

McGOWAN GOVERNMENT — PERFORMANCE

Motion

HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan) [10.10 am] — without notice: I move —

That this house expresses its dissatisfaction with the McGowan Labor government for routinely over-promising and underdelivering.

This could almost be a standing motion, could it not, from what we are seeing in this term of government, which hopefully will be a one-off. I know a number of members want to raise issues under this particular motion. They will be canvassing issues of varying scale in a number of areas. I know there will be discussion about matters of dollars and what has been promised but is not being delivered, which comes up to an eight or nine-figure sum. I know that there will be talk about statewide issues that are having a major impact now and on the future of this state. The issue that I want to use to illustrate this particular motion is a more localised issue, but it is a classic example of what we are being served up by ministers in this government and, indeed, by Labor members who support this government, and I am fed up with it! Probably, as an opposition member, I should take some comfort from the fact that the community is getting fed up with this government as well. That should give me some hope, but the fact of the matter is that I care about my community being treated with scorn and being told one thing but not having it delivered. I despair and am very, very disappointed when I see again and again and again constituents whom I represent—I do not care who they voted for; all people in the South Metropolitan Region are important—being led up the garden path.

This motion also gives me the opportunity to revisit with the Minister for Education and Training an issue I raised in the house yesterday. I asked a question without notice in these terms —

I refer to the ongoing issue of the future catchment areas of the Atwell and Hammond Park high schools, which is fundamentally about whether the respective catchments will span the Kwinana Freeway. Has this matter now been settled or has the minister asked the Department of Education to review its position?

The honourable minister replied in this way —

I thank the honourable member for the question.

At my request, a community forum was conducted by the Department of Education for local communities in July, maybe three or four weeks ago. At that meeting, departmental officers explained the setting of local intake areas for the new school, including the difficulties of the border, if you like, of part of the catchment areas effectively being the freeway, and the difficulties of changing that and the impact on potential catchment areas. Whenever the catchment area of one school is changed, there is a flow-on effect for other schools. Therefore, the department's decision stands—that is, to proceed with the catchment areas that were originally designed. The point of the forum was to give people an opportunity to understand why the department had made that decision. I understand that the forum was cordial and successful, and that people appreciated the opportunity to understand the reasoning for the decision. I am sure some people will probably still prefer that the decision was otherwise, but the decision on the catchment areas remains.

I thank the minister for that answer, which displays her awareness of the issue. It was a courteous response and one that can be clearly understood and reflects my knowledge of how government works, so that we do not have any real surprises there, but I was disappointed with a number of aspects of the government's approach to this issue. Let me now outline why. Firstly, the lie of the land is that two high schools are in question. One is the existing high school, Atwell College, which is due to have 1 464 students enrolled this year. Not surprisingly, that school is situated in the suburb of Atwell, just east of the Kwinana Freeway. It is intended that next year the school will service not only Atwell and Banjup, but also to the north east the rapidly developing suburb of Treeby—for which we know there will not be a high school, so it does not impact on the issue I am discussing with the house today—and west of the freeway, well into the Success-Jandakot area. In fact, that catchment area goes into the middle of Thomsons Lake! I am not sure why there is a boundary in the middle of a lake, but I guess we have to draw lines on maps somewhere when we are doing these sorts of things, and that is a theme I will come back to in a moment. Of course, I understand that people listening to the audio cannot see and, indeed, *Hansard* cannot accommodate maps, but, in general terms, the catchment is a large area east and west of the freeway. There are freeway interchanges only at the far northern and southern boundaries of that catchment.

Immediately south of that area is the new Hammond Park Secondary College, which is due to open next year. It will have a capacity of 1 450 students, with year 7s starting next year. That is a good thing. I think a distinguished member for the South Metropolitan Region—I think it might have been Hon Kate Doust, from memory—raised concerns about the future planning for the area with the then Minister for Education, Hon Peter Collier, and asked when we would see a Hammond Park school. The then minister responded that it was in the planning stages and would be coming onstream in 2020. Lo and behold, he was absolutely right; what a farsighted Minister for Education

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was the former minister. The catchment for the Hammond Park school, which is a welcome addition to the public education options available in Western Australia, will be located not only south of the area that I have just been describing that will be serviced by Atwell College in the future, but also on the western side of the freeway. Again, if members were to peruse a map, they would see that it is a far more extensive catchment area for students. I am not surprised about that, given that it is in a developing area. The catchment area goes all the way down to Henderson and to Cockburn Sound, but, importantly, it also goes east of the freeway, taking in localities such as Aubin Grove, Banjup and Wandi. It is a much bigger area than the Atwell College catchment I just referred to.

The school catchments have been something of a local issue. People have been looking forward to, and in some cases agitating for, the new Hammond Park school, and they are all glad to see it is happening, so that is tremendous, but in the meantime the issue has become the catchment areas for these schools. People are asking why on earth we would have the catchment of these two schools running in an east–west direction and crossing the freeway. Why would we not have the catchment area for Atwell on the eastern side of the freeway running in a north–south direction and the catchment area for Hammond Park on the western side of the freeway running in a north–south direction? A lot of reasons for doing that are immediately apparent to members, even if they are not familiar with the area. It is about getting to and from school not only conveniently, but also safely. A freeway reserve complete with a railway is a major obstacle. As I indicated, there is no crossing point along the whole north–south length of the proposed Atwell catchment area. It is not like Stirling Highway, where people can find a place to cross the road between traffic or at any number of local traffic lights. No, people cannot do that in this instance. For the sake of convenience, it is about not only where the buses are going to run for the mass movement of students, but also people riding pushbikes and walking—heaven forbid—to school. I have to tell members that just because somebody might be living a few hundred metres from the school as the crow flies on the other side of the freeway, they have a darned sight further to go if they can negotiate freeway crossings where they do exist. We all know about the problem of mixing traffic of all kinds on freeway interchanges with pedestrians, particularly young people.

I was particularly interested to see that a forum was to be held in the area a few weeks ago, which the minister referred to. It was well advertised, too, in an article headed “Community Forum Announced”, which outlined that it would be held on 11 July at 6.30 pm at the Jandakot Hall. In this pro forma advertisement letter dated 27 June 2019, it states —

Dear Success and Cockburn Residents

The member for Cockburn Fran Logan has arranged a public forum of all stakeholders in relation to the Hammond Park High School accepting Success Residents in their school.

