they cannot agree to all the royalties coming out of Western Australia and nothing being returned. The state government will invest, for the first time, over \$1 billion in the Pilbara, yet there has been no recognition from the federal government of Western Australia's contribution to the national economy. It was interesting to hear on the radio this morning Ken Henry, the man who conducted this review and was probably responsible for this tax. He said that the resources industry had nothing to do with the state of the Australian economy. He said that it had nothing to do with ensuring that Australia did not go into recession. I disagree with that. I think that is absolute rubbish.

Mr P. Papalia: That is not what he said. I heard it, too.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: It is absolute rubbish—like the tax that has been presented by the Rudd Labor government.

Mr P. Papalia: He just verbalised Ken Henry!

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I think the member should lobby his federal colleagues —

Mr P. Papalia: I think you should listen more closely to the radio!

Mr V.A. CATANIA: It is doing huge damage to our reputation as a country and our sovereignty as a state.

Mr M.P. Murray: What is the member's position on the employment issues from those big companies that refuse to train our youth and wish to use 457 visas to fill gaps?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I agree that mining companies have to do a lot more in terms of not only employment of youth and employment of Indigenous people but also investing back into our communities. We have also seen a lack of investment in the past by major resource companies in the communities, particularly in the Pilbara.

Mr M.P. Murray: Thank you. What is the member doing about it?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: We are ensuring that we partner with the resource sector to develop the Pilbara. It is about partnerships; it is about leveraging. We are seeing that, but not seeing that from the federal government.

Coming back to the budget of the north west, the north west has been the big winner in this budget. On behalf of my electorate, I say thank you to the government, thank you to the Premier and thank you to the Minister for Regional Development because we have been waiting for so long to get that recognition. We have now got that. Revitalisation projects are now happening that are revitalising communities. One can walk down the main street of Cue and see what royalties for regions has done there. One can go to Yalgoo, Mt Magnet, Meekatharra and Gascoyne Junction and see the effect royalties for regions has had on those small communities. It is great to be a part of. It is all about ensuring that we can deliver what the community has been pushing so long for, and deserves.

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The north west health system has been a huge focus of this budget. There will be a new \$150 million hospital for Nickol Bay. Previously women could not have their babies at the hospital, but we will make sure that we have a state-of-the-art facility. It took the member for Pilbara all his parliamentary career to get a hospital at Port Hedland, and I think he has been in Parliament for 40 years. It has taken that long to get a hospital. This government has delivered it after 18 months. How wonderful is that! It gives the Pilbara the recognition that it deserves.

We have also seen a level of investment in Karratha, particularly in Roebourne, that has resulted in turning the spotlight on the region. I thank the former Minister for Housing and the former Treasurer for his input and for looking after Roebourne in a close manner to ensure that we can start making inroads. The lack of investment in Roebourne by previous governments is disgraceful. Over the past 20 years there has been only \$3 million invested in Roebourne. How shameful is that! After this budget, there will be close to \$25 million invested in Roebourne, including new housing, and renovation of the Roebourne village to the tune of \$5 million. We also have the Ngarluma Aboriginal sustainable housing project, which the previous government disregarded and laughed off. The Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation wanted a housing project that its people could run so they can get employment, and look after their youth by giving them some training and enabling them to be part of building the housing development. This government is doing that. This government is delivering housing, which is desperately needed. We are putting something back into Roebourne to ensure that we can deliver that housing project.

We are also looking at putting money into a youth centre. We talk about youth and training, but youth in the Pilbara are often overlooked, particularly in Roebourne. A lot of kids roam the streets because there is nothing to do or they are scared to go home. The youth centre will be funded through royalties for regions and other government agencies. It is absolutely vital for the fabric of Roebourne. They are a couple of the major announcements for the Pilbara.

Mr P. Papalia: Is he talking about the youth justice centre?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: No; it has actually got nothing to do with the youth justice centre. The youth justice centre has been funded. To replicate what has happened in Geraldton and Kalgoorlie, we are doing that in the Pilbara and Kimberley. That is what the member is referring to.

Mr P. Papalia: Tell us about the youth centre in Roebourne!

Mr V.A. CATANIA: A youth centre is like other youth centres where youth can go in and do some education courses or curriculum activities so they can be taken off the street. They have somewhere to go, knowing that they are safe there —

Mr P. Papalia: How many Indigenous corporations are along that main street?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Would the member for Warnbro like to elaborate on that? Obviously he has not been there. There is no youth centre in Roebourne. There are no activities for youth in Roebourne.

Mr P. Papalia: How many Indigenous corporations have their own little centre out the back to teach people things?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I think he is missing the point. That is perhaps why I left the Labor Party—because it missed the point! Going back to the budget, we also have under \$60 million for the Pilbara revitalisation phase 2, which is also looking at increasing the amenities for youth in Karratha through the Karratha education and training centre that the Shire of Roebourne is pushing. It is a wonderful project that I would like to see funded out of that \$60 million for Pilbara revitalisation phase 2.

