

LOCAL PROJECTS, LOCAL JOBS PROGRAM

Motion

HON DARREN WEST (Agricultural — Parliamentary Secretary) [1.03 pm]: I move —

That this house congratulates the McGowan Labor government for its Local Projects, Local Jobs initiative and for the positive impact this will have on local communities.

I am delighted to put forward this motion to the house. It is always nice to talk about the positive things that governments and parliamentarians do in their local communities. I am sure that over several hours, while we debate this motion, both this week and next week, we will hear stories of the positive impacts that Local Projects, Local Jobs has had on communities across Western Australia. Last night, in my reply to the Treasurer's budget speech, I mentioned what a contrast being in government is with sitting in opposition, where everything is bad, everything is negative, everything is wrong and one looks to find some way through what the government is doing to turn it into a negative story. I have had my time in opposition; it was not great days, and I am sure the opposition today is finding it is the same—opposition members just have to be negative as a part of their job. But we do not; we are in government and we have hit the ground running. We are turning the state's finances around and we are making a big impact across the state. We have a large regional caucus that goes out and finds the needs and sees the requirements in the regions. We are delivering on election commitments that we made, all while turning around the state's trashed finances we inherited from the Barnett Liberal–National government.

After all the negativity we have had to deal with around the budget of how bad the government is and all the tough decisions we have had to make on which we have received criticism from opposition members, rightly or wrongly, I am delighted to be able to bring something positive to the house. I am sure that all members will be able to make a nice, positive contribution because they have seen firsthand the impact this important initiative has had in their electorates and their regions.

I will spend a bit of time focusing on my electorate more specifically and talk through some of the really important Local Projects, Local Jobs initiatives we have been able to work through in the Geraldton electorate. I reiterate: the former government forgot about a lot of our electorates. The former government forgot about the Geraldton electorate; it received virtually nothing through the royalties for regions program. The Liberal–National government forgot about many of our suburbs and regional centres when it had its spend-fest in its eight and a half sorry years of rule in Western Australia. That government forgot about much of the state and focused spending in targeted areas, cynically we could say, just to attract votes from constituents. The former government forgot about the suburbs, the towns and the regional centres. It stopped listening and ignored what really matters to people across the regions and more broadly across Western Australia.

One thing opposition members can do, and have time to do, because they do not have the responsibility of running the state, fixing the finances, coming up with the next generation of initiatives and doing what matters to people is to go out and connect with the grassroots in their communities. Opposition members have time to do that, and I encourage opposition members to take that step and go out and embrace their communities and listen to what the people on the ground tell them. When we were in opposition, that is exactly what we did. We connected with community groups, school P&Cs, not-for-profit organisations, non-government Christian organisations—all those groups doing fantastic work on the ground in our communities. We went out and connected with them; they are in touch with their local communities. We worked with the school P&Cs, local sporting clubs and local groups to identify small projects requiring modest amounts of money that really mattered to them. We took those communities' requirements a step further and made them into election commitments. We gave an undertaking to all those organisations that we connected with through that period in opposition that should we be elected to government, we would follow through on our commitments. For some reason, the opposition finds it a foreign concept that a newly elected government would honour its commitments. Those members who were in the chamber last night when I made my reply to the Treasurer's budget speech will remember the long and sorry tale of the previous government's commitments in Geraldton to a new hospital and in the area of mental health. They were promised and promised, but never ever delivered. The McGowan government is not like the former Barnett Liberal–National government—we will honour our election commitments.

Hon Michael Mischin interjected.

Hon DARREN WEST: Hon Michael Mischin can talk straight after me if he wants to, but I have a lot to say and have only 39 minutes in which to say it. Can he please make his contribution straight after me?

The PRESIDENT: Hon Darren West, you will direct your comments to me and you will not be taking interjections and people will not be encouraging you to take interjections.

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Hon DARREN WEST: Thank you, Madam President; I will do precisely that. I have a lot to get through in my short time.

Hon Tjorn Sibma: Will you table a business case—just one?

Hon DARREN WEST: Madam President, I will continue.

These small grassroots programs and initiatives that we identified and took to the election as commitments make a real difference at a local level. They have made a significant difference at a local level. They are such things as basic sports equipment, funding for childcare centres and services, standard school resources and support for domestic violence victims. They are things that we considered important at a grassroots level, and we took the important requirements of those communities to the election as commitments. I can tell already in the first six minutes of this debate and from comments that have been made previously about this well-received program that the Liberal and National Parties clearly do not think these initiatives are worthy. They clearly do not think that the organisations that receive Local Projects, Local Jobs funding are worthy enough to receive taxpayer funds.

Hon Tjorn Sibma: Incorrect.

Hon DARREN WEST: For the purpose of Hansard, Hon Tjorn Sibma has just said the word “correct”. That is his view and —

Hon Tjorn Sibma: I said “incorrect”.

Hon DARREN WEST: I apologise; I thought I heard “correct”.

Hon Tjorn Sibma interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Hon Tjorn Sibma, I had not given you the call. You launched in. The member had already heard you and had made that correction, so let us just calm down.

Hon DARREN WEST: Thank you, Madam President. I do apologise to the member. I thought I heard the word “correct”, when he said “incorrect”. They are the words, but the actions are that the Liberal–National opposition does not think that these initiatives were worthy, and that will be either proven or disproven over the course of this debate. I expect to see the opposition visit these local groups and community organisations and make the points that they are making in the chamber and that they made in the chamber earlier. Those organisations are entitled to this important funding. We think they are worthy. We have made those commitments and we have followed through on them. Those were our election commitments—plain and simple. We put a raft of commitments to the electorate, and in this case I am talking specifically about the seat of Geraldton—the seat that was grossly neglected by the previous government. We made these election commitments plain and simple. They were election commitments. Local Projects, Local Jobs is not a grants scheme, and we will continue to deliver on these election commitments and expect our members of Parliament to continue to work with those groups and advocate for the things they need. There may be organisations that are not able to receive the Local Projects, Local Jobs funding for whatever reason and we will work with them to see how we as a government can help. It is all about helping the grassroots organisations, because they are the lifeblood of many of our regional and metropolitan communities.

A member raised business cases through an attempted interjection. The Langoulant report, which I am sure members opposite have all read, is scathing of the previous government’s financial management. It found that projects of under \$1 million in value do not require a business case. That was a finding in the Langoulant report. I am sure members opposite have read the Langoulant report, although it would be hard reading for them. I will just point out that to the best of my knowledge right across the program—I know it is certainly the case in my electorate—there are no Local Projects, Local Jobs initiatives with budgets of \$1 million or more. If we want to talk about business cases, I saw some put in under the previous government that would need to be weighed—they were so long that they had no risk of being read! They were put in under the previous government for some really unwise projects. Just because a project has a business case does not make it right. There needs to be an actual business case, not just the physical business case, to make those commitments. I think accountability is important, but the previous government seemed to think that it could spend all kinds of money without any transparency just because it had put together some pieces of paper and called it a business case. That is not the case. We know that none of these projects falls into the category of requiring a business case, even as defined by the coalition.

There is another criticism that we have faced, because the opposition finds things to be critical of with this government. Here is a concept for members opposite: Local Projects, Local Jobs commitments that were made in Liberal-won seats are still being delivered. We do not have a clarifier after our commitments that says, “Only if you vote for us. Read the fine print, because it is only if we are elected and our member is successful that you will get your funding.” We made carte blanche commitments that we have followed through on and delivered, whether they were in seats won by the Liberal Party or the Labor Party or any other smaller party. They are the important things to remember as we begin this debate and all members need to understand the overarching principles of the

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Local Projects, Local Jobs initiative. Just to spell it out simply—I will do it simply for the members of the opposition: Local Projects, Local Jobs was not and is not a grants program. It is a collection of small election commitments that were made when we were in opposition. It is a one-off allocation of funding as per our election commitments. If opposition members want to criticise us for keeping an election commitment, they can be my guest. The Liberal and National Parties are the masters of promising and not delivering. We are not going to do that.

Hon Michael Mischin interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon Michael Mischin interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Shoosh!

Hon DARREN WEST: No opposition in the history of Australian elections has run an open application process for its election commitments. No opposition has ever done that in the past and nor do I think this opposition will do this in the run-up to the 2021 election. I will give members a scoop: I hear that in the run-up to the 2021 election, the Liberal and National Parties will make election promises in seats they want to win. I might have heard one of those promises that the, I think, temporary Leader of the Opposition made at the Liberal Party conference last week. I might have already heard a commitment of the opposition on what it might do if it comes into government at the next election. The opposition is going to make commitments. This could make the front page! The opposition could make a commitment before the next election. We all look forward to that being written up—probably not in *The West Australian*—somewhere that the opposition will make an election commitment! The journalist who writes it may even get a Walkley Award for writing that very groundbreaking story that the opposition may make a commitment before the next election!

When I get on my feet to make these important speeches, I always find that time moves so quickly, and I am running out of time, so I am going to move on more specifically to the community I have spent the most time working in since becoming a member of Parliament. It is the largest community in the Agricultural Region and it was totally ignored by the previous government. It is a community that had some really pressing needs, especially at the local grassroots level, and that is the community of Geraldton. For those members who are not aware, my electorate office is in Geraldton and I spend quite a lot of time up there. I grew up just outside of Geraldton. As a young boy, I did all my primary schooling in Geraldton and still have some deep friendships there that go back half a century. It is great to go up there and I still keep in contact with families and people I knew as a young boy. I am going to focus today on Geraldton and talk about some of the important grants that we were able to deliver and promises that we were able to keep.

