

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, 27 September 1990

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 2.30 pm, and read prayers.

## PETITION - DUCK SHOOTING

*Controlled Season Support*

The following petition bearing the signatures of 269 persons was presented by Hon Muriel Patterson -

To: The Honourable the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of W.A. in the Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned citizens of Western Australia support controlled duck seasons in accordance with scientific principle.

We object to further infringement upon our rights and reject a proposal to ban Duck hunting.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter your earnest consideration and your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See paper No 575.]

## MOTION - BELL GROUP SHARES

*National Companies and Securities Commission Inquiry - Documents Tabling*

In accordance with the motion passed by the Legislative Council on Tuesday, 25 September, the Minister for Planning tabled certain documents.

[See papers Nos 576 and 580.]

## APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) BILL

*Consideration of Tabled Paper*

HON KAY HALLAHAN (East Metropolitan - Minister for Planning) [2.32 pm]: I move, without notice -

That pursuant to Standing Order No 137(c), the Council take note of tabled paper No 574 (Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure and related papers), laid upon the Table of the House on 27 September 1990.

This motion enables the Legislative Council to examine and debate the Budget papers associated with the appropriation Bills which are now before the Legislative Assembly.

In her Budget speech, the Premier and Treasurer outlined the economic and financial context which shaped the Government's Budget strategy. A copy of that speech is included in the Budget papers which have now been distributed to members.

The difficult economic conditions against which the Budget was framed have meant that a resultant decline in the State's revenue base has added to our budgetary problem in coping with compounding real cuts in Commonwealth funding. In determining our Budget strategy, we were faced with the clear choice of increasing taxes across the board or of reining back on public sector spending. In the current difficult economic circumstances, the Government has chosen the latter and more responsible course.

Rather than savagely increasing the burden of government on the business sector and thereby on job opportunities, this Budget reduces recurrent Government spending in real terms while maintaining all essential services for families and the community generally. It honours our undertaking to reduce the impact of government on the economy by holding expenditure and taxation revenue to increases well below the projected growth in gross State product.

Once again the Budget is balanced. The Government believes that balancing the State's recurrent Budget is of great importance in preserving the State's financial stability and credit standing. To achieve that result, we could have taken the easy option and boosted revenue

by increasing a wide range of taxes. However, unlike most other States, we have not followed that expedient course because of its inevitable adverse impact on growth in our economy and on the financial position of many Western Australian businesses.

Instead, we have given priority to substantially reducing Government expenditure before any consideration of possible revenue raising options. The key objective is to stimulate jobs in the private sector so that families can look to the future with confidence and with a sense of security.

Following a comprehensive review of all Government programs and activities, recurrent expenditure will be held to a modest nominal increase of just 4.8 per cent in 1990-91 - a real reduction of 2.5 per cent or five per cent in real per capita terms. Revenue will also increase by a nominal 4.8 per cent so that, for the eighth consecutive year, we can aim for a balanced result.

It is indicative of the adverse impact of the economic downturn that collections from stamp duties, our second largest tax, are expected to decline by \$38 million or around 15 per cent in real terms in 1990-91. This follows an even larger fall in 1989-90. Accordingly, and despite an unprecedented containment of Government expenditure, it was still not possible to achieve a balanced result in the total absence of revenue raising initiatives.

To meet our budgetary objective, the financial institutions duty is to be increased from the current rate of 3.5¢ per \$100 to 6¢ per \$100. There will be an associated increase in the maximum tax payable on a single deposit from \$500 to \$1 200. Due to the broad based nature of the tax, the increase will not impact heavily on individuals and will be shared evenly across the community. For an average PAYE wage earner depositing, say, \$20 000 per annum, the annual cost will increase by \$5, from \$7 to \$12. The increases are to apply from 1 November 1990 and are estimated to raise additional revenue of \$27 million in 1990-91 and \$46 million in a full year.

In marked contrast to the position in almost all other States, this is the only taxation increase contained in this Budget. We have not increased payroll tax, stamp duties, fuel levies, or any other consumer or business taxes. The sole exception is the financial institutions duty and that will increase only to the level adopted in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania and well below the 10¢ per \$100 recently adopted in South Australia.

To provide a measure of assistance to business, especially small business, the threshold levels at which the various payroll tax rates apply will be increased broadly in line with inflation. The minimum exemption threshold will be lifted by \$20 000 to \$320 000. This initiative, which will apply from 1 January 1991, will benefit more than 85 per cent of employers liable for payroll tax at an estimated cost of \$3 million in 1990-91 and \$7 million in a full year.

Planned amendments to the Payroll Tax Assessment Act will also provide an exemption for wages paid to apprentices and trainees employed under approved group training schemes. Currently payroll tax paid on these wages is returned to the taxpayer in the form of a rebate. Although there will be no net cost to revenue, this move will assist small businesses by reducing compliance and financing costs at a time when many are experiencing financial difficulties.

Following the Government's announcement last year of a major review of stamp duties, the working group established to conduct the study has now completed a preliminary examination of the submissions that have been received from the private sector. Meetings with interested parties are planned and it is expected that recommendations will be made to the Government early in 1991. The review is intended to be revenue neutral with its primary focus on improving equity, minimising any adverse effects of stamp duty on economic development, reducing compliance costs for taxpayers and streamlining the administration of the Stamp Act.

Work is also proceeding on legislation to provide additional stamp duty concessions to encourage the creation of a secondary mortgage market in Western Australia. A plan to provide the stamp duty concessions and make associated amendments to the Trustees Act has now been drawn up and will be circulated shortly to industry for comment.

As part of a proposed major overhaul of Federal-State financial relations, the Commonwealth's debits tax is to be transferred to the States from 1 December 1990. There

will be no net revenue benefit to the States as the Commonwealth will reduce its general revenue grants commensurately.

Total revenue from all sources in 1990-91 is expected to increase by \$233.9 million or 4.8 per cent to \$5 072.5 million. The revenue estimate takes into account increases in departmental fees and charges following the normal annual review.

Faced with a real decline of 2.5 per cent in our recurrent revenues it follows that this Budget must be one of disciplined expenditure restraint. The Government has therefore undertaken a searching review of priorities in determining its expenditure programs. As part of the process all existing activities have been analysed to identify where savings can be made in the delivery of services. As a parallel exercise we have also looked closely at the components of departmental spending to achieve economies wherever possible. As one example, the present motor vehicle replacement policy is to be changed. Instead of generally replacing their six or eight cylinder vehicles after two years or 40 000 kilometres, agencies will now change them after three years or 60 000 kilometres. The Government is also reviewing the size of its vehicle fleet with a view to reducing it substantially.

Expenditure on computing will be restricted to items of the highest priority and essential to ongoing departmental operations. In addition, outlays on advertising, consultancies, travel and equipment purchases have generally been reduced and all other discretionary expenditures held to an absolute minimum.

The savings yielded from these reviews, together with the austerity measures announced last February, have enabled the Government to contain recurrent expenditure to \$5 072.5 million, an increase of \$234.2 million or just 4.8 per cent.

Clearly, many departments and agencies will be required to operate with significant real reductions in their Budget allocations. But we have not randomly imposed cutbacks or reduced expenditures on an arbitrary across-the-board basis. Instead, we have set priorities and allocated resources accordingly.

I now turn in more detail to the Government's expenditure initiatives.

The Budget review identified a number of areas, especially activities broadly defined as corporate services or central administration, where staff could be more productively employed either more directly in the delivery of their agencies' services or elsewhere in the public sector. Accordingly, and following an analysis of projected vacancies, all departments and agencies have now been assigned appropriate end of year staffing targets. These targets will be met without forced retrenchments. The processes of natural attrition and voluntary retirement should enable most agencies to meet their objectives and will enable the remainder to make substantial progress towards their target. Redeployment of staff will, however, be necessary in some areas and the present controls on the advertising and filling of vacant positions will continue to apply pending the placement of redeployees.

In total, the Consolidated Revenue Fund Budget provides for 82 469 full-time equivalent staffing positions, a net reduction of 736 when compared to the approved staffing level at 30 June 1990. A total of 842 additional full-time equivalent positions have been approved to meet unavoidable new commitments and growth, particularly in respect of teachers and police. However, this increase has been more than offset by planned reductions of 1 578 following an assessment of existing and proposed vacancies and functional priorities. Rationalisation of staffing is to be accompanied by restructuring and organisational change to ensure a minimum impact on essential public service.

In addition, we will continue our policy of reducing the number of departments and Government agencies where this leads to improved and less costly provision of services. The decision to absorb the operation of the Department of Computing and Information Technology into the Department of State Services was a recent example.

Recognising the importance of development within the State's overall economy, it is now intended to amalgamate into a single Department of State Development the operations of the Ministry of Economic Development, the Departments of Resources Development, Trade, and Regional Development, together with the Small Business Development Corporation. This amalgamation will provide an integrated thrust to economic development and reflects the very high priority attached to this area. One of the tasks of this new department, which is scheduled for implementation by 1 January 1991, will be the establishment of a long term

plan for the development of the State. This plan will provide the basis of regional plans and provide a vital and consistent focus for the development of the State for the benefit of all Western Australians.

The Public Service Commission is also to be restructured. Apart from the shedding of some functions to other agencies, the reorganisation will mean that the Office of Public Sector Management and the Directorate of Equal Opportunity in Public Employment will now form part of the commission, along with the career development and redeployment program which is currently part of the Department of Employment and Training. In addition, the Youth Affairs Bureau will be incorporated into the Office of the Family and the Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission will be located within the Ministry of Premier and Cabinet.

These restructurings are the first to follow from the budgetary review of Government functions and programs. More are likely over the course of 1990-91 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the public sector.

Every year the Budget is affected by the recommendations of the Commonwealth Grants Commission which have a significant impact on the level of Commonwealth funding. While we will not lower our standards in any area because of these findings, it is sobering that our expenditure on medical and health services has consistently been assessed by the commission as well above the standard of other States. Despite the reservations we have about the Grants Commission's medical and health services comparisons, the magnitude of our assessed overexpenditure cannot be lightly dismissed. In 1988-89 it stood at about \$70 million. Some significant economies have been achieved in these areas in recent years as part of an ongoing review process. However, the Grants Commission's findings suggest a searching assessment needs to be made to eliminate inefficiencies in the system and to contain expenditures which do not add directly to the quality of health care.

Against this background, the Budget allocation for the Health Department provides for gross expenditure of \$1 346.7 million, an increase of \$70.1 million or 5.5 per cent. On a net basis, the call on the Budget is \$1 171.5 million, representing an increase of 7.1 per cent.

Included in the health budget are -

- an extra \$5.1 million for the joint Commonwealth-State home and community care program lifting the provision to \$45.3 million;
- special funding of \$3.1 million to help reduce waiting lists, a 55 per cent increase in funding;
- an amount of \$1.6 million to expand metropolitan accident and emergency services; and
- a 33 per cent lift in funding to assist with the problems of youth suicide.

In addition, and subject to legislation being enacted, \$11.4 million has been provided under special Acts for the Health Promotion Foundation.

The Budget continues our policies of ensuring that the education system in Western Australia provides each school aged child with a quality education, relevant to changing social patterns and technological and labour market demands. To meet our strong commitment to education, an allocation of \$963.5 million is provided to the Ministry of Education, an increase of \$54.8 million or six per cent on expenditure last year. Teaching and support staff in schools will continue to be allocated in accordance with existing staffing formulae. An additional 386 teachers and 132 support staff will be appointed to schools at the commencement of the 1991 school year due to an increase in enrolments, new schools and extensions to existing schools.

Per capita grants to non-Government schools are projected to increase by 9.7 per cent to \$53.3 million and general purpose and development grants for Government primary and secondary schools will increase by 12 per cent to \$28.9 million.

In line with the results of the functional review of all public sector agencies, 230 teaching staff will be redeployed from head office to schools, and Public Service staffing levels in the ministry will be reduced by 130. There will be no forced retrenchments; the reduction will be achieved by redeployment to other public sector areas and through natural attrition.

Despite the need to contain expenditure, the Government will honour its pledge to help

families defray the cost of sending their children to school by continuing with the payment of the education allowance. However, in accordance with our policy of helping those in most need, the payment of the education allowance in 1991 will be restricted to families which meet the Commonwealth Government's eligibility criteria for receiving the family allowance payment.

Hon N.F. Moore: What a joke.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: Hon Norman Moore may be eligible or he may not be. Should he be eligible is the question.

This will mean that families with one child and assets - excluding the family home - of less than \$300 000, with a combined taxable income of less than \$62 057 will be eligible for the education allowance. The taxable income level of \$62 057 will increase by \$3 104 for each additional child. Eligible families will again receive \$50 for each child attending primary school and \$100 for each secondary school student. In all, nearly 80 per cent of Western Australian families will continue to receive the allowance.