We are also continuing with underground power. As I said, we have service workers' accommodation. We have also partnered with the shire for providing new parks and basically turning the Pilbara into a city—that is, Port Hedland and Karratha. That is something that is long overdue.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I say to the member for Collie–Preston, who mentioned the Gascoyne, that the Gascoyne has finally been recognised. We now have a Gascoyne revitalisation plan—\$130 million is going into the Gascoyne. It is the biggest investment ever seen in the Gascoyne.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Members opposite have been yelling out and asking: where is the police station courthouse complex in Carnarvon? I say to members that it has been properly funded. A \$53 million project is

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going into the position where the community wants it, which is the traders site. It took five years under the previous government to even get some recognition for the people of Carnarvon to say where it should go.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: The behaviour of the previous Attorney General and the previous Minister for Police was disgraceful. They disrespected the community of Carnarvon's decision on where it should go. But the complex is going to the traders site and it will be completed by 2013. That was one of the many announcements in the Gascoyne revitalisation plan. We also have \$3 million for the much-needed boat ramp. Members might expect that a coastal town would have a boat ramp. Carnarvon has not had a boat ramp, and now it is getting one.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Members opposite criticise the initiatives in the budget for the North West electorate. However, finally Carnarvon will have a boat ramp. I look forward to going to a dinner and re-announcing that, because that is what people in Carnarvon want to hear.

As I said, health services are a big feature of the budget.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Collie–Preston, you have asked some intelligent questions which have been answered. You have made a point now about royalties from the south west. Please continue, member for North West.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: It is a bit rich, Mr Deputy Speaker, because intelligence does not belong in the member for Collie–Preston.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for North West, address your comments to the Chair.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Here we go. I said health services are at the centre of the budget, and Carnarvon Regional Hospital will also get a proper redevelopment. Members opposite will say that there was \$6 million in the forward estimates of the previous budget. Yes, there was \$6 million for 2011–12 of the forward estimates of the previous government. But that was \$6 million for a project that was actually going to cost \$20 million. Perhaps that \$6 million was going to pay for the lick of paint that the hospital was going to get. Finally, Carnarvon hospital will get a proper redevelopment. This is what the Department of Health actually put up to the previous government. It said that it would cost \$20 million to properly redevelop the hospital in Carnarvon; and we have delivered on that. That redevelopment of the hospital will enable us to use the funds that have been made available by the federal government to build an aged-care facility on the same site, so that they can share resources. This redevelopment will assist us in ensuring that we can move forward with the aged-care facility, which is also desperately needed.

As I said, health services are a big item in the budget. Exmouth District Hospital has \$8 million for redevelopment. We have all seen emergency landings at Learmonth and the need for a good health facility for injuries. Now we will have a hospital in Exmouth that will have the facilities that are needed to cater for those emergencies.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Albany!

Mr V.A. CATANIA: There will be also an expansion of the hospital so that we can have a public dentist at the hospital. Exmouth is also getting a new boat ramp at Tantabiddi—something that has been overlooked many times before—and also an increase in boat ramps at the harbour.

We will see money also go to a new library in Carnarvon. We are seeing money go to the redevelopment of the fascine in Carnarvon to really take advantage of the jewel in the crown of Carnarvon.

We have also had some social issues in Carnarvon and Roebourne, which have been published in the media. This government is fully funding new Clontarf football academies to be placed in Carnarvon and Roebourne. This will have a dramatic effect on the youth in Carnarvon. We are dealing with those social issues, not turning a blind eye to them as the previous government did.

As I said, health services are a big part of this budget for the north west. Sort of attached to that is communications, because there are a lot of accidents on highways and in remote places in my patch. We are now funding communication towers across regional Western Australia to ensure that we have coverage. This will improve safety for people travelling along those roads. A lot of tourists travel along those roads for the first time. It is important to ensure not only that they have access to communication, but also that emergency service

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workers who attend accidents have access to communication with police, ambulances, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority and so forth. Communications provided in this budget will be a huge boost to regional WA for the police, ambulance services and emergency services in general.

However, what is even more pleasing is the assurance that these emergency services will be able to do their job, with the increase in the district allowance that has been made by this government. That increase acknowledges the work that people do in the north west, particularly those in the Pilbara and the Kimberley. Generally when it comes to the Pilbara, it is hard to attract and retain people in the police, in teaching, in nursing and in the public sector generally. The government has made a very generous offer through the district allowance to the public service. That is probably three or four times the amount that the previous government had to offer. I am sure that the stickers that the WA Police Union has been putting around will be removed and replaced with “reverse the rip-off” stickers to ensure that the federal government now pays some recognition to the Pilbara.

As I said, health services are the major focus of the budget. We are still putting money into the Royal Flying Doctor Service, which the previous government referred to as an interest group. That is a great shame. People who get sick these days in regional WA have never been better off because they can be assured that the RFDS has been funded to the level that it deserves and to the level it needs to do the job adequately.

Dr M.D. Nahan: You can have babies there.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Yes, people can have babies there; that is right.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I think we all agree that the member for Albany probably has only one cell in his brain, and sometimes that one does not even work.

Members opposite will agree that the North West electorate has finally got the attention it deserves. I am proud to represent my electorate without fear or favour and without the factions that exist over there in the opposition.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Albany!

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I am proud to be part of the government that is delivering something that should have been delivered a long time ago; and I am proud to be part of royalties for regions.

I will share a conversation with members. I do not like talking about private conversations, like the member for Albany constantly does, but I will do it this time just to give an insight into what members opposite think about the Pilbara. Members opposite and the former Treasurer, the now Leader of the Opposition, instigated the PICC—Pilbara Industry Community Council—process. That process was to look at ways in which we could develop the Pilbara so that it could get what it needs. We had industry and government —

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I remember being in the corridors of Parliament House about three years ago. Hon Kate Doust, who at the time was parliamentary secretary to the —

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

Point of Order

Dr M.D. NAHAN: The member is trying to outline a very important issue and all we get is noise from the other side.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr J.M. Francis): Member for Albany, the member for Riverton is on his feet making a point of order and I want to hear it in silence.

Mr P.B. Watson: What point of order?