Hon Tjorn Sibma: No, they are not grants! I thought you said that they are not grants!

Hon DARREN WEST: The member is right: it is not a grants scheme.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon DARREN WEST: Indeed, it is not a grants scheme. We were able to commit to and deliver important funding in Geraldton. I have a list here and they are in some order. I will start with an organisation called ATLAS Inc. Anyone who has been to Geraldton will know the tremendous work that ATLAS does. ATLAS is an acronym for Access to Leisure and Sport. It works with disabled people to give them access to all kinds of activities that able-bodied people take for granted. Zane D'Mello, Chris Kerr and others work at ATLAS. For those who are unaware, Chris Kerr spends her life in a wheelchair and has been a fierce advocate in and around Geraldton for disabled people to have equal access to leisure and sport activities that able-bodied people take for granted. Chris has been a member of the Mid West Development Commission. She is a wonderfully talented woman and I enjoy working with people who advocate fiercely at their local grassroots level.

We sat down with ATLAS and said, “What do you need?” It had received virtually no government funding for any of its projects over the term of the previous government. We asked, “How can we help?” It was important to ATLAS to buy and provide a set of temporary ramps and access ways to allow people with disabilities to have access to events, the beach, sport and all kinds of leisure activities that we take for granted but could not get to if we were not able-bodied. I was so proud to help that organisation because it does it tough, and the disabled people whom it represents also do it tough. We have seen some terrific outcomes from that rather modest amount of money, \$25 000, that we were able to deliver to help ATLAS with its access Geraldton project. I challenge any member opposite to suggest that that organisation and those people were not worthy of that funding and there was something wrong with the way it got that money.

The Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation is very well known in Geraldton. It had some funding cut and it was no longer able to produce the *Bundiyarra Gardantha* newsletter, which was posted quite

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widely across the midwest. Many people in Aboriginal communities do not have access to the internet and elderly people choose not to use the internet. We thought it was important that this publication was printed and posted so that people could read it in their own time and circulate it throughout the community to loved ones. Over four years, that project was going to have a very modest budget of around \$20 000. It was great to make that commitment to the people at Bundiyarra and all those people who read that newsletter to help them with a modest contribution of \$20 000 from Local Projects, Local Jobs. We were very happy to do that and they were so excited on the day that we announced that we thought that was a good commitment for us to make. That project is ongoing and being delivered.

Hon Michael Mischin: How many readers does it have?

Hon DARREN WEST: I think it prints about 5 000, so a significant number of people receive the Bundiyarra newsletter.

Hon Michael Mischin: That is how many it printed. How many read it?

Hon DARREN WEST: The member can go to Bundiyarra and go through with the corporation why it should not have this project funded. I will leave that to the member to do. I think it should be funded. We made a commitment and we have delivered on the commitment, and the community is pleased about that.

The next initiative we funded was a very important amenities project in Geraldton. For those who do not know, Pollinators Inc is the social enterprise centre in Geraldton; it is a very astute organisation. Andrew Outhwaite led it very well in the early days and now Angie West runs the space. She is no relation. It does a great job in promoting social enterprise in Geraldton. It is really kicking some goals. Pollinators Inc has a space available to it called the Creative Hub. Anyone who has been to Funtavia, the only Fringe hub outside Perth and the only one in Geraldton, has seen that it is an old warehouse-type facility. It suits the purpose of Funtavia, but it is a bit light on for amenities such as toilets and the basic amenities that these spaces need. We sat down and found out that that was its greatest area of need. We have been able to help Pollinators Inc out with \$30 000 to provide those amenities. That is a very modest spend of taxpayers' money to make a big difference to that organisation. It holds all kinds of events throughout the year, because that is the creative space in Geraldton for the arts, musicians and performers of all kinds. There is now a space in Geraldton that has reasonable amenities. They are not five-star or world-class, but they are reasonable amenities so that that important facility in Geraldton can be better used. I was delighted to help Pollinators Inc, because no-one else from government had for a very, very long time.

One thing the previous government did in Geraldton was to build a new purpose-built Foodbank building, which was very welcome. Foodbank is a much-used organisation in Geraldton and we all support the good work of Foodbank WA. I support it for two reasons. I support helping those in need who could use a bit of a helping hand in putting food on the table for their children and household members. Also, I am a food producer and I hate the thought of food being thrown away just because it is getting close to its use-by date. Therefore, I like and appreciate the work Foodbank does on two counts: it saves food wastage and it gets food to the people who need it the most. The Foodbank at Geraldton had a big fancy new building with no food on the shelves. The previous government liked the big shiny multimillion-dollar facility it built, but it was virtually empty, especially at certain times of the year when there was high demand.

Hon Martin Aldridge: Are you serious?

Hon DARREN WEST: Yes, I am serious, member. We have been able to provide a very modest amount of funding to Foodbank, specifically in Geraldton, to put food back on the shelves at that busy time so that it does not run out. I would have thought that putting the food into Foodbank is the first thing a government would do. We had to do that through Local Projects, Local Jobs. We allocated \$30 000. I am delighted that we could make and deliver on that commitment. Now at Foodbank there is always a variety of food on the shelves for those who need it, including in peak and busy times.

Hon Michael Mischin: How long is that supposed to cover it?

Hon DARREN WEST: It is a four-year arrangement.

Hon Michael Mischin: Four years?

Hon DARREN WEST: I put it to the member that when we are elected to government, we are elected for four years, right? Then we go back and face the people again and we ask them for another four years. Our commitments are over the four years because, should we be elected, as we overwhelmingly were, we have a four-year tenure. We will perhaps look at ways in which we can extend that funding into our new term of government should we be elected again. That is over the horizon at this point. We have committed to four years. Foodbank is a valuable and very important organisation in Geraldton. I am delighted that we can support Foodbank

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with actual food at times of peak demand for the citizens in and around Geraldton. Foodbank runs food miles into the midwest. Jamie and the staff there do a terrific job.

I am going to get to my favourite initiative. I do not like to pick favourites, because all these are fantastic initiatives, but the one that I had the most delight in being able to help was the Geraldton Radiography service. There is one mammogram machine between Perth and Darwin. When we received a call from the practice manager at the Geraldton Radiography service, she was quite distraught at the prospect that the only machine between Perth and Darwin, in Geraldton, was about to be retired and not replaced. To me, the 40 000 residents in and around Geraldton and the residents deeper into the midwest not having access to a permanent mammogram machine was not an acceptable outcome. As members will know, the BreastScreen WA screening caravan does a fantastic job. It travels right across the state and offers free breast screenings for anyone who would like to use that facility. However, when the breast screening caravan goes away and a doctor wants to refer a patient because they are a bit concerned or a patient finds a lump and feels a bit concerned about it, naturally they would want that mammogram done as soon as possible for peace of mind and to diagnose cancer early. We all know that the key to battling cancer is an early diagnosis. With no machine in Geraldton, patients would have to travel to Perth and probably need to apply for patient assisted travel scheme funding. We sat down with the practice manager and the chair of the organisation's board and we came up with a way to ensure that, for a small investment, we could not only retain the machine, but also get a new and improved version of it. The new machine gives more image slices and more detailed scans to radiographers to help in the fight against breast cancer in the midwest. The contribution to make that happen was \$50 000. Although that is a lot of money in someone's personal bank account, as part of a \$26 billion budget, I did not consider that sum to be large enough to warrant not having a mammogram machine in Geraldton. We sat down and worked with the local community and were able to commit to that funding and deliver on it. We now have a state-of-the-art mammogram machine in Geraldton to service the women of the midwest and, quite surprisingly —

Point of Order

Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE: Madam President, as riveting as this member's speech is, I draw your attention to the fact that there are no ministers of the Crown in the house.

The PRESIDENT: There is now. Hon Darren West.

Hon Stephen Dawson: That was a stunt. You could see me sitting there talking to a member who had asked for advice behind the Chair.

Hon Martin Aldridge: It wasn't you who left, minister. It was another minister who left.

Hon Stephen Dawson: That was a stunt. I am here.

The PRESIDENT: The minister was actually in the chamber, just at the back of the chamber. Hon Darren West, if you would like to continue.

Debate Resumed

Hon DARREN WEST: Thank you, Madam President. That highlights exactly what I was talking about when I started my speech—the mindset of being in opposition. Any little thing members can find, it is negative, negative, chip, chip, talk it down. I am sorry, but that is what it is like and that is what we hear from the other side of the house. It was a little stunt. The minister was in the house.

The PRESIDENT: Member, I think you should just focus on the motion that is in front of you and not get distracted.

Hon DARREN WEST: Thank you, Madam President. I will do just that because I have a lot to talk about.

The mammogram machine was extremely well received in the run-up to the election. People regularly stopped me in the street to thank me and the government for making that commitment. I put out a media statement that committed to the machine on behalf of myself and our candidate for Geraldton. I found out some important statistics about breast cancer. In 2016, one in eight Australian women were diagnosed with breast cancer before the age of 85 years. The figures were obviously compiled before 2016. The document states that it is estimated that in 2015, 15 934 Australian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, or approximately 44 women every day and 1 501 of the total will be Western Australian women. The incidence of breast cancer is increasing and by 2020, 17 210 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in women, or approximately 47 women every day. Breast cancer diagnoses are on the rise. It is the most common form of cancer diagnosed in women, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. A woman's risk of developing breast cancer increases with age and the average age of women who are first diagnosed is 60 years old. A total of 75 per cent of new cases of breast cancer develop in women who are over the age of 50, which I no longer consider old, members. Approximately five to 10 per cent of breast cancers are due to a strong family history or known genetic mutation. The number of

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men who are diagnosed with breast cancer in Australia increased from 61 in 1982 to 127 in 2010. Men can develop breast cancer as well, which was all the more reason for us to fund this very important initiative. I encourage any opposition members to go to people in the Geraldton community and say, “You don’t deserve to have this. There’s something wrong with the scheme and the process; you shouldn’t have got that money.” I encourage anyone to go ahead and do that.

