

McGOWAN GOVERNMENT — FINANCIAL PLAN

Motion

HON PETER COLLIER (North Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition) [10.05 am] — without notice:
I move —

That this house expresses its concern that after more than 12 months in office, the Labor government has not established a credible financial plan, as promised prior to the 2017 election, which has forced it to make rushed decisions that have impacted negatively upon numerous areas of the Western Australian community.

It has been more than 12 months since the change from the Liberal–National government, which governed for almost nine years, to a Labor government. That change was on 11 March 2017. Since that time, there has been speculation and analysis about why the Liberal and National Parties lost government and why the Labor Party won government. Obviously, there were issues such as leadership with the Premier and across the board in the Liberal Party, the tired factor—the “it’s time” factor—without a shadow of a doubt, and the debt, which the Labor Party spent a lot of time on, particularly the last four years of the previous government and certainly in the election campaign. Labor spent pretty much its entire time during the campaign talking about debt and its plan to resolve the debt issue. It had no problems saying it had a plan to resolve the debt issue. The financial issue was apparently all ours. We had full responsibility for it. Nothing else was responsible—only the Liberal–National government. The goods and services tax revenue distribution was simply not an issue or a problem that led to our debt. If members do not believe me, they can believe the members of the then opposition, who relentlessly carried on about the fact that the GST was not an issue. Let us look at a couple of examples. On Thursday, 15 September 2016, the new Deputy Premier, Hon Roger Cook said —

We have always known what was going to happen with the GST. There are no surprises around where the state’s share of the GST was going to go.

On the same day, the now Hon Ben Wyatt —

What we do know—I pointed this out earlier—is that Treasury always gets pretty much right what GST revenue will be each budget year. There has never been a budget shock from the budget GST of each year. We know what we will get.

Then the now Premier also said on Wednesday, 18 May 2016 —

The second point is there is no GST shock. The deal is appalling. We understand that but each and every year the GST receipts of Western Australia are what was predicted by Treasury.

If members look through *Hansard*, they will see that it is littered with examples of members opposite saying that the GST was not the issue; it was entirely our responsibility. That is interesting and we have to remember that; I will come back to that in a little while. The ALP went into the election with its eyes wide open. We had a debt issue. It was our problem. It was a spending issue, not a revenue issue. We kept on hearing that. It is not a revenue issue; it is a spending issue. It is not the GST. It is that we are spending too much. Labor went into the election with commitments and honourable members will all remember this: it said quite categorically that there would be no new taxes. It had \$5 billion worth of election commitments and a promise to pay down debt, but the GST was not the issue; it was only a spending issue. It still went into the election with \$5 billion worth of election commitments and no new taxes, and it said that it would pay down debt. Labor spruiked that all over its election paraphernalia.

Members, remember this flyer that went out in *The West Australian* in mid-January titled “How WA Labor will pay for our plan”. It states —

LABOR WILL PAY FOR OUR FRESH IDEAS BY:

Then—remember this members—it uses this cute terminology —

LABOR WILL REPAY DEBT AND PROTECT JOBS

- Labor will repay debt slowly and carefully, like paying off a house

As if that is not enough, the second dot point states —

- We won’t sell vulnerable assets like Western Power.

That was its plan. It was going to pay it off, like paying off a house. All of us have at some stage paid off a house or continue to pay off a house, so we know what that means. Lo and behold, we had an election in March 2017. The public of Western Australia were emphatic with its choice. It chose the mob opposite. Fair cop; we take it on

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the chin. There will only be a problem if we do not learn from it. That is what we are doing. I remind members opposite that the result was 31 per cent, exactly the same election outcome as it was in 2001. As cocky as I know you guys are, don't get too cocky. As a result, Western Australians woke up the next day to the true believers, the true socialists, the true Bolsheviks. They said, "Yes, at last the Bolsheviks are back in town. We can start to govern appropriately again." We can understand that, their mob is back in town—just as our mob would have done if we had won. However, I will say that it is a hallelujah moment for the Bolsheviks.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan interjected.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I am not taking any interjections from you, I do not believe a word you say and I am not listening to you.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan interjected.

Hon PETER COLLIER: Will you stop shouting.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Member, you might stop shouting —

Hon PETER COLLIER: I am trying to talk over her, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT: I know; it is difficult sometimes, but if you drop the tone in your voice, other people might listen quietly.

Hon PETER COLLIER: Thank you, Madam President. It is a bit difficult, but I will try.

Of course, the other parts of Western Australia will be very, very happy because there is a change of government, and I can accept that. They have decided the other mob wants to have a go. They are even happier because there will not be any new taxes, will there? There will be absolutely no new taxes. The mob opposite will pay down debt just like paying off a house and it has made commitments worth \$5 billion. I do not know how members opposite will pay down debt, but they say they will. After one week in office, there is a lot of backslapping and high fives from members opposite. Some of them are sworn in as ministers and they get their Caprice cars and the rest of it. That is fine. They go to Dumas House and I have no problems with that.

Several members interjected.

Hon PETER COLLIER: But blame was still with "the members opposite". They blamed us. Blame was fairly and squarely on our shoulders. In week two, it was the same thing. They are finding what floor they are on in Dumas House, but they have a bit of difficulty in Parliament House, and there is a lot of backslapping and high fiving while they continued to blame us. I can understand that; it was only two weeks into the term. A month on, they are still constantly blaming the former government. We can understand it because it is only a month in. Three months on and, at last Parliament is sitting. After three months, we finally get to sit. Then the mob opposite starts leaking. It took only three months and we start getting their speaking notes. Fastidious psychic. I have got heaps of these. As if they did not know what to do or what to say—they were told what to say. I keep reminding members opposite that they were told to say the following —

- We have no option but to fix the mess left behind by the Liberal–National Government.
- Everyone will share the burden to help pay for the Liberals and Nationals out of control spending.
- Fixing the mess we have inherited will take time, but we will do everything possible to minimise the impact on struggling families and small businesses.

There is still no plan, I have to say, because, "We are going to pay down debt." But Parliament is back and members opposite are still carrying on with these negative affirmations. Every media release and every response to every question is all about the former government. They cannot govern themselves; they have to be entirely consumed with us. Six months down the track, we get our first budget. Great! At least we might have a plan. "We will pay down debt like we are paying off a house." We would not read about it—there is no plan. As a result of that first budget, we increased debt, we increased spending and we increased taxes, which we did not hear about when we went to the election.

