

Mr Peter Watson; Mr David Templeman; Mr Roger Cook; Mr John Kobelke; Acting Speaker; Mr Mick Murray;
Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Paul Miles; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr Frank Alban; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Ian Blayney; Mrs
Liza Harvey; Mr Rob Johnson

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

Second Reading — Cognate Debate

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR P.B. WATSON (Albany) [7.02 pm]: It gives me great pleasure to continue with my reply to the budget speech. I was talking about some of the local businesses that have done very well in my electorate. Jewel Hair Salon owner, Lynette Robinson, was named WA Hairdresser of the Year at the Australian Hair Fashion Awards after a lengthy judging process. Having been a finalist in the awards previously, Lynette was pleased that her hard work paid off to win this prestigious award.

Mr J.C. Kobelke: She doesn't do your hair!

Mr P.B. WATSON: This one is a \$15 Melbourne job!

Albany Sharks won the first senior match in its short history on Saturday, 15 May. They came from 33 points down at half-time to win by seven points in the reserves match against Mt Barker. The final score was 10 goals 14 to nine goals 13. Albany Sharks is one of the new football teams in Albany. They were going to get a league team this year but they have only got a reserves team. I am sure that with the support they receive throughout Albany and the region they will have a senior team next year. It is great for football. I am chairman of the Football Development Trust for the Great Southern. Any child we can get to play is a bonus in our community. Goal kickers for the Sharks were Michael Bennell with four, Regan Brown and Luke Matowitz with two, and singles to Matthew Galantino and Cohen Scott. Best players were Stanley Shaw, Matthew Galantino, Jayden Scott and Matthew Ward.

The Albany PC air rifle team competed at the PCYC invitational shoot at Collie. They won the senior, junior and novice divisions. The highlight was Craig Halligan winning the champion of champions shoot-off with a score of 91 from a possible 100. He was also the highest scoring shooter in the senior division. Terry Eaton and the group at PCYC do a tremendous job. They are a great asset to our community. The Albany PCYC sends a team away every year and it does very well every time. It is a great place for our young people to meet at the PCYC in Albany.

Sporting shooter Steve Hurley became the first person outside New South Wales to win the two-gun grand aggregate at the New South Wales state lever action rifle championships. I have not written down how many points away his nearest rival was. He won the state classic calibre championship and then went on to win the state open lever-action championship, making it his third two-gun state title after previously winning in Queensland and WA. Steve will compete with fellow Albany lever-action rifle group members Clinton Parker, Mick McDonnell and Richard Colmer in the national titles in Tasmania later in the year.

At the Australian athletic championships, Brenda Painter won gold in the 65 to 69-year-old division triple jump, despite starting the sport only six months ago. Greg Vander Sanden won the men's 50 to 54-year-old 1 500 metre race. I just do not qualify for that! That went with his win in the Jim McCann memorial mile race at the WA State Masters Games.

While the former Minister for Sport and Recreation, Hon John Kobelke, is in the chamber, I must congratulate him. I attended the Australian athletics titles. I caught up with a lot of old friends there. We all became a lot faster and a lot fitter talking about it! It is a tremendous facility to have in Western Australia. I congratulate the former minister and the former government. I remember running around Perry Lakes Stadium on the old cinder track, and then they put the Rebound on; that track is world-class. I am sure a lot of athletes will come from all over Australia to compete there and get good times.

Mr J.C. Kobelke: It was a team effort. We had a very good team.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Hon John Kobelke was the minister at the time, so congratulations.

Steven Moss continued his good form by making a personal best jump of 56.2 metres to take the silver medal at the Australian waterski championships. Emma Benson, Stacey Wallace and Gemma Hitchcock were selected as part of the WA team to compete at this year's women's country national championships in Canberra. For the first time in the history of the competition, Hockey WA withdrew the state side from competition, claiming a lack of nominations for coaching staff. It is disappointing to see a blue happening between Hockey WA and the country associations. This desperately needs to be sorted out, as country players do not need to be left feeling they have been snubbed.

Extract from *Hansard*

[ASSEMBLY - Wednesday, 26 May 2010]

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Eric Goodchild and Jamie Wolfe took home awards from the national fly-in of the Australian Sports Rotorcraft Association. Rotorcraft are commonly called gyrocopters. Eric's aircraft was judged to be the most innovative design. Jamie took the precision flour-bombing award and came third in the navigation section.

I must congratulate the current Minister for Sport and Recreation, Hon Terry Waldron, for coming to Albany to open our new soccer oval. Wearing one of my other hats, I am president of junior soccer in Albany. It was great to announce that the new soccer ground was named after Kese Glory, one of the stalwarts of soccer and sport in Albany. Sadly, Kese lost his life in a car accident a few months ago. He was a great contributor to sport in Albany and to all other activities that he took on. He was very keen—he always supported his sons at soccer. It was great to see that the new soccer ground was named after him. He will be sadly missed in Albany, not only in the sport but also at the City of Albany where he worked.

Longstanding chairman of the Lions Community Care Centre, Ron Brown, retired recently after serving on its board since it started in 1986. Ron made a great contribution to our community by helping in many projects that the Lions Club were involved in, including the building of the much-needed respite centre that opened this year.

The Albany Soroptimists International Club recently celebrated its twenty-eighth birthday with a function attended by the immediate past international president Margaret Lobo. Albany soroptimist international president, Geri Pegler, leads a vibrant club of committed women that fundraise for international projects and run several local projects such as the finance centre for women, the Torndirrup National Park volunteer project and a mentoring workshop program.

The Great Southern Art and Craft Trail won the Premier's Australia Day active citizenship award for a community group or event. It is the region's largest art event. It has been running for eight years and has proven to be a major drawcard to visitors to the region. They come to see fine art and crafts of different styles and techniques set amongst more than 60 different venues across the Great Southern.

Albany Senior High School student Taylor Pomery was one of nine students selected from across Australia to help write a song for the 2010 Music Count Us In group, which will be formed nationwide. The nine students who travelled to Sydney were split into three groups and each had to write a song. It came as a bit of a shock to them when Taylor's group was announced the winner. Singer and songwriter Taylor, who plays classical guitar and is a member of the school concert band, will again travel over east for the national launch of the song later this year.

Congratulations to Adele Jackson and Beth Wimbush, who are two of only three country players selected to represent Western Australia at the national soccer youth championships in New South Wales in July. It is a great reward for them after spending many months travelling to Perth to train with the state under-15 squad. It also shows how strong the local junior soccer competition is in Albany.

I congratulate the Great Southern Institute of Technology top students of 2009: David Rastick, Vocational Student of the Year; Julie Essert, Endeavour Award; Lynette Reid, Women's Achievement Award; Robert Robinson, Apprentice of the Year; Karen Robinson, Excellence in Teaching; Donna Blight and Julie Robins, Excellence in Non-Teaching; Christine Smith, Accounting Achievement Award; Michelle Mead, Business Award; Graham Tracey, Benno Lange Award for Landcare; Derek Sloman, Mike Whitehead Land Management Award; Leanne Eades, Aboriginal Student of the Year; Leigh Swensen, Most Outstanding Automotive Student; Ethan Silvester, Excellence in Metal Fabrication; and Sam Western, Best Performing Stage One Apprentice.

It is disappointing when we see all the results of these top students to find that only \$3.6 million will be added next financial year to the education budget of \$3.6 billion. When the three per cent cut is taken into account, which was not delivered by the Department of Education this financial year, I just hope that these young people, who are receiving tremendous training at Great Southern Institute of Technology, will be able to carry on the good work they are doing, because there will have to be cuts. We find generally when there are cuts that they come from regional areas because there are fewer people in regional areas and they make less noise. I call on the Minister for Education to look at this issue, because very many things need to be done in education not only in the city, but also in regional areas. There has been only a \$3.6 million increase to the education budget—that is, only one-thousandth, or 0.001 per cent. There are three portfolios that should not be touched with budget cuts but should be looked after; they are education, public safety and health. It is very disappointing to see that there are no major projects in this education budget.

I am very disappointed that tourism offices in regional areas are to be closed and that tourism staff will work out of the city. I find it very hard to believe that people sitting in an office in Perth could tell people about the beauty of Albany and other regional areas. I must complement the City of Albany.

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[Member's time extended.]

Mr P.B. WATSON: The City of Albany has had the Amazing Albany campaign. I have been a great critic of the City of Albany over various issues, and I am glad to see that the Minister for Local Government has stepped in to give the council some guidelines. I have heard criticism, not from the people of Albany, but from some councillors and the mayor. However, the minister has come in now and given the council set guidelines, and I hope that the council takes the bull by the horns now and does not sit around blaming everyone else for its problems.

We have heard about the proposed entertainment centre in Albany, which is part of tourism. Some people have said that there is no business plan for the entertainment centre. There is legal action on this matter; the former chief executive officer is suing the City of Albany over comments made by someone on the council. I sat in on a meeting with the former Treasurer, Hon Eric Ripper; Treasury officials; Bruce Manning from the Great Southern Development Commission; and Andrew Hammond, the CEO. We sat down with them and when we presented our first case, Treasury said, "No, that's not viable; come back with something better." We went back and Treasury ticked off on it. That is forgotten by a lot of people when they criticise the Albany entertainment centre; however, it was ticked off by Treasury. Most members of this chamber who have been here a while would know that if they do not have everything right when they go to Treasury with a government plan, Treasury will not tick off on it.

I do not know what has gone wrong with the City of Albany; there are lots of issues there. There was a ratepayers' meeting recently at which a vote of no confidence was moved and a request was made for an inquiry into local government. I believe an inquiry into the City of Albany would be only a good thing for Albany. Some people say that an inquiry would cost a lot of money; however, a lot of money is being wasted. The CEO, who was on a \$250 000-a-year contract, could not work with the council members. I am not saying who is right or who is wrong; that will come out in the wash. I do not think enough due diligence was done before the council went into the interview process. I call on the minister—whom I have spoken to and who is right behind me—to make sure that when the council gets a new CEO, the council members interview properly qualified people. I do not blame the council, as it is a situation that it was put into. They are people who are trying to do good in their community. They were in the situation of having to interview and employ someone. I just hope that the council members take on board that they made a mistake and that they go forward from there. But it is not right for them to blame everyone else and say that people are trying to bring the council down. All I want to do is make sure the City of Albany goes forward. Albany is going forward like a rocket; it is tearing up the road. But it has a big anchor on its back, and that is the City of Albany. There are some very good people on the council but, like any team, they have to work together as a team. They need a good CEO, and I am sure they will get a good CEO.

I will return to tourism. The entertainment centre will be very good for tourism in Albany. We need to get people to go to Albany. It will be a great centre and will be an icon for a long time. People will come to Albany and say, "That's the entertainment centre." They might not necessarily like the design, but it will be an icon there for years to come.

I want to talk about Albany police and the police in the Great Southern. I have some statistics with me from the police that indicate that volume crime across the Albany subdistrict is generally down at this time, as opposed to the same time last year. Burglaries in Albany are down by 33 per cent and across the district by 11 per cent, because of the proactive policy strategy that the Great Southern district has adopted for tracking prolific and priority offenders—PPOs. I had an opportunity to be with our local police and to see how this works. Domestic and non-domestic assaults in Albany are down seven per cent and two per cent respectively.

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I generally do not get interjections from my side, but perhaps the members beside me could just keep their conversations down a bit.

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I am getting interjected on from my own side, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr D.A. Templeman: It's just that your pizza's ready from Chelsea Pizza! Put it in the hot box for another half an hour!

Mr P.B. WATSON: I am talking about domestic assaults, and there is going to be one in the chamber in a minute!

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Across the district there is a two per cent downward trend in reported offences, which is attributed to the no-tolerance approach to violence in the community, in particular to family violence and violence in and near the vicinity of licensed premises. Detected drug offences are down as a direct result of a number of operations in the past few years that have targeted growers and dealers. Through the use of the tasking and data information system—TADIS—emphasis is now on quality vehicle stops that target the registered owner of a vehicle who is the subject of intelligence on hand or who is recorded as having a misuse of drugs history. There was a 41 per cent decrease in the theft of motor vehicles in Albany—26 thefts as opposed to 44 in the same period last year—and 19 per cent across the district, which is a correlation of the diminution of general volume crime, in particular offences against property, such as burglary.

I have referred to PPO offenders. A constituent who once came to see me said, “My son is on parole. He is continually being targeted by the police.” On 9 February 2009, the statewide concept of an offender management system was trialled in Albany. It was subsequently introduced to all other stations within the Great Southern District. Currently, the Great Southern District has identified 36 people as PPOs. Since 9 February in the Great Southern District, 4 988 curfew checks have been undertaken from which 245 people were found to be in breach of their curfew, were detained in custody and brought before the appropriate court.

The SPEAKER: Just take your seat, member for Albany. I realise that the opposition Whip has to be in his seat, but I urge other members of this place to have the briefest of conversations with him, because I observe that the conversations that are occurring are causing difficulties for the member for Albany. I am sure that it would cause difficulties for any member of this place who was seated next to that particular position.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker.

I will continue. The overall downward trend in volume crime in the district can be attributed to the concept of nominating a recidivist offender as a PPO and providing resources to monitor that person whilst on bail. When the district’s top four or five prolific offenders are targeted and are found to be in breach of their bail and are put in custody, there is a noticeable decline in offences. The court system plays a significant part in this, as the local magistrate imposes the bail conditions, which are in turn monitored by police. The court is aware that the imposition of conditions is having a positive effect on the reduction of crime in the district. As such, both the police and the court work together towards restricting the movements of recidivist offenders whilst on bail. That is a tremendous project that is happening in the Great Southern. Dene Leekong and his staff are doing a tremendous job. We feel safe walking the streets of Albany. We can talk about different government policies, but when there are really good coppers working in a town, they get out on the streets and they understand what is going on in the community. I congratulate Dene and all his staff. Local members of Parliament always have people who come to see them to complain that the police have done this or that. Over the past eight years, I might have had one complaint about the coppers down our way, and it was not a good complaint anyway. They are tremendous people. It is one of the hardest jobs around. I would not be a copper for anything. People reckon that members of Parliament cop it, but some of these guys put up with a lot of rubbish. I congratulate them.

Mr R.F. Johnson: I concur with your comments about our police officers in Albany; they are tremendous people. I occasionally get letters from members of Parliament complaining on behalf of constituents about the actions of police officers, but I do not think I have ever had one from you.

Mr P.B. WATSON: No; I have had a good relationship with all the superintendents who have been down there. If someone has an issue, that person should go and speak to them. They can sort it out. A lot of the time it is just a matter of misinformation. The police do a tremendous job.

I now congratulate the Rainbow Coast Neighbourhood Centre program Mum’s the Word, which took out a major community service award in Perth two weeks ago. Mum’s the Word, which is run by the RCNC, was named best small organisation at the Community Services Excellence Awards. This program assists young mothers with parenting and community activities, and offers support, friendship and education opportunities. The program was awarded \$5 000. They do a tremendous job. This is one of the little groups in the community that no-one ever hears about, but they do a tremendous job for our community.

We had a bushfire in Little Grove just a little while ago. It was rather frightening for a city such as Albany. The fire started on a City of Albany reserve and then went into the national park and then onto private land. I think the City of Albany was the first call-out, followed by the Fire and Emergency Services Authority assisted by the Department of Environment and Conservation. My main concern is that there should be more funding for fire prevention. DEC and FESA do a tremendous job but I do not think there is enough money for fire prevention. About half past seven or eight o’clock that night we got a tremendous storm of rain. The wind changed and we saved Little Grove. Little Grove might not sound much, but it has at least 200 houses. They could have gone up.

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY - Wednesday, 26 May 2010]

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Mr Peter Watson; Mr David Templeman; Mr Roger Cook; Mr John Kobelke; Acting Speaker; Mr Mick Murray; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Paul Miles; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr Frank Alban; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Ian Blayney; Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Rob Johnson

The prison is out there, as is our water supply, some stables and houses. Not enough is done on fire prevention. I will follow this up on behalf of DEC, the fire brigade and FESA, because we will not get that sort of luck again. We have to do more fire prevention. We can talk about all the other things, such as money for roads, but if there is a fire, people can lose everything, including cattle, horses and even their own lives. There is only one way out of Little Grove and Frenchman Bay, which is Frenchman Bay Road. There is a way out of the prison—I checked. I was very concerned, because I was looking across the harbour and I could see flames very close to the prison. They went within 50 metres of the prison. People were saying that the prisoners would be okay because there are big walls around the prison, but it is the smoke that kills people. There are nearly 160 prisoners out there, so it could have been a disaster. All I am saying is that I will follow up this matter. We have to prepare for this sort of thing in the future. We were very lucky this time. I do not think we will be that lucky next time.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [7.25 pm]: I am very pleased to make a contribution to the debate this evening. As always, I enjoy making a contribution. I tell the Minister for Planning that a quality speech is coming. If he is leaving the chamber, he should leave now before he is named in my speech. If the Minister for Planning rouses me, he could be named!

Quorum

Mr M. McGOWAN: Mr Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the house.

The SPEAKER: Member for Rockingham, it is a wonderful house; however, there are not enough people in it!

[Bells rung.]

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah, things would seem to be in order.

Debate Resumed

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am pleased we have an audience.

A member interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I did not call a quorum on myself!

A member interjected.

The SPEAKER: We have a quorum. I do not need members who are out of their seats to be making interjections, however.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I do apologise for interrupting the mastication that has been going on in the dining room! I note that members will probably now go back to putting their snouts in the trough. They will push each other out of the way as they make their way to the buffet to feast on the wildebeest and other game that is plated there. I digress!

I am glad the Minister for Education is here. I am actually glad that there are a number of members on the other side of the house, because when I looked at the budget papers and typed in the word “Mandurah”, very little came back. The member for Gosnells spoke earlier this afternoon about one of his constituents, who just happened to be of the name Mrs Hubbard. I feel very sorry for Mrs Hubbard. I felt a bit like Mrs Hubbard going to the budget cupboard and it was very bare. It was one of the barest cupboards I have seen for some time. It is going to be bare for many people in my community and the communities throughout Western Australia following the massive and savage cuts to people’s budgets through the increases in charges. It is very sad. It is very important that members opposite understand. Members opposite remind me of a dysfunctional family.