He wanted people in the Cockburn electorate, west of the freeway, to be able to go to this new Hammond Park school and not have to travel over the freeway to Atwell. The letter continues —

Let’s attend this forum on 11 July at 6.30 pm and get a better understanding from the forum participants in regards to High School boundaries.

Forum participants will include Fran Logan, Roger Cook and representatives from the Education Department.

To RSVP or for any queries you may have, please call Member for Cockburn, Fran Logan on—

And it gives his number and email. It continues —

The more parents, family members, and concerned community members attend, the stronger our voice and our chances to affect change in this matter.

See you there!

What a good, active local member.

Jessica Nico wrote a story in the *Cockburn Gazette* headed “Cross words on boundaries”. It states, in part —

THE new Hammond Park high school’s local intake area is still up in the air, with Cockburn councillors voting to advocate for Success’s inclusion within the enrolment boundary.

Heavens! I am not surprised that the Cockburn councillors did that. I know that at least one of them works for Hon Fran Logan and another one works in the ministerial office of Hon Roger Cook, so, of course, they would all be in lock step on this. The article talks about how Success families were left angry and disappointed with the local intake area information and how it did not include their suburb, and instead listed Aubin Grove, Banjup, Hammond Park, Mandogalup, Wandi and Wattleup, which members will remember are out of the area to which I referred. The article goes on to state that some councillors said it was a state government issue and they should not get involved. Others said that they had been lobbying for the school since 2011. It had been an election issue for local government members since at least 2011, and they were pushing for it. What did Fran Logan have to say about this?

Hon Alannah MacTiernan: Is the member saying that this was an election commitment from our government?

Hon SIMON O’BRIEN: No, it was an election issue in local government circles as far back as 2011.

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Hon Alannah MacTiernan: It was not an election commitment of our government.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: I do not know what election commitments might have been made about the Hammond Park school. If there was a commitment, it would probably have been to proceed with building it, and that is happening, but the catchment area is the issue.

An article by Ben Smith in the *Cockburn Gazette* of 2 July states —

THE fallout over the future Hammond Park high school's intake has continued, with Cockburn MLA Fran Logan adding his voice to the chorus of disagreement.

Mr Logan has expressed his disappointment over the school's catchment area and will host a public forum on July 11 on the issue.

We know that because the local member teed it up. He had been speaking to the minister in advance and the minister was responsive, which is good. The article continues —

Local parents were left fuming after Success and Jandakot were left off the intake list, with parents telling the *Cockburn Gazette* they were “disappointed, angered and upset” over the decision.

What was the problem? The article quotes Fran Logan, MLA, as stating —

“The problem with the way the Department of Education has broken the current boundary map up is that it is horizontally across the freeway rather than vertical, in line with the way the suburbs are laid out,” ...

He continues to talk along that theme, which I have already explained to the house. The article continues —

Mr Logan said if the forum failed to sway the Department of Education, he would take matters further.

“If the Department of Education cannot see the logic of this request at the meeting, I will be calling on the Director General of the Department and the Minister to undertake a review of the boundaries as currently proposed,” he said.

As we all know, the community forum went ahead and the departmental representatives gave the departmental line. We have all had these sorts of briefings about these issues over the years. We know that because of the scale of public education and school infrastructure in this state, perforce the education department resorts to formulas and so many things—the number of students to a teacher, the number of students in a class, the number of students in a school, the distances that kids have to travel and all the rest of it. We understand that. We get it. That is what leads to the lines that are ultimately drawn on a map. But we also have to understand that we are in the people business. Elected members in particular are in the people business and they need to keep faith with those people. We have all these promises and undertakings and the backings of various Labor-identifying council people. We also have the backing of the local member, who is a cabinet minister, attending a meeting with his colleague the Deputy Premier. What was the upshot of it all? It is summarised neatly in the issue of the *Cockburn Gazette* that just came out on 18 July. The headline reads “No intake area Success”—that is a play on words with the district Success. The article is again written by Ben Smith and states —

COCKBURN MLA Fran Logan has conceded the fight —

Some fight! —

to alter the future Hammond Park high school's intake areas is over.

Mr Logan hosted a forum to tackle the controversial boundaries last Thursday, with concerned parents, Deputy Premier Roger Cook and Department of Education representatives in attendance.

The article reminds us that local parents were left fuming over this matter and were frustrated and disappointed. The article then states —

... Mr Logan said the forum had allowed people to have queries addressed and an understanding that the boundaries were set up to ensure a balance of students between multiple schools.

“The information presented was far more rational than had been put forward before,” he said.

“Once people realised where the Department of Education are going for their long-term build, the logic of their argument became quite clear.

I am sure that the logic became quite clear to all the parents who had been following this for years and years! It continues —

Part of the Department of Education's vision includes a future high school in Treeby which could one day service Success and Jandakot, but Mr Logan conceded there was no set timeline for it.

All the available literature about the development in Treeby clearly states that there will be no high school. It clearly says that the Department of Education says there will not be a need for a high school in Treeby. In other words, the people at this forum to confront the issue and deal with it were fobbed off. This government has made

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undertakings and given promises of community support, put ads in the papers and sent flyers asking people to send it their details so it can write them letters in the future that will promise all sorts of things. What a damp squib it turned out to be! My question to the government would be: has Hon Fran Logan honoured his commitment to take it up with the Minister for Education and Training? We heard nothing from the minister about that. As far as she is concerned, the issue is closed. That is not good enough. It is a standard case of over-promising and underdelivering.

HON DARREN WEST (Agricultural — Parliamentary Secretary) [10.30 am]: I know that a lot of people want to speak on this motion, so I will be brief. I am surprised that the member could stand and move that motion with a straight face. Seriously!

The PRESIDENT: Member, before you continue, are you speaking on behalf of the government —

Hon DARREN WEST: I am not, Madam President, but I will be brief.

The PRESIDENT: — or are you speaking as a member?

