

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

APPROPRIATION (RECURRENT 2016–17) BILL 2016
APPROPRIATION (CAPITAL 2016–17) BILL 2016

Second Reading — Cognate Debate

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MS J.M. FREEMAN (Mirrabooka) [7.00 pm]: Mr Acting Speaker —

[Quorum formed.]

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: No offence, member for Eyre! The member for Eyre expressed some concern about having to come in and listen to my contribution this evening!

Before the dinner suspension, I had been talking about Parenting WA. My strong view is that the Parenting WA coordinators, who are government employees, are worthwhile. The abolition of the services that are provided by Parenting WA will be detrimental to the delivery of important services in Western Australia. The 2014–15 annual report of Parenting WA outlines the success of that organisation. The report states that from 1 July 2014 to 31 July 2015, Parenting WA made a total of 8 714 service contacts with parents and organisations across the state. That is a significant number of contacts. It has been argued that there has been a reduction in the number of services provided by Parenting WA. Due to the recruitment freeze, Parenting WA has not been able to replace workers who have left, and the existing staff are doing more work. I know this because I have spoken to the parenting coordinator who covers the Mirrabooka area. She has said that because of the recruitment freeze, she now covers not only Mirrabooka, Balga, Koondoola and Nollamara but has to go right up to Joondalup. Of course, that reduces the capacity of the people who are providing these parenting services.

I want to talk also about the abolition by the state government of the Best Start program. Best Start is a statewide program. It is for Aboriginal parents and carers of young children, from babies to five years of age. I am lucky to have an Aboriginal kindy at Westminster Primary School, which is one of the schools in my electorate. That is an amazing facility. The Best Start program is operated in and around community centres and feeds into the kindys. That is very important, because otherwise we do not get the significant numbers that we need to deliver an Aboriginal kindy program.

The Best Start program is absolutely family friendly and informal, and it respects Aboriginal cultures and ways of working. Torres Strait Islander people are welcome, but it is predominantly for our Aboriginal community members, who are highly represented in my electorate. Many of them need assistance with parenting.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: Parents are very much engaged with the Best Start program. They own the program, they help run the program, and they share their skills. The program is often run by Aboriginal community members and it is very inclusive. It is incorrect to make a comparison between the Best Start program and the KindiLink program, which is targeted at three-year-olds. Over the years, we have been told about the importance of connecting and being able to establish relationships for children from zero to three years old. It has an absolute impact both on wellness and a person's wellness in future years. In fact, I was at a policing forum on juvenile justice the first time I heard about the importance of the ages from zero to three and the connection that has to be made to establish the capacity to bond. Police spoke about the importance of establishing that bond because all of the theories and capacities around juvenile justice and those areas are based on the importance of the ages from zero to three years. I think cutting the Best Start program is very short-sighted. The key achievements of the Best Start program were between July 2014 and 13 March 2015. Approximately 1 152 service contacts were made with children and adults, which meant that 459 families went through the program. I think it is a tragedy that this government has chosen to cut those programs to save money, although it has spent around \$18 million on its Scarborough project. I do not doubt that it is a great project, but it should not be at the cost of deliverable services to our community that assist our children and their parents to deliver the best outcomes for our families. This government has really taken a regressive step.

At the same time, the poor old Department of Local Government and Communities continues to be gutted, and the government will undermine not-for-profit organisations. The government is now saying that not-for-profits and non-government organisations can deliver services, but, at the same time, a lot of the operations will be undermined, such as Neighbourhood House, by ceasing the subsidisation of community organisations' accommodation. The Minister for Community Services came out to Sudbury Community House in Mirrabooka during the Linkwest Neighbourhood House volunteers' week to say how fantastic these organisations are and how great they are for the community. The minister stood up and said how great they are and how vital the services they deliver are to the community to make sure people feel included and have the best possible start with children and as parents and do not have issues around isolation as people age. Neighbourhood House

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

delivers all sorts of things, including language services, and services for people at risk. People also go there after serving sentences to be able to work and re-enter communities. The minister knew when he was singing its praises that he was going to gut it; he was going to undermine its capacity to operate by undermining the fact that the facility, which is a Department of Local Government and Communities facility, was no longer going to be provided at a subsidised rate. It owns the building already; it is a purpose-built building for Neighbourhood House and somebody has to use it. The government will try to send services there and it will tell the organisation to use less money and to pay more to government as well.

These cuts are occurring at a time that services to assist people who are less fortunate than us are also being cut. Access to legal services is under massive attack, which is illustrated by the Legal Aid Matters campaign. It aims to improve access to justice for some of our society's most vulnerable members. A 32.2 per cent cut was made in federal funding to Community Legal Centres in Western Australia by the federal Attorney-General. Now, funding is also being reduced from the Public Purposes Trust to some of the community legal centres that offer legal aid. It is the only legal aid available to people in areas such as Midland. The member for Mandurah should be checking that Mandurah has not had cuts. What is worse is that at the same time there has been a \$4 million reduction in the rental accommodation account, because this government came in and looted it to run the Magistrates Court and pay for the introduction of the residential tenancies legislation. That will have a detrimental impact on the delivery of assistance to tenants in need.

This is all happening in an environment of increasing unemployment or underemployment. The *Economic and Fiscal Outlook* states —

... growth is being entirely underpinned by part-time hiring, which increased by 4.5% (or 17,655 persons) in annual terms to March, while full-time employment fell by 0.9% (or 8,702 persons) ...

Effectively, while Western Australia crows about its employment rate being whatever it is—it is certainly not that in the area of Mirrabooka–Balga—and that it is sitting second lowest in Australia, it is being propped up by people being underemployed. They are working part time and are only just managing. The *Economic and Fiscal Outlook* states —

Increased spare capacity in the labour market is also reflected in the underemployment rate, which rose to 9.1% in the three months to February 2016, indicating that a larger portion of the State's workforce would prefer to work more hours.

People want to work more hours. This *Economic and Fiscal Outlook* does not paint a rosy picture. It further states —

... internet job vacancies in Western Australia have declined steeply over recent months

The *Economic and Fiscal Outlook* forecasts a further increase in unemployment to 6.25 per cent in 2015–16, and 6.75 per cent in 2016–17. That will have a devastating effect in Mirrabooka–Balga, where it is currently running at way above that unemployment rate. It is really interesting that new figures will be released tomorrow. The wage price index released today was at an 18-year low, so people are doing it tough out there. It is interesting to note that the Roy Morgan research released on 9 May 2016, after an unemployment assessment was carried out, has the unemployment rate in Australia running some five per cent higher than the ABS figure, at 10.4 per cent. The 6.25 per cent and the 6.75 per cent shown in the *Economic and Fiscal Outlook* are not the true unemployment figures for our community.

I can tell members what that looks like because of someone such as Chris whom I saw at the IGA store. I recently spoke about him in this house. I was at the IGA getting some provisions for my household when he came up to me and said he was still looking for work, 18 months out. He had just been in again to check with the owners whether anything was available. He has been trained to do stores work, has worked previously and is still looking for work.

I remind members of my grievance on youth employment from last Thursday. I said —

The December 2015 unemployment figures illustrate this. One in four people are now unemployed in the Mirrabooka–Balga area. There are 2 445 people looking for work in those two suburbs. That is an increase of 848 from September 2014, ... the rate is overwhelmingly made up of young people ... youth unemployment has now hit a high of 16.4 per cent in the Perth–north west zone—the highest in Western Australia. It is now higher than when the Brotherhood of St Laurence document “Australia's Youth Unemployment Hotspots Snapshot” reported it as being 14.5 per cent in the January 2016 figures, ...

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

... [the] Mirrabooka–Balga area, which has a 24.3 per cent unemployment rate. The unemployment rate in Nollamara–Westminster is 12.5 per cent and it is 16.4 per cent in the Alexander Heights–Koondoola area.

Maybe if I said to the government, “Oh my goodness, geoscientists are saying that they’re suffering an underemployment rate of 23.4 per cent and an unemployment rate of 16 per cent”, it might care, because it does not seem to care enough about these outrageous figures for the Mirrabooka–Balga area. I have said in this place that the Mirrabooka electorate has a mean age of 31 years—five years younger than the average of 36 years. These are young people doing it tough. The response of the Minister for Youth to my grievance was, “Join Scouts Australia, work for free, live in the regions or wait until the economy improves.” It was appalling. He did not even give the Mirrabooka–Balga area the respect of standing up for the fully allotted seven minutes of a grievance; he sat before five minutes was even up. He stood and said, “I can see it is a really important issue”, but he gave nothing other than to say that young people could join the scouts, work for free, live in the regions or wait for better times. The Liberals have no plan for youth unemployment in this state and no plan for the thousands of unemployed affected by the downturn. The Liberals have no plan for jobs. Indeed, we have seen cuts of \$53 million from the training budget. With another four per cent increase in fees, there has been an increase of 513 per cent since 2013, an 18.9 per cent decrease in the number of apprenticeships and a 26.3 per cent decrease in the number of traineeships.

Thankfully, WA Labor has a plan for jobs that will provide pathways for young people to a long-term career. It does not just take a human capital approach to employment whereby everyone is treated the same and say that education is the process, because education is not useful unless jobs are available. The government cannot just say that it will educate without providing the jobs and the capacity to get those jobs.

Lisa Denny and Brendan Churchill point out in *The Conversation* article —

Youth policy in Australia has become synonymous with education and training policy, overly focused on young people making a series of linear transitions from schooling to post-school qualifications and finally to the full time labour market.

They go on to say —

Efforts to address youth unemployment have focused on skill deficiencies, work ethic and the education system producing job-ready workers. The reality is that poor economic performance and high levels of skilled migration are standing in the way of young Australians entering the labour market for the first time.

They call on governments to put youth at the forefront of policy making, and I call on this government to do that too. We have to respond to the need for jobs for youth in this state. It is a critical need at this time. If we win government, WA Labor has committed to require all major government construction projects to create new job opportunities. If elected, WA Labor will expand the Priority Start policy and enact a skilled local jobs bill to ensure that the wealth of Western Australian industries advantages Western Australian workers through local content.

Thank goodness WA Labor is taking this seriously. Thank goodness WA Labor wants to focus on jobs, because, frankly, there is silence from those on the other side of the chamber. The Minister for Youth did not even have the respect to stand for the full seven minutes and address any of the issues around youth unemployment. The youth minister is derelict in his duties. He has gutted his department and he will not respond to youth unemployment. I hope someone does.

MS J. FARRER (Kimberley) [7.17 pm]: I rise to speak on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2016–17) Bill 2016 and the Appropriation (Capital 2016–17) Bill 2016. I would like to take the opportunity to remind Parliament about the Kimberley and its people. My electorate is twice the size of Victoria and very far away from where I stand now. Although my office seems far off and distant, it is my home and I proudly represent everyone in it. We are doing it tough and people are suffering due to Barnett’s broken promises. People have honestly had enough of this government. We are sick of being ignored. The Premier’s broken promises on the delivery of infrastructure, jobs, training, better health outcomes and quality education are crippling our entire state.

As members, we see people suffering due to increases in the cost of living in the Kimberley. The cost of food, electricity, water, sewerage, motor vehicle charges, stamp duty and other basics has always been more expensive in the Kimberley than in other parts of the state. Families are already doing it tough and the Barnett government is making it worse. Imagine people living in houses with no electricity faced with 38-degree heat daily because they simply cannot afford to pay their power bills. It is cruel, and I applaud Labor’s call for Horizon Power to be investigated. Families in the Kimberley have reported to me rises of 400 per cent in their power bills compared with the same period last year. The vast majority of residents in the Kimberley do not even have the option of converting to solar power because this government refuses to invest in cleaner, smarter and more affordable

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

power solutions in regional Western Australia. Northern Australia has the best conditions in the world to adopt high-scale solar power and we should be leading the way by providing long-term sustainable energy solutions at a low price to all. The government needs to change the current regulations prohibiting my electorate from maximising the availability and use of solar power and provide rebates and funding to ensure that this happens easily. The Kimberley needs relief urgently.

Public sector workers in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Karratha and Dampier previously received a district allowance to account for the much higher cost of living in the north west. This government has dramatically cut the allowance, affecting many thousands of workers, and has caused them to leave the regions completely. This has, in turn, negatively affected the local economy in my electorate. It is always sad to see people who are active members of the community leave because they cannot afford to live in the Kimberley. We need to offer people an incentive to live and work in the Kimberley long term.

Broome: The Broome community has worked for many years on a plan for better Broome boating facilities and a world-class marina. This could provide an incentive for skilled workers to remain in the region, provide increased local employment and business opportunities and really enhance Broome and the Kimberley as a world-class tourism destination that is able to cater for the needs of its visitors. I urge this government to invest in our regions.

Chinatown: A few years ago \$50 million of committed funds to provide necessary safe boating facilities were ripped away from the Broome community. We see the same thing happening again with the \$10 million allocated in the previous budget to Broome's Chinatown redevelopment. The government has scratched that! How can the Minister for Tourism expect to be taken seriously when he does nothing to support the enhancement of one of the most beautiful and recognised tourist locations in Western Australia?

Homelessness: Broome is destined to become a regional city of Western Australia, an iconic tourism hub, yet signs of homelessness and displacements are frequently in the media spotlight. I listened this afternoon to the speech of the member for Vasse about the wonderful developments in her electorate. We have homeless people up in the Kimberley, and maybe we should bring some of those people down here so that they can share in the development that is happening in Vasse.

Mr W.J. Johnston: Millions of dollars are taken from Lotterywest.

Ms J. FARRER: Yes.

I have raised this issue many times with a number of ministers, including the Premier, and still this government has provided no leadership. We should not have masses of people living in parks, ovals or mangroves. It is a disgrace and dangerous for the people involved. The manager of the Broome Visitor Centre, which is located on Male Oval in the town centre, is at his wit's end and says that he fears daily for his safety and that of his staff. I call on this government to show leadership on this issue and resolve this appalling situation by providing safe accommodation for people in my electorate and to address the ongoing antisocial issues experienced by the Broome Visitor Centre staff.