They remind me of a dysfunctional family that thinks it is normal and doing things well and not attracting any attention to itself, but, in fact, it is scary, weird and out of touch! I am reminded of that wonderful family that was created back in the 1930s but came to fame on television in the 1960s—namely, the Addams family. *The Addams Family*, of course, is a very, very famous situation comedy that had as the lead Gomez, who was the father. I cannot reflect inappropriately on members opposite, but I turned my mind to the opposite side to imagine who might be appropriate to cast if one was a director casting from this wide net of talent. Of course, if we read the description of Gomez, we find that Gomez is an extremely wealthy character of inheritance, with extensive investments, and he seems to have very little regard for money and very little knowledge of the impact of what he does. Of course, the Premier came to mind—minus, of course, the cigar that Gomez smoked incessantly during the 100-odd episodes of *The Addams Family*. I would name the Premier as Gomez, if, of course, I was looking for someone to play the part.

Morticia, of course, is the female lead. Again, I cannot reflect on anybody in this place; however, when one casts one’s eyes across to the other side —

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Mrs L.M. Harvey: Be careful when you cast Gomez!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: — one sees that there is a resemblance and there is the possibility that the member for Scarborough could play the part of Morticia. Morticia is actually a very sweet character in the show who, when visitors come to the house, says, “Do you mind if I smoke?” and then she actually wafts smoke from her—it is true; that is what she actually does! I have seen the member for Scarborough and in the chair and indeed on her feet in this place, and I sense that she would have that capacity as well!

Of course we move on to the minor characters, such as Pugsley—Pugsley comes to mind!

Mr C.C. Porter interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: No, no, no; the Attorney General is in the *Thunderbirds*—that is episode 2, which is my next speech! The Attorney General is one of the Thunderbirds and I will not tell him which one!

Then of course we go to Pugsley. Pugsley’s sister, Wednesday, spends most of her time trying to hurt Pugsley and doing all sorts of things, but Pugsley sort of rebounds and rejuvenates himself and has no various afflictions even after he has sort of withstood explosions and the other things that impacted on him. Of course, if we were looking for someone to play the part of Pugsley, someone who of course would sort of barrel into the place and then bust about and do all sorts of things, if I was casting Pugsley I would probably settle for the Leader of the National Party—the Minister for Regional Development—because he would fit that role!

Now, of course, I struggled with Wednesday. Wednesday draws her name from that wonderful nursery rhyme, “Wednesday’s Child”—blah, blah, blah. According to the nursery rhyme, “Wednesday’s child is full of woe”. I found it very difficult to find someone. The member for Swan Hills should not worry; I am not going to pick on him tonight! I have heard that he is going to pick on me tomorrow. I am saving him; I am saving him!

I was looking around and I thought: “Who is Wednesday—full of woe and disgruntled? Who is, in this place, one of the most disgruntled members?” Unfortunately he is a member of the opposite sex to Wednesday, but I actually believe my good friend the member for South Perth—in drag, with a long black wig, in an appropriate tunic, with a few spiders hanging off his shoulders—would play a beautiful Wednesday, and I am sure he would do it with —

A member interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: — gay abandon! The member might say that; I could not possibly say that!

I struggled when I came to the part of the grandma. The grandma is a wild, frizzy-haired, almost cyclonic-type person who shouts like a banshee and who erupts into absolute pandemonium when she is on the screen. I racked my brains—I am glad she is not present in this place—and I thought, “There is only one person who screams like a banshee who could play the part of grandma”, and that person is, of course, the absent member for Alfred Cove. I can just see her playing that part and I think she would grow into it.

Mr C.C. Porter: Who is going to play Fester?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Fester—I am glad the Attorney General asked that!

Mr C.C. Porter: Could we borrow someone?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: No! The Attorney General may think that one member from my side could play Fester, but let me describe who Fester is in the caricature: Fester is a bald, barrel-shaped man with dark, sunken eyes and a devilish grin. He is also very good at raising money, apparently. Then I cast my mind back to an *Inside Cover* story about the member for Carine and an interesting quiz night that he held a number of months ago. As I looked and gazed at his eyes and looked at his stately shape, I thought: “There is only one person who can play the part of Uncle Fester, who has the capacity to light up things by putting light bulbs into his mouth.” He actually sits, at the end of the evening, in an electric chair to recharge himself. If I was casting this from, of course, the huge talent pool, the member for Carine would get that part.

There are also a couple of bit parts. I am very sad that the member for Mount Lawley is not present in this place tonight. I was trying to think how I could cast the member for Mount Lawley, and then I thought of the one part that would suit him down to the ground—the part of Thing. The hand that sort of reaches out to grab everything possible that is going! I thought of the City of Perth and the need for a severance gift and the need to ensure that the severance gift was appropriate. Thing spends most of his time making tea with his French tea set, which he might have received from the City of Perth! And, of course, he also attends to various jobs around the Addams family’s manor. I have not looked at the member’s hands closely, but I am sure he would do that.

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Some members of this place, of course, were challenging the member for Mount Lawley for the part of Thing, because in question time earlier this week, we saw the new Minister for Commerce gesticulating wildly and doing that sort of thing. Again, perhaps he was actually rehearsing, or indeed auditioning, for a part in the *Thunderbirds*—but I will not go into that because the *Thunderbirds* comes a little later. It is not in this speech, but another one; I will save that. The Minister for Commerce, of course, was beginning to gesticulate, and earlier this week we also saw the Minister for Regional Development with his gesticulation, and then, of course, we have seen a number of other ministers gesticulating, so they could have all got the job of Thing.

But then I came to Cousin Itt, who is a very interesting one. Cousin Itt is, in fact, the cousin in the show who often visits the family. He is short in stature, has long hair that covers his entire body from scalp to floor, he drives a three-wheel car called a Messerschmitt, and when he speaks he is known to speak in a high-pitched nonsensical gibberish that only the family seems to understand! I instantly thought of a number of members opposite; however, I rested on choosing the member for Geraldton for that part! That is not unfair, but I think the member could play that part beautifully and I think his family would really appreciate it!

Of course, we also have Lurch, who is an interesting character. Whoever plays him needs to be fairly tall in stature, so instantly I thought of the member for Murray–Wellington, although the Attorney General did come into my consideration. But let me just tell members what Lurch is. He is a ghoulish manservant; he serves as a shambling, gravelly voiced butler, and he vaguely resembles—this is very unfair and I am not reflecting on any member of this place—Frankenstein’s monster! He occasionally botches tasks due to his great size and strength, but he is otherwise considered quite a catch by the Addams for his skill at more personal tasks such as waxing Uncle Fester’s head! I instantly thought there were a number of members who could have played that role, but the member for Southern River became very, very, very much the one who would suit that role well. He is not present in this place either—possibly he is polishing Uncle Fester’s head!

There is a serious matter to this caricature of the Addams family. Some members may find that that has been hidden in the presentation of this contribution, which is a fine contribution.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: I am sure your constituents will think so.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: They will get double copies of this speech.

It is important to remember that families—the government is a family—can be dysfunctional. The National Party is a wing of the government’s family that is not really part of the family. Its members are the country cousins who have arrived, along with a few chattels, in the back of a truck driven by the Minister for Regional Development. That family is a dysfunctional family. The message is —

Mr M. McGowan: The *Beverly Hillbillies*.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: We could go into that, but I want to save some of my ammunition for later.

The important thing to know is that this family caricature is very apt for the current government because it believes that it is normal. It believes that it is doing things that people do not consider to be wrong, disappointing or different. In fact, it is. It is taxing people in record amounts. We have seen in this budget—the family budget that has been brought down—that the basic necessities of life are being taxed and increased. A 17.7 per cent increase might not mean a lot to the government family but it means a lot to the families in Mandurah, Geraldton, Jandakot, Joondalup, the Kimberley, the South West, the Great Southern, the Mid West and the Wheatbelt. They feel those increases and many of them will be on the brink because of the increases. I cannot believe how many people in the past six months have contacted my office, and I am sure other members’ offices, about the impact that the already increased electricity, gas and water charges have had on them. There is more to come. The Minister for Water Resources let the cat out of the bag this afternoon during question time, just as the Leader of the Opposition highlighted in debate on the matter of public interest that there is more to come. Families have reached the end of their tether. The Addams family—the government; the family—does not have a real understanding of the impact that these increases will have on those families. I will highlight an example. A constituent of mine from Mandurah, Mr Ian Kevin Jenkins, highlighted a massive discrepancy in one of his water bills. The last couple of bills he received were for \$10 and \$15 when suddenly it jumped to \$200. He quizzed and questioned why that was the case because his water consumption history shows that he is not a water guzzler, yet when he tried to get a favourable hearing from the Water Corporation, he was told that the meter must be right and that he was wrong. He was told to pay it. This bloke, like many people, is on a fixed, or limited, income. These people will suffer if they see a 17 per cent increase in charges for utility bills and their water or gas meter is not right. We have to make sure that the family—the government—understands that the decisions that it supports through this Premier and Treasurer are having, and will have, ongoing and lasting impacts on families throughout Western Australia.

Mr Peter Watson; Mr David Templeman; Mr Roger Cook; Mr John Kobelke; Acting Speaker; Mr Mick Murray;
Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Paul Miles; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr Frank Alban; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Ian Blayney; Mrs
Liza Harvey; Mr Rob Johnson

I have been the opposition Whip for a couple of years now. I seek an extension.

The SPEAKER: You rang.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The Speaker is obviously feeling left out because I did not consider characterising him as Lurch! That was very inappropriate of me.

I cannot believe how many members on this side were so keen to put themselves forward for the estimates hearings, which will be held next week. I cannot believe how many members on this side expressed feverish excitement about being on the committees; I had to beat them back with a stick. I had to bring a stick from the back of my house to beat them back. I asked which members wanted to attend the hearing into commerce and they salivated, their eyes narrowed, their gaze became glazed and their teeth gnarled as they looked across at the new Minister for Commerce. About 12 of them wanted to be on it and I had to beat them back with my stick. The Minister for Commerce is in for a pounding next week. I hope that he will be ready for it because it will be an absolute pounding. Opposition members also wanted to be on the committees for the Minister for Water Resources and Mental Health. I was again beating them back with my large stick. I said, "Get back! You cannot be on everything," and they said, "Extend the time we have to interrogate these ministers. None of this three hours business; let's make it a whole day that we can spend picking at the carcass of the Minister for Commerce, picking at the carcass of the Minister for Water Resources and Mental Health, picking at the carcass of the Minister for Local Government and picking at the carcass of the Minister for Regional Development. Give us more time." I told them that I had no control over that. "I am merely a mortal in this place," I said, in the compassionate way in which I speak. I told them that, although I have no control over that, I would try my best, and I have tried my best. Some would say that I am very trying! Members on this side are absolutely enthusiastic about the estimates hearings. That is in stark contrast to the former opposition. I remember attending estimates committees when I was a minister and before that when I was a backbencher. First of all, we had to wait for the then opposition members to turn up. Half of them would not turn up, half were not in control, half did not know what questions to ask and half of them were hoping that we would ask the right questions. In fact, we were tougher on our ministers during estimates than were members of the opposition.

Mr R.F. Johnson: Don't mislead the house.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: We were. It is interesting that the Minister for Police has piped up because he was one of the members who always wanted to finish the estimates early. He would say, "Come on, we can go home now. We have asked four questions each." That is a good work ethic and good productivity! He said, "It's a gentleman's agreement. You have done three, I have done two, let's go home and call it quits. It's half past seven in the evening. Let's go home early. The finish time is supposed to be 10 o'clock but we will go home at 7.15 pm. All we have to do is have a gentleman's agreement." We would not stand for that. The Minister for Commerce is in for a pounding next week. The Minister for Police is in for a pounding as well.

Mr R.F. Johnson: Bring it on.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: We have the best line-up that I could muster. I had my stick out because I had to muster them. We have the best line-up against the minister, and I can see him quaking from here. He will be when we expose him —

Mr R.F. Johnson: I will remind you of these comments.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am sure the minister will. Last year, the Minister for Local Government had just one hour on local government. He was pounded last year. I remember him leaving the room bloodied. There was blood on the floor. We had to mop it up. No wonder they had to get new chairs in the other place! That is where we were. We left stains on the floor because the Minister for Local Government had been absolutely pummelled into submission. This year we will have three hours with him. He is in for a pounding, let me tell members. I am looking forward to the estimates committees because the opposition is eager to raise a huge number of issues. Members opposite need to take great notice of the estimates. They should not just wheel out the government line during estimates; they should be good members of Parliament and actually question their own ministers, as we did when we were in government to ensure —

Mr J.H.D. Day: You sat there with coloured files with the answers to questions on them!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: No, no! Those coloured files were very important weapons.

Mr B.S. Wyatt interjected.

Mr Peter Watson; Mr David Templeman; Mr Roger Cook; Mr John Kobelke; Acting Speaker; Mr Mick Murray;
Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Paul Miles; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr Frank Alban; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Ian Blayney; Mrs
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Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I would not be cruel in this place. I would never reflect inappropriately. The part of Fester Addams has to go to someone with more —

Mr P. Papalia: Weight?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: No, not weight—personality! No, that is cruel. They should have a little bit more energy. Let me say that the Minister for Planning does not fill me with the feeling that he has a lot of energy.

I want to finish on a couple of very serious matters in my electorate. I am sorry that the Minister for Health is not here—he did come in for the quorum but he has disappeared again. He has his family here and I appreciate that. If the minister were here, I would need to highlight to him a very serious matter in Peel that I believe is seriously undermining the confidence in the Peel Health Campus; that is, the ongoing dispute with the lowest paid workers in that hospital—in fact, they are the lowest paid workers of any hospital in the state. That dispute has been going on for 18 months. It is appalling that it has been going on for so long. The recently resigned manager—the board says he was sacked; he says he resigned—agreed with the workers that they deserved an appropriate pay rise. That was not, and has not been, at this stage, forthcoming. Those people who work as enrolled nurses, orderlies and cleaners are doing very important work in the kitchens, behind the scenes, and with the doctors and other nurses in the hospitals. They are a tremendous group of people. It is interesting that when the Minister for Health was questioned in this house by the opposition spokesperson for health, the minister said he had been talking to staff. He has not been talking to those staff! Why has he not spoken to them? They are the people who are aggrieved and who, for 18 months, have been trying to have their cause heard. This whole issue not only seriously undermines the confidence in the Peel Health Campus—I think the Minister for Health understands this—but also clearly exposes why the people of Western Australia question very seriously the privatisation of essential services such as hospitals. If members want to look at examples of where it might have worked, they can find them. But if they want to find an example of where there are serious questions about privatising a hospital, they can find them at the Peel Health Campus. Members should not forget that it is my hospital! My son was born there and my mum was there for an operation only recently. My community relies on that hospital. We want an efficient, effective hospital where the staff are treated fairly. That is all they are asking for. They want to be treated fairly and appropriately, and to get paid appropriately. Even the last offer, which I think the management was dragged to the table with after 18 months, will still put those workers as the lowest paid hospital workers in Western Australia. That is the case even with the current offer that was made to them late last week.

I am glad the Minister for Health is here now.

Dr K.D. Hames: I think they are pretty happy.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The Minister for Health has not talked to them. I was down there on Monday. The minister said in this place that he been talking to the doctors and to some of the staff —

Dr K.D. Hames: I talked to them today.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Good! I hope the minister will report on that tomorrow because we need to hear it. The people in Mandurah need to hear what the outcomes were. The minister needs to take responsibility because he privatised that hospital.

Dr K.D. Hames: We did not privatise; we contracted it out to the private sector.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: When that hospital model was presented to the people in 1996, it was presented as a landmark way for hospitals to operate. It has had five or six CEOs since that time. The minister knows that.

Dr K.D. Hames: Four since I have been around.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: There has been more than that, minister. Management has had ongoing disputes with staff for an ongoing period. It does not happen like that in other hospitals. Most of the time, there are industrial actions for short periods. The management and the owners of the hospital should be sitting with the staff and saying, “Let’s get an outcome here.” It should not have dragged on for 18 months.

Dr K.D. Hames: That is what I did today

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I hope the minister reports to this place tomorrow on this issue, because the people down there need to know.

Dr K.D. Hames: The staff will know

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The minister was not here when I mentioned this, but I will tell him that the confidence in the hospital has been affected, and will continue to be affected if this goes on any longer. I will not

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attack the hospital and the staff, because, as I said, one of my children was born there and my mum has had an operation there. There is no attack on the staff. However, the staff are concerned about the overall operation from the higher management level. I think the minister has a responsibility in this, and what he needs to do is make sure that he is at the table. Earlier when the minister was questioned and pushed, he did a Pontius Pilate and wiped his hands of it and said, "The contract is watertight. I can't do anything about it."

Dr K.D. Hames: I did not say that at all.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am sorry, minister, but you put us in this situation. The former Liberal government put us in this situation and the people of Mandurah and Peel deserve the very best health service that other people throughout Western Australia get.

Dr K.D. Hames: Are you saying they do not get it?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: That includes making sure that the workers, the people who are doing the excellent work there, are paid appropriately and get a fair go. Currently, they are not! And the minister has not supported them. The minister has not said that publicly. All the minister does is make an excuse and he says, "But they are all happy!" Rubbish! The minister should go and talk to the 40 or 50 people whom I saw on Monday. Will the minister go to see them on Monday if they walk out of the hospital and come to see him? Will the minister go and talk to them? I bet he will not! He will go and talk to the management, but he will not go and talk to the workers!

Dr K.D. Hames: I have been on the phone to the workers.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Who—the 50 people I saw? When I asked them —

Dr K.D. Hames: You go and ask them.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I do not want to be there; I do not need to be there. The minister needs to be there. I asked them on Monday whether they had spoken to the minister. The minister tried to arrange a meeting late on Friday afternoon because he had a cancellation. The minister offered them a meeting with about an hour's notice because he had a cancellation. That is appalling. The minister cannot do that to these people. They are low-paid workers doing important work in that hospital. The minister needs to fix this because it is on his head. Members opposite privatised this hospital, and the minister should fix it, otherwise the people of Mandurah and Peel will come after the minister. They know where the minister lives! The minister lives in Perth, by the way. But, apart from that, they know where the minister lives.

Dr K.D. Hames: What about my house at 38 Waterside?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The minister claims to live in Perth. The minister claims \$30 000 a year to live in Perth; the minister does not live in Mandurah. Is the minister telling me he lives in Mandurah now?

Dr K.D. Hames: I claim according to the number of nights that I have to be in Perth for work.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Yes, but the minister lives in Perth. How many days a week is the minister in Mandurah this week? None! How many days have I been in Mandurah this week? All of them! How many days was I in Mandurah when I was minister? Most of them, if not all of them.

Dr K.D. Hames: Did you have a house in Perth?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Yes, I did, but I did not stay in it. I rented it out because I used to go home to my home town all the time.

