

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET

Motion

HON PIERRE YANG (South Metropolitan) [11.30 am] — without notice: I move —

That this house condemns the federal government and its 2018–19 budget for its lack of investment in key areas of need in Western Australia.

I am proud to be Western Australian. I live in WA, my family lives here and my children will grow up in WA. It is the most beautiful and liveable place in the world. I take exception when Western Australia and my fellow Western Australians are duded by the wise man from the east. Let us look at what happened with the Liberal–National government’s budget delivered a couple of days ago. The budget delivered by the federal government clearly has the wrong priorities. The federal government puts big business and its interests, and those of its mates in the banking sector, ahead of everyday Australians. The government has cut energy supplement payments to pensioners, which will cost them \$7 extra a week. At the same time, the government has provided \$80 billion to its mates in the business sector. The federal government has cut \$17 billion from schools, \$270 million from TAFE, \$715 million from hospitals, \$80 million from the ABC, \$205 million from the Australian Federal Police, \$40.7 million from critical veterans’ services and \$1.5 billion from remote Indigenous housing.

On that note, WA stands to lose a huge amount. The Liberal–National government has not only got its priorities wrong, but also shown great contempt to the people of Western Australia. The state of Western Australia and the Commonwealth of Australia have had a national partnership agreement on remote housing for the past 10 years. The commonwealth has similar agreements with other states and the Northern Territory. According to the WA–commonwealth agreement, the commonwealth provided \$36 million in the 2016–17 financial year and \$178 million during the last financial year. That money was spent on capital items such as new houses, refurbishments, employment and education housing, and also on reform items such as property and tenancy management, Indigenous employment, Indigenous participation, Indigenous business engagement and Indigenous home ownership. This agreement will expire at the end of next month. It is extremely disappointing that the federal budget has not provided any funding in the coming financial year—not a single dollar. At the same time, the Northern Territory is going to get \$550 million over the next five years. I suspect that the commonwealth agreed to do this because had it not done so, the responsibility of providing housing for remote communities would fall back on the commonwealth government, and I doubt it has the infrastructure or the framework to do this work. Because the legal risk does not arise in Western Australia, the commonwealth government has not entered into a new agreement. This is outrageous. The contempt shown by the federal government to the people of Western Australia is disappointing. Not only is the Northern Territory government getting more in the GST distribution, it is also getting ahead of Western Australia when it comes to remote housing funding support. It seems to me that the evidence points to the fact that the Northern Territory has more effective advocates in the federal cabinet. What about federal ministers from Western Australia? What have they been doing? Why are we not getting a fair share? We are not getting a cent of funding for remote housing from the federal government. That means that Western Australia’s 274 remote communities and its 12 000 Indigenous residents are no longer supported by the commonwealth government in the coming financial year and beyond. Let us face it, this will lead to homelessness and this will lead to difficulties in remote communities. This is disappointing and disheartening when we consider that the community has been doing all it can to raise funds to tackle homelessness. One example I may give is that at the Vinnies CEO Sleepout last year, I think WA collectively raised over \$600 000, but now millions of dollars will be taken away from Western Australia. The federal government says that through the remote housing partnership agreement it will support significant reform in the provision of housing in remote communities, which will address overcrowding, homelessness, poor housing conditions and severe housing shortages. The federal government’s 2017 “Remote Housing Review” stated —

Housing is fundamental to the wellbeing of all Australians—it provides shelter, privacy, safety and security, supports health and education, and has a significant impact on workforce participation.

I am afraid that Western Australians who live in remote areas are going to suffer a great deal because of the withdrawal of funding. Despite the fact that the federal Liberal–National government is aware how important this is to the 12 000 Western Australians living in remote areas, it has shown blatant disregard and contempt for WA and the people of Western Australia. The Prime Minister said he was committed to WA getting a fair share, but his deeds do not match his words.

I also want to touch on the lack of support in the federal government’s new budget for the issue of homelessness in general. In his budget speech, the federal Treasurer barely touched on the issue of homelessness. I quote Adrian Pisarski, the executive officer of National Shelter, on the 2018–19 federal budget —

Hon Pierre Yang; Hon Peter Collier; Hon Diane Evers; Hon Darren West; Hon Tjorn Sibma; Hon Martin Pritchard; Acting President; Hon Kyle McGinn; Hon Laurie Graham

“This budget shows a lack of long-term commitment to affordable housing, one year’s effort does not make a strategy or anything like a comprehensive package,” ...

“This was the government’s chance to build on the good initiatives of 2017 by adding a capital component, looking at how to use Build to Rent, creating new incentives to get states and the private sector to do more, instead there is very little to help people struggling to meet their housing costs.

“There was no boost to Commonwealth Rent Assistance ... no new supply strategy, no tax reform to end the distortions and rebalance the market, nothing to help Gens X and onwards get into the market, it’s very disappointing.”