The Healthy Welfare Card has recently been introduced in my electorate, and although I understand the intention, the delivery is appalling. I have received many complaints already from angered residents confused about the card and why they were forced to go on it. I would be interested to learn how many non-Aboriginal people have been included as recipients of the Healthy Welfare Card.

The Takeaway Alcohol Management System is something that I believe is valuable in the East Kimberley as it forces photo identification requirements at the purchase of alcohol and also limits the quantity of alcohol that one person is able to purchase in 24 hours. I would like to see the TAMS trial extended to Broome and Derby and I ask that the government commence discussions with big businesses such as Coles and Woolworths to come on board. I feel this would greatly improve the situation of antisocial behaviour on Male Oval, amongst other things.

Drugs and alcohol are huge negative influences in the Kimberley and we must all collectively act now if we are to prevent future generations repeating addictive cycles.

Youth justice: The Kimberley has a very young population and I am determined to see more programs, services and opportunities provided throughout the region to meet their needs. Youth justice is something I am very passionate about. Many members will remember that in September 2014 I tabled a report that included 19 recommendations for what this government should do to invest in alternative youth justice measures. The current process does not work and we should be utilising existing culturally appropriate programs located in the Kimberley to break negative reoffending behaviour.

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

I know that the Kimberley regional youth justice services are currently, and have been for a long time now, understaffed and under-resourced. The government is fully aware of the seriousness of this ongoing issue, but it has chosen to cut funding anyway.

Kimberley TAFE: The lack of investment from the Liberal–National government in the Kimberley continues. This government has destroyed Kimberley TAFE.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: How?

Ms J. FARRER: Yes, it has. The regional director, who did an outstanding job, was given a heartless one week’s notice that she was out of a job due to the amalgamation of Kimberley and Pilbara TAFEs. I do not know whether members know how far they are from each other. Countless others, including TAFE Aboriginal mentors, are losing their jobs throughout the region. This will negatively affect all students and I truly fear for the future of training and workplace development within my electorate.

With the cuts to the Regional Youth Justice Strategy and the Kimberley TAFE and no increased funding for drug and alcohol rehabilitation or investment in existing youth centres, I ask this government what plans it has to deal with the inevitable crisis in the north. The government should be ashamed of this budget, which does absolutely nothing to assist people living in regional areas or even attempt to improve the lives of those people most disadvantaged in our state, a large majority of whom live in my backyard.

In closing, I want to raise another issue of critical importance to the people of the Kimberley and my people of the various Indigenous nations of that area—that is, the threat by the Barnett government to close remote communities. This threat has still not gone away. Despite the assurance by the Minister for Regional Development and the Premier to look at the issue of maintenance and support of our small to medium communities, nothing has been said or committed to. My people are asking me on a regular basis what is happening to their communities. They ask whether their communities are going to survive and whether they will be supported. What can I tell them? The Barnett and Abbott governments created big trouble for Indigenous communities when they walked away from a funding arrangement that had been in place since 1967. The threats to close down our communities left people worried and upset, and nothing has been done since to provide assurance to these people. I am calling tonight for the federal government to reverse the mean-spirited and downright racist funding cut by former Prime Minister Tony Abbott to Indigenous communities in Western Australia. This federal election should include recognition of what has been done to Aboriginal people and communities in the name of budget funding cuts. The federal government is still responsible for Indigenous policy and funding and this must include the support of our small to medium communities where Aboriginal people have chosen to live and look after their traditional lands. As we know, \$40 million a year has been allocated through federal funding, and it will run out in July this year.

Whoever wins the federal election on 2 July, the next government must commit to returning the funding to our communities. If this does not happen, I call on the Minister for Regional Development and the Premier to allocate from WA’s royalties for regions program the annual funding that had been cut by the Abbott government. Whose land are these royalties being created from? Aboriginal lands, of course. As the member for Kimberley and a representative of my people and the Gidja nation, I call on the Barnett government to commit to the survival of our remote communities, big and small, and an assurance that the funding of these communities will be met from royalties for regions. If this is not done, it will clearly show that the National Party and the Liberals are interested in funding and supporting only the wheatbelt and country towns that they determine should survive, and these clearly are not majority Indigenous communities.

MS L.L. BAKER (Maylands) [7.28 pm]: I rise tonight to speak on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2016–17) Bill 2016 and the Appropriation (Capital 2016–17) Bill 2016, and on a particular issue on which the Barnett government could still make a significant difference in our community. I speak tonight on the failures to date of this government to resolve an embarrassing blemish on our moral obligations to a community that I care deeply about. We made history in this Legislative Assembly last year by carrying a motion recommending a vote for marriage equality in the federal Parliament, but the Western Australian government has missed an opportunity to address inequality at the state level. The state government has failed to take action to address the wrongs which we as a society committed and which some in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersexual, or LGBTI, community still live with today. I am talking about the unfair, and unfortunately often legal, targeting of gay men by the Western Australian legislature, courts and police. I am talking about convictions of adult gay men before 1990 for having relationships, including sexual relationships, with other men. It is pretty amazing to think that that was not that long ago—that it was a chargeable offence for two consenting adults to have sex with each other in our state. It is even more incredible to know that we have let these convictions remain and have done nothing to make up for the wrongs we have done collectively as a society to these men. Individuals in the LGBTI community still bear the burden of the recent era when it was illegal to have consensual gay sex, because their convictions and memories of mistreatment still follow them.

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

Today, although the laws have changed since 1990, these men continue to live with criminal convictions because of this government's refusal to act to expunge these convictions or to make it possible. The men have been taunted by past governments and now this current Liberal government's blatant disregard for the situation. It is clear to us that there is really no debate on this issue. There are only two choices for the government to make: to continue the current Liberal government's neglectful disinterest in these people's pain or to do the right thing, apologise and wipe their records clean.

Before going into detail on the case for a state apology and the need to clear this travesty against our LGBTI community, I want to acknowledge the contributions that important community groups have made and continue to make in fighting for equality in this movement. As I speak here tonight, I note that WA Rainbow Labor members are in the gallery with us, having made a couple of false starts—I thought I was on a bit earlier this evening. They have managed to stay up late and come in to be in the gallery tonight representing Rainbow Labor. I want to recognise the support of Rainbow Labor members and the diligence they show towards keeping Labor's priorities focused at the heart of the matter when it comes to LGBTI rights. Rainbow Labor has been instrumental in shaping Labor's fight for marriage equality federally. Rainbow Labor has played an important role in highlighting to those of us in state Parliament the urgent need to bring Western Australia up to speed with the rest of the world in addressing discrimination against the LGBTI community. Currently, Rainbow Labor is circulating a petition on this very issue, which I would like to talk about tonight—the need to erase convictions of those who were targeted by historic Western Australian legislation for their own homosexuality. Labor has at the heart of its policies the very people we work so hard to protect, and we have a strong record in fighting for LGBTI equality across state and federal governments. It is important that I acknowledge the vital work community groups and organisations like Living Proud, Pride and the former Out in Perth have done to support the rights of LGBTI individuals in this state.

The state government's failure to provide an adequate safety net for the particular challenges faced by the LGBTI community in WA has made these community groups have to step up and put in a 100 per cent effort on tiny budgets and mostly volunteer time to make sure that our LGBTI elderly, families and children are not left on their own. In Maylands, my electorate, Umbrella Multicultural Community Care Services provides culturally appropriate and identity sensitive care to elderly members of the LGBTI community as part of the aged-care services it offers to the multicultural community more broadly. It is a fantastic organisation with dedicated staff and volunteers, and, as the local member, I am honoured to support it, as it is based in Guildford in my electorate. Playgroups with Pride is a new but thriving community organisation, with I think at last count 300 members, that provides important support work for LGBTI families in the metropolitan area. I am very privileged to have been able to attend several Playgroups with Pride meetings, and it is a most fantastic environment with some wonderful people, and happy, bright children having a wonderful time. Having the privilege of representing these two community organisations as their local member of Parliament has been immeasurably valuable for keeping in touch with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community, understanding the people who are marginalised and taking part in the movement for equality in our communities.

I ask members to turn their attention to an issue I care deeply about and urge members to listen with open hearts. Let us go back to 1973. Meet Bill. Bill's story is hypothetical, but it provides an example of the stories of injustice.

Mr J.M. Francis interjected.

Ms L.L. BAKER: Not this Bill; I hasten to add it is not Bill Marmion. This is a hypothetical Bill, but good timing.

Several members interjected.

Ms L.L. BAKER: The secret of comedy is timing.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr N.W. Morton): Thank you, members! I think we have established his name.

Ms L.L. BAKER: Meet Bill. Bill's story is hypothetical but provides a good example of some of the injustices gay men faced back then. In 1973, Bill was married and had three children and he was the breadwinner of the family. After work one day, he headed into town for a few drinks at a local club with work colleagues. Bill did not know that this club would be targeted that night by WA Police in pursuit of gay men. Bill is identified as one of these men. He is strip-searched and treated roughly with no dignity or respect. He is humiliated by officers who call him worthless and a blight on society, and other horrible insults that I will not put in *Hansard*. Bill is charged with and convicted of public indecency and other sex crimes. The story makes the media as part of the government's big crackdown on immorality. Bill loses his job. His wife and children leave him. His elderly parents disown him. Bill ends up without a home, a family or a career. He has a lasting conviction on his record for a sex crime. He is tarred with the same brush as paedophiles and considered to be the lowest of

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

society. He cannot find work; he cannot travel overseas to escape his record. Thoroughly beaten down by this conviction, he turns to alcohol. I understand Bill's story has been the legacy for hundreds of men in WA; some of these men now wear their convictions for homosexuality as a badge of pride because they know that they were not wrong to express their love or sexuality. However, this does not negate our responsibility as a society to do our part to help us all collectively move on from this era of blatant discrimination and treatment.

Currently, the Western Australian government has done a disservice to people like Bill who were convicted of sex and public indecency crimes by failing to issue a formal apology for these injustices and by lagging behind other precedents set by other Australian states and territories through expunging these records at an earlier time. It is difficult to know how many men were targeted for arrest in Western Australia back then because of their homosexuality, given that the crimes at the time would likely have fallen under a variety of different categories, from gross indecency to carnal knowledge against the order of nature and, more recently, a higher age of consent for homosexual sex. Few records demonstrate how many men were convicted for homosexuality prior to 1990, but it is thought that hundreds of men could have fallen victim to this institutionalised discrimination that criminalised homosexuality.

Most of the men convicted of homosexuality crimes under the Western Australian Criminal Code would now be aged in their seventies or eighties. Some as young as 50 or 60 may still be living with the effects of these convictions today. Those convicted would have lived with lasting consequences from their arrest, charge and conviction. More than the trauma of the circumstances of the arrest, and the exposure and public shaming of going through the judicial process, those with convictions would have faced ongoing challenges for decades to come. Their conviction would have proven a significant barrier to travel, volunteering or employment. I have heard that one man was so worried about his conviction being discovered by employers during a police clearance check that he ended up staying in the same job for decades. The Criminal Code set up a system of discrimination against gay men and encouraged police to use prejudice and blackmail to effectively torment men in the LGBTI community during these times.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms L.L. BAKER: It is well-known that in the 1960s and 1970s Western Australia Police used sting operations, undercover officers and entrapment to coerce and trick men into compromising situations, leading to their arrest and eventual convictions. A 1991 Australian Institute of Criminology report into homosexual law reform in Australia mentions the following as common practice across state police tactics at the time —

In gathering evidence for prosecutions for offences by homosexuals in public places, police have been known to use decoys or agents provocateurs in a method known as 'entrapment'.

...

Most of the cases have made use of a young, stylishly dressed officer purporting to be available for casual liaison.

In its conversations with homosexual men, the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations alleges that prior to decriminalisation, police in Western Australia adopted similar tactics.

In 2014 WAtoday interviewed an elderly man who was living in Western Australia as a young gay man in the 60s. He reported that police raids on clubs and arrests of men congregating in parks were commonplace. For example, he said that police would routinely order everyone out of The Roo on the Roof in Fremantle, fill a police wagon with the most "gay" looking men and keep them in the lockup overnight for being drunk and disorderly.

I have also been made aware from talking to members of the LGBTI community in my electorate that police would often target high-profile men in the entertainment industry, television personalities and the like and use blackmail against them with a threat that their careers would be ruined if they were exposed for homosexuality.

Western Australia is one of the last states in Australia to decriminalise homosexuality with the Criminal Code 1913 Law Reform (Decriminalisation of Sodomy) Act 1989. We are now the only remaining Australian state that is yet to completely clear the records of these men. Many in our community worry that WA's legacy on doing right by the LGBTI community has fallen behind in recent years. Indeed, Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and the ACT have already expunged these convictions or similar, with Tasmania set to pass legislation as well as issue an apology to those convicted and their families later this year. Even David Cameron's conservative government in Britain has passed similar laws, which have allowed an estimated 16 000 convictions to be wiped from police records. I argue that it is not too late to address the issue and right these things.

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

We should be amending legislation that makes it possible for these men and their families to fully expunge or effectively erase any conviction for homosexuality that would not stand up in court today. I also put forward the suggestion that like Tasmania, Western Australia in particular should be making an apology to the victims of our past misguided criminalisation of homosexuality. Particularly in the case of those not still surviving, we should be apologising to their families for the pain and suffering that may have been caused to these men by past wrongs. The Attorney General, representing the Western Australian Liberal government, has stood by an excuse that there is no need to expunge the historical convictions of these men. He reasons that a spent conviction is apology enough. However, applying to have these convictions spent does not erase them from the public record, as recent examples in the media would be testament to; nor does it ensure that the conviction is not brought up against a person when applying for work or dealing with the criminal system. I just note the following situations. It is not a full list, according to Legal Aid Western Australia, when a person with a spent conviction will still have to declare their conviction and provide details. They are dot points so I will just whiz through a few of them.