Dr K.D. Hames: You had a house in Perth, the same as I do.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: But I did not claim for it, you silly goose! That is what I am telling you, you silly goose! I did not claim for it. The minister did because he is greedy! He wants \$30 000 a year. Unbelievable!

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [7.57 pm]: Some members will be aware that I was ill yesterday afternoon and because of that I got to leave early. Of course, there is no such thing as a free pair in life, and for my punishment I get to speak now at eight o'clock this evening. As a further punishment I get to follow the act of the member for Mandurah, and I am sorry if I am not going to be able to meet his passion.

Mr M. McGowan: It is no act; he meant every word he said.

Mr R.H. COOK: I have to follow the impassioned speech of the member for Mandurah and that is a very difficult speech to follow.

Dr K.D. Hames: He gets himself all worked up.

Mr Peter Watson; Mr David Templeman; Mr Roger Cook; Mr John Kobelke; Acting Speaker; Mr Mick Murray;
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Mr R.H. COOK: The Minister for Health was not in the chamber for most of the member's speech because he was still having dinner. The rest of us got on with the job, so from that perspective it is probably appropriate that the minister does not reflect upon the content of the member's speech.

Earlier this week the Leader of the Opposition was talking about dishonesty in the government's budget documents. There can be no greater area of dishonesty or budget dishonesty than in the area of health. The Minister for Health has spent much time trying to head off any negative reaction that might have occurred in health, and, indeed, has trumpeted some of the earlier increases in expenditure across the portfolio as though it were a virtue in the budget. As the Australian Medical Association observed, the health budget is an exercise in treading water—or it is an exercise in standing still. As a proportion of the overall budget, it remains pretty much the same. As an increase in expenditure, it represents a 6.7 per cent increase on previous years. The Leader of the Opposition drew attention to the fact that we are looking at a 6.7 per cent increase in expenditure in the 2010–11 period and to the fact that, over the previous nine or so years, there has been only one occasion—I think in 2003–04—when expenditure growth has been under that. Even in 2009–10 when the much-heralded three per cent efficiency dividend was in full flight, the government managed to hold down expenditure growth in health to only 7.2 per cent. I think it is fair to say that, from the outset, the health budget is itself an exercise in dishonesty in the Barnett government's budget documents.

Dr K.D. Hames: How can you say that?

Mr R.H. COOK: I can say it this way; it is quite simple: if we average the increase in expenditure growth in the health budget over the past nine years it comes up to about 9.13 per cent. The concept of the health minister holding expenditure growth to 6.7 per cent is an exercise in fantasy, and he knows it. Even last year when he was being beaten about the head by the member for Vasse, the previous Treasurer, when he was hounding the director general out of the Department of Health for ruining his reputation as a frontbencher and a manager of budgets, he did not manage to deliver 6.7 per cent expenditure growth.

Dr K.D. Hames: Seven percent.

Mr R.H. COOK: It was 7.2 per cent. I think it is fair to say that, if we take the average over the past years —

Dr K.D. Hames interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: I am not sure what the minister had for dinner tonight; it might have been the curry or something of that nature, but he is clearly a little bit hot in the bot. He should relax and take a sip of his water and we can work through these numbers to show the level of dishonesty portrayed in these documents. If we are to take that nine-year average, which is perhaps the best the minister can possibly hope for, we are looking at a budget blow-out of \$128.56 million before the financial year has even begun. The government has failed to account for \$128.56 million and, quite simply, it is incapable of reversing the historical expansion in health expenditure. Over the past financial year the minister has demonstrated that he is incapable of holding down expenditure to budget levels. It is fair to say that we are looking at a blow-out of around \$128 million.

In addition to that, we have seen the exercise that is unfolding in Busselton. The then shadow Minister for Health, now Minister for Health, claimed throughout the election campaign that his government would rebuild the Busselton District Hospital for the same amount the government of the day had committed to rebuild it for on its current site—around \$77 million. At the time, the critics and the community said it could not be done. Lo and behold, what is happening? The minister is demonstrating that he cannot do it—not that he is prepared to admit that in his budget documents, although both he and the former Treasurer know that there is not a hope in hell of that hospital being delivered for \$77 million. What did the previous Treasurer, the member for Vasse, say about the Busselton Hospital the morning after the budget was delivered? He said that he believed the Busselton Hospital would cost at least \$100 million, if not \$110 million. He said that a renovated, not a rebuilt, hospital on the current site would cost between \$100 million and \$110 million. Why is that not represented in the budget documents? Why did not the former Treasurer, the member for Vasse, demand the budget documents represent what is in fact the true estimate of this particular capital works project—the redevelopment of the Busselton Hospital? Sure, the government is not delivering on its election commitment to rebuild the hospital; sure it will be delayed and, indeed, the minister himself yesterday admitted it would be delayed. But at least he could be honest with the people of Vasse and admit that the renovated hospital will not be delivered for the amount the government is claiming. That should be of concern because the government has form when it comes to the development and underfunding of capital works for hospital projects.

We are seeing what is unfolding at the Albany Regional Hospital site. The government has gone cap in hand to the private sector looking to privatise various hospital services at that campus as a way of closing the gap between the actual cost of the program and what it is prepared to pay for.

Mr Peter Watson; Mr David Templeman; Mr Roger Cook; Mr John Kobelke; Acting Speaker; Mr Mick Murray;
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Dr K.D. Hames: I do not need to remind you about Fiona and Joondalup do I?

Mr R.H. COOK: I am coming to Joondalup, so the minister should sit there with the curry his body is trying to digest at the moment, and we might get to the real answers associated with the health budget.

The other area that I think is worthy of consideration is the curious developments around the national health agreement. We understand the Premier is in negotiations with the federal government, and we commend him for undertaking that process to deliver the best possible outcome for the people of Western Australia—the patients of the Western Australian hospital system. But the other night the Premier committed himself to providing the exact same level of funding to the WA health system whether he signs the health agreement or not; that is, whether the federal government will be in a position to release the funds under the national health agreement. The other night the Premier said that he was happy to commit that level of funding. Indeed, he said, “We will make up the gap somehow.” We can chalk up an extra \$350 million before we even start the clock racing, at least in the first year, which this government has now committed itself to. I would have thought that that provided an opportunity for the government to be honest in its budget document. This is a government that says it is delivering a \$290 million surplus, yet we have seen with the health budget alone, through these three measures, that it is developing a huge hole in its budget and a very real liability for the state.

Dr K.D. Hames: How do you figure that? It is \$500 million over four years—\$120 million a year.

Mr R.H. COOK: It is about \$350 million for the first year, which I am sure the minister is very excited about, and I am sure the people of Western Australia are relieved because they now know that, regardless of the outcome of those discussions, the state government will fund health to the full tune of what is on offer by the Rudd Labor government. It will make sure that money is inside the health budget, ready for the health minister to roll out these benefits for the people of Western Australia. If that is not the case, the Premier needs to explain to this chamber and to the people of Western Australia why he is now prepared to renege on that commitment.

Royal Perth Hospital sits like an albatross around the neck of the Minister for Health. It is his private crusade, which is starting to go bad on him and continues to rot inside the budget of the health department. The minister was very keen to point out by interjection last night that he does not need to redevelop Royal Perth Hospital; he does not need to “transform RPH into a 400-bed trauma facility with a new emergency department and a new west wing.” He is now saying to the people of Western Australia, “Look, I made that promise but I do not need to do it any more. Despite what we have said to the people of Western Australia, we no longer need to keep that commitment.” Essentially, the wheels have fallen off the minister’s private crusade for Royal Perth Hospital. Why is that? There is not a person in the health sector or a person in the Treasury building who is prepared to back the minister’s bizarre arguments around Royal Perth Hospital. How bizarre are they becoming? First of all, we have the proposal from his committee that the hospital be redeveloped into partial residential units—an extraordinary flight of fancy worthy of some of even the best thought bubbles from the Premier, as the minister struggles to do something creative with RPH. But the minister continues to hold out that having tertiary beds spread across three tertiary hospitals is somehow the same as having the same number of tertiary beds in two hospitals. Not a commentator in Western Australia is prepared to back that analysis. People know that if there are three tertiary hospitals, there is administration, there is equipment and there is personnel—specialists in particular—that have to be provided across each of those campuses. There is a critical mass that has to be provided across those three campuses, which will essentially put extraordinary pressure on the health budget. This is the reason why the Department of Treasury and Finance has said on a number of occasions that it is unsustainable. This is why the Royal Perth Hospital proposal came in for such criticism from the Education and Health Standing Committee in its recent report. This is the reason why people right across the health system are saying that the Royal Perth Hospital flight of fancy, while being a very popular election stunt, is bad public policy, and it will continue to be bad public policy regardless of the bizarre arguments that the minister may come up with from time to time to protect what is essentially a discredited health policy and what is essentially now regarded as a bit of a joke.

The minister has on a number of occasions tried to divert the public’s attention from Royal Perth Hospital, saying that it is somehow related to a discussion about secondary beds. It is not. It is a pity that the member for Rockingham is not in the chamber at the moment—it is good that the member is in the chamber, even though he is not in his place. The minister was saying the other day that, as a result of the work that he is doing in relation to Royal Perth Hospital, he will be able to put extra beds into the Rockingham–Kwinana hospital to bring that hospital up to —

Dr K.D. Hames: One hundred and fifty in Fremantle.

Mr R.H. COOK: No, the minister was talking about Rockingham hospital.

Dr K.D. Hames: Yes, 50 in Rockingham and 150 in Fremantle.

Mr Peter Watson; Mr David Templeman; Mr Roger Cook; Mr John Kobelke; Acting Speaker; Mr Mick Murray;
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Mr R.H. COOK: He was going to bring Rockingham hospital up to 350 secondary beds. This was indeed what he thought was a great exercise. But, of course, it has always been the plan that Rockingham hospital, in stage 2, would come up to between 340 and 350 beds. It is not new policy; it is old policy. It was going to happen anyway. For the minister to use that as some sort of distraction from the RPH campaign, quite frankly, will not work. It was never the argument about RPH. Rockingham hospital was always going to have between 340 and 350 beds. If the minister doubts this, he has only to refer to tabled document 3793, which was tabled on 10 April 2008 by the then Minister for Health, Hon Jim McGinty, and which provides exactly these numbers. The minister also said with great fanfare the other day that, through his great work, he was going to bring Joondalup hospital up to 471 beds—exactly the same figure that the previous Minister for Health was aiming at. So this is not new policy; this is carrying out the same policies that were in place before. The damage being done by the retention of RPH is essentially to put pressure on the costs associated with tertiary beds, and that is why people oppose the RPH exercise.

We all know that RPH will draw resources away from Fiona Stanley Hospital. We know that it will draw resources away from Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. In fact, that is what the RPH policy explicitly does. If that is the case, that is the case to which the minister must respond. In the public's mind, why should the privatisation of Fiona Stanley Hospital not be a direct result of the minister's policies to retain RPH? How would the privatisation of Fiona Stanley Hospital occur if it were not for the minister's decision to retain RPH?

Of course, the minister protested that Fiona Stanley is not being privatised, because the minister, with his medical background, does not regard hospital services that he so euphemistically and disrespectfully describes as backroom or back of house as being part of the privatisation. It is for that reason that we regard the privatisation of Fiona Stanley Hospital as very real, even though he regards orderlies and people of that sort as not being part of the privatisation.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr R.H. COOK: I want to turn briefly to the fact that the minister is also one of the luckiest health ministers alive. Last year, struggling as he was, he was saved at the bell by the federal Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon, as she nobly offered to pay for the redevelopment of the rehabilitation unit from Shenton Park at the death knell. I can still remember the relief on the face of the state Minister for Health when the federal government announced that it would put \$180 million into the Midland hospital, which, forlornly, the minister has also signalled for privatising. This time it is the royalties for regions program that is coming to his assistance.

Although we were all led to believe that royalties for regions was an exercise in top-up—that is, not core services—we know what royalties for regions is. It is essentially part of the National Party's political electioneering fund that it will use to pursue —

Dr K.D. Hames: Wonderful person, Nicola Roxon.

Mr R.H. COOK: She is. We know, for instance, that even though the health department had committed to funding the redevelopment of Carnarvon Regional Hospital, which this health minister cancelled or delayed, the royalties for region program will now come to the minister's aid.

The Exmouth ambulatory facility, which can only be described as core funding, will now be paid for by royalties for regions. The Nickol Bay Hospital rebuild, at \$150 million —

Dr K.D. Hames: We didn't see it in your budget.

Mr R.H. COOK: No, indeed not, minister. I never saw it in the minister's budget either. All I saw it in was the Minister for Regional Development's budget. But we know why the Minister for Regional Development is so keen on the health facilities in that area. It is because he is trying to prop up the member for North West as part of the National Party's overall electioneering strategy. Why could the Minister for Regional Development not assist the Minister for Health when it came to Busselton Hospital? There is a shortfall there. Surely that is worthy of consideration.

Dr K.D. Hames: Maybe it is.

Mr R.H. COOK: Maybe it is, minister.

Mr M.P. Murray: Wrong country.

Mr R.H. COOK: But it is the wrong country. It is the wrong sort of electorate. However, there is a very interesting entry in the health budget, and that is the redevelopment of Esperance District Hospital. Does the minister remember the Esperance hospital—the one that he delayed and near on cancelled in the last budget? Now, happily, it pops up in the health budget, funded by royalties for regions, in the member for Eyre's

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electorate. I wonder what the member for Eyre's political future holds for him if the Minister for Regional Development has decided that the member for Eyre too has a special electorate that is worthy of royalties for regions funding in the area of health. I would not want to be in the member for Eyre's shoes come the next election, because I think we know what is coming his way. If the member for Eyre is finding royalties for regions funding is allocated in his electorate, whereas it is not in the member for Vasse's electorate, I think some very interesting developments will take place in the member for Eyre's electorate come the next election. Even though the member for Eyre failed to be able to defend his electorate in the last budget, I would not be so excited about it being in there this time. It is marked for targeting by the National Party, and if I were the member for Eyre, I would spend a lot more time in Esperance between now and the next election.

Mr E.S. Ripper: And I would hang on to my ministerial position if I were you. That might be your only defence.

Dr G.G. Jacobs: Thank you for that advice.

Mr R.H. COOK: The area of mental health is moving into new territory in this budget. We now have a \$507 million budget that will be under the control of the Mental Health Commission, and I think it is fair to say that there are people in the community who are genuinely interested to see where this new experiment is taking them.

Dr G.G. Jacobs: Do you think it's a good idea?

Mr R.H. COOK: I think I reflect the sentiments of many in the community, Minister for Mental Health, when I say that I am heartened by the opportunity to see what the expenditure in mental health is. I notice in the budget documents—the minister will have an opportunity to explain this more fully, and I mean that sincerely in relation to the estimates—that there is no capital expenditure in the mental health budget. I understand that some of that still appears in the health budget. The Drug and Alcohol Office still appears in this health budget although I think it is under the Minister for Health's control.

Dr K.D. Hames: It is. It has not been separated.

Mr R.H. COOK: I understand the egg is still to be unscrambled in relation to that. The mental health community will not sit by forever and watch an acting commissioner indefinitely; an acting commissioner who took well over 365 days—although it was supposed to take only 100—to set up offices. I am sure it is fair to say that there is a great deal of disappointment in the sector that the first visible act of the Mental Health Commission is to set itself up in a St Georges Terrace office.

I will read correspondence from one member of the community, in which he says —

We still do not know whether this allocation —

The allocation in the mental health budget —

bears any relationship to a clear understanding of the actually assessed level of community need for accessible and appropriate services in all parts of WA. Does it include capital and recurrent expenditure and what are the government's own priority targets for the coming 12 months for bringing on new, effective services?

The correspondence goes on to say —

It seems that Public Service modes of operation inevitably create new agencies as bastions of stultifying strata, inimical to the kind of leadership and decision making necessary to give shape to mental health reform. This scene of consolidation at the centre at 81 St George's Terrace is in stark contrast with that of continuing service curtailment in the real world of direct service delivery. For example, the North Metropolitan Area Mental Health Service is busy closing the Mental Health Clinic in the important Morley Regional Centre on highly questionable grounds and retreating to the City Centre and Midland and there are ongoing concerns of plans to close the Mirrabooka Regional Mental Health Clinic as well in this curtailment of accessible services.

It is fair to say that there is a level of concern and a level of cynicism about the establishment of the Mental Health Commission and its move into the St Georges Terrace offices. The Minister for Mental Health has a big task to turn that cynicism in the community around. One of the reasons that members of the mental health community are so cynical is that the suicide preventive strategy—when it eventually found its way into daylight—came to little or no action. We have still not received any outcome from the PricewaterhouseCoopers strategy into the development of the new mental health review, which the government received some time ago—I think it was late last year. The mental health community is still crying out for a new Mental Health Act, which

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was all ready to go under the previous Labor government. It now seems to be on the backburner. There is a lot of expectation in the community—it wants to see some action. What we have seen from this minister is a lot of talk and a lot of care, but not a lot of action. I want to see, minister, a great deal more effort put into community-supported residential units. I think it is an important part of the mental health strategy. It is one that is accepted nationwide as being the way to go. I know the minister opposed it before the election, but I notice he has been proudly opening units that began construction under the previous Labor government. It is fair to say that we expect to see a lot more action in that area.

Finally, I will turn to the area of Indigenous affairs. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs had the temerity, the cheek and the gall to get up today in question time to talk about Indigenous Affairs initiatives. I must say there was just one area that we could call exclusive services or exclusive programs that are targeted to the Aboriginal community; that is, the work being done on the Closing the Gap program. We must make the observation yet again that it is not the Department of Health or the Minister for Health who is championing this; it is actually the Minister for Regional Development. It is yet another royalties for regions —

Dr K.D. Hames: No, it is not.

Mr R.H. COOK: It is yet another royalties for regions program that is going forward. The minister did not mention at all what he is doing to his own department. We watched over the years of the Court government while that government demoralised, decimated, sidelined and marginalised the Department of Indigenous Affairs to the runt that it was when Labor came into office. I am disappointed that Labor could not actually see out the full reform of that department.

Let us see what has happened to the Department of Indigenous Affairs. There is a \$2.6 million budget cut. Almost eight per cent of that department's budget has been cut. The government is discontinuing \$16 000 in heritage grants, it is ceasing land management grants of \$5 000, and reducing the amount spent on reconciliation grants from \$145 000 to \$100 000. It was interesting today, when a question was asked specifically of the minister about reconciliation—a point that he definitely avoided on Sorry Day; a shameful exercise by the Minister for Indigenous Affairs—to also see a cut in Indigenous community grants from \$655 000 to \$260 000, and a reduction in funding for Aboriginal community patrols from \$4.15 million to \$3.9 million. We would have thought the Deputy Premier and Minister for Indigenous Affairs would at least be able to defend his own department. We would have thought that under this government we would see some direction in the progress of Indigenous issues, but all we see is a department that continues to be undermined, continues to be hacked away, budget after budget, and continues to be marginalised. There can be no indictment more stark on this government than the number of Aboriginal people who are employed in the public sector. This has been revealed in the Equal Opportunity Commission's annual report.