I think Back Beach in Geraldton is in the top five most dangerous beaches; I have an idea that it is the second or third most dangerous beach, statistically, in Western Australia. The Geraldton Surf Life Saving Club’s beach patrol vehicle was stolen. It was driven over the sand dunes and set on fire, so the club had no Polaris beach vehicle to use. We were able to commit to the funding of a new Polaris beach vehicle for the club with a very nice touch. There were two identities or legends of that club, a couple called Bill and Millie Read. The surf lifesaving boat is named after Bill. He is now the late Bill Read; sadly, he has passed on, but he was a great contributor to the Geraldton Surf Life Saving Club. The Polaris beach patrol vehicle is now named after Millie, so Bill and Millie are back together at the Geraldton Surf Life Saving Club. It is very important. The beach patrol vehicle has been used on many occasions since it was commissioned last year. I will not miss the opportunity to commend the work of the fantastic volunteers at the Geraldton Surf Life Saving Club. I was delighted we could help them out through the Local Projects, Local Jobs program by giving them the funds to provide that very important piece of infrastructure for the club in the new beach patrol vehicle.

Hon Michael Mischin: How much was that?

Hon DARREN WEST: It was \$25 000, member. It is a modest amount of funding to make a big difference in the community and to the club.

We were also able to commit and deliver \$25 000 to the Geraldton Universities Centre. I am not sure whether members are across the story of the Geraldton Universities Centre, but it was a vision held by former Premier and Geraldton local Hon Geoff Gallop. He had a vision for tertiary education in Geraldton and in the regions more broadly. It has been a raging success. It was first built by the Gallop–Carpenter government and more facilities were added by the Barnett government, so I would think it would have good, solid, bipartisan support. The centre is able to offer courses remotely but, as members can imagine, beaming in on Skype or being on a laptop with everybody else in the room is far from an ideal way to deliver lectures and tutorials to remote-access students. We provided Geraldton Universities Centre with \$25 000 to enable it to purchase and install an improved audio integration system and software to enable web-based conferencing for students who study remotely. This has been an outstanding success and I urge anyone who goes to Geraldton to pop in to the university centre. It is groundbreaking stuff that would have applications in education more broadly into the future. It was great to be able to deliver this important piece of infrastructure for students for whom the tyranny of distance is no longer a barrier to tertiary education. I think that is something we should be very proud of.

I am not going to get through all of these, but I am sure that I am giving members the idea. We also partnered with the Ngala Midwest and Gascoyne community services centre in Geraldton. The Geraldton arm was formerly known as the Geraldton Regional Community Education Centre. When I first became a member of Parliament, it ran a future leaders program called the midwest future leaders program. It ran out of funding and stopped. I met with the people who used to run that program and realised there was a real gap in the community for the development and fostering of strong leadership among people aged 18 to 35 years. I think it is incumbent on us all to help prepare the next generation as best we can, who will potentially take up leadership positions within the community, and impart the knowledge that we can on that group of leaders. We were able to commit and deliver \$40 000 over four years to run the program. It has been an outstanding success. I met with the future leaders group, and what a fine bunch of individuals they are. They are predominantly women; I think there were only a couple of men out of about a dozen participants in the program. I was particularly pleased to be able to take the Premier of Western Australia to meet with the leadership program students and sit him down with the group for an hour to talk about his experiences, including how he learnt the leadership skills that he shows every day. He gave a bit of an insight into his life and imparted some advice and wisdom to that group of students. They were delighted. How else would they get that opportunity, except through an important program like that, which was funded by Local Projects, Local Jobs? How else would they get an opportunity to sit down for an hour, one on one, with the Premier of Western Australia, arguably the highest position of leadership in the state? I was delighted to be able to make that all work. Interestingly, given that the program of events through the day had a somewhat political flavour, we arrived slightly early, and guess who was one of the presenters to the leadership program, funded by Local Projects, Local Jobs? It was the member for Geraldton. Here we have a situation in which the opposition is criticising us over Local Projects, Local Jobs while one of its own members is quite happy to participate in an important Local Projects, Local Jobs initiative such as the leadership exploration and development program. This program would not have existed had the Barnett Liberal–National government been re-elected, heaven forbid. I think there is a slight hint of hypocrisy because the opposition has criticised the government and the program,

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but it is quite happy to be involved in one of the outstanding programs that we are running through the member for Geraldton.

Hon Jacqui Boydell interjected.

Hon DARREN WEST: The opposition is criticising our program and then participating in it. I do not quite understand how that works.

Hon Jacqui Boydell interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Member, you will have an opportunity at a later stage to make some comments if you so choose. Hon Darren West.

Hon DARREN WEST: Thank you, Madam President. I look forward to the honourable member's response. I am sure it will be one of her better ones.

We also saw another need in the Geraldton community. I met with all the school P&Cs and they identified one of the gaps in their funding. It is not easy for schools, especially those in some of the harder areas of a place such as Geraldton. They were receiving all kinds of IT products but lacked the capacity to get their staff to learn how to use them and to then train other staff to use them. We provided every school in Geraldton with funding—it was nearly one quarter of a million dollars across Geraldton—to allow that training to occur. It has had a huge impact on the way that IT courses are delivered and IT hardware is utilised in the schools. Every school was given a modest allowance to make a very important difference to best utilise their important equipment.

I came across a lady called Corryne Bull, who is the president of the Rangeway, Utakarra and Karloo Progress Association, which is affectionately known in the area as RUKPA. The Rangeway, Utakarra and Karloo Progress Association suburbs are not without their social problems and issues. They are generally regarded as some of the lowest socioeconomic areas of my electorate. That is not their fault; that is just the reality. I admire anyone from a tough part of town who stands up and decides to put together a progress association to get some community spirit and to work together to enhance the quality of life in and the reputation of the community. We sat down with Corryne and said, "How can we help you with what you are trying to achieve?" It took a very modest amount of money to allow the organisation to go about some beautification projects in local parks and streetscapes. All the work was done by volunteers, but the organisation needed funding to buy paint, plants and basic equipment to help beautify their suburbs. We were happy to commit and deliver \$10 000 to such a worthy organisation. It has been fantastic; there is such a great vibe around that organisation because not only is it doing great work in the community, but also this government has seen fit to appreciate its great work and commit some much-needed funds to show its appreciation and help it through the projects that it wants to do.

We also provided \$20 000 to the Woorree Park BMX Club through Local Projects, Local Jobs. The Woorree Park BMX Club is the only BMX club in Geraldton. One of its members—I met him recently and he is a very fine man—is Corey Taylor. Corey has been to the last two BMX world championships. Last year, he placed sixth in the world. We have a sporting champion in our midst in Geraldton, but the club could not get any funding to upgrade the track to a similar standard to the one he would race on at the world championships. We stepped up and helped out. We promised to help the club with funding and we delivered. Sadly, during the world championship this year Corey came a bit of a cropper, I think it is fair to say, and broke his collarbone and was unable to compete in the rest of the championships. We are proud as punch of Corey and the club that taught him everything he knows. The Woorree Park BMX is a very large club. I went to its presentations last year. It is fantastic to see kids of all ages—from really little fellas to older riders like Corey—riding around on their bikes and getting exercise. We were happy to get involved with that club and help it out with a modest contribution from Local Projects, Local Jobs to get the track up to standard. Again, most of the work was done by volunteers but there were things the club needed to buy.

Hon Colin Holt interjected.

Hon DARREN WEST: Hon Colin Holt can get up and criticise the club and the program in his contribution. I will not do that. It is not question time.

Hon Colin Holt interjected.

Hon DARREN WEST: I know members have a lot of questions about Local Projects, Local Jobs. The member might get the opportunity to ask some at 4.30 pm, but I am not going to run through those now.

There are plenty more examples. The University of Western Australia's WA Centre for Rural Health in Geraldton does a fantastic job training health professionals in the regions. We partnered with it to run the midwest school holiday engagement program in the suburb of Spalding at the Mitchell Street Community Centre. That centre had remained idle and unused for many years with most of the services for lower socioeconomic kids in Rangeway.

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We are now able to run a fantastic program in Spalding. It has made a huge difference. Up to 80 students are turning up to its school holiday program, which is giving those kids something meaningful to do. They can get together and run an engagement program in their suburb of Spalding. We made an \$80 000 commitment to the WA Centre for Rural Health, and I acknowledge all its great people, including Sandy Thompson, the director, and Lenny Papertalk, who does a fantastic job in helping to deliver this program. I encourage anyone to get up and say that there should not be a school holiday engagement program in Spalding. I encourage my fellow members of the Agricultural Region. I think it is very important that organisations and people in our community doing it tough have access to such important programs. It was great to be able to help them.