The dot points read —

- being considered by the Prisoners Review Board, the Supervised Release Review Board or Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board being considered for appointment as a Justice of the Peace
- being considered for appointment as a police constable, police auxiliary officer, special constable, Aboriginal police liaison officer or police cadet
- being appointed or considered for appointment by the police to a position where the duties require or may require the provision of services or to deal in any manner, with persons not of full legal capacity
- being considered for employment as a prison officer
- holding or applying to be issued with a permit to do high level security work under the *Prisons Act 1981* (WA)
- being considered for employment under the *Gold Corporation Act 1987* (WA)
- being considered for the grant of a licence as a casino key employee or casino employee under the *Casino Control (Burswood Island) (Licensing of Employees) Regulations 1985* (WA)
- holding a licence or permit or applying for renewal of a licence or permit as a security agent, security officer, security consultant, or security installer under the *Security and Related Activities (Control) Act 1996* (WA)
- applying for the issue of a licence under the *Firearms Act 1973* (WA)
- being considered for employment or a contract for work involving assessing, reporting about or classifying prisoners

The list goes on. I could read through at least another 10, but given the time, I will skip them. In other words, being convicted of homosexuality prior to 1990 currently bars those men still from fair consideration without prejudice in many and varied situations. Even if those people were successful in attaining a spent conviction, a person convicted of a crime relating to their homosexuality prior to 1990 would likely have been unfairly discriminated against when applying to work with children in schools, for the police or for various departments because of their sexual orientation. I say to our Attorney General, the state government and the Assembly that a spent conviction is a poor attempt at apologising for the world of pain bestowed on those men. The only fair means that we have of coming close to undoing those past wrongs would be to allow those men and their families to apply for their convictions to be fully expunged. Only expunging those convictions will seal the record and ensure as best as is currently possible in the Western Australian legal system that further discrimination does not occur. I propose that those with a historical conviction for an offence relating to homosexual acts could apply to have their conviction expunged so long as that offence is no longer deemed a crime under our current legislation.

Mr C.J. Barnett: So are you saying that expunging should be on application by the individual?

Ms L.L. BAKER: Yes, by the individual.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Because some would prefer not to do it.

Ms L.L. BAKER: Yes, that is correct, Premier.

The application for expungement would then be reviewed to ensure that it is related to consensual sex with a person of legal age and is eligible for expungement. Provided the offence is no longer a crime under existing

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

law, the record will be permanently sealed—effectively cleared from the record. Convictions for non-consensual sex or sex with a minor would not be expunged.

Indeed, even expunging valid convictions cannot undo the harm that has already fallen on those men—the prejudices they have faced over the course of decades. I think everyone with a heart will agree that the best thing we can do, in addition to officially allowing those convictions to be expunged, is to simply apologise. For some, particularly elderly men, the option to expunge these convictions may come too late; many of those who were convicted kept it secret and suffered mental health issues as a result. The least we can do is to now give the opportunity to their families to wipe the slate clean. I think we should apologise to those men for the circumstances and often poor treatment many of them faced initially when the WA state government, acting through its police force, coerced, tricked, entrapped and fooled those men into being charged with offences relating to their homosexuality. We should be apologising to those men for the punishment they endured at the hands of the state justice system at the time—the fines, the time spent in state prisons—all because they dared to express homosexuality at a time when it was deemed illegal. We should apologise to these men for the indignity, the embarrassment, the witch-hunt and the public shaming that became the by-product of our convicting them as criminals because of their sexual orientation.

Lastly, for those who are no longer with us, we should apologise to their families for the pain that we as a society have caused them. We were wrong. We did harm and for this we should apologise. After it was announced that the Tasmanian Parliament would proceed this year with an official apology and legislation to expunge historical convictions for homosexual sex, the Tasmanian Human Rights Commissioner, Tim Wilson, commented by saying that “consensual sexual activity between two people of the same gender should never have been a crime”. He went on to say that “offering an apology is a fundamentally decent act” and, coupled with expunging, an apology goes a long way towards recognising the “harm caused when government seeks to penalise people for being who they are”.

I close my speech tonight and put the focus back on real people—people whom this government has continued to sideline and ignore in its mashup of confusing priorities and focus on big spending. We must make sure that we never again institutionalise discrimination in the same way. We must acknowledge our past mistakes and apologise to those who were deemed convicted criminals because of their sexual orientation. The Western Australian government must issue a public apology to the families of those convicted under the archaic sex and indecency laws and draft legislation to expunge the records of people convicted under the same archaic sex and indecency laws.

Before I sit down, I would like to thank Rachael Macey for her research and compilation of a lot of the speech I have just had the privilege of reading. She has done an outstanding job, helped by Rainbow Labor and many people in the community who have come together to also voice their concern and to call on the state government to take action to correct this dreadful wrong.

MR P. ABETZ (Southern River) [7.52 pm]: I could address many good things in the budget, but I would like to address the funding that the government has set aside to help fight the scourge of methamphetamine in our community through a comprehensive strategy led by the Mental Health Commission, in addition to resources and support provided by other agencies, including the Department of Corrective Services and WA Police.

The rate of the use of methamphetamine in our Western Australian community by people aged over 14 is said to be 3.8 per cent, which is well above the national average of 2.1 per cent, which, in itself, is far too high. We read daily about the impact that drugs are having on crime and mental health. Many are saying that the war against drugs and methamphetamine is unwinnable. As the Premier rightly recently pointed out when he addressed the Western Australian Council of Social Service, it is all but impossible to stop the supply of these drugs into Western Australia. I certainly concur that if we simply keep attacking the supply side of the equation, we will never win the war on drugs. We need to address the demand side as well. I would like to see one thing on the supply side change. I became aware of this the other night when I went out on a night patrol of Gosnells with the community policing team. We went past a so-called drug house. Each time we drove past, a car would pull out of the place. The police would pull the car over and search it and, sure enough, drugs were in the car. The police said that they had raided that house numerous times but each time they found only a small amount of drugs, which was not sufficient to convict the person of dealing. I think perhaps when police apprehend six or so people within a week who have just left a place and got drugs from it, the supplier should be able to be convicted of drug dealing. I think there is room for improving the legislation to deal with that. There was a sense of frustration on the police side that they can keep doing this, but it is not always easy to get a conviction for dealing drugs, whereas clearly this person was a dealer who was well known to police.

Back to attacking the demand side of the methamphetamine equation: when I was in Sweden as a member of the Education and Health Standing Committee, I found their approach to dealing with illicit drugs fascinating.

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

Leading up to 1984, Sweden had the highest illicit drug use in the western world. Sweden realised that if it continued down that path, its health system would hit the wall. In 1984, the legislation changed so that it became an offence to be under the influence of an illicit substance. Basically, if a teacher sees that a kid is stoned, or a university lecturer or a policeman on the street sees someone they believe is under the influence of an illicit substance, they can be arrested, but the police do not take them to a police station; they take them to a government-run rehab-testing facility. Once there, if the person tests positive, they are given a choice. They can either stay and do rehab, and in that case they will not have a criminal record; or, if they do not want to stay in rehab, that is fine, they go with the police but they will end up with a criminal record and they can never work in the public service, et cetera. Ninety-seven per cent of people brought to those rehab centres actually opt to undertake rehab. Seventy per cent of those people never ever come in touch with the legal system again over a drugs issue. In other words, it is a very effective rehab system. It seems that the crunch in being tested and, in a sense, being exposed as a user of illicit drugs is sufficient motivation for them to pursue rehabilitation. If they test positive at any point while in rehab, they enter the legal system. That provides a real incentive to stay clean.

For those members who are interested, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime issued a 98-page document in February 2007 entitled “Sweden’s Successful Drug Policy: A Review of the Evidence”. It is well worth reading. If Western Australia moved to that approach in dealing with drugs in our community, the incidence of drug use would not drop overnight but it would see a gradual decline. Sweden today has the lowest illicit drug use rate in the western world.

I also believe there is room for reducing demand through appropriate education programs. Again, an education program will not change things overnight, but our education program on smoking resulted in roughly 50 per cent of the Western Australian population over the age of 14 smoking, dropping down to 14 per cent. In the 1960s none of us would have heard a young child telling mum or dad off for smoking. Today, it often happens that kids tell dad or mum, or uncle so-and-so that they should not smoke because it will kill them. There has been a whole culture change. I think from year 4 onwards an appropriate education program would impress on children the folly of taking drugs. It would be most helpful to teach them, in an age-appropriate way, the damaging effects of drugs.

It is interesting that of the thousands of addicts who have been treated by the Fresh Start Recovery program here in Perth, half of them began their addiction in their mid-teens, as 13 and 14-year-olds. We need to get the message out to these kids that it is not okay to take illicit drugs. We also need to get the message out that it is not okay to drink alcohol. For a young brain, alcohol is still very damaging. When I was on the Education and Health Standing Committee, we conducted an inquiry into drugs and alcohol. The research is very clear that the developing brain is damaged by even small amounts of alcohol. In fact there is good scientific evidence to show that girls should not drink alcohol before 21 and boys not before about 24 or 25 years of age because that is the age when their brains mature and therefore they are not so affected.

It is a fact that in the current environment our kids will be offered drugs at some stage in their school or work career. We need to teach them that saying no to drugs is the only sensible choice. If young people do not touch drugs before 18 years of age, even if they become addicted after that age, the evidence is very clear that they have much better recovery rates because they have completed their basic education. Young people generally still have a good connection with family, which is so important for recovery. In order for an education program to have an impact, it needs to be funded not just for a couple of years but for at least 10 years. We do not want an education program to have just a little impact. We want to bring about a cultural change to drug use, in the same way as we have been able to bring about a cultural change in the community attitude towards smoking.

I absolutely detest the term “recreational drug use.” We need to get rid of that term. I am not sure how we can do that. There is no such thing as recreational drug use. The reason these substances are illicit is because they are dangerous. There is simply no safe way to take an illicit substance. I would love to see the media ban the term “recreational drug use”. All too often, harm minimisation programs use the term “recreational drug use”. I believe that sends the wrong message and should not be used.

I turn now to rehabilitation services. Some very good rehabilitation services are available in our state. Teen Challenge has been operating for many years in Esperance. It also has a facility in Warwick at which it can interact with people. Shalom House Rehabilitation Centre has been in the media in recent times. We need to invest in helping people who are drug addicted to become drug free.

The government has invested in the court diversion program. I understand that some 90 per cent of the funding for people who are diverted from the courts to rehab is provided by the commonwealth, and it is administered by the state Drug and Alcohol Office. Palmerston Association Inc has 29 rehab beds. Cyrenian House has 80 rehab beds, 40 for females and 40 for males. The Rick Hammersley Centre Therapeutic Community has 40 rehab beds, for males or females, and 14 houses for people with children. They are great facilities, and those organisations do a great job.

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

We read in the papers that there are waiting lists for people to get into rehab facilities. Although some rehab facilities have waiting lists, Fresh Start Recovery Programme did not have a waiting list until very recently. I first came across Fresh Start in the mid-1990s when I was approached to run a drug rehab support group in the southern suburbs. I did some training for that, and I ran that group for four or five years. That certainly taught me a lot about drug issues. I have seen Fresh Start grow from the early days, from when people took naltrexone tablets every day, to when Dr O'Neil developed naltrexone implants. The early implants gave six weeks of protection. They now give six months of protection for cravings and up to 12 months of protection from overdose. To explain how naltrexone works, above two nanograms of naltrexone per millilitre in the blood will block cravings, and 0.5 nanograms of naltrexone per millilitre in the blood will provide overdose protection.

In the past two years, there has been a 350 per cent increase in the number of men seeking long-term residential recovery at Fresh Start. That has led to Fresh Start having a waiting list for the first time. Last year, Fresh Start provided 80 000 occasions of service. Fresh Start has purchased an 85-acre property just north of Northam called The Hills, and when that property comes on stream, that will likely rise to over 100 000 occasions of service. The Hills property will increase the capacity of Fresh Start by 96 rehab beds to a total of 180 rehab beds. However, although Fresh Start expects that it will no longer have a waiting list, the challenge of course is to establish a sustainable operating budget. Fresh Start receives government funding of approximately 20 per cent per bed. The other rehab facilities in Western Australia receive funding of 80 to 90 per cent per bed. A rehab bed costs about \$150 a day. At Fresh Start, patients pay \$30 a day from their age or disability pension, or whatever they are on, and the community meets the remainder of the cost, either from government funding or from donors.

It is only because of the incredible generosity of Dr O'Neil and his family, the donors and volunteers that Fresh Start Recovery Programme has been able to provide this level of service, but it is not sustainable. The naltrexone implants that Dr O'Neil developed required Therapeutic Goods Administration approval, which is a very costly process. Given the ever-increasing number of people who came to Fresh Start for help, Dr O'Neil and his co-workers were unable to give sufficient attention to this work. In 2012, Fresh Start received an extra \$1 million from the government to continue its work until registration. The expectation was that Go Medical Industries Pty Ltd, which is Dr O'Neil's company that manufactures the implants, would eventually provide the cash flow to help fund the Fresh Start service after registration; the implant could then be marketed all over the world. The chief executive officer had regular meetings with the Drug and Alcohol Office to keep it informed of the slow but steady progress towards registration. Fresh Start has worked well with DAO, the Minister for Mental Health and the Mental Health Commission.

Unfortunately, the \$1 million grant was reduced to \$700 000 last year; it was this year reduced by a further \$300 000. The result of the reduction in funding is that in August 2015 the registration process stalled, as Go Medical and Fresh Start could not continue to fund the consultants, trials and TGA costs needed to progress the registration. The consultants completed a so-called gap analysis to find out what still needed to be done to get registration, with a view to meeting the TGA in December 2015 for a pre-lodgement consultation; this step could not take place due to lack of funding. At a time when we hear so much about the importance of innovation in our state, it is a shame that for such an innovative product as the naltrexone implant the lack of funding has resulted in the registration process stalling.