The ACTING SPEAKER: I call the member for Albany to order for the first time.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: I cannot hear the speaker.

Mr P.B. Watson: Sit down, you boofhead.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I call the member for Albany to order for the second time.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: I have a further point of order. I have been trying to speak to a point of order and all I get is verbal abuse from the member for Albany.

The ACTING SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

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Debate Resumed

Mr V.A. CATANIA: As I was saying, Mr Acting Speaker, I was in the corridor and Hon Kate Doust, who was Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer at the time, said that the Pilbara Area Consultative Committee's report involved costs of \$800 million to bring back services to the Pilbara just to deal with the pressures it was under at that time. The response from the Treasurer was, "They're not going to get \$80 million let alone \$800 million." I say to the former Treasurer and Leader of the Opposition that we are delivering well over \$1 billion! We have acted on the Pilbara report, which had been shelved. We are making sure that we are delivering to the Pilbara, to the north west and to the Gascoyne, which is something the Leader of the Opposition does not like.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Shame on the Leader of the Opposition for not supporting it and shame on him for not delivering in the past. I look forward to doing more for the Pilbara and the north west.

MS A.S. CARLES (Fremantle) [12.00 pm]: I welcome the opportunity —

Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan: That takes the leash off us if he is able to talk about —

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Armadale!

Dr M.D. Nahan: Do you have a leash on yourself?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Riverton!

Mr P.B. Watson: You've got one on your head.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Take a seat, member for Fremantle. I did not hear the first word you said. Indeed, I do not even know whether you have said your first word, but I have heard three other members conducting a loud argument across the chamber, and I do not want to hear it again.

Ms A.S. CARLES: I welcome the opportunity to reply to the budget on behalf of my constituents in Fremantle. The member for North West is lucky; I wish I could stand here and talk about royalties for Fremantle. Unfortunately, I have to say that, like other budgets in recent years, this budget contains very little for the people of Fremantle to get excited about. The budget reflects the view that Fremantle is there to service this state via the Fremantle port. There is a lot of money for the port and very little for local people.

Fremantle should be regarded as a major tourist destination in WA and funded accordingly. Tourists love to visit Fremantle for its beaches, the Western Australian Maritime Museum, historic buildings and the cappuccino strip, but they need more. However, in recent years, successive state governments have lost interest in Fremantle, and the city is showing signs of neglect. The downgrading of Fremantle in the 2031 planning document insulted many of us. There have been large cuts to the arts sector. Fremantle Hospital is set to lose its tertiary status when Fiona Stanley Hospital opens, and this will of course impact negatively on my constituents who currently access Fremantle Hospital's emergency department and other tertiary facilities.

The arts sector in Fremantle needs a major funding boost. In recent times we have lost the Fremantle History Museum, the Fremantle Light and Sound Discovery Centre, the Fremantle Motor Museum and the World of Energy museum. Port cities like Liverpool have paved their way to success and revitalisation through a heavy emphasis on the arts and culture, and in particular on museums. Our local Fremantle theatre companies like Deckchair Theatre and Harbour Theatre struggle to find rehearsal and performance space despite their ever-increasing potential audience from domestic and overseas tourists. The proposed ING development for Victoria Quay in Fremantle provides a unique opportunity for the port to be revitalised and for the arts sector to be boosted. However, for this to happen, the developer needs to offer more than just retail and commercial space. I urge the government to support this development so that more can be returned to the community. There is no performing arts theatre in Fremantle. Deckchair, our local cutting edge theatre company, makes do with Victoria Hall, a venue that is too small, has no air conditioning, has no rehearsal space and has no proper seating. Patrons sit on plastic chairs, but they do not complain because the theatre is brilliant. I urge the Minister for Culture and the Arts to visit Deckchair to experience the high quality theatre that is being produced, and to start seriously funding Deckchair.

Mr J.H.D. Day: I have been to a couple of performances there in the past year.

Ms A.S. CARLES: Would the minister agree that Deckchair needs support?

Mr J.H.D. Day: Indeed. And it does get some public funding.

Ms A.S. CARLES: It gets a little bit, but not serious funding. I urge the minister to support a custom-made performing arts theatre to seat 350 people at the new ING development on Victoria Quay so that Deckchair can finally have a proper home and can grow and flourish as it deserves to. Tourists would flock there. The tourists

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on the cruise ships would be a ready-made market for a theatre at the port of Fremantle. Victoria Quay also represents a unique opportunity for an immigration museum to complement the Welcome Walls at the port. The names are recorded, but what about the stories? I know there is a lot of interest in those. I recently presented a petition containing more than 500 signatures from petitioners calling for an immigration museum to be incorporated in the ING development. It could even be placed in the historic immigration building that is on the site. I urge the Minister for Planning to look closely at the current planning for Victoria Quay so that these unique opportunities to locate an arts venue and to commemorate our history are not lost.

There is no funding in the budget now or in the forward estimates for a light rail transit system in the proposed Cockburn coast district structure plan. This future development is set to bring an additional 10 000 residents to the region just south of Fremantle. The inclusion of light rail in this development would significantly reduce congestion on Hampton Road and alleviate the need for its widening. Now is the time to plan to reduce the major problem of traffic congestion in Fremantle. More people and more vehicles will only exacerbate an already very big problem. An electrified light rail system could be powered by renewable energy. Fremantle would be the ideal urban location to demonstrate the effectiveness and efficiency of a pilot light rail network, with its willing community and supportive local government.

The budget contains \$516 million to be spent on roads. Like the opposition, I am very relieved to see that the \$550 million Roe Highway stage 8, which would have destroyed sensitive wetlands, appears to have disappeared off the books. I hope it is gone for good. There are far better, environmentally responsible ways to spend this money, such as on the light rail transport system I have been discussing.