The Western Australian Government places the highest priority on securing the welfare of the most needy in the community. Reflecting that priority, total funding for the Department for Community Services will increase by \$7.7 million, or 7.5 per cent, to \$111 million at a time when our revenues are to increase by less than five per cent. An amount of \$5.3 million has been allocated to help financially disadvantaged persons meet short term financial emergencies and to improve their ability to manage on a low income by increasing the affordability of essential goods and services.

In the area of juvenile justice, community based work programs are cost effective, acceptable to the courts, and have high completion rates. The Government will continue to provide programs to meet the needs of the community as a whole. Kids in Crime local offender projects which provide positive leisure, social skills development and education support to at-risk youth in high offending areas will continue to receive funding.

The Capital Works Program of State departments and authorities has a significant impact on economic activity and employment. The planned total works program in 1990-91 amounts to \$1 387.8 million compared with actual expenditure of \$1 442.9 million last year. Full details of the Capital Works Program are set out in the General Loan and Capital Works Fund Estimates and in the Supplement to the Capital Works Estimates. Features include -

- expenditure of \$631.2 million on essential water supply and power infrastructure to meet the requirements of a rapidly growing community and burgeoning demand for power;

- expenditure of \$115.2 million by Westrail, including \$72.7 million on rail electrification and the northern suburbs rapid transit system; and

- a \$191.8 million Homeswest program.

In addition, the Capital Works Program includes \$6.8 million for stage 1 of the East Perth project, the biggest urban renewal project ever undertaken in Western Australia. This is to revitalise a rundown part of the city by transforming surplus Government land into a vibrant residential and commercial district between central Perth and the Swan River. The project will be one of the first addressed by the Office of Land Services incorporating LandCorp, the Industrial Lands Development Authority, the Joondalup Development Corporation and parts of the lands operations division of the Department of Land Administration. The office will facilitate a more coordinated and integrated program of urban development and land supply.

Time does not permit me to outline all the expenditure initiatives included in the Budget, and Ministers will provide further information on them when the appropriations are being dealt with in Committee. However, some notable inclusions are -

- an allocation to the Police Department of \$242.3 million which includes provision for two intakes of 180 recruits, an overall increase of 168 officers. Underlining the Government's commitment to lift police strength, the police to population ratio in Western Australia is now the highest of any State. In 1983 it was the fourth lowest. Expenditure by the Police Department will be reduced this year as a result of the new vehicles replacement policy. This will not lead to a cut in police services. Excluding funding for motor vehicle replacement, outlays by the department will increase by \$17.5 million or 8.1 per cent;

provision of \$50 million in line with the Government's commitment to discharge its obligations to WA Government Holdings Ltd over five years;

funding of \$8.7 million for the Environmental Protection Authority, an increase of 9.6 per cent on actual expenditure last year;

an allocation of \$500 000 to establish an Albany Harbours Committee charged with the development of an integrated environmental management plan to reduce pollution;

recurrent outlays of \$898 000 for effluent management and rehabilitation of the Leschenault Peninsula. This is additional to estimated capital expenditure of \$5.1 million to meet the State's obligations to SCM Chemicals Pty Ltd in connection with effluent disposal and location of the chloride plant at Kemerton industrial estate;

payments of \$11.9 million to non-Government agencies to fund services to the intellectually disabled community of Western Australia;

recurrent and capital funding of \$6 million for infrastructure support at Jervoise Bay. The expenditure relates to the building of the modules for the Goodwyn A gas field development and has secured for Western Australia some \$80 million worth of fabrication and erection work on a project which will involve the latest technology in offshore module construction;

funding of \$11.9 million for the Aboriginal communities development program to fulfil the State's \$50 million funding obligation over the five years to 30 June 1991;

provision of \$561 000 for the establishment of the Goldfields-Esperance Development Authority;

an additional allocation of \$202 000, to increase from 11 to 14 the number of district mining engineers whose responsibilities include safety supervision. A major reason for the increase is the rapid growth in the number of goldmines over the last few years. In terms of value of production, gold is now our most valuable mineral ahead of alumina and iron ore, but some large deposits being mined by open-cut methods do not have long economic lives. During 1990-91, and in close liaison with the industry, we intend to examine initiatives to encourage new underground goldmining operations;

a further allocation of \$617 000 for the 1991 World Swimming Championships; and

funding for seven additional family centres which will become operational during the 1991 school year. Sixteen family centres are either completed or nearing completion, and the extra seven will significantly boost access to preschool activities for four year olds in both country and metropolitan areas.

In interpreting the expenditure allocations, I should mention that the Budget includes a global provision of \$50 million under the Miscellaneous Services Division of the Estimates to meet the expected cost of industrial award increases to be granted during the year. Funds will be allocated to agencies only where it can be demonstrated that they cannot absorb the cost of the award increases from within their total appropriation.

In accordance with the Government's commitment, the basic elements of program management have now been implemented, allowing the 1990-91 Consolidated Revenue Fund Budget to be presented in the program format. As this is the first year that the Budget has been presented in this format, direct comparisons with the expenditure categories shown in last year's estimates are not always possible. However, broad comparative information has been presented at the program level.

The objectives of individual programs are set out in the program statements Budget paper which is currently being printed and will be available shortly. Achievements are reported against those objectives, together with details of expenditures and staffing. While further work needs to be done in refining the format of the document, it will better inform the Parliament and the community about the operations and effectiveness of departments and statutory authorities. On this point, although total expenditure and staffing have been rigorously determined, flexibility is allowed to vary expenditures between programs should circumstances require such changes in accord with Government objectives. Indeed, this is an

integral part of program management which is not simply a matter of reporting but extends to the management processes necessary to achieve desired objectives. This requires that managers have the necessary flexibility to manage and the Government has implemented initiatives to provide this flexibility.

Apart from this significant advance in the presentation of Budget information to Parliament and the community, we have included for the first time in the Budget papers a summary statement which consolidates our recurrent and capital revenues and expenditures. Government finance statistics on a national accounting basis are also provided.

Once again in the current financial year, the Government is aiming for a balanced Budget with total outlays of \$5 072.5 million being matched by revenue of the same amount. Both outlays and revenue are expected to increase by a modest 4.8 per cent.

Total recurrent and capital payments from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and the General Loan and Capital Works Fund are projected to increase by just 3.7 per cent with the net financing requirement falling significantly by \$123.2 million to \$238.9 million. This pattern is also reflected in broader national accounting data which shows that the net financing requirement of the general government sector will fall by 27 per cent or \$93 million to \$254 million in 1990-91.

For the Western Australian public sector as a whole, which includes public trading enterprises such as the State Energy Commission of Western Australia, total debt as a proportion of gross State product continues to decline, falling from 29 per cent to 1986-87 to 24.1 per cent last year and a projected 23.1 per cent in 1990-91. Most of this debt is applied to commercial operations relating to the provision of the infrastructure vital for economic growth and employment generation. The fact that it is has been applied responsibly is borne out by the AAA rating of the State's domestic debt and the assignment of a AA rating to our recent medium term note facility in Europe, the highest rating currently assigned to any Australian State for overseas borrowings.

The strategies and initiatives announced in the Budget today by the Premier and Treasurer put this State on the right path for the 1990s and complement national economic policies vital for our long term prosperity. Most importantly, the Budget acknowledges the need for public sector frugality in these difficult economic times and is an important step in removing unnecessary public sector expenditure, thereby reducing the financial burden of Government both on business and on individual Western Australians. But, at the same time, it gives priority to the Government's two major objectives - to create the best environment for economic development or job creation, and to ensure that the quality of life for all Western Australian families is maintained.

I commend the motion to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon George Cash (Leader of the Opposition).

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

### *Appointments*

On motion without notice by Hon Kay Hallahan (Minister for Planning), resolved -

That the following additional members be appointed to serve on the Standing Committee - Hon Mark Nevill, Hon John Halden, Hon Tom Stephens, Hon Margaret McAleer, Hon N.F. Moore and Hon Barry House.

## SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from 26 September.

**HON MURRAY MONTGOMERY** (South West) [3.06 pm]: I emphasise the need to support regional development in this State, although the vehicle by which this can occur may be subject to debate. This Bill seeks to amend the South West Development Authority Act. It is essential to support regional development, and this Act established the first development authority in this State. Prior to that advisory committees were set up around the State to advise the Minister directly about how regional development should take place.

The National Party agrees with some parts of this Bill but not with others. We support that part which corrects the problems which have arisen about the membership of the board. Those problems relate to the way in which the board was set up, and they were brought to the notice of the people in the south west. It is no reflection on the members of the board who found that their appointments did not have the backing of legislation. Any legislation should be in response to what local people need and what they are asking for. The bureaucracy should not tell people what they need. If one listens to the talk around the State, one realises that people do not want Government interference. Many people treat the South West Development Authority as a joke. The authority has been responsible for some development in the area but people within local government circles do not speak out against it because they know that the bureaucracy will come down on them like a ton of bricks.

Hon Doug Wenn: Rubbish!

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: The member should listen to what people say. Many people have problems with the way the South West Development Authority and other authorities operate. If the member moved in the same circles as I -

Hon Doug Wenn: They are very small circles, and they will soon disappear.

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: The member can speak for himself; he will have that opportunity later.

Hon Doug Wenn: I will speak later.

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: And about ever-decreasing circles, I am sure.

I have taken only a brief glance at the Budget papers so I will be interested to see the Budget allocation for the SWDA. That authority has been fortunate over the last few years; funds have been scattered around the south west like confetti. The authority has usurped the role of Government departments and that is unfortunate because the departments view the authority as an octopus taking over their roles.

Hon Barry House: The SWDA allocation has increased from \$4 873 000 to \$5.5 million; so much for expenditure cuts.

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: That is more confetti to throw around. I will be interested to see whether those funds -

Hon B.L. Jones: An amount of \$1 million will go to the Bunbury harbour project.

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: That \$1 million should have gone to the Department of Marine and Harbours.

Hon Graham Edwards: Why?

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: Government departments should administer the funds allocated to areas under their control. The Department of Marine and Harbours should receive those funds.

Hon Graham Edwards: I am not having a go at the member. I am only asking. Surely the South West Development Authority would be able to capture the necessary expertise and receive local input.

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: The Department of Marine and Harbours has the necessary expertise. If that department received the funds, that would obviate the need for the authority to draw on expertise from that department.

Hon B.L. Jones: Those funds are allocated for re-planning and other areas; it is not applied only to marine and harbours.

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: The member will have her opportunity to speak. Hon Barry House, Hon Muriel Patterson and I met with local authorities last week. It was interesting to see the reaction of those people - and that included people who should have been aware of the effect of the legislation.

Hon Graham Edwards: Which local authorities did you meet with?

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: Those from Mandurah, Pinjarra, and Waroona. We contacted the Boddington Shire Council by fax; however, the Boddington representative could not attend.



Hon Barry House: That is more people than the Minister has seen.

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: Other local authorities were contacted as well. However, the areas I have named were the ones nominated to come under the advisory committee set-up proposed in the Bill. The reaction at the meeting was interesting, to say the least. One person said that he had heard of the suggestion that an advisory committee would be set up but that was as far as his knowledge went. The matter had not been discussed.

The local shire representatives we met were not aware of the provisions of the Bill. They were taken by surprise, even though the Bill has been around for three or four months. That is an incredible situation. I should think that the responsible Minister would have travelled around his electorate explaining what the legislation entailed - after all, he introduced the Bill in the other place. He should have made available all relevant papers. One shire representative told me yesterday that when the mail was opened the papers fell out - including the Bill - and the staff fell about laughing because they already knew about it.

Hon Doug Wenn: Don't talk rubbish! The member is getting worse!

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: If that is the way the member opposite wishes to treat local authorities, that is fine. If he does not wish to keep them informed, that is fine also.

Hon Bob Thomas: When was the Bill introduced in the other place?

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: May, this year.

Hon Bob Thomas: Does the member say that no consultation took place between the Government and those authorities until recently?

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: As Hon Barry House said yesterday, the response we had was that they were unaware of the content of the legislation.

Hon Bob Thomas: The information was put around during the last State election. Peter Murray from the Mandurah office of the SWDA consulted with those authorities extensively.

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: They indicated to us -

Hon Graham Edwards: The member is telling us. I do not know whether I can accept that.

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: The Minister should talk to them.

Hon Graham Edwards: I will find out.

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: We would like the Minister to inform the House what he finds out.

Hon Graham Edwards: My advice is that consultation has taken place on the content of the Bill. The member says that no consultation took place and that the authorities do not know what the legislation is about, yet he has read aloud a list of the problems people have with it.

Hon Barry House: They came back to us with their problems after we had explained the situation.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon J.M. Brown): Order! I think the member wishes to proceed with the debate.