We also helped Pollinators Inc again by funding it \$80 000—promised and delivered—to enable start-up businesses free access to Pollinators over the next four years. I liken it a little bit to someone who gets really good at playing music and writes a song but does not have the money to make their first recording. There are people with great start-up business ideas. Red Lime Jones Granola is a great company that makes really yummy and nutritious granola products. It did not have the financial capacity to get its products to the next level. It is now a remarkable success story as a result of Local Projects, Local Jobs. I think that is what this is all about. If we are going to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in the community, there is an enabling role for government in those early stages to get involved by providing modest funding through Local Projects, Local Jobs.

I do not know why anyone would criticise a government for delivering on the election commitments it made after listening to the community. It listened to the community because it saw a need in the community and it brought all those important requirements together—it listened, acknowledged, helped, promised and delivered. I think that is the way all politicians should act. I think that is the way that all these funding schemes should be delivered. I do not see how any member opposite can find fault with such a well received and important scheme. This scheme was referred to the people of Western Australia on 11 March 2017 and the people of Western Australia said yes to Local Projects, Local Jobs. We have delivered projects right across the state in the regions and in the city. I do not accept that there is a city–country divide; I think there is need right across the state and it is the government’s responsibility to step up and help those who need it most. That is why we sit on this side of the house. That is what is important to us as Labor and progressive members of Parliament. I am very proud of Local Projects, Local Jobs. I am proud of what the government has been able to deliver to the Geraldton community. It has received well the funding for those important initiatives. I think we got tremendous bang for our buck from the taxpayers. I have yet to find a taxpayer who thinks that we should not have funded the leadership program or the mammogram machine.

Hon Donna Faragher: They all want you to fund Moora Residential College—that’s pretty clear.

Hon DARREN WEST: The opposition can talk about that. It can make its commitments. Our position is clear on that. I am talking about Local Projects, Local Jobs. It is a very important scheme and I am delighted that we have been able to deliver it. I look forward to working with all those groups in the future. I look forward to continuing to work with them and to see the fantastic results that they will achieve for their communities with a very modest spend from the taxpayers in this state.

HON PETER COLLIER (North Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition) [1.50 pm]: I say unambiguously and categorically that the Liberal Party will oppose Hon Darren West’s motion on the Local Projects, Local Jobs initiative. What a load of rubbish. We will not only oppose this motion, but also move another motion by the end of this year to have this program sent to a select committee where it deserves to be. The premise of my argument today is twofold. The first is the financial component of the project itself. No-one on this side has an issue with any of these programs should they face the same financial integrity and scrutiny as any other grant by the government, and I will come to that in a minute. That is one issue. The second is the political legitimacy of this program, and that is found wanting. The member opposite carried on ad infinitum, during both this contribution and the one he gave yesterday, about the financial mismanagement of the previous government. He also carried on about how the government had a mandate for this program. I grant that. We got smashed on 11 March last year—I acknowledge that—for a whole host of reasons. Members opposite suggest that it was exclusively from financial mismanagement. They went to the last election with a number of policies to deal with that financial mismanagement. “To pay off the debt just like paying off a mortgage” was their constant mantra. They went in with Local Projects, Local Jobs. Did they go in with a gold tax? No. Did they go in with closing Moora Residential College? No. Did they do any of that? Did they go in with any of the other cuts in education? Did they go in with increasing payroll tax? No. It is the height of hypocrisy for government members to come in here and carry on as though they have the moral authority to bring forward a policy and say, “There you go. We went to the electorate. Forget about these other things; they are small hanging fruit.” Hon Darren West himself, when talking about Moora college, said that the government does not see it as good financial management to spend \$8.7 million on a facility that in the future will be used by fewer than 20 children. That is an absolute insult to the whole of regional Western Australia—an absolute insult.

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I will comment today on a couple of things. The first is the financial genesis of the program—how we got to this point—and then the program itself and the financial legitimacy that the member opposite purported. Let us reflect. Going into the last election, members opposite spoke incessantly about the mismanagement of the previous government. They forgot that we had been in government for almost nine years. We pretty much transformed the state. There is, of course, an “it’s time” factor in government that comes around after a term. One term is a bonus nowadays, let me tell you. The population is so fickle that they chop and change from day to day. If members do not believe me, they should ask the people of Darling Range who changed their vote on the government; 9.3 per cent of them changed their vote on the government after less than 18 months. The “it’s time” factor is alive and kicking.

Hon Tjorn Sibma interjected.

Hon PETER COLLIER: Policies certainly played a part. Did the GST play a part? Possibly. People saw that there was not a solution to the GST and that Western Australia was basically copping it from the feds. Fortunately, a federal Liberal–National government has resolved that for this state. I emphasise a federal Liberal–National government, not the state Labor government. There was, of course, a downturn in the economy. Anyway, members of the public of Western Australia changed their mind. We acknowledge that; it is not an issue. However, from virtually 12 March last year, all the Bolsheviks opposite cared about was us. All they have cared about for the past 18 months is us. They have had almost an indecent obsession with us. They had speaking notes; they had to speak every week. Every media release that went out bagged the previous government on every single thing. They could not stand up and answer a question with notice without mentioning the financial mismanagement or budget repair—all of that garbage. They need to grow up. For goodness sake, it is like a dog that chased a car and did not know what to do with the tyre. This is great! Members opposite are in government. They should forget about the opposition and focus on governing. This is a big issue.

Their cliché has changed: they now talk about forty thousand million dollars, not \$40 billion. Do not ask me; ask the students at the University of Western Australia and their posh magazine —

The PRESIDENT: That would be PROSH.

Hon PETER COLLIER: PROSH? What did I say?

The PRESIDENT: Posh.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I apologise. Thank you, Madam President. One of the stories in the PROSH magazine this year was about Labor Party priorities and it said, “Blame the Libs. Blame the Libs. Blame the Libs. Blame the Libs.” They actually got it right because that is exactly what happened.

Hon Stephen Dawson: You have a lot to be blamed for here—eight and a half years of torturing the economy.

Hon PETER COLLIER: Yes, but for goodness sake, guys, you are in government.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! There is a lot of chat happening around the chamber. It is really hard for Hansard to hear what the member has to say. I will say to the member that this is not theatre sports, so direct your comments to me, please.

Hon PETER COLLIER: Thank you, Madam President. This is the government’s hallelujah moment. It should be taking advantage of this, not worrying about us. Having said that, government members have not stopped gloating over our achievements such as Optus Stadium, Yagan Square, the Scarborough foreshore and non-stop flights to London. From their perspective, an obsession with us has led to them forgetting that they are in government, apart from this Local Projects, Local Jobs issue, and I will talk about that now. There is no plan to this. We heard from the member who moved this motion how the government had paid off debt, and was going to pay off debt just like paying off a mortgage. The GST was not an issue. Mind you, government members have discovered the GST over recent years, but it was not an issue. The member opposite commented yesterday about the budget and the fact that the government was moving into surplus. Could that be justification for Local Projects, Local Jobs? No, it could not because a lot of that surplus is, of course, based on some very real assumptions.

Let us have a look at a couple of those assumptions. First, the state final demand is forecast to increase to 3.75 per cent in 2019–20, 2020–21 and 2021–22, from 0.25 per cent in 2018–19. That is based on an assumption that household consumption will increase exponentially and drive economic growth despite a 13 per cent increase in household fees and charges over the past year. The first two budgets were eight months apart. This is compounded by the latest figures that show that retail trade in the state is flat and unemployment is at the highest rate in the nation—that is, 6.1 per cent seasonally adjusted. That is one assumption upon which government members are making an assumption that the state is going to move back to surplus. Another is that business

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investment is forecast to increase to six per cent in 2019–20 and seven per cent in 2020–21, even though the forecast for 2017–18 went in the opposite direction and dropped from minus 12 per cent to minus 14 per cent. That is another dubious assumption by the members opposite. Dwelling investment is forecast to significantly increase to 4.75 per cent in 2018–19 from 2.5 per cent in 2017–18. This is despite the recent cut to the first home owner grant boost and the increase in the foreign buyers surcharge, and the housing industry is suffering 13 months of declining private dwelling approvals.

There are a lot of question marks as to whether the state budget is going back to surplus and whether the government can afford Local Projects, Local Jobs. As I said, my point—I want to keep emphasising this—is not with these programs themselves. A significant number of them may be worthwhile, but members opposite cannot come in here and moralise to us about what we did and how it was an election promise when in fact they cannot afford it. They cannot keep on telling us they cannot afford this, that and the other thing and go off and spend money on a program like this, which is dubious at best. Members opposite came in with policies such as “We’re not going to sell Western Power. We’re going to pay down debt just like paying off a mortgage, and we’re going to give \$22 million to Local Projects, Local Jobs.” I will get to that in a minute because it shows how dubious this program is. Members opposite said that, knowing full well the books, but they did not have a plan. That is why we get cranky. They say they want to put up the gold tax and increase the payroll tax and blame us because we will not allow their policies to go through. Did they take the gold tax and payroll tax to the electorate with Local Projects, Local Jobs? No, they did not. Do members know what they did do? This was a pearler! This would have saved 5c. They froze our salaries for four years. We spent two weeks debating the Salaries and Allowances Amendment (Debt and Deficit Remediation) Bill 2017. I do not give a damn whether they freeze our salaries, but it was an absolute stunt—it really was! That was nonsense. All that bill did was let the Premier go out to the steps of Parliament and say he is freezing our salaries. Is that good for budget repair? Not on your life! What else did the government do? The Premier moved to Dumas House; that cost another \$700 000. That should be added to the \$600 000 he spent refurbishing his office when he was Minister for Education in 2008. That is what Labor’s priority is, but is that going to help budget repair? Not on your life!

Hon Jim Chown: What about the trip to China?