Dr K.D. Hames: You don't mean in our committee report that criticised your government for the low employment of Aboriginal people—a joint parliamentary report?

Mr R.H. COOK: Industry is working tirelessly to improve Aboriginal employment right across the regions. This government has cut the number of Indigenous employees in the public service from 2 507 to 1 776. It cannot even get this right, let alone provide any leadership to industry in this state to improve the number of Indigenous people in employment.

The Bligh Labor government had the bravery and the courage to stand up and sign the Australian Employment Covenant, which had its critics. At least it stood up for Aboriginal employment. We perhaps have the only Indigenous affairs minister in Australia who not only cannot provide any leadership in this area, but also, by his own efforts, is undermining the public sector and the role that it has to play in employing Aboriginal people.

MR J.C. KOBELKE (Balcatta) [8.27 pm]: The state of Western Australia is a great place. We see lots of good things happening. I think we also count our blessings. Many of my constituents tell me there is nowhere else in the world we would have it so good, which is not to say that there has not been suffering and pain in the slowdown of the economy. We certainly know people who have had their hours cut back and people who have lost jobs. On the whole, we have got through the global financial crisis with a minimum of pain. We have many great things happening in Western Australia. We are putting behind us some of the downturn that we have seen. We will see a whole lot of good things done, and this budget will fund a lot of good things, but that is happening even with a poor government. This budget is very clear evidence that we do have a poor quality government with wrong priorities. It simply cannot get the best out of this wonderful state of Western Australia and the money that comes to the government through a range of means.

This government's priorities are very different from Labor's priorities, both when we were in government and what we would project now. It certainly does not consider families to be important. This is not a government that

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wants to support working men and women. It is not a government that actually wants to back pensioners and self-funded retirees. This government has a quite different set of priorities. In fact, I think there is some confusion about what its priorities are, but we can see from this budget that its priorities clearly are not families, working men and women, or pensioners. The Treasurer has put his hand very deep into the wallets and purses of the men and women of Western Australia. He has done that through a range of things that I will touch on in my contribution to this debate.

I refer to page 5 of budget paper No 3, which shows that expense growth for the year to 30 June this year is estimated to be 12.3 per cent. This is on top of expenditure growth in the last financial year of 13.5 per cent. What that means is that in the two years that this government has had control of the budget in this state, there has been expenditure growth of 27.5 per cent. I repeat: the Barnett Liberal–National government has increased recurrent expenditure in this state by 27.5 per cent in two years. In the same period, revenue has grown by 12.5 per cent. The government cannot argue that there was no growth in revenue. It had revenue. The problem was that it could not control expenditure, it could not set objectives, and it had no strategy for managing government to make sure that it controlled spending.

The Premier gave an undertaking that he would balance the budget. We have a situation in which expenditure is out of control, so what does the government do? It gets stuck into ordinary people and ordinary families; it puts its hand deeper and deeper into their pockets to balance the budget. That is not a strategy that we on this side of the house can support. Uncontrolled expenditure growth has created problems for the government. Its solution is to hit ordinary families and pensioners with taxes and charges. The government keeps saying that it is getting the budget and expenditure under control, but that is not the truth. In its first year, when it had to do a deal with the National Party, there were policy initiatives from the election for which it could say that expenditure might have got a bit out of control for that one year. There was 13.5 per cent growth in expenditure in 2008–09. That was repeated in the second year, with 12.3 per cent growth in expenditure. The budget for 2009–10 had estimated expense growth of 6.6 per cent. The government has more than doubled that figure. It has had no control over expenditure. In fact, general government expenses were up \$628 million since the mid-year review, which is clear evidence that the government does not have control of expenditure. It has turned to family budgets to find the money to cover that blow-out in expenditure. What has that meant? The impact on the standard or representative household is that electricity charges are going up by more than 16 per cent next year, water by more than 17.7 per cent and drainage by 34 per cent. The standard household basket of goods that has been used since the time of the Court government as an indicator, albeit an imperfect one, of the impact of government taxes and charges on ordinary families shows an increase of more than nine per cent on ordinary people by this government as it seeks to balance the books.

There are also other imposts. To balance the books, the government has dragged money into specific agencies not out of the consolidated fund but by hitting families. We have seen this in electricity, water and sewerage charges, but also with the landfill levy. It is a total contrivance, which I believe is actually contrary to the constitution. But the government will get away with it; no-one will challenge it. The government has imposed that as a tax but has called it a levy relating to landfill waste. It is not. It is a straight tax that will help fund the Department of Environment and Conservation, which previously was funded out of the consolidated fund. The government has provided less money from the consolidated fund to help cover the gap in the budget, and has placed an extra impost on ordinary families of \$24 per household. It does not stop there. There has been an 18.4 per cent increase in the emergency services levy, according to page 244 of budget paper No 3. That is an extra \$28 for the representative household. Householders will be hit with that charge when they get their local government rates. That has happened because the government has taken money out of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority and is using that extra impost on families to fill the gap. It is using contrivances to hit the pockets of ordinary families so that it can balance the budget. It has also attempted to do it, but without the same success, with central city parking. It was an additional levy on people who come to work in the city and who have to find parking, because the government wants the money for its budget. It is not an overall strategy to deal with parking. The government does not even know what it will spend the money on, but it thought it was a way of milking extra money from mums, dads, families and pensioners.

The government has no control of expenditure but the Premier gave a commitment to balance the budget. The figures I have used will be in place this year. We had big increases last year. There has been debate already on the fact that there will be another 22.3 per cent increase in electricity charges next year. The Premier said that the government does not have to do that. It does not, but it has built that increase into the forward estimates. The Premier cannot come in here and crow about having nice, healthy surpluses in the out years if he is not going to increase electricity charges by that amount. We are used to a government that is quite dishonest in the way in which it presents the books, but it cannot have it both ways; it either has to admit that electricity charges will go

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up 22.3 per cent again next year, or it should not write that increase into the budget papers to show that it will have a healthy surplus next year if that money is not going to be coming in.

Ordinary families are being hit time after time by this government. Last year, the government abolished the subsidies for families with children in education. For instance, for families with one child in secondary school and one child perhaps doing an apprenticeship at a technical and further education college, \$600 was taken out of their pockets by this government. We see time after time that it is the ordinary mums, dads and pensioners who are paying so that this government can have a balanced budget without having to control its expenditure.

The budget was brought down last Thursday. I had normal appointments in my electorate office on Friday morning, including with two gentlemen who came to see me. The first thing they both said to me was, “How am I going to pay my electricity bill and my water bill with the way this Barnett government is slugging me?” I have known one of these gentlemen for a few years. He is a 76-year-old widower who had nursed his wife through a very difficult illness. She died a year or so ago. He does not own his own home. The lease for the private rental property he had lived in was not renewed, so he had to move out. He is still living in the electorate. He is paying \$280 a week as a single pensioner. He gets the Australian age pension, most of the pension supplement, rent assistance and a small British pension. His total income per week is \$570. He is paying \$280 in rent. Nearly 50 per cent of his weekly income goes in rent. He said to me, “How am I going to continue to pay my electricity, my water and my other charges?” Another gentleman came to see me. He is a 74-year-old man who is still trying to work, but at that age he is finding it difficult to get work. He has worked in a number of jobs. He has been a marine engineer. He goes to sea for awhile, that project finishes, he comes back, he has to get certification, which costs him a whole lot of money, and he does not get work for six months. He is not eligible for the pension. He asked me, “How am I going to pay for my electricity and water?” The difficulty is that the two gentlemen who came to my office last Friday are not the exception—there are thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of people who are struggling to make ends meet. What happens? This government comes in and whacks them again and again with increases in water and electricity charges, and through the levies. I have been in this place for 22 budgets and I followed politics before that. I cannot remember a single government that was as vicious in hitting ordinary people with taxes and charges as this government has been. This government is way beyond anything I have seen in my time in this Parliament and my involvement with politics, which is something like 30 years. The situation is that the government, to balance its book and to compensate for the fact that it cannot control its expenditure, is really getting stuck into ordinary people. But this is not just incompetence or lack of strategy; it fits with the Liberal Party ideology of taxing the battlers and hitting the people who are down because they are less likely to fight back. If members want evidence of that, let us look at the figures I have put together that cover the Court–Barnett Liberal–National government, through the Gallop–Carpenter Labor government, and through now to the Barnett–Grylls Liberal–National government. Mr Acting Speaker, under standing order 86(1), I wish to incorporate a table into *Hansard*. I ask whether you could look at it—I think it meets the requirements to be incorporated into *Hansard*. In doing so, when I speak to some of the figures, they will make sense.

These figures show that through the eight years of that Court–Barnett Liberal–National government, the average annual increase in the same representative household was 3.6 per cent. Back then, there was outcry that an annual increase, on average, of 3.6 per cent was hurting families and that it was an unfair imposition on ordinary people. That is why the Court government set up this representative household basket of costs. The average increase through the eight years of the Gallop and Carpenter governments was 0.3 per cent. These figures in the tables are actual dollars; they are not adjusted for inflation. That was the average annual increase in representative household charges by the governments.

Now we come to the past two years of the Barnett Liberal–National government. We find that in these past two years the average increase has been 9.1 per cent—way beyond anything I have ever seen in my time in this place. Water costs went up last year; they went up again this year. There has been something like a 30 per cent increase in water charges over the 18 months that this government has been hiking up costs on ordinary families. I seek to have that table incorporated into *Hansard*.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr J.M. Francis): I have had a look at standing order 86(1) and I have considered the table that you have presented. I am now happy to allow that to be incorporated.

Leave granted.

The following material was incorporated —

IMPACT ON STANDARD 'REPRESENTATIVE HOUSEHOLD'

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 Liza Harvey; Mr Rob Johnson

Based on actual dollar amounts to pay for a basket of State government goods and services

	Budget Years	Average annual increase
Court/ BARNETT Liberal Government	1993 to 2000	3.6%
Gallop / Carpenter Labor Government	2001 to 2008	0.3%
Barnett Liberal / National Government	2009 to 2010	9.1%

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Because the government has inflicted this pain on ordinary families, it has been able to balance the recurrent budget—but only just. We know it is not bringing a lot of other costs to book, and that is where the accounts are simply not honest. However, the government is finding that there is still a huge cost, because of capital works and other costs it is not meeting. Page 43 of budget paper No 3 shows that the budget for 2010–11 has a cash deficit of very close to \$2 billion, so we are building another \$2 billion debt with the budget that is currently passing through this house.

Do we see a strategy for controlling or repaying this debt? There is no discussion of one at all. The attitude is just: flash the credit card and run up the accounts. It is quite unbelievable that this government has so lost control of expenditure that it has no way of dealing with debt; it is not even suggesting how it will do that. When we look at the debt figures, members will see that they are quite horrendous.

I have another table that I seek Mr Acting Speaker's permission to incorporate into *Hansard* under standing order 86(1), as I wish to speak to the figures in it. It shows that in the last year that a full budget was delivered by the Labor government, which was to 30 June 2008, total public sector net debt stood at \$3 634 000 000—that is, \$3.6 billion, rounded off. What happened in the first year of the Court Liberal–National government? That debt blew out to \$6.688 billion. State debt went up 84 per cent in that government's first year.

What will this budget do? This budget will take debt to \$11.3 billion, and we can see that a huge growth in debt will continue. Members can also look in the table at the percentage changes from year to year. However, I would like to put to the house the following: let us take that date of 30 June 2008 and look at the multipliers of debt that this government is incurring for the state of Western Australia. Members can look at the percentage increases, but I am looking at how many times over that debt is multiplying. I am not talking about debt increasing by 50 per cent, 100 per cent or 200 per cent; the debt, after one year, was 1.8 times what it was on 30 June 2008. By 30 June 2010, it will be 3.1 times the debt this government inherited, and by the end of the financial year of the budget we are now dealing with, the state's debt will be 4.2 times the debt of 30 June 2008. When debt is increasing so much, percentages do not mean anything. The government is just doubling and tripling the debt. By the end of the out years, the debt this Barnett Liberal–National government has created for the state will be 5.5 times the debt it inherited as the state's net debt when it came to government. That is what this government is doing to the people of this state in running up debt.

[Member's time extended.]

The ACTING SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 86(1), I am happy to have your second table incorporated into *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The following material was incorporated —

Total Public Sector Net Debt

30th June	millions	Status as at 2010 budget	Change over previous year	Change over previous year as %	Debt Multiplier
2008	\$3,634	Actual			
2009	\$6,688	Actual	\$3,054	84%	1.8
2010	\$11,365	Estimated actual	\$4,677	70%	3.1
2011	\$15,442	2010 budget	\$4,077	36%	4.2

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2012	\$17,511	Forward Estimate	\$2,069	13%	4.8
2013	\$18,902	Forward Estimate	\$1,391	8%	5.2
2014	\$20,063	Forward Estimate	\$1,161	6%	5.5

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

That rise in debt is without all the extra costs of projects the government is talking about and saying it is committed to, and it either does not have the figures in the budget or has rubbery figures that are not real. If they were included, it would be hard to imagine just how much this state's debt is growing under this government.

How will the government get out of it? I think that is why it is talking about privatisation. It is not an issue of, "We'll get a better deal for Western Australia." It will be the same as we saw under the Richard Court government. When a government has got itself so deep in debt that it is spiralling further and further into debt, it decides to sell off assets to get some money even though it might be a bad deal for the state. We saw it happen with the railways. The government sold railways off, and the companies involved made big profits. The incoming Labor government was left with a huge debt that had to be serviced out of the very good surpluses it was running, and over one or two years that government paid over \$500 million of debt that was left to the state. What is happening now? The railways through the Wheatbelt are being closed down because there is no revenue to service them. These railways are run by a private operator who is interested only in profit, and the state suffers.

The government can argue about privatisation in theory, but this government, having lost control of expenditure and seeing debt balloon at a colossal rate with no strategy to deal with that debt, will force the state, it thinks, towards privatisation. Even these budget papers state that the interest costs of up to \$196 million in the 2010–11 budget "are a major driver of expense growth". We have had this total lack of control of expenses that has created the problem, and now, with this ballooning debt, we find another additional driver of expense growth is the interest rate to pay the debt. Nevertheless, there is no strategy to get out of it. My theory is that this then drives the government to put in place a privatisation agenda—not for the benefit of the state and not to get efficiencies, but because it is stuck in a debt spiral. Privatisation would do two things for this government. Firstly, it would give it one way of trying to cover some of that debt. We know that in many cases—although not always with privatisation—the extra costs are passed to ordinary mums, dads and pensioners. That is what happens. If privatisation happens, as happened with the privatisation of AlintaGas, the government does not have to take the responsibility for increasing gas prices because it is done by a private company. The government has no control over that price. The company is out there as a monopoly, but it is providing gas, and it is the mums, dads and pensioners who pay the increased fees, and the government can get the debt off the books as a cost. Developing debt without a plan to be able to handle it drives the state to privatisation. Perhaps a case can be made for some examples of privatisation, but I wish to look at the ones that have been a total disaster for this state. When the government sold off the rail freight network, it was a total disaster. It resulted in extra costs to the government and reduced services to people who need that rail freight to transport their wheat and other products. A private operator will run and maintain that railway only when there is a load that will return a profit. As a result, freight is transported by road. Who pays for the roads? The taxpayers, through the state, pay the additional bill for the roads. Taxpayers again pay more because the Liberal–National Court–Barnett government sold off the rail network because it was a smart deal to get some money at the time—and who paid for it? The taxpayers, the mums and dads, paid a huge bill for that mammoth mistake by the previous Liberal–National government.

The Premier was very proud about selling off the Bunbury gas pipeline. He got a huge price for it. What was the impact? He had a company that had paid too much, and because it could not be expanded, there was a stranglehold on the industry in the south west. It could not get energy. Again, it took a Labor government to fix the problem. We got attacked for it, but we fixed the problem by helping to transfer the company so that the new owner could expand it. The state lost because the privatisation was simply about fixing the debt that the Liberal–National government got us into; it was not about looking after the state's interest.

I am concerned that this government is showing itself to be a poor government. It has priorities that we do not support. Its priority is simply to balance the budget at the cost of ordinary families. The Labor Party tradition, through the Gallop and Carpenter governments, was to manage our expenditure and balance the books in a way that did not impact on ordinary people and households. This government has no interest in doing that. Its priorities are quite different and we reject the priorities of the government in sticking its hand in the pockets of

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ordinary people to balance the books when it has other options, one of which is to have a reasonable control on government expenditure. It is sheer cant for the Treasurer and other leaders on the government side to talk about controlling expenditure. They have brought down two budgets in which they have totally and utterly failed to control expenditure. We know that that trend will continue, because the books are not honest. The budget does not reflect the cost impacts that are coming or the decisions that the government has made. The government has committed to doing things, but the books do not show the full costs of the projects that it has committed to. If the government does not have an honest set of books, it will not come in on budget and there will be blow-outs.

The member for Kwinana talked about problems in health. Last year the situation was ludicrous. The government allocated a 3.8 per cent increase for the health budget, despite it not being below eight per cent or 10 per cent for many years. Of course, expenditure on health was around eight per cent or nine per cent. The government has done the same thing for the education budget this year. It has not significantly increased the education budget, so we know that it will not come in on budget either. The education budget will blow out again. Expenditure will be beyond that predicted. That will happen in many other areas because the government has not been honest and truthful about the way it has put the budget together. The government is simply about creating spin, which will undermine the government's very standing as a result of the fact that it cannot control expenditure. The government will then have all sorts of problems.

This is a great state and many good things are happening here. Although people have been suffering, we have got off relatively lightly compared with most other parts of the world and other parts of Australia. It is a great shame that we have such a poor government and that its priorities are wrong. It is seeking to bring down a budget that impacts very harshly and most unfairly on ordinary families and pensioners in this state.