Hon DARREN WEST: I want to make a point contrary to the member's motion for him to learn about—that is, the issue of Geraldton hospital. I have an article from 2013 stating that the Liberals repeatedly promised to upgrade Geraldton hospital. It needed an upgrade after the closure of the emergency department at St John of God Geraldton Hospital because all the services were going through one emergency department. The Liberals promised and promised, but they never allocated a single dollar to the Geraldton hospital to upgrade that important facility. The article from 2013 is titled “‘I’ll fix it’ ... but no money for hospital” and states —

Van Styn reacts after Blayney fails to secure Geraldton's much-needed hospital upgrade.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon DARREN WEST: This motion is a bit like the pot calling the kettle black. Geraldton hospital sat waiting for nearly a decade—eight and a half years of the Liberal government's empty promises.

Hon Martin Aldridge interjected.

Hon DARREN WEST: I can run the member through what happened in Geraldton, if he likes, because he was not around. St John of God hospital had an emergency department when it opened. When it closed, we needed to upgrade the public emergency department. Members opposite knew that, but they did not do it. We have just allocated \$73.3 million. The McGowan government, after committing to the hospital upgrade at the election, is delivering that upgrade in Geraldton.

Hon Jim Chown: When's it going to be done?

Hon DARREN WEST: Work will start very soon.

Hon Martin Aldridge interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! It is really hard for Hansard to do their job when very loud voices are coming in over the top of the speaker who is on his feet. The speaker should direct his comments to me and not be distracted by others in the chamber.

Hon DARREN WEST: In summary, I will say that this motion is quite contrary to reality. We have committed to this hospital and we will deliver this hospital.

Hon Jim Chown: When?

Hon DARREN WEST: We are doing it, member.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Which part of my earlier comments did you not hear clearly? That also goes for the speaker.

Hon DARREN WEST: The point I am trying to make is that we promised this hospital and we are delivering on that promise. That is in clear contrast with the Barnett Liberal–National government, which promised to upgrade this hospital and failed to deliver on it. We had to start planning, scoping and costing from scratch. Members opposite did not even do that in government. Not only was no funding allocated, there was no planning, scoping or costing—nothing. We had to start this from scratch. We will build this hospital and use local contractors wherever we can. We will deliver the hospital for Geraldton that we promised.

HON PETER COLLIER (North Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition) [10.34 am]: I most definitely will be supporting this motion, after the rubbish that we have just heard from Hon Darren West. It is very pertinent to talk about health, and that is what I will talk about. I am a proud member of the North Metropolitan Region and I have to say that I am very disappointed with what this government has delivered there. Members opposite do not mind moving ridiculous motions of self-adulation for what they have achieved, which, I have to say, the house disagreed

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with and defeated. It is about time they looked at the local level. That is what I will be doing. The only thing that this government has been successful at doing is cutting ribbons on our projects—not least in the North Metropolitan Region, where the mighty West Perth Falcons reside. That team has a wonderful new clubroom because of the previous government. It shows the juvenile nature of this government. I was intimately involved in getting funding for the project, which was opened five minutes after we lost government, but the new government did not even have the common decency to invite me to that opening. Even as the local member and a proud vice patron of that club, I did not get an invitation. You guys had absolutely nothing to do with that project, but you did not mind going up and cutting those ribbons. It was an absolute disgrace and a testament to the culture in the government.

What bothers me is the Joondalup Health Campus. The manner in which the government has dealt with it is deceitful at best. On a number of occasions over recent months I have heard the Premier himself say that the government has \$160 million in the budget for the Joondalup Health Campus. Let us test the resolve of those comments. On 4 February 2017, the now Premier said that a McGowan Labor government would invest \$167 million to expand the Joondalup Health Campus. He said that a medihotel and urgent care clinic would be delivered for the northern suburbs, as well as 90 additional public beds, up to 30 new mental health beds and eight new operating theatres. It is one of those campaign glossies and goes right through the points. The upgrade was desperately needed in Joondalup. It is a magnificent facility, but with the growth in the northern suburbs, an upgrade is desperately needed. We need new public beds, mental health facilities and an emergency department up there. I grant that the incoming Premier committed to it. True to his word, on 24 June 2017, a media statement said that Premier McGowan had signed a statement of intent with Ramsay Health Care. It states —

Healthcare in the northern suburbs will be given a major boost with the McGowan Labor Government's expansion of Joondalup Health Campus.

The McGowan Government and Ramsay Health Care today co-signed a Statement of Intent to deliver the expansion, with work to get under way to further develop the plan.

That was a further commitment. Then there was the usual tripe on Facebook and the rest of it. The government loves that sort of stuff going out. There was a picture of the Premier with the members for Wanneroo, Joondalup and Kingsley all spruiking that the government will commit \$167 million to Joondalup Health Campus. It states —

We've signed a Statement of Intent at Joondalup Health Campus to get our \$167 million expansion plan underway.

It goes on with all the usual tripe. It cannot be said in any sense that the McGowan Labor government has not made a commitment. The commitment is there. On 6 March 2018, the Premier reaffirmed it. Leading up to the federal election, Bill Shorten mirrored that commitment, which would take it up to over \$300 million—around \$160 million each. An article states —

Mr McGowan said the commitment from Federal Labor would “build on” the State Government's pledge to spend \$167 million expanding and upgrading the health campus.

That is great! The health campus would get \$300 million. It would get \$167 million from the state Labor government and \$160 million from the federal Labor government. Next, the then Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, said that he would commit \$158 million, and he put it straight into that year's budget. The media release states —

The Turnbull Government has agreed to allocate the federal WA GST top-up payment this year of \$188.9 million towards the following WA hospital infrastructure projects:

- \$158 million towards the Joondalup Health Campus expansion which will include 90 new public beds, 75 new mental health beds ...

It basically replicated the Labor Party commitment. The then Prime Minister not only promised it but also put it in the budget. Let me make this clear, guys—the federal money was allocated and given to the state government. It is federal money!

The other day, Mr McGowan was questioned on radio 6PR about whether the state government was going to make those extensions to Joondalup Health Campus. He said, “Yes, we've got \$160 million in the budget.” What he did not say was that he does not have \$160 million in the budget. That is federal money; it is federal funding. After two and a half years in government, not one cent of state money is in the budget for this project.

Let us test it, shall we? Let us look at the 2019–20 budget. It states —

The Joondalup Health Campus Development Stage 2 Project announced as part of the 2018–19 Budget is progressing, to deliver additional inpatient, emergency department and mental health beds. A total of \$161 million is now provisioned for this project, which is expected to be delivered by 2024–25. The development of a Project Definition Plan is underway, which will result in further refinement of the cost and scope of this project.

