

PREMIER'S STATEMENT

Consideration

Resumed from 23 February on the following question —

That the Premier's Statement be noted.

MR G. BAKER (South Perth) [6.04 pm]: I rise today to support the Premier's Statement. The Premier last month laid out the challenges that we have faced in recent years and the difficulty in preparing us for the challenges ahead. The McGowan government has a great record. We saw this with the world's best response to the pandemic. We delivered a pathway out of COVID and combined this with a strong economic performance, regaining the AAA credit rating. Our strong economic performance is delivering big projects for WA, like Metronet, and a record investment in the regions. I am proud to be part of this team.

When I listen to the people of South Perth talk about their concerns, the number one thing they talk about, expressed in different ways, is the economy. Household budgets are feeling the strain. Inflation is up, supply chain problems are biting and interest rates are increasing. The world has an uncertain economic future. The three big reasons for this are the lagging effect of COVID, the war in Ukraine and supply disruptions in China and international trade. These three issues have challenged global supply chains and increased energy prices, which pushes up the costs of goods and services here.

I have listened to many business owners in South Perth—namely, builders, antique dealers, pub owners, market stall operators at the Manning Road markets, and shop owners on Angelo Street, Welwyn Avenue and at Waterford Plaza—who are feeling the effects of the supply chain pressures and inflation in different ways. The Reserve Bank's answer to these growing problems is to raise interest rates. When I drafted this speech, it had been nine times in a row; it is now 10 times in a row. That has added thousands in repayments to already stretched family budgets. The people most exposed to the interest rate rises are recent homebuyers who are already stretching their budget. It is a puzzle to me how the Reserve Bank will curb spending by targeting the people who are already under the most financial pressure. The people of South Perth are smart, innovative and resilient, but the repeated interest rate rises are raising the bar very high for some people who are already doing a lot.

Now, at a state level, no state government has the big economic levers. State governments do not control interest rates or inflation. State governments have no control over international supply chain problems. What the McGowan government can do is things like keep household fees and charges low, support the small and medium enterprise sector, engage in stimulus spending and keep debt low to protect the WA taxpayer from interest rate rises. Things like the WA household electricity credit offset has saved families \$1 000 over the last two years, and the amount of fees and charges paid by WA households last year was lower than the case in previous years. No other state does this. No other state has a capital works program like that in WA or has state debt as low as WA. No other state has an electricity price as low as WA. All these options from the state government depend on a sound fiscal policy that keeps us safe and strong. We need to keep something in the tank that lets us take decisive action when it is really needed, and this is the challenge for the Western Australian budget.

Let us take a dive into the income and expenditure of the WA budget. Bear with me for a few minutes, members; I will just get through some basics first. The budget has income and expenditure. On the income side, our budget is very lumpy. It varies a lot year to year. In particular, royalty income varies a great deal year to year depending on the price of iron ore. Our overall income for the WA government is about \$40 billion. However, the royalty income can vary between \$6 billion and \$12 billion year to year in recent times. On page 76 of budget paper No 3 of the 2022–2023 budget, the royalty income can be seen going back over a decade. Sudden surges in royalty income can be seen, with increases of 100 per cent and 200 per cent, followed by drops of 50 per cent or more. On the expenditure end of things, we have recurrent expenditure and capital expenditure. Recurrent expenditure is mostly service delivery, like schools and hospitals. Most of the recurrent budget is taken up by essential things like wages or the cost of delivering services.

Capital expenditure is building new stuff like rail lines and roads, new hospitals and schools. Recurrent expenditure is, generally, slowly increasing over the long term, and hard to change. We know it is hard to reduce recurrent expenditure without a lot of pain in the community. Capital expenditure is relatively easy to change. Some capital projects, like getting a bridge over the Fitzroy River, are very urgent, but most capital expenditure is more discretionary. For example, the Barnett government thought it could postpone the rail line to Ellenbrook indefinitely. A state government can postpone a new road construction from one year to the next in a way we just cannot do with a cohort of school children. Our key challenge in framing a budget is managing the recurrent spending with the lumpy royalty income. As we just saw, royalty income can vary by \$6 billion from one year to the next, or about 15 per cent of all government income. Royalty income goes up and down, while recurrent spending is more level.