By this stage, the Western Australian public is starting to get a little bit tetchy. They are getting sick of the glib lines from members opposite about how it is the fault of the terrible Liberals and the government has to fix their mess. In addition, the mighty West Coast Eagles lost its semifinal. The even better West Perth Falcons lost in the first semifinal. The government is starting to get a little bit concerned at this stage. By the end of the year, there is still lots of backslapping and high fiving from members opposite. They are still focused entirely on the fact that they have won government; they could not quite get it. They do not have a plan; no plan has been articulated at this stage. I will say more on that in a moment. But it is still the opposition's fault.

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The government then has one year in office. What does it do? Does it show a bit of discretion after one year in office given the severity of this terrible financial situation? Not at all. The Australian Labor Party has an almighty knees-up at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, with the women in their expensive frocks and men in their penguin suits scoffing on their sirloins and Moëts, as I have said before. What can I say to members opposite? This is in true working-class tradition; the champions of the working class were down at the convention centre with the corporate sector tweeting fastidiously all night.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon PETER COLLIER: For goodness sake; she is like a wounded crow.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Member, you might want to focus on the motion in front of you.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I am, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT: And perhaps do not yell across the chamber.

Hon PETER COLLIER: Thank you, Madam President.

At the celebration, members opposite were tweeting. I encourage honourable members to look at the “We are Labor” website. There are dozens and dozens of photos of members at the convention centre all sipping on champagne with the corporate sector. Right in the middle of this site is a little compelling tweet after “Putting our kids first”. It states —

Today, Mark McGowan’s Government is celebrating their first year in office, but we don’t see that there’s much to celebrate. Decisions to make cuts to public education will have an enormous impact on teachers, schools and ultimately students education.

Unhappy birthday!

That is right in the middle of dozens of tweets, while they were in their penguin suits, scoffing on their vlaskaas. I can tell members right now that this is what this is all about. The government has already lost sight. There is absolutely no plan. It has completely lost sight of what it is there for. That was most definitely the Labor Party’s “Let them eat cake” moment. The group opposite, the champions of the working class, were down in the convention centre while cutting funds to education, yet it has a plan.

Let us say that members opposite are about a month out of their second budget. With the second budget, they are halfway through their term, even though in calendar years they are not. Governments are only as good as their last budget. This government’s second budget will be handed down and if members opposite continue the way they are going, debt will continue to increase. The government has still shown no plan and the recipients of that budget will be the public of Western Australia. As far as the plan is concerned—hello, hello, after the election we find in fact that the problem was the GST; it was in fact a bit of an issue. I will say it was an issue, guys, if there had been equity in the distribution of the GST, as we saw in the paper today, we would have been \$28.6 billion better off. But members opposite say that it was not an issue. They cannot have it both ways. For years before the election, you guys were saying that the GST was not an issue. If we scan through *Hansard* since the election, we get, for example, the Premier on Tuesday, 8 August 2017 saying —

That was made worse in the last couple of weeks when it became plain to us, following advice from Michael Barnes, the Under Treasurer, that because of the recent census figures, we would have a reduction of \$1.9 billion in our GST share.

There are dozens of these quotes. Do not forget the quotes I mentioned earlier from the guys opposite when they were saying that Treasury always gets it right—remember? According to the Premier, Treasury does not get it right. Now the GST is an issue. Dear me, we have been caught out; we cannot do anything about it. Let us look at this great plan after 12 months. The GST is not an issue: it is a spending issue; it is not a revenue issue. The Labor Party went to the election with \$5 billion worth of commitments and said that it would pay down debt just like paying off a house. What have members opposite done during that time? They have increased spending and increased debt and have not made a single inroad into reducing that debt.

Hon Simon O’Brien: They have gone backwards.

Hon PETER COLLIER: Exactly. What have they done? Let us look at the plan to pay down debt. The first thing they did was launch an inquiry into the former government’s projects—the Langoullant “Special Inquiry into Government Programs and Projects: Final Report”. They are so obsessed with the Liberal–National government that they spent every second of private member’s business this year talking about this. They have nothing positive to say about their own government. It is almost an indecent obsession. All they do is focus entirely on us. The

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Langoulant report cost \$3 million, but they cannot afford \$500 000 for Moora Residential College. This report cost \$3 million; it was not \$1.5 million. They did not count the 17 public servants they used. It was \$3 million.

Look at all the questions the opposition has asked about business cases and procurement. I tell you guys! This will be held up as the Holy Bible for government integrity. I can tell members opposite that they have failed at every stage thus far. What else is in their plan? They froze members of Parliament's wages. That will really have an inroad into reducing debt. Why did we spend a week on the Salaries and Allowances Amendment (Debt and Deficit Remediation) Act 2017 towards the end of last year when we ignored bills from the other place that were purportedly urgent?

The State Administrative Tribunal had already ruled that members of Parliament would not get any salary increases. However, despite that, that bill was the government's priority. The government moved the office of the Premier from Hale House to Dumas House, because leading up to the election it had been known as the "Premier's Palace". That will save absolutely nothing, because public servants are going into Hale House. This is the government's plan.

The government opened Optus Stadium, Yagan Square and the Scarborough foreshore development. They were all achievements of our government, yet government members were at the opening, with their high fives and backslapping, still carrying on about the debt levels. The government talks about how our government lost all this money. It should have asked the 40 000 Dockers supporters at the football last Saturday and the 55 000 Eagles supporters at the football last Sunday whether they think we have wasted their money. Those infrastructure projects will stand the test of time, and ultimately—I have said this before—the public will reflect very fondly on the Barnett government for those achievements.

I come now to the Forrestfield rail line. Three months ago, the Premier and the Minister for Transport were in the media, wearing their hard hats, saying how wonderful that project was. That was our project. What happened? We gave it to the Labor Party, and the driller failed! The Premier and the transport minister were there, arm in arm, but the driller was not working! They did not tell us that. They messed that up.

Government members do not mind taking selfies with Roger Federer. I would love any member opposite to say they were responsible for getting Roger Federer to Western Australia. They were not responsible for that. I know who was responsible for that. I am waiting for that.