Go Medical built a new factory after the original factory was destroyed by fire. This new facility has been given good manufacturing practice accreditation by the TGA, which now allows the factory to manufacture the naltrexone implants and supply them to medical practitioners and other nations on a research basis. To get the registration process to the next step is estimated to cost a further \$500 000. It is anticipated that the TGA would require a further pharmacokinetic trial and possibly a randomised controlled trial, which could be concurrent and would involve a cost of around \$1 million which Go Medical could possibly fund from sales of the implants overseas.

I wish Fresh Start all the very best with its new facility that will open on Friday; I hope to be there to witness the opening of the new facility called The Hills, north of Northam. I also hope that some of the \$15 million in the state budget to address the methamphetamine scourge in our community will be allocated to Fresh Start to enable it to continue its outstanding rehabilitation work.

I have another issue I would like to briefly address.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr P. ABETZ: Having walked many times with people through the dark valley of being told they have a terminal illness, I took an keen interest in media reports regarding six-year-old Oshin Kiszko, who was diagnosed with medulloblastoma—a type of brain cancer. Media reports have indicated that the state has overridden the wishes of the parents, who wanted their little boy to be given palliative care, whereas the treating oncologist wanted to give chemotherapy and possibly radiation. I am sure that we would all agree that if parents

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

do not want their child to have treatment for a disease such as childhood leukaemia, for which there is a 90 per cent cure rate, there is a place for the state to say that the child deserves to be cured with that treatment. However, given that chemotherapy does not cure medulloblastoma and, at best, only prolongs life for half of those who undergo chemotherapy, the question is: should the state interfere and override a parent's wishes for their child? I appreciate that these decisions are very personal matters. I have spoken with Angela Kiszko, the mother, and she shared with me the devastating impact that the chemotherapy is having on her son, who was, at the time I spoke to her, in hospital because of the ulceration around his anus caused by the chemotherapy and the problem the doctors were having in trying to control the pain that that ulceration was causing him. That is now under control and he is home again, for which I am very thankful.

Having had the privilege of being associated with the Dandenong Palliative Care Service in the 1980s in Victoria and working with many terminally ill cancer patients, I believe I have some insights into this issue. A cancer diagnosis is always a traumatic situation for any person—adult or child. As a father and grandfather, I know that it would be even more traumatic if it happened to a child. Although I was not involved with any terminally ill children when I assisted the Dandenong Palliative Care Service—I worked with adults—I certainly appreciate that it is a tough decision for a parent to decide whether to have chemotherapy and radiation when there is no real hope for cure and, at best, it will only prolong life.

Ms Kiszko told me that she felt bullied and intimidated—they are the words she used—by the hospital staff, which I find a little sad. When she said that they wanted to go with palliative care, the response was almost “How dare you think that way?” Apparently, chemotherapy is more traumatic for a child than it is for an adult. Adults tend to think: “Yes, I am going through a horrible time now, but I will get better and I will see my daughter's wedding.” Adults can make those judgements. However, it is just pain for a child and, in some sense, it is beyond their comprehension.

When Ms Kiszko and her partner indicated that they wanted palliative care, it went to the ethics committee of Princess Margaret Hospital for Children. I am told by Ms Kiszko and media reports that the ethics committee was divided. Some members of the committee thought that they should do chemotherapy and others thought that it would be okay to opt for palliative care. I would have thought that, if an ethics committee was divided—even if only 75 per cent opted for chemotherapy and 25 per cent said that palliative care would be okay—and given the difficulty of making that decision, it would be appropriate to allow the parents' wish to, if you like, decide the vote in that matter.

I do not want to cast any aspersions on the treating oncologists; I am sure that they want the very best. However, I have a sister who has been a nurse all her working life, although she retired several years ago, and she has told me some amazing stories about what happens in oncology wards in hospitals. She told me of a case in which an oncologist prescribed chemotherapy for a type of cancer when there was absolutely no evidence that it would help in any way, shape or form, and when she questioned the oncologist about that, the oncologist's point was: “I know that, but you've got to give people hope.” If doctors were aware that I had some illness for which there was absolutely no hope of a cure, I would expect them to tell me so that I could get my house in order. I would not want to be given false hope. The difficulty that oncologists face is that they want to be able to heal people, but sometimes they have to face the fact that we are at the boundary of medical knowledge and at best all they can do is experimental stuff. If it is experimental, the family should have a significant say in that. One of the things that concerns me is that with the current system the treating oncologist can have the issue settled in the combative environment of our legal system. Because the hospital took the issue to court, the poor judge has had to make that decision. He found it exceedingly difficult, but he decided that little Oshin needed to have therapy; he held over an order on the issue of radiation, which is coming up shortly. It is interesting that on the radiation side of things, if this family had lived in Victoria or New South Wales, because of the age of the child, radiation would not be given, but in Western Australia we give it at a younger age. This clearly indicates there is no settled medical science around this issue and, if there is no clear-cut medical position, I would have thought that the wishes of the parents should be given a pretty high priority.

What I would like to happen is that we set up a board, perhaps something like the Mental Health Tribunal, and if there were a difference of opinion, rather than go into the combative environment of a court we would have the people involved sitting around a table—the oncologist and others can put their view. That independent board perhaps should have a medical specialist on it, a palliative care expert and a person with pastoral care experience, and the family can also have an advocate as occurs under the new Mental Health Act. To me, the current situation in which the director of clinical services has the right to apply directly to the Family Court to have treatment enforced seems to be pretty heavy-handed and inappropriate when a family is in such a painful situation.

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

From my study of media reports it appears that forced chemotherapy is not as uncommon as we might think. Most parents who are faced with, “If you don’t agree, we will take you to court,” back off. That is understandable, because they might feel that perhaps they were not doing the right thing for their child. I am not saying that the oncologist is right or the family is right, but a court of law ought to be the very last place we try to resolve those things, but rather in a pastoral caring way, sensitive to the family with all the trauma they are going through with their little child suffering we should be able to deal with that in a different way.

I put this on public record. I asked Ms Kiszko whether she was happy for me to raise this in Parliament, and she was more than happy for me to do that. She said their little boy is just one example, but it is happening elsewhere, and she told me some stories she has discovered. Since her story broke, people with similar experiences have contacted her, but they backed off and did not take it to court. Apparently the Kiszko case is the first time that the provision in our medical act or whatever act it is has been utilised in the courts. Incidentally, one of the things that is coming before the court is whether Oshin needs radiation treatment as well. As I mentioned, in the eastern states, they would not treat him with radiation because he is too young. The young brain is very sensitive to radiation damage and apparently all children who have radiation treatment for this cancer end up mentally impaired. Given that, it is a horrendous decision for a judge to make. I really believe that it should be done by talking and respectfully considering each other’s opinion, but unless there is a clear-cut case that the child can be cured if a process is followed, I really believe that parents’ rights should have the upper hand.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [8.20 pm]: It is good to be standing here tonight speaking in response to the state budget. After the budget was handed down last Thursday, I sought to analyse it in the context of what it reminds me of. I kept thinking of boats, ships, out-of-control cars, hooners and all those sorts of things. I finally landed on an out-of-control party. I am glad the Minister for Police is here tonight, because we have legislation to curtail and apply punitive measures to out-of-control parties. We need to amend that legislation to cover the out-of-control state of the finances.

My analogy for an out-of-control party is this: the Premier has been hosting this party for the past eight years, but on the last night of the party, it was totally out of control. The heavy drinkers had disgraced themselves. The teetotalers had been standing in the corner—I would put you down, Mr Acting Speaker, (Mr I.M. Britza) as one of the teetotalers—observing the carnage of this out-of-control party. The Acting Speaker and others who are teetotalers were probably reluctant invitees to the party and probably would have wanted to leave a bit earlier, but felt they needed to be there to support the host, the Premier. In the early hours of the morning the partiers find themselves waking up from a disaster.

In the cold light of day, the host wakes up. As the host, the Premier is probably not overly concerned, because he knows that the bills that will be left over from the carnage will not be paid by him; he will depart when he needs to and wishes to. The party was not even held at his house, so he does not even have that obligation. However, the carnage that is left over, which is this record debt that we find ourselves with, nudging \$40 billion, and the deficit of nearly \$4 billion for the fiscal year 2016–17, is disastrous. As the party people who have fallen asleep start waking up, they realise just what an appalling situation it is.

As I was saying to a journalist from one of the newspapers in Mandurah last week, it is actually sad. I do not think anyone should gloat over the fact that we are in this situation, because it is actually very sad that it has come to this. It is sad for those Western Australians, and there are many of them, who at this moment face uncertainty in their employment, those who find themselves out of employment at this time, those who find themselves in need of mental health support services and those who find themselves having to find the dollars each week to make their household budgets balance. It is a sad situation we have got into. As with any out-of-control party, we now know that the promises that were made cannot be kept. The people from Ellenbrook who were invited to the party, and invited to numerous parties and promised numerous things, of course, were some of the most disgruntled, because they left the party once again let down. But they are just one example of many people who feel let down. The sad thing is the situation we find ourselves in now. The member for Mirrabooka highlighted a couple of programs that are victims of this out-of-control spending and the out-of-control nature of how the finances have been overseen by the Barnett government.

Invited to the party was the National Party, and what an absolute disappointment it has been, because on numerous times now in this Parliament we have seen a National Party doing nothing to highlight issues that it and all of us know have been occurring under this government. Now, in the dying days of this Liberal–National government, we see the National Party members making little squeals about some policy differences, proudly trying to beat their chests and espouse that they indeed are independent. The people in the electorates that the National Party represents need not be hoodwinked by the crocodile tears that are shed by the National Party. The National Party has been part of this journey, this out-of-control party. It has been an active participant in it, and the people in the rural and regional areas where the National Party gains most support need to be reminded of

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

that. They also need to be reminded, of course, and we will certainly remind them, that the impact of what this government has created and leaves for subsequent governments and subsequent generations is very, very stark and sad indeed.

So it comes to situations in my electorate, where we now face a bizarre situation, and I say it in those terms, in which important services now cannot be looked at, cannot be funded, because of the waste, the poor priorities and the poor stewardship of the economy by the Barnett-led Liberal–National Party alliance. The Minister for Mental Health has gone, but I hope she is listening to the speech; I hoped she would be here. She was here and I hope she comes back. I will not have a go at her; I will not attack her in this, but I am going to make a plea to her about the issue of mental health in the Peel region. Cabinet came to Mandurah and the Peel region in April. I appreciated being invited to speak at the end of the community function that the ministers and the Premier were attending at the Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club. Unfortunately, and this was not known to most people at that event on a Monday night, a number of terrible events were occurring in our community. They had occurred earlier in that week and earlier in that month, and on that night, news had come through of yet another young person taking their life in Mandurah. From earlier this year, from about February, we have had from the southern part of Rockingham through Mandurah into the Peel up to seven young people take their lives in the region. This is tragic and we all accept that. When that happens in a community such as Peel, the understandable question comes up: why is this happening? This is debated and raised under great stress, great trauma and great sadness, and with a great number of unexplained answers. The member for Kimberley has brought this matter to this place on a number of occasions now. Of course, the statistics in the Kimberley are far worse than the ones in my region. I know some 20-plus—it may even be 30 now—young people have taken their lives in the Kimberley region since Christmas. I can only imagine how that affects the member for Kimberley as the member there and the impact that resonates through the communities and towns that make up the Kimberley. When it happens in a place such as Peel, it is the same thing. It is gut-wrenching. Everyone walks around asking: why? As a community we want to respond. We want to look at what is being delivered now; what is needed to fill the gaps; where the services are coming from; and what we need to try to turn this around. On that night I learned from one of the principals that the news had just come through that a student from one of our schools had taken his life, and he was one of three from that school who had done so over the month prior. Of course, it is devastating for a principal and her staff and the wider school community. They ask: What are we doing? What have we done? Have we done enough? Are there enough resources?

Within that context, the plea was made. We tried to highlight the issue to the Minister for Mental Health. Bear in mind that the Minister for Mental Health is a new minister and she had been the minister for only two weeks or maybe less. That is why I am not attacking her. I do not want to have a go at her because I have a lot of respect for the member for Kingsley, who is the minister, but I think her initial response was a bit naïve. The community through a number of leaders highlighted the need for funding support for a particular program known as the 3 Tier Youth Mental Health Program, which has been developed by the GP down south organisation in Mandurah but also services Peel. Heath Black, a well-known former AFL footballer, is an ambassador for the 3 Tier Youth Mental Health Program and helps deliver the initial tier 1 element of the program, which is awareness. Through its own resources and community support, GP down south has been able to deliver tier 1 on a number of occasions over the last two years. It involves Heath Black and other key ambassadors presenting to large groups of students from all around the region—not only Mandurah but also the Shire of Murray, as far as Boddington, Waroona and, of course, Dwellingup and other areas in Peel. Hundreds of kids have attended the tier 1 program presentations. The organisation has had so many kids attend that it now has to hold the presentations at the largest venue it can find in Mandurah, which is the Mandurah Baptist College, which seats 1 200 people. It has had up to 1 000 students at any one time at these.

Tier 1 is the program delivery and covers the broad scope of understanding as a young person the issues associated with potential self-harm, depression and anxiety. Tier 2 of the program is about the next layer of delivery in schools and youth organisations. The second tier is the more intensive support to smaller groups of students; it is the school-centred stuff. The third tier is the one-on-one individual counselling and support given to those young people who have identified themselves as being in need of support. This program has been evaluated. An evaluation that was carried out last year was sent to the Mental Health Commission. We do not know where it is or where it is at. The program initiators tried to meet with the former Minister for Mental Health. I wrote to the former Minister for Mental Health asking her to meet with them and talk to them about what this program was, why it was so important and why it is part of the answer to how we as a community can come together and address this very tragic issue of youth suicide and youth anxiety and depression. Unfortunately, to be totally honest, I do not think the former Minister for Mental Health was interested or understood where we were coming from or why we saw this program as crucial. I do not know whether she was just listening to the bureaucrat or whatever but we could not get through. I think that a colleague in my neighbouring seat was of the same opinion.