I am very concerned about the Fremantle Traffic Bridge, which joins my electorate to the Premier's electorate of Cottesloe. I smell a rat in the budget papers and I intend to get to the bottom of this in the estimates hearings. What happened to the \$81 million referred to in the 2008 budget for the construction of a new bridge on the basis that the current bridge is unsafe? This amount appears to be halving every year in the budget. Construction costs are rising but the money allocated is reducing. If I were a cynic, I would suggest that this is an attempt to have this liability simply disappear off the books. However, if this bridge is indeed unsafe, it must be replaced or repaired. I intend to get to the bottom of what is going on.

The mining boom is impacting on my constituency, with the ever-increasing amounts of cargo passing through the port causing increased congestion and pollution for my constituents. The export of lead concentrate from Magellan Metals Pty Ltd's Wiluna mine site via the Fremantle port has angered many people in Fremantle, who do not accept that it is safe. While Fremantle residents have been assured by the government that environmental regulation will be tight and conditions will be strict, they have not forgotten the Esperance lead contamination by Magellan in 2006. An audit released in March 2010 has already found problems with Magellan's lead shipments through Fremantle, with four instances of non-compliance detected. Regulatory complacency has already set in. I fear that within the next 10 years of these shipments, something will go seriously wrong either at my port or somewhere along that freight line, which passes through 22 suburbs in Perth. I remain of the view that these exports should be halted and that the lead ought to be smelted if it is to be exported at all.

The ongoing dredging of Fremantle Inner Harbour has also demonstrated how the clamour to cash in on the economic boom can override social and environmental concerns. Despite a great deal of information coming to light recently about the poor state of the Swan River, relatively lax pollution controls were authorised for the dredging operation. While there is additional funding for the Swan River in the budget, no funding is targeted to deal with the specific environmental impacts caused by the dredging. My office has received many, many complaints from people who live along the river and who are very alarmed at the damage and pollution that has been caused to the river systems. I urge the government to allocate specific funding to clean up the waterways damaged by the dredging. The budget also acknowledges that the river is under increasing pressure and that water quality continues to deteriorate. I urge the government to fund and implement the fertiliser action plan. The river is choking with nutrients from fertiliser run-off, and the solution is relatively simple. Controls need to be imposed on the types of fertilisers that are currently used on agricultural land that drains into the river. I have heard the member for Maylands speak about this issue as well. Only slow release fertilisers with minimal impact on river bodies should be used near our waterways.

The Swan River Trust should also be funded to address the issue of non-nutrient contamination of the Swan River. Pesticides and herbicides are being misused near waterways and dangerous chemicals are entering the river. The damage to the river is obvious, and the Swan River dolphins should not have died in vain. It is clear that they were debilitated by high levels of pesticides and industrial chemicals that allowed opportunistic infections to overcome them. The various drains and dumps that feed these poisons into the river have to be intercepted and controlled to prevent further damage. I do not believe anyone in our community would complain if the government committed significant funding to this end.

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Climate change is upon us, yet one would not believe it, sitting where I am. Recent estimates are predicting sea level rises of around two metres by the end of the century. For the climate change sceptics in this place, I suggest a thorough reading of “The Copenhagen Diagnosis 2009: Updating the World on the Latest Climate Science” by Allison et al. If we are to get serious about sustainable levels of carbon emissions, Western Australia must make some real inroads into renewable energy developments. I know that the government has made some inroads with this budget, with the Merredin wind farm being supported and the introduction of the net feed-in tariff costing \$23 million. However, this is just a start, and a whole lot more needs to be done if the government is serious about getting anywhere near its target of 20 per cent renewables by 2020. The international research from countries such as Germany and Spain shows that the only way to generate real investment in renewables is the implementation of a gross feed-in tariff. The gross tariff rewards the householder for every joule of electricity generated. Until we get the gross tariff in this state, we will not see the large-scale uptake needed to transform our energy market. Householders are being hit with rising electricity prices today without any long-term solution being offered to them. Once again, the international research from Spain shows that we need to get serious about investing in renewable energy if we want electricity prices to come down in the long term. I urge the government to support a wind farm at the port of Fremantle. There is a groundswell of support in Fremantle for such a project. Other ports such as Liverpool and Amsterdam have commissioned very successful urban wind farms at their ports. Upgrading our grid and investing in renewable energy projects in Western Australia would be a very wise way to invest our budget surplus.

Another expensive and dirty energy source that the government is currently flirting with is uranium. The government has dealt us into the deadly game of the global nuclear fuel cycle by lifting the ban on uranium mining in Western Australia. Hollow arguments are being advanced as to why we need to sell uranium to the world, and one of the most politically cynical of these is the promotion of the argument that it is a panacea to dangerous climate change. The arguments do not stack up and I challenge members in this place to bring on the debate so that these issues can be properly debated in the house. Only this week there were more reports about leaks and contamination at the Ranger uranium mine in Kakadu. These incidents continue to occur, and the environmental impacts and costs cannot be swept under the carpet. If uranium mining starts up in Western Australia, is the government going to fund contingent liabilities in future budgets for potential contamination? What sort of money would that require?