Hon Alanna Clohesy: You have relevance deprivation syndrome!

Hon PETER COLLIER: No! I am not deprived at all! I am relishing watching you guys sink!

The government has said that the problem is the GST. That argument is completely devoid of logic. Another element of the government's financial plan is the gold tax. Prior to the election, was there any mention of a gold tax? No. Was there any mention of a payroll tax? No. The only thing that was mentioned was that there would be no new taxes. Was there any mention of education cuts? No. The only thing that was mentioned was that there would be no cuts. Why did the government try to introduce a gold tax, payroll tax, and cuts to education? The government said before the election that Labor would repay debt slowly and carefully, like paying off a house. The government simply has no plan to reduce debt. Ask the literally thousands of children who will be impacted by the cuts to farm schools and camp schools about the government's plan to reduce debt. The government can afford to spend \$39 million on a slush fund for Labor projects. It can afford to spend \$40 million to employ an extra 300 education assistants. Western Australia already had more EAs than any other state in the nation. It was the government's decision to make those education cuts. It was the government's decision to say that the problem is the GST. It was also the government's decision to become absolutely obsessed with the opposition. The government has spent more time focusing on the opposition than it has on governing. That is why we have the ridiculous situation of the education cuts. The government has increased debt, it has increased spending and it has increased taxes. Thirty children at Moora Residential College would still have their residential college after 2019 if these guys opposite had gone into the election and been honest with the public of Western Australia. They were not honest; they were deceitful.

I will conclude with a comment from Gary Adshead in *The West Australian* of 24 January, just prior to the last election. He said —

In Saturday's *The Weekend West* you might have noticed a glossy, albeit rather flimsy, magazine-style advertisement spruiking "Mark McGowan — Fresh Ideas for WA".

The first two pages were dedicated to telling readers who Mr McGowan is and what he's done since entering Parliament in 1996.

What followed were nine pages of Labor pledges and plans, including a higgledy-piggledy double-page spread of 200 ideas, all designed to tell voters Mr McGowan is ready to govern.

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The establishment of urgent care clinics, medi-hotels, a new industries fund and tourism investment were all part of the positive push to the March 11 poll. But what about debt?

If this is the greatest financial crisis in WA history and the Government has been “grossly irresponsible”, then surely Labor has a responsibility to tell the voters of WA what it can do to bring debt down, bring the State back to surplus and set us on a path to winning back our AAA credit rating.

The only reference to the colossal challenge of undoing what Mr Barnett has done to WA was found on page 11 under the heading “How Labor will pay for our plan”.

“Labor will repay debt slowly and carefully, like paying off a house,” it read. That was it. One line that offered nothing. A shallow, almost patronising statement. No matter how much Labor complains about the debt problem, the party has no constructive, innovative way out.

HON STEPHEN DAWSON (Mining and Pastoral — Minister for Environment) [10.24 am]: Madam President, what can I say?

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The minister has not yet had the opportunity to start his speech.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: What can I say? We have had 20 minutes of absolute rubbish from the Leader of the Opposition. This comes from the mob that has saddled us with the greatest debt in this state’s history. The Leader of the Opposition obviously has a short memory. He forgets that his government spent eight and a half years on this side of the chamber, and it saddled us with debt.

Several members interjected.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: Madam President, I intend to speak to you this morning.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: I intend to place on the agenda my views and the views of the government, so I will not be encouraging interjections and I will not be taking them.

I say from the outset that Labor’s plan was articulated very clearly in the Treasurer’s first budget. In fact, it was my pleasure last year to deliver that plan to this house on the Treasurer’s behalf. In case anyone is confused, one of the headings in our first budget was, “The path back to surplus.” This government has a plan. The key plank of our plan is low expense growth year on year on year. As the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, we did say that we would pay back the state’s debt as we would pay back a housing loan. We do not want to scare the economy. We will pay back state debt methodically and in the right way. Members opposite had eight and a half years in government, and they did not look after the state’s finances. Our government has a plan to pay back debt. Containing expense growth is the only credible way in which to return the state budget to a position of strength over the long term.

The government has not just said that we will reduce debt. We are delivering that. The proof is in the pudding. Financial results released by Treasury for the first six months of 2017–18 show that expense growth was just 0.3 per cent, or \$45 million, compared with the first six months of 2016–17. In the first six months of the Barnett government’s first term in office, expense growth was 13.3 per cent. Expense growth was 13.3 per cent under the Barnett government and 0.3 per cent under our government. In the McGowan government’s first year in office, underlying expense growth is forecast to be 2.2 per cent. To put that in context, in the first year of the Barnett government, expense growth was 10.9 per cent. It is no wonder the economy was stuffed. The Barnett government spent like drunken sailors for the eight and a half years it was in office, and it has saddled us with this mess. The 2018 midyear review has forecast average annual expense growth over the next four years at just 2.2 per cent. Again, compare that with the former government’s first term, when average annual expense growth was 7.4 per cent.

Confidence is returning to the Western Australian economy. That is because the adults are back in charge. I want to bring to the attention of the house this morning a number of overall indicators that show that economic conditions are improving. We are seeing green shoots in our economy. Leading indicators such as consumer and business confidence and internet job vacancies suggest that economic growth will strengthen in the near term. The NAB measure of business confidence was positive throughout 2017 after being flat or negative throughout 2016. Even the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia’s survey of consumer confidence revealed that Western Australians’ confidence in the economy is continuing to grow, reaching its highest level in four years. People have a level of confidence that they did not have under the last government. In fact, Deloitte’s investment monitor identified that \$63.1 million worth of projects were under construction in the December 2017 quarter. That is the highest figure in the nation. We are already seeing improvements in the labour market. The Australian

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Bureau of Statistics' data for January shows that Western Australia recorded employment growth of 1.7 per cent in the year to January 2018. That is the strongest growth since September 2013.

The unemployment rate averaged 5.7 per cent over the year to January 2018—down from 6.2 per cent in 2016–17 and is the equal second lowest of all states in this nation. I remind opposition members in this place that they created the mess—not Hon Tjorn Sibma, who was not here, but the rest of his crew over there.