The national CEO of the St Vincent de Paul Society, Dr John Falzon, was very harsh in his words about the budget. He blasted the federal government and said that it was unconscionable to pursue massive tax cuts while other people are struggling with their housing costs or going without food and secure housing. The same sentiment was echoed by Anglicare. The CEO of Anglicare Victoria, Paul McDonald, said that the federal budget ignored the plight of the most vulnerable in our community by failing to tackle the nation’s homelessness crisis. It is a crisis. The federal government has failed in its task of providing leadership on this issue. The federal government does not have a housing minister. The federal government does not have a national plan to tackle the issue of homelessness. It has shown little interest in this part of the budget.

When I moved to Perth some 18 years ago, very few people were homeless. Sometimes I went to the CBD on the weekends or in the evening. I would not see a lot of people sleeping rough on the street, whereas these days if we go to Murray Street and Barrack Street, for example, unfortunately, we see a lot of people sleeping rough. Unfortunately, a lot of people are homeless. Too many Western Australians do not have secure housing. We need a national strategy and investment in this issue to address the housing and homelessness crisis.

Last but not least, I want to touch on the southern forests irrigation scheme. This scheme will deliver 10 gegalitres of water annually and open up 1 700 hectares of land for horticultural production. It will create 200 new jobs and inject \$100 million into the local economy annually. The state government has committed \$19 million to the project. Local growers have pledged \$21 million to hopefully kickstart the project. The state government applied to the federal government under the national water infrastructure program for the remaining \$40 million of the \$80 million needed to fund this project. The federal government rejected WA’s application last year and it has just rejected its application again this year. It is disappointing that the federal government has rejected our application. As a result, there is no funding for the southern forests irrigation scheme.

One thing is very clear: the federal government has shown blatant disregard for and neglect of the people of Western Australia once again. I am sure that the people of Western Australia will not forget this and will pass their judgement at the next election. I commend the motion to the house.

HON PETER COLLIER (North Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition) [11.43 am]: With all due respect, this is a “come in, spinner” motion. We will certainly not support it. I say to the honourable member, whom I have a great deal of respect for—again, he is one of the good guys out of the members opposite—that I cannot believe that he moved this motion. This is just a no-brainer as far as motions are concerned. Members opposite have spent every single private members’ business time talking about us. I keep on talking about this. They referred to the Langoulant report. Every single time —

Hon Stephen Dawson interjected.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I sat in silence while the member was speaking. I have 10 minutes. I am not taking interjections.

Hon Stephen Dawson interjected.

Hon PETER COLLIER: If the member does not mind, I sat in silence. I am not taking interjections.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon Dr Steve Thomas): Order, members! It is quite true that Hon Pierre Yang was heard in silence and I expect Hon Peter Collier to be heard in silence as well.

Hon PETER COLLIER: We talked about the Langoulant report for months on end. Now all of a sudden we have decided that it is the federal government’s turn. That might have something to do with the Perth by-election or something along those lines. Members opposite are about to deliver their second budget after 12 months in office, yet they have absolutely nothing positive to say at all about their government. They are still infatuated with us. I am absolutely flattered, and I am sure the federal government is. Members opposite have nothing at all to say. Hon Pierre Yang must have surely been pushed into this because he is an intelligent man. This motion would have had to go through caucus. I would assume therefore that the Treasurer and the Premier were in on the decision to

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move this motion. They had to be. If that is the case, and they have agreed to this, that is the height of hypocrisy on the part of the Premier and the Treasurer. I will give a couple of reasons for that.

Firstly, about a month ago, the Treasurer made some glowing accolades about the federal finance minister, Hon Mathias Cormann. He is my best mate; I have a conflict of interest. He is the best finance minister this nation has ever had. The Treasurer was glowing in his praise of him. That is great. That is really good. That is one thing. Now he wants to condemn him, a month later. He was part of the decision to move this motion.

Secondly, on 27 April this year, we saw a joint media statement from the Premier and the Prime Minister—the same Prime Minister that these guys want to condemn. It is headed —

MAJOR JOBS AND INFRASTRUCTURE BOOST FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Prime Minister, Premier of Western Australia

It has a nice photo of the two of them. It states —

The Turnbull and McGowan Governments have agreed to build historic, major infrastructure projects that will create thousands of jobs, stimulate economic growth and bust congestion, allowing commuters to get home more quickly and safely.

Federal funding of \$3.2 billion in the 2018–19 Commonwealth Budget, will facilitate the construction of \$5.4 billion in infrastructure development for Western Australia, based on current cost estimates and subject to business cases as appropriate.

This follows last year's agreement on a \$2.3 billion 'Boosting Jobs, Busting Congestion' package, which was included in last year's federal Budget.

This significant infrastructure package will provide a major boost to WA's local economy, with many thousands of jobs expected to be created during construction.