Where should the government set its sights for recurrent spending? Should it aim for the high end of the income range, based on temporary high resources income, and bake the expenditure into the recurrent budget, or should it

aim at the lower end of its royalty income with a lower recurrent expenditure? We can learn from history on this one. We can look back at the Barnett Liberal government. It rode a wave of mining royalties from 2008 to 2013 and baked those increased royalties into the recurrent budget. Then the international economy changed and demand for the mineral subsided. Our mining royalties fell by 50 per cent, but our recurrent budget was baked in and the Barnett Liberal government could not adapt fast enough. That is when state debt exploded, the debt monster emerged and we lost the AAA credit rating. I remember being a government staffer after the 2017 election looking at the budgets of individual agencies through the forward estimates and seeing the financial shell game that the Barnett government had been playing, trying to hide the recurrent spending problem that it had created. Where did we end up with the Barnett Liberal government? We ended up with record state debt and we lost the AAA credit rating. Let us contrast that with the approach of the McGowan government. When we were elected, there was a very conscious decision to align the recurrent spend with the lower end of the royalty projections. We planned for the lean years and ensured we had enough income to recover the recurrent spending. We were not planning for up here; we were planning for down here. This step was essential in ensuring the state could stop the increasing debt, regain the AAA credit rating and set the budget towards surplus again.

Let us look at another example of debt getting out of control: the Morrison Liberal government. It has left a record debt for the commonwealth government for all Australians. The debt is getting close to \$1 trillion—that is \$1 000 billion. The cost of servicing this debt alone is \$25 billion. That amount is comparable to the budget of Western Australia. Every year, the commonwealth government is spending, on servicing debt, more than it costs to run every hospital, school, police station, national park, courthouse, prison and then some. It is only going to get higher as interest rates increase. Every other state in Australia is also experiencing record debt. Every other state is condemning their future taxpayers to servicing this record debt. It is not something we in WA want to be exposed to. We do not want to see debt increase uncontrollably and we do not want to see a large portion of the state budget wasted on servicing debt. We are careful. In good years, like last year, we reap the rewards. We had a budget surplus of around \$6 billion last year and around \$2 billion this year. But as we know, this money is not sitting idle in a bank account. The surplus is hard at work. It is paying down the Barnett government debt, building capital works, helping the Kimberley recover from floods, rebuilding the midwest after cyclone Seroja and funding the clean energy transformation. It is also providing direct relief to households, with the WA household electricity credit offset. WA is the only state in Australia that is effectively reducing household fees and charges. It is even installing LED lights on the sporting grounds of South Perth. When the opposition asks, “Why is the Premier hanging onto the surplus?”, the answer is easy: we are not hanging onto it. We worked hard to get WA off the Barnett government’s addiction to debt. We had a world-leading pandemic response, we got back the AAA credit rating, and now we have a surplus to fund important projects around the state and in South Perth. I am very proud of these achievements.

When people in South Perth talk to me about the growing economic clouds, I can say that we are working hard, we have the capacity for decisive action, and I take heed of the Barnett Liberal government’s record of debt and deficit. I do not want to leave a massive deficit for my kids. I want to leave them with the benefits of our enormous natural wealth, without the burdens of a big interest bill. Our big economic story is a personal one for me, because if we get it wrong it will find a way of affecting us all. But a strong fiscal position takes a lot of fiscal discipline. This is the record of the McGowan government. When the government gets the fiscal setting right, it can deliver right down to the local level and in local projects for the neighbourhoods in South Perth in things that matter, like education, sport and recreation, transport and more. I am very proud of the McGowan government’s passion for public education. This has translated into many local projects. It has been a pleasure to work with schools such as Curtin Primary School, which transformed its old bitumen court into a playground and breakout space. I remember when I went to school back there in the 1970s. Those bitumen courts were like giant heat islands between classrooms. This grant will break it up a bit, and give the kids something that they can enjoy. I have also been working with Kensington Primary School to resurface its outdoor basketball courts and get a new roof for the oldest part of the 96-year-old school. It is great to see that the courts were finalised for the first day of school this year. I have been working with Collier Primary School on its nature playground, the next stage of its master plan that was opened nearly a year ago now. The Collier P&C association is a very organised bunch that makes the most of every opportunity to make its school feel like a little country town in the city.