The government’s controversial stop-and-search powers need to be scrapped before they become a major embarrassment for this state. Where is the funding in the budget for the additional burden that these powers will place on our police force? There is no doubt that these laws will interfere with our right to privacy and our right to be free from arbitrary interference. Without the test of reasonable suspicion, the police run the risk of searching people on a discriminatory basis, which is an erosion of our fundamental right to go about our business without being harassed. Aboriginal adults and youths will be disadvantaged by these laws, and it is disingenuous of the government to say otherwise. If a disproportionate number of Aboriginal people are stopped and searched without justification, it follows that they will face higher rates of incarceration—and they already have the highest rates in the country. The government needs very few reminders that it is very expensive to imprison people. It costs well over \$100 000 a year to house one youth in the juvenile justice system. That is a lot of money that could be put to better use. We could use it for diversion programs or education programs, or we could use it to build safe houses for our kids at risk to get them off the streets. We need a whole new paradigm in dealing with at-risk juveniles. Locking up kids is simply not working, and the statistics support this.

The introduction of the hoon laws has proven to be fantastically expensive due to the impoundment of thousands of vehicles. The state is now more than \$2 million out of pocket due to a growing stockpile of impounded vehicles that remain unclaimed. This scheme has backfired on taxpayers. What a shame that our budget surplus will be frittered away on a dead loss like this. There are far more deserving causes, one of which is the people who were abused while in state care and who are still waiting to receive their Redress WA payments. With the \$286 million surplus in this budget, I would urge a demonstration of compassion by reinstating the Redress scheme from \$45 000 to \$80 000 for those most traumatised survivors of abuse in state care.

To conclude, I would like to challenge the state government to give the environment the same priority funding as royalties for regions. I am talking about doubling the environment funding. The funding allocated in this budget for the environment is around \$400 million, which is about two per cent of the total budget, with approximately half of that earmarked for royalties for regions. If we want the economic benefits of more development, we must be honest about the environmental costs. In the context of a \$22 billion spend, it is not out of the ballpark for the government to double the funding for the environment to \$800 million to bring it in line with royalties for regions. This would be a great investment for the next generation.

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MR M.J. COWPER (Murray–Wellington — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.16 pm]: It is my great pleasure to speak for some time about the effects of the budget on my electorate. Last year I chose not to speak at the corresponding time, notwithstanding the fact that about \$960 million of new projects were announced last year for the Murray–Wellington electorate. This year, in comparison, it is probably closer to \$20 million. I am more pleased this year than I was last year, notwithstanding this disparity in the amount of money spent in my electorate. I will go into the detail of why I am significantly more pleased than I was last year.

There are 59 seats in this place and we are all scrapping over \$22 billion or \$23 billion, which is the budget for any given year. At the end of the day, the government has to make a decision about what is in the best interests of all Western Australians, and one should not be too parochial about one's own area. There were some good projects for my electorate in last year's budget. There was a commitment to some money for the Pinjarra swimming pool, which was very welcome in Pinjarra last year. There was also some money for a new Harvey agriculture school. Those projects are proceeding quite nicely. We should be welcoming the Premier back to Pinjarra later this year for the opening of the new swimming pool—the first of its kind in the fourth-oldest municipality in Western Australia. The downside of last year's budget was the huge investment that was announced for a desalination plant in Binningup. I will speak a little later about that plant and how it evolved to be located at Binningup. It was not welcome by many of my constituents and I think at the time I spoke out rather boldly about my concerns. This year I am pleased to say that we have recognised the number one priority in my electorate. Instead of speaking in this place last year, I chose to write to the Premier detailing the issues that I thought were overlooked in my electorate.

My grandmother, Pearl, used to say to me, “Unless you have something good to say, don't say anything at all.” That was the principle that I applied last year. This year I have the opportunity to say plenty of good things. The Harvey District Hospital has been an area of considerable concern to my electorate for some time. The Harvey hospital is 75 years of age or thereabouts—it is probably a few years older than that now. Harvey is a proud little town in the heart of my electorate, and, of course, it is the centre for much of the produce that is grown and that keeps this great state churning. The downside is that in recent times the beef and dairy industries have struggled because of a number of factors, but mostly pertaining to the situation that has come into play with global economies. Three and a half years ago, the previous government shut the Yarloop District Hospital. It was getting very old and because that hospital was reaching the end of its life, the cost of maintaining that hospital was high, there was a commitment by the previous government, as an offset to that, to supply \$6 million to the Harvey hospital for some refurbishment and to maintain the health services for that district. Unfortunately, that did not happen and last year no funding was allocated for the Harvey hospital. That, in essence, was the key point that I wished to make to the Premier on last year's budget. This year I am very pleased to announce that \$13.9 million will be spent on a total refurbishment of the Harvey hospital, including an emergency centre, inpatient care and ambulatory services; it will also give us some options for how we will deal with aged care in Harvey. My federal colleague, the member for Forrest, Nola Marino, and I will be meeting with representatives of Hocart Lodge Aged Centre and we will be examining the options that will be available for people, particularly those who have grown up and lived in adult life and raised families in Harvey and wish to stay there, so they are not forced out to some other place to get services they justly deserve. This is in recognition of the great services they have provided over many years to generate what is the food bowl of Western Australia.