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: Thank you, Mr Deputy President. Rural development should mean development in rural areas. This Government seems to have lost its way with regional development. It started by setting up development authorities and formalising regions so that development could take place. In the early 1970s advisory committees were set up as forerunners to development authorities. However, the Government has lost its way and Government departments are having their roles usurped or at least interfered with. I refer to bodies such as the Department for Sport and Recreation, the Tourism Commission, and the Department for Community Services.

It is little wonder that the public servants within those departments tend to lose some initiative and to become somewhat demoralised.

Hon Graham Edwards: That is a load of rubbish.

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: The Minister should talk to members of some of those departments.

Hon Graham Edwards: I have good contact with departmental officers. I have never seen public servants, particularly those from the Department for Sport and Recreation in Bunbury, with more initiative or energy.

Hon Barry House: I would agree with that.

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: I did not mean they had no initiative. They react when other departments, trying to develop certain areas and activities within their community, come over the top of them and make decisions that allow funding to take place that perhaps they would not have recommended to their Minister. That is the case particularly when there is double-dipping in certain areas such as when the SWDA gives some money and other Government departments give other money. I think the Minister would agree there should be one lot of Government funding for a project. It should not come out of three or four different bins.

Hon Graham Edwards: If that was not done, some projects would not commence. The Wellington Weir project is an example; it was funded from different areas.

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: Why was it not all funded from the Department for Sport and Recreation? Why did it have to come from different bins?

Hon Graham Edwards: Different areas contributed to that project. We had the department as well as community groups contributing. It was a great model for the sharing of resources and for pulling together to achieve a project. It was well done.

Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY: I disagree with the Minister. If a Government department has not been resourced properly to cover a project, that is the fault of the Minister for not getting enough money in his vote. That is what should be done. The fact that community groups become involved in running projects is great, but that should not affect the funding. All community groups should be taking a greater interest in their communities.

I have mentioned the duplication of services. We will see that happen within the bureaucracy, because of the possibilities contained in this legislation. I agree with Hon Barry House that clause 34(a) and (b) is too loose. If somebody wanted to drive a bus through it, they could probably do it sideways. The clause enables the Minister to set up any area advisory committee; it is not specific. It does not specifically relate to the Peel area even though the Minister's second reading speech is specific. The Minister should look at the way people feel about that. We have had contact with local authorities, and they are concerned that any area in the south west can come within the jurisdiction of the SWDA's area advisory committee. They are concerned that advisory committees can be set up at the whim of the Minister - wherever that happens to be. The present Government will not always sit on the Government benches. It must look at the long term effect of this legislation. For that reason some of the amendments made by Hon Barry House are pertinent, particularly those relating to area advisory committees. Local authorities outside the Peel area are at a loss. They see the legislation raising another tier between themselves and the Government. Is it so that local government authority can be diminished, or is there some other reason? People can be quite cynical, if they wish, in viewing this legislation. The Government should take that part of the legislation back to the drawing board and have a look at it.

The National Party accepts that it would be advantageous to include Boddington into the SWDA's area of influence. Boddington wishes to be involved and the National Party will not stand in its way. That local authority has indicated a wish to be involved with the SWDA and we have no objection to that; we wish it well. A review was due after two years, but an amendment is proposed for a five year review period. The Opposition wishes to bring that back in line with the original intention of the Act and will propose an amendment to that effect.

Regional development must take place in this State. The Opposition believes that the Government must ensure that development authorities right around the State, as more and more are set up, do not run over the top of other departments. Development authorities must take a back seat. They have a role in seeing that, where boundaries are crossed, regional development takes place. The National Party supports the Bill as far as it goes, with the amendments proposed by Hon Barry House, which will be debated at the Committee stage.

HON B.L. JONES (South West) [3.30 pm]: I never cease to be amazed at the total negativity of members opposite. I guess I must be pretty naive.

Several members interjected.

Hon B.L. JONES: One could say that I should have realised by now that it is the hallmark of the way members opposite go about things in this House. I have not heard one word of positive reinforcement for the superb job that the South West Development Authority has done. I will begin by addressing my remarks to some of the comments made by Hon Barry House and Hon Murray Montgomery.

Hon Barry House spoke about the credibility of the SWDA when it was set up. He mentioned that that credibility was brought about by some of the people on the board and he named prominent Liberal people. He stressed that the credibility was associated with its early years of operation.

Hon Barry House: Hon Doug Wenn is not a Liberal person.

Hon B.L. JONES: He was one exception, I know. The inference was that the authority had credibility in its early days of operation because of the people involved, but it is less credible now. As he developed his speech he stated that it had no credibility now. Hon Barry House was contradictory in many things he said. By casting aspersions on the authority at that point, he was casting aspersions on Sir Donald Eckersley.

Hon Barry House: You should read my speech.

Hon B.L. JONES: The member should let me finish what I am saying. The member tried to cover up the negative things he said about the authority by saying that Sir Donald Eckersley is held in high respect. He negated that totally by the rest of his comments, saying that the SWDA is usurping the roles of other bodies, it is a political tool and is there purely for political purposes. His arguments do not hold water - he contradicted himself throughout his speech. Hon Barry House spoke about the seeds sown by the previous Liberal Government. I guess people will always come up with new ideas. I remind him that seeds can fall on barren ground. In this case the seeds which were sown certainly were nurtured and cared for, and as a result have borne fruit for the south west.

The member spoke of his concerns about the authority and said that he was quick to warn his fellow members in Queensland. His statement worries me. I cannot help but think that this is yet another example of the Opposition's seeking to downgrade this State at every possible opportunity.

Hon Barry House: They came and asked me and I provided them with the information.

Hon B.L. JONES: The member did not say that. He said that he had quickly contacted them.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon J.M. Brown): Order! The member is inviting interjections.

Hon B.L. JONES: I am trying to rebut what the member said. Hon Barry House pointed to some of the problems that the SWDA has had over the years. I suggest to him that any enterprise has problems. The problems faced by the authority have been addressed and, in fact, they have been overcome. That illustrates its ability to be flexible, to find out what the problems are and to rectify them. Hon Barry House referred in very derogatory terms to John Read being at the Peel office.

Hon Barry House: I said that I have nothing against the man.

Hon B.L. JONES: Hon Barry House spoke about the political bias in relation to the Peel office and said that people were reluctant to go to the office because they perceived a political bias.

Hon Barry House: That is dead right.

Hon B.L. JONES: A member who has represented an area for six years would be in an excellent position to know the local people, the organisations and the resources available to such an office in order that it can pull together with local government and Government agencies on essential projects. That is precisely what Mr Read is doing, but the member is under a misapprehension if he thinks he is in charge of that office because that job belongs to Mr Ken Fisher. I advise members that in spite of the complaints Hon Barry House may have

received about political bias, I am often asked why members opposite constantly criticise in the Press what is being done in the south west. They find it very strange that members cannot be supportive of the SWDA.

I guess I am one of those politicians who believe that we represent our electors and that we have to look after, as best we can, their welfare. I did not hear one word from Hon Barry House or Hon Murray Montgomery about what the SWDA has achieved or what it has meant to the lifestyle of the people who live in the area. I will remind members of what it has done in the employment, industrial, social, cultural and education areas. I have to keep my speech brief, but I cannot let the opportunity go without advising members that if they want to represent the people of the south west they should pay a little more attention to what would be good for them and a little less attention to political point scoring for no better reason than that the SWDA was an initiative of this Government.

Members opposite spoke about the lack of cooperation and consultation within the south west region. Perhaps they have not heard about the "People's Plan" and the extraordinary number of workshops, seminars and conferences which have been held in the south west to bring people together. I have attended many of the workshops which have been attended by the general public as well as representatives from local councils and local agencies who have an interest in the community. The workshops provide the opportunity for the SWDA to find out what are the interests of the people in the area. That is called consultation and that has been occurring all the time that the SWDA has been in operation. Members opposite omitted to speak about that. They spoke about noncooperation only.

Hon Barry House: Your office is in Pinjarra. Why didn't you run around the corner and give the Murray Shire Council a copy of this Bill?

Hon B.L. JONES: I will come to that. Members opposite spoke about the establishment of a Peel authority and again they made contradictory statements. On the one hand they talk about bureaucracy and no consultation, yet on the other hand they immediately want to separate the Peel authority from the Bunbury SWDA which would result in a duplication of bureaucracy. In time, when the population justifies it, I have no doubt that a separate authority will be established, but it is a little way down the track. An advisory committee would be an excellent idea. I am one of those members who represent the Peel region. There are times when Bunbury seems to overlook the Peel region. A subregional authority would bring attention to the needs of specific areas.

Hon Doug Wenn: I hope you are listening to this, Mr Montgomery.

Hon B.L. JONES: Hon Murray Montgomery said that he supports regional development and begrudgingly said that he supposed that the SWDA is part of regional development. He also said that the authority did not consult with people. Again I draw members' attention to the real things which have been achieved by the SWDA. I have the information relating to what has been done and if members opposite do not know, I am happy to supply them with a copy of its achievements in order that they will be aware of how widely the SWDA has consulted.

Hon Murray Montgomery said that councils were afraid to speak out. That has never been my experience. I have spent a great deal of time with the councils in my area. He suggested that the Mandurah council was not in favour of the Bill. I spoke to the shire clerk, who was not present at the meeting referred to by the member, and he said that as far as he was concerned the Bill was completely in line with what he had been led to believe it set out to achieve. He was aware of the contents and was perfectly happy with them.

Hon Doug Wenn: That is interesting.

Hon Barry House: Don't the mayor and the other councillors count, Mrs Jones?

Hon B.L. JONES: Another point regarding the role of advisory committees and councils being usurped and their not having a say relates to the membership of the advisory committee. A breakdown of the membership of the South West Development Authority advisory committee shows that this year at least seven members of that advisory committee are councillors. How can members opposite say that the South West Development Authority is not taking any notice of councillors and that it is riding roughshod over them when councillors are represented on that committee? Does this mean that those people are not doing their job properly? The Opposition cannot have it both ways. Those councillors are either advising the board or they are not. Councils are always represented on advisory committees when they are set up.

Members opposite also claimed that the Government had not adequately informed local people on the contents of the Bill. I doubt that it ever provides all local people with a copy of any Bill. Certainly the contents of the Bill were made known to the councils. This is not a major Bill; it involves relatively minor amendments and the Opposition is simply using it as a springboard to launch into an attack on the South West Development Authority.

Hon Barry House: The ramifications are not minor.

Hon B.L. JONES: That is the only reason the Opposition would launch an attack on such straightforward amendments. If members opposite felt that the amendments were indeed significant and needed to be made known to councillors, why did they not inform those councillors before last week? What has the shadow Minister been doing since the Bill was introduced? One can only assume that he was deficient as well.

Hon Barry House: He introduced the amendments into the other place.

Hon B.L. JONES: Even the member for Warren in the other place has commented on the extraordinary success of the SWDA. He accredited it with more than 300 programs that have been brought to fruition.

Hon Murray Montgomery: Are you saying that those projects would not have come to fruition without the South West Development Authority?

Hon B.L. JONES: I am not saying that. Before I comment on the actual achievements of the SWDA, I would like to extend my appreciation to the chairman, Sir Donald Eckersley, the members of the board, and the staff of the SWDA for the excellent job they have done in bringing benefits to the people in the south west. I would also like to pay tribute to Mr Peter Murray, who was until recently the officer at the Peel office of the SWDA. I was present with him at a number of meetings with councils and was delighted to note the rapport between him and councillors. Many councillors have said what a good job he has done in his consultations with local government. Personally, I find him helpful and would like to compliment him on a job well done.

The comments we have heard from members of the Opposition are downright disgraceful and they should think very hard and long about their constituents. If they could find it in their hearts occasionally to get over their political bias they might in fact support the efforts of the South West Development Authority. If they cannot agree with some of the things done by the SWDA they should consult the board members and discuss their problems.

Hon Barry House: Who says that we don't do that now?

Hon B.L. JONES: From what the members are saying it would appear that they have not done that. All members opposite ever do is criticise the South West Development Authority.

Hon Barry House: That is not true at all. You should read what I have said on this matter.

Hon B.L. JONES: I have read what the member said. He has damned the SWDA with faint praise. I have also read many of the member's media articles which have been downright critical of the SWDA. It is about time that members opposite stopped putting the SWDA down and consulted members of the board to discuss with them how things could be improved. The misquoting and criticism by members opposite only disheartens the people involved in the SWDA.

Hon Barry House: You'll find out very soon what it's like to be in Opposition.

*Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.00 pm*

[Questions without notice taken.]

Hon B.L. JONES: Having pointed out that Opposition members have been outrageously negative in what they have said about the South West Development Authority, I wish now to refer to the achievements of the authority, not only because I believe that is fair but also because I think they need to be recorded. Before I receive interjections from the Opposition about whether projects were totally or partly supported by the SWDA, I preface my remarks by saying that the SWDA worked with community groups, Government departments and local government. It initiated some projects, it facilitated others and it totally funded and developed others. In all of them it had a significant part to play. Projects in which it was involved include the Bunbury Institute of Advanced Education, the Manjimup Horticultural

Research Centre, the Margaret River Hospital, the community centres of Bridgetown and Collie, the Lord Forrest Hotel and the Mandurah police complex. In informing the House of these projects, I have tried to collect information on projects which demonstrate the different advantages that have been brought to the south west, whether cultural, educational or industrial.