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

Then the new Minister for Mental Health came on board. Under the tragic circumstances, we made a plea. The minister has not come back with a second go yet, but her initial blanket response was that other services are being provided and it would be, in her words, “a duplication of service”. I am sorry, but the minister is wrong. One of the most frustrating things for me as a member who has lived in Mandurah for 27-odd years is this assumption that we are being serviced by Perth-centric services when factually it does not happen or they are piecemeal in their response. I am not attacking those services; I am not saying that they are bad services, but they are not delivered locally from the local area. They are delivered from Perth or Rockingham or Fremantle.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: They are not delivered from within the region for people who live there. That is the point and that is the difference between what is happening in Mandurah now with some of the services and why this 3 Tier Youth Mental Health Program is so crucial to the response. If we had that service, we would have a local evidence-based service delivering to local young people by people who know the schools, the teachers and the community well. That is the difference. Youth Focus, for example, delivers some services. It is a great service but it is not located in Mandurah. It delivers some services to Peel and Mandurah from Rockingham. The mental health minister made a statement that there would be new beds for Peel under the mental health strategy. I would assume that those beds would go into Peel. What is Peel? It is Mandurah, the Murray region, Waroona, Boddington and Serpentine–Jarrahdale. Will those proposed 10 beds go into Peel? No, they will not. They will be in Rockingham General Hospital. The minister should not tell porkies. Why can those beds not go into Mandurah or the Murray area for people who have specific, 24-hour step-down bed-type needs and need to be observed and stabilised? Why should we not have that facility in Mandurah or the Murray region? A local person with those localised needs, whose family lives in the same community, needs that service provided locally.

The population in Mandurah is 80 000-plus and in Murray 16 000-plus. That number is going to grow throughout the region. We have Waroona further south. Why can we not have a centralised service in the Peel that delivers quality mental health to the people who live there and not rely on piecemeal services from somewhere in Rockingham, Perth or Fremantle? I scratch my head. But unfortunately that is the response we have had from the new Minister for Mental Health. What I have now been calling for in Mandurah and Peel is an audit. I think we need to audit exactly what is happening; who is delivering what. I know that most of the services being delivered locally are from services outside the region that come in. I want to make sure we know exactly what is happening.

We then need to look at the 3 Tier Youth Mental Health program. It could be up and running tomorrow and delivering tiers 2 and 3. How much does it cost? Minister for Mental Health, the ask is about \$400 000 over three years to deliver a program to the kids living in Waroona, Murray, Boddington and Mandurah. The kids living in Serpentine–Jarrahdale are probably focussed on services from the Armadale area, but if they need servicing from this program, they should be included. That is the ask: \$400 000 over three years.

What will that deliver us? It will be able to deliver the three tiers. We will be able to continue with the first tier, which is the scoping of understanding about the issues around youth suicide or youth harm, anxiety, depression et cetera. Tier 2 will allow us to deliver into the schools and into the other areas where young people gather or are drawn to the second tier of more intensive support. The third tier will be individual counselling—the stuff whereby we target a number of highly vulnerable young people and give them and their families the supports they need. It can all be done locally, within the region by a regionally funded program. Why can this minister and this government not see that that is part of the answer for how we in our region can address the terrible scourge that is youth suicide, self-harm, anxiety and depression?

If we had the funding, it would supplement what our community is already doing. I want to mention a few names. I want to congratulate Councillor Dave Schumacher, a passionate bloke, who sought pre-selection for the Liberal Party in Dawesville but was rejected for someone who does not have any great local content, but that is the choice of the Liberal Party. On the night of the visit of the cabinet in April, Dave hosted a fundraising function and raised over \$50 000. Another local businessman Aaron Rekman, who runs a kitchen-making business in town, said he would have a gala dinner and is going to raise some money. The community has already very clearly made known its view: we are in this together, we are prepared to come together and raise some dollars because we understand why this 3 Tier Youth Mental Health Program is so important; the government needs to meet us as a partner. I am telling the Minister for Mental Health now that the advice she is getting from the Mental Health Commission and the bureaucrats is wrong. She is being misled. This program that I and community are agitating for is crucial and is developed locally for all young people who live in the region, not just those who live in Mandurah, and that is why it is so important. I am telling the minister now that she has to stand aside from her bureaucrats, find the \$400 000 for this program, get it funded immediately, and it will start to deliver what we know it needs to deliver to support the young people in our region. We owe it to them and their families to do that.

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

I want to move on to very briefly cover a couple of other items. Last week I had the very great pleasure of hosting the Pinjarra sub-branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia to lunch. Those people had won a quiz prize that I gave them. This is something that I think all members should be wary of, particularly if local sub-branches are in their electorates. Some people have more than one. There is one in my electorate and the Dawesville RSL sub-branch is another one. There are effectively two in the City of Mandurah and one in Pinjarra. A number of our towns traditionally hold a dawn service. This year was special because it was the 100th anniversary of dawn services and the 101st anniversary of the Gallipoli–Anzac campaign. As we know, in most places, not just in Western Australia but in Australia, the crowds are growing markedly in support of the traditional march, the dawn services and the commemorative events in the town. One of the worrying things—this is one of the worrying things for the Pinjarra sub-branch—is that it cost the sub-branch \$8 000 this year to pay for traffic to be controlled during the march. They marched down George Street, the main street of Pinjarra, turned right into Pinjarra Road and marched up to the war memorial between the RSL and the council buildings for the traditional commemorative service. This year, the march cost them \$8 000. I understand that it cost the Cockburn RSL sub-branch \$18 000 and the Mandurah RSL sub-branch just over \$10 000. I understand that the City of Perth was charged over \$100 000. Some of the councils provide a subsidy. I think the Murray shire was able to give the Pinjarra sub-branch \$2 000 or \$3 000. The problem is that this cost will continue to grow and these sub-branches cannot be called upon to put up this amount of money every year. It is ridiculous. This is the most significant day on Australia’s calendar. Anzac Day is the most important calendar event in most towns and cities and even tiny places in the state. Those sub-branches that hold marches that require a street or parts of a street to be blocked off will face these costs in the future. In the past, Lotterywest has assisted, but that funding seems to have tailed off. During the estimates hearings I will ask whichever minister is responsible about this fact. Even with subsidies from councils, which might be \$2 000 or \$3 000, small sub-branches such as Pinjarra, which has about 400 members, are forced to fundraise just to pay for the road closures. I find that appalling. This impost on those RSL sub-branches seems to have occurred over the last three years. We now need to come up with a clear understanding that the state government should pay. The state government should dramatically subsidise this cost to RSLs.

Mrs G.J. Godfrey: Why don’t you think local government should pay?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Local government is already subsidising most of them, but they are not paying the whole amount. The problem is that the RSL sub-branches are left to pay the bulk of the funds.

It is something that we need to take up. The government needs to understand that on this particular day—the most important commemorative event in our national calendar—the state government must step up. I think it is important that the government pay those fees.

I am really pleased to say that Dave Mabbs from the Mandurah RSL sub-branch did a brilliant job on the Anzac commemorative services in Mandurah again this year. I was asked to run the two-up, so I was the two-up ringleader this year. I thought I would be there for two hours, but I was there for five. I did not have a break. I did not even have time to relieve myself. I did not realise that the person running the games decides when they will finish. Some of the blokes would have looked at me in a very angry way if I had decided to go home early. It was an interesting and very important experience, and I thank David Mabbs and his crew at the Mandurah RSL for their support.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.M. Britza): The Chair recognises the youthful looking member for Collie–Preston.

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston) [8.50 pm]: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. As any budget is passed, we hear many grizzles and groans, and some pats on the back, depending where members sit. After reading a budget that contained nearly 1 000 pages, I managed to find the word “Collie” once! All it said was this government will assist the Collie community in its restructure. There was no funding whatsoever. This is after the Treasurer himself said that we have to change and that in time Collie will be a very different place. What assistance has been brought forward by this government? None. At the moment, Collie is a town in flux. We are not quite sure what to do. A task force has been brought forward by the South West Development Commission and the Shire of Collie to look at job creation. Many ideas have been put forward by people at community meetings; yet when I look at it, government assistance is sadly lacking. Most people know that if we do not change with the times, we do not survive. This is a case of needing help to change. It certainly has not been forthcoming.

Local businesspeople tell me they have never ever had it so bad. When people are under stress, they certainly do not spend. They sit back and put the pennies away, waiting for that rainy day. That is about where we are now. Small businesses suffer just as much as large businesses, because those small businesses rely on people spending. If people are not spending and they are not getting assistance from the government, they are in a very big bother. That is where Collie is at the moment.

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

Further to that, when I look through the *Budget Statements* I look for my favourite words—“Lake Kepwari”. I have been looking for those words for years and years. Lake Kepwari is a mine void. For the newer members in here, it is a mine void that is two kilometres long, a kilometre wide and its water is 75 metres deep. It is a perfect skiing spot and should be by now the ski mecca of Western Australia. But it is certainly not happening because the will of this government and, I must say, Premier Coal, is sadly lacking. The beautiful, blue sign on the side of Lake Kepwari—I must say it was a beautiful, big, blue sign—is extremely faded. It has been there so long that the words on the front of it cannot be read. It is a sign that has been abandoned. Now, \$2.9 million has been removed from this budget. When I rang around to find out where the money has gone, I was told it has gone into excess cash. This government has not got any excess cash. If it has, I would like to know where it is and what it will do with it. Once a line item is removed, you are in trouble—everyone here knows that.

We also know from the Premier’s statements that to say it is in the forward estimates—which it is not—is a furphy because the forward estimates do not count. The Premier has said in here on numerous occasions, “Don’t worry about the forward estimates; they are what is said—forward estimates.” We would have liked to have seen something that said the government understands that we need to change. Lake Kepwari would be one of those major game players for the Collie region and the south west.

The Ferguson Valley tourist road through Pile Road has now been sealed. That makes Collie about 15 minutes closer to Bunbury. That drive brings people up from the flatlanders, up through the hills and the vineyards, and into Collie and into the playground of motorsports and watersports. That is if we can continue with our expansion of our tourist industry. Yes, we have tried it before, and, fortunately or unfortunately—whichever way we like to look at it—every time we got a bit of a tourist industry going, along would come another construction job and all the hotels would be booked out and no accommodation would be available for tourists. The only tourists would then be day trippers, because people could not stay overnight, and we did not get enough money out of their pockets for meals and accommodation and all the other things that go with overnight stays. However, now that overnight accommodation is available, we do not have the support from the government to enable us to move on.

In time, Lake Kepwari will have a caravan park, a series of upmarket chalets, and some cheaper camping areas. The overflow into Collie for fuel for VHP boats or ski boats will be a benefit to the town, let alone the benefit from people who buy McDonald’s, have a beer or recreate in other ways. Again, after eight years, the money for Lake Kepwari has been removed. That is one of the biggest slaps that Collie has seen. Even though in budgetary terms it is not the largest amount of money around the place, and it is not going to send the government, which is already broke, further down the pipe, it is—I am trying to think of the word—a marker, I suppose, to the people of Collie to say, “Someone cares about you. Someone is looking after you. Have faith. You will rise again.” However, unfortunately, that money is not there.

I am a bit lost. When I ask a minister in this house to come to Collie and meet with the local community, and he tells me I should do it myself, that tells its own story. Again, that was the Treasurer. The Treasurer has refused a request from the Shire of Collie, and others, to come to Collie and address the community. It has been 10 weeks since that request was made, and still a date has not been set for him to come to Collie. That is arrogance at its best. The easiest way for a minister to bring down their government is to not be available to people who need a hand and need direction. We will welcome the Treasurer to Collie. I do not know what he is frightened of. I thought he had a bit more gumption than that. We would welcome him to Collie to get some understanding of the comments that he has made. The Treasurer has made comments at obscure meetings and conferences, yet he has not talked to the people of Collie. It is beyond belief that any minister would do that. I have spoken to other ministers at times, and within days they have come to Collie.

I was very surprised recently when people ran into my office and said a UFO is in town. I said, “Come on, boys!” They said, “Yes; it has a little round head, and it just went past in a car.” We have never had a UFO that went past in a car! I then worked out that it was Hon John Day. That was the first time he had been to Collie. No-one had ever seen a head so perfectly round. He went down the street in the car, never looked sideways, never smiled, went to the hospital, did his little bit, turned around, and went straight back to Perth. He never called in to see anyone around the place. That is why governments lose their way. It is because they lose contact with communities all over Western Australia. That is what has happened with this government.

On a positive note, not everything in Collie is dire. We have the Collie Motorplex.

The Treasurer has just come into the house. I have just been talking about you, Treasurer. I am wondering whether the Treasurer has accepted our invitation to come to Collie and speak to the people. That invitation has now been on the Treasurer’s desk for about 10 weeks. I wonder whether the Treasurer has found time in his busy schedule to do that.

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

Dr M.D. Nahan: I will be going to Collie during the federal election campaign, and I will be talking to the people of Collie extensively about our renewables policy, and our approach to coal and other issues—yes, I will—and I will highlight Labor’s policy at the same time.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: The Treasurer will not need a flak jacket and his minders; he will be welcome down there.

Dr M.D. Nahan: I know.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I think under the new gun rules we will be able to keep the rifles away!

Dr M.D. Nahan: Member, as I said, they will come down and if they will hear me—given that they are from Collie, they will—I expect that they will come onto our side when they hear the relative support we are going to give to the coal industry, and have.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: The Treasurer has caused dissension and insecurity in our town, but he will not come down —

Dr M.D. Nahan: How?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: By his statements about how Collie will be a different town within 10 years.