It goes on and on. It is very comprehensive. It goes through all the different projects and the billions of dollars of federal funds injected into the Western Australian economy, plus GST top-up payments towards Western Australian hospital infrastructure. It continues —

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

- \$158 million towards the Joondalup Health Campus ...
- \$10.6 million towards the Osborne Park Hospital ...; and
- \$20.3 million towards the refurbishment ...

And so on. The federal government is freeing up money so that members opposite can put it into the service industries. That is what the federal government is doing; it is freeing up money for those opposite. The federal government has given money to the state government—it has handballed those funds—and government members are moaning; they want to condemn them. Give me a break!

On top of that, we should look at *The West Australian* from that day, 27 April. That was just two weeks ago. These guys were congratulating the federal government, saying how wonderful it is and two weeks later they are condemning it. The same men stood arm in arm—there were great photo opportunities—with the Minister for Transport, the Premier and the Prime Minister. All the Labor luminaries in Western Australia were desperate to have a photo taken with the Prime Minister because he was giving them billions of dollars. The article states, in part —

“West Australians will be big Budget winners,” Mr Turnbull told *The West Australian* ahead of today's announcement.

“These congestion-busting projects are significant and transformative. They will create thousands of jobs and stimulate economic growth, while allowing commuters to get home sooner and safe.”

Mr McGowan, who will join Mr Turnbull to unveil the spending package today, said it would “create thousands of jobs and provide a major injection into our local economy”.

“Since the election of my Government, WA is no longer being taken for granted by Canberra,” he said.

That is a pat on the back, a congratulations. They were down at Yagan Square, a great Liberal–National state government project, backslapping and high-fiving each other, saying how wonderful it is that the federal

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government has allocated billions of dollars to the government, and all these guys opposite can do is condemn the federal government. The hypocrisy has no bounds. I cannot believe that Hon Pierre Yang —

Hon Alannah MacTiernan interjected.

Hon PETER COLLIER: The minister is like a magpie on heat. She should be quiet.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Order, members! I said earlier that Hon Peter Collier would be heard in silence and I intend to enforce that. We will have silence for the remainder of his contribution. Hon Peter Collier has the call.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I can go through a pile of other initiatives as a result of federal government funding to Western Australia. Let us look at the black spot projects, to which \$42.5 million has been allocated to WA over a five-year period. Funding of \$30.9 million has been allocated to WA for the bridges renewal program over a five-year period. Funding of \$175 million has been allocated to WA to develop Northern Australia Roads over a four-year period. Funding has been allocated for the national rail program. For the rail investment component, funding of \$788.2 million has been allocated to WA over a four-year period. There are literally dozens and dozens of these programs.

Let us look at education. Quality schools funding has increased by \$172 million; that is an additional \$172 million into education in Western Australia. Universal access is being paid for by the federal government. Our four-year-old kindergarten students will be paid for with guaranteed universal access. The chaplaincy program has been guaranteed; that wonderful program that provides pastoral care for students is now guaranteed. I wish the federal government had guaranteed it when I was Minister for Education and Training—it was a Liberal government—but it did not. It vacated the space and we had to top it up with 178 additional chaplains. We did it because chaplains play such a wonderful role in our schools. Now we have a federal Liberal government providing funds to a state Labor government, which it did not do for the former state Liberal government, and these guys opposite want to condemn it for giving it all this money! We have been given an additional \$303 million for the National Health Reform Agreement. The state has received \$1.28 billion as a contingency for liability for the Perth Freight Link. I wish you guys would get your head out of the sand and build that thing. One need only drive along Leach Highway—ask any of the drivers down there—to see what the problem is. The freight link has to be built sooner or later.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan interjected.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I wish Hon Alannah MacTiernan would listen to the ruling of the Presiding Officer. She is not a law unto herself even though she might think she is.

The federal funding frees up funding for other opportunities, for remote housing in particular. We also lost money in remote housing but we got top-up money through the GST reform, and that is exactly why we have the Aboriginal Regional Services Reform Unit in the Kimberley. It came as a direct result of that.

Let us look at the figures in the budget. In the 2018–19 budget, WA got 15.4 per cent of the infrastructure budget—it is up 8.7 per cent from last year—despite having only 10 per cent of the population, yet you guys are moaning! The amount for WA almost doubled, but government members are moaning about that? The Labor Party condemned us, but two weeks later it was backslapping and high-fiving and having picture opportunities with the Premier and Treasurer at Yagan Square, but the Premier and Treasurer were part of the decision for you guys to come into this place and condemn us. If you cannot see the hypocrisy in that, guys, you really need to give this game away.

As I said, there must be something in this. It has to be the Perth by-election. Labor is trying to create animosity towards the federal government. It must be something like that. You guys have another plethora of by-elections to deal with even though, apparently, they had everything right, but they did not. The government is condemning the federal government for providing it with record funding. Mathias is going to love this. I am catching up with him on the weekend. He is going to absolutely love this. My great mate Ben Wyatt, all he does is condemn him. If I had the capacity, Mr Acting President (Hon Dr Steve Thomas), I would amend this motion to congratulate the federal government. Unfortunately, I cannot so we have to deal with this rubbish. You guys need to grow up, start governing and stop condemning.