Hon Murray Montgomery: Don't you think it strange that those projects were not done departmentally?

Hon B.L. JONES: The fact is, they were not.

The south west emergency plan was put into place to support families that were in danger of having their children dislocated and disrupted. That has been further developed in this year's Budget. The SWDA contributed to the design and establishment of the Waratah Women's Support Service. It held a seminar to review obstetrics and gynaecological services in conjunction with the Minister for Health's task force. Workshops were carried out and a great deal of very important information was passed on to the Minister.

The SWDA was involved in the South West Social Policies Conference held in Mandurah with the theme of community support for families. Recommendations from that conference were given to the Government. It was also involved in the domestic alarm pilot project for the aged, which was established to provide personal alarms for the elderly and the disabled who live alone. Bursaries have been given to students undertaking or planning studies at the institute. Music bursaries have been awarded to students to further their studies. The Wellington Dam study considered tourism and recreational uses of the Wellington Dam. That extensive survey provided very useful information for the future use of the Wellington Dam. The authority has done a very comprehensive study of housing needs at Boddington and it has been involved in the Dwellingup town study, the Mandurah ocean marina, the Pinjarra industrial land study and recreational needs in the whole of the south west.

I have enjoyed seeing the restoration of the Edenvale historic site. I do not know whether members had an opportunity to look at that; if not, I can recommend it. As one goes through Pinjarra, it is on the right-hand side over the bridge. It is beautifully done. It now houses the tourist bureau and displays artifacts. It fits in with its surroundings. It is well worth a visit.

The authority introduced the townscape enhancement scheme, some of which has already been completed and the rest of which is in hand. It was responsible for the ribbons of green tree planting programs. The SWDA made a grant available to the oral history group in Harvey in which I was interested. Most of the members of this group are women who are interviewing senior citizens and obtaining tape recordings of their recollections of the past. It is interesting to record their stories first hand. The tapes are made available to children and libraries, and I feel sure that children will gain a greater sense of reality from listening to people speak than from reading history books.

The SWDA has also opened the one-stop shop in Bunbury which provides people with reports and information from various organisations and authorities. It is very well patronised and provides an excellent service. These are some of the developments which have taken place and which have an effect on people's lifestyles. The authority involves itself not only in industry and employment, on which subjects my colleagues will speak later, but also in cultural and educational aspects of the region, and the comfort and security of members of the community generally. The introduction of such projects improves the lifestyles of those living in the south west.

I turn to the Bill itself, which is certainly not a major one. It consists of four amendments, none of which is in any way controversial. As I said earlier, the introduction of this Bill was used by Opposition members representing the south west as a springboard to launch into an attack on the SWDA. It is proposed that the membership of the board shall be increased from three to seven and a great deal has been said on that subject. The Opposition obviously agrees to this amendment.

It is also proposed to separate the duties and responsibilities of the board chairman from those of the senior executive officer, who is responsible for the day to day operations of the authority.

The Bill provides for the inclusion of the Shire of Boddington in the Peel region of the South West Development Authority. I attended an early meeting with the Boddington Shire

Council when this matter was first discussed; it was very enthusiastic at that stage and said it identified more with the interests of Pinjarra and Mandurah than it did with other areas. I was pleased when the shire council asked to be included. There seems to be agreement from both sides of the House to the inclusion of the Shire of Boddington.

However, there is a difference of opinion about two other proposed amendments to the principal Act. I am becoming a little suspicious about why the Opposition wants to reduce the period before a review is carried out from five years to two years. Two thoughts occur to me: Firstly, that would bring the review closer to the next State election. Perhaps the Opposition is hoping that if a review were carried out at that time it could extract some information to provide ammunition against the Government.

My second thought, which is more worrying, is that perhaps the Opposition thinks it will win the next election, and that it will be able to complete the review in two years' time and publish the type of report it wishes to, with a view to axing the SWDA. That would be most unfortunate. It seems to me that five years is a reasonable period before undertaking a review, and in these days it is obviously more difficult to get projects up and running. An interval of five years between inception and completion would be a reasonable period to allow people to judge the new structure of the SWDA and to make a considered assessment. I understand the Opposition will move an amendment to this provision.

A further amendment to the Bill relates to the ability of the Minister to create subregional area advisory committees. The Opposition's comments on this subject have been contradictory. Part of its initial attack was that the board was too bureaucratic and was not listening to the people or consulting local authorities. However, this proposal represents an opportunity to listen to the people by way of subregional committees, when and where a need for them is demonstrated.

Hon Murray Montgomery: Is there not already the opportunity to set up those committees?

Hon B.L. JONES: If there is, why oppose this amendment?

Hon Murray Montgomery: Why make it?

Hon B.L. JONES: This power will be available to the Minister if it can be demonstrated that there is a need for the committee to be set up. It may well be that some areas in the south west do not consider they are adequately covered by larger advisory committees, and they may have specific knowledge of their area which is not available to larger groups. The Minister may at some time feel a small advisory committee should be set up to make him aware of certain features of an area. I do not understand why the Opposition opposes this proposal. The committees will be used only where required. Many claims have been made by the Opposition about local authorities not being adequately informed. I spoke to the shire president of Mandurah very recently and he informed me that he was quite happy about the contents of the Bill.

Hon Murray Montgomery: I did not know Mandurah had a shire president.

Hon B.L. JONES: I know that it is now a city, but it still has a shire clerk. In fact, I made a mistake; I was talking to the shire clerk and not the shire president.

Hon Murray Montgomery: He is the town clerk, not the shire clerk.

Hon B.L. JONES: It is a question of semantics. One could describe him as the city clerk, but the fact is that he is the clerk to the council. He said that the matter had been discussed with him earlier and he had no objection to the proposal.

The fact that the Boddington Shire Council wrote to the Peel branch of the SWDA makes a lie of the Opposition's comment that local councils felt their authority was being usurped. In this case the council chose to be part of that group. Every time I have spoken to people from the shires of Harvey, Waroona, Murray and Mandurah they have been delighted with the development in their areas of the south west. I cannot speak for the other shires. Of course, it can be compared to the people who view an accident - if one speaks to different people at different times one gets different versions. However, there has been cooperation, which has been appreciated by the local authorities.

Opposition members representing the south west of this State should give some consideration to supporting the South West Development Authority and appreciating what it can achieve

rather than scoring political points. We should consider the needs of our constituents in the south west. I support the Bill.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Doug Wenn.

## TRANSPORT CO-ORDINATION AMENDMENT BILL

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from 20 September.

**HON GEORGE CASH** (North Metropolitan - Leader of the Opposition) [4.38 pm]: Members will be aware that this is a Bill for an Act to amend the Transport Co-ordination Act 1966 and for related purposes. In the main it will amend section 62(3), and the reason for the amendment is to clarify the Minister for Transport's rights to distribute certain funds under the Transport Co-ordination Act. Members will be aware that the current wording of section 62(3) is -

There shall be paid out of the Fund -

- (a) such amounts as are, in the opinion of the Minister, necessary or expedient, in the interests of public transport to be granted in aid of any transport service or scheme for which the Minister has a responsibility under this Act, including the provision and maintenance of subsidies, facilities, signs, shelters and amenities relating thereto;

It seems that when Crown Law Department was considering amendments to the Eastern Goldfields Transport Board Act it had reason to refer to section 62(3)(a) of the Transport Co-ordination Act, and some question arose as to whether the Minister had the proper authority to distribute funds to that organisation.

Members will be aware that for some time it has been the practice of Parliament to sanction the Minister's distribution of such funds and the purpose of the Bill before the House is, firstly, to rewrite section 62(3)(a) and introduce some new words which will clarify the authority of the Minister to make the payments that have been made in the past. Indeed, that might extend the Minister's right in respect of distribution of certain funds and also validate payments made out of the funds before commencement of the effect of this Bill, which it has been said was introduced to overcome a technical difficulty.

The Opposition understands why the Crown Law Department may have become confused about the rights of the Minister and supports this Bill, which clarifies that position.

**HON J.N. CALDWELL** (Agricultural) [4.40 pm]: This Bill clarifies the powers of the Minister for Transport to pay transport subsidies to meet certain operational shortfalls. They include regular road services to country regions as well as passenger, student and disabled passenger subsidies as mentioned by Hon George Cash. In 1988 the Crown Law Department made the observation that the Transport Co-ordination Act should be amended to remove doubts about subsidy payments. This minor Bill clarifies certain parts of that Act.

The National Party supports the Bill.

**HON GRAHAM EDWARDS** (North Metropolitan - Minister for Police) [4.41 pm]: I thank Hon George Cash and Hon John Caldwell for their accurate summary of the purposes of the Bill, which provides technical amendments, and for their support of it.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

### *Committee and Report*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

### *Third Reading*

Bill read a third time, on motion by Hon Graham Edwards (Minister for Police), and passed.



**CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT (RACIST HARASSMENT AND INCITEMENT  
TO RACIAL HATRED) BILL***Returned*

Bill returned from the Assembly without amendment.

**INDUSTRIAL LANDS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL***Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon Kay Hallahan (Minister for Planning), read a first time.

*Second Reading*

**HON KAY HALLAHAN** (East Metropolitan - Minister for Planning) [4.47 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to ratify amendments to the Industrial Lands Development Authority Act 1966.

This amendment firstly provides for the deletion of the definition of "Minister" from section 4, bringing the Act into line with current practice and allowing passage of responsibility to the Minister for Lands in line with the Premier's announcement of 15 June 1990 to bring together related land agencies. This amendment will also extend the operation of the existing Act for a further 12 months. Currently section 14 of the Act provides for the winding up of the authority at the end of December 1990.

Since its inception in 1966, the Industrial Lands Development Authority has very successfully met its mission of ensuring, as an instrument of the State's economic development, that suitable land and facilities are available to meet the anticipated needs of industry. From time to time, the Government has also called on ILDA to provide land, or land and buildings, to enable the establishment of special industrial development projects such as the Marine Support Facility and Biotech Park. ILDA is also working on issues such as the relocation of heavy and noxious industries.

As announced by the Premier in June, the Government is to rationalise the activities of agencies dealing with land. Accordingly it is intended to combine LandCorp, the land operations division of the Department of Land Administration, and the Industrial Lands Development Authority to form an Office of Land Services. This office will be within the Department of Land Administration and will be the responsibility of the Minister for Lands.

To make this possible, section 4 of the Act defining "Minister" as "the Minister for Industrial Development" will be deleted. This will enable the Act to be committed for the time being to the Minister for Lands by the Governor and section 12 of the Interpretation Act 1984 to operate in the normal way.

To allow the valuable work of the authority to continue while the necessary broad legislative changes to reflect this initiative are finalised and passed by the Parliament, a one year extension of the sunset clause is required. The Industrial Lands Development Authority Amendment Bill 1990 provides the necessary extension of time.

The Bill deserves the support of Parliament and I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon N.F. Moore.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON LAND USE IN THE DARLING RANGE FOOTHILLS  
AND ESCARPMENT***Report Tabling*

**HON DERRICK TOMLINSON** (East Metropolitan) [4.49 pm]: I present the final report of the Select Committee on Land Use in the Darling Range Foothills and Escarpment, and move -

That the report do lie upon the Table and be printed.

[See paper No 578.]

## TOBACCO BILL

### *Select Committee on Legislation - Interim Report Tabling*

HON PETER FOSS (East Metropolitan) [4.50 pm]: I present the interim report of the Standing Committee on Legislation on the Tobacco Bill 1990, and move -

That the report do lie upon the Table and be printed.

[See paper No 579.]

## PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT BILL

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from 11 September.

HON KAY HALLAHAN (East Metropolitan - Minister for Planning) [4.51 pm]: This Bill has been debated previously, and the Government believes it meets, at least in part, the obstruction to the business of Parliament which prorogation causes. The Bill is fairly limited in scope in that it seeks to permit the continued operation of committees during any period of prorogation, except on the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly.

Prorogation also means another formal opening of Parliament, with all that that involves in the Parliament, including the Address-in-Reply debate which follows a formal opening. The freedom that gives members to explore in debate all manner of things in their electorates I am sure is often welcomed by members. However, it can also be a time consuming item on the Notice Paper. Nevertheless, at the beginning of a session the number of Bills and other legislative matters that can be dealt with is limited.

The Government is supportive of this Bill, and all that the Government wants to say on this matter has been said by Hon J.M. Berinson a year ago and is recorded in *Hansard*.