Dr M.D. Nahan: I heard Gary Wood saying the same thing; indeed, urging, and we are in the process —

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Gary Wood does not make political decisions. Gary Wood represents around 600 or 700 members, not a community. The Treasurer represents this state, and he still does not have the gumption to come down there. He makes light of it, and rubs it in to the people of Collie. It is about time the Treasurer came down and explained this budget that contains one word about Collie—one word is all it has—and provides no funding support. For the next 12 months we do not know where we are going because the Treasurer has given us no direction. We will cop the good with the bad—we will cop that—but the Treasurer —

Dr M.D. Nahan: The threat to Collie lies from Canberra right now, and you know it, member. Shorten’s policies, both the renewable policy —

Mr M.P. MURRAY: We are not talking about the federal election; we are talking about the Treasurer and what he is going to do for Collie in Western Australia. We have the smallest electricity system in Australia. As far as coal goes, we have the cheapest.

Dr M.D. Nahan: It’s very cheap.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: So why does the Treasurer not support it?

Dr M.D. Nahan: I do!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Why does the Treasurer not come down and talk to the people of Collie at a public meeting? I will guarantee the Treasurer’s safety! If the Treasurer comes down and speaks to the people —

Dr M.D. Nahan: We improved the Premier Coal contract, we rebuilt Muja A and B and we signed the contract for Bluewaters.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Bluewaters was built under a Labor government!

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Why does the Treasurer not come down and speak to the community?

Dr M.D. Nahan: I will!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: When?

Dr M.D. Nahan: At a time of my choosing, and soon.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: What an insipid answer from a person who does not have the courage of his convictions! That is what that is about! Again, the Treasurer can blame who he likes, but the decision-making around the coal and generation industry in Western Australia is made by the Treasurer. Bill Shorten will not come and shut down a private power station or private company that is worth getting towards \$1 billion, and then ruin the investment opportunities for everyone in the south west. The Treasurer has already done it; he stood up in this house and said that Lanco Infratech should get out of the place because it was causing so much trouble. That is what the Treasurer said in this place.

Dr M.D. Nahan: They were, yes.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Does the Treasurer stand by those words?

Dr M.D. Nahan: No; they have improved their game immensely.

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Talk about a fair weather sailor! I have seen the best of them, and the Treasurer is right there.

The SPEAKER: Just hold it a minute. Hansard has to make a record of what is happening over here. You make a speech, and then we will take it from there; okay?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I will, but it will not change the tone of what I am saying or the request I am putting to the Treasurer to come down and talk to my community, which is in limbo at the moment. Not only that, the local government wrote to the Treasurer more than 10 weeks ago and I understand that it still has not had a reply. I would ask the Treasurer to at least show a little manners and reply to the letter, but unfortunately I do not think he has that. Wherever he came from, he was not very well brought up.

In saying that, let us move on to the motor sports complex. I will highlight the difference between one minister and another—the Minister for Sport and Recreation, and the Minister for Tourism. We were having some problems with the upgrade of the motor sports complex down at Collie. The Collie Motorplex brings an enormous amount of tourism dollars into the town. I went to the Minister for Sport and Recreation and asked her whether she would assist, and within days we had an answer and we moved on. We have moved money from one area to another to allow that complex to grow. With that complex growing, it is now bringing in more dollars. Last weekend was huge for the town, with sports cars from all over the state congregating in Collie. They all said they enjoyed themselves; it is about country camping, the amenities that are available and the cheapness of using the track. All those things attract tourism. That is what happens when we have a good minister, or fairly good—I will not say totally good—compared with a minister who has his head in the sand and refuses to help a community that is crying out for change, and who has not provided funding for the next 12 months for a task force comprising the South West Development Commission and the Shire of Collie. How can that task force continue to work to help the town? We will have to be like the main street of Perth with all its beggars. We will not get a grant in the south west, so we will have to run down and rattle the tins and get the money off the streets! We need that complex to go forward and we need help from a very arrogant and lazy Minister for Tourism. By the end of this year we hope to have an upgrade for the motor sports complex so it can be used nearly every weekend of the year. If people want to calculate that in a dollar sense, they certainly can.

I refer to another part of the budget. Every party is guilty of this at times, but if members want to see pork-barrelling at its best it is in this budget. I am talking about the south west. The area from Busselton to Margaret River has been allocated \$60 million worth of projects. One that is unbelievable is funding for a ring-road for the town of Margaret River, but no money for the Bunbury ring-road so that people can get to Margaret River! How does the government work that out? How do we logistically get that ring-road in place, when people cannot get to Margaret River because traffic is jammed, but once people get there they can drive around it! I am probably more concerned about what the government will call that ring-road. Will it be Redman Drive or House Alley? I am not sure, because they will both be down there fighting to get their name on that bit of pork-barrelling. I have no doubt about that.

Can I have an extension, please?

The SPEAKER: Yes, you can have an extension.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: With reluctance, I hear!

The SPEAKER: No, with great enthusiasm.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr M.P. MURRAY: When members consider that \$60 million is going to a minority of people in the south west, it is a slap in the face for the people of Bunbury. It is certainly not going to help the Liberal Party's chances of holding the Bunbury seat. They are not that silly. The amount of \$24 million that Bunbury got in this budget came out of the previous budget. In real terms, the biggest town in the south west will get \$12 million of infrastructure, which includes an upgraded Dolphin Discovery Centre. There are no roads, no bridges and no ring-roads. I wonder how that is possible. Infrastructure has to be thought out and not just dropped on the ground for political purposes. That is one of the biggest mistakes this government has made over its period in government. Now it is trying to fix it, but the further it goes, the bigger the hole it digs for itself.

I look further to other towns in the south west that people do not hear a great deal about, but they are all growth towns. I am talking about Dalyellup, Dardanup, Donnybrook and Eaton, all of which have been hard done by. In the Donnybrook area over \$10 million has been removed from the Main Roads WA budget. Donnybrook is on the highway and there have been many accidents down that way. The mid south west—not the lower south west—has been dealt an extremely savage blow by this government for all the infrastructure projects it had planned. Really, they wanted the basic one, which was access roads into the port, which were not budgeted for

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

either, and the ring-road for Bunbury to stop the congestion over the busy periods. It is now getting to the stage where the growth at Eaton and Australind have made the hold-ups as serious as those in Perth. If anybody from the city was down there around the eight o'clock in the morning mark, going into Bunbury, they would understand exactly what I am talking about. Yes, we have been forgotten, but we will not be going away. We will be there at the next election, which is not that far away, and we will remind the government of every bit of this, where it has pork-barrelled but done nothing.

I will now move onto something that I have interjected on the minister about; something I am very disappointed about—that is, the number of road deaths in country areas. Something has to be done immediately. It is very disappointing to see that over the last three years money has been held back for political purposes. As we run into an election, the government puts the money on the ground and says that it is going to fix this up. In the meantime, two-thirds of road deaths have occurred in country towns. Along with that, I believe that it would be very timely if the minister instituted an inquiry into the number of car fires. It has been of concern to me that people have been incinerated in their cars. I believe that there is a safety fault in those cars, so that when they crash, the fuel pumps keep pushing fuel out, because they are under a pressure system, whereas in the old system once a motor stopped the fuel stopped. I have no technical knowledge about this and I am not trying to say that I do, but the number of fires in cars has blown out of proportion. I ask the minister, in her position, if she is able to, to ask people to focus on the reason for that, maybe in a coroner's inquest into one of those fires. Why do the cars catch fire? I honestly do not know, but anyone in my age group would know that it would be a rare occasion years ago for a car to catch fire. Now it is a regular occurrence, and people are trapped in burning cars.

Dr M.D. Nahan: They have electric fuel pumps, rather than mechanical ones.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: That is right; they keep pushing out the fuel. There should be some sort of pressure valve, but it would take an Australian government agreement to do that.

Mr P. Abetz: I can answer that. In newer cars, if they have an accident and the airbag goes off, it actually shuts down the electrical system and shuts off the fuel pump, but I think in some of the older models that does not happen. On the newer cars, that has been taken care of.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: So that has been taken care of. Okay, thank you for that. It is still worth looking at, because we saw an accident between a truck and a car this week on the freeway. We do not want to see that. Sometimes a person is incapacitated by the accident, and could have got out of the car if they had time.

I will leave that one with the minister, but my other point is about speed cameras. I have been on record in other places talking about speed cameras. Put them out in the open and put them out in the country. That is where the accidents are and that is where people are having major crashes. Again, further research needs to be done into those crashes to see whether the victims are shift workers who have been working 12-hour shifts, seven days a week, and then get a weekend off. Research must be done to see why these single car crashes and rollovers occur, and whether they are due to fatigue or other reasons. I have some worries, I suppose, that maybe a few of them are suicides. We do not know the background to them. I do not think the studies go far enough to try to address the problem of why these people are dying on a regular basis on the roads in country areas.

One thing I do know is that if more police were seen on the roads, some of that would drop off. I use the tragic example of three young people killed just recently. If a police car had been driving up and down in that country town, I can tell members that through the bush telegraph, everyone would have known within half an hour that the cops were in town—"Don't go down there, there's a roadblock. A cop just drove up the street; don't go up there." That is the way to police country towns. But because those young people knew that no-one was there, a tragic accident came out of that and unfortunately it cost some lives.

I will move to another topic. I certainly have not highlighted in here previously any of my personal life relating to drugs. Now I think I understand and am able to control my emotions about what has happened in my family. I read the column by Liam Bartlett published in *The Sunday Times* on Sunday, 8 May, and could not agree more with what he wrote there. Getting caught with drugs—I am talking about the low level—should not always mean that a person should have to go to jail. It is my very strong view, after being party to drug problems in my family, that we see a difference in what happens if a person gets into rehabilitation circles rather than being put in jail. I heard an anecdote about one young lady who went to a women's prison and was not a heroin addict, but she has become one since she has been in jail. When I asked my daughter to read the column by Liam Bartlett, I asked her for her comments. She came back very strongly and said that the young man whom the article was about would become pretty twisted. This young bloke went to jail, having been sentenced to a 16-month term for possession of meth and intent to supply. He had a terrible background, but had been reformed for three months, yet he was still sent to jail. He was an ideal candidate to be given the same opportunity that my daughter was given, which was a suspended sentence. Why did we send him to jail at

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

a cost of \$300 a day to destroy what he had worked so hard to be, which was drug free? He would have gone to jail and the door would have slammed shut. What do members think his thoughts were? He would have thought, "I've worked very hard to prove myself to people that I can be straight and this is what they do to me. Where was my chance?" Sure, people talk about the revolving door and people going through it and out the other side, but he was an example of someone who just needed a bit more help—not to be incarcerated and left alone in a jail because he had done some wrong. He certainly did do wrong—I do not feel sorry for him in that way—but he could have been a great contributor to society in the future. There is a problem for many of those kids who want to get off the drugs. Their paranoia is just unbelievable, but all of a sudden there is a space and they say, "I want to get off that, Mum." Mum grabs them, but where does she take them to? There is nowhere. If they are taken to the outpatients department, they are told to sit over there and are given a pill, and then they are booked in to see their doctor on the following Monday or Tuesday. We need doors that open for those kids—not just kids, but also young adults—straightaway so that they can go straight in and be seen by a psychiatrist or whoever they need to see and get medical treatment. Sometimes they need a shower. We need that door to open straightaway so that people can go in and be dealt with. Sometimes they may come out and last three or four months and then fall back into old habits; at other times it can be the exact turning point because they were caught at the right moment when their brain was in the right position for them to go forward and break the habit.

Many people do not quite understand addiction. It is not for a week; it is forever and ever. We never know when it will pop up again, whether for an alcoholic, drug user or any other user. We have to look at the big picture, and filling up the jails is not working at all. The other side of it is that we know there is a problem out on the streets. How do we shepherd these people away from easy access to the drugs of today? That is another issue that I do not think we will fix in the short term, but we would certainly like to see some of the money in the budget go into an open-door policy whereby someone goes into a house or a hospital and they are seen immediately and then referred on from there.

[Member's time expired.]

MR C.D. HATTON (Balcatta) [9.20 pm]: I rise with some enthusiasm to comment on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2016–17) Bill 2016 and the Appropriation (Capital 2016–17) Bill 2016. This budget is certainly significant in that it marks almost eight years of strong and very stable governance. The Liberal–National partnership is that governance and represents the strongest and most stable government in Australia. There is a lot to be recognised in this budget, because it is a solid sensible budget that tracks the transitioning economy, not only now but over a period of years.

Through the global financial crisis of 2008 and beyond, this government has shown immense resilience and vision to enable metropolitan and regional Western Australians to live in a place that not only offers opportunities and lifestyle choices but also enables them to access high-quality education, health services and public utilities. Over the past eight years, this government has been instrumental in a number of areas that are very important to all Western Australians. Health, education and law and order are the three big ones that stand out for every person. I stand here as part of a government that has risen out of the global financial crisis and shown the fortitude to build new hospitals, schools and infrastructure that has provided not only employment for Western Australians in business, trades and clerical and support services, but also a very, very strong foundation for future growth and prosperity for all Western Australians. This strong foundation is where we are right now. This government has laid the foundation for the future. It is securing our economic future. It is meeting demand and delivering quality services. It is supporting and protecting our community. It is investing in infrastructure to support our growing state.

I would now like to draw attention to what this government has done to invest in looking after people's welfare by way of law enforcement, disability funding and services and mental health legislation and resourcing. In the area of law and order, this Liberal–National government continues to crack down on crime by introducing laws that put victims of crimes first and criminals last. Unlike previous Labor governments and their remnants in opposition here today, our government strongly commits to dealing with crime, introducing hoon laws, dealing with assaults against police officers, reducing out-of-control parties, creating strong home burglary legislation and even getting tough on graffiti vandalism. We are taking on the fight against crime, domestic violence and drugs with strong legislation and law enforcement.