I have been working on a range of improvements at Como Secondary College. I first rode my bike past Como Secondary College when I was five years old. It has not changed much. It is the victim of being a great public education institution in a safe Liberal seat, but we have made a solid start there. We have spent \$300 000 to extend and improve school car parks, which will reduce traffic hazards during the before and after school peak periods. We have also sent the school \$600 000 for a new STEM learning space as part of our investment in schools. Como Secondary College is very strong in STEM. In fact, 15 per cent of the school’s students come from out of area intakes to be part of the specialist subjects. This new learning space will give the students even more to be pleased about. There was \$1 million to upgrade the cafeteria and multipurpose performance space at Como Secondary College, which the Premier opened about a year ago, and what an amazing reception he got. I have never seen

anything like it in politics. It was a good day for the school and it was an especially good day for the principal, Digby Mercer. It must have been a good day, because he was smiling.

I will take a moment to thank Minister Hon Sue Ellery who has backed me and schools in South Perth. She came down to South Perth on many occasions and met with principals, other educators, students and parents, listened to their concerns and acted upon them. Her work was much appreciated.

I now switch from education to sport, and more local projects for South Perth. People in South Perth love their sport and recreation. I love listening to people with big dreams for sport in South Perth. We are pretty good. Last year, South Perth residents brought back a swag of gold and silver medals from the Commonwealth Games. No bronze—just gold and silver. We have been getting things done. At South Perth Cricket Club, we have replaced the practice nets with a moveable cage net system and canopy; at Como Croquet Club, we have reconstructed two croquet court lawns and it looks beautiful; and at Hensman Park Tennis Club, we have replaced the lighting for eight courts—member for Roe, do not say we do not do anything for you! At Manning Tennis Club, we have upgraded the lighting to 10 courts; at Bill Grayden Reserve in Como, we have upgraded the lighting for baseball and Aussie Rules; and South Perth Tennis Club will get its LED lighting next through the Club Night Lights small grants program.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Hear, hear!

Mr G. BAKER: That is a great program. It is really hard to get new grounds for sport and recreation in the middle of our inner-city suburbs, and LED lights are an amazingly cheap way to get more life out of existing recreational space.

Other sport and recreation projects from the McGowan government in South Perth include \$63 000 for the South Perth Bridge Club for accessible toilets, and \$17 000 for defibrillators for venues including South Perth Bowling Club, Como Bowling and Recreation Club, Manning Rippers Amateur Football Club, Trinity Aquinas Amateur Football Club and Moresby Street Hall.

Recently, we awarded an outdoor recreation participation program grant to the City of South Perth for a series of free outdoor recreation activities supported by local clubs. The first concert, Sounds in the Park, was held at Ryrie Avenue on Saturday, 25 February. I was down there with my daughters and it was a beautiful evening; I have never seen Ryrie Reserve look so beautiful. There was even a bossa nova version of *Love Will Tear Us Apart*, so it really made my night. I would like to thank the Minister for Sport and Recreation—both the previous one, the member for Armadale, and the current one, the member for Mandurah. You have always made yourselves available to me and local sporting clubs to listen to our concerns; thank you very much.

Now to transport. South Perth has the misfortune to have its streets on a grid design. That was a good idea 50 years or so ago; it is not such a good idea in the age of sat nav. Many quiet streets have been destroyed by becoming the computationally shortest distance between two main roads.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr G. BAKER: It is a source of great annoyance for local residents and it has changed traffic patterns forever. Our government is responding as best it can. We have upgraded many intersections, including the corner of Mill Point Road and Forrest Street in South Perth, by installing some median islands to break up the road for pedestrians and turning cars, and also line markings to protect turning vehicles. We have \$1.5 million in the pipeline to upgrade the intersection of Mill Point Road and Mends Street in South Perth for pedestrians, by installing a raised safety platform and modifying the traffic signal. We are closing the southern approach to Edgecumbe Street at its intersection with Paterson Street in Manning. We are installing intersection safety improvements at Canning Highway and Berwick Street—that one is always a boon double. In transport, we have upgraded the Mends Street jetty so that all abilities can use the ferries. We had 8 500 boardings in the first 10 days since it was completed and patronage is way up.

There are a couple of big projects that I want to talk about. Perth Zoo holds a very special place in the heart of my neighbourhood. The passing last year of Tricia the elephant was a sad time for the Zoo and South Perth. I was surprised at how many people contacted me just to express their feelings and talk about their memories of that old elephant. For the future of the Zoo, we have funded over \$40 million for its master plan, which will see the Zoo grow and adapt for the next generation. Just a few weeks ago, the Minister for Environment, the member for Baldivis, announced a new Aboriginal trainee program at the Zoo. Eight students from Clontarf Aboriginal College in Waterford will have the opportunity to take part in a two-year traineeship at Perth Zoo, which will see them gain a certificate II in conservation and ecosystems management. This work placement program will help students become job ready. I am looking forward to seeing the results of this program and meetings those kids; thank you very much, minister.