The very interesting thing that did occur last year, which I must say I did not support at the time, but which has created a lot of activity in the electorate is the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant at Binningup. I want to put on record the sequence of events that caused the desal plant to arrive at Binningup. The previous Labor government decided it would build a desal plant; it built one at Cockburn as members well know and it is operating a couple of days a week. There was some talk of putting a second one in. I know because I was heavily involved in trying to assist the people of Secret Harbour in particular, in the electorate of the member for Warnbro, when it was the seat of Peel held by the former member for Peel. There was talk of putting a desalination plant at Secret Harbour. There was a great deal of disillusionment in Secret Harbour with the previous government over this issue, and given the circumstances that unfolded with the then member for Peel resigning from his position, and when the current member for Peel came on board, the decision to build a desalination plant in that location mysteriously evaporated. What was very interesting, and which I did not know at the time, was that Binningup was very much on the radar. There was some talk about Oakajee and using water from Oakajee. I recall the fateful day when I was driving to this place up the freeway and I received a phone call from a journalist wanting to know what was going to be the announcement from the then Premier about water in the south west. He was talking about the possibility of a desalination plant in Binningup. I remember walking into the corridors of this place and I spotted the Premier, who was obviously walking out to make some sort of announcement. I made the point to him that the people of Binningup would not be pleased with the announcement of a desalination plant. I noticed the absence of the then member for Collie–Wellington; he was

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not trying to assist and defend the wishes of his constituency. It was left to me to later try to pick up the cudgels over the desalination plant.

I want to go into the history of the area around Binningup. That area is owned by the Waller family, and I think they have owned that property for over 30 years. The family owns about 270 hectares of land. A number of years ago they wanted to develop their land. They were told that they could not do it because there was no water supply. Before development was possible, they had put in place a water supply. When the water was located, the infrastructure was put in place and the Water Corporation then took ownership of that water supply facility. Town planning scheme approval was obtained for the total area and the family was encouraged to sell part of a parcel of land of about 270 hectares to the Water Corporation for a water and sewage treatment plant. Later, the Water Corporation decided it would put a buffer zone around the plant, so the family lost a further piece of land—a 400 metre perimeter around that water treatment plant. They gave the Water Corporation, at a very reduced price, a bit more land than the amount it was thought the corporation would need to allow for some expansion in future years. The downside of that was that when the Water Corporation decided it would build a desalination plant, it scoped around to see what land it owned. It owned land that was given to them for virtually nothing, and decided to build a desalination plant there. Within 12 months, the Water Corporation had received planning approval and started construction—without completing all the environmental studies. To this day, I do not believe the corporation has completed all the environmental studies. Meanwhile, my constituent, Mr Waller, and a developer, Mirvac Group, have been trying to proceed with their proposal for the area, which has been identified under the greater Bunbury region scheme as being urban environment for many, many years. The problem is that we have real challenges when it comes to dealing with the Environmental Protection Authority giving approvals and with the approval processes. When the government decided to build a desalination plant, it seemed to be able to get the project up and running on land that the family virtually gave to it. However, when the Wallers detail their wishes for their land, it seems to be tied up in government processes. Recently the Premier came to my office and we had a very good discussion about what was happening in my electorate. He said, “Murray, you have a lot of issues on your whiteboard and you have many things to keep you occupied.” That is true. But let me say that the challenge for the next 12 months will be the capacity of our government departments to identify and streamline the processes that are impeding growth in my electorate. I am talking about the various government departments and bureaucracies that exist in relation to the EPA, the WA Planning Commission and the Department of Water, which seem to be working counterintuitively towards various things. I know a person who has been trying to sell and subdivide land on the peri-urban area of Harvey and it has taken that person 15 years. I know another developer in the Nambelup area who has tried to subdivide some property for industrial land, which the Premier has visited. He has done 15 water studies and now he has been sent away to do more studies. The problem is that these various government departments seem to be working counter to what is going on. My electorate is a rapidly growing area and environmental issues are important. I support sound environmental planning approvals, but not when it becomes a situation in which the developers and landowners despair because unnecessary hurdles are placed in front of them. These government departments need to be franker and say to these people, “This is what you must do if you want to comply and be successful in what you want to do”, or it should tell them they cannot develop that land and let them move on to other things. That in essence is the problem we will face. I would like to speak a lot longer on this issue, member for Mandurah.

Mr D.A. Templeman: I am interested in your views on Point Grey.

Mr M.J. COWPER: That is another issue and we can talk in private about that. That is not as high a priority as many other projects in my electorate.

All in all I am pleased with this year’s budget. It has given us an opportunity to get Harvey hospital, which was my number one priority. That will be of great support to the community. It says to the people of Harvey and surrounds that they are valued members of our great state: “Continue the great work and we will support you with a refurbishment of your hospital.” We look forward to their being very much an integral part of the great growth we are expecting here in Western Australia, if it is not impeded terribly by the decision to put a crazy tax on our resource sector.

MR J.E. McGRATH (South Perth) [12.29 pm]: I am going to make a few comments about what I think is a very responsible budget. I am in a similar boat to that of the member for Murray–Wellington. Last year we were disappointed that things we wanted for our electorate did not eventuate. However, I am very happy to say that this year I was able to get \$250 000 towards the restoration of St Mary’s Church, for which I would like to thank the Minister for Heritage, and the former Treasurer, who did a lot of work with me on that project. It is a heritage-listed building that has concrete cancer. I appreciate what the government has done. An amount of \$185 000 has also been donated towards it from Lotterywest. When former Prime Minister John Howard was in

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office, his government allocated \$250 000 towards it. A sizeable amount of government funding has gone into that project.

Members opposite tried to make a lot of the proposed South Perth train station. It is not the huge issue in my electorate that some people believe it is. The main benefit of a train station in South Perth at this stage would be for the people who use the Zoo. Residents who live in that part of my electorate are well served by buses and the ferry service. They are very close to the city.

Mr M. McGowan: They would be able to walk to the city wouldn't they?

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Sometimes people who had a late night in the city would strip off and swim home, but I do not think that happens any more. Some people walk to the city, but it is a fair walk.