Hon PETER COLLIER: The trip to China! Labor spent half a million dollars taking half of Western Australia to China! Education and Schools of the Air—what he did there was \$60 million —

Hon Alannah MacTiernan interjected.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I am not listening to you!

First of all, the Premier tried to cancel the Schools of the Air program. That is like shooting Bambi! How the government could try to close the Schools of the Air is beyond me. The camp schools and farm schools—the low-hanging fruit—do not matter, but the government still has its Local Projects, Local Jobs mantra. Of course, that placates the marginal seats. Forget about the low-hanging fruit and the 25 students at Moora Residential College, as if they do not mean anything! That is an absolute insult to those students and the community. Members opposite should hang their heads in shame. Eight of the government’s ministers went and got two cars and got \$5 300 each!

Hon Stephen Dawson: Eight!

Hon PETER COLLIER: Eight government ministers did that! That is a disgrace! That was the government’s plan. There is no plan, guys, is there? There is absolutely no plan. I have said that over and again. That is the premise for where we are going with Local Projects, Local Jobs.

The government has a program called Local Projects, Local Jobs. In anyone’s language, it is an election commitment, and I do not begrudge it that. However, I do begrudge the government the manner in which it went about it and the integrity of the program. Let us look at the program. Is it a grant or is it not a grant? After the contribution of Hon Darren West, I do not think there would be a person in this chamber who would be in any doubt that it is not a grant. On numerous occasions he has had quite categorically said that it is not a grant. Is that correct?

Hon Jim Chown: Correct!

Hon PETER COLLIER: I think members will find that his boss disagrees with him. The Premier’s media release of Thursday, 7 September 2017 states —

Local Projects, Local Jobs delivers for communities across the State

...

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Local grassroots projects have received a boost in the 2017–18 State Budget, through the McGowan Labor Government’s Local Projects, Local Jobs program.

The program provides grants to community organisations, such as sporting groups and not-for-profit organisations, to deliver important upgrades to facilities and programs.

I apologise, but I am a little confused. The mover of this motion, Hon Darren West, has told us on a number of occasions that they definitively were not grants, yet the Premier quite categorically said that they were grants. They are grants! If it smells like a grant, looks like a grant, and tastes like a grant, it is a grant. I believe the Premier in this instance. It is definitely a grant.

Let us look at how much it was. Was \$39 million allocated for these grants? According to this media statement it was \$39 million, but not according to the financial management plan the Labor Party took into the election. Let us look at this wonderful document. It has a lot of glossies.

Hon Stephen Dawson: Where did you get that from?

Hon PETER COLLIER: Off your website! It is WA Labor; click on WA Labor and you will find it.

Hon Stephen Dawson: I was just wondering where you got it.

Hon PETER COLLIER: That is fine. I just wondered if you knew about your own website.

Hon Stephen Dawson: It is not my website.

Hon PETER COLLIER: Are you WA Labor? Have you seen the light? Are you going to come over? Come on, mate, we’ll have you!

The PRESIDENT: Focus, focus.

Hon PETER COLLIER: Thank you, Madam President.

On the page titled “Net Recurrent Spend to 30 June 2020”, under the plans for jobs, health and education is Local Jobs, Local Projects with \$22.2 million. Labor took the figure of \$22.2 million to the election, but according to the media release it is \$39 million. This is the mob who is trying to save money and blaming us for spending money! That is almost a 100 per cent increase overnight! The plan the government went into the election with was for \$22.2 million, but it is, in fact, \$39 million. Do members know why?

Hon Stephen Dawson: It’s a typo!

Hon PETER COLLIER: They won more seats than they thought they would win, so they had to pork-barrel these other seats.

Hon Tjorn Sibma: Minister, did you call it a typo?

Hon PETER COLLIER: It was a typo, was it? I hope Hansard picked that up!

Let us look at this policy. I call it a slush fund because that is all it is. I think there is a criterion for it—that is, being in a marginal seat or a Labor seat. That is most definitely and definitively the criterion and I will explain why. Hon Darren West was a little exclusive with his identification of these projects. He said that Liberal seats got them. Let us look at the Liberal seats that got money from Local Projects, Local Jobs and where the money has been spent so far. Let us look at the Liberal and National seats that got money: Dawesville got \$350 000; Geraldton got \$780 000; and Kalgoorlie got \$397 000. What is there about those seats? You do not need a PhD for this! What is there about those three seats?

Hon Colin Tincknell: They’re marginal.

Hon PETER COLLIER: They are very marginal seats!

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon Alannah MacTiernan interjected.

Hon PETER COLLIER: Have a lie down!

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Leader of the Opposition has the call.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I know it is unbelievable, but it is fact! Let us look at the other Liberal seats. Have a listen, guys. The truth hurts.

Several members interjected.

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The PRESIDENT: Members, I am finding it very difficult to hear this.

Hon PETER COLLIER: Bateman, zero; Carine, zero; Central Wheatbelt, zero; Churchlands, zero; Cottesloe, zero; Hillarys, zero; Moore, zero; Nedlands, zero; North West Central, zero; Riverton, zero; Roe, zero; Scarborough, zero; South Perth, zero; Vasse, zero; and Warren–Blackwood, zero—there are the Liberal and National seats, so let us not be selective about what we identify. Those seats got absolutely nothing. Only three got money; the rest got nothing.

Let us have a look at the Labor gains: Balcatta got \$798 000; Belmont, \$510 000; Bicton, \$606 000; Bunbury, \$991 000 —

Hon Stephen Dawson interjected.

Hon PETER COLLIER: It is that sort of flippant, patronising thing —

Several members interjected.

Hon PETER COLLIER: No, that is not funny. The government is trying to defend this thing and thinks it is funny that it is pork-barrelling these marginal seats, then wonders why people get aggro.

It continues: Burns Beach, \$297 000; Darling Range, \$111 000—that went well for the government; Forrestfield, \$560 000 —

Several members interjected.

Hon PETER COLLIER: No, it is a Labor seat that got it. This is before we won the by-election.

Several members interjected.

Hon PETER COLLIER: It continues: Jandakot, \$308 000; Joondalup, \$1 097 000—that is because it was the most marginal seat; Kalamunda, \$456 000; Kingsley, \$245 000; Morley, \$673 000; Mount Lawley, \$494 000; Murray–Wellington, \$1.1 million; Perth, \$424 000; Pilbara, \$1 026 000; Southern River, \$40 000; Swan Hills, \$531 000; and Wanneroo, \$484 000.

Of the Labor seats, Albany got \$870 000; Armadale, \$548 000; Baldivis, \$450 000; Bassendean, \$905 000; Butler, \$90 000; Cannington, \$220 000; Cockburn, \$420 000; Collie–Preston, \$497 000; Fremantle, \$225 000; Girrawheen, \$106 000; Kimberley, \$945 000; Kwinana, \$535 000; Mandurah, \$1.1 million; Maylands, \$343 000; Midland, \$810 000; Mirrabooka, \$832 000; Rockingham, \$483 000; Thornlie, \$380 000; Victoria Park, \$70 000; Warnbro, \$115 000; West Swan, \$463 000; and Willagee, \$235 000.

That is absolutely disgraceful. The government is saying that that is not pork-barrelling and that everyone—all Western Australians—is entitled to this grants program, and it is a grants program. But unless they live in a marginal or safe Labor seat, the likelihood of getting any of it is absolutely zero. The average for a Liberal–National seat was \$84 833. The average for a marginal Labor seat was \$540 636, and the average for a Labor seat was \$454 189. Those are the facts, and that is why we need to have an investigation into this, and why the opposition has moved the motion that will be dealt with in due course. At the moment, though, we are talking about whether we are going to congratulate the government, and of course we are not going to congratulate the government when it evidently has a pork-barrelling program. As I said, the criteria for the program are that people live in a marginal or safe Labor seat.

This is now \$39 million—not \$22.6 million—that the government can spend on pork-barrelling, yet it cannot afford \$370 000 to keep Moora Residential College open. That is disgraceful. If the government cannot afford it, it cannot spend it. That is what the Labor Party kept on telling us: “It’s not a revenue problem, it’s a spending problem.” We kept on hearing that all the time. “It’s not a GST problem, it’s a spending problem.” It is spending money and it cannot afford it; that is evident. It gets even worse, in the response to a question that was asked yesterday.

Let us have a look at some of these programs. The government exposes itself so much. These programs have no integrity. According to Mr Langoulant, we do not need business cases for amounts less than \$1 million, so that is what the government did: “We’ll have all these programs that fall below the threshold level and then there’s no scrutiny.” We also have a thing called the Parliament, which is the ultimate arbiter of that spending. That is why we will look at the possibility of looking further into this over the next few months.

Let us have a look at the identification of some of these programs. I am not saying that they are not necessarily valid. As I keep on saying, they may be valid, but there is absolutely no financial integrity behind these programs. I would love to know the criteria that were used. What happened in the Labor Party to determine whether the Five Mile Camp upgrades were worth \$55 000? They might have been, but we have no idea—absolutely no idea. What about the Access Geraldton upgrade, for \$25 000? It might be worth it; I do not know. I absolutely do not know. The Albany P&C upgrades were \$30 000. The Arbor Grove Primary School equipment was \$20 000. Armadale Park fencing, \$40 000—my God, it must be electrified. The Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia got

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\$25 000. That is a very worthy society, I am sure, but where is the integrity behind that? Are there other groups in the community that perhaps do not live in a Labor seat? I am sure there are. I have no doubt that there are. The Australind senior citizens upgrades were \$15 000. There are no problems with that if there is some integrity behind the financing, because it is a grant and any grant should go through due financial diligence.