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral) [4.52 pm]: I thank the Government for its support of this Bill. I should make the point that the Bill has no effect on the Address-in-Reply debate, and that was intended.

There are two ways of solving the question of committees being wound up at prorogation. One is to pass a Bill like this, which provides that the effect of prorogation does not stop committees from working. The other alternative is to have a four year session of Parliament, so that we have one opening at the beginning of the four year session, as they do in the Senate, and because there is not a prorogation every year, committees continue for the four year period. They do not have an Address-in-Reply debate every year, because the Address-in-Reply is only relevant at an official opening of Parliament. My Bill does not take away the Address-in-Reply; it retains it on an annual basis.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Would you like to put in an amendment?

Hon N.F. MOORE: If the Minister would like to look closely at my second reading speech, as I am sure she has, she will notice that I mention the need for a continuation of the Address-in-Reply. It will not be very long before the Minister herself will appreciate the virtues of the Address-in-Reply when she sits on this side of the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

### *Committee*

The Chairman of Committees (Hon J.M. Brown) in the Chair; Hon N.F. Moore in charge of the Bill.

#### Clause 1: Short title -

Hon N.F. MOORE: I forgot to mention during my second reading summing up that the last time I introduced this Bill it was passed by this House and reached the other House, where it was not passed due to time constraints. I would be grateful if the Minister could indicate whether that is likely to happen again, or whether the Government will expedite the matter to ensure the Bill is passed this session so that the committees of the Parliament can continue to operate beyond prorogation, which will occur when this session finishes.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I may have failed to make it clear in my comments during the second reading debate that it would be useful if the current Bill provided for an Address-in-Reply at the formal opening and not annually. However, I accept the honourable member's intent; that is not a position which he thinks is desirable.

Hon N.F. Moore: You need to change the situation.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I cannot give the honourable member an indication today of the priority which the Government will give to this Bill in another place. It is not a Bill which I have discussed with my colleagues in the other place. On behalf of Hon Joe Berinson, who is indisposed today, I give that indication to the honourable member.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 2 to 5 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

#### *Report*

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

#### *Third Reading*

Bill read a third time, on motion by Hon N.F. Moore, and transmitted to the Assembly.

### WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MARINE AMENDMENT BILL

#### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from 19 September.

HON GEORGE CASH (North Metropolitan - Leader of the Opposition) [4.56 pm]: This Bill involves four main amendments to the Marine Act. The first is to abolish the Western Australian Marine Manning Committee. The second is to protect the passengers and crew of vessels by placing responsibility on a ship's master to ensure that a vessel is safe to put to sea. The third is to impose an obligation on the operator of any vessel who deliberately causes or allows a false signal to be set off to be responsible for the costs incurred as a consequence of a search or any other action. The fourth is to extend regulatory powers to include activities which may impact on the safety of individuals using waterways, and in particular parasailing, a relatively new sport on the world scene and one which was not envisaged when the Marine Act was first brought into operation.

Regarding the abolition of the Western Australian Marine Manning Committee, members will be aware that this committee was originally formed in 1973 to set manning levels for certain commercial vessels which were previously set by rigid regulation. The original idea of the manning committee was to offer greater flexibility to the numbers of crew required on a ship. It was said at the time that the regulations were so rigid that they were sometimes believed to be unreasonable and the manning committee, being able to offer advice to the Minister, would be able to determine what was a sufficient number of persons to man a vessel.

Members will be aware that in recent times the committee has met only spasmodically; in fact in the last 17 years, apart from its most recent meeting in mid-1988, the manning committee had not met for a period of three years. The amendment will allow the executive director to make a determination on manning levels after having consulted interested parties - and it is important that members recognise that the executive director is required to consult. Once those interested parties have given advice to the executive director he will be able to make a decision as to the numbers of crew required for a particular vessel. As with the original manning committee, the decisions of the executive director will be subject to appeal to the Minister, and in that regard the Opposition believes that the amendment proposed by the Government is one which will offer greater efficiency to the workings of the Western Australian Marine Act and we support that proposal.

The second provision I mentioned earlier, which seeks to protect the passengers and crew of a vessel by placing an onus on the ship's master to ensure that a vessel is safe to put to sea, imposes a penalty on a person who sends or takes - and they are the operative words - a vessel to sea if the vessel is unsafe. Members will be aware that the Bill provides a defence

in a prosecution if, firstly, the person charged used all reasonable means to ensure that the vessel was not unsafe and, secondly, the reason for taking the vessel to sea was to protect the vessel from imminent danger. In that regard one has only to think of the possibility of storms which might blow up from time to time, when someone has to order a ship to go to sea for its protection.

Hon Graham Edwards: I am told it used to happen a lot in the pearling industry.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I see. The Bill also provides for various criteria to establish whether a vessel is unsafe. Three of those criteria are the defective condition of a vessel, the overloading or improper loading of a vessel, and the undermanning of a vessel. Again, the Opposition believes this is a worthwhile amendment to the Act and we support the proposal.

The third provision - that is, the onus to be imposed on a master for displaying false signals and distress flares - will extend the liability of a master to include all persons on a vessel rather than only those who are under his authority, which were the previous operative words, who display or use distress signals when a vessel is not in distress. It will require the master to be liable for compensation for costs incurred as a result of a search. If we take the broad meaning of the provisions to their logical extension, it would not be unreasonable for someone to be alarmed and to believe that, if, for instance, a father went out fishing with his young son and the son set off a flare and caused a search to be mounted and considerable cost to be incurred by the Government, that father - or master of the boat, as he would be - would be responsible for those costs. If that were the situation one would be entitled to be somewhat concerned about the general provisions of the Act. However, I have had an opportunity to discuss this with officers of the Department of Marine and Harbours and they have told me that, while the provisions of the Bill will extend so far as to allow that to occur, quite clearly the Government, or the agency of the Government that attempts to claim costs in respect of any such matter, would have to have regard for the circumstances in respect of each case. In the lower House some indication was given that this provision related to the deliberate setting off of flares where costs were unreasonably incurred by the Government in a situation where the present provisions of the Act did not allow a master to be charged for those costs.

Hon Graham Edwards: I understand that someone who was in genuine fear of his life and who set off a flare would not be prosecuted.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I appreciate the Minister's comment in that regard because it answers a question which might have been raised in Committee. I concur with the Minister's advice in that matter and the Opposition supports the provision on that understanding and on the advice tendered by the officers of the Department of Marine and Harbours.

As to the fourth provision - that is, the provision which extends regulatory powers - members will be aware that section 99 of the principal Act provides for the Governor to make regulations in respect of pleasure facilities. The Bill seeks to extend the regulatory power to include water related activities. Earlier I gave the example of parasailing, and I understand from the officers of the department that there is a need to control water activities which have an impact on the navigation of small vessels, be they on the river or at sea, and that the upsurge of what might be termed new water sports has required this extension of the regulatory powers. Again, the Opposition recognises the need for the Department of Marine and Harbours officers to have that extended authority and we support that provision.

The other amendments in the Bill are of a general administrative nature. There is to be a change in title from general manager to executive director in line with the provisions of the Public Service Act, and a change to the definition of trading vessel, which will now include vessels operated by a State Government. In another administrative change, the Bill will authorise the executive director to approve sea trials for vessels which have not yet been the subject of a current survey. There is an additional administrative change to the procedure relating to the appointment of marine inspectors and marine surveyors, and in general terms it is fair to say that those administrative changes add some streamlining to the Act.

I have indicated that the Opposition is happy to support this Bill. I appreciate the advice that was tendered to me by officers of the Department of Marine and Harbours some time ago, when this Bill was originally introduced into the Parliament. They were most cooperative in explaining the new provisions and I thank the Minister for the advice he allowed his officers

to give in relation to this Bill. With those comments the Opposition signifies its support for the Bill.

**HON J.N. CALDWELL** (Agricultural) [5.08 pm]: The National Party supports the amendments to the Western Australian Marine Act 1982 proposed in this Bill. We have examined the Bill, and some of the queries we had raised have been answered.

One of the main aspects of the Bill is safety on the water, whether on rivers, estuaries or the ocean. Those of us who participate in water sports or go to watch water sports know only too well that safety is something which everyone must bear in mind, especially as some of those activities are becoming more daring every day. I have seen people parasailing, if that is what it is called, over the Swan River - members can see that I do not participate in that activity.

**Hon Graham Edwards:** You really should.

**Hon J.N. CALDWELL:** It is rather a daring sport, but I suppose it is far better for us to encourage our young people to take part in a sport like that than for them to get their kicks from something else which causes all sorts of health problems. From these activities one can suffer only a broken leg or something like that, which is repairable, whereas the health problems relating to other kicks are not. This Bill takes that into account. Since the enactment of the principal legislation in 1982, a variety of water sports have evolved which impact on the navigation of small vessels on rivers. The legislation covers that aspect adequately.

Another part of the Bill is of interest to me because I am an occasional fisherman. Although I have not had the misfortune to find it necessary to use a flare, many times authorities such as the water police are called out when a distress flare is sighted. It must be an awful feeling to reach the area where the flare was sighted and find no vessel because the offenders have started up their vessel and scurried home. That creates a waste of a valuable resources. Not only is time wasted but also lives are put at risk. The people who commit those offences should feel the strong arm of the law.

The other aspects of the Bill have been covered at length by Hon George Cash, including the last part of the Bill containing clauses to overcome certain administrative difficulties. In general, the National Party finds the legislation acceptable. We support the Bill.

**HON PETER FOSS** (East Metropolitan) [5.12 pm]: I support the provisions of the Bill. One difficulty we have always experienced in the administration of marine matters is of course the dichotomy of the jurisdiction in marine matters between the Western Australian and Commonwealth authorities. Many provisions found in the Western Australian Marine Act can also be found in the Navigation Act of the Commonwealth. With various people around Australia enforcing the different Acts, the problem sometimes is that we do not necessarily find officers of both departments in one port. The Navigation Act is normally the one which is used in respect of offences now created by section 58B. I am not absolutely certain but I think detention under section 61 was introduced in the 1982 Act; prior to 1982 there was no equivalent provision in the old Marine Act. In those days if one wished to detain a ship the Commonwealth department did that. It is to the advantage of our authorities to have the ability to act under our own Act to control local shipping. The provision under section 58B for the offence of taking an unsafe ship to sea seems an excellent one.

I also support the words of Hon George Cash and Hon John Caldwell regarding the extension of the offence to the people responsible for setting off distress signals without warrant for doing so. This must be one of those acts where it is important that our local authorities have full ability to act without having to resort to the Commonwealth authorities. On that basis I am greatly in support of the Bill.

**HON GRAHAM EDWARDS** (North Metropolitan - Minister for Police) [5.14 pm]: I thank members opposite for their contributions to the debate and for their support of the Bill. I am encouraged and pleased by the comments that have been made about hoax signals. It is one thing, of course, to be able to recover the costs incurred as a result of the deliberate firing of signals with the knowledge that it is a hoax; however, the committal of resources to a search initiated by a false use of a flare could take such resources away from a genuine distress call. That could result in tragedy. Sometimes people set off flares and think it is a joke. They do not understand the responsibility other people have to respond to such an action when such search rescue officers believe a genuine call for assistance has been made. The main fear is that such an action might cause the death of innocent people.

Hon John Caldwell mentioned parasailing. We have been aware of some crook operators in this sport in this State, and I am pleased that those operators have gone out of business, in the main. I can assure Hon John Caldwell that parasailing is a safe sport; however, people wishing to undertake such activities should be aware of the people involved and ensure everything is in order. The member should give the sport a try. When I was Minister for Sport and Recreation a parasailing program for over-55s was set up. People took up parasailing with an operator from the Hillarys boat harbour. A platform was used for takeoff, as opposed to running down the beach. When Hon John Caldwell was speaking I was reminded of two things: That the sport is fun, and that he would be qualified for some assistance in the over-55s program.

I thank members for their indications of support for the Bill. The legislation contains some very important provisions which will lead to far greater safety on our waterways and a larger framework within which to address the issues involved.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *Committee*

The Chairman of Committees (Hon J.M. Brown) in the Chair; Hon Graham Edwards (Minister for Police) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 3 put and passed.

Clause 4: Section 3 amended -

Hon GEORGE CASH: Clause 3 seeks to change the definition of trading ships. In the existing Act the definition of trading ship includes, in part, "but does not include a Government vessel or a fishing vessel". This clause seeks to delete the words "a Government vessel or". Will the Minister explain the reason for the amendment? I have regard for the comments made by Hon Peter Foss in respect of the use of this Act and the provision of our own State officers with authority under our own Act.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The difficulty is that Government vessels are not included in the definition at the moment, and we are seeking that inclusion in the legislation.

Hon George Cash: Is there any particular reason to extend it that far?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: It is a principle of safety that it should be included.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 5 to 10 put and passed.