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It refers us to the 2018–19 budget. I went to the 2018–19 budget to see where this extra \$160 million is, and it states —

Recognising the growing demand for health services in the Joondalup–Wanneroo catchment area, the Government is committed to engaging and working together with Ramsay Health Care to expand services at Joondalup Health Campus ... The JHC is the largest health care facility in Perth's northern suburbs, providing 24-hour acute care from an integrated public and private campus. A total of \$158 million of Commonwealth funding for this project has been provisioned.

It goes on. It is commonwealth funding. I make this perfectly clear: it is commonwealth funding.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan: Yes, it is the GST top-up.

Hon PETER COLLIER: No, the minister will get a turn in a minute; I am not listening to her.

The Premier was spruiking the \$160 million in the budget for this health campus, which is federal funds, not state funds. We have not seen one cent of state funding for this health campus. There is enormous pressure on Joondalup Health Campus at the moment. It desperately needs public beds to take the pressure off the private health system. Joondalup Health Campus desperately needs mental health care facilities and an emergency section. This government has promised that. It did not mind going out on Facebook or standing side by side with Bill Shorten—mind you, he is yesterday's man now, and the Premier abandoned him 24 hours after the election—but it has not given one cent. A few people will be disappointed with this, including local members. Let us look at what Jessica Stojkovski, the member for Kingsley, said. After the state election, she said —

The McGowan Labor Government has committed \$167 million to upgrade and expand the Joondalup Health Campus to meet the healthcare needs of those living in the northern suburbs.

However we need the Federal Government to invest in this important piece of health infrastructure.

I say to the member for Kingsley that she has got it; it is in the government's budget. Interestingly enough, there is a pretty much identical statement by Emily Hamilton. It is like a petition asking people for comments to get the federal government to cough up money. It states —

The McGowan Labor Government has committed to the upgrade and expansion of the Joondalup Health Campus to ensure the health care needs of local residents in the northern suburbs are met.

As the member for Joondalup, I know access to quality health care close to home is important to local residents.

I am calling on the Federal Government to invest in this significant health infrastructure in Joondalup, and commit to financial support for the upgrade and expansion of the Joondalup Health Campus.

I say to the members for Kingsley and Joondalup that it is not the federal government they need to be putting pressure on. I know preselection season is coming up, but they need to have the courage of their convictions and say to their Treasurer and Premier that the federal government has given the money, so how about we see them opening up the till and giving us the money that the Labor Party committed to going into the last election. Emily Hamilton will be disappointed. She made a grievance in August 2017 asking for the money yet again. The Minister for Health said —

The Department of Health has commenced the process of implementing that election commitment. As the member for Joondalup noted, we have recently signed a statement of intent with the operator of Joondalup Health Campus so that we can get on with the task of redeveloping that hospital as a matter of priority.

In addition to that, Dr Anne Aly, the federal member for Cowan, has put pressure on the federal government. When she is not singing *Que Sera Sera*, she is looking for commitments for her electorate that were promised by the state Labor government, and it has ignored that. The state Labor government promises a lot. It has done a lot of opening of projects that have all been ours. It needs to come good, particularly with Joondalup Health Campus, and put its money where its mouth is.

HON JIM CHOWN (Agricultural) [10.44 am]: The last Labor government, the Gallop government in conjunction with the Carpenter government, made promises every election year to build a new hospital in Albany and it never came to fruition; it was just words. It actually put the figures together. I certainly hope Hon Darren West's statement today comes to fruition on behalf of that community and that it is not just another Labor promise that will be broken.

Regarding the previous government's initiatives for regional Western Australia, two great initiatives that, from my perspective, counted for the communities I represent here today were the Southern Inland Health Initiative and the Mobile Black Spot Program. Before the blackspot program was put in place, communications in those communities were mandatory landline phone connections or two-ways, which have a limited area. On 6 December 2010, the Barnett government put \$40 million towards eliminating phone blackspots and \$80 million to improving

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communications for police and emergency services. That program was rolled out over the entire term of the previous government and was very successfully done in conjunction with communities and Telstra, which came onboard. In fact, the program was so successful—this was all state money, this had nothing to do with commonwealth moneys at all—that at about stage 3 and 4, the commonwealth saw the program's success in bringing communications to regional Western Australia and it came onboard as well. The South Australian government also picked it up. It was an excellent program.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan: What is the program, member?

Hon JIM CHOWN: The mobile tower blackspot program. It has had a number of names, minister.

On 20 February, another media statement was released, as governments do, that outlined \$45 million for the regional telecommunications project. It morphed from the mobile tower blackspot program to the regional telecommunications project, and it was to address 85 mobile towers over four years on 22 initial sites. A number of new mobile towers were put up and a number of mobile towers in existence were given infrastructure to boost their capacity. Of course, this was done in conjunction with emergency services, which was also direly needed in the regions. On 25 June 2015, a further \$118 million of joint funding from the state and the commonwealth, at the last stage of this program under the previous government, was provided to enhance the project, and another 130 new or upgraded towers were put in place across regional Western Australia. That was an increase from the 85 planned. Funding for the 85 towers originally planned was to come from the state government, so when the commonwealth came on board, the joint funding allowed the government of the day to expand the program to 130 towers. In total, 150 to 200 mobile towers in regional Western Australia have been addressed or built to improve communications for communities. It is encouraging to see. Let us look at the figures. There was \$118 million jointly. There was \$45 million from the previous state government, and there was initially another \$120 million. We are talking about many hundreds of millions of dollars. Regardless of that, I am very happy to see that this state government, under the Minister for Regional Development, Hon Alannah MacTiernan, has continued this program under a different name, which does not matter—it is only a name.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan: No, it is the same; I do not think it is a different name.

Hon JIM CHOWN: Are you not calling it the digital farms —

Hon Alannah MacTiernan: That is a different program. I will explain it.

Hon JIM CHOWN: That is fine. I have some concerns, and I hope the minister is listening very carefully.