The other project is the Manning Road on-ramp to the Kwinana Freeway. It has not yet made it high enough up the list of priorities to my satisfaction. I have had discussions with the Minister for Transport and I am very confident that the minister and his department, certainly Main Roads people who I have also spoken to, realise that this is an important bit of infrastructure, especially with the construction of Fiona Stanley Hospital. The southern suburbs are very important and a lot of people use Manning Road. A lot of traffic heads that way. I am confident we will be able to get that project up in the next couple of years.

In the brief time I have today I want to talk about the new sports stadium. As members will appreciate, in my previous life I was a sportswriter. I spent a lot of time at Subiaco Oval and covered a lot of major sporting events. In recent times a lot of focus has been on Australia's bid to stage the FIFA World Cup finals in 2018 or 2022. That has refocused attention on the need for Perth to have a major international multipurpose stadium. Recent debate on the issue has centred on the redevelopment of Subiaco Oval or building a new stadium partly on the land adjoining the oval. I have spent a bit of time thinking about this seriously. I do not believe either of those options presents the optimum location for a stadium that will serve the long-term benefits of Western Australia, especially if it is done in conjunction with the needs of Perth hosting matches for the FIFA World Cup.

I think the best site available is Burswood. I go back to a document we will all be very well aware of; namely, the Stephenson report. In the 1950s, Professor Stephenson, who was obviously a man of great vision, said in his report that Perth would need a new stadium in years to come. At about the same time, Victoria was getting ready for the 1956 Olympic Games and rebuilding Melbourne Cricket Ground to the capacity needed to host the track and field events at the Olympic Games. Professor Stephenson said that the stadium Perth would one day need would require 80 000 seats. I think that was a very visionary comment. He also gave the opinion in his report that the best place in Perth for that stadium, given that Subiaco Oval was already in place, would be Burswood. In those days Burswood was basically a tip. There was no casino; there was the old Belmont Park Racecourse and a small road that ran along to the racecourse but did not go any further; and there was no Polly Farmer freeway. Professor Stephenson said that if we wanted a new stadium in years to come, it should be at Burswood. I noted that in more recent times when the Langoulant task force considered where a stadium should be, it looked at a number of sites—Kitchener Park alongside Subiaco Oval; the East Perth power station site, which most people think is a bit small; Burswood; and redeveloping Subiaco Oval itself. The one problem with redeveloping Subiaco Oval is that the construction time will impact on the people who go to a football match. I have made the point many times that without Australian rules football, there would be no international stadium. I do not think the other sports have a big enough following to support one. Any government that builds a new stadium must give serious consideration to the WA Football Commission's existing commercial interest even if a stadium were built at Burswood. I think the Football Commission has a very long lease on Subiaco Oval, but it is government-owned land. The land at Subiaco could be sold and redeveloped, and those proceeds put towards the cost of building a new facility at Burswood.

When this government was elected, the Premier said he would give it two years because other priorities needed to be addressed in tough economic times. He has indicated that there will be some movement on the stadium next year. In the meantime, a decision might be made on whether Australia gets to host the FIFA World Cup finals in 2018 or 2022. When that decision is made to move forward with the stadium, I urge the Premier to look at Burswood. The report that was done by John Langoulant indicated that one of the difficulties with Burswood was that it would require substantial transport upgrades. I am not so sure that would be such a great impediment. However, the task force report said that the Burswood site provides an outstanding opportunity for the development of a landmark stadium with significant opportunity for urban regeneration. It offers the government the ability to develop a highly visible, modern facility that could reflect the aspirations and success of this state. The Burswood site provides the opportunity to develop an expansive sports and events precinct. However, the Langoulant task force acknowledged that the realisation of such a precinct would take a significantly longer time

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to complete compared with another site. Obviously, if we develop a precinct, that will take longer. The task force also found that the development costs at Burswood would be significantly higher owing to the local site conditions. I think that, at this point in our state's history, Subiaco Oval has served our state well for 100 years and maybe now is the time to look forward to the next 100 years, rather than try to patch up Subiaco Oval, which, as I said, will impact on people who go and watch football. West Coast Eagles have more than 40 000 members. If we knock down one of the stands to rebuild the stadium, as happened at the MCG, we will reduce the capacity of the ground significantly. Some members will not be able to watch the football. That will be very difficult for the Eagles to handle. When they rebuilt the MCG in sections, the ground always held 60 000-odd people. Apart from the AFL Grand Final and a couple of major finals or big games, it was adequate for the number of people who went to the ground. It is certainly worth having another look at it. As I said, Burswood's positioning was identified by Professor Stephenson more than 50 years ago. It is on the river; we could use water transport to get to the game; and it could be a landmark on that part of Perth that is an entertainment precinct—Burswood Casino and Belmont Park Racecourse. Maybe the government could talk to Perth racing and see whether some sort of deal could be done on the land it owns, which is privately owned land at Belmont Park.

The golf course at Burswood is controlled by the Burswood Park Board. The operators of the Burswood Casino have indicated that they would be very happy to see a stadium put on that site. They would be happy for half of the existing 18 holes to be used for a stadium, so there would still be nine holes for those people who want to continue to play some golf there. However, the casino would be very keen to see that happen. At a time when we are looking at the new waterfront project in the city and at the Northbridge Link project, there are exciting times ahead for our city. There is talk of a light rail running from Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Nedlands right around through Subiaco, down Hay Street, through Victoria Park and down to Curtin University of Technology. That is very futuristic. Why would we not have a light rail, as has been done in Melbourne, running down Hay Street, down near the Western Australian Cricket Association ground, and going straight over the river to that Burswood precinct? These are all futuristic things that I would like to see our government look at when the state's revenues start to pick up.