HON DIANE EVERS (South West) [11.53 am]: It has been amusing —

Hon Alannah MacTiernan interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Order, members! Hon Diane Evers has the call.

Hon Pierre Yang; Hon Peter Collier; Hon Diane Evers; Hon Darren West; Hon Tjorn Sibma; Hon Martin Pritchard; Acting President; Hon Kyle McGinn; Hon Laurie Graham

Hon DIANE EVERS: The most recent contribution to the debate on this motion was amusing. Hon Peter Collier claimed that the motion is part of Labor's election campaign to drum up votes for Labor. All I see with the budget tax cuts is an election scam. This goes so much along the lines of the 2004 election when John Howard promised every family that they would get \$600 a child before the election and, if they voted Liberal, they would get \$600 after the election. Talk about election scams—here is one with the tax cuts that will be phased in over 10 years. In the first year it is lovely because all the people on the lowest incomes between \$50 000 and \$60 000 will get \$534—“Whoo hoo! Yes, let's go vote Liberal and we'll get our \$534!” In 10 years, a person on an income of \$200 000 will get a \$7 000 tax cut. If this is not blatant electioneering before the next federal election, I am not sure what is. The government is saying to those individuals who really need a tax cut, “Here's a couple of hundred dollars; be happy and vote for us”, while it will give the guys at the top the really big income tax cuts over the next 10 years. It is just abysmal, foolish and poor form. It is not for the benefit of the country; it is for the benefit of being re-elected, and that is all it is.

The problem with tax cuts is that government revenue will decrease significantly. Where will the cuts come from? Come on, not in infrastructure—we love infrastructure because it puts money into the economy and provides jobs and builds things, most often roads. When we have congestion problems we build more roads—and then what happens? We have more congestion problems. Is no forethought given? Is anybody planning to work out how to overcome congestion or will we just keep building more roads and taking money from the people to put into more concrete so that we can get to the same place within the same amount of time every time—because congestion builds up to the time that people are prepared to spend driving to get to where they need to go? No thought has been put into it whatsoever.

Funding for our more vulnerable citizens for services and the things they need just to have a decent life is now not available. Some people on the Newstart allowance are given and expected to live on \$40 a day. I imagine there are some people here who would spend that much on lunch. Those people have to find shelter and food, pay for heating, water and transport on \$40 a day. They have to pay for job applications, they have to get to job interviews and be presentably dressed. They have to look after themselves on \$40 a day. That is just abysmal; it is really sad. We have even seen John Howard come out and say that maybe that is a bit harsh and we should give them a bit more. Do we see that in the budget? Do we see much in the budget for vulnerable people? No.

There is money in the federal budget for infrastructure. I am not against infrastructure but when governments are planning these things, they have to say, “What is going to reduce our ongoing costs or bring in income in the future?” It should not just put more concrete down to build another road for smoother travel because that means more people driving on the roads. Did anybody see mention in the budget of climate change? The best the federal government came to was the mention of renewable energy. The budget states that it will no longer be subsidised and that energy will no longer be subsidised. What about subsidies for gas and coal? Are they not subsidies? Are those subsidies not propping up those industries? If the government takes away the subsidies on gas and coal and makes it a fair and level playing field—and takes it away from all those people who still think nuclear power is the answer, and think of all the research money that goes in there—we will see what renewables can do. With a level playing field, renewables will easily outstrip them in 10 years because subsidies are propping up the old fossil fuel, carbon-spitting and pollution-generating industries. We have to move on.

Was there anything in the federal budget for regional areas? As Hon Alannah MacTiernan said today, we need to make it better for people in the regional areas. We need to give people incentives to live in regional areas and we need to give them support. We need to support the community resource centres so that the people who live in the regions have a place to go for social interaction, information technology, and interaction with medical professionals, legal help and Centrelink. That is where we need to be going. The state government is not supporting community resource centres. I do not see anything from the federal government to help people in the regions. We are barely getting the national broadband network 10 years after it was first mooted that we would have that lovely service. It is still so patchy and dodgy. When I hear people talking about speeds over 50 or 60 megabits per second, I think of how we are really happy to get one megabit, because at least that means that it is continuous and something is happening. But we can forget about streaming live videos. We have to give it an hour for every minute that we want to download. It is ridiculous.