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston) [8.53 pm]: Before I get into my contribution to the budget speech, I remind the Attorney General—it is a shame that he is not in the chamber—of some comments of a derogatory nature that he made some 12 months ago about the proceeds-of-crime funding. I have a long memory. The Attorney General ridiculed the decision to use some of the proceeds-of-crime funding for an arboretum in Collie. I will read part of a letter that was sent to the Shire of Collie on 20 January 2010. I have not referred to this previously because I did not think that the timing was right. The letter reads —

Dear Sir/Madam,

In 2008 the Collie Scout Group supported an application for the installation of lights in the Arboretum. We are very pleased they have been installed!!

Since their installation, we have noticed the area is much more visually appealing, from both sides of the river. The lights also make a pretty backlight for Soldiers Park.

As the Arboretum is a lot brighter, there are less places for people to hide and gives a secure feeling that the vandalism rate at our Hall will decrease.

The Scouts have benefited as well. As the Arboretum is a lot brighter, the Scouts can use it for outdoor activities for longer in the evenings as they can now see all the tree roots and branches on the floor, resulting in less falls!!

The only downside we found is it's harder to hide in the hiding and stealth games!!

Yours in Scouting

Tania Marsden.

The Attorney General criticised the recipients of the proceeds-of-crime funding, but I have not heard him criticise the recipients of the royalties for regions funding in the same way. To get royalties for regions funding, someone drives through town, throws up a few hundred dollar notes in the air and keeps driving, and whoever is lucky enough to grab it keeps it. We have seen that the National Party likes to sit on its money. There is a surplus of \$430 million in unallocated funding for the National Party for pre-election promises and pork-barrelling. That is why a lot of people in Western Australia are paying very dearly through increases in charges for goods and services and for electricity and water to the tune of around \$1 500 a year. Some people in my electorate can least afford it and a lot of them will find it very tough. When there is a reason and function for money to be handed out, that is well respected—unlike when it is just thrown in the air.

Another major disappointment to me in this budget is that there is no new money for the electorate of Collie–Preston. The Minister for Sport and Recreation just walked into the chamber. He is one of the main perpetrators. An election promise was made to give \$1.6 million for the Collie motorsport complex. There is not a line item for it in the budget. The minister will say that there is \$20 million in the sport and recreation fund. That is right, but the forward estimates generally have a line item. That is not the case for the motorsport complex. The

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Premier gave an absolute guarantee that \$1.6 million would be expended in Collie for the Collie motorsport complex so that it could have a dedicated drag track.

Mr T.K. Waldron: That is not quite right. That is there, but they are not ready to go. It can't be done until they are ready to go.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I am asking the minister to put it in the budget. We have heard this all along. They have been telling me that the minister is not ready and will not sign the cheque. They are not in any rush because the minister is not ready to go. Let us put the money in a line item in the budget; otherwise, it will not be in it either this year or next year and it will be another broken promise.

Another major promise the then opposition made during the election campaign was to provide \$25 million for the Coalfields highway. Whoopee! The government has come back with \$4 million for this year. I guess the government will put the white lines on the existing highway because that is about what it will cost to do that—while people are getting hurt. Members should travel on Coalfields highway at around 7 am. It is bumper to bumper with traffic, but it moves at 110 kilometres an hour. That is where the problem lies. When someone travelling on the freeway in the metropolitan area has a minor mishap at 30 kilometres an hour, it does not cause the same amount of damage as having an accident on the Coalfields highway when travelling at 110 kilometres an hour. To rub salt in the wound, the money is not new money for the south west because it was taken off the Eelup roundabout. That is the roundabout that people from Collie travel past when they go to Bunbury. There has been no gain and there is a lot of pain. If I remember rightly, the Eelup roundabout, which is on the border of my electorate, was to be a flyover. That is what the member for Bunbury promised. I do not see that happening because they are still talking about the plans, which will not be ready for another 12 months. That is another broken promise. There is no chance in the world of that being started in the next few years.

While I am talking about the Coalfields highway, I must give a sincere thanks to Worsley Alumina, which has put overhead lights on intersections and provided car parks that take people off the road. In the morning, up to 30 buses take about 1 800 construction workers up there. It is a big job. It is tucked away and not a lot of people see it. Worsley has done its darnedest, without any help, or with minimal help, from Main Roads or the state government. By the time they get their act together, that construction phase will be finished.

Hopefully, Perdaman Industries will come on stream. That will be a \$2.3 billion project if the government gives it a small handout. It is moving well. I talked to the proponent the other day and all things looked to be going well. If it goes ahead, it should tail in with the wind-down of Worsley. The Perdaman factory will produce about 300 000 tonnes of fertiliser, or urea, a year.

If I add up the other major ticket items, in total \$35 million has been stripped from the electorate of Collie—Preston. That is a huge amount of money. When one equates that with jobs, that is a lot of jobs. We have youth unemployment problems in my electorate, as most places do. At this moment, we are fortunate that Griffin Coal is still afloat, and we have construction workers in other areas. The next lot of money that I will refer to that has been stripped from my electorate relates to the Greenbushes—Donnybrook—Bunbury rail line. Although some people said that it should not go ahead, others were adamant it should have been upgraded so that the logs from the plantation timber industry could go on rail and into the port. Many people would have been satisfied if that \$20 million had instead been put into roads and overtaking lanes on highways to make it a lot safer to travel in that area. That has not happened. The money has gone! Can members guess where? It has gone into National Party electorates. That rail line will go from York nearly to Albany. Maybe that is a good job, but, by gee, it smells of pork-barrelling to me when I see \$35 million worth of electoral promises taken from my area. I hear that the Minister for Regional Development is coming down to my electorate on Thursday week, along with the Minister for Water, to announce—it is old money again—\$15 million for the desalination plant. That is the third time they have been down to announce it! The cheque will be worn out and they will have to write a new one, it will be that worn by the time it is cashed! There is absolutely no money at all going to my electorate from this government, but the government has certainly put the bills up!

One thing that has not been recognised is the cost to put on utilities such as power and water in a country town. On average, if someone lives on a five-acre block just on the edge of a subdivision in the Collie—Dardanup area, the cost to put power on will be around \$30 000—not \$300! There is no subsidy for this whatsoever. With the government talking about cost recovery, that cost will only go up. I do not take away from this; the requirement is that we must have underground power, which I support. We have seen the fires in other areas that have been caused by clashing wires, and those sorts of things, and we do not want that to happen in our area. But, by gee, anyone who is thinking of buying a block out of town should check that the power is on already, otherwise they will suffer dearly on top of what they have already paid for it.

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY - Wednesday, 26 May 2010]

p3487b-3523a

Mr Peter Watson; Mr David Templeman; Mr Roger Cook; Mr John Kobelke; Acting Speaker; Mr Mick Murray; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Paul Miles; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr Frank Alban; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Ian Blayney; Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Rob Johnson

I refer now to infill sewerage issues at Capel. The people of Capel are furious. The Shire of Capel is one of the fastest growing areas in the state, if not the fastest, yet it has no infill sewerage program. All of a sudden, there is a jam because not enough blocks have been released, so prices are going up and people are looking to settle in areas. It is a beautiful area of our state; it is absolutely one of the best. At other times people might have asked why we would live in Capel; now it is one of the most wonderful places because of the services there, the roads and also the hospital facilities just down the road in Bunbury. Donnybrook has exactly the same problems and is suffering from growing pains, yet the people are expected to put the infill sewerage and pumping systems in themselves. Donnybrook has been on the infill sewerage list for a long, long time. The chief executive officer of the Shire of Donnybrook is very disappointed in this budget and begs the state government to have a real close look at this.

We can look at it from the viewpoint of the people of Busselton; they do not seem to do too badly! Maybe local members down there should play up a bit more, in the sense of donging someone, or something like that, to see whether we can get a start! They might give us a few bob to get a few jobs done around the electorate. If it does not get there shortly, I might have to. I am getting a bit old, but I will still have a go.

Without doubt this is the worst budget that has ever been handed down for the seat of Collie—Preston and previously Collie—Wellington—by a long way! There is no new money.

We read a headline that the Dalyellup school misses out despite a big surplus. That was promised. Again it is in the Capel shire, which has a huge growth rate, and these people are very disappointed about that. I regard myself as a country person, but the people allocating royalties for regions do not seem to think so. They seem to think that the money has to go into the Wheatbelt or the northern part of our state to be called royalty money. We are seeing slowly but surely their badge is being worn away to the point that the royalties for regions is becoming just the fund for projects such as hospitals and roads—the same old stuff that could have been funded under what was called the WA local government fund in previous times. That is where it is headed. It is no longer funding that is over and above what is normally spent; it is a part of it. I applauded royalties for regions, as did some other country members here. It was well overdue. We could identify what was going to the country. It had been a problem identifying that money. Now it is identified, but the government cannot say that the funding is over and above what would normally be spent, because that is no longer the case. It is part of the main budget system. With that in mind, I think the people of Dalyellup have the right to be disappointed because even though it is a major growth area, their college did not receive any funding. This is a huge story in the country. This article refers to the growth rates and over 200 new students a year in the Dalyellup college. That area does need funding. They are expanding from years 9 through to years 11 and 12. That area does need money. The example in this article refers to \$6 million allocated to Busselton Senior High School—along with the hospital—down in Troy Buswell's area. That is the quote from that article.

The Mayor of Bunbury was quoted as saying that the budget money benefits Perth. That is how the budget has been received in the south west—the forgotten part of our state. A lot of produce comes out of there. About \$3 billion of the domestic product comes out of that area from mining, fruit, timber and the whole box and dice, but no infrastructure money is going there. Another rub is the \$4 million that has been allocated to the port. It asked for \$750 million and it got \$4 million. What will it do? It will probably put an air conditioner in the front office.

I have to move on very quickly, but I will raise an issue that has come up in the past couple of days. I have been amazed at the number of phone calls I have received. One caller today said to me, “Don't talk about royalties for regions; what about loyalties for the regions?” He was talking about those contractors who for over 20 years have been undertaking contractual work for Homeswest offices and houses—the painters, chippies and electricians. Those people have been absolutely snubbed, as I believe that Transfield will pick up the major contract for the state. Transfield will then subcontract the work to local contractors and will push their prices down and the margin will go to Transfield, another huge company. That will impact on the jobs around Collie, because I have no doubt that Transfield will have fly in, fly out gangs that will be located either in Bunbury or maybe Perth. When there is a major job, Transfield will bring them in, put them in a hotel for a week and then take them back. There will no local jobs. It will be an absolute disaster for the local small business man. I am sure that everyone who lives in a country town will recognise the van with the racks on top, the ladders, the paint buckets on top—every now and then the road gets a splash of paint—and the dog on the back. All the things that go hand in hand with the local contractors around town will be gone. Let us face it, it will be cheaper for Transfield to have people on standby, move them in, move them out, and move them back in again. It is similar to fly in, fly out but it will be drive in, drive out. I asked members of the National Party to stand up and be counted on a couple of issues. None of them did! This is another issue I ask them to stand up for, because they

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have rolled over just to get the dollars in the bank. There is no loyalty to those people who have been subcontractors to Homeswest and other agencies for years and years.

The other issue that has come to mind is the mining tax. Having watched the debate and heard the Premier, I have to have a say on this. I have worked in the mining industry for most of my life in the north west and then down into the south west. What I do see with the mining tax and the mining companies is their lack of willingness to employ our youth. Many people in this room the other week went to BHP Billiton for a presentation on its nickel project and where it stood within the mining industry. The people from BHP were giving themselves a bit of a pat on the back. When asked how many people worked for them, they said 3 000 people. The next question was: how many apprentices. The answer was 50 apprentices. Is it any wonder they should be taxed? If that is their attitude to our young people it is an absolute disgrace that, out of 3 000 people, this company could put on only 50 apprentices. Some of them would have been mature-aged apprentices. These days mature-aged people can make a choice and go on to do an apprenticeship later in life. Members can average out the value of 50 apprentices across the state. Let us look at the easy way to employ workers. Suppose we want to build a new mine but we are short of labour; we do not have any tradies because we did not train any. We will bring in 457 visa workers and when they have finished their time, we can send them back. Companies are not training their own workers. It sticks in my craw that these large companies have not pulled their weight. They rely on the people who work for the Department of Housing and train one or two apprentices. As soon as the apprentices finish their time, companies up north steal them. The local mechanic shop might employ two apprentices, but as soon as they finish their time, off they go because they can earn more money in the north west. That is how companies let themselves down.

Mr T.K. Waldron interjected.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I am not sure what the minister is saying. I am running out of time.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Those companies' commitments to apprentices and trainees are just not there. We are hearing talk now of workers coming to work in Western Australia direct from Queensland on a fly in, fly out basis. Workers will drop in on the job and go back. The government should look at some of the areas where there is youth unemployment of up to 20 to 25 per cent. Why is this government not taking a huge leaf out of the books of other governments and saying, "We will make you work, if you don't." Do not worry about which government it is; I have had the argument with other governments in my time. The mining companies are letting down the system. Why the federal government should not tax them, I do not know. When they want construction work done, they send it offshore; if they want pipe work done, they send it to Singapore and float it back on a barge. Those are the areas in which the mining companies have let themselves down badly and now they are being rounded up. I do not feel sorry for them one bit, to be quite honest.

What a disappointment to see \$7 million is earmarked in the Department of Agriculture and Food's budget for redundancies—200 jobs out of a traditional area. Again, that is letting down the people in the country. Most of those redundancies will come from country areas. We will lose 200 jobs from one department paid for by \$7 million over one year. That will hurt country towns again because, as those jobs close, the employees will come to the city and the school numbers will collapse. We will not have to worry about years 11 and 12 that National Party members do not support. They will not have to worry about them because the families will move out and take their children with them. I am sure more will be said about that.

I refer now to the amount of money allocated to the expansion of genetically modified food labels. There has been no denial of it. I assume potatoes, wheat, corn, tomatoes and barley will be the GM foods. There has been no denial of that. Surely the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Mr Terry Redman, has misunderstood his constituents. From one end of his electorate to the other they are furious. He will pay for that in another way. He thinks I am joking. I heard the laughter from his side when the member for Albany had his say. I am telling him now that the ball is rolling. The doctors, the chefs and the organic growers are all saying no, yet he has put a huge amount of money into the budget to work on GM foods. While I am on that issue, I saw a movie the other night called *Food Inc.* I encourage everyone in this house to see that movie. It shows the way the minister is heading. *Food Inc* shows how we are relying on battery hens, battery pork, battery cows—name any one—and are feeding cows the wrong kind of food. Cattle were never meant to eat corn but now they are eating corn. It creates different bacteria in their stomach and changes their internal system. As a result, people's resistance to certain types of bacteria is decreased and that bacteria is resistant to antibiotics. I challenge the minister, even though he is not here tonight, to allocate some funding so that every school and every farming group in the state can see *Food Inc*, and then see what their attitude is. The film shows how, in America, cattle are being lot fed on

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up to 7 000 acres a hit. It is disgraceful to see what is happening and we are going down that same path. They can call it mass production but that is not the way of Australia or the world generally. I have no argument that farmers need to be profitable but we are heading in the wrong direction. I am short of time so I will go into that on another day.

The other problem that is stifling the south west around the Collie area is the Brunswick to Bunbury and into the port rail line. There is no money budgeted for that. Perdaman Industries expects to come on line in two years' time. If some money is not made available shortly for some planning and work there, we will not be able to get our produce into Bunbury. With that line and port upgrade I would like to see a coal berth. Members will not believe that at the moment we cart our coal from Collie by road to Kwinana, yet there is a port 60 kays down the road that we are not allowed to use because someone has the rights to it as a multi-use berth and will not let the coal ships berth there. It would save about \$10 a tonne on coal and make it very competitive for the export market. What is the use of having a port we cannot use?

While the Minister for Racing and Game is in the chamber, I will point out that it was very disappointing to get correspondence from people at the Geraldton Harness Racing Club concerned about that club closing down. I have written to the minister on this, but I would like to get my concerns on the record. The minister responded, and I thank him. The people at the Geraldton Harness Racing Club have worked extremely hard to get a fledgling pacing industry up and running in another growth area. With the port going ahead there and the junior iron ore companies that are going ahead, the population will expand, which will help this club move forward. It is unfortunate that the club has been advised of the closure. I know the minister met with people from the club yesterday, but I have not caught up with them. This is one area he has to work very hard on to help and hope they can survive. Perhaps the club could forgo the \$30 000 a year it pays to the turf club for the use of its facilities. That is a huge amount of money.

Mr T.K. Waldron: I think the turf club and trots should amalgamate. That is a suggestion of mine, but it is not my business to interfere.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: One is bleeding the other.

Mr T.K. Waldron: It has happened at Narrogin.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: If they work together, I think there is a future for that group. I think the other one in Mt Barker is in the minister's electorate.

Mr T.K. Waldron: It is just out.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: It is just on the border of his electorate. That is another area in which they are very concerned. What a band of hard workers they are. I think from memory that women from the local community comprise the whole committee and they give all the orders to the men, of course!

Mr T.K. Waldron: It is a very good and well-supported club.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: They are willing to work. The excuse Racing and Wagering Western Australia gave for threatening to close the club was that fibre-optic cable was not available. Straight away the committee said that it would put in the cable at the club's cost. I am asking the minister to have a very close look at it, not be scared and use his influence. He can have a say sometimes. He cannot sit back and let them run over the top of him.

Mr T.K. Waldron: I can talk to them but I cannot direct them because of the legislation that was brought in by your government.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: If we move a motion here, we can direct them. It is up to the minister.

Mr T.K. Waldron: I cannot; I would be breaking the law.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Let us look now at the royalties for regions local government fund. It failed; it was put back a year but no extra funds were allocated. It is a furphy because the money that was allocated previously, then held back, has not been carried forward and increased.

Mr T.K. Waldron interjected.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: It was put there and deferred. When funds are deferred they are usually allocated in the same basket the next year. That has not happened. Country shires are quite angry about that because they feel they have been sold a pup.

I refer now to an issue quite dear to my heart and, as I think quite a few people have seen, it is quite emotional for me. When the government has a surplus of more than \$200 million and it cuts the Redress WA money, that is a very sad and unforgiving step, and it shows that we have a government that does not understand the issues that

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these people have been through. That money was cut back. I know that some of the people involved have now been paid, and they are reasonably happy about that. However, it is not about money. The main thing that it is about is recognition of what happened to them in their younger lives. But, gee, does it not show a miserable lot, when it has more than a \$200 million surplus and it could not leave the Redress money at the \$75 000 cap? Not many people would have got that. It just shows what an uncaring government we have, with a Premier who certainly does not understand what happens out in the real world. He has probably lived in Claremont for most of his life, and also on his farm up on the hill, where he looks down over other people. It certainly is a sad day when that sort of thing happens.