The last project I want to talk about is the Canning Bridge interchange project. Canning Highway is jammed as it passes over the freeway, with the bus station competing with highway traffic. The Canning Bridge interchange project will remove the buses from the bridge, moving them off to the side and allowing better pedestrian and cycling access

to the station. My predecessor John McGrath was a keen advocate for this project. It will be of huge benefit to the area—not just South Perth, but also the whole southern transport corridor. There is \$200 million funding in the pipeline, and we are looking at a 2025 start. This was long talked about during the term of the Barnett government, but the McGowan government has found the funding and is getting on with it. I would like to acknowledge the work of the Minister for Transport, the member for West Swan, in securing the federal money and putting this package together.

To all those people who have come up to me and shared their thoughts, I have listened. In South Perth, Como, Karawara, Kensington, Manning, Salter Point and Waterford, there is a lot to do and we are getting on with it. Whether we have big needs for a transport system or things for one sporting club or one street, we are getting on with it.

Finally, I would like to thank my staff: Dragona, Erin and Kema, thank you very much for everything you do. Kema, I wish you all the best in your next endeavours.

MS C.M. TONKIN (Churchlands) [6.25 pm]: It is with great pleasure that I rise in support of the Premier's Statement. The McGowan Labor government demonstrates through its policy, legislation, priorities and budget the core Labor values of fairness, compassion, labour rights, individual freedom, responsibility, opportunity, sustainability, democracy, equality and respect for our Indigenous peoples. It is these values that are reflected in the aspirations and achievements of our government. As the Premier highlighted in his statement, we are here to make life better and fairer for Western Australians and to ensure that the next generations inherit a state where they can prosper and enjoy opportunities. This is the agenda for which I stand and one that resonates in my wonderful community.

In representing the people of the Churchlands electorate, I do so with the support of my very capable electorate officers. I am losing two wonderful electorate officers this month! Anna Churack is moving on to undertake community engagement work with the office of Patrick Gorman, the federal member for Perth, and Courtenay was given an offer she could not refuse as a senior production coordinator with a local film and television company that has ongoing projects, which is a rare thing in the film and television industry. I am losing them.

Mr G. Baker: I feel your pain.

Ms C.M. TONKIN: Yes. But they are being replaced by two wonderful people, Steve Paraskos and Lesley Maher, both of whom are very experienced and capable people with whom I am sure I will work effectively throughout the rest of this term.

If I had to characterise the members of our community, I would say that they are contributors—people who join in, volunteer and enjoy participating in sport and recreation, who revel in the beautiful natural places that we are surrounded by and who want to make life better for others. They are people who do not merely identify problems or express concern about issues, but also seek to contribute to finding solutions.

I never cease to be amazed at the magnificent people in my electorate. For instance, yesterday it was an enormous pleasure for me to deliver flowers to mark the seventieth wedding anniversary of Kay and Dennis Kemp of Wembley Downs. Kay and Dennis are long-term Labor supporters. Dennis's father, Arthur, was the president of the Wembley branch back in the day, and Dennis was the branch secretary at 16 years old. Kay and Dennis are quite the dynamic duo. Dennis actually stood for the seat of Floreat on two occasions. Unfortunately, he did not win—if he had, he would have been the first Labor member of my seat—but he did give it a really good try. Kay and Dennis were out there campaigning, doorknocking and delivering pamphlets. Dennis was a great local champion and certainly gave his all for Labor in the area. It is Dennis and Kay's anniversary today and it was so heartening for me to meet such wonderful supporters on the second anniversary of my election to WA Parliament. There is just one other fascinating fact about Dennis: he played hockey for Australia at the 1956 Olympics, and that was the year in which I was born! They are quite an amazing and happy couple who are obviously enjoying a long and loving life together.

It is truly a joy for me to serve the people of the Churchlands electorate and also an enormous pleasure to see my election commitments come to fruition. My commitment to fund a nature playground at Lake Monger Primary School has been delivered and the playground was opened by the Premier in August. The Premier's surprise visit to the school made the day for the students. They could not believe that the Premier had come to their school to open the nature playground. The school community had worked hard to raise funds for a much-needed playground and acknowledged that my election commitment meant that that dream could be realised much earlier than would otherwise have been the case.