There was an announcement about broadband, but we cannot have broadband without a mobile tower, certainly in regional Western Australia. That announcement was made on 8 August 2018, which is exactly 12 months ago, by Minister MacTiernan and the Premier in regard to the scheme being extended to service over 1 100 farms across 37 000 square kilometres. The scheme will extend service to more than 37 000 square kilometres in the north midlands, the great southern, and the districts of Chapman Valley, Mt Barker, Wickopin and Goodlands. My concern is about the Goodlands tower, and I declare that I have a vested interest. My daughter lives there with her partner and farms at Goodlands, and that community as such has had no communications from a mobile perspective for many, many years. They have been trying to get something done. They were very happy about the announcement that a mobile phone tower would be built to allow them to hook into modern telecommunications, including digitised broadband. The only landline to my daughter's property—she has a young family and she is not the only one who experiences this—is broken. She has no way of communicating; if there is a thunderstorm, flooding or cattle on the road, the landline is broken and she cannot make contact. If somebody on her property is hurt, they can go for weeks without communication. They have to drive into town to tell Telstra that their landline is broken and eventually someone turns up to fix it. The solution to this problem is a mobile phone tower. Such is the importance of a mobile tower in Goodlands that Telstra is prepared to put \$380 000 towards it, the Shire of Dalwallinu has pledged \$100 000 towards it and the Goodlands community has pledged \$20 000, which totals half a million dollars. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development is prepared to put up \$260 000, just over half of that. Construction of the tower was meant to commence in March this year, but that has not happened, and it is my understanding that it has not happened because the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, for some reason, has its foot on the kink in the hose. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development needs to get its act together. We know that the department has certain personnel challenges that need to be addressed, but that is affecting the rollout of critical infrastructure in my electorate, such as I have expressed today about the Goodlands mobile phone tower. I understand that there was a verbal commitment that something would happen in March this year, yet six months later there has been nothing. The local community and Telstra are prepared to put forward \$500 000 for an outcome.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan: It's a scheme we developed. This is unbelievable!

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Hon JIM CHOWN: Is the minister listening or not? I will sit down in a minute and she will get a chance to respond. I hope it is a positive response, not a negative one.

This is a matter of great concern. The previous Liberal government rolled out more than 200 communication towers on budget and on time throughout regional Western Australia. There has been a lack of communication about this phone tower and no commitment from the department. I look forward to the minister's response. I hope that an announcement is made very shortly about the tower going ahead to service the community of Goodlands and surrounding areas.

HON ALANNAH MacTIERNAN (North Metropolitan — Minister for Regional Development) [10.52 am]: I was going to give the Nationals WA members an opportunity to have a say, but they appear to not want to. This morning's contribution was particularly unimpressive. As I have said, I understand the role of oppositions and that oppositions need to do these things but, really, the quality of the issues presented today was not particularly compelling. That is not to say that there are not issues. We always look forward to members putting forward issues and giving us an opportunity to address them, but in this particular case, the framing of the motion with the words "over-promising" and "underdelivering" is just truly and utterly extraordinary. Not even the shortest basis of a case has been made today.

The motion was moved by Hon Simon O'Brien, who chose to frame it with the words "over-promising and underdelivering". I will look at Hon Simon O'Brien's time as transport minister even though there is not terribly much content. I want to raise an issue because it is still pertinent today—namely, the complete inability of the opposition to develop a coherent position. When Hon Simon O'Brien was the incoming transport minister, he promised that Fremantle would effectively be phased out as a working port, with almost all freight activity shifted to Kwinana. That was his promise but opposition members are still debating this issue. The planning that had been going on for 50 years, to which Hon Simon O'Brien committed, is now a matter of great uncertainty in the opposition ranks. I was also incredibly interested to learn that Hon Simon O'Brien confirmed that the \$850 million rail link to Ellenbrook would be delivered in the first term of the Liberal government. It was not delivered in the first term of the Liberal government.

Hon Jim Chown: What on earth are you quoting from?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: I am quoting from an article in *The West Australian* that appeared when Hon Simon O'Brien was the Minister for Transport. Hon Simon O'Brien confirmed that the —

... rail link to Ellenbrook would not be derailed by the Nationals' demands that more money be spent in the regions.

"It's a commitment we gave to commence the project in the first term of government and we will honour that," ...

We know that that did not happen. The commitment was made again before the Liberal government commenced its second term of office and, again, it was not honoured. Now that we have, under a very capable minister, started that planning process and mapped out how the project can be delivered, the opposition is jumping up and down and complaining about it. It is extraordinary—absolutely extraordinary!

Hon Michael Mischin: What does that have to do with your conduct?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: It goes to the question of the credibility of your side to talk about commitments and meeting those commitments.

Hon Michael Mischin interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order, member! You may have been absent when I mentioned that Hansard have trouble hearing when people yell over each other. There is no need for that.

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: I am talking about the things that we committed to at the last election and the absolutely fantastic and focused work that we have done to develop those things.

I feel a bit embarrassed for Hon Simon O'Brien because he obviously wanted to raise the issue of Hammond Park, Atwell College and the boundaries. It is clearly a vexed issue. But it is absolutely not an issue of overcommitting and underdelivering. We did not make an explicit election commitment about the establishment of the new school but, as Hon Simon O'Brien quite rightly outlined, it was in process and we continued with it because of a demonstrated need. I understand, as do the local members, the Minister for Education and Training and, indeed, Madam President, who has had an interest in this issue over time, that it is a very difficult issue. We understand that there is a certain logic about the division of the boundaries on either side of the freeway. But it is also really important to sustain a sufficient number of students at Atwell College and it is possible to offer the full range of subjects and academic opportunities that are currently being offered. It is a vexed issue. There is no clear and simple answer. Many factors are involved. It is my understanding that the issue has been given extensive consideration. We would all like the issue to be easily

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resolved. But the Minister for Education and Training, working with the local members, is very clear that the importance of maintaining the integrity of the offering at Atwell is very important. We understand that there will be some concern about this within the community, but we have to look at the greater good in this regard. We also point out that for certain flexibilities schools are allowed to take students from outside the boundaries if they have the capability to do that, and hopefully we will be able to resolve some of the problems that way.