The closure of tourism offices is another blow to country areas, and again there is no noise about this from the National Party—none whatsoever. The closure of tourism offices hurts those areas that have fledgling tourism industries. Those areas need support, because they do not have huge populations to stimulate all the work around town. Generally, we find in country towns that about 20 people are on every committee and do all the work. Sometimes that support from the tourism industry is needed. However, to bring it back to basics, we will watch that taxi go around, if we are lucky enough to know where it is. I think the greatest comment I have heard about the runaway taxi is, “Where the bloody hell are ya?” I believe that was a follow-on from the previous tourism slogan for Western Australia, and I think people of the world are still saying, “Where the bloody hell are ya?”

As I finish, I have a note in front of me. It is my belief that as of yesterday—so that could have changed—the department of liquor licensing had yet to approve the licensed venues that will be permitted to extend their trading hours for the World Cup period. We know that on the other side of the world, the sport of soccer is played at a different time. The Director of Liquor Licensing says that these licences can be approved at 24 hours’ notice. I think that is totally unfair on the people who wish to keep their venues open and trade. How can they organise staff with 24 hours’ notice? They want their clubs to stay open so that people can watch the soccer on the big screen. Generally what happens is that different clubs support different teams, which I think is a great idea. If these venues stay open until three o’clock in the morning, it does not concern me at all. But how can these people organise their venues if the extended trading times have not been given to them? I am really putting the wood on the minister. The tourism industry cannot operate on 24 hours’ notice. Time is ticking away. Every day on the news programs, we see the Australian team line up. It had its last friendly game last night or the night before, and now the real game is on. If the government does not act on this issue quickly, the state will miss out on those extra dollars that will be generated by these companies, and people will miss out on watching the games.

Mr T.K. Waldron: I understand that is happening.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I think the minister has to get off his butt and make sure this issue is dealt with, because these people are at a loss to know what to do. Do they order extra drinks? Do they order extra food? Do they put out their advertisements when they may not be allowed to stay open? This shows that there is something wrong with that liquor licensing area, and it needs to be sorted out.

In conclusion, I believe that many people will be struggling at the end of this year. Imagine the position of a cleaner at a school or a hospital on the bone bottom base rate, and that person has to find another \$1 500 a year. It is going to be extremely difficult for those people, and I think everyone in this house should have a good look at what is going to happen under this budget.

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton) [9.24 pm]: This is an excellent budget. It is a budget for the times. It provides stability during uncertain times, and these are very uncertain times. The global financial crisis has certainly not passed us by. It is a time when governments do not take radical action; they provide stability in periods of uncertainty. The budget builds for the future. It delivers services in a targeted way and begins the process of reforming the service delivery in government. The budget delivers a small budget surplus of \$290 million, but a budget surplus nevertheless. It delivers that with very slight revenue growth. Revenue growth over the next year is scheduled to be 3.85 per cent, which is slightly above the inflation rate. It delivers a budget surplus with no new taxes or tax increases. In fact, it provides a \$100 million rebate of payroll tax in the next few months. It delivers a record capital spend of \$7.6 billion over the next year, which represents a 40 per cent increase in capital budgets compared with the last Labor budget—that is, the 2008–09 budget of the previous Labor government. Over the next four years, the capital spend for water is scheduled to be \$3.4 billion; for hospitals \$3.5 billion; for schools \$1.9 billion; and for public safety \$640 million. That is a massive level of investment, and a record level in Western Australian history.

My electorate of Riverton is characterised by a few factors. One is that the heart of the electorate is indeed its public schools—specifically its senior public schools. That is why people move there, and that is why people are continuing to move there. It has two of the largest and finest high schools in the state—Rossmoyne Senior High

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School and Willetton Senior High School, and Lynwood High School is catching up quickly. One of the things that these schools had been demanding, requesting and pleading for was a greater degree of independence from the education department. They wanted to tailor-make their services to the demands of the kids they serve and the family and community within which they operate. They had been getting nowhere until the Liberal–National government came into power and provided one of the most popular programs in my electorate—that is, the independent public schools. The independent public school process started last year when 34 schools were selected, including Rossmoyne Senior High School. That school is absolutely thrilled with this reform process. The tenders are out for the next wave, and both Willetton Senior High School and Lynwood Senior High School are applicants for that. This budget allocates \$19.3 million over the next five years to assist schools to flesh out and invest in becoming independent public schools.

My electorate is also characterised by a high degree of migrants, particularly from various countries in Asia, including South Asia. They are drawn to the electorate for a number of reasons—affordable housing, excellent schools and, of course, its multicultural nature. But with a multicultural population comes special demands, including special needs in English. Many of the migrants—at least their children—struggle with English; English is their second language. This budget allocates—I am particularly pleased with this because it is something that I advocated for repeatedly—additional money to help students with English difficulties from 457 visa families. In the past this should, of course, have been a commonwealth responsibility; 457 visas come under a commonwealth program. But when 457 visa kids with English difficulties go to schools, there is no additional money for them. The schools provide the education and provide the services, but they have no money for the kids and for their special English needs. This budget allocates \$13.9 million over two years for this. The schools in Riverton will be thrilled.

A program which was initiated last year but which is continuing this year is the Integrated Services Centre at Parkwood Primary School. That is a program particularly for refugee students living in and around the electorate who have been traumatised but who have special English and other needs. The Integrated Services Centre commenced a few years ago but was only funded on a year-to-year basis. The Liberal–National government came in and provided stable funding to run the program.

The budget provides additional funding for education. A major issue in education has been the move to a half-cohort for year 8 as students move from primary school to high school. That has led to disruption in high schools and also fewer students flowing through from year 8 to year 12. It was a major source of disruption. This budget provides \$22 million over the next four years to help adjust to the half-cohort.

Importantly, this budget recognises the difficulties of curriculum change. All of us will remember the outcomes-based education disaster of the previous government. It imposed on schools a harebrained new curriculum, which was like sending a virus into the software of schools. We have to adapt to the implementation of a national curriculum. It is not an OBE, it is much more rational, but it will impose implementation issues, and costs, on schools. This budget allocates \$5 million for the implementation of the national curriculum. This budget also continues with the \$14 million upgrade of Rossmoyne Senior High School in starting out its second phase expansion.

One of the most important facilities in the Riverton area is the St John Ambulance facility and depot. This budget allocates \$150 million over the next four years for new and expanded ambulance services, including at Riverton. It also allocates \$50 million over four years for community child health services. One of the issues in the electorate of Riverton is the rapid growth in the number of young families brought in by the schools, but, in so doing, the demand for community health services has increased.

One of the most important infrastructure issues facing Riverton is the continuation of Roe Highway. It was the most controversial issue at the last election. The continuation of Roe Highway and our promise to commit to it is the single most important reason for me being in this house. In the last budget, the government committed to extend Roe Highway—called the Roe Highway extension—and allocated \$20 million over three years for its planning, design and community consultation process. This budget continues to fund its planning. It will be a challenge. The Labor opposition is committed to preventing the road's completion. It has lobbied the commonwealth government to the point that the Rudd government has now, I understand, withdrawn funding for it. The Labor opposition's action has withdrawn from this state over \$200 million in funding that would otherwise have come to us for essential road construction. The Liberal–National government has committed to this; and, if necessary, will find the money from other sources, particularly in the road budget. We will build the Roe extension. I must emphasise that the Leader of the Opposition and the members for Cannington and Gosnells have all sworn to resist the road. The Labor Party will be held accountable for its actions at the next election in Riverton.

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Mr J.E. McGrath: Where are all the opposition members?

Dr M.D. NAHAN: I might add that I have sat here and listened to a number of speeches all day by the opposition, and only one opposition member is in the chamber.

Mr F.A. Alban: The comedian has gone and all the audience went with him!

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Utility increases—one of the most difficult issues in this budget was the increases in electricity and water charges. Electricity charges went up by 7.5 per cent in April and they are scheduled to go up by another 10 per cent in July this year. This is by necessity because of what we inherited from the previous Labor government, which kept electricity prices constant for eight years. That was during a period of time when the cost of fuel—whether it be gas, coal or oil—went up manifold. As a result the various energy producers and suppliers were haemorrhaging. At one time they were subsidising Verve Energy to the tune of \$1 million a week. The previous government received a report in mid-2008 from the independent assessor, the Economic Regulation Authority, recommending a 72 per cent increase in the price of electricity. The report also stated that the electricity industry was facing huge losses. We, the Liberal–National government, committed to move towards more cost-reflective pricing. In a resource-constrained world, in a world moving to adjust to climate change, one cannot continue to hugely subsidise energy consumption. The question is: how rapidly does one move? We moved last year, and we moved this year—17 per cent this year. There will be some further movement, but the Premier has indicated quite clearly that most of it has been done.

As to water, as I indicated before we have a record capital spend on water—\$3.4 billion over four years. Included in that figure is the second desalination plant, which will cost around \$1 billion. The previous government, I think rightly, put in place and committed to a wide-ranging capital spend on water, sewerage and other facilities. We continue that, with not only completion of the second desalination plant but also \$100 million for the infill sewerage program. If the government spends the money, it increases the costs. Desalination plants and the provision of water is hugely expensive. It is manyfold more costly than capturing water from dams. The previous government committed to it, and we support it. It will lead to very high increases in costs, which will equate to cost-reflective tariffs. This budget put in place increases in water charges to the average household in the vicinity of 17 per cent. It has also increased hardship assistance for those people who are struggling to pay. We recognise that this will particularly affect families with large backyards or large lawns, gardeners, low-income earners and self-funded retirees in particular. Again, it is necessary to have cost-reflective prices as we move to a resource-scarce world.

The budget also allocates \$26.8 million to the popular WA Seniors Card for the cost-of-living rebate. This is a Liberal government initiative to help seniors meet the increased costs and also recognition of the contribution that seniors have made to society. These funds, which are indexed to the consumer price index, will be \$104.80 for singles and \$157 for couples. It will be paid directly to senior cardholders' bank accounts from July.

The people of Riverton will be pleased—they have a stable government; record capital investment; large investment in their most precious public asset, schools; large investments in the adjacent Fiona Stanley Hospital and the ambulance services; and slow and steady recognition of the need to start living in a resource-constrained world. I recommend the budget to everybody and support it fully.

MR P.T. MILES (Wanneroo) [9.39 pm]: Madam Acting Speaker, I may need to seek your protection from the opposition over there!

I am pleased to speak on the state budget for the 2010–11 financial year. I congratulate the Treasurer, Hon Colin Barnett, on bringing down a budget that, after eight years of irresponsible financial management by the previous Labor government, keeps the Western Australian ledger in the black and safeguards the state's AAA credit rating. The budget's focus is primarily on health, education and infrastructure. It builds on last year's budget, which laid the necessary foundation to secure our state's financial future and to improve the state's services for our families and communities.

The health system will receive the biggest ever injection of additional funding, with \$1.3 billion over the next five years. There will be increased funding to meet higher demand and costs, as well as new and expanded ambulance services across the state. Some \$890 million will be spent in 2010–11 on the building and expansion of our hospitals.

Funding for education is another major plank of this year's budget, with \$98 million to be spent over the next four years to provide 428 additional teachers, education assistants and school support staff. The independent public schools initiative, which is a big bonus for, and has been very popular in, my electorate of Wanneroo, has received \$19 million to enable the expansion of that program over the next four years.

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY - Wednesday, 26 May 2010]

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Mr Peter Watson; Mr David Templeman; Mr Roger Cook; Mr John Kobelke; Acting Speaker; Mr Mick Murray; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Paul Miles; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr Frank Alban; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Ian Blayney; Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Rob Johnson

The government continues to respond to community concerns about law and order, with \$13 million pledged over the next four years to tackle the problem of illicit drugs, as well as funding for the additional 100 police and auxiliary police officers in 2010–11.

Creating the right environment for continued economic growth in Western Australia is vital for our future sustainability. The ongoing commitment by the government to provide infrastructure necessary for that growth is evidenced by the funding of a number of important projects, including \$339 million to fund common-user infrastructure at Oakajee port, \$111 million over five years for the Browse LNG precinct, and \$392 million over four years for the Perth City Link project. Some of those mining projects are very important for the electorate of Wanneroo, as quite a lot of the small businesses in the Wangara district and the Neerabup industrial area are picking up a number of those contracts. The take-up of jobs within that area is exceeding supply at the moment.

Other important projects to receive funding include the ongoing infill sewerage program, which will receive \$100 million over four years; the development of Perth's major rectangular stadium, which will receive \$83 million; the new state netball centre, which will receive \$26 million; and the Perth waterfront redevelopment, which will receive \$21 million for planning and design work.

I turn now to specific outcomes for the electorate of Wanneroo. Construction of the \$33.5 million stage 2 of Ashdale Secondary College will commence in the next month or two and will cater for years 11 and 12. The college will serve the secondary education needs of students who reside in the localities of Madeley, Darch and Landsdale. The second stage is anticipated to be completed by 2012.

Tapping Primary School is the largest primary school in my electorate and will have more than 1 000 students at the beginning of next year. A second site for kindergarten to year 2 is currently being constructed. That project is costing some \$10 million and will be up and running at the start of the new school year. It is a very large project. Whilst not everybody in the Tapping area likes the fact that the school will be run over two campuses, I am sure that the Department of Education will be able to run it quite well. Neerabup Primary School will receive \$5 million for improvements and additions, mainly being the construction of a library. The previous government built the school without a library, just to say that it was building a school. It was an election promise made during the 2005 campaign, for which I was also a candidate.

A planned upgrade of busy Joondalup Drive between Houghton Drive in Carramar and Tumbleweed Drive in Banksia Grove is also being assisted by the state. This road will become a four-lane dual carriageway with central median and bus embayments, instead of the current two-lane single carriageway. This project will receive \$729 000 in state funding this year, and a further \$1.5 million in the 2011–12 budget through the local roads funding program. The upgrade of Joondalup Drive will greatly improve traffic and pedestrian safety in three of the fastest growing suburbs in my electorate, being Carramar, Tapping and Banksia Grove. Joondalup Drive is also a major exit for people who want to travel north, because they get off the freeway at Joondalup and travel down Joondalup Drive, which swings right around and goes through to Neaves Road and into Bullsbrook, which is part of the member for Swan Hills' electorate.

The health needs of many people in the Wanneroo electorate are served by the Joondalup Health Campus. I am delighted to see that further funding of \$227 million has been budgeted this year to continue the expansion of that health facility. Once completed, the hospital will be almost twice the size of the existing facility. By 2013 it will have 471 beds, compared with the present 280 beds. The new emergency department, which is already the busiest in the state, will be more than twice its current size and will be fitted out with state-of-the-art operating theatres. Once this expansion is complete, the people in my electorate of Wanneroo and surrounding suburbs will be able to receive treatment locally instead of having to travel to city hospitals such as Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

Rural residents in Wanneroo, particularly those near the huge Gnangara pine plantation, will be pleased at the \$2.8 million in funding to FESA to enable it to continue to use a type 1 helicopter to help fight bushfires in the Perth metropolitan area. The risk of fires in rural Wanneroo, particularly during the long, dry summer months, is always very high, so it is reassuring to have on hand sophisticated firefighting equipment such as this helicopter.

The ongoing development of Gnangara Park is a longstanding item—five years—and this year starts off with funding of \$250 000. This project was actually started under the previous Court government, when Gnangara Park was identified as the Kings Park of the north. The project is continuing under this government. The funds will be used mainly for nature conservation work involving revegetation trials in an area of state forest that is being cleared of pine in the Gnangara, Pinjar and Yanchep plantations in the municipalities of Wanneroo and Swan. The proposed works are in two areas of Gnangara Park. There will be an upgrade of the Pinjar and Gnangara off-road vehicle access areas to improve car parking, safety of motorbike trails, rubbish clean-up and

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safety and user signage. These areas provide safe riding areas for an estimated 10 000 day rides each year. The native vegetation rehabilitation trial areas and demonstration sites on cleared pine areas will also continue.

Local charity Wheelchair for Kids will receive \$42 000 to pay rental costs for the coming year on its factory premises in Wangara, where the small army of some 400-plus volunteers from throughout the northern suburbs produce low-cost wheelchairs and accessories for disabled children in Third World countries. Wheelchairs for Kids is now manufacturing what is believed to be a world-first wheelchair that is particularly suited to children and also conforms to two standards set down by the World Health Organization. This is a very good achievement on its part, for which I congratulate it. I thank the Premier for making that annual donation possible.

The Wanneroo Showground clubrooms, which were burnt down in 2008, are now a step closer to being rebuilt, with works to begin in the next month. With the preferred tenderer now set, we are hoping that this project will be finished by the end of this year or the beginning of next year. The project has received \$670 000 in state government funding, while the local authority received \$724 000 in insurance money. That will mean that the Wanneroo Amateur Football Club, the Wanneroo Districts Cricket Club and some other smaller clubs will have a very good state-of-the-art facility. However, I am disappointed because, being in such a central location to the town centre, it really should be the jewel in the crown of the City of Wanneroo, but nothing was allocated in the budget for it apart from SEAD funding of \$10 000, which it was forced to put in. That is all I have to say.

MR P. ABETZ (Southern River) [9.49 pm]: I am delighted to rise to speak in support of the Appropriation (Consolidated Account) Capital 2010–11 Bill 2010 and the Appropriation (Consolidated Account) Recurrent 2010–11 Bill 2010. Many items have been mentioned by the members for Riverton and Wanneroo, so I will not go over those again, but I would like to draw attention to several items that I was delighted to see in the budget.

The first is the funding for Piara Waters Primary School. Even though it is just outside my electorate, it will take the pressure off Bletchley Park Primary School, which is bulging at the seams. A lot of new development is happening in Southern River that will put even more pressure on Bletchley Park Primary School. This is a very timely funding allocation for a new school in Piara Waters.

I am delighted to see that \$13.7 million has been allocated for special English classes for children of parents who are in this country on 457 visas. This item was allocated for in the budget through my becoming aware of the situation at a primary school in my electorate, Caledonia Primary School in Canning Vale. This school had 13 non-English speaking children in one class whose parents are in Australia on 457 visas. Needless to say, that created a major problem for the school, and there were other classes in the school that had non-English speaking children. Inquiries revealed that if there was spare capacity in the intensive language centre, these children could access intensive English lessons. However, the point was that those centres are always full and none of these 457 visa kids could get access. I brought that to the attention of the Education and Health Standing Committee, which then agreed to hold an inquiry. The inquiry resulted in various recommendations being made, and I am delighted that the Minister for Education took that report very seriously and championed the cause of the 457 visa children, and that cabinet agreed to provide that healthy \$13.7 million allocation.