To deal with the real societal problem of drugs, this government has a committed plan across departments, across ministerial areas and across state and federal boundaries to stop the supply and to help support and rehabilitate the individuals caught up in what may be called a modern day epidemic of the scourge of drugs, not just in WA but across borders and countries. We as a committed government will continue to legislate when and where legislation is needed to protect people on the street, in their homes and in public spaces.

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

Labor is soft on crime. This government is not. I welcome getting tough on not just hooning in cars, but dangerous hoon driving around schools and getting tough on those vandals who graffiti private and public property. The Graffiti Vandalism Bill 2015 demonstrates a strong stance against derelict behaviour—behaviour that can often and does often lead to more serious organised crime. I welcome this government's stance by way of amendments to the Sentencing Act 1995 to provide GPS tracking of serious violent offenders, including domestic violence offenders. Again, I welcome our overall commitment to driving down crime, a major driver of crime being drug abuse, particularly methamphetamine abuse.

Reflecting on metropolitan Perth and where it is heading, the major infrastructure and asset builds such as Elizabeth Quay, City Link, Yagan Square, Perth Stadium and the Riverside development continue to be delivered on time and on budget—something that the opposition certainly had trouble doing in its chequered past of planning, building and fiscal management. We have only to remember Perth Arena —

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

Mr C.D. HATTON: It is good that the member for Mandurah is laughing because he wasted a lot of taxpayers' money. Do members remember Perth Arena —

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah, I am going to call you to order for the first time. I am going to take it that you never saw me stand up because I should have called you for the second and third time. Let the member for Balcatta continue.

Mr C.D. HATTON: Member, this is my moment of glory. Thank you very much. Does the member remember Perth Arena? He has been around long enough. Does he remember the cost blowouts? Does he remember the strikes and the public discontent? Does he remember how economically —

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah, I think you need to relax a bit. I do not want you riding down to Mandurah in this distressed state.

Mr C.D. HATTON: Instead of asking, I will say that the member surely remembers how economically illiterate his government was. It could not and it cannot build public assets. We build them, we provide jobs and we provide the growth. We value the public assets, and get this —

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Collie–Preston, you must have been called at least three times, the way you have been shrieking out today, but I cannot even find your name here. Can you please calm down.

Mr C.D. HATTON: We build public assets and we provide jobs and growth. We value those public assets. When it is necessary, we do sell them; of course we do. We sell them to get better value for the state and the taxpayer. That is called budget rationalisation and transition and it is very sensible economics. The member may not know economics very well but it is. Perth stagnated and went backwards.

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah, we have had our fun. Let the member speak.

Mr C.D. HATTON: Perth stagnated and went backwards under the previous Labor government—it was called Dullsville under Labor—but now in 2016 we have a vibrant inner-city precinct.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

Mr C.D. HATTON: The member for Collie–Preston never goes into the city; he would not even know. He probably has not had a cup of coffee down there for the last two years. I will take him down to Elizabeth Quay. Does he want to hold my hand? I will take him down there.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Collie–Preston, I call you to order for the first time. That is enough now.

Mr C.D. HATTON: I will shout the member for Collie–Preston a coffee down there. We can go down the Terrace if he would like.

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah, I call you to order for the second time.

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

Mr C.D. HATTON: We have created a vibrant inner-city precinct that places Western Australia on the tourism map, which of course means jobs, jobs, jobs and a stronger economy. We are maturing the city into a destination for tourists, people from other states, and normal, everyday mums and dads and their families. It has become a city for all; a city of opportunity for recreation, commercial enterprise and jobs, jobs, jobs. It is no longer Labor Dullsville. That is gone. It is now “cosmopolitan” Perth for everyone.

Metropolitan Perth is not the only beneficiary of this government’s investment for the years to come, member for Collie–Preston. Regional Western Australia has had a big piece of that investment, would you not agree, member for Collie–Preston? He probably would not, from his previous speech.

Mr M.P. Murray: Are you talking about the railway line or Forrest Highway?

Mr C.D. HATTON: For the last eight years the whole of Western Australia has had a piece of that investment, with over \$6 billion allocated and with over 3 000 rural projects across the state, from Esperance to Kalgoorlie to Broome and to Kununurra. All Western Australian are benefiting. If the member for Collie–Preston were to try to work a bit harder, his community might benefit.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Collie–Preston, I call you to order for the second time. Can you talk through the Chair, please, member for Balcatta?

Mr C.D. HATTON: Hard work pays off—hard work in the local electorate of Balcatta, my electorate, with the six suburbs of Joondanna, Osborne Park, Tuart Hill, Balcatta, Stirling and Hamersley. I get to engage frequently—more frequently than the member for Collie–Preston—with what I regard as very professional and dedicated school principals who have adopted the new funding model with professionalism and public service duty.

Several members interjected.

Mr C.D. HATTON: Yes; and now they have adopted with a sense of confidence a true cost–benefit funding model for the taxpayers of Western Australia. The money is being channelled directly to the individual. This government adopted some years ago the principles of Gonski, which no-one on that side understood. No-one on that side has the background to understand education.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr C.D. HATTON: We continue to be the best-funded state.

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah.

Mr C.D. HATTON: We do not have bureaucratic involvement from Canberra. We have taken on the principles of Gonski. We are directing the money in the right direction. WA schools are strongly supported by this government. We get teachers into classrooms in front of all children—not like Labor. We value teachers with some of the highest wages in Western Australia—not like Labor. We value schools and communities—not like Labor. Labor would like to just undo all the good we have done. It would just strip it away. Heaven help us if a federal Labor government were to get in, let alone a state Labor government. This government gets on with the job. It gets on with building hospitals, unlike the distinct inability of the previous Labor government to do so. In my electorate —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah, I call you to order for the third time. Member for Wanneroo, I think you have been called for the second time. Member for Girrawheen, you see what hubbub you have caused by walking into this chamber!

Mr C.D. HATTON: I am sorry to take so long, but members opposite are showing that they are disgraced.

The well-utilised Osborne Park Hospital now has new theatres and I am working very hard in support of more hospital off-road parking. As a matter of fact, I have been working for three to four years on off-road parking. In 2013, along with my government, I pledged that I would get a \$3 million to \$5 million new hospital car park built there. The soil will be turned in a matter of weeks.

Several members interjected.

Mr C.D. HATTON: That off-road parking will be built. We will look after the nurses, the doctors and the local community.

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

Something I am passionate about is disability funding and so forth. Over the past six to eight years, this government has funded disability services more than any other government has. We remain a model and inspiration to other states. Caring for people with disabilities is a top priority and so is mental health funding, as the new Minister for Mental Health will know. The Liberal–National government has done more to support those members of our community with mental health issues than has any other previous Western Australian government. Certainly, in my role as the local member for Balcatta, I am aware of many people’s needs and it is most satisfying to be able to assist individuals to find pathways to the many, many services available and achieve better outcomes in their lives. I am very aware, unlike members opposite, that some people are doing it tough and are facing personal and income challenges. It is true, and I am working hard in Balcatta with a great group of people with disabilities, including people with cerebral palsy, who need help. They are my dear friends.

Of course, it is not all perfect. No government is perfect, although this government is far closer to being perfect than the wannabe government of members opposite. This government gives its priority to providing for people’s needs. I remain committed to helping people in the electorate of Balcatta.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

Mr C.D. HATTON: The member for Collie–Preston should be more committed in his electorate and he would get more done.

Several members interjected.

Mr C.D. HATTON: I would like to mention —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Member for Mandurah, that is enough. Through the Chair, member for Balcatta.

Mr C.D. HATTON: If they keep interjecting, I will run out of time—please, Mr Speaker.

I would like to mention just a few initiatives and improvements that have occurred in the Balcatta electorate—firstly, in the area of education and schools. Classrooms at Glendale Primary School in Hamersley have been upgraded, and some roofing has been done and there is a brand-new state-of-the-art administration building. It is a significant build for an ageing but excellent school. At Osborne Primary School—the member for Wagin visited there with me—a new staff car park has been built.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr C.D. HATTON: The irrigation system is to be upgraded at Takari Primary School and there is a good chance —

An opposition member interjected.

Mr C.D. HATTON: It is more than a sprinkler; it is \$102 000, member, worth of sprinkler system. He should work for his electorate.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Balcatta. I do not know why you are speaking to members and not to the Chair. Speak to the Chair. Thank you.

Mr C.D. HATTON: Certainly, Mr Speaker. At Tuart Hill Primary School, new perimeter fencing and a new staff car park are to be built. At Balcatta Senior High School, a new food technology refurbishment will take place. I must acknowledge the outstanding implementation of the 40-kilometre-an-hour zone flashing school lights.

Several members interjected.

Mr C.D. HATTON: Nearly 1 000 schools, probably by early next year, will have these lights installed and in my electorate, all schools have them, bar two, and I am working hard to get them, probably harder than the people opposite work in their electorates.

I would like to place on record that the Reid Highway build from Erindale Road through Balcatta is near completion, on budget and on time. It is a significant build that will take that section of highway from two lanes to four lanes. It is, I think, a \$98 million build, with a new bridge over the freeway. I will continue to work with the Hamersley residents on issues concerning noise mitigation and privacy screening. There have already been some good outcomes. Likewise, I will continue to work on transport initiatives that will improve traffic flow in Balcatta, reduce travel times and improve road safety. I am working hard. It will just be a matter of time before I get more turn lanes and longer turn lanes outside Bunnings on Erindale Road. Good old Bunnings—it is a great

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

spot! I am confident that after many months of working alongside residents in Balcatta and in suburbs beyond, there will be traffic solutions to the dangerous Erindale Road–Boya Way intersection. I will continue to try to convince my reluctant council, the City of Stirling, to put some money into this intersection. The government has already offered it money, but it will not come up with the goods. I will keep working on that one.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr C.D. HATTON: Finally, as I said earlier, this Liberal–National-led government has laid the foundation for a prosperous future—for my four children, for my extended family and for all young families. Our economy is transitioning and realigning into other sectors such as science, research, agriculture, commerce, education and tourism.

Mr J.M. Francis: And fisheries!

Mr C.D. HATTON: And fisheries—sorry, minister.

It remains very strong and very resilient. State spending has been adjusted to meet efficient service delivery in core departments. Asset sales continue to be identified and prioritised. The fight for a fair GST return remains strong—with no help at all from the opposition. The mining economy, like always, will return in a cyclical manner. It will return to higher levels of state revenue return. As world markets adjust to core minerals, with a focus on iron ore, we will continue to support WA's growth in oil and gas. World-class, large-scale products are coming online such as the Gorgon liquefied natural gas project. Commercial shipments have already sailed this year. The Wheatstone LNG project will be commissioned this year. Western Australia's mining sector is resilient and it is highly regarded across the world. Increasingly, our mining sector is value adding and diversifying by expanding into technology export.

I remain very confident that this government is continuing to deliver positive outcomes in investment, job creation and service delivery to Western Australians. Any economic challenges will be met by this government's commitment to ensuring that the economy is broadening into other sectors and business opportunities are created with a focus on employment and job growth. We have built this state immensely for all Western Australians to work, live and play and to have opportunity—opportunity for all. I fully support the initiatives of this stable government and this sensible, measured budget for the times.

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [9.43 pm]: I rise to address the Appropriation (Recurrent 2016–17) Bill 2016 and the Appropriation (Capital 2016–17) Bill 2016. I was taken by the opening words of the Treasurer when he wanted to explain the situation the state had faced since this Liberal government came into office in 2008. He talked about how Western Australia began with a population of 2.2 million people and that it currently finds itself at 2.6 million people. The tone of the Treasurer's speech, and indeed the content, was such that he was suggesting that the additional 450 000 people or so was in some way to blame for the problems that the state faces in terms of its congestion crisis and other infrastructure growth pains. I wanted to look at the figures he presented. I found it very interesting. One of the most important indicators of affluence in the western world is the ratio between population and vehicles. It is normally measured in the number of vehicles per thousand people. It is very interesting. What the Treasurer was suggesting is not seen anywhere else in the western world. I should note that this is from the first page of the Treasurer's budget speech. The Treasurer said that this state has a population of 2.6 million—I am sure that figure is right—and we have a vehicle fleet of 2.8 million. This would give Western Australia a ratio of 1 076.9 vehicles per 1 000 people. That is unheard of in the western world. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in 2015 Australia had 764 vehicles per 1 000 people, and the figure in Western Australia was slightly higher at 844 vehicles per 1 000 people.

That is significant, because in his budget speech, the Treasurer sought to place the blame for the congestion crisis in this state on the population increase. He said that the congestion crisis is caused by the extra 500 000 vehicles that are on our roads. He then referred to other indicators that demonstrate the growing pains that this state is facing. However, the numbers do not stack up. There has been an increase in the vehicle fleet. However, that increase is not reflected in those figures. The reality is much closer to the national ratio of 764 vehicles per 1 000 people. There is no doubt that there are extra vehicles on our roads. I am contesting whether there are an extra 500 000 vehicles on our roads. However, regardless of that, there has clearly been huge growth in this state. There has been a huge influx of people. The government views that as a problem. The government has failed to do the planning to accommodate that growth in population.

George Megalogenis has talked about this in articles and presentations on various programs. In his latest quarterly essay, titled “Balancing Act: Australia between Recession and Renewal”, he says that we need to do the planning first. He states —

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

... when the economy is slowing and federal and state budgets are in deficit, politicians are more risk-averse. They are likely to see congestion back-to-front, as the fault of excessive population growth rather than poor government planning.

That is what congestion is. The congestion crisis that this state is facing is the result of poor government planning. The government should have foreseen that the number of people coming into Western Australia would increase. It should have seen that as a golden opportunity for this state. I share the Treasurer's view on the benefits that are provided by that influx of people. The growth and enhancement of the multicultural community is of great benefit to the state. I publicly mentioned this to the Treasurer and said that he and I are one on that point. We totally agree that the cultural contribution and wealth generation that comes to this state from people from different backgrounds is enormous.