This budget is an election scam. The federal government is saying, “Come on, vote for us. We'll give you a couple of dollars and everything's going to be fine—hunky-dory!” That is not the case. I hope that the voters are clear enough to realise that it is not helping anyone, particularly in the regional areas of Western Australia that are being overlooked. The federal government could find a way to take all that money that is being given away in tax cuts and give it to our most vulnerable citizens—who are not like us or a lot of our friends who live a reasonably comfortable life in a beautiful city with access to amazing, wonderful, high-quality food—and those who are homeless or suffering from a mental illness or drug abuse and trying to get off the drugs, whether they be prescription or illegal drugs, or those who are children living in poverty. There are people who are really hurting

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and this federal government budget is not trying to support them. I expect better and I hope the voters expect better as well.

HON DARREN WEST (Agricultural — Parliamentary Secretary) [12 noon]: I will begin by acknowledging Hon Pierre Yang for bringing yet another very important point of debate to the Parliament. I must correct the Leader of the Opposition when he called Hon Pierre Yang one of the good guys. Hon Pierre Yang is one of the great guys in the Western Australian Parliament. He is one of the sharp minds that we have on our side of the chamber and he continually brings in worthy subjects for debate, as he has done again today in his motion asking that we condemn the federal government and its 2018–19 budget for its lack of investment in key areas of need in Western Australia. What a sensible motion. The same cannot be said for the response from the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon Donna Faragher: What about Moora college?

Hon DARREN WEST: I note that that was not in the federal budget, honourable member.

I also want to agree with Hon Pierre Yang when I say that I am a very proud and parochial Western Australian and, like most Western Australians, I know when we are being duded by the wise men from the east. We have been duded for the last five years under the federal Liberal and National Parties' watch with the GST rip-off, which has duded Western Australia continually without the current federal government making any attempt to fix it. It has finally picked up on the white-hot anger in Western Australia about the GST and finally it has come over and tried to make peace with the Western Australian voters, albeit ahead of a federal election that is due in the next 12 months. I note that the federal government has picked up on that and, as the opposition leader pointed out, it has finally made some attempt to appease the voters of Western Australia because it knows that it is in for a row. It knows that for the first time, Western Australia could decide who wins the federal election next year. Its members are over here now and offering money for some important projects, which of course we appreciate. The Premier and the Treasurer of Western Australia acknowledge and appreciate the funding that has been provided for some much-needed infrastructure projects, but it still does not cut the mustard for the last five years that Western Australia has had to endure the LNP double whammy of trashed finances by the previous state government and a lack of commitment to help us fix them by the current federal LNP government. That is disgraceful and everybody in Western Australia knows that to be the case.

I will run through a few things that are important to my part of the state. The ABC has had its funding cut yet again. Another \$127 million has been cut from our public broadcaster that we need in regional Western Australia. If honourable members drive around regional Western Australia and put on their radio, they would find that in most places in Western Australia the only reception one can get is from the ABC. To cut another \$127 million out of an independent, unbiased public broadcaster just to benefit mates in the mainstream media who control the right-wing nonsense without any independence or balance, is clearly trying to affect the hearts and minds of the voters in the worst possible way. We proudly pay for our ABC and I proudly support the ABC that has had yet another cut from the Turnbull government. I do not think anyone can argue with me about that. We get local and international news, international views, community information and, very importantly, emergency alerts about bushfires, cyclones and the like from the ABC. The federal government should keep its grubby hands off our ABC and fund it in the way it should be funded. It should go back on this cut and fund our ABC because we need it. This has come on top of further cuts made during Tony Abbott's time when he specifically pledged—people remember the signature on the pledge—that there would be no cuts to the ABC. His government cut \$240 million out of the ABC, and here we go again!

The most shameful part of the federal government's budget is its funding for remote housing in Western Australia—zero dollars! What an absolute disgrace when, on the other hand, it has given \$80 billion in federal tax breaks to its rich mates. Many of those breaks will be given to companies that will not be affected because they do not pay tax in the first place. Other companies will not spend that money on jobs. They will give it to their shareholders who are most likely from overseas. The federal government has also given a \$17 billion tax break to the big banks—what is going on? Over the last month we have all seen the behaviour of the big banks exposed and what an eye-opener it has been, but the Prime Minister of Australia is rewarding those organisations with a \$17 billion tax cut while giving zero dollars to remote housing in Western Australia. That guy is totally out of touch with what the average Australian thinks, and he will find that out very soon.

The national broadband network debacle continues. We had a plan to give everyone the NBN to their house. Look at the debacle we have now—copper wire, 1960 special! Most people in regional Western Australia will not even get the NBN now, unless it comes from an overcrowded satellite that gives them very slow and unreliable download speeds—what a joke! The Karratha–Tom Price Road has been much talked about by federal members of Parliament, but it is not funded in this federal budget. Who do members think will fund that? I will give members three guesses. I was aghast to hear the federal member for Durack on the radio, critical of the state government—

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I presume it is the previous state government; it would not be this one—for not funding the much-needed upgrades for Geraldton Hospital. I looked through the federal budget and found no allocation whatsoever for Geraldton Hospital. It has been promised funding four times now by the LNP and it has still not been delivered. Who do members think will pay for that? I will give members three guesses. It is not just me saying this, members. An article in the community newspaper states —

Western Australia has missed out on funds for remote housing and the NDIS in the federal budget, leaving Treasurer Ben Wyatt bitterly disappointed.