The other funding I was particularly thrilled to see was the \$49.7 million allocated as additional funding in response to the “Healthy Child — Healthy State: Improving Western Australia’s Child Health Screening Programs” report that the Education and Health Standing Committee tabled in May 2009. That funding of almost \$50 million will go a long way to eliminating the unacceptably long waiting lists for young children to access speech therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy. If young children who have speech or other developmental difficulties have them addressed at a very young age, generally, by the time they get to school, they can be in mainstream schooling and it is not a problem. This government inherited from the previous government waiting lists of 18 months, which is just simply unacceptable. I am delighted that the budget contained that provision. These health budget items are a brilliant investment that will bring a very, very high return in the long term for the young people of our state. Not only will it save us many, many dollars in future years through having dealt with issues in the early stages of a child’s life but it will also help to enhance the quality of life of those children.

Much has been made in members’ contributions to the budget debate about the increased costs of water and electricity. As the member for Riverton indicated, it is high time that these charges were cost reflective. I could never understand why the other side of the house wanted to massively subsidise electricity and water costs for wealthy people living in a double-storey house with a swimming pool—it just did not make sense to me at all. While I appreciate that the increases will put some pressure on low-income earners, I am sure they will make every effort to reduce their consumption. If that is not enough to make their bills affordable, I am glad that the

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Barnett government has allocated funding in the budget for a scheme to allow such people who genuinely need it to be financially assisted to pay their bills.

I was also pleased to see funding in the budget for an additional lane on the Kwinana Freeway between Leach Highway and Roe Highway; there is always a bottleneck there, even when traffic is not all that heavy. In fact, when the railway line was being built and the freeway was being realigned, most of us in my electorate could not quite understand why a third lane was not constructed at that time. Had it been done then, it would have saved an enormous amount of money and would have caused a lot less disruption. Nevertheless, we are delighted that it is happening at long last.

Having been involved in the sponsoring of refugees for many years, I have always taken a very keen interest in multicultural affairs. In my previous work back in the early 1980s I was involved in sponsoring Vietnamese refugees, Sri Lankan people who fled Sri Lanka after the Colombo riots in the mid-1980s, Hungarian refugees, and I have helped Korean people resettle in Perth and establish their communities. I have been involved in resettling Bosnian and Sudanese refugees, and, in more recent years particularly, South African and Zimbabwean migrants. My electorate is made up of many different nationalities and I have been told that 60 per cent of Nigerians living in Western Australia live in the suburb of Canning Vale in my electorate. Many South Africans, Zimbabweans, Indians—including a dynamic Sikh community that has its temple in my electorate—live in my electorate, as well as Chinese and Singaporeans. The list goes on. As a result, I took a keen interest in the funding for multicultural affairs in the budget, and I was delighted to see that the community grants program continues to be funded, and there has been an increase in funding for Harmony Day celebrations. The schools in my electorate have embraced Harmony Day celebrations with vigour and enthusiasm, and because of the cultural diversity in my electorate, some schools have put the flag of every nation represented in their community in their assembly hall, which teaches the children to interact positively.

When applications were requested for people to serve on the board of the Multicultural Advisory Group last year, I sent an email to two South African community leaders who I thought would be able to make a very good contribution, particularly in being able to convey to the minister the issues that pertain to the many thousands of South African and Zimbabwean migrants who live in Western Australia. Of the two people I sent the email to, Reverend Joe Vermeulen chose to apply and was appointed. The member for Perth seems to be so anti-religious that he seemed to have choked on his cornflakes that morning when he read that Reverend Vermeulen had been appointed. But choking on his Weeties was not sufficient to get the bile and venom out of his system because on 11 March he put out a very malicious and despicable press release that attacked the suitability of Reverend Vermeulen for the role. It also attacked his integrity and even mocked his religious commitment, which is hardly befitting for a person who wants to serve as a shadow Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests. I put on record the malicious and disgraceful mocking language that the shadow Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests used in his press release. He concluded it with these words —

A Government committed to a true multicultural WA needs to be listening to real multicultural advocates, not relying on divine intervention from the religious right-wing backbench of the Liberal Party.

To assert the Reverend Vermeulen is part of the right-wing backbench of the Liberal Party is disingenuous and, in fact, stupid, particularly because Reverend Vermeulen does not have a single political bone in his body. It is no wonder that not one media outlet bothered to run with that appalling press release, although I noticed that the ALP website stooped to posting it. Being a forgiving person, I did not raise the matter earlier. I thought that the member for Perth might have got out of the wrong side of the bed on the day he wrote that press release. Perhaps he was feeling guilty for neglecting the shadow multicultural portfolio. Of the 38 press releases that he has issued so far in 2010, only four have anything vaguely to do with multiculturalism.

Mr M. McGowan: You have been doing some research.

Mr P. ABETZ: We have. On Wednesday, 19 May, in a supposed question of the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests, the member for Perth sank to even greater depths of depravity. Not satisfied with his earlier attack on Reverend Vermeulen, who is not in a position to defend himself in this chamber, the member for Perth, under the pretence of asking the minister a question, quoted in a fake mocking South African accent a couple of sentences out of context from a message that Reverend Vermeulen gave on Sunday, 4 October 2009. I wonder whether if the member for Perth was asking a question —

Mr M. McGowan interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the member making aspersions about my accent? This is not the first time that people have made comments about my accent in this chamber and I have ignored it in the past.

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Mr P. ABETZ: I wonder whether if the member for Perth had been asking a question about a black Nigerian, he would have, in a mocking way, tried to imitate that particular accent. I would have thought that the Leader of the Opposition would have sacked the shadow minister for multicultural interests for that loathsome, shameful and disgraceful behaviour that we witnessed last Wednesday. Then again, I am starting to learn that the standards are somewhat lower on that side of the house. To take the quote out of context and to ask the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests whether this was Western Australia's multicultural policy was despicable and dishonest. It was a deliberate attack on a member of the community who is not here to defend himself.

The message that the member for Perth quoted from was one that Reverend Vermeulen presented at a special gathering of newly arrived South African and Zimbabwean migrants. The message was so appreciated by the migrants that they had it translated into English and posted it on one of their denominational websites so that others could benefit from that inspiring message. I have a copy of the message here and I am more than happy to make it available to anyone who is interested in reading it. Any member who has even one ounce of honesty in their body would, on reading it, immediately realise that the action of the member for Perth in quoting something that Reverend Vermeulen spoke of about what many South Africans had experienced in South Africa as a negative thing—the member for Perth was talking about it negatively—and to claim that Reverend Vermeulen was now promoting this as Western Australia's multicultural policy is absolutely despicable and disgraceful. I have run out of adjectives to describe that type of scurrilous behaviour. It does not befit any member of Parliament to act in that way.

With the Deputy Speaker's indulgence, I will read two paragraphs from the end of Reverend Vermeulen's message. Reverend Vermeulen writes —

Integration is important ... be part of where you are. I remember, and am proud of my heritage, and that I come from South Africa. I can speak two languages. I will always love melktert (milk tart) and biltong, and I shed a tear whether I hear "Laurika" sing on 'You Tube'. But, my priority is here. I am here by choice and I hope I don't step on anyone's toes, but I am first an **Australian**, then a South African, because this is now my country and this is where I now live. This is the flag under which I am protected. So my priorities are now here.

I would like to invite all of you to be the best Afrikaans speaking Australians you can be. Let us be where we are, and we pray, "Father, use us in this new country. Help us to take root, because if we are settled here, then we can have influence where we live." We can make a difference to other immigrants, but also in this country, Australia, where God has brought us to.

Reverend Vermeulen's message was for immigrants to integrate and be part of the community but also to maintain their own background. From the member for Perth's futile effort of misusing that quote, it is clear that he either lacks intelligence or has a malicious character. I am not sure which of the two it is. I will leave my listeners, who know him better, to decide that.

The reason that I suggested Reverend Vermeulen should consider applying to serve on the Multicultural Advisory Group is that he has served the South African migrant community in Queensland tirelessly for seven years where he contributed much to the wellbeing of new migrants and assisted them in settling in to their new life here. He came from South Africa some eight years ago. Since coming to Perth in 2009, he and his wife Cecile have continued to work tirelessly for the thousands of South Africans migrants who have made the monumental decision to make Western Australia their new home.

It gives me much pleasure to be part of a government that has produced a balanced budget. It strikes the difficult balance between seeing so many of the good things that we could spend money on and the need to be financially responsible.

MR F.A. ALBAN (Swan Hills) [10.07 pm]: I rise in response to the Premier's budget speech to speak about projects and issues that either involve or impact on the residents of my electorate. My story is mostly a good news story. There are a few regrets, but too few to mention. The 2010–11 state budget includes the expenditure of \$502 million on assets in the north eastern metropolitan region. I will repeat that because it is quite impressive: \$502 million will be expended on assets in the north eastern metropolitan region, reversing the neglect of this area under the two terms of the previous Labor government. It is interesting that this area was represented by Labor members—surprise, surprise.

The budget provides \$1.1 million to complete a new career fire and rescue services station at Ellenbrook at a total cost of \$3 million, which is a great comfort for the residents of the hills area, where fires are prevalent. Construction will commence on Aveley primary school, which is expected to be completed in 2012 at a cost of \$14 million. The school will provide relief to Ellenbrook Primary School. Stage 2 of the Ellenbrook Secondary College construction is significantly advanced, at a cost of \$25 million. Previously, senior high school students

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living in the catchment area had to travel to Hampton, Lockridge and Governor Stirling Senior High Schools to complete their year 11 and 12 studies. The new buildings have been designed to include innovative and state-of-the-art facilities that will be integrated into the Ellenbrook townscape as an educational institution of excellence.

Planning will continue on the new \$360 million Midland health campus, the construction of which will start in 2012. This will benefit not only my electorate, but also the electorate of Midland. The planning and assessment for Bullsbrook District High School has commenced on the \$20 million additions and improvements to the secondary component of Bullsbrook District High School. This project is expected to be completed by 2012. It is a most rewarding project in my electorate. I am helping to turn a Cinderella school into a princess. One of the projects that part of my electorate is very excited about is the \$112.6 million for a flyover at the intersection of Roe and Great Eastern Highways. This will be of great benefit to the eastern portion of my electorate—to the people in Mundaring, Stoneville, Parkerville and Wooroloo, who have had to put up with serious road safety issues and long queue times.

A new school has been announced in this year's budget and \$14 million allocated for the construction of a primary school at Malvern Springs that is expected to be completed for the year 2012, which will be a very exciting year for my electorate. This extra school in Ellenbrook is further complemented by two new private schools—the Holy Cross Catholic School and the Anglican Swan Valley School.

I take this opportunity to address a major concern in my electorate. In the Swan Hills electorate, particularly in Ellenbrook, a great proportion of residents' sole income is mining related through fly in, fly out work. Many of these sole-income providers for their families have mortgages, and any changes to their employment will have a huge flow-on effect for the community in which they live. Any negative impact on the state's mining industry will mean a loss of jobs, not only in the mining sector services but also in the sectors of the economy that supply and service it. To me, there is an element of the green-eyed monster in this tax. The federal government is attempting to play Robin Hood in taking from well-off and successful rich Western Australia and giving it to the poor eastern states. The moral of the story is that at least Robin Hood had the sense to take from the rich after they had accumulated wealth, not like the super tax, which has been flagged even before the projects are in existence and operating. Who would be that stupid? The proposed tax seeks to remove one of the fundamental underpinnings of our Federation; namely, that the states have sovereignty over their own mineral wealth. Mining is so critical to this state's welfare that any change will greatly affect the health of Western Australia's economy. This will affect all other associated industries. There is a well-known saying: don't bite the hand that feeds you. A resources boom creates jobs in mining, construction and ancillary industries, and higher levels of investment in wages further stimulates consumption and jobs. Generally, all parts of the economy benefit.

We have been selling our country bucket by bucket for some time, and now it looks like we are selling the bucket as well. I believe some mining projects have been already been cut as a result of the proposed introduction of the super tax. It has the potential to affect the growth of Western Australia's economy and jobs. This new tax defies logic. Australia will be one of the highest taxed mining countries in the world. I ask: if something goes wrong with mining, how do we pay our way as a country? Do we go back and resuscitate the manufacturing sector that we killed off or do we go back to agriculture, which has gone from producing 18 per cent of gross domestic product to two per cent? What other options do we have? China and India, our two greatest markets, have the ability to find other customers and cheaper options, such as Africa and South America, for their iron ore. Western Australia has only 18 per cent of the world supply of iron ore. All Western Australians should be incensed at this tax that one way or another will impact on each one of us. Members opposite—there are not many members opposite here now; I think they only stay for the jokes of the member for Mandurah—have shown little backbone as Western Australians standing up for their country. This tax, together with 68 cents in the dollar —

Mr P. Papalia: Are we in a different country now?

Mr F.A. ALBAN: The member for Warnbro may as well speak up; he is the only one there! He is not so chirpy without his army behind him.

This tax, together with the reduced share of 68 cents in the dollar of GST, shows the lack of respect the federal government holds for Western Australia.

What of the future? I have a favourite wish. My number one project on my wish list is the Swan Valley bypass of the Perth–Darwin Highway. Our access to the projects of wealth in the north is limited to only a single lane each way highway.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro, you have spoken about the railway a few times. I think the member for Swan Hills has listened to you or heard you.

Mr F.A. ALBAN: The member for Warnbro's offsider, the member for West Swan, is not here tonight, but he may want to tell her that there are at least a dozen projects in my electorate. I would like to hear of at least one that she has been able to make happen. It will probably take her mind off the train.

Mr P. Papalia: I was just interested that it is your number one priority.

Mr F.A. ALBAN: It is a bit of a stuck record. I do not suggest that the member should try being clever; it does not suit him.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Swan Hills, would you please carry on and not engage the member for Warnbro.

Mr F.A. ALBAN: The capacity of the Great Northern Highway is already overextended with some 2 600 truck movements daily, many of which are road trains intermingled with both tourist and local traffic, creating a safety nightmare. This dangerous recipe will be alleviated with the construction of the first stage of the Swan Valley bypass from Reid Highway direct to the Brand Highway. This will open up huge tracts of land to the north of my electorate with the potential of a tremendous number of jobs from commercial and residential developments.

MS A.R. MITCHELL (Kingsley) [10.16 pm]: I rise to support the 2010–11 budget as presented. I would particularly like to comment on a number of items within the budget, some as they relate to my electorate and others in the broader initiatives. First, if I could focus on education, I believe it is very important for the future of our society. Within my electorate I am very pleased that infrastructure construction has been highlighted at a number of my schools. Most of these projects are ongoing. If I may mention Greenwood Primary School initially, construction will continue through the first half of the next financial year, the second half of the calendar year, and it is hoped that the school will be completed at the end of this year with a view that the transfer will occur hopefully before the end of the school year, but definitely by the start of next year. I was touring the school with the project managers just a couple of weeks ago, and it is an incredible set-up. It is wonderful for the future of the children of Greenwood and it will certainly make a difference. They have put up with quite a bit of disruption over the past couple of years as one school has closed down and they have been transferred to another. When this is finalised, and it will be completed by the end of this year, it will make a huge difference and set the standard for education in the Greenwood area.

Woodvale Senior High school has a couple of projects. One of them is an election commitment that is coming through. The one that I am most interested in and which I believe is very important is the construction of the new trade centre. Tenders will be going out within the next couple of weeks. This is exciting because it is a great partnership with the West Coast Institute of Training. Having that relationship with such a fantastic training provider in a very positive, progressive school is a fantastic initiative. One of the other projects, which is probably a little embarrassing, is at the school of 1 600 students on a confined block. One of the important projects, for which tenders will also go out very soon, is that of a toilet block, because the female number of toilets at the high school is definitely below the number that is required. We certainly look forward to getting those underway before the end of the year as well.

Another aspect of this budget that I believe is very important and that does not always get recognition is the benefits to children. They do not always get a voice, and I would like to speak on behalf of the children at this stage. I have a number of young children in my electorate, particularly in the suburb of Greenwood. There is no doubt that there is a great need for more services for community child health. I am very pleased that we got \$49.7 million over four years to improve the access to community health services—in particular I am talking about speech therapy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy. Unfortunately, children cannot speak up for these types of services. I therefore think it is important that we recognise them as important areas in the budget and that this will be great for the future of these children, who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

I also wish to make special acknowledgement of the Constable Care Foundation. As many members know, I am on the board of Constable Care. In this budget there has been a significant increase in the annual contribution from the state government. This is the only organisation of its type in Western Australia that prepares children to counter unacceptable community behaviours. I do not know how else to put it. The programs this organisation offers are outstanding; they are effective and they cover Western Australia. For this organisation to now not have to rely as much on seeking sponsorship to raise money means that it can focus more on its core business.

I would also like to say in this speech tonight how exciting it is that yesterday in the Northern Territory the Northern Territory Police Commissioner has adopted programs from the Western Australian Constable Care Foundation for the Northern Territory. As a former Western Australian he knows the value of such programs and

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could see that they would benefit the Northern Territory. This is tremendous recognition of the work of this organisation, which is a Western Australian foundation and program.

I have to also mention graffiti. I think I mention it a couple of times every year. I will not say too much tonight because I will bring it up at a later date. It is unfortunate that the government still has to invest money into fighting graffiti. But while it is necessary, we must do that. As I said, I will talk more about that at a later date.

There has been a lot of talk about the Joondalup Health Campus. I must admit that I hope I do not have to use it; I do not want to need to go to a hospital. But I am very pleased that the construction work has commenced and that it will be completed by 2013–14. The care and service that this health campus provides and these additional beds in the mental health and acute hospital beds as well as the emergency service are fantastic. This is a growth area and a very broad area. The services from this hospital in that northern area are very extensive. It is great that this additional work is being done within it. That private–public partnership provides a service for many people within that northern area.

I am also very pleased that many of the constituents in my area are looking forward to the detail about the electricity feed-in tariffs. Many of my constituents are very conscious of their energy usage and have taken the opportunity to install the photovoltaic cells on the roofs of their homes. I must mention one group in particular: more than 100 of the 140 residents of one of the retirement villages in my area have agreed to install these cells on their rooftops. This is exciting because these people can see that they can make a difference to the community. I understand they spend their time watching the metre slow down and they get excited about that. They are looking forward to finding out the detail of the feed-in tariff, so that they can make a more positive contribution to our energy supplies. I must say I believe this budget is very practical. With a view to looking forward I support its broad initiatives. I have mentioned a couple of things within it. I believe it is setting up Western Australia well for the future and I support this bill.