I want to get on to Hon Peter Collier's completely mindless contribution. First of all, he was concerned about cutting ribbons, and I agree. Perhaps we did not always get that right. I think it is really important to remember that there have been times when we have done the right thing with ribbon cutting. Certainly, former Premier Colin Barnett was given a very prominent position at the opening of Perth Stadium. Everyone recognised his contribution and that of the former government to that. Personally, when I was opening the Busselton foreshore, I invited former member Troy Buswell to open the plaque with me because I wanted to acknowledge that it was work that had been developed under his stewardship.

Now we get to this important issue of the Joondalup Health Campus. Let us be very clear what our commitment in the run-up to the election was. Our commitment was that we would invest \$167 million in the Joondalup Health Campus. That was it. We outlined the various elements that we were going to be delivering as part of that. We are very proud of the fact that we have been able to negotiate very hard with the federal government to get it to put money into our budget. We think that is really important. We think we are actually entitled to that money. We do not see that we should just be collecting the crumbs. We have gone out there. Our incredible victory, and indeed the scale of our victory, has caused the federal government, and probably the federal opposition, to give increased focus to Western Australia. It is the fact that we were able to win so many seats and show that Western Australia is a politically engaged community that was the background that led the federal government to want to put money into projects in Western Australia. As the member has acknowledged, the money, the GST top-up contribution or whatever they call it, was given to the state government to put in our budget, and we did that. We took the \$161 million that the federal government gave us and put it in the budget, and we are using that money to get on and deliver our election commitments. It is our money. It is Western Australia's money. It has been given to us. We do not go and spend twice as much —

Hon Peter Collier: You don't understand. It is a different pool. You contributed \$160 million and the feds contributed \$160 million. It is not the same pool. Don't you understand that?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: We are saying that our commitment was \$161 million.

Hon Peter Collier: No, the state's is \$160 million and the feds is. It is a \$300 million project. You don't know what you are talking about.

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: I am saying that we have got that money in the budget. We have said we have got that in the budget, we have got it in the budget and we are working through it. These projects are rolled out over a number of years. We have got the money that we need over the forward estimates in the budget. There will be more money coming into the project. This project is proceeding on track as we have outlined. This budget, this project —

Hon Peter Collier: You're completely wrong.

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: I am not completely wrong. I am sorry, I am not completely wrong. The \$160 million is in the budget. It is in the budget and we are rolling our project out.

Hon Jim Chown has got himself a little bit confused.

Hon Peter Collier: Embarrassing!

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: It is not embarrassing. We are delivering this project. We will have all of those elements of the Joondalup Health Campus delivered in a timely way.

Hon Peter Collier: You're embarrassing. You stuffed up!

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: I know your style.

Hon Peter Collier interjected.

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: Member, this is what you do, and you do it particularly to women, because you are —

Several members interjected.

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: You do, you do. You sit there, and your phrase that you love using —

Hon Peter Collier: Here we go, here we go. You are embarrassing.

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: I am going to go there, because you are part of a dysfunctional culture within the Liberal Party. I am sorry, you are.

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Hon Peter Collier: You are embarrassing.

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: I am not embarrassed. You say that all the time; you use that, because you are ashamed of yourself.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon Dr Steve Thomas): Order, members! Minister, take your seat, please. Honourable members, I know that the President is very gracious and tolerant, but as you have probably learnt by now, I am not. I know we are coming to the end of this contribution. I ask all members to listen to the minister in silence and I ask the minister to make sure that she is not encouraging interjections from any side of Parliament. We will proceed in relative silence. The minister has the call.

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: I want to reflect on the Leader of the Opposition's frequent refrain about embarrassment, because I think there is a deep psychological issue here for the member.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Minister, before you continue, in order to proceed with debate, can I suggest that we deal with the motion before the house rather than psychological analysis. You will be protected by the Chair from interjection from the other side if we proceed along those orders.

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: Thank you very much, Mr Acting President. I am certainly not embarrassed. The Leader of the Opposition loves to say "You're an embarrassment, You're an embarrassment." As I say, perhaps he is embarrassed about himself and he projects his embarrassment onto others. You are not going to destabilise us with that particular nonsense. You can go on living in your little bubble completely disconnected from your community, completely disconnected from your electorate and come in here and think that you are going to be able to throw insults at us.

But I am making the point that we have been in government for two years. We are making good progress on these health developments. I did not have notice of the issue that Hon Jim Chown wanted to raise. I point out to him that there are two very separate programs. The Mobile Black Spot Program, which we have continued to fund, is quite separate to the digital farm project. We developed the digital farm project when we came into government. It has been a massively successful program. We turned on a tower at Eneabba the other day. The farming communities over there are getting incredible speeds up to 250 megabits down, which is really quite extraordinary. This project is going to be rolled out. I am happy to take information on Goodlands. I think this has been a massively successful project and I completely reject the idea that the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development—it has been us who have developed and driven the program—is in any way putting its foot on the hose in the project that affects the property of Hon Jim Chown's daughter, but I am more than happy to get information. I am really proud of our government. We are delivering. We have delivered on our fundamental commitment to repair that budget. I think it has been widely appreciated across the Western Australian community. We have made big commitments in relation to road, rail and hospitals, and we are getting on with the due diligence to develop those.

Tabling of Paper

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: I asked the minister to identify the document she was quoting from. It is a newspaper thing attributing comments to me. I ask that the document be tabled so I can peruse it.

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: I am happy to table an article called "Fremantle faces shift of freight to Kwinana".
[See paper 2910.]

Debate Resumed

HON NICK GOIRAN (South Metropolitan) [11.08 am]: I rise to support the motion moved by my colleague Hon Simon O'Brien. Like him and other members of the opposition, I express my dissatisfaction with the McGowan Labor government for routinely over-promising and underdelivering. I regret that I am time-bound this morning, so I will limit my remarks to one example that I think will interest members opposite. Members opposite will know that the issue of elder abuse is very significant in our community. We have an elder abuse problem in Western Australia. We know that members from both sides of the chamber agree that this is an important issue because in 2017, collectively and on a bipartisan basis, we formed the Select Committee into Elder Abuse, and members gave me the privilege of chairing that committee. During the course of that inquiry, the committee looked into the commitments made by this government—in other words, the promises that had been made by this government on elder abuse. I quote from page 87 of the unanimous report of the Select Committee into Elder Abuse that was tabled in September last year —

Statutory review of the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1990*

- 7.61 In November 2015, the former Department of the Attorney General finalised its review of the GAA, as a result of the requirement in section 14 of the Act to undertake regular statutory reviews of its operation and effectiveness. The statutory review made 86 recommendations, covering the entire operation of the GAA.