He has good reason to be bitterly disappointed because he is the Treasurer who has to clean up the LNP double whammy—the trashed state finances and the GST rip-off. The articles goes on —

Mr Wyatt said there had been “a belligerent refusal” to engage with the state government about renewing the agreement for WA ...

I will just remind members that the state government puts \$100 million a year into remote housing.

I will just pause for a moment to inform members that we have the staff and students of Sacred Heart Catholic School in Goomalling in the gallery today. My wife works at this school as the “director of first impressions” and an administration officer and I was chair of its board for many years. This school was totally revitalised by the Building the Education Revolution funding initiative. That is an example of good federal policy for Western Australia, but I digress.

The Treasurer went on to make some further comments in the article. I will remind members of a couple of good initiatives and some funds that the federal government has provided that we do appreciate. We appreciate the \$1.05 billion for the Metronet rail project—we have talked about that before. We also appreciate the GST top-up payment of \$188 million, including \$158 million for the Joondalup Health Campus expansion, \$20.3 million for the Royal Perth Hospital refurbishment and \$10.6 million for the Osborne Park Hospital expansion. But can anyone tell me what those three hospitals have in common? They are all in the metropolitan area. There is no funding for Geraldton Hospital, which also needs a significant upgrade. A lot of the money promised to us by the federal government has been allocated to the city. From time to time when we make a tough decision in the regions, we are criticised by people saying that we are anti-regional, but one cannot get more anti-regional than the federal government.

In the limited time that I have available I will touch on some other things, and it is not just me saying these things. The National Party Senate candidate for Western Australia has taken the very brave step of coming out in a letter to the editor of the *Kalgoorlie Miner* and absolutely slamming his own government and his federal LNP colleagues. The headline reads “Dud Budget blow to regions”. I urge members to research that and read that article. Twice in two days, I have agreed with a member of the National Party. I do not know what is going on. A federal Senate candidate has slammed his own party’s government for the budget and said how it is a dud deal for regional Western Australia. I commend him for taking that very brave step.

Members, we have been duded for a very long time. The voters of Western Australia will take out their anger on the Turnbull government soon. I look forward to the election of many new Labor members, who will, unlike their Liberal colleagues, get in there and fight for Western Australia.

HON TJORN SIBMA (North Metropolitan) [12.11 pm]: I almost do not know where to begin. When I received this memo yesterday, I wondered whether Hon Pierre Yang had received the memo in late April and read that joint media statement, published under the Premier’s name as well as the Prime Minister’s, titled “Major Jobs and Infrastructure Boost for Western Australia.” It states —

The Turnbull and McGowan Governments have agreed to build historic, major infrastructure projects that will create thousands of jobs, stimulate economic growth and bust congestion, allowing commuters to get home more quickly and safely.

Federal funding of \$3.2 billion in the 2018–19 Commonwealth Budget, will facilitate the construction of \$5.4 billion in infrastructure development for Western Australia, based on current cost estimates ...

The media statement continues and is predominantly fixated on Metronet. I think that the budget speech that is about to be read will have two prevailing themes. The government will pat itself on the back for finding the capital to build Metronet and it will confect a small surplus in the final year of the estimates as we go into an election. They will believe the two positives and they will engage in a process of self-congratulations. We are talking about only one topic. The government has only one thing to sell—Metronet. It is possible only because of the capital contribution of the federal government. Hon Pierre Yang is an intelligent and educated man and he knows better than this. It is amazing that he chose this day of all days to move such a hypocritical motion. It is absolutely hypocritical and misses the point. The state Labor government has elevated Metronet beyond any other priority. It

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is the only infrastructure project that it is concerned about. The metropolitan area is the only area of the state that will benefit from it.

I was very interested in the intellectual contribution of Hon Darren West, who made the observation that Western Australians have been duded for a very long time by the federal government. I have to agree. But the answer to that is not to elect the greatest factional dud, the hollow man from central casting—the opposition leader, Bill Shorten. What has the charisma-void, zinger-replete, working-class hero Bill Shorten pledged to do in respect of GST? Zero.

Several members interjected.

Hon TJORN SIBMA: There is no federal Labor commitment to repair the GST imbalance. Government members know it. They all know it. They are all hypocrites.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Hon Tjorn Sibma, take a seat, please. Several members may not have been in the chamber earlier when I said that we would have silence during contributions from members in this debate. I know some were away on urgent parliamentary business, but let me reinforce the message that I have no intention of losing control of this debate under my watch. We will progress. Members will be heard in silence and we will not have that sort of shouting across the floor.