This point is backed up by Professor Bob Gregory from the Australian National University. He has done some great studies into this issue. He has said that migrants account for virtually all the full-time jobs created in Australia since 2007. He has said also that migrants have not displaced the locally-born but have taken the cream of the new positions on offer, most notably in the professions, and that our extraordinary economic success since the global financial crisis owes a great deal to the increased level of national income generated by these latest arrivals. Professor Gregory concludes —

Mining booms come and go but large population changes last forever.

Professor Gregory mentioned something very important. The comments of the federal Minister for Immigration and Border Protection in the past few days suggested that refugees are illiterate and innumerate. He managed to confuse things; in the news grab I heard he said migrants did not have the numeracy skills to contribute, are illiterate and innumerate. He was making a comment that did not make sense anyway, but it was insulting and offensive to many migrants and refugees who come to Australia and make a tremendous contribution. It was a disgraceful comment that has already been dubbed the "English Overboard" affair, because he was suggesting that the people who come here are incapable of learning the English language and fitting in. It was a most unfair jibe at people who come to this country. As Professor Bob Gregory pointed out, people from a migrant background make an enormous and tremendous contribution to this country that we should be championing and talking about. In Sydney, 39 per cent of the population was born overseas. In Perth—I am quoting from George Megalogenis's article—the first generation is 37 per cent of the population, and the second generation is another 25 per cent. We are indeed a very multicultural capital and we need to be proud of and recognise that.

The article by Megalogenis considers liveability. With the growth pains—the failure of the government to plan adequately for the influx of people—we have seen a change in Australia's liveability rankings; they are interesting. Perth does not do as well as Melbourne, which is ranked first in the Economist Intelligence Unit rankings; Adelaide is equal fifth; Sydney is seventh; and Perth is ninth. That score is based on wealth, relative population densities and other factors. The wealth brought to this state by migrants should have motivated us to plan for their arrival. We should have been anticipating it and making sure we had the infrastructure in place, not suggesting, as the Treasurer did in opening his budget speech, that this was a problem we could not have, and were incapable of, anticipating. The growing pains we have gone through and are still suffering—we will all be trying to get into the city for nine o'clock or 8.30 tomorrow morning and we will be lamenting the traffic jams around the city—are very much of the making of a government that did not anticipate the problems we would face if we did not put the planning in before we had the incredible resources boom we went through. If the government had put that planning phase right up front—if in 2008-09 we had really done the planning in anticipation of this population increase—we could have perhaps made some linkage to those resources projects. There may then have been the possibility of having a financial contribution come across directly from the resources sector into infrastructure projects so that we would not be in the current situation of trying to retrospectively provide transport infrastructure after the wealth of the boom has moved on. We could have made a connection between the two. That would have made a huge difference. We would have seen the growth of our transport network, while at the same time servicing the population increase over the past eight years. The past eight years have been marked by a resources boom that has now gone, and it has been marked by a population increase that has not had its needs met by the infrastructure that should have been developed in anticipation of, and alongside, that resources boom. The sad fact of the budget is that we have this \$4 billion deficit and this \$40 billion state debt. People of my electorate are disturbed and frightened by that. They see the numbers. I do not know that anyone can necessarily comprehend numbers as big as those we face in our deficit and in our state debt, but they realise the numbers are enormous and that there will be long-lasting consequences because of the state debt and deficit that we have. When we have a situation in which the year-on-year deficit is greater than the state debt when the Liberal-National government came to office, it is a reflection of very poor economic management. It is categorical. It is very clear. People in my electorate see those figures and are terrified by them.

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

The next thing they do is look for any mention in the state budget of areas such as Gosnells, Thornlie and Maddington. They look for the promises for improvements and what sort of improvements there are. When I looked at the government's media release on the east metropolitan region, there is no mention of any particular project that has suddenly become a priority for the government or a project of concern. However, I did see a drop in the available funds for a level crossing, a grade separation project, at Nicholson Road and for the freight line that goes through to Kwinana. That line will eventually run parallel to the passenger line, when we have the extension of the Thornlie train line. There is no mention at all of the extension of the Thornlie train line.

There was an election promise in 2013 that all schools that were older than 1970s schools would get a dramatic upgrade in their facilities and that funds would be made available to upgrade schools that were constructed in the 1970s. There is nothing in the budget about those schools at all.

In the one project that relates to my area—the Nicholson Road grade separation—we see a drop in funding of \$8.6 million. I hope the government has done its sums. My understanding is that there was a contribution of \$18 million from the federal government and \$18 million from the state government for the grade separation project. It sounds like a fairly substantial project when it involves currently six traffic lanes, and we will have two freight lines and two passenger lines. To achieve the grade separation there, I would imagine it will require a fairly hefty budget. It was \$36 million. I know it requires all sorts of noise and vibration mitigation and construction and engineering. The member for Southern River might be able to clarify this for me, but page 742, budget paper No 2, volume 2 confirms a reduction in the money for that project of \$8.6 million. We have gone from a \$36 million budget to well and truly less than \$27 million budget.

Mr P. Abetz: The federal government said it would fund up to \$18 million or 50 per cent, whichever is the lower amount, and it looks like it is coming in at \$27 million.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: Thank you, member for Southern River. It concerns me though that we are already reducing in the budget the funds available for a project that has not even begun construction. The only work that has begun so far is that some signs have been put up that say the works will be completed by the end of 2017.

Mr P. Abetz interjected.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: They are there. Signage is one thing, but real on-ground work is what the community wants to see. I know people in my area. They are appreciative of smaller things as well, and they are happy to accept that it will not always be something that will take big dollars to achieve a satisfactory outcome. I refer to the response of the Minister for Transport to a request of mine to make anti-theft screws on car numberplates mandatory and to require that in all new car sales anti-theft screws attach the numberplate to a vehicle. It is a very simple idea. We simply tell the car yards to ensure that new cars are fitted with these anti-theft screws. I thought that that was a simple enough request. I thought that it was an important one to make because we know that, in the Perth metropolitan area, between 2010 and 2015 the number of numberplates stolen has more than doubled.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: We have seen car numberplate thefts double, from 3 049 in 2010 to 6 570 in 2015. In my area the number of thefts has gone from 199 in 2010–11 to 407 in 2014–15. That is a terrible thing. These vehicles with stolen numberplates are being used for all kinds of crimes. Sometimes it is relatively minor hooning but often they are used for more serious crimes as well. Why would we not accept that it is a good idea? Yes, it has come from Labor, and it has come from this side of the house, but it has also come from Neighbourhood Watch members. The Neighbourhood Watch people in my area have said it would be a good idea to make it a requirement that all cars be fitted with anti-theft screws. However, the minister, although not responding directly to my letter to him, responded via the media, saying —

“The Department of Transport has no evidence to indicate that such a law will deliver any direct benefits to the wider community ...

“As with any security device, criminals find ways to circumvent the protection offered and anti-theft screws for number plates also have devices designed to effectively remove them.

“Vehicle owners have the voluntary option to purchase antitheft screws for their number plates if they wish.”

That is a very lazy response from the Minister for Transport. The minister could have seized on this idea, and agreed that we have a problem, as is confirmed by the statistics. There has been a doubling in the number of numberplate thefts in the past four years, and then there is all the subsequent crime that occurs when a vehicle has stolen plates attached to it. What a great way to snuff that problem out, but the minister has chosen to ignore that idea. The local Neighbourhood Watch people are very disappointed by that.

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

Leaving matters of local crime and switching to some of my portfolio interests, I have to say that the government's response to the Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan continues to bewilder many of us. The most telling criticism comes from local governments. Local governments, of course, have their town planning schemes and biodiversity plans. They know their areas intimately. They know the environmental values, where the population pressures are, where the urban and urban deferred areas are. They have all that mapped out, but when I hear from individual local governments about the green growth plan, they tell me that they have not been spoken to over the past five years. I know that the Minister for Environment has said in this place that five years of careful work has gone into the green growth plan. I do not doubt that; I have a lot of respect for the bureaucrats who have been working on this plan, and I know that they have been doing their best to work with the commonwealth. However, what a failure of process if there has not been good liaison with the various local governments. I have been hearing reports from Wanneroo and from my own Gosnells. All around, I am hearing that they were not properly consulted. If the minister doubts what I am saying, I suggest he has a look at some of those submissions from various local governments.

Mr A.P. Jacob: I point out that the City of Gosnells supported it.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: Yes, I have the submission here, minister. It states that the city is generally supportive of the process undertaken in the preparation of the strategic environmental assessment of the Perth and Peel region, but then it goes on to point out some of the problems, and some of the things the city would like to see. The City of Gosnells document suggests the following —

Specific comments on elements of the Plan are as follows.

...

Include a statement clearly explaining how these environmental documents:

1. Inform the over-arching long term draft Strategic Planning document(s) for Perth and Peel by the WAPC; and
2. Are to be used in the assessment of strategic and statutory plans by State Government agencies and Local Government prior to final approvals by the State Government/WAPC of the sub regional planning frameworks.

It is a pretty basic thing. The city is unclear about that and has asked for it to be clarified and included in the executive summary, but then the city gets into the detail, because it knows its areas really well—it knows the patches. The city has pointed out an area, for example, in Wattle Grove. The document states —

This land is reserved in the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) as Public Purpose and is a quarry. It should be removed from the urban categorisation.

There is one example. The document also refers to an area of land zoned urban in Kenwick. It states —

This land is reserved in the MRS as Public Purpose and forms part of the Greater Brixton Street wetlands. This should also be removed.

The document goes on. This is just one local government that is in the strategic assessment area—the Perth and Peel green growth plan area—and clearly —

Mr A.P. Jacob: They are not strategic assessment-related concerns; they are MRS planning concerns.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: The city is saying, minister, that in the strategic assessment, the areas have been identified wrongly. It has been said that an area is for urban development and it is actually a quarry. That is just an example of how the detailed work has not been done. It could have been done simply by people in the Department of Planning and the Department of Environment Regulation having the time to properly liaise with various local governments, not putting out that document, as was done just before Christmas last year, and assuming that local governments would all be able to make submissions on it and pick up the areas. I think the government could have individually liaised with the local governments before producing a final document and it would have avoided all these problems. I know there are similar problems in many other local government areas. That is undermining community confidence in this whole process.

We can add to that all the concerns about things like the minister's statement that the additional area that will be cleared is three per cent more than what has already been cleared, and that will accommodate quite a significant increase in population. Then, the minister said that known approvals in the system had to be added and he then mentioned that there are unknown approvals. What can they be, minister? Surely in five years we could have gone through the whole of the Perth metropolitan area with a fine toothcomb to detect where the unknown approvals might be so we know exactly what we are talking about. When the minister talks about unknown approvals, people get completely lost, and then they lose confidence in the whole planning process. They think

Ms Janine Freeman; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Lisa Baker; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr David Templeman; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Chris Tallentire

that this system is not being done at a level of detail that will produce a plan for the future. Then, of course, they are concerned about the impact on cockatoo species. The minister and I disagree on that. He believes that it is acceptable to see the Carnaby's black-cockatoo population on the Swan coastal plain have its numbers reduced by 50 per cent. I do not think so. I do not think the community wears that at all. We just do not accept that that level of population decrease is acceptable. The minister has also made claims about the 170 000 hectares that will be added to the conservation estate, as if that is in addition to new land that was not there before—that it was habitat that was not there before—when in reality it is land that is simply changing tenure. I think it is currently for the most part state forest. It is land that is described in the Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan for 3.5 million as having environmental significance and it is there; it is not new land. So, there is a significant net loss and the minister should not pretend that the 170 000 hectares will be a dramatic increase.

In my remaining time I want to quickly touch on an area of the budget about which I will ask the minister for much more detail during the estimates committee, and that relates to the Department of Environment Regulation's work on climate change. I want to draw to the minister's attention the CSIRO's document "Australian attitudes to climate change and adaptation: 2010–2014". The views of people in that document are really disturbing. We have seen a decline in the knowledge base of people about the issue of climate change. Yes, 45.9 per cent of people accept the science of climate change. That looks good when we compare it with the 7.9 per cent who say that they do not believe climate change is happening. We could say that they are the climate change deniers. They constitute only 7.9 per cent. What is very worrying, and I think this is a reflection of the government's silence on this issue, is that 38.6 per cent of the population think that climate change is happening but it is just a natural fluctuation in earth's temperatures—happening but natural. A major chunk of the population believes that. They have been shielded from the science and I think the Department of Environment Regulation has to be resourced to do better to make sure that people understand that anthropogenic climate change is occurring. That is a job of the agency and the minister. The fact that the minister is shielding people from the facts is not helping at all.

The organisations that people trust for information on climate change are very interesting. The highest points go to university scientists—they are the most trusted for information on climate science—followed by environmental scientists, followed by environmental organisations, followed by doctors. I am afraid well down the list are car and oil companies. It is interesting to see who people trust for getting information on climate science.

Mr A.P. Jacob: Where do politicians come on that list?

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: I guess politicians would be in the government category and, unfortunately, it is down towards the end. That reflects the need for us to ensure we have other ways to get the information out there. We need people to be properly engaged. I am sure that the minister will be telling me in the estimates committee how many people he has working on climate change, working with agencies, working on adaptation measures, but most importantly working on some sort of mitigation measure for Western Australia so that we do our fair share and can call on the rest of the world to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, and so that we do not become the victims of climate change any more than we already are. Things such as 20 per cent decline in annual rainfall are already having a very dramatic impact on our agriculture and our way of life in so many ways, such as with the cost of our water supply. Running desalination plants is much more expensive than using dams for water supply. We are already feeling the consequences in a dramatic way.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mrs L.M. Harvey (Deputy Premier)**.

House adjourned at 10.13 pm