Recently, I attended the opening of a project of the Town of Cambridge to divert water from the Herdsman main drain to Perry Lakes. For those members who know Perry Lakes, they have been very dry for many years and the progressive drying of the lakes has changed the nature of the vegetation into varieties that are not suitable for the changed water levels. I was therefore pleased to see the results of my \$300 000 election promise to fund revegetation of the lakebed banks and riparian areas had been realised. Of course, this did not occur without some very hard graft

on the part of the formidable Friends of Perry Lakes. I know firsthand how hard the Friends work for Perry Lakes because recently I shared some backbreaking weeding on the revegetated bank of the west lake with some other dedicated Friends members.

Work on my \$700 000 commitment to water quality improvements at Galup–Lake Monger is about to commence during this very dry season. The refurbishment and redesign of the swales at the lake is much needed because it is over 20 years since these nutrient-stripping channels for stormwater run-off were established. In that time, the swales have deepened and lost their water-filtering vegetation. When these swales are decontaminated, made shallower and planted with sedges, they will do what they were designed to do—that is, filter pollutants and nutrients out of the water that makes its way into the lake. I cannot wait to see how these improvements will better support the lake’s native flora and fauna. The Friends of Galup–Lake Monger, the formation of which I encouraged and supported, will play an important role in the monitoring and maintenance of the redesigned swales.

I am also delighted to hear that the Friends of Herdsman Lake is being re-established. A few weeks ago I joined interested members of the community in collecting rubbish around that lake as part of a Clean Up Australia initiative.

Recently, I enjoyed a sunny Sunday afternoon at the Leederville Sporting Club and Matt Johnstone Summers, the club’s secretary, showed me the progress that is being made to the upgrade of the club’s facilities, which is another of my local election commitments that is being delivered.

The Scarborough Sharks Cricket Club and the West Scarborough Rugby Union Club have benefited from another \$50 000 election commitment. This commitment by my good colleague Stuart Aubrey, the member for Scarborough, and I supported the fit-out of the new clubrooms at Dot Bennett Park.

The delivery of the new STEM classrooms at Churchlands Senior High School is in its early stages but this is a substantial election commitment of which I am very proud. Churchlands Senior High School offers excellent opportunities for STEM education augmented by a vibrant STEM club as part of its extracurricular activities. I know from a previous career in procurement at the International Atomic Energy Agency that building scientific laboratories or facilities is quite complex, especially because of the need for safety and air quality considerations. I am so pleased to see the new STEM classrooms at Churchlands Senior High School are well designed and will be well built.

Members of my community are certainly engaged in issues that are important to them and important to me and it is an enormous pleasure for me to work together with them for the betterment of our community. When campaigning for the election, my consultations with people in the community identified seven issues that would be the subject of my efforts during my term if elected. There are two issues on which I focus personally and invest a lot of time, including improving the quality of facilities and educational opportunities at our local schools and building constructive working relationships with both the Town of Cambridge and the City of Stirling. However, soon after I was elected, I invited members of our community to participate in some working groups addressing mental health and wellbeing, the quality of life for members of our ageing community, wetlands and bush habitats, green jobs, and traffic congestion and road safety. Many wonderful people signed up and have been doing much good in the Churchlands electorate through these working groups. The working group participants largely drive my agenda and for this reason about 80 per cent of my work is proactive with 20 per cent reactive to constituent inquiries and the like.

Arising from the activities of the working groups, I have been distributing quarterly themed newsletters to every household in the community. These newsletters are followed by a community event attended by a good minister to which the community is invited. The newsletters and associated events have covered greening our community, showcasing the work of our wonderful volunteer environmental groups. That was attended by Hon Reece Whitby as the Minister for Environment, who I think was suitably impressed with the work of those groups and what our community has to offer the natural environment. Electrifying our community was the focus of another event and a newsletter, and that focused on reducing household emissions through electrification. My good colleague Hon Bill Johnston, the Minister for Energy, attended that event and gave the attendees a masterclass in energy policy and in particular in renewable energy. That was very well received by the members of the community who attended. The circular economy in our community was the third event, through which discussion was facilitated about turning waste into something useful. Again, Minister Whitby attended and was treated to lots of good information on local innovation in the circular economy and how waste products are turned into useful things.

My latest newsletter and event focused on sport and recreation in our community. My good colleague Hon David Templeman, the Minister for Sport and Recreation, attended the sundowner at the Lake Monger Recreation Club and did the sporty things that sports ministers do so well. He had a go at everything.