Hon TJORN SIBMA: I get very excited on budget day, particularly when I am antagonised by infantile motions such as this that can open up government members only to claims of hypocrisy. That is all it is. They cannot make the debate about infrastructure in this state about one issue solely, receive federal government funding to allow the capital construction of that project, and then complain that the federal government is not doing its bit to meet areas of need in this state. The two do not hang together. It is one or the other. Make your choice.

I want to reflect on the contribution by Hon Darren West. I am a member for the North Metropolitan Region and I am not a member for the Agricultural Region, but I propose this: I do not think that the communities of regional Western Australia necessarily see Hon Darren West as their knight in shining armour. I do not know what the sentiment is in downtown Moora. I have not been there for a while. With respect to hypocritical positions adopted by members opposite, that completely took the cake. Closing down camp schools, not even entering into correspondence with or visiting the town of Moora, and cutting the funding for community resource centres by 40 per cent without going to visit them either—frankly, if I am going to take advice about the needs of regional Western Australia, I am not going to take it from that superstar Hon Darren West! I have mentioned before in this chamber, and perhaps it is a little unfair, but that section of the government benches seems to be the place where parliamentary careers go to die. I warn members at the back, Hon Kyle McGinn in particular, do not get sucked into that career black hole. He should not follow the lead of the gentleman who sits in front of him. It will end terribly for you. I know that comrades have a lot of faith in you, member. Repay that faith and do not follow the lead of that member in front of you. Do not get trapped by the rhetoric.

Several members interjected.

Point of Order

Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD: Mr Acting President, I was wondering whether you expect members to direct comments to yourself.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon Dr Steve Thomas): On the point of order, yes, comments should be directed to the Chair. They should also be relevant to the motion before the house. I think we have digressed a little, so I will draw the member back to the motion and ask him to continue his remarks.

Debate Resumed

Hon TJORN SIBMA: Excellent advice, Mr Acting President. I will conclude my remarks. I get carried away sometimes and provide advice that people do not want to hear, but I will end by saying this: this motion is the most disingenuous, hypocritical, intellectually bereft motion I have had the misfortune of reading this year. Pull your head in.

HON KYLE MCGINN (Mining and Pastoral) [12.18 pm]: Was that not amusing? That was an absolute load of rubbish from Hon Tjorn Sibma across the way there. The member wants to talk about hypocrisy. He should look at what we have seen in the federal budget that has come down. I came from Karratha before entering into Parliament and the number one thing that we were pushing for up there was Karratha–Tom Price Road. That had been on the Labor government’s agenda back in 2001 when it created it. It started it by completing stages 1 and 4. What did we see from the mob opposite between that time and when it was kicked out in 2017? Absolutely nothing—nothing. Talking about tourism and opportunities and opening up the north, not one thing was done on Karratha–Tom Price Road. The Balla Balla project is coming up. Do we have a road sealed and ready to go so that

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we can try to facilitate local jobs and local workers and have a drive in, drive out workforce? No. Who comes in to make that promise? The WA Labor government. We have committed \$50 million to that project. It was an election commitment by the member for Pilbara. It was made very clear across the Pilbara region that it was a priority for this government to go back to what the former Labor government started and to finish the job, because we all know that when we leave it to a Liberal–National government, nothing gets done at all.

What did we see from the federal government? There is not one single cent for roads in the north—not one single cent. It put out a \$1.5 billion pot of money. We know how it likes to put out buckets for which we all have to compete and see who is mates with who to get a bit of money that can be spent with no business case. They can just run in and spend money.

Several members interjected.

Hon KYLE MCGINN: Let us talk about the business cases in the Langoulant report. Let us go back to that!

Was the federal member for Durack surprised that no money was put in the budget for roads in the north? She was not surprised at all. When she was asked on ABC radio whether she was disappointed that no roads in the north had been funded by the federal government, her response was, “No, I’m not actually.” She must be very confident that she is going to be re-elected by not giving any commitments to important infrastructure in the north. She said that nothing is confirmed but that we can fight to get funding from a bucket of money. Not one cent has been funded. This government identified the road as a priority, being integral to the north. The minister met with Barnaby Joyce in Darwin in 2017 when the ministers got together. The road was put on the agenda as a priority, yet the minister—sorry, she is not a minister, and I am sure she will not be one after the election—the member for Durack, Melissa Price, turned around and said that the state government did not identify it as a priority. I am sorry; we made it an election commitment to deliver a road with \$50 million of state government funding, but she does not think we made it a priority. Come on now; that is an absolute joke, coming from the member for Durack. It is disappointing that she is trying to defend that, saying that we now need to go out and fight for a bucket of money. Over \$500 million was given to the Northern Territory, yet we were given nothing for roads in the north—not one cent. If we talk about communities and housing, not one penny was given to remote housing, yet \$550 million was committed to the Northern Territory. Nothing was given to Western Australia. If members want to talk about how we are ripped off in Western Australia, it is not just with the GST; it is on every single thing that this federal government funds from wild dog control to roads. All over the place, we can find ways that the government has given other states and territories more funding and a higher priority than those in Western Australia. The WA Labor McGowan government is putting us back contesting for these funds and making sure that we get priority projects back off the ground.