Hon Alanna Clohesy: He helped, I'm sure.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: He probably helped in the first term when he was a staff member, but certainly most frontbench members over there now sat on the front bench over here and they have to take some of the blame for the state of the economy. They saddled us with massive debt. Let me remind members that the state had a AAA outlook for 15 years until the former Liberal–National government came to power. We cannot forget, of course, that the National Party was on the frontbench over here at the same time too, and they have to take some of the blame. I cannot let the blame rest alone on that mob over there. The Liberal–National government left us, saddled us, with this debt. As I was saying, we had 15 years with a stable AAA credit rating and the last Liberal–National government lost it in September 2013, and, thanks to them, the state remains on a negative outlook. But we, and the Treasurer in particular, are working very hard to fix that and to deal with that issue.

Western Australia's debt is currently rated by Moody's as the riskiest, equal with those of South Australia and the Northern Territory. We were saddled with that. It is our intention to fix it. The drop in GST is not the Liberal and National Parties' fault; I am the first person to say that.

Hon Peter Collier: It's is not what you said before the election.

Hon Stephen Dawson: I am happy to say that.

Hon Peter Collier: So your Premier was wrong?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: I am telling the Leader of the Opposition today that the drop in GST cannot be homed back to the former government. But the former government chose to spend as though the good times were going to continue forever and as though the GST was going to improve. They kept spending like drunken sailors, and I will continue to remind people about that.

Recently the Productivity Commission, as part of its review of the GST system, quoted former WA Treasurer Hon Christian Porter on the now opposition's financial mismanagement. Mr Porter was quoted in that report as saying —

What we reasonably anticipate is that in 2013–14 the CGC will have brought in a new GST system. We expect it will produce a floor of around 75 per cent of our population share of the GST.

The former government's budget management was based on a wing and a prayer, or a wish and a prayer. It based spending decisions around the hope that something might change. The hope that the government would suddenly transform the GST system was plainly wrong. It should have known that from the outset, but it did not take any heed of it. It certainly did not acknowledge it and it kept spending.

Let us turn to debt. The Liberal–National government left this state with a \$41 billion debt problem forecast for 2019–20. It was massive. Members sitting over there are living in a bubble and suggesting that they had nothing to do with this. They did. It is their problem. But we are committed to fixing it, and we are doing it methodically and sensibly, as we said we would. We are paying it back methodically because we do not want to scare the economy.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I can barely hear the minister who is on his feet.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: Thank you, Madam President; I can barely hear myself either, so I appreciate your assistance.

When Labor was last in government, it delivered surpluses in the billions of dollars. In 2006–07, it was \$2.6 billion; in 2007–08, it was \$2.3 billion. When we were last in government, the 2008–09 *Pre-election Financial Projections Statement* forecast debt at just \$6.8 billion. Where did we end up? A long way away from that, thanks to that mob on the far side of the chamber.

I will briefly touch on structural imbalance. A structural imbalance emerged, again under the Liberal Party's watch, in the state's budget that we have to resolve now. The Treasurer is working extremely hard. Members will have seen in the first budget, and we will see it in the budget delivered in the weeks to come, that we are working very hard to tackle that. We are not living with our heads in the cloud or living in a bubble. We are actually trying to fix the mess that the former government left us, which just makes me even more incredulous about the motion and

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the gall of the Leader of the Opposition in bringing this motion before the house this morning. He must have amnesia or something else must have happened to him since last year, since he was on the treasury bench. He has forgotten; he has amnesia or something. But I have not forgotten. I am going to keep reminding the Leader of the Opposition and his former cabinet colleagues that they left us with this mess; they have saddled the state for a very long time. Nevertheless, we are working extremely hard to fix the problems and the mess that the former government left behind.

I will continue to remind members about the history of the former government and how bad it was at taking responsibility for the treasury bench and about the constant increases in charges. Charges for power and water increased enormously under the former government.

Hon Peter Collier: What was yours?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: It certainly was not the 90-odd per cent increase in utility prices that we saw when the Leader of the Opposition was on this side.

In fixing the problems that the former government left us, we have had to make some difficult decisions, but we are making them in the best interests of the people of the state and in the best interests of fixing the economy.

What has the government been doing for 12 months? Since coming to office it has created more than 39 000 new jobs in this state, which has resulted in a record number of Western Australians in work. The last time I checked, it was about 1.345 million people. That is the highest figure in a long time—a record number. WA has the second lowest unemployment rate in the country and the highest participation rate in the workforce. What else has the government done in those 12 months? It has passed the WA local jobs bill. That means that local businesses now have the best opportunity of getting work on government projects, instead of them being sent over to Malaysia to build our bridges or to wherever else the former government sent that work.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan: South Australia.

Hon Stephen Dawson: That is even worse—South Australia, which gets our GST. The government is building stuff here. It is creating jobs here for Western Australians.

Hon Peter Collier interjected.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: Absolutely! We are not shipping in people from overseas; we are training people in Western Australia so they have the skills to do the jobs here. The former government did not do that. The government has frozen TAFE fees. What did the former government do with TAFE fees? They went up; they continued to go up, so much so that many people were frozen out of the market and could not go to TAFE. What happened under the former government? People could not afford to go to TAFE, so they were not trained and could not get the jobs. The former government did not think of training people, did it?

Hon Peter Collier interjected.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: Instead it sent the jobs overseas, and that is shameful. Shame, shame, shame! I will keep reminding opposition members of that.

What has this this government done and what will it do? It is continuing to create jobs for Western Australians. It has frozen TAFE fees and it is working hard to make sure that people in our state are trained and able to take up jobs locally.

What else has it done? It has put WA jobs first. It has ripped up the skilled migration list. The former government was bringing in people from overseas—“Let’s bring them in; they can do the job”—instead of looking after the people in our own backyard and training them to do the jobs. Members only have to look at the Kwinana strip and the high levels of unemployment there. I cannot blame only the Leader of the Opposition, as a former Minister for Training, because he was not there at the end, but he certainly has to take some of the blame. We need to get Western Australians back in work. Western Australians should be doing the jobs, and we should be building things here. What else have we done? We have established Infrastructure WA. We have made a record investment in road projects in this state. We are building Metronet. We have established Defence West and employed a defence advocate. We are implementing an international education strategy. There is more, and I am sure some of my colleagues will take the chance to say it.