- 7.62 As highlighted throughout this chapter thus far, many recommendations in the statutory review directly relate to elder abuse and would significantly increase the safeguards in place for older people with enduring documents in place. Some examples include recommendations related to revocations of EPA or EPG, increasing penalties for not complying with the GAA, SAT's jurisdiction in relation to EPA or EPG orders and witnessing requirements. The Committee has extracted the main recommendations that it considers are most significant with regard to elder abuse and has reproduced them at Appendix 6.
- 7.63 Given the length of time since the review was completed and the relevance of some recommendations to elder abuse, the Committee wrote to the Attorney General in April 2018 to query the status of the recommendations. The Attorney General advised that the Government supports 77 of the 86 recommendations contained in the statutory review, with nine recommendations not supported.
- 7.64 The Attorney General also advised that a bill to amend the GAA was approved by Cabinet in December 2017 and that 'it is anticipated that the Amendment Bill will be introduced in the Spring session [of Parliament]'.

That was last year, and we are now in the spring session of Parliament in 2019. This government and this Attorney General promised to a parliamentary committee in April last year that he would bring a bill into the Parliament in the spring session of last year, and we are now in the spring session of this year, and it is nowhere to be seen. Recommendation 24 of the committee states —

The Government introduce a bill to amend the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1990* to implement the recommendations contained in the 2015 statutory review of the act as a matter of urgency.

That was in September 2018. The McGowan government—spin doctors of the first order—immediately produced a media release attributing these comments to the Attorney General, John Quigley —

“The McGowan Government is committed to amending the Guardianship and Administration Act 1990 to implement the recommendations of a 2015 Statutory Review which will provide consistency over provisions for guardianship and administration, enduring powers of attorney and enduring powers of guardianship.

“These are important reforms to strengthen safeguards for adults with a decision-making disability and improve the overall operation of the Act ...

“Drafting has commenced and it is anticipated that the Bill will be introduced into Parliament in the first half of 2019.

These are more Labor lies. The Attorney General told a parliamentary committee in April last year that he would introduce the bill in the spring session. The committee then recommended that it should be introduced as a matter of urgency, and he produced a media release stating that he will do it in the first half of 2019. We have now passed the first half of 2019. We have had two examples of Labor lies on this issue of elder abuse. To add salt to the wound, and to demonstrate the accuracy of Hon Simon O'Brien's motion about this government routinely over-promising and underdelivering—I have already given two examples, from April and September last year—here is a third example, from November last year. On 13 November 2018, the government released its response to the final report of the Select Committee into Elder Abuse, “‘I Never Thought It Would Happen To Me’: When Trust is Broken”. It is a 12-page response from the government, and page 10 reads —

Recommendation 24

The Government introduce a bill to amend the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1990* to implement the recommendations contained in the 2015 statutory review of the act as a matter of urgency.

The response from the government is —

Accept. As per the McGowan Government election commitment, the Government has committed to expedite the enactment of amendments set out in the recommendations of the Statutory Review. It is anticipated the Amendment Bill will be introduced in the first half of 2019.

That was a response from the government, tabled in this place, and it is more Labor lies. It is the third example of Labor lies from this McGowan government. Hon Simon O'Brien is 100 per cent correct in stating that this government routinely over-promises and underdelivers. In April last year, the Attorney General said that he would introduce this very important piece of legislation to address elder abuse in last year's spring session. That is lie number 1. Then, in September, he said that he would introduce it in the first half of 2019. That is lie number 2. Then in November last year, the government said it would expedite it and introduce it in the first half of 2019. That is lie number 3. Three times this government has committed to something, and it has underdelivered. The minister who responded on behalf of the government says that she is not embarrassed. She should be embarrassed about this—three Labor lies.

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The piece of legislation that this government has decided to expedite does not address elder abuse. Instead, the government has decided to expedite a piece of legislation to make sure that every Western Australian has access to lethal injections. It has been the decision of this government to expedite that piece of legislation ahead of a piece of legislation that it has promised three times. There have been three lies from this government—in April, September and November last year. Three times it has over-promised and underdelivered. Where is this piece of legislation? The minister and her colleagues have said that it was already being drafted. Where is it now? Why is there not a further update to Parliament? Why has an apology not been provided by this government, this minister and the Attorney General? Why have they not apologised for lying to Parliament and lying to the parliamentary committee? Why have they not apologised for misleading the media with the media statement? Why have they not apologised for the government response to the final report on elder abuse? Elder abuse is a serious issue. This chamber decided that it was important enough to establish a Select Committee into Elder Abuse. That committee made a recommendation that this be addressed as a matter of urgency. The government said that it accepted that recommendation, yet its own performance demonstrates that it is not serious on the issue of elder abuse. It has not expedited those amendments—in fact, it has been caught out three times lying to Parliament. We in the Western Australian community are sick and tired of these Labor lies. They have to stop, and I fully support the motion moved by Hon Simon O'Brien.

HON MICHAEL MISCHIN (North Metropolitan — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [11.19 am]: I support the motion moved by Hon Simon O'Brien. A number of issues have been raised about which there have been over-promises on specific areas. The one that Hon Nick Goiran raised is of particular gravity given the importance of the issue at stake, elder abuse, and the consistent over-promising and underdelivering in that area. I will touch on a few in a moment. Before I begin, I will reflect a little on the way the government responds to those criticisms of its performance. Inevitably, the government will get one of its lapdogs to get up and say, "Ignore what we are doing as a government. Ignore the McGowan government's deficiencies and failures to deliver. Ignore that and let's look back at the last government."

Hon Alannah MacTiernan interjected.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Talk to the hand, minister!