Hon Stephen Dawson: And get acquitted.

Hon PETER COLLIER: There is no evidence of that whatsoever. We certainly have not been provided with any by the member opposite. Balgo Art Centre equipment, \$20 000 —

Hon Stephen Dawson interjected.

Hon PETER COLLIER: The member should wait until I have finished. Yesterday's question response was disgraceful.

The Bassendean Junior Football Club's new equipment was \$15 000. What about the one that went to the Melville athletics clubs? There are four or five clubs that belong to the association, but only three of them got any money for the association because they happen to be in the Bicton electorate; those in Melville did not get any. That is just ridiculous. That is my whole point. The government wants to pat itself on the back about this. If it could have open and transparent integrity behind its financing, so be it, but it is simply not there.

There are hundreds of these things, but it is just so generalised. There is the Belmont Men's Shed, new tools—very worthwhile, I am sure—\$20 000; and the Chung Wah Balcatta facilities upgrades, \$25 000. These are just plucked out of the air. As I said, even if it were \$19 352, one would say, "Yes, there have been a few estimates and a bit of tendering", but there is none of that. There are dozens of these—family community centre, \$20 000; Falcon volunteer fire and rescue, \$30 000; and all the rest of it. Since we are basing our spending on politics rather than necessity or need, people had better hope that they do not live in any of those seats. Heaven help them if they live in a Liberal–National seat. They will have a bit of help if they live in a marginal Labor seat.

Several members interjected.

Hon PETER COLLIER: Members opposite can sit over there and mock all they like; that is exactly why they got smashed in Darling Range. There is absolutely no procurement or accountability whatsoever. Then there was this one; this one really got up my gander yesterday. I was so proud and privileged to be Minister for Education of this state for five years. It was wonderful; we made great progress in education and made WA the envy of the nation. Education has the second-largest budget in government and there is a building fund. Out of that fund comes admin blocks, facilities upgrades and new schools et cetera. When an admin upgrade is needed, we usually have to wait for three to five years. I am a chalkie; I have always said that. I have been a chalkie all my life and have lived and breathed education. I went out to schools and saw some of those admin blocks—horrible little rabbit warrens; just awful. I went down to Albany and had a look at Yakamia Primary School. Fortunately we were able to rebuild it, but a lot of admin blocks need upgrades and improvements, right across the board. There is a very forensic process for the determination of administration blocks: they wait in line until they have the money. I would love to go out and give to every school that I went to a new administration block, toilets or gymnasium. We have a great education system but a lot of our schools really are in desperate need of more money. It appears that there is no longer integrity around the determination of those facilities—instead, a school has to be in a marginal Labor seat.

I actually saw this when I saw the Minister for Education and Training's tweet when she was invited by the local member to have look at the new upgrades at Halidon Primary School. I was asking, "How does that happen? The minister invites everyone else." The minister might be invited by the local member to go for a visit, but to go and look at an upgrade opening, the minister and the department organises it through the school and they invite local members. I do not get invited anymore; I used to always invite my counterparts in the upper house when I was minister. I do not get invited to anything anymore—not a thing. Yes—laugh; I do not care. That is the way it is. That is how this government operates—that is fine—but having said that, I thought it was really weird when the local member invited the minister. Hon Michael Mischin and Hon Tjorn Sibma picked up on it as well, because we do not get invited to anything in the North Metropolitan Region. We will look at this.

Yesterday, Hon Michael Mischin asked a question on the upgrades to the administration building at Halidon Primary School, a really good school in the seat of Kingsley. He asked —

- (1) When was this project first scheduled by the Department of Education?
- (2) When did work commence and when was it completed?
- (3) How much did the upgrade cost and what did it involve?
- (4) How much of the cost of the project was promised under Local Projects, Local Jobs and when was that commitment made and by whom to whom?

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- (5) Did the Local Projects, Local Jobs money come from the Department of Education; and, if so, what capital or other expenditure commitments were deferred or reprioritised in order that the department could pay it?

That is in regard to the upgraded administration building at Halidon Primary School. The response from the Minister for Education and Training was very evasive, I have to say. She replied —

- (1)–(4) The project commenced in December 2017 and was completed in January 2018. The total cost of the project was \$172 000, of which the school contributed \$22 000. The project comprised a redevelopment of the current administration. Funding was provided through the Local Projects, Local Jobs election initiative.
- (5) The department was allocated additional appropriation for Local Projects, Local Jobs. No projects were deferred.

This is a very serious situation in which the department has its own building and maintenance budget that is ruthlessly, meticulously scrutinised and applied without any fear or favour. I would never in a million years have sought influence on that budget and I could not; it would be totally inappropriate. The school understands the merits of a particular project. We are now in a situation in which the Local Projects, Local Jobs program has favour over the normal processes of the building and maintenance program of the Department of Education. It has. The minister has said it in a response, but she has not said whether it was committed to during the campaign. I am very familiar with that seat, because I chaired the campaign of former member Andrea Mitchell. We are still trying to ascertain how that information was provided to the electorate—to the public. That is why we asked. It was ignored. We asked when it was decided, and the minister completely ignored that part of the question. That is why we need to look at this thing.

The more important thing is that we now have a situation in which there are favourites in the education budget. There are plenty of run-down schools. Members should look at Mosman Park Primary School and its administration block. I desperately wanted to have it upgraded—it was in the former Premier's electorate—but did I interfere? Not on your life. It would have been completely inappropriate for me to interfere in Mosman Park Primary School. Having said that, the school is in desperate need of an upgrade. I could quite easily have said, "It is an election commitment." Nudge, nudge; wink, wink: "Let's do it." That is basically what we have here. If a school is in one of those Labor seats or marginal Labor seats, all it has to do is attach itself to the Local Projects, Local Jobs program bandwagon, and it will get the funding. The program had \$22 million before the election. All of a sudden it has gone to \$39 million. Why has it gone to \$39 million? The government told the Western Australian public that we are in a financially parlous state. It comes into office and tries to wreak havoc on the gold industry and close Moora Residential College and the farm school et cetera, and it has the audacity to say that it is our fault. This thing reeks. The fund went from \$22 million to \$39 million and it is starting to fund education facilities out of an alien fund that is excess to the budget of the education department. That is absolutely appalling.

Hon Stephen Dawson: Are you saying the schools should not get that money?

Hon PETER COLLIER: I am saying it should go down the same path of scrutiny as every single other school, minister. Why on earth should that school get it, and be moved to the front of the queue, as opposed to hundreds of other schools that require it? There is a process in the department. As I said, I met with the department every week. I would go to various schools. I am telling members these stories now. I visited over 600 schools when I was minister. Invariably, I would come back and say, "The toilets at such-and-such are appalling; they are just so bad." The department would come back to say, "Yes, minister; it's on the list, but it's probably not until 2019." I would write the school a letter apologising and saying that the department had advised me that more than likely it would not be done until 2019. The school would be disappointed, but at least there was some integrity. If I had moved it, there would be no integrity in government. My point is that it is all well and good, and I have absolutely no problems at all with Halidon Primary School getting that upgrade. I have problems with the way in which it was achieved; I really do—and we want to congratulate the government on this program!

We have been told over and over again about the Langoulant report—the bible for procurement, integrity and transparency. I went through a number of the findings of this report, and I have to say that they were very wanting. I have no problems with the actual report itself, and I know John Langoulant; he is a fine man. He has made some very good recommendations here, but a couple of them were obviously political. I refer to my contribution to the budget-in-reply. Why on earth he would look into the \$2 million electricity poles at Woodlands is beyond me. There was absolutely nothing sinister about it whatsoever. Having said that, this is a very good report and government members keep on holding it up saying, "This is what we've got to do." Let us see whether the government meets its own test in this regard. Openness and transparency is valid. Its recommendations state —

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- introduce a Parliamentary Budget Office to cost election commitments and review major project business cases;

There has been absolutely no movement nor even any interest in that from the government to this point. None whatsoever. The report continues —

- provide information about major projects in an accessible and transparent way to the public;

Apparently that does not matter to members opposite, because anything below \$1 million falls out of that gamut. That is shocking. It is okay to have a level of transparency above \$1 million, but below is not captured in the recommendations from Langoulant, so the government is avoiding it. The report continues —

- simplify and strengthen procurement practices;

We do not know, because there is absolutely no transparency behind this program whatsoever. The report continues —

- increase Government's oversight of contract development and contract management;

We have no idea; there is no transparency behind any of these programs. The report continues —

- improve transparency on the progress with major projects by requiring continuous disclosure;

We have absolutely no idea; we do not know. We did not know anything about Halidon Primary School until we saw a tweet from the minister that she had been invited.

The local member obviously has complete disregard for propriety. I mean this—I am not being self-righteous here, but I always invited upper house members, no matter where the event was, and I always gave due acknowledgement. Every single time we had an opening, or anything like that, I would always invite the upper house members—and, of course, the lower house member, obviously—respectful of the role that upper house members play. I just wish members opposite would grant us the same respect.

Setting and achieving financial targets—absolutely no idea. Applying risk management principles and actions in major projects and public works procurement—I guess they get around that one again, because it is below \$1 million. My point is that it is the height of hypocrisy for the government to come in here and espouse the virtues of the Langoulant review when it is not prepared to adhere to the principles that he has recommended.