HON TJORN SIBMA (North Metropolitan) [10.40 am]: How I look forward to Thursday mornings these days. It was absolutely splendid, and I enjoyed the Minister for Environment’s jazz riff—a hoi polloi hodgepodge of facts, figures, claims, misrepresentations, reinterpretations and the claiming of credit. I found it instructive and entertaining, because in the process of the minister’s address, three economic plans were revealed, not one of them credible. The first was to blame the previous government; the second was to pay debt down slowly like a mortgage;

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and the third was to take credit for uplift in the macroeconomic environment, and when business confidence is high, obviously that is because of the McGowan government. Those seemed to be the three plans.

There are three plans because the one viable plan that the government does have cannot be implemented. I will make a suggestion to members opposite. If they are to remain on the Treasury bench, their best chance of a viable economic plan is to install the Treasurer as Premier, so that the government will not be hamstrung. I am sure he would like to undertake a number of measures but he cannot because United Voice controls the Treasury bench and dictates the economic argument. The government knows it, we know it, business knows it, and *The West Australian* knows it. The government is searching for an economic plan that is right in front of it, but it does not have the courage to pull the trigger. It is happy to go along as it is.

I want to very briefly address each of those economic plans, because they were entertaining but quite revealing. The first one is to blame the previous government. The previous government has accepted about as much blame as any government can. There was a comprehensive election defeat for us, which we have accepted. It does not appear, however, that the government has accepted it, after nearly 400 days in government. It is still looking in the rear-vision mirror to the good old days, when it was all care and no responsibility. Now that the weight of responsibility has fallen on the government, it knows that it is not up to the task.

The second claim is to pay debt down like a mortgage. If I paid my mortgage at the rate that the government is paying down state debt, my house would be repossessed. That is not a viable nor a credible financial management plan, and the government knows it. I know that it is convenient for the government to suggest that it has been left with a \$41 billion debt, but that is a fiction. The government has added \$11 billion worth of debt in its first budget. On its own figures, it has added 25 per cent to the debt, and it is doing nothing about that.

The third most disingenuous, facile, ridiculous economic plan that the government perpetuates is that if business is confident, there is an uplift in the economy and more people are being employed, ipso facto it must be because of the great working class hero Mark McGowan and his jobs plan. What utter nonsense.

Hon Aaron Stonehouse: Did he hire all those people himself?

Hon TJORN SIBMA: He must have. It does not stack up.

The best assessment of this government's claim to any credible economic plan is in the implications of the financial decisions it has undertaken. As we have discussed previously, every Thursday morning for the four weeks that we have been back, the Labor government has money, but is not actually seriously engaged in any budget repair. It has been adept at taking money out of other budgets to fund election commitments that I know it did not have oversight of. In answering a question on notice, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier was tasked with contacting every member of the government who had made a commitment under the Local Projects, Local Jobs scheme to verify the nature of that promise. As I have mentioned before, over the estimates, in the last budget the government took \$4 million out of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, about \$6.5 million out of the Department of Education, and \$2.5 million out of the Department of Communities; and it raided the then Department of Sport and Recreation, now the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, to the tune of \$13 million. The money is there.

I will speak to the second part of the motion, on the negative impact upon numerous areas of the Western Australian community. I can speak of the 40 per cent reduction in funding to regional community resource centres. I know that the Minister for Regional Development has been busy visiting them.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan: Is that a bad thing? Are you concerned about me doing that?

Hon TJORN SIBMA: I give the minister fair warning. I will be interested in the notes that were taken in those meetings, so she can expect a freedom of information application from me about what deals were done, what topics were discussed, who are being good boys and girls, which community resource centres are behaving themselves, and which might find favour under this government. I will also talk to Scouts WA.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan: You don't like us going out to the country to talk to the people, do you?

Hon TJORN SIBMA: No, I have moved on, as I wish the minister would.

I will talk to Scouts WA—a 25 per cent reduction in KidSport vouchers announced on Boxing Day—not in any courageous, open, transparent or accountable way by the Minister for Sport and Recreation, but by an update on a webpage in the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. KidSport vouchers have been reduced from \$200 to \$150 as part of government efforts towards budget repair. What a fantastic contribution that is. While the government is at it, it will deny access to scouts, girl guides and cadets for children from disadvantaged backgrounds who might want to pursue a recreation option that has been made available to them since 2011, because they are not engaged in any competitive sport. The government is hurting its own constituents—treating them with utter contempt. I might dive a bit deeper into this issue, because the story seems

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to change. First of all, it was about savings, then it was not. Second, this program was designed to facilitate access to sport and recreation, and that is unchanged, but the recreation options provided by scouting, guides and cadets no longer find departmental favour, with the minister's complicity. The third change has been an adjustment to the phasing in, with claims now that that was never the case. This new regime was supposed to come in on 1 July, but I know that the minister has now been writing to groups suggesting that that transition period will now take place from 30 November. When I asked the minister, in a question directed through the Leader of the House, whether he had changed his mind on the transition point, he answered no. There is a prima facie case that he has misled Parliament. The government is not being open and transparent in any of its conduct. Its absence of a plan means that it will do nothing more than hurt people and viable community groups, be they regional community resource centres staring down the barrel of a 40 per cent reduction, or scouts and girl guides who cannot access KidSport vouchers. The government is closing camp schools and Landsdale Farm School for absolutely no economic benefit whatsoever. The government's absence of a plan drives it to the only plan that it has, which is to hurt this state's most vulnerable. Government members are a shameful, contemptible, inept mob of unruly economic illiterates. I will not take any lecturing or posturing from them. They have no capacity. They will drive this state further into the ground. They are a disgrace. That is all I have to say today.