Mr D.A. Templeman: I excelled!

Ms C.M. TONKIN: That is right; he excelled. He met some old friends and made many new ones at the event. People are still telling me how wonderful the minister is even a week later.

A number of clubs were on hand to share their fun and games and allow members of the community to try something new. They included Cycling Without Age Perth; Reabold Tennis Club plus Padel Perth Reabold; Cambridge Bowling Club; Lake Monger Rec Club; Floreat Athena Football Club, which my five-year-old grandson has just joined; Floreat Surf Life Saving Club; Cambridge Croquet Club; Wembley Lacrosse Club; Wembley Tee Ball Association; the Wolves Softball Club; as well as petanque and much more. We had a great evening.

Mr D.A. Templeman: It was fantastic.

Ms C.M. TONKIN: It was fantastic.

There is a plethora of sporting and recreation clubs and associations that not only provide opportunities for participating in sport and recreational pursuits, but also are places to make social connections. They therefore promote both physical health and mental health. Regardless of age or ability, there is something for everyone in our community to participate in. Cycling Without Age, for which I volunteer as a trishaw pilot, provides people with mobility limitations a chance to enjoy the wind in their hair. The Floreat Surf Life Saving Club, with which I am particularly enamoured, has opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to safely enjoy the beach, including people with disabilities. There is a fabulous silver salties cohort as well as support for people with disabilities to enjoy the surf.

Clubs that have traditionally attracted older participants are very keen to share their fun and games with younger members of the community. Sports such as croquet, bowls and petanque have a healthy mix of competitive skill and social fun for young and old. The strength of our sporting and recreational clubs is found in their volunteers. Without their support, the clubs would not be the vibrant community hubs that they are.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms C.M. TONKIN: If a person's hand-eye coordination is not the best or they have dodgy knees like I used to have, they can still participate in many behind-the-scenes activities that keep the clubs running.

My midyear newsletter will focus on empowering our community. This will help me to determine whether the issues I have focused on are still of concern to the community. Our associated sundowner will be an opportunity for members of the community to provide me with feedback and help me chart a path for the future.

In September, a newsletter and community event will focus on social connections in our community from the perspective of mental and physical health and wellbeing. The focus arose from the work of our wellbeing working group, chaired by Kanthi Perera, which is keen to support community-based approaches to improving mental health. We also have a larger agenda to address the social determinants of health and wellbeing in our community by drawing upon and connecting members with the rich array of community resources and assets that we have in our electorate. Our wellbeing working group has been exploring the potential of a community-based alliance against depression model, which was a recommendation from our parliamentary research student Curtis White based on his research.

Consistent with this agenda, Curtin University social work student Nasheta Irwan, who was placed in our office during the second semester of 2021, produced an annotated directory of mental health and wellbeing support services in and around the Churchlands electorate. To raise awareness of these resources, this directory has been distributed to GPs, community organisations and schools, and it has been very well received. Building on Nasheta's work, another Curtin social work student, Robyn Duncan, created an online community asset map. This map includes not only services and supports directly addressing mental health and wellbeing, but also community resources that promote social connection and healthy lifestyles. We will be rolling out that online map to the community over the coming months.

Our electorate is rich in these community assets, but the trick to improving quality of life across our community is to build the networks that deepen social connections and engage more people in activities that improve their health and wellbeing. Recently, I met with people who are keen to explore how we as a community could go about doing this. The group includes GPs and allied health professionals. Thank you Richard Yin, George Crisp, Glenn Ruscoe and Anne-Marie Hill for your passion. We focused our discussion on the social determinants of good health and wellbeing, and how we can leverage our community assets to promote healthy lifestyles. We do not yet know the "how" but we have agreed on the outcome: we want fewer people from our community presenting to GPs and emergency departments with preventable health and medical problems. To find out the "how" we are going to consult with local health professionals and with businesses and organisations that help people become healthier as well as with the range of community groups that make social connections and engage people in health-promoting activities.

I have learnt throughout my career that stakeholders who are informed, interested, influential and instrumental have the needed insights to help us formulate the "how" of our quest. All our working group members bring enormous energy to the issues they address across our community. Sometimes their agendas coincide; at other times they may have opposing agendas. My role is to represent the interests of our community to the best of my ability and I relish

the robust community engagement that this involves. I am very proud to be the member for Churchlands in the McGowan Labor government and commend the Premier's Statement to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)**.

House adjourned at 6.48 pm