Several members interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon Dr Steve Thomas): Take your seat for a minute, member. Members, once again we are becoming somewhat unruly. The minister earned some protection from the Chair. Hon Michael Mischin will get the same. If you want to stand up and make a contribution after him, I encourage you to do so. However, the level of interjection has again exceeded my tolerance.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Thank you. The McGowan government gets up and responds: "Don't look at us! Don't look at our failures. Don't look at our inability to deliver. Don't look at what we are doing as a McGowan government. Let's look back at what was a failing of the previous government." That is the way members opposite constantly go on.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan interjected.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Mr Acting President, please, I have limited time and this minister has had her chance to be an apologist for her government. Her contribution was to go back in order to attack the previous government and not look at her own record.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan: I addressed every issue you raised.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Please! I seek your protection, Mr Acting President, against the barking going on from the other side of the chamber that is interrupting my train of thought.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Order, members!

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: The way it is dealt with, apart from avoiding responsibility and citing one or two examples from the past as a justification for their incompetence, is that the victim card is then played. "Don't pick on me," says the minister. "You're picking on me because I'm a woman." It is pathetic. Let me cite a couple of examples of over-promising and underdelivering.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Order! Members, I think we have had enough now of that level of interjection. Hon Michael Mischin, I give you the call. I suggest that you perhaps tone it down a little and it might not encourage such a level of interjection. I think we have reached saturation point.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Absolutely. Thank you, Mr Acting President.

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I have made the point about the way this government absolves itself of any responsibility and says, “Do not look at us; look at the previous government. They failed on X; therefore, don’t bother to criticise us.” I will give a few examples from the portfolio in which I have an interest. The first relates to the Coroner’s Court. Legislation was introduced. Two years ago the Attorney General sat in front of a CT scanner saying how he was going to fix the problem of invasive autopsies. Two years later it finally comes to fruition with some money in the budget. The headlines are great. Repeated headlines are great; actually delivering is another problem.

The Dangerous Sexual Offenders Legislation Amendment Bill was introduced at the beginning of the government’s term. In opposition, the now Attorney General complained that no dangerous sex offender should be released if there was a risk. The Premier’s policy statement states that if sex offenders are deemed to be at risk of reoffending, they should not be released. What happened? We had the example of a guy named Latimer recently. The Attorney General’s feeble response when asked whether he had confidence that he would abide by his orders and not reoffend was, “Well, if he abides by his orders, I am confident that he won’t.” Thank you very much: if he does not break the law, he will not break the law. That is the level of responsibility of this Attorney General. He has made various promises on conditions that ought to be imposed on dangerous sex offenders, such as if they breach any of their orders, any of the conditions, they go straight to jail pending a hearing. What did he do in this legislation? He toned that down. “Substantial compliance with the standard conditions” was the best he could do. Once again, he is over-promising and underdelivering.

There is a presumption now against bail, but it is not what the Attorney General said ought to be done and that he promised to do, which is that no bail would be allowed in those cases. Once again, he is over-promising and underdelivering. The Premier, when he was in opposition before the last election, said that he would agree to introduce laws—mandatory minimum sentences of imprisonment for drug traffickers. Immediately after the election he abandoned that, without an explanation—over-promising and underdelivering. I am anxious to hear an explanation for those, but they are blatant cases of either lies at the time in the desperation to get into government, or a decision to abandon things that they did not really mean in the first place and mislead the public. That is endemic with this government. Recently we had another example of this with the Joondalup Health Campus. That is a \$300 million project and this government puts it in the budget and says, “Hey, we’re paying for this.” However, it is actually commonwealth money. The state government has not stumped up a cent of its own money. It is constantly asking the commonwealth to bail it out of its problems and to hand over responsibility. If Hon Alannah MacTiernan seriously thinks that that is the answer—that it will pay for it over time in the future—what is the project parameter now? Is it fitting a \$161 million budget or a \$300 million budget? I look forward to her answering questions about that, given that she said that this commitment would be met. Let us see it.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan: I said our election commitment would be met. We promised \$161 million and we met that.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: No, the government did not. I will leave Hon Simon O’Brien to address the other issues. I think that is enough to show that this government is incompetent, dishonest and sneaky, like its Premier.

HON SIMON O’BRIEN (South Metropolitan) [11.26 am] — in reply: I know a lot of members, including Hon Martin Aldridge and Hon Michael Mischin, had a lot more material that they wanted to bring to our attention, so I thank them for their courtesy in allowing me a brief reply. It sometimes happens that these debates go off on a bit of a tangent. That is certainly what has happened today, particularly on the government’s part. That is okay from my point of view, because it proved my point, which is that this government says that it will do all sorts of things that it thinks the public wants to hear, regardless of its capacity, its intention or its level of intestinal fortitude to follow through, and then it does not do it. That is over-promising and underdelivering. The little we have heard from government members confirms to my mind, and to any independent observer I am sure, that they do not get it. They do not get that it is not good enough to get up and put out press releases about how they are going to stand up for local interests and how they agree that what government departments are doing is not the right thing to do and they are going to fight for it, and then wimp out. It is about going out as a Premier, who is saying, “Aren’t we good that we put in our \$160 million to the Joondalup Health Campus?” when in fact the government has not; the federal jurisdiction has. This motion is about people who claim, very hairy chested, that they are going to do this, that and the other on matters of law and order, and then completely go missing in action, yet still accuse the opposition, the former government, of not doing things. Some members opposite have not even worked out that they are in government now.

I am indebted also to Hon Nick Goiran for pointing out some of the more blatant examples in a large catalogue of when this government has said that it will do something because it thinks that is what needs to be heard and then it unapologetically simply does not do it. It had no plan to do within a certain time frame or within certain parameters the things about which Hon Nick Goiran has reminded us.

In relation to other things that happen when in government, sometimes a government cannot necessarily do the things it aspires to in the way it would like because it is confronted with reality. I saw that with my good friend and predecessor in a ministerial role, the Minister for Agriculture and Food, who sought to remind me of some

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awful things that I may or may not have done in government. She quoted from a newspaper article that was published the week before I was a minister. It was during an interesting transitional time when incoming governments did not have the chance to contemplate things. I remind her that when I came into that ministerial office, I had to tidy up plenty of things such as matters to do with Fremantle harbour. Some of my earliest decisions were on rebuilding North Quay and doubling the land estate at North Fremantle, which was not necessarily the way that I would have liked to have seen things go, but no work had been done by the previous government to take us in a different direction. My work was about picking up Utah Point, which had been dropped badly. But that is not the point; the point is that this government still does not get it. It does not get that it is not allowed to say things to the people that it is not prepared to do.

Motion lapsed, pursuant to standing orders.