HON COLIN TINCKNELL (South West) [10.50 am]: I thank Hon Peter Collier for bringing up this non-government business, because it highlights to the public of Western Australia exactly where we are at. Before the election, the Labor Party said that the Liberal-National government was a bad economic manager and pointed out that it was pretty sure that anyone could do better. After 12 months in office, that has not been the case. We have seen two or three major problems. One major problem is that the government has a spending problem. The government cannot repay debt if it has a spending problem. That is an issue. This government has had no plan, as previous speakers have talked about. Part of the reason there is an issue is that, from my observation, Treasury is understaffed, under-resourced and under pressure. That has manifested itself in the government not consulting. It has not been consulting. It has been coming up with arbitrary decisions and imposing them on the people of Western Australia, with very little consultation. That has created a major problem for the state of WA. We saw how bad the previous government performed and we are now seeing very much the same thing. That is the reason the crossbench and One Nation are growing and getting bigger in this Parliament every election; the people of WA are looking for alternatives to the major parties in government. We have seen payroll tax go up; that is job destroying. I will not talk much about the gold tax because my fellow member for the Mining and Pastoral Region will talk about that, but that would have been job destroying if it had gone through. Energy costs have gone up. There are issues with training levies, taxi levies, vehicle licences in regional shires and cuts to road funding. It has been a major problem for the public of WA and for all the people who need to work with the public of WA.

The government has never had a sound plan to bring the budget back to black and reduce the state's debt. What it has been doing is finding a way to pay for the \$1.5 billion of election promises that it knew it did not have the money to deliver. That has opened up the floodgates for extra taxes and extra costs. The machinery-of-government changes to government departments sounded like a good idea—the government would cut the fat from bureaucracy by reducing the number of senior bureaucrats by 20 per cent—but how much has gone to senior executives through golden handshakes? We really do not know the cost of that yet. That is a major problem. A good case of what has happened is the replacement of Mr Wood from the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation. His contract was supposed to finish in 2021 but will end this week. What are taxpayers paying for that?

Let us fast-forward to after the election. We were told how bad the previous government was. The reason I say that the government has a spending problem is that we heard Hon Tjorn Sibma talk about the \$11 billion in debt that has been passed through the Loan Bill to this government. It has added that debt to the people of WA. Some of it is forced. The problem is that some of it is not. A lot of money is being spent on nonessential things. I know that governments and Premiers like to honour their promises, but when those promises are straightforward and very clear pork-barrelling—everyone can see that; it has been reported quite clearly in *The West Australian*—the public is not stupid. As I mentioned before, the number of crossbench and One Nation members in this house will grow over the next few elections if that sort of behaviour continues in any government. The people are looking for change. We have not seen that change through the McGowan government at this stage. I hope we will see that in the future. I have no more to say. There are many other members who would like to add to this debate. I thank honourable members for the chance to speak.

HON ALANNAH MacTIERNAN (North Metropolitan — Minister for Agriculture and Food) [10.55 am]: I am really excited to have the opportunity to talk about our local procurement plan and how this is such an important part of the McGowan government's agenda to deliver to this state and, in particular, to deliver growth to the businesses in our regions. This really is an important project. Everyone talks about local procurement. I know that members on the other side had a local content strategy. However, the reality is that it delivered very little—it certainly delivered very little for regional Western Australia. Hon Darren West did an analysis of the former government, and 80 per cent of the contracts for royalties for regions were won by Perth companies. Of course,

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the issue is much bigger than that. We know that many of the projects that could have been delivered in Western Australia, such as the Doppler radars, were in fact built in South Australia, because the architecture to really drive the delivery of a really gutsy local procurement strategy was not put in place. I have been very proud to be part of the McGowan team that has recognised that we have a real problem in this state. We no longer have the ability to do what the previous government did, which was to drive around the state with a pile of gold coins in its ute and shovel them out in each town it came to. We actually have to be a bit more strategic than that.

I was very pleased last Friday to be with my good friend Kevin Michel and the Civil Contractors Federation to go through and explain exactly how our local procurement strategy works. It is important to understand that even within our constrained environment, each year the WA government spends \$27 billion on the procurement of goods and services. If we get this right, if we can really drive the participation of local industry, there is an enormous opportunity for us to have some uplift. Members will recall that we put in place the Western Australian Jobs Act. The jobs act is really important, because it means that for the first time all government trading enterprises, the port authorities, LandCorp and the energy utilities are required to be part of our procurement plan. We set out in detail the way in which we now require participation plans to be prepared in major contracts. Those participation plans, which set out how local business is going to be entrenched in a contract, become part of the contractual obligations that successful companies lock into. That is not the situation that we currently very often have, whereby big contractors—big construction companies—go out and talk to the local contractors, then come back and say they have spoken to local contractors but, at the end of the day, give the job to someone in Perth. We will drive this hard. It is not easy to turn around the culture of not doing this level of supervision and ensuring local content, but we will deliver on it. Relatively senior people will be put into each regional development commission. They will be charged with developing an understanding of local capability and ensuring that local businesses are well aware of upcoming opportunities. They will also provide feedback to the procurement agencies, advising them on how best to structure a contract so that all these local businesses can be involved. It will not be done easily—we do not pretend it will—but if we go back to that first principle and acknowledge that we have \$27 billion per annum of procurement, we can do a lot more to leverage that for our local and regional businesses to drive growth and diversity within the state. That is the fundamental gutsy part of our economic plan over the next couple of years.

I will now veer off from the substance of the motion to an issue that Hon Tjorn Sibma for some reason or other thought was central to the idea of economic growth—community resource centres. This is very interesting. The National Party and Hon Jim Chown become very upset when I meet people like agricultural scientist and intergenerational farmer, Charles Massy. That exercises their minds. They think I should not talk to people like him because he has new ideas. Apparently, a whole lot of people in the National and Liberal Parties are very concerned that I go out and meet with people from the Gnowangerup CRC and eight other small CRCs in that region. That has them a bit nervous and worried, and it is the subject of criticism. Of course I want to go out and particularly talk to CRCs in those very small communities to understand firsthand how they see the role of the CRC in their community, how they are structured, what sorts of things they do and how they might be able to manage them in future. We do not deny it. We have made it very clear that we have had to scale back the budget in this area. The moneys going to each CRC increased fivefold—500 per cent—over the space of eight years. In this straitened environment we just cannot afford that. Of course it is important that we go out and talk to those CRCs. My colleagues, including Hon Darren West, Hon Laurie Graham, Hon Dr Sally Talbot and no doubt Hon Adele Farina, have been doing a great job of going out and talking to CRCs, particularly across the south west, great southern and the wheatbelt. They have these conversations so that we can work out a strategy to manage them. I find those engagements really very rewarding. I just do not understand why this has become such a big issue. A whole lot of members seem to be the thought police. I am not allowed to talk to anyone about glyphosate, for example. I am not allowed to talk about alternatives to using agricultural lime. These are really bad things for an agriculture minister to be talking to people about! Guys, get over it. There is a big wide world out there with lots of people and lots of different ideas, and we are not going to narrowcast how we work in this portfolio.