Clause 11: Sections 58A and 58B inserted -

Hon GEORGE CASH: Proposed new section 58B refers to "Offence to take unsafe ship to sea". Members would note that proposed new subsection (1) states -

A person shall not send or take a vessel to sea if the vessel is an unsafe ship.

In discussions I have had with people connected with the marine industry, it has been indicated that there must be a particular reason that the Minister has not extended the proposed section to include "attempt" to send or take a vessel to sea. I am advised that the wording at the moment means that a person has to physically send or take the vessel to sea. A need may exist to include the word "attempt" because of the problems involved with catching all persons under the provision; there may be times when it is not possible to physically send a vessel, but a mere attempt by someone to send or take a vessel to sea should also be covered.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: My understanding of proposed new section 58B(1) is that it would cover that situation. I understand that we would have undue difficulties in trying to define "attempt". If a person attempts to take a vessel to sea, the person needs to actually take the vessel to sea. I am not quite sure whether the member is referring to the situation wherein a person attempts to go up the river or into the ocean or attempts to leave the harbour. It would seem to me that this definition would cover that. Is the member referring to the situation regarding an unsafe ship in the first place?

Hon George Cash: Yes, it was in the case of an unsafe ship that one could not send or take to sea, but in fact orders were given for someone to take it to sea or to attempt to take it to sea.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: As soon as the master casts off from the jetty he would be identified as a person sending a ship to sea.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 12 to 18 put and passed.

Clause 19: Section 125A inserted -

Hon GEORGE CASH: This provision deals with the "Limitation of time for complaints". It is intended that complaints can be commenced at any time within three years of the matter of the complaint arising. Will the Minister explain why three years has been chosen and how that compares with the existing legislation and, in fact, with the Statute of limitations?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I understand that currently the time for prosecution under this Act comes within the ambit of section 51 of the Justices Act and is linked to six months' imprisonment for serious offences. However, under this legislation matters usually require extensive investigation and often alleged offenders may be overseas for considerable periods. Therefore, it is considered essential that this period be extended. The clause will extend that period in which the complaints can be lodged from two to three years.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 20 and 21 put and passed.

Schedule put and passed.

Title put and passed.

#### *Report*

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

#### *Third Reading*

Bill read a third time, on motion by Hon Graham Edwards (Minister for Police), and passed.

### EDUCATION AMENDMENT BILL

#### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from 19 September.

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral) [5.27 pm]: The Opposition supports the Bill. Members will remember that when the Government brought in what was called the Better Schools policy, one of its essential ingredients was the devolution of authority to the schools. While I am not sure whether that has taken place in many real ways, it certainly has occurred regarding the provision of funds to schools for the conduct of their operations. Each Government school in Western Australia now is in receipt of a large sum of money - in comparative terms - so it is necessary to regulate the way in which the funds are managed by the schools.

The Bill formulates the operations of the school bank accounts, and ensures that proper provisions are in place for accountability with these funds. Basically, I am advised that the Bill will place on the Statute book that which already exists in practice. The situation until now has been that through administrative instructions the schools are advised as to what they must do regarding the funds. However, as a result of the increases in the budgets allocated to schools, it has become necessary to introduce legislation to ensure the proper management of those funds.

The Bill provides that each school will set up a school fund bank account and a person designated by the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Education, and two other persons, will operate that fund. The Bill provides directions on how the funds will be spent and indicates the accountability factor between each school and the chief executive officer. It is an important piece of legislation in view of the fact that we are increasingly seeing the need for accountability in the use of public funds. Moneys provided to schools by the Ministry of Education, following appropriation by Parliament, must be looked at very seriously. We must know that those funds are being spent in a way that is appropriate and proper.

Will the Minister explain why money held by schools must be lodged in a bank? Several months ago schools received a circular indicating that any moneys held in building societies, credit unions or organisations of that sort had to be removed from those institutions and placed in banks. This Bill formalises that by saying that the funds must be placed in a bank as defined in section 5 of the Commonwealth Banking Act 1959. Is the Government concerned that building societies and credit unions do not provide adequate security for the funds that schools might lodge? A number of schools were forced to remove funds held in those sorts of institutions.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: Why is that?

Hon N.F. MOORE: That is the question I am asking the Minister. Is the Government concerned about the likely future of some of these institutions in which schools' funds are held?

Hon Kay Hallahan: The honourable member was saying that schools received a circular giving them that instruction.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The circular came from the Ministry of Education advising schools that if they had funds in those sorts of institutions they should remove them and put them in the bank. This Bill - I am sure that Hon Sam Piantadosi is totally aware of its contents - states that funds must be deposited in a bank. The definition of banks excludes building societies and credit unions. The Opposition supports the Bill in view of the fact that schools are now much more financially independent from the ministry. Many schools have very large sums of money - in some cases hundreds of thousands of dollars.

HON J.N. CALDWELL (Agricultural) [5.33 pm]: This Bill will amend the Education Act 1928. It deals with the rather large sums of money that are held by some schools; in respect of country schools it relates to small sums of money. It will be interesting to know how much money went out to the North Baandee Primary School.

Hon N.F. Moore: The Bill provides that the Ministry of Education decides what to do with it.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: The North Baandee school is quite an interesting case. If this Bill were introduced in Victoria, where would the schools there decide to put their money? Some people are reluctant to put their money anywhere except under the bed.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Victoria is not so far away.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: That is a reasonable amendment; it is in the best interests of the schools as they know the areas in which the money can be best spent.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: Certainly not under the bed; Hon Reg Davies sees reds under there.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: I think it goes towards sporting equipment or whatever the school desires to spend it on. Accountability has been mentioned. The word seems to crop up incessantly in Western Australian legislation and I hope everybody is adhering to it.

HON DERRICK TOMLINSON (East Metropolitan) [5.35 pm]: I support the remarks of the previous two speakers. In doing so I draw the attention of the House to the report of the Auditor General for 1990-91, volume 1, in which he was critical of three aspects of the accounting procedures followed by the Ministry of Education. He reported that the ministry had not complied with sections 21 and 34 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act. Those sections deal with the requirements of authorities such as the Ministry of Education or its schools to deposit money in a public account or to open bank accounts. It was quite clear that had not been complied with. That is dealt with in this Bill, as Hon Norman Moore and Hon John Caldwell have just indicated. However, two other matters raised in the Auditor General's report must be addressed. I hope that the Government can indicate that these matters have been dealt with.

The second of the matters was the investment in authorised investments as defined by the Trustees Act 1962. Some investments by schools were not in accordance with the Trustees Act 1962.

Hon Max Evans: A few of them put money into Rothwells.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: No doubt; and I am sure that their deposits were unsecured.



The third matter raised in the Auditor General's report related to section 62 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act which deals with the accountable officers of the department reporting to the Minister. The Auditor General indicated that the Ministry of Education was at fault in this regard. While the Bill deals with the matter of banking and bank accounts for schools, it does not indicate that the other two matters of accounting have been dealt with. It is incumbent upon the Government to give a satisfactory explanation to the House during the passage of the legislation.

Another matter concerns the sums of money which are being handled by schools. I will use as an example the Lesmurdie Senior High School, where at the beginning of the year in 1990 students in years 8, 9 and 10 paid money - fees, plus book hire charges - amounting to \$340 per pupil. In the upper school, years 11 and 12 paid between \$500 and \$540 per pupil.

Hon Max Evans: How many pupils?

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: I cannot give Hon Max Evans the exact number of pupils, but I will assume that Lesmurdie Senior High School, as an average size high school in the Perth metropolitan area, has 1 000 pupils. I will assume that, given the fee range of between \$340 and \$540, the average fees collected plus book hire charges and amenity charges was \$400. That means that in February-March a sum of \$400 000 was collected by that school. One must add to that the subvention from the Ministry of Education in school grants, which is now the responsibility of the school itself for its recurrent expenditure, and the subvention of moneys by associations such as parents and citizens associations. One can very readily appreciate that the sum of money that the school is handling could quickly amount to half a million dollars and in some schools considerably more than half a million dollars.

While the Bill addresses the need for schools to comply with the Financial Administration and Audit Act to maintain a proper bank account for the proper accounting of those moneys, the other aspect of the management of those funds is not adequately addressed in our education system. I refer to school administrators. Promotion by merit means that the best teachers become school administrators; in other words, they are promoted not on their competence, qualifications or experience as administrators, but on their competence as teachers. Their professional competence in one area deems them adequate for professional competence in another. If one compared the competence of teachers with the competence of administrators, one would quickly see that the two are not necessarily compatible.

I have long been an advocate, both in this place and in another life, of a devolution of responsibility upon schools. With that devolution of responsibility, such as the management of its recurrent expenditure according to the resources and priorities of the school, there needs to be adequate training of school administrators so that there is no criticism of accounting procedures by such persons as the Auditor General, who indicates there is no satisfactory evidence of how schools, firstly, invested their money or, secondly, expended their money.

Requiring schools to conform with the requirements of sections 21 and 34 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act by establishing bank accounts is only one of four necessary procedures. There is a need also for proper accounting of expenditure by the Ministry of Education, and one might assume that, once proper bank accounts are established, the ministry might be able to account properly. The second procedure is the proper administration of investment funds in trustee accounts, which requires some knowledge and expertise on the part of school administrators of what are authorised trustee accounts; and, finally, it is absolutely essential, as more and more responsibility and more and more authority is devolved upon schools, that school administrators be properly trained and that qualifications for administration become prerequisites of promotion to administration, not merely competence in the classroom.

I commend the Bill to the House.

HON MAX EVANS (North Metropolitan) [5.43 pm]: I wish to make a few comments to support the remarks by Hon Derrick Tomlinson. Two or three years ago I took up this matter with Warren Loudon, then the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Education. I did not realise that this matter came under the same subject. The Better Schools report referred to the administration of funds by schools and stated that primary schools use honorary auditors to look after their funds. The report assumed that honorary auditors looked after the

funds of high schools, which could have amounts of \$400 000 in them, as Hon Derrick Tomlinson said.

The Auditor General referred to the opening of accounting as is required under the Act and the fact that no-one can open a bank account without permission. In reply, I ask the Minister for Planning to inform us about the exact position of the audits of these accounts, because at that time it was not clear. I advised that schools need, firstly, terms of reference on how to keep a proper accounting system or records of the money - it is big money - and, secondly, how the accounts would be audited. The Better Schools report was not clear on that matter. It referred to honorary auditors, who I believe are a big mistake because we only get what we pay for in this world. For some reason or another it was not obvious that the Auditor General was going to do about that.

I wrote to Mr Warren Loudon, Mr Bill Rolston, the Auditor General at that time, and Mr Alan Smith. It is unfortunate that the Bill has come on for debate now because I have not been able to check with any of those persons to see what each thinks about this matter. I would like to know exactly where the Auditor General fits in and by whom the accounts are being audited. They should be audited because they can hold anything up to \$500 000.

A Public Accounts Committee investigation approximately 10 years ago examined this matter. It did not pick up any real misappropriation of funds, but it did find indications of mishandling of funds, I think because people in those positions are not aware of how to account for money or how to keep the proper books. The committee said at that time that the moneys should be better handled and better accounted for. That comment was included in the Better Schools report.

I want some answers before we go too far with this Bill because I believe that some simple amendments could be included in the Bill to take care of the matters to which I referred three years ago.

**HON KAY HALLAHAN** (East Metropolitan - Minister for Planning) [5.46 pm]: I am pleased that the Education Amendment Bill is supported by members of the Opposition. The record of the debate in another place indicated that an Opposition member actually congratulated the Minister for Education for moving in this direction and for providing and formalising the necessary accountability structures and for regularising those structures in this Bill.

Members have raised questions some of which relate to the Bill and some of which do not. I propose to proceed with the Bill if the House is happy to do that and ask the Minister for Education to respond to the query by Hon Norman Moore about the designation of banks. Clearly, a decision was made some time ago to send a memorandum to schools asking that they relocate all their accounts in bank accounts and this Bill reinforces that.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson referred to the Auditor General's report and matters which will be dealt with by the passage of this Bill. Hon Max Evans asked about audits and instructions for the management of money because, these days, schools have to handle large amounts of money. While we all know that it is desirable to have local decision making processes in place, in some cases staff do not have the expertise to assist them with looking after these matters with ease and efficiency. I am sure the matters can be addressed. I will ask the Minister for Education to respond after the recess to the queries raised in members' speeches.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE - SPECIAL

On motion without notice by Hon Kay Hallahan (Deputy Leader of the House), resolved -

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 16 October.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE - ORDINARY

**HON KAY HALLAHAN** (East Metropolitan - Deputy Leader of the House) [5.51 pm]: I move -

That the House do now adjourn.