I am absolutely outraged that nothing was done for eight years about such a critical piece of infrastructure. Karijini National Park is in the north and the biggest oil and gas port in Western Australia sits in the Dampier Archipelago. The biggest iron ore port in Australia is in Port Hedland. We want to start connecting the dots and start putting down roads, which should have been done over the last eight years, but not one inch of the road was laid. When a project such as Balla Balla comes up, we need to start immediately to make sure that we can make it viable for a company to have drive in, drive out workers instead of building another aerodrome, with another mob of fly in, fly out workers, which means that we will not capitalise on local jobs for these local projects. It is outrageous that the member for Durack does not think it is disappointing that no roads were committed to and that we need to fight for a share of a bucket of money. It is an absolute disgrace. I believe that voters in her electorate should be outraged and should vote with their feet come election day to ensure that she does not have another opportunity to rip off infrastructure in that region.

I know there is only limited time left and other members want to speak but I had to point out that it is an absolute outrage for Melissa Price, the member for Durack, to think we did not make the road a priority. We made it an election commitment. We put it back on the agenda. We started the agenda for the Karratha–Tom Price Road. Members of the federal government sat on their hands and did nothing. We will see the road built under the WA Labor government.

HON LAURIE GRAHAM (Agricultural) [12.24 pm]: I rise to support the motion moved by my colleague Hon Pierre Yang. I am surprised by the opposition, particularly regarding the vehement way it is being expressed that there has been a change of situation. It is quite clear to me that the budget and the comments made about the support the federal government has given the budget are largely tied to projects that the federal government wished to see funded with a forthcoming budget in mind.

I will turn to a few items that have not yet been addressed today. In the workforce development area, which was well discussed yesterday, it is interesting that the federal government has seen fit to cut \$21.2 million over the forward estimates for the workforce development training program. This is really a disgrace at a time when training

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is an absolute priority. The National Training System Commonwealth Own-Purpose Expenses program has also been cut. We heard yesterday during the second reading debate on the Pay-roll Tax Assessment Amendment (Exemption for Trainees) Bill 2018 that the federal government is reducing its financial support. These are just two areas in which financial support has been reduced. Having been fairly involved in the apprenticeship and traineeship system, it is also disturbing to see that with the change of administration, the feds have not seen fit to put more money back into that system. Contracts in place with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia and three other providers to support and maintain apprenticeships are clearly inadequate. From an administration point of view, most apprenticeships are now being needlessly lost because the CCI and others are failing to get off their—better not use that word—backsides and get out there and try to save apprenticeships. Previously, they were administered by the state when it used to have contractors in place. The feds have abandoned that space and lots of trainees and apprenticeships have needlessly lost their positions because the federal government has failed to meet its requirement to enforce contractors to provide them.

In regional Western Australia, the federal government has also largely withdrawn from job network providers. They no longer visit any of the small centres. Community resource centres were very important buildings in regional Western Australia but we do not see very many, if any, deliverers of federal government programs using that infrastructure today. It is no wonder that their current purpose is being questioned.

A comment was made about the camp schools being closed. I drove past one last week and it was still open. I suspect they will all be open until the end of the year and by then a new arrangement will be in place to repurpose the camp schools for their current purpose plus others.

It is also interesting to note that the federal government saw fit to cut Australian Securities and Investments Commission funding. That is strange when the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry has just looked into the need for more regulation. The federal government cut positions from that program.

I could not leave the chamber without commenting on Geraldton Hospital. As a long-time resident of Geraldton, I find it strange that, in the last few weeks, Melissa Price has seen fit to condemn the state government for not providing any funding. I just hope that she finds a way, in the foreseeable future, to assist the state in developing that project.

Comment was made earlier about Ben Wyatt being two-faced in facing the federal government some time ago in relation to money it was giving us, but, clearly, if members look at all the commitments made, that funding was all negotiated on the basis that it would be delivered in a particular area at a particular time to get an outcome. That outcome is clearly looking towards next year's federal election.

The federal government has also withdrawn long-term funding for remote housing. Quite clearly, the decision to withdraw this funding can be linked only to the fact that there are not too many votes in Melissa Price's electorate, particularly in the north west. It was interesting that Nigel Scullion, in his contribution to the budget debate, talked about all the money in the budget for Indigenous advancement et cetera but he did not highlight the fact that he had also been party to a government that cut funding to provide housing for disadvantaged people. Shelter WA is one organisation concerned about the decision to cut funding.

In the very limited time that is left, I will touch on few other matters. The southern forests irrigation scheme is another project for which the federal government has seen fit to leave matching funding out of the budget. With \$40 million in place and another \$40 million required, it is a shame that that occurred.

Motion lapsed, pursuant to standing orders.