I am extremely proud of the work the McGowan government is doing to really get our economy back on track. We do not pretend it is easy and that we can resolve these issues overnight, but I think we are working with purpose and with a very, very credible plan to achieve it.

HON MICHAEL MISCHIN (North Metropolitan — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [11.04 am]: I rise to speak in support of Hon Peter Collier's motion, which I might remind the Minister for Agriculture and Food seeks this house's expression of concern that more than 12 months after the Labor government was elected, it has not established a credible financial plan as promised by it in 2017. I confess that my attention wandered somewhat while Hon Alannah MacTiernan was talking, but I do not think she really addressed the motion; rather, she expressed an awful lot of opinions about what is going on in other people's minds. That really is a reflection on her lack of having anything to contribute on this point. But I must congratulate —

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Hon Alannah MacTiernan: So you didn't actually understand the point about procurement? You don't understand —

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Oh, I understood that. Thank you —

Hon Alannah MacTiernan interjected.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I will not take interjections, but I will say that in travelling around the state, most ministers go to places to put their names on a plaque for opening something. This minister and the Minister for Education and Training go around to put their name on a plaque for closing them down.

Hon Peter Collier: Or to Albany.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Or to Albany. I wonder what is happening down in Albany when everyone's down there!

Several members interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon Martin Aldridge): Order, members!

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: But there are a couple of things —

Several members interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Order, members! Hon Michael Mischin has the call.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I must, however, congratulate Hon Stephen Dawson. He at least is passionate, reads the script and knows it well. He almost convinced me that he believes it. Some of the stuff he was talking about was quite astonishing. Firstly, he compared the first 12 months of this government, which was fully cognisant of the financial straits it was entering into when it sought election and which complained about the financial situation we were in as a result of our reduced goods and services tax share and other things, with the first six months of the Barnett government in 2008, at a time when the Labor Party continually told us we were in a boom time and ought to be reinvesting the proceeds of that boom. Well, we did invest the proceeds of that boom. Remember, we came into government when the campaign was to name three things that had been done by the Gallop-Carpenter government, and no-one could name more than one. So we did things. We invested during the boom time, if it was a boom. We built hospitals, schools and police stations. The best this government can do is open police stations for 24 hours, as if that is somehow a savings measure, whether it is necessary or not. There was no business case for it. We hired police officers, we put a teacher in front of every classroom—something the previous Labor government could not do. We built courthouses. I remember going to the opening of Law Week in the Supreme Court, speaking on behalf of the then Attorney General. The Chief Justice went through a list of about a dozen courthouses around this state that were falling to pieces. The best that could be done by the previous government, apart from the District Court complex, was to say that it had a plan to do something in Kalgoorlie. Well, we did it, and we rebuilt dozens of others around this state, including building the David Malcolm Justice Centre, which had been cried out for by the courts for something like 40 years. Nothing had been done except making plans and having ideas. We did it. That is how we invested the boom.

We built transport infrastructure, in case members opposite have forgotten that. Within weeks of this government coming into office, a whole raft of Labor members of Parliament were up in the northern suburbs marching proudly down the Burns Beach Road to Hester Avenue Mitchell Freeway extension as if the Labor Party had built it, saying, "This is another addition to our Metronet plan." Look what they did overnight! Well, I have news for them—that was ours. We did that. That is the stuff we did.

I will tell members a few of the other things we did. We had to make the Office of Shared Services work. It was supposed to save us \$85 million a year once it was established and got going. It could not. In fact, it ended up costing us close to half a billion dollars. We tried to make it work; the Labor government could not. It was a disaster. We finally had to close it down. It was supposed to be going within two years. It never got going at all. That is what we were left with. We had to fix that, if we could. Remember Perth Arena; we had to fix that. That is what we inherited. Before he starts talking about how we spent money, he should look at some of the stuff we inherited. It cost us \$660 million to fix the infrastructure for Western Power because poles were falling down in the country. That was Hon Fran Logan's legacy to the Barnett government—\$660 million. The original estimate was in the order of \$1.5 billion, as I recall. We managed to do it. That is some of the legacy that we were left with. Do not talk about the first six months of the Barnett government in comparison.

Let us look at what is being done here. We hear about creating jobs. The government claims to have created 30 000 jobs. No, it has got rid of public servants. Hiring public servants is the only way governments can create jobs. It has hired 330 education assistants for which there is no business case. The government justifies that as

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some kind of election commitment and therefore the rules about whether there needs to be a sound way of spending money do not apply.

Hon Peter Collier: United Voice.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: That is right. United Voice and the other unions do the actual governing for this government. I swear that this Premier is the sort that if his dog had six puppies, he would name them all the biblical name Job and then announce another six “jobs” had been created under the McGowan government! That is the level that we get to. I remind members on the other side of this place that at the time of the election, newspaper reports were coming out about how the job market was improving and the economy had turned around and we were starting to see the benefits of that. There is no credit to this government for jobs being created in the mining industry. The government is stifling investment in that field. It is all very well to talk about local procurement as though it is the answer to everything, but remember that at the end of the day we also have to show value for money for the taxpayer, and that is not being done.

How does one pay off a debt carefully like one pays off a house? If a household happens to have an income and one of those incomes disappears or the income drops, it starts making economies. People do not go off spending more money. They look around for some of the assets that they do not need anymore or where they can get that particular benefit from some other source. They might sell it off, just like we might sell off a partial share in Western Power, because the job can be done just as easily and just as well and possibly more economically by someone else. We do not lose control over it necessarily, but we get rid of the bits that we do not need. But this government has said that no, it will not do that because the unions will not let it. How else do we pay off a debt like we pay off a house? It was a good little slogan because it seemed to resonate with people. They thought that they understood what it meant. However, it was so vague and sneaky, like every other election commitment by this government, that it allows a lot of latitude for doing other things or for ignoring it ultimately.