All in all, it is a very good budget. I think there is a good future for our community. I am a city member, and my interest is in making sure that Perth becomes a great city. People I speak to who come to Perth from other states and other parts of the world say that we are very fortunate to live in this place. I believe that we can make Perth an even greater place for years to come.

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Mindarie) [12.41 pm]: At the outset of my reply to the budget speech, I indicate that I support two of the comments of the member for South Perth. I used to travel down Kwinana Freeway to Aquinas College to drop off my boy. I know about that Manning slip-road. I think that the member for South Perth raised a very good point about the Manning slip-road, and I would support him in that project, as I do.

The provision in Western Australia of a new stadium is very, very important. I know that the Premier himself puts store in a lasting legacy of public buildings. I believe that creating a proper sports stadium for the generations to come of Perth people would be a very good contribution to the state's assets. It is clear that in a city with an international reputation, as Perth now has, a stadium is not just an add-on extra; it is a vital resource for the promotion of tourism. Over the next few weeks we will see the wonderful stadium that South Africa has built for the FIFA World Cup. It will put to shame anything that we have here in Western Australia. I have seen a vision of the outside of the South African stadium. It is a credit to a country like South Africa, with all the social difficulties, problems and challenges that it has had, that it has still been able to put together a magnificent stadium. It will be a poor reflection on our community if we do not get a new stadium. It would be not just for Australian Football League players. We must have a venue on which to stage these big sporting events, which will attract television coverage and the promotion of our state worldwide. I join the member for South Perth on those two matters that he raised in his reply to the budget speech.

Mr P.B. Watson: He's a good local member.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: He is a good local member in South Perth; there is no doubt about that. Therefore, at the start of my speech, I offer my strong support to those two propositions put forward by the member for South Perth. I regard the matters that he raised about the stadium as very, very worthwhile and very important to Western Australia. We are not in a boom time, but it does not require a boom time. Most of the countries that have built stadiums could not say that they are in the middle of a mining boom. However, we are clearly well funded in Western Australia. We have only to look at, for example, the \$430 million of unallocated royalties for regions money that the government just could not spend in the regions. If people really put their heads down and had the determination to get a stadium happening in the next five or six years, I am sure that a stadium could be

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built and completed by the end of 2017, which would be the end of the term of whoever is in government after the next election. I am sure that over the next five or six years this could happen.

Mr P.B. Watson: Would you have an enclosed stadium?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: It would be ideal to get an enclosed stadium, but I do not know that that is absolutely necessary. We enjoy better weather conditions than does Melbourne, and I am sure that we could satisfy the Western Australian population with an open stadium.

However, I will turn to matters closer to home in the electorate of Mindarie and what is in the budget for the people of Mindarie.

Mr P.T. Miles: You got a lot.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: We have the member for Wanneroo as a resident in Mindarie, and we know why he lives in the electorate of Mindarie; it is because it is the best and newest electorate on the coast.

Mr C.J. Barnett: You should live there yourself.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I went out there to look for a block the other day, Premier, and this goes to the cost of housing out there. I went to look for a block the other day at the new Jindalee development. I said, "I want to swap from ocean block to ocean block." It is \$685 000 for 600 square metres 50 kilometres from Perth. That is quite a lot of money, is it not? Really, it is inexplicable how land that is 50 kilometres north of the central business district can be on the market—it is not just one block—for \$685 000. However, I am told that north of my electorate office, which is in Ocean Keys Boulevard in Clarkson, there are currently 34 000 people and that by 2014 it is estimated that there will be 85 000 people. Heavens; that is three seats in Parliament out there. That is with Alkimos coming on stream and Jindalee—85 000 people.

Mr A.P. Jacob: And St Andrews.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: And St Andrews up in Yanchep. I know that the Premier has taken a drive out there since he became Premier, but I do not think he has done so in the past two months. I invite the Premier to go for another drive up there any time. Even since his last drive up there, he will be amazed. I did not know that there were that many limestone blocks available in Western Australia. But what was rolling sandhills is now limestone terrace after limestone terrace. The rate of development is just mind-boggling. We have a saying in our electorate office: a street a day; a street a day; a street a day. That is about the speed with which the area is opening up. People need a global positioning system out there and they need to download the latest maps as they go around these new suburbs such as Jindalee—and Alkimos is on the market now. I never thought in my lifetime that I would see such speedy development. I have seen quick development before, and I have lived long enough to see the freeway stop at Lake Monger, and then go up to Hutton Street. But the speed with which the development has accelerated in the past five years has been mind-boggling, which brings me to the issue of public transport.

We acknowledge that money is in the budget and in the forward estimates for the 7.5 kilometre extension of the railway from Clarkson to Brighton. I say Brighton, although the budget papers say Butler. I say that for a specific reason. It had been planned, and there was on the books a plan, to build the Butler station in Butler, and then the Brighton station in Brighton. Soon after, the government came to office and said, "Let's just have a pause here and let's have a think about where public transport is going for 20 years", I panicked, as all the local people out there panicked. They said, "If it's going to be another five or six years before we get a decision on the further extension of the Clarkson line, that's unacceptable." We started a public protest. We successfully drew the government's attention to the fact that many of the government's landholdings are north of Clarkson. North of Clarkson, there is a lot of land that can be opened up for first home buyers. A railway line was also needed to transport people to employment areas. I know this was not the Public Transport Authority's decision but somewhere it was decided, "We can do this but we want to keep it within bounds. We want to do it without going overboard with the spend, so we will build it out to Brighton and simply rebrand the Brighton station."

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

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