*Adjournment Debate - Tambellup - Racial Harmony*

**HON MURIEL PATTERSON** (South West) [5.52 pm]: Before the House adjourns for the recess, I think it would be appropriate for members to hear some good news in light of the Equal Opportunity Commission's condemnation of "institutional racism" in Brookton. The tribunal described the social and cultural division between Aborigines and whites in Brookton as a microcosm of Australia in general. How incorrect it was. In today's *The West Australian* an article headed "Harmony's the aim in Tambellup" reads -

Many Aborigines regard Tambellup as WA's least racist town because of the unique relationship between black and white residents of the small farming community.

Locals believe the strong family and community ties shared by Aborigines and whites living there have made it the envy of towns around the state.

They regard an Aboriginal employment co-operative set up by the Department of Employment, Education and Training in June last year as the jewel in their crown.

The establishment of the co-operative has allowed more than 20 Aborigines to gain full-time or casual employment in a town hit hard by the rural downturn.

Aboriginal leaders pointed to Tambellup as a model for towns with big Aboriginal population . . .

Aboriginal leaders said Government delegations and representatives of communities throughout WA regularly visited Tambellup, whose population in 1988 was given as 820, in a bid to discover the secret to harmonious black and white relations.

I can let members into the secret which is not a secret to the people who live in the town. The harmony is because the residents of Tambellup live in the real world and respect is given to anyone who is prepared to work hard and honestly. Colour is of no consequence. This attitude is extended onto the sporting fields and the community has produced many fine sportsmen of both white and Aboriginal descent. The article continues -

The assistant coordinator of Tambellup's employment co-operative, Mr Dennis Colbung, said Aboriginal people in the Great Southern town realised they were under the spotlight and were determined to set an example for other communities.

Mr Colbung shows a strong sense of responsibility. The article continues -

He said the united stance taken by Aboriginal people in the town and the positive response from the rest of the community had led to the success of the employment co-operative.

It provides training in ceramics, carpentry and cabinet making and is also the base for a pool of farm labourers who do a range of jobs under contract agreements between local farmers and the co-operative.

The co-operative's woodwork instructor, Mr Duncan Chadbourne, said it was hoped the four trainees under his guidance would eventually start their own business.

"The whole community is interested in seeing this scheme work because of the boost in self-esteem and pride employment gives our large Aboriginal population," he said.

"Most families, black and white, living in this town had been around for a long time and realise that we have got to get on together."

These sentiments were echoed by a farmer and shire councillor, Mr Kerry Spriggs, when I spoke to him today. Mr Spriggs reiterated, in encouraging terms, how active the shire council had been with its support of the work cooperative and the necessity to enjoy country life and to live in harmony. The article continues -

Trainee carpenter, Tony Farmer, 29, said he had found it almost impossible to find regular employment or training in Tambellup until the co-operative training began.

He tried to further his education at the Great Southern Regional College last year but found the 180km return trip to Albany each day too arduous.

I suggest it would also be too expensive -

Mr Farmer said getting on-the-job training in Tambellup made it possible for him to improve the living conditions of his four children.

The co-operative produces furniture, makes guide posts for the shire council and has done alterations to council, school and office buildings in the town.

The president of the shire council, Cr John Simpson, said the town was proud of its reputation for racial harmony.

*Adjournment Debate - Missing Document Tabling*

HON KAY HALLAHAN (East Metropolitan - Deputy Leader of the House) [5.55 pm]:  
Earlier this afternoon I tabled documents on behalf of one of my colleagues. It has been drawn to my attention by Hon George Cash that one document requested was not tabled. It was an error and I now table the requested document.

[See paper No 580.]

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 5.56 pm*

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## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

## EARLSFERRY HOSTEL - SALE PRICE

*Tenders*

645. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Leader of the House representing the Deputy Premier:

- (1) What was the sale price of the Earlsferry mansion?
- (2) How many tenders were received?
- (3) Will the Minister list all prices tendered?
- (4) Was the property subjected to a sworn valuation and if so what was that valuation?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The Deputy Premier has provided the following reply -

- (1) \$280 000.

(2)-(3)

Two formal tenders were received by the Asset Management Taskforce, one for \$250 000 and the other for \$255 000, both of which were deemed unacceptable. Simultaneously the task force's appointed property agent was able to obtain the ultimately successful offer of \$280 000.

- (4) The most recent valuation obtained by the Asset Management Taskforce indicated a value of \$480 000, although this was qualified by an assumption that a purchaser may use the property for "highway fronting" semi-commercial use.

However both tenderers and the eventual successful purchaser indicated their intended use of the Earlsferry property was as a private residence.

The Valuer General's Office valued this property at \$450 000. Both valuers acknowledged the problems of valuing this property given the extensive damage to the property through fire, water and weather and the ongoing vandalism to the buildings.

The National Trust classification also effectively ruled out the demolition of the Earlsferry Hostel building or the subdivision of the site. Comparable sales on which to base an appropriate valuation for the Earlsferry property were therefore extremely difficult, if not impossible, to identify.

## HOSPITALS - GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

*Ward and Theatre Closure*

674. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Which Government hospitals have -
  - (a) wards; and
  - (b) theatres
 that are closed on either a permanent or temporary basis?
- (2) Can the Minister advise the reasons for such closure?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Health has provided the following reply -

- (1) The following hospitals have closed wards/theatres on a permanent or temporary basis -

	WARD	THEATRES
Fremantle Hospital	12 beds	-
Royal Perth Hospital	-	2
Swan District Hospital	12 beds	-
Bentley Hospital	14 beds	1
Armadale-Kelmscott Hospital	23 beds	-
	3 cots	
Osborne Park Hospital	18 beds	-
Rockingham-Kwinana Hospital	12 beds	-

#### COUNTRY HOSPITALS

Albany Regional Hospital	30 beds	
	at weekends	
Narrogin Regional Hospital	35 beds	
Denmark District Hospital		1
Bunbury Regional Hospital	20 beds	
Geraldton Regional Hospital	24 beds	1

- (2) In the metropolitan region closures are due to maintenance, remodelling requirements and budget constraints.

In country regions the closures are due to a decreased demand for bed/theatres, resulting in the need for hospitals to make more efficient use of staff resources. The closure of the theatre at Denmark Hospital followed a request to do so from local doctors. There has been no resultant complaint from the local community.

One theatre in Geraldton Hospital will close temporarily in the near future for maintenance purposes.

#### EARLSFERRY HOSTEL - SALE

*Member of Parliament Consultation*

698. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Leader of the House representing the Deputy Premier:

- (1) Is it correct that a member of Parliament was consulted on whether Earlsferry should be auctioned or put out to tender?
- (2) Why was this person consulted, given that it was the Asset Management Task Force's job to dispose of the site?
- (3) How much money was spent promoting the sale of the property?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The Deputy Premier has provided the following reply -

(1)-(2)

No. In January 1990, Mr Frank Donovan MLA, member for Morley, wrote of his own accord to the then Deputy Premier David Parker suggesting, among other things, that the tender process - in preference to auction - be used by the AMT in disposing of Earlsferry. Mr Donovan's letter was referred to the task force, who considered it along with all other relevant factors, correspondence and advice relating to the disposal of this property.

Tender was chosen by the AMT for the disposal of Earlsferry primarily because the auction method had been unsuccessful in a number of other task force sales. The tender method had, by contrast, proved highly successful in a number of disposals including another very similar type of property - Lawton House, in West Perth.

Advice to the AMT from the real estate industry generally is that auctions are having a very low rate of success in the current Perth property environment. By using the tender method the task force was also able to request prospective purchasers to submit their

redevelopment proposals, so that, prior to sale, the Government could ensure Earlsferry would be restored and used appropriately. This would be difficult to do using an auction for disposal.

(3) \$8 168.60

#### HEALTH - PATIENTS' ASSISTANCE TRAVEL SCHEME

##### *Administration Guidelines Tabling*

821. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will the Minister table the guidelines/manual which covers the administration of the patient assisted transport scheme?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Health has provided the following answer -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.

[See paper No 577.]

#### HEALTH - PATIENTS' ASSISTANCE TRAVEL SCHEME

##### *Air Travel Statistics - Transport Mode*

822. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many patients travelled by air under the patient assisted transport scheme in each of the financial years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90?
- (2) Has a policy decision been taken in recent years with respect to the mode of transport to be provided for PAT scheme patients?
- (3) If the answer is yes, when was this decision taken and what were the details?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Health has provided the following reply -

- (1) Statistical data relevant to air fares was not collected prior to 30 June 1988.

For the year to 30 June 1989, 2 911 patient assisted trips were provided under the patients assisted travel scheme where the mode of transportation was by air. For the year to 30 June 1990 this figure increased to 4 554 patient assisted trips.

- (2) Policies were established on the commencement of the scheme and these remain current. Patients travelling under the PAT scheme are normally required to travel by surface transport, except where the patient's medical condition specifically requires air travel. The referring medical practitioner must in such cases request air travel based on medical criteria only. The relevant hospital administrator may also take into account the personal care needs of the patient where surface travel is considered either impracticable or unreasonable.
- (3) Not applicable.

#### GLUE SNIFFING - POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

827. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Does the Police Department maintain any statistics regarding incidents in which the misuse of glues, by sniffing, has been a feature?
- (2) If so, how many such incidents have occurred in each of the last six months, to date?
- (3) Is any demographic pattern discernable within these statistics?
- (4) Have any charges been laid against individuals for either the use of glues for

improper purposes, or for supplying such glues to individuals who have then misused the glue?

- (5) If so, would the Minister give details?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1)-(3)

Statistics are not maintained. However a joint task force consisting of police, alcohol and drug authority, health and education is addressing the issue of solvent abuse on a systematic basis established by survey.

- (4)-(5)

I am advised by the Commissioner of Police that past practice was to charge "glue sniffers" under section 65(5) of the Police Act. This practice was maintained until a conviction under that section was overturned on appeal.

**JUVENILE OFFENDERS - POLICE ACT, SECTION 50AA(2)**  
*Photographs or Fingerprints - Legislation Amendment*

872. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that under section 50AA(2) of the Police Act it is not possible to have photographs or fingerprints destroyed when a minor is found guilty of an offence but a court has ordered that the charge be dismissed under relevant provisions of the Child Welfare Act?
- (2) Does the Government intend to amend legislation to correct this situation
- (3) If not, why not?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am presently giving consideration to the question of whether or not a person who has had a charge against him proved but in respect of whom no formal conviction is recorded, should be able to compel police to destroy fingerprints or photographs resulting from the arrest of that person.
- (3) Not applicable.

**ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE - GOVERNMENT FUNDING**

875. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does the State Government provide funding for the Aboriginal Medical Service?
- (2) If so -
  - (a) what has been the contribution in each of the financial years 1985-86, 1986-87, 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90; and
  - (b) does the Health Department of Western Australia have any responsibility for, and control over, the activities of the service?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Health has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Funding to Aboriginal Medical Service, Perth -

	Health Department of WA	Home & Community Care - HACC
1985-86	\$16 000	
1986-87	\$10 500	
1987-88	\$25 000	\$166 000
1988-89	\$5 500	\$147 870
1989-90	-	\$255 777

HACC has also provided the following funding to Aboriginal groups to enable them to provide community-based, basic



maintenance services to frail aged and disabled Aboriginal people who are at risk of premature or inappropriate institutionalisation.

#### HACC

1985-86	\$36 826
1986-87	\$110 474
1987-88	\$316 581
1988-89	\$658 874
1989-90	\$513 712

These services include home nursing, paramedical services, personal care, home help, transport services, respite care, re-education/training, delivered meals, home maintenance, assessment and referral services.

The Health Department of WA has provided funding to the following Aboriginal organisations -

East Kimberley AMS	\$3 000	1989-90
Mawarnkarra Health Service	\$2 200	1989-90
Ngaanyatjara Council		
Wingellina -	\$204 000	1988-89
(subsidy for the provision of a health care service for the community)	\$408 000	1989-90

- (b) In regard to HACC services funded through AMS, there are strict conditions attached to the allocation of funds by the Home and Community Care Program. These conditions prescribe the purpose for which funds are to be used and specify reporting requirements to ensure accountability for funds and to permit monitoring of service provision outcomes.

In addition, all HACC-funded services are required, under the Commonwealth/State HACC agreement, to be regularly reviewed in order to evaluate the services provided and determine the continuation of funding. These reviews are carried out by Commonwealth and State officers after the first year of funding and every two years thereafter.

The Health Department of WA controls the service provided by the Ngaanyatjara Council under an annual performance agreement. The agreement covers the main area of level of funding allowed, review of activity levels, and progress towards the achievement of specific objectives. Performance related indicators of projected activities are also incorporated in the agreement and these are reviewed each year.

#### **LAND - DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS**

##### *Simplification - Appeals Delay*

903. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Lands:

Given the Minister's commitment, made at a public seminar on 16 October 1989, that it was Government policy to simplify approvals for land developers, especially in relation to making better use of serviced land close to the city by cutting out long delays for developers: Could the Minister explain why an appeal to the Minister is still costly and time consuming even where the developer is certain that a town planner will reject plans submitted on a development because of zoning changes; and that this rejection will ultimately require Ministerial direction to clarify the situation?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

Simplification of the development approval process is being examined in the context of the current review of planning legislation as well as other areas.