MR I.C. BLAYNEY (Geraldton) [10.23 pm]: I wish to speak briefly on the 2010–11 budget. In summary, it is a budget I am proud of. A budget, of course, seeks a balance between the needs of people versus the long-term needs of the state. One of the highlights of this budget are that, as promised, it will produce a surplus, which will help maintain our AAA credit rating. Thankfully, state growth will grow to 3.75 per cent, up from 0.7 per cent this year. Western Australia went through the global financial crisis reasonably comfortably. I hope the current problems in the Euro zone do not produce long-term problems.

A feature of this budget is a group of commitments that have been made to the regions. In the Kimberley, the commitments are Ord stage 2, the Kununurra justice complex, and the Broome boating facility. In the Pilbara, the commitment is the \$310 million to be spent on the Pilbara Cities project. In the Gascoyne, the commitments are the Gascoyne revitalisation, the Carnarvon police and justice complex, Carnarvon hospital, and the Exmouth clinic. There is also an amount of \$44 million over four years for justice services and infrastructure in the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne. These are similar to the programs that are already being run in Geraldton and seem to be working quite well.

The regional hospitals that will be funded in this budget are the Nickol Bay, Karratha, Kalgoorlie, Albany, Carnarvon and Esperance hospitals. Those hospitals will receive substantial amounts of money. There is funding of \$26 million over four years for the St John Ambulance Service. There is funding of \$120 million over three years for rural communications, including \$80 million for police and regional communications. There is funding of \$100 million for regional school updates, \$52 million for residential colleges, and \$11 million for the air conditioning of all orange school buses. There is an expansion of the country age pension fuel card, with four new categories for people on disability support, wife pension, widow B payment, and carer payment. There is an additional \$111 million to increase district allowances to retain public servants in the Pilbara and the Kimberley. There is funding of \$5 million for expansion of the Clontarf academies.

In the field of training, there will be 7 600 new training places, and funding for employers to take up apprentices who are out of contract. Finally, for Western Australia there will be a feed-in tariff for domestic power. As a member of the Education and Health Committee, I am delighted that our recommendation for an expansion of funding for speech pathology, occupational therapy and physiotherapy has been adopted by the government. The government has also adopted the committee's recommendation that children of 457 visa holders should not have to pay extra money to attend schools, as they have to in places such as New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. Finally, the government has adopted the recommendation that there be an exemption from land tax for caravan parks.

In my seat of Geraldton, I am delighted that the 330-kilovolt powerline has been listed in the budget. I would like to briefly quote a media release from Gindalbie Metals Ltd. It states —

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY - Wednesday, 26 May 2010]

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Gindalbie Metals Limited ... has welcomed the Western Australian Government's commitment to fund a major upgrade to high-voltage power transmission infrastructure in the Mid West region. The upgrade will enhance the distribution network in the entire Mid West region as well as playing a key part in the future power requirements of any potential expansions of the Karara Iron Ore Project.

It goes on to quote Mr Garret Dixon, the managing director of Gindalbie —

“This commitment in the recent State Budget demonstrates the Government's positive attitude towards the development of the region and ensures that the power transmission infrastructure in the region will match the capacity of our own transmission infrastructure,” ...

“This removes any question marks over our ability to access adequate power supplies for the Project well into the future.”

The media release goes on to say —

Mr Dixon also welcomed the funding allocated in the state budget for the development of Oakajee Port, which he said reflected its strong overwhelming commitment to investing in infrastructure development to support the resource industry.

“At a time of economic uncertainty, we believe that this is a responsible and sensible use of Government funds, representing a proactive investment in infrastructure that will support projects with the potential to make a long-term contribution to Western Australia,” he said.

For those members who do not know very much about Karara, I will give a brief summary of the project. Karara is a multibillion dollar capital investment. It will deliver 1 500 construction jobs and 600 jobs when it is in production. Initially it will produce 11 million tonnes of iron ore products commencing in 2011, comprising eight million tonnes of high-grade magnetite and up to three million tonnes of direct shipping ore. Karara has the potential to produce more than 30 million tonnes per annum over a mine life estimated at more than 30 years. Karara will initially generate around \$1 billion in annual export revenue, rising to \$3 billion annually as the project grows, equating to \$40 million in government revenue, rising to \$120 million annually. Iron products will be initially exported through Geraldton port, with Karara also able to commit foundation tonnages to underpin the development of the new multibillion dollar Oakajee port. The business case for the 330-kilovolt powerline is being finalised and has yet to go to the Economic Regulation Authority. Unfortunately, the federal government has declined to support stage 2, but I have a commitment from the government that stage 2 will be built when needed.

Now I will move to the question of the Oakajee port. I would like to quote the executive chairman of Murchison Metals Ltd, Paul Kopejtka, who made the following statement in welcoming the announcement of funding for Oakajee —

“The unswerving government support for Oakajee underlines the importance attached to this project by his Government —

That means the Premier Mr Barnett's government —

and the enormous benefits that will flow to all stakeholders from unlocking the region's vast mineral riches,” ...

“We look forward to continuing to work closely with the WA Government to deliver this important project.”

I am quite convinced that it is the government's commitment to build the port infrastructure for Oakajee that has kept the mining and port projects on track through the global financial crisis. I am also convinced that Oakajee will prove to be a profitable investment for the government. The super tax proposed by the Rudd government is the big cloud on this horizon. I am quite confident that the three foundation customers for Oakajee, being Gindalbie, Sinosteel Midwest Corporation Ltd and Crosslands Resources Ltd, are committed to start and will fill the foundation tonnage of 45 million tonnes per annum. However, of the 14 potential customers identified for Oakajee, some will not see the light of day due to Rudd's tax.

There are other exciting developments for Geraldton. Finally, the Meekatharra School of the Air is to get purpose-built facilities at Bluff Point, next to the camp school. I personally thank the education minister for her commitment to fix this problem. Finally, we are going to get action on the suburb of Beachlands to develop this neglected area, which has been waiting since 1993. We are also finalising the upgrading of Geraldton's water supply.

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Mr Peter Watson; Mr David Templeman; Mr Roger Cook; Mr John Kobelke; Acting Speaker; Mr Mick Murray; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Paul Miles; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr Frank Alban; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Ian Blayney; Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Rob Johnson

The two issues that seem to have generated the most heat in this budget, of course, are power and water. We have to accept that we have a drying climate. We have to encourage conservation, and the cost of water has to reflect the cost of supply. I am encouraged by the fact that the government is going to bring in a system under which a person's first allocation of water is charged at a lower rate than the rest of it. I am also very happy to see the infill sewerage program being started again.

On the question of power, I do not consider that it was sustainable for the state to be moving towards a situation in which we were going to be subsidising energy to the tune of \$1 000 million a year. That is money that is needed for other government services.

The only other issue I will mention is that I was interested in and encouraged by the proposal that was brought forward by the Premier the other day suggesting that we should consider developing a government precinct around Parliament House. I think that is a visionary idea, and I am quite encouraged by it. I think it would be a good thing for Perth.

Finally, this is a government of which I am proud. It is a government for all Western Australians. I note that a lot of the funds are committed to electorates that the government does not hold, as they should be. There were no whiteboards used here. It is a good budget for Western Australia, it is good for the Mid West, and it has a serious commitment to the development of Western Australia's next mining province, with up to \$10 billion of investment ready to go—Rudd and his super tax willing. Geraldton is at the centre of this, with an attitude of "grab the opportunities". Sensible innovations such as the regional planning committee introduced by our government will help make this happen. This is a budget that makes me look forward to the future with optimism and confidence.

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough) [10.33 pm]: It gives me great pleasure to rise tonight in support of the Appropriation (Consolidated Account) Recurrent 2010–11 Bill 2010 and the Appropriation (Consolidated Account) Capital 2010–11 Bill 2010. This is the second budget since I have been a member of Parliament. There are a number of really positive things in this budget for my constituents in the electorate of Scarborough. Probably the most exciting funding announcement to come out of this budget for my electorate was \$5.5 million worth of state funding put towards the Stirling city centre project. This project has been on the books for a long time. The planning for the project really started to gather some impetus in about October 2008. The project has a number of partners, including the state government, the City of Stirling and some of the private landowners in the Innaloo precinct. They have come up with a public–private–community partnership, PPCP, as they are calling it, and have done some amazing design work. It is pretty extraordinary when we can find a project that will deliver considerably increased density, a whole heap of new residents, up to 25 000 new jobs to add to the existing 12 000 jobs that we have in the Osborne Park industrial area already and to have the community engaged in this process and excited about the project. That excitement comes from the inspirational ideas that the Stirling Alliance has and the way that it has harvested those ideas by involving the community.

The Stirling City Centre project has some fantastic environmental elements to it. I attended a community workshop for the project at which a visitor from Germany, a man named Herbert Dreiseitl, spoke. He is involved in urban renewal projects right around the world in places such as China and Chicago. His specialty is water harvesting, water storage, water recycling and ground water replenishment systems, all things that lots of governments have talked about ad nauseam. Well, we got the expert over here to provide advice on the Stirling City Centre project. Now we are starting to review that project from an environmental point of view, starting with remediation of the Hertha Road tip, looking at ways to harvest water and looking at ways to design a green corridor to create urban streams and to create significant amenities that will have people wanting to live in this transit-oriented development. It is a very, very exciting project. There are economic considerations; lots of ongoing employment that will come in both the construction stage and in the continuation of the project as the retail and commercial precincts expand. We are looking at some low-cost housing initiatives, some green housing initiatives and lots of zero carbon buildings.

The bonus for the locals and people already living in the area is that part of this plan will involve fixing a significant local traffic bottleneck in Scarborough Beach Road, Odin Road, Cedric Street and the Mitchell Freeway. Anyone who travels along the Mitchell Freeway from the northern end into the city and back every day knows what it is like to get caught in that traffic snarl. Indeed, anybody in the whole of Perth who flocks down to Ikea, that lovely great big blue boxed shopping centre in my electorate, will know exactly what it is like to be caught in a traffic jam in Perth on a Saturday. It is a unique experience, and one that we do not particularly look forward to. I am not particularly proud of having that experience smack bang in the middle of my electorate driving my constituents crazy. One of the advantages of this Stirling City Centre project is that it will provide a solution to those traffic issues.

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This project also talks about the dream: the light rail system. There is talk of light rail, perhaps in partnership with the federal government, which is quite excited about the prospect of having the first light rail project in Perth, starting in my electorate. I can see the potential for having light rail connecting the Stirling train station to Scarborough Beach, perhaps connecting Trigg Beach and Karrinyup and Innaloo shopping centres. That is the dream. That is what my constituents are fired up about.

Mr R.F. Johnson: And up to Whitfords.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Indeed, there is probably an argument for light rail right along that coastal stretch as a tourism opportunity linking our beaches and our cafe strips. As I said, that does seem like a faraway dream but when we see the energy and the excitement in the room when the Stirling Alliance meets with members of the community who are part of this project, we start to believe that it might be possible. I think that is why people are so excited about it. They are talking about how they can make this happen, not that it will never happen.

The Public Transport Authority, Main Roads Western Australia and the Office of Energy are looking at alternative energy sources for this centre. They are looking at geothermal power and a range of unique ideas that have not been trialled all that successfully in Western Australia. I dare say that there has not been such a strong commitment by a group of people as members will see driving the Stirling City Centre project. I cannot speak highly enough of it. I thank the Minister for Planning for including \$5.5 million to complete the planning and staging of this project over time. It is certainly a big bonus for the people of my electorate and, indeed, the surrounding electorates of Balcatta and Carine.

At the edge of my electorate, the expansion of the Osborne Park health campus is taking place, with increased capacity for elective surgery as well as a mental health component. I cannot express how urgent it is to get mental health beds up and running. If this mining tax goes ahead and we start to see the impact of that mining tax on the community, we may start to see a need for the expansion of those very services. It has certainly got a lot of people in my electorate very worried. In fact I had a conversation the other week with one of my constituents, who owns a mining surveying firm. He employs 59 staff. Twenty-three are from the eastern states; he says they will be the first to go. He has just put a significant capital investment into surveying equipment. I do not know whether anyone in this house is familiar with that, but my dad is a surveyor and I can tell members that it is very, very expensive equipment. It is a significant capital outlay and a very high risk. It did not seem like a high risk about three or four months ago when the equipment was ordered and a deposit was paid, but it does appear to be a very high-risk investment for this mining surveyor at the moment. He has just had two years' work cancelled. He was to undertake mining surveying work on some new projects. That work has gone. He has been told it is unlikely to be reinstated at this stage unless there is a significant change of heart from Canberra. He will be speaking to his 23 employees from the eastern states. He said they are not necessarily the least talented of his employees, but he wants to send a message to Canberra by sending 23 people back to unemployment lines in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria. I have known this constituent for quite some years now and I have never heard him speak so negatively in all that time. I have grave concerns about the tax on our mining industry.

I have recently travelled around the state, through various committees and other opportunities that have been presented to me since I became a member of Parliament, and I have seen parks in lots of country towns that are there only because of the mining industry, which has paid for the beautification of town centres, parks and sporting facilities. I find it quite offensive that people from Canberra say that the mining industry gives nothing back to Western Australia. They are wrong, wrong, wrong.

On a more positive note, I was really excited to see the state government put a significant investment into the Matthews Netball Centre. My daughter plays netball there every Saturday morning. They have kindly given us an 8.15 am time slot! I can guarantee that it will rain consistently on Saturday mornings at 8.15. I have found at netball it is either freezing cold, pouring with rain, windy—or all three. I am pretty excited about the fact that this state netball centre will have some indoor netball courts. I am glad that will be built before my daughter tires of netball. I do not know whether members are aware, but about three years ago petitions started circling in relation to the Matthews Netball Centre. Thousands of names were collected on those petitions. The plan at that stage, much to the anxiety and distress of the many thousands of young girls and women who go to those netball courts, was to take some of those courts away and build a multistorey car park to provide for parking for the football stadium in Subiaco. I am here to tell members that went down like a lead balloon. Something that can be guaranteed at netball is that for every team of girls playing, there is a collection of parents who hang around the edges and have a really good yarn. It is quite a social activity every weekend; it builds community and it is more than just a sporting activity. It is actually about young girls developing their self-esteem and learning how to be part of a team. I cannot commend this government enough for putting a \$26 million investment into women's sport. Congratulations; it took a Liberal–National government to do it, and I am so proud to be part of the

Mr Peter Watson; Mr David Templeman; Mr Roger Cook; Mr John Kobelke; Acting Speaker; Mr Mick Murray;
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government that did this. Every time I drive past that netball centre, when it is constructed, I can say, “We did that”. I can say that to my daughter and her friends on the team, and the word will spread.

This is a government that listens to people and takes notice of the suggestions from parliamentary committees about how we can improve things. The \$49.7 million investment over four years to reduce the wait times for child development services is very welcome. As a mother of young children, I needed several years ago to access support services for my son; he needed occupational therapy because he was having difficulty learning how to write. He went onto the wait list for state-funded occupational therapy and we waited eight months to get the first call up. Thankfully, we are in a socioeconomic group that means we can afford to access private services, so during that eight months we actually sorted out most of the my son’s issues. We went to a private service in Joondalup and the premises were fantastic. It was quite simple, but it was full of primary colours and had lots of fun games and toys that build strength and motor skills. It was a really fun place and my son loved going there. It was a place where children got to learn and enjoy their therapy. When I got the call after eight months to go to the state centre, I expected a similar standard, and I was absolutely horrified when I got to the premises in Rheola Street. The building and the facilities were an absolute insult to the wonderful staff who work there. I took my five-year-old son into a beige building with a broken second-hand desk and two sets of puzzles that were incomplete. Those were the facilities; this was meant to be a stimulating environment for my son to access occupational therapy.

The tragedy is that the very people who need to access state services are the people who cannot afford to access private facilities. I went once and I was not going to go again, but I was lucky that I could afford to do that because I had private health cover that covered a lot of our expenses. I looked at those facilities and thought, “How would I be if I could not afford to access private services?” My son had learning difficulties at school, and to add to all of those issues, I went to this third-rate, disgusting, horrible old afterthought in Rheola Street. That was the previous government’s attitude towards children who had special needs. These kids, in the first three years of primary school, need to get those skills and build up muscle strength. They have to have physical ability, mental ability and speech therapy to succeed at school. They cannot learn how to read and write if they cannot hold a pen; that is very basic. I am thrilled that the government has responded to the Education and Health Standing Committee report, “Invest Now or Pay Later: Securing the Future of Western Australia’s Children”. It is commendable that the government has taken that step and responded to the report.

I am nearly finished. I can see that members are anxious!

Similarly, as a member of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee, I am very pleased to see the government pick up on one of our recommendations to allow a land tax rebate for caravan parks. That will go a long way towards ensuring low-cost, affordable holiday options for Western Australians for years to come—and in the very best parts of the state.

I guess from a personal perspective I need to once again spruik how pleased I am to see my local primary school, Deanmore Primary School, listed in the budget papers fully funded. It was rumoured that it was funded by the previous government, but it did not appear anywhere in a budget paper.

Mr P. Papalia: That’s not true.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: It was a promise that we were happy to deliver on. The people of my electorate who campaigned for —

Mr P. Papalia: It was a lump sum that was allocated during the year.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I am interested to hear the member for Warnbro say that, because it was not in the budget that his government drew up.

Mr P. Papalia: It was. The minister has an allocation, just like your minister has an allocation.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: No. It was not there under new schools. It was not in the statement on the decisions affecting the budget out of the election.

Mr P. Papalia: It happens every year. Ask the Premier.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: It was not there.

Mr P. Papalia: The Minister for Education has an allocation.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The previous government promised it and told those people that it was funded when it was not.

Mr P. Papalia: The same thing will occur under your minister.

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: We are delivering it, member for Warnbro, so it is a moot point.

Mr P. Papalia: They have a lump sum of money that they allocate during the year without it being assigned to a line item.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: It is a moot point, member for Warnbro. We are delivering it. My community fought for the school for seven long years—seven long years of asbestos, mould spores, demountables, respiratory problems, arguments with the minister and the minister walking away from community meetings. That is what my community, successive parents and citizens association presidents and successive principals put up with. I do not know how we managed to maintain a stable workforce there. They put up with that for seven years. They fought for it. They shamed the member for Warnbro's government at the election into promising a new school. We promised it, too; we are delivering it.

On that note, it is a great budget. My electorate loves it. I cannot wait to see the fruits of the labour of our Treasurer and Premier, and I give appreciation to the work of the preceding Treasurer in office as well, Mr Buswell.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr R.F. Johnson (Leader of the House)**.

House adjourned at 10.52 pm