My point with this program is: I have no problems with any of the projects, and the Liberal Party is not arguing against any of the projects; however, we do argue against the integrity of the figures. There is absolutely nothing to suggest the validity of those figures—nothing whatsoever. With regard to the program itself, it has created an us-and-them mentality in the community. The example I mentioned earlier of the Melville Athletics Club is a perfect example. It is an association in which several of the clubs are alienated because they are not in the same electorate as the other clubs in the same association. It is just ludicrous. Dozens of these kids who happen to live in the Bicton electorate are running around with new uniforms and the ones who go somewhere else do not have them. Surely, the government can see that that is wrong and morally reprehensible. That is exactly why the government needs to look at this program. Rather than backslapping and carrying on, understand that there are problems with the integrity of the program.

Finally, once again, it is with regard to this notion from members opposite that they have the high moral ground from a financial perspective. They throw stones at us all the time about financial mismanagement and budget repair—the clichés that just roll off the tongue—yet at the same time they came to government with a program that they promised was worth \$22 million—thus far they have spent \$39 million—and they have made no inroads into debt reduction whatsoever; none at all. They stand up, day after day, and bang on about financial mismanagement. Government members can keep on doing that—that is fine—but it is an opportunity missed, quite frankly, because we only go around once, and we can treat life as a series of events or a series of opportunities. The government has an opportunity right now and it is wasting it, because it is so focused and fixated on us that it is not worried about governing.

On the financial component, please do not come into this chamber ever again and ask for our support for a program that costs money that the government has absolutely no authority for from the public, and expect us to support it. The government has not gone to the public with this and said, “Yes, this is what we promised.” Do not expect our support. Do not come into the chamber and throw these things at us and say, “It’s an election commitment. That’s why we are introducing it.” Do not do it, because we will not support it. Do not come in with any more gold taxes or any increases or changes to regulations without the authority of the public, which government members have been banging on about since 11 March. When the government wants to go for the low-hanging fruit, for the \$370 000 for Moora Residential College or Landsdale Farm School, of course we are going to have a go at it, and then do not have the audacity to say that we are the problem, when the government has a program that it holds up as a badge of honour and says, “We are implementing our policies.” That is fine as long as government members

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acknowledge that they are doing it at the expense of others. Why on earth should a child, one of only 25 children at Moora Residential College, be any less significant than a child from the Bicton athletic club? He should not and he should not feel that way, but he does. He does because you guys keep on banging on about it. The government is holding this program up. Government members go out with their big cheques, handing them over for political purposes, but there is a human element here, guys. Every single child in this state is significant; there is no one child who is more significant than any other. The government does not have the authority nor the financial capacity to go out and pick and choose. Unfortunately, that is what the government is doing; it is cherrypicking. Do members know where all the cherries are? They are in marginal or safe Labor seats. You guys should be governing for all Western Australians, not just for those in marginal Labor seats. This is pork-barrelling at its worst. This program may have some merit, but in its current form and structure it does not. For that reason, the Liberal Party will emphatically and unambiguously oppose this motion.

HON PIERRE YANG (South Metropolitan) [2.35 pm]: I will make a contribution to the debate on this motion. I would like to start by referring to the Labor Party constitution. One of our core values as a party is that we value our communities and our families. We acknowledge that our families are the bedrock of our communities, which we need to nurture, protect and support. We recognise the role of community in government decisions and the community's right to be heard. Labor is the party for everyday people. Labor never forgets its origins; it is the party of the working people, it is the party of the community. We do not represent the big end of town; we represent the interests of our community. Hence, it is entirely consistent with our values that we will talk to our community groups to find out what they need, and we will try to help them with their needs.

Madam Acting President, these community needs became our election promises while we were in opposition. Since being elected, we are honouring these funding commitments. Let us be very, very clear, the Local Projects, Local Jobs program is the one-off allocation of funding for those election commitments. The opposition can spin it any other way, but it is our election commitments and we are honouring them. The Local Projects, Local Jobs program has helped many underfunded and unsupported community organisations. Many community groups, such as school P&Cs and local sports clubs, were forgotten by the previous government. We have not forgotten them because it is in our DNA that we talk to our community and our people—the good people of Western Australia. As Hon Darren West said, we took the commitments to the last election and people gave us a yes vote.

Many community groups provide very important services to our community in their own ways, be it school P&Cs, sporting clubs, Rotary clubs or many other groups. I heard the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Peter Collier, mention the Chung Wah Association. I would like to thank the member for Balcatta for supporting the Chung Wah Association in Balcatta. There is nothing wrong with supporting our community groups. I would like to thank Labor members and candidates who made the funding commitments during the last election.

The Local Projects, Local Jobs program has been used to support our community. I disagree with anyone who suggests that these groups do not deserve the funding they were given. I have to say that when I heard the term “Local Projects, Local Jobs” during my time as a candidate, I was thrilled. I was very happy to hear that the Labor Party was going to the community to talk to people and find out what they needed. I thought it was a great idea. As it turned out, this idea of Local Projects, Local Jobs was not only very helpful to our community, it was very well received. The community groups that have received the funding and support are very happy that their initiatives, their projects and their grassroots ideas have been supported and can be implemented with the support from Local Projects, Local Jobs. I hasten to add that Local Projects, Local Jobs is not restricted to Labor-held seats. Yes, three other Liberal-held seats are being supported—Dawesville —

Hon Peter Collier interjected.

Hon PIERRE YANG: The honourable Leader of the Opposition can shake his head.

The seats of Dawesville, Kalgoorlie and Geraldton have all received funding through Local Projects, Local Jobs. How could we say that the seat of Jandakot, with a huge margin prior to the last election, was a Labor marginal seat? I categorically reject that notion. It is now a Labor-held seat for sure, but no-one could say that it was a marginal Labor seat. The same goes for Bicton, with a margin of 10 per cent. How could anyone say that was a Labor marginal seat prior to the last election? What about Southern River?

Hon Michael Mischin: What is it now? Is it a Labor seat?

Hon PIERRE YANG: It is a Labor-held seat, as I just said.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Order, members! Hon Pierre Yang has the call.

Hon PIERRE YANG: Thank you, Madam Acting President, for your protection.

Hon Stephen Dawson: From your own side!

Hon Michael Mischin: Before you say anything that is too incriminating for your side.

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Hon PIERRE YANG: I was actually referring to Hon Michael Mischin.

I want to be very clear: Local Projects, Local Jobs is a collection of the Labor Party's election commitments to our community, the community of Western Australia, and we do not break our election commitments; we do not do that. The Labor Party has a tradition of honouring our election commitments. Our MPs and candidates prior to the last election went to our communities and community groups, spoke to them and found out and identified their needs and projects. We made their needs our election commitments. We took them to the election, we won the election and we are delivering on what we promised.

Let us look at the process. Funding approval for Local Projects, Local Jobs is a decision of the Expenditure Review Committee. Each commitment is administered by the individual agency or department that has the jurisdiction using their existing standards and processes. The delivery of the funding is monitored by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. That includes the acquittal information process when the project is complete.

Before anyone accuses Local Projects, Local Jobs of being anything but our election promises and commitments, let us look at how the previous government managed its finances. Page 46 of the Langoulant report states —

... Cabinet Submissions were not supported by consistently high standards of financial information ...

This reflected a disregard for proper process by both Ministers and public officers. The Special Inquirer saw a breakdown in or lack of understanding of correct process most starkly illustrated by countless instances of poor consultation across agencies in preparing Cabinet Submissions and most notably the deliberate exclusion of Treasury in its role of overseeing the budget aggregates.

Page 47 reported that numerous cabinet submissions were not properly assessed by Treasury and some were not assessed at all. This was of most concern for those submissions with large financial implications.

We as a government are different from the last government. Agencies and departments are using existing processes to ensure that proper standards are applied to the distribution of funds under the banner of Local Projects, Local Jobs. As we know, the Premier's office has had responsibility for oversight of Local Projects, Local Jobs since May 2018. In fact, according to the Treasury strategic asset management framework, a business case is needed for all investment proposals with total capital funding of \$1 million or more. None of these election commitments came anywhere near \$1 million. In fact, the overwhelming majority of them were in the range of thousands and tens of thousands of dollars, relatively small amounts compared with the overall budget of the state, but they are making an important positive impact on our local community organisations and the people in those associations who are involved in those projects. A lot of them are volunteers who are involved in community groups. They are making a positive contribution to the state and the state can help them by giving them some support to help with their service to our community. I have to say that Local Projects, Local Jobs has made a heck of a difference to our community.

Let us not forget that political parties make election commitments. Election commitments are made by both parties. I would like to refer to the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party in the other place, Hon Liza Harvey. Back in 2008 when she was an opposition candidate, she advocated for a new undercover bowling green for the Innaloo Sportsmen's Club. I quote the *Hansard* of what she said in the other place on 29 November 2011 —

I will highlight some of my other election commitments. In 2008, the Innaloo Sportsmen's Club had been fighting for a number of years to get the very first undercover bowling green in the state ... It was with great pleasure that I took that to the Liberal team during the election campaign and managed to secure funding for an undercover bowling green.

I would like to say good on Hon Liza Harvey for advocating for her community group. The commitments that we made to the community and community groups are no different to what she did.

Local Projects, Local Jobs is a good initiative, because it is consistent with our Labor values of supporting our community. We are proud of the fact that our MPs —

Hon Martin Aldridge interjected.

Hon PIERRE YANG: I am sorry, does the member have something to say?

Hon Martin Aldridge: I said supporting some communities, not all.

Hon PIERRE YANG: Thank you, member.