Other commitments included no new taxes or fees. They disappeared early. We had a campaign in 2015 about how any increase in gold royalties would cost jobs. It would show how much the Liberal–National government hated Kalgoorlie. Within months of taking office, the government had whitewashed or airbrushed that out of history. One thing it has not set up yet, but it is doing a good job of it, is a ministry for truth, just like in that novel *1984*, whereby it can change history whenever it feels like it and ignore the bits in the past as it suits it. We have had a number of election commitments, all of which have been conveniently ignored. We keep getting told that election commitments are important. What about the one for police? That one was ignored, yet the one to United Voice has to be obeyed. The police need a better union. But there is no plan in this. We keep hearing in vague terms that there is a plan, but we see exactly the contrary. We have seen debt increase. We have seen nothing for it. We have had talk about plans.

Bill Shorten was on the radio this morning saying that Metronet is a great idea and that the business plan is very well put together. I do not know what he has seen. All we have seen are some lines on the map. If there is a business plan, this government has resisted all the way along the line showing us that business plan. Either this government is lying about there being one or he is talking off the top of his head in order to support a dishonest government.

HON COLIN de GRUSSA (Agricultural) [11.15 am]: I rise to speak on the motion moved by Hon Peter Collier and in particular to have a little look at the latter part of that motion, which refers to rushed decisions impacting negatively on numerous areas of the Western Australian community. I think that is a very important part of this motion. I thank the member for moving the motion, because it is clear that there is no plan beyond the Perth hills and for regional Western Australia. I will refer to some examples in education. The Labor policy document on education states —

Without proper support regional students and families often leave their communities in order for their children to get the education they deserve.

The government thinks: We do not really have a plan to fix the state’s finances, so we will cut some funding from schools out in the bush such as Moora. We will take some funding away from Moora Residential College to go who knows where. We will close that college. That will save money. Hang on a sec—the government’s own policy document refers to not wanting families to leave communities to get an education for their kids, yet because the government has no plan, that is exactly what will happen. It has no plan, so it made a rushed decision on Schools of the Air. The government quickly backflipped on that. Again, it highlights that the government has no idea. It has no plan at all. It thought: We will just plan to be elected. We will say what is populist to get us into power. We will talk about regional education being important and all sorts of things before the election. But when it gets in, it thinks: Hang on a minute, how are we going to implement this? That is right; we do not have a plan. Let us make it up as we go.

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We talked about raiding the agricultural education farm provisions trust. This is a pittance in the scheme of the state budget, but for those ag and farm schools out there, this is their operating revenue. This is what allows them to upgrade their machinery and to keep their equipment modern so that students are getting the best possible education at those colleges and farm schools. The government will rip the guts out of them. It will take money off them and, in the end, there will be no saving because that equipment will still need to be upgraded. The money will have to come from somewhere. I hazard a guess that at the end of the day those schools will have to beg the government to help them fund those things. It is robbing Peter to pay Paul. It is not a plan. Again, it is a good example of how the government develops policy on the run without having a plan.

The change to the boarding away from home allowance is another example to show that the government does not have a plan. This is very important financial assistance for those who live a long way from the schools to which they send their children. It was boosted through royalties for regions. We made sure that happened because we recognise that education is important to people in regional WA and that no matter where people live, they deserve access to quality education. It seems that although the government's policy document released before the election is called "Quality Education in the Regions", it is not really. I think is a bit of a misnomer. It is quality education in the regions qualified by where someone lives because we cannot give a quality education to everyone in the regions.

I will talk a little bit about some of the comments made by other members about education. First, I will comment on Hon Alannah MacTiernan's comment during a debate in this place on 14 March about education when she said —

... if there is a silver lining in all of what has happened out of our requirement to deal with the budgetary circumstances we find ourselves in, it is a real focus on rural education ...

It is a real focus on rural education, except she is sorry for the kids of Moora; they do not count.

Hon Darren West interjected.

Hon COLIN de GRUSSA: For students at Moora Residential College, education does not count. I am glad Hon Darren West agrees. The government was going to cut Schools of the Air funding: "We will cut that—no, we won't cut that. The education of students of an agricultural college or those at the Esperance Farm Training Centre does not count either, so we'll cut some funding from there as well." This government's plan is all about those who live in Perth but not if they live over the scarp. For those who live in regional Western Australia, it is, "I'm sorry, you're not part of our plan." That is the reality of this government's focus. It is very much focused on those in the metropolitan area.

One of the other commitments the now Premier made in his campaign launch was his plan to keep Western Power in public hands, and that would keep power bills down for Western Australian families. That has been a fantastic success! I am sure everyone would agree that not selling Western Power has really helped keep power prices low for everyone! I think a lot more people will put solar panels on their roofs under this government, if that was the intended outcome. Maybe that is a good thing.

In closing, I want to say that I think it is incumbent on all of us to hold this government to account over its failure to have a plan and its failure to address debt. Its own budget papers show state debt growing far more than would have been the case under the previous government. It has to own this. It is the government's failure to have a financial plan that is causing state debt to increase and will contribute to making our financial situation far worse than it already is. It is therefore incumbent on us on this side of the house to hold government members to account to show the people of Western Australia that when in government, they need a plan. They cannot pay lip-service to some notion of a piece of paper or a policy document that has the word "plan" on it. Unless there are some bones behind that or some meat on the bones—some tangible things to deliver—it is not a plan; it is not worth the paper it is written on; it is nothing more than hot air and lip-service.

HON DARREN WEST (Agricultural — Parliamentary Secretary) [11.23 am]: I want to congratulate members on the other side of the house for talking for over an hour on this motion and keeping a straight face the whole way through! That is an outstanding effort; I wish I had that skill! We have just heard a lecture from predominantly Barnett government members who did not have a plan in eight and a half years. The only thing they delivered was forty thousand million dollars in debt for Western Australian tax taxpayers. This was a government that had seven Treasurers in eight years. There was no financial continuity or plan—no financial credibility. We had them all over that time—Doc, Dopey, Bashful, Grumpy, Happy, Sneezy, Sleepy—the whole seven. I could say a lot about this, but good on Hon Peter Collier for bringing on the motion. I have missed his contribution but I presume he could keep a straight face, as were other members. It is ridiculous for us as an incoming government to be cleaning up the financial mess we inherited after one year and to be lectured by members from the Barnett Liberal–National government—the worst in our history.

Motion lapsed, pursuant to standing orders.