I will continue. We are proud of the fact that our MPs and candidates went to the community, spoke to the community and found out what it needed. We are proud of the fact that Local Projects, Local Jobs has been delivering for our community and community groups. We are proud of the fact that we made election commitments and delivered on them. We are proud of Local Projects, Local Jobs.

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HON ROBIN SCOTT (Mining and Pastoral) [2.50 pm]: Local Projects, Local Jobs—what a brilliant idea. At last there is a chance for Western Australian youth to get to the starting line and perhaps pick up an apprenticeship, a traineeship, or even upskill. Again, my enthusiasm was dashed against the rocks of disappointment. Once again, the rollercoaster ride from the Labor Party has reached a dip, and this time the rollercoaster car is stuck in the dip, its wheels have fallen off and it is covered in spider webs. When I looked into this latest project, it was not long before I saw through the scheme and realised it was a slush fund. Listening to Hon Darren West nearly changed my mind because his enthusiasm for the project was really terrific. I suddenly also realised why the Mining and Pastoral Region got very little funding. By the sounds of it, most of the money went to Geraldton. It would be nice if some of that money had been spent in my electorate. Labor metropolitan strongholds got the biggest share of the \$39 million. Out of the \$39 million, \$9 360 000, or 24 per cent of the funds, was spent in regional Western Australia and \$29 640 000 was spent in metropolitan Perth. If I could put it another way, the \$9 360 000 was spent in an area bigger than 2.5 million square kilometres, whereas —

Hon Alannah MacTiernan interjected.

Hon ROBIN SCOTT: Thank you, minister.

The \$29 640 000 was spent in an area of 5 500 square kilometres, so there is a huge difference. I will give members an example of where some of the money was spent in metropolitan Perth. The Australian Arab Association was granted \$100 000 for the Thornlie pop-up cafe food van. Thornlie, of course, is a Labor stronghold. The project focuses on training local youth in hospitality, small business and customer service with the opportunity to engage with the community and develop a sense of belonging. As far as I am aware, hospitality is a TAFE course. Students attend TAFE, and at the end of the course they are given a certificate. Perhaps the operator of the pop-up cafe can write on one of his serviettes that a student has done their course with his company, and that might suffice. The same applies to small business; it is also a TAFE course. I would assume that customer service training would be covered by asking the customers, “Would you like sauce with your pie?” My first question is: how often does it pop up? Does the van have to show receipts or invoices for the money that it has been given? No, it does not. All it has to do is notify the local media, newspapers and radio stations and of course do a photo shoot with the local member with an oversized cheque. I have many pop-up cafe vans in my electorate. One of the more famous ones is The Dog Father. It is famous for the Karratha meatball hotdog, which I would recommend to anybody who gets to Karratha. Its business started with no help from the government. If anyone suggested to the people in Karratha that the government would spend \$100 000 of public funds on a pop-up cafe, they would roll around on the ground laughing, yet Labor has done that.

The former member for Darling Range rewarded Roleystone Theatre company with \$12 600 for equipment. Let us hope that it got its share of the slush fund before the last by-election.

This government is going to supply a surplus of baristas, not tradespeople, engineers or professionals who could assist with the skill shortages in the resources sector and in the oil and gas industries. Both these industries need people all the time who are trained in high-end jobs including the inspection, maintenance and refurbishment of equipment. But no; \$39 million will teach people how to pour coffee, make beds and dream about being in business. It is obvious that it is more important to be able to get a good cup of coffee than train the future workforce for tomorrow. I would have liked to have been given the \$39 million and, in return, four years from now, I would have given the government more than 1 000 fully trained Western Australian tradespeople, trained in every aspect of their chosen trade. The benefits would be tenfold. These people would be employed for life and able to support themselves and their families. They would not be adding to the dole queues. They would not be going on the waiting list for government housing—provided, of course, the government does not shut down industries and mining companies in its quest to repair the deficit.

I have some examples of the grants. The Filipino Australia Club of Perth was awarded \$20 000 for facility upgrades. My daughter-in-law is from the Philippines. Ruby came here as a young girl and she met my son, Tristan, on a mine site. They now have three children. I am very proud of my grandchildren. Ruby maintained her relationship with Filipinos through the club and I can assure members that if it needed \$20 000, it would have had a karaoke night, a barbecue or a quiz night and would have raised the \$20 000. It does not need a handout from the government. The WA Italian Club received \$20 000. My fiancée is half Italian; her father is Italian and her mother is English. I have been to many Italian functions. The last one I went to was in one of the top hotels in Perth for the annual Italian ball. It was like being at the Oscars. I have never seen so many diamonds, jewels, gold bands and rings. That \$20 000 could have been raised by just the loose change in their back pockets.

Hon Sue Ellery: Did you ask them about it?

Hon ROBIN SCOTT: I can assure the minister that there is no need to give the Italian club \$20 000 —

Hon Sue Ellery: But have you asked the Italian club about it?

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Hon ROBIN SCOTT: I have asked the Italian people whom I know and they just laughed about it. The Perth Hindu Temple got \$100 000 to upgrade its food hall —

Hon Sue Ellery: Have you spoken to them about it?

Hon ROBIN SCOTT: No; did it not get the \$100 000?

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon Adele Farina): Order, members! Only one member has the call, and that is Hon Robin Scott.

Hon ROBIN SCOTT: The Rotary food van in Mundaring was given \$30 000.

Hon Sue Ellery: Have you spoken to them about it?

Hon ROBIN SCOTT: No, I have not. The Macedonian Cultural Centre, which I have not spoken to, got \$25 000 for an upgrade. This is the one I like best of all, which is for shades and sails. Balingup Primary School was given \$7 000 for a shade shelter. The children's playground in Leonora was given \$25 000 for shade sails. Moving back to the metropolitan area, Beaumaris Primary School was given \$40 000 for its shade project. Bibra Lake Primary School was allocated \$50 000 for its playground shade. The best one of all was, of course, Harrisdale Primary School, which was given \$224 300 for its shade sails.

Some of the other talking points include Roebourne Art Group. It was given \$20 000 —

Hon Michael Mischin interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Order, members! Only one member has the call, and that is Hon Robin Scott. That is the only voice I want to hear in the chamber.

Hon ROBIN SCOTT: Thank you, Madam Acting President. I tried to contact Roebourne Art Group to find out what it was doing with the \$20 000 for upgrades to resources, but according to Google the organisation has been permanently closed for some time.

Hon Stephen Dawson: That's not true.

Hon ROBIN SCOTT: According to Google, it is.

Several members interjected.

Hon ROBIN SCOTT: Okay then. There were 28 entries from Pilbara sporting clubs and \$20 000 was committed for sporting equipment and uniforms for teams in Karratha, Dampier, South Hedland, Port Hedland and Newman. However, the total amount awarded to the 28 organisations in the region was \$54 000. I would like to find out exactly how much was awarded to those sporting groups.

A whole list of shady deals has been done in the Local Projects, Local Jobs scam. To me, is obvious that the McGowan Labor government knows full well it is a one-term government and it is desperately trying to buy the next lot of votes. Labor has proved in the last 18 months that it has no grasp of how to manage the state's finances, let alone fix our huge debt. Let us pray that over the next 30 months, a miracle will happen and the government starts to do what it promised to do and campaigned to do at the last election.

HON TJORN SIBMA (North Metropolitan) [2.59 pm]: Under no reasonable circumstances can any thinking person, any moral person or any person with any integrity whatsoever support such a nonsense motion as has been put by Hon Darren West. An obviously disingenuous argument has been run by the government through the mouths of Hon Darren West and Hon Pierre Yang in an attempt to muddy the waters. There is absolutely no issue. In fact, I have issued a statement to this effect. We do not begrudge any recipient of funds who was so lucky as to live in a Labor seat or a marginal seat won by the Labor government, but there is a very obvious point to be made: this largesse comes at an opportunity cost. There are groups that miss out. The starkest evidence of that is the bizarre situation that applies at the Melville Little Athletics club. Some children who live in the seat of Bicton on the western side of North Lake Road are running around in new uniforms, but their counterparts who might live in the seat of Bateman on what appears to be the wrong side of North Lake Road have to make do with equipment and uniforms not so recently acquired. If anything, the utter lunacy that applies at a children's athletics association should have made someone in government realise that they had perhaps got this a little wrong; that they had been perhaps a little too cynical or a little too clever, or had overreached just a little.

There is absolutely nothing in the motion as put that could compel any right-thinking person to consider this to be an initiative. This is base electoral pork-barrelling, which is as old as time itself. There is no initiative in this. This so-called initiative is of uncertain provenance, uncertain composition and uncertain structure. There are fundamental disagreements within executive government itself about whether this is a grants program. On 7 September last year, when my friend the Minister for Environment read in the Treasurer's speech, the Local Projects, Local Jobs initiative was categorised as a grants program. It was in the budget speech. It has been

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read into *Hansard*. The Premier has gone out and released press releases calling this a grants program. What is the story? Is it a grants program or is it not? Hon Darren West gave us two versions within his own speech. If he is not already confused himself, he certainly confused *Hansard* and he has confused the rest of us.

Hon Michael Mischin: He has always been confused.

Hon TJORN SIBMA: He has always been confused. The reason we are moving for a select committee inquiry into this program is that these are fundamental questions. With all the talking points that government members get from central Bolshevik command, they should all be speaking off the same script; I cannot understand why they diverge on a fundamental point.

There is another issue. An answer was provided to a question yesterday regarding the sequestering of funds outside the ordinary Department of Education consolidated account.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.