The ministerial appeal system is not expensive; the lodgment cost being \$63 with other costs of preparing the appeal being at the appellant's discretion. Decisions on appeals are made following careful research and review of the original decision which currently takes two to three months.

Because town planning schemes carry the force and effect of law, some development proposals cannot be permitted until scheme amendments - zoning changes - are approved. Although as Minister for Planning I am required to approve those amendments, I do not have power to direct local government authorities to commence or continue with them.

**MULTANOVA - FEDERAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT**  
*Requirements Conformity*

905. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is the Multanova speed camera required to conform to the requirements of the Federal Weights and Measures Act in relation to speed measuring devices?
- (2) If not, are the cameras required to conform to the State Weights and Measures Act?
- (3) Do any of these Acts require the cameras to be patented equipment, within the meaning of the relevant Act?
- (4) If so, are Multanova speed cameras so patented?
- (5) Are Western Australian police officers operating these cameras required by State or Federal legislation to be licensed or otherwise qualified operators?
- (6) If so, are Western Australian police officers so licensed or qualified?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) The Multanova speed camera referred to in this question is a camera assisted radar speed monitoring device and as such is required to comply with standards set down in relevant Federal legislation.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not relevant.
- (5)-(6) Police who operate the Multanova radar units are trained and qualified notwithstanding that there is no legislative requirement.

**PHARMACEUTICALS - PRESCRIPTIONS**  
*Federal \$2.50 Charge - Married Pensioner Compensation*

909. Hon MARGARET McALEER to the Minister for The Aged:

The Federal Budget introduced a \$2.50 charge on all pharmaceutical prescriptions for pensioners and in turn, announced compensation to pensioners at the rate of \$2.50 for each single person and \$2.50 for married couples. Would the Minister make representations to his Federal counterpart to recognise that people who are married have individual pharmaceutical requirements and therefore pensioners who are married should receive \$5 compensation per couple?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The introduction of a \$2.50 prescription charge by the Commonwealth Government has been accompanied by a \$2.50 increase to weekly pensions for single people and married couples. This increase will amount to \$130 per year.

To protect the chronically ill, the Commonwealth Government has introduced

a safety net provision, so that no single pensioner or pensioner couple will need to pay more than \$130 in prescription charges in any calendar year. All medication required after the maximum expenditure of \$130 per annum will be free.

Irrespective of the individual pharmaceutical requirements of a pensioner couple, both husband or wife will be entitled to free pharmaceuticals once their combined expenditure on prescription drugs exceeds \$130 in a calendar year. The safety net provision is the same for single pensioners as it is for pensioner couples.

I have advised the WA branch of the Australian Pensioners League that I am willing to represent any concerns they have on these matters to the Federal Minister.

#### SMITH, DR IAN - ROAD ACCIDENT PREVENTION RESEARCH UNIT

##### *Secondment Extension Refusal*

927. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Health:

Is it correct that a contributing factor in the refusal by the Alcohol and Drug Authority to allow an extension of the secondment of Dr Ian Smith to the Road Accident Prevention Research Unit, beyond 12 months was that the State Government did not wish Dr Smith to continue to publicly state that while a 0.05 per cent blood alcohol level would reduce injury and property damage, it would have little or no effect on fatalities?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Health has provided the following reply -  
No.

#### MARINA - CURTIS BAY, DUNSBOROUGH

##### *Onshore Development, Meelup Reserve - Environmental Review and Management Program Assessment*

931. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Will a full environmental review and management program assessment be undertaken for -
  - (a) the proposed marina at Curtis Bay (Dunsborough); and
  - (b) the associated onshore development on part of the Meelup Reserve?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following reply -

- (1) (a) I am advised that the Environmental Protection Authority will assess the proposed marina at Curtis Bay - Dunsborough - at public environmental review level of environmental assessment.
- (b) I am advised that the Environmental Protection Authority has elected not to assess the proposed onshore development on part of the Meelup Reserve.
- (2) Both these decisions are based upon the Environmental Protection Authority's discretionary powers under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. These decisions are open to appeal to the Minister for the Environment. That appeal period is still extant. Accordingly it is premature to make definite statements on the levels of assessment set until any appeals have been determined.

**CRIME - PERTH POLICE REGION**  
*Offence Statistics*

950. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

What were the total offences reported or became known to police in the Perth police region for the 12 months ended 30 June 1989 to 30 June 1990 in the following categories -

- (a) homicides;
- (b) sexual offences (excluding assault sexual/aggravated);
- (c) assault sexual aggravated;
- (d) assault sexual;
- (e) breaking and entering;
- (f) robbery;
- (g) serious assault;
- (h) assault police;
- (i) common assault;
- (j) stealing;
- (k) motor vehicle;
- (l) fraud;
- (m) damage;
- (n) arson;
- (o) unlawfully on curtilage/premises;
- (p) drugs;
- (q) other indictable offences; and
- (r) bomb hoax?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The information sought is not readily available on the basis requested.

**QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

**BELL GROUP SHARES - PURCHASE MOTION**  
*Bond Corporation's \$1 Million Fine - Missing Letter Tabling*

680. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Planning:

By way of preamble, I remind the House that the Minister for Planning tabled certain documents in the Council this afternoon pursuant to a motion which was passed on Tuesday, 25 September requiring the Attorney General to table certain documents regarding the National Companies and Securities Commission investigation into the Bond Corporation-State Government Insurance Commission purchase of certain Bell Group shares.

As the motion of the House also required the tabling of a letter in respect of the imposition of a \$1 million fine or levy on Bond Corporation and the Government's response to that levy, is the Minister aware of any reason why that document was not included with the other documents tabled?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

As the Leader of the Opposition has indicated, I have tabled the papers on behalf of one of my colleagues, so I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that I bring his comment to the notice of the relevant Minister to have the matter followed up.

Hon George Cash: Thank you.

**HERITAGE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA BILL - DELAY**

681. Hon PETER FOSS to the Acting Leader of the House:

I note that the Heritage of Western Australia Bill has slipped to No 10 on the Notice Paper and I remind the Minister of the importance the Opposition has

attached to the early passage of the Bill, as evidenced by Hon Phillip Pandal's request with respect to it.

- (1) Does this slipping of the heritage Bill to No 10 on the Notice Paper indicate that it does not have priority?
- (2) Is it the intention of the Government to seek to complete the second reading of this Bill at today's sitting?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2)

I accept that the Opposition sees some urgency about the heritage Bill but, given its performance when it had the numbers in both Houses of the Parliament and failed to pass it, I must say that claim wears rather thin and is hypocritical.

The Bill will not proceed today because negotiations are still in hand with regard to some groups who have indicated some concerns. It would be my hope that those people will find a way of being accommodated in the Bill. If that is not possible the Bill will proceed; but, given those negotiations and the general view of the House that we should attempt to find ways through difficult and conflicting points of view, I thought it was preferable not to proceed today.

#### HERITAGE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA BILL - NEGOTIATIONS

##### *Groups*

682. Hon PETER FOSS to the Minister for Heritage:

Supplementary to my previous question -

- (1) Who are the groups with whom the Minister is negotiating?
- (2) Is there any reason why this negotiation cannot take place while the matter is before the Legislation Committee?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2)

Contrary to the apparent view of Hon Peter Foss, I believe the prime body in this House is this House. There is a role for the committee, and no doubt there will be a case for people to be putting cases to it. It would still be my view that we want as many as possible of the differences of opinion resolved in this place before the Heritage of Western Australia Bill goes to the committee. That is a very sensible position to take, and that is what I am aiming to do. That does not mean to say that I think we can resolve all difficulties - I think that is beyond Solomon, quite frankly.

Hon Peter Foss: Who are the groups?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: They are property developing interest groups which are involved in the negotiations.

#### HERITAGE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA BILL - NEGOTIATIONS

683. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Minister for Heritage:

Further to the previous two questions -

- (1) Are these negotiations with the Government or with the House?
- (2) Were those groups negotiated with before the Bill was presented to the House?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2)

There have been continuing negotiations which have sharpened up since debate on the Bill was resumed in another place and subsequently in this place.

**FIRE BRIGADE - QUINNS ROCKS-MINDARIE KEYS AREA**  
*Insufficient Services*

684. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Emergency Services:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of claims that the Quinns Rocks-Mindarie Keys area does not have sufficient firefighting services available to it?
- (2) Can he indicate when the Quinns Rocks-Mindarie Keys area will be included within the boundaries of the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(2)

I was not aware of those claims and I would be interested to know who is making them.

Hon George Cash: The local people, as a result of a recent fire.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I am not sure whether they have been in contact with the board. They certainly have not been in contact with my office, to my knowledge, but I will check that. If the Leader of the Opposition would like to put that question on the Notice Paper I will examine it.

**HERITAGE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA BILL - BUILDING OWNERS  
AND MANAGERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA LTD**

685. Hon PETER FOSS to the Minister for Heritage:

Further to my previous questions relating to the Heritage of Western Australia Bill, is one of the groups she is negotiating with the Building Owners and Managers Association of Australia Ltd?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

One of the groups is BOMA, but I understand it is one of the representatives from four groups which have expressed some concern about the Bill.

**HERITAGE BILL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA - GROUP NAMES**

686. Hon PETER FOSS to the Minister for Heritage:

Further to the previous question, can the Minister give us the names of the other three groups?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I think they have been named in the media, but certainly there is one particular person who is said at this stage to be representing their interests.

**STATE ENGINEERING WORKS - MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

687. Hon MAX EVANS to the Minister for Lands:

Can the Minister now tell me in whose name the State Engineering Works is held?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I understand that it is the responsibility of the Deputy Premier, who has responsibility for the Western Australian Development Corporation.

**ACTS AMENDMENT (VEHICLES ON PRIVATE ROADS) BILL - DIFFICULTIES**

688. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

I refer to Order of the Day No 38, the Acts Amendment (Vehicles on Private Roads) Bill. What is the difficulty being presented in having this matter dealt with?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

It is a matter which is currently being reviewed by my office in consultation with the department. I have not dealt with the matter for some time, but as I recall it the problem is with a difference of legal opinion, and that is what we

are trying to sort out. If we cannot have it sorted out my intention would be to withdraw the Bill and to have it tidied up. I am leaving the Bill on the Notice Paper in the hope that we can sort it out, and if we have to attend to it by way of amendment we will do so; but if not, I will withdraw the Bill.

**ACTS AMENDMENT (VEHICLES ON PRIVATE ROADS) BILL - DIFFICULTIES**  
*National Insurance Brokers Association of Australia*

689. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

My question is supplementary to the one I just asked: Will he give consideration to meeting with the National Insurance Brokers Association of Australia in his consultations on this Bill before the matter is dealt with again by this House?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

If the association has a matter it wants to put to me, I would be only too happy to look at that.

**HERITAGE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA BILL - GROUP NAMES**

690. Hon PETER FOSS to the Minister for Heritage:

In view of the Minister's express wish that differences be ironed out by the House, is her reason for not telling the House the other three groups involved that she is unwilling to tell the House or that she does not know the answer?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

Hon Peter Foss is boring in his tenacity.

Hon Peter Foss: I would just like an answer.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: The Building Owners and Managers Association is coordinating the four different groups and one person has been appointed to liaise with a person acting on my behalf in order to try to meet the needs of the other groups. Does the member not have any contacts in the community at all?

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Minister is to answer questions; she is not to ask them.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT - MOTORCYCLE CUT-BACK**

691. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is it true that the Police Department has recently cancelled an order for new motorcycles?
- (2) If so, can he indicate any reasons for this cutback in police resources?
- (3) Can he indicate the number of motorcycles which were cut from that order?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(3)

I am not aware that that order has been cancelled, although I am not saying that that has not happened - I am not aware of it. A difficulty we will have with the Budget this year is that it will impact on vehicles, including motorcycles. I am happy to give the member a full answer if he would like to put that question on the Notice Paper.

**BUDGET - POLICE SUPPORT SERVICES**  
*\$13 million Reduction*

692. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

The Minister would be aware that last year an amount of \$47.958 million was the vote for Police Support Services, and that the Budget for this year provides an allocation of \$34.326 million, a reduction in the order of \$13 million. I ask -

- (1) Can he indicate to the Parliament which areas comprise Police Support Services?

- (2) Could he indicate whether such a reduction is likely to affect the proper use of police resources.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(2)

I do not have my Budget notes with me and rather than give an incomplete answer I invite the member to put that question on the Notice Paper. However, the Police Support Services generally relate to exactly what it says; that is, support services. That can come in the form of computer support or administrative support and a whole host of other forms of support.

**POLICE - TELEVISION ADVERTISING**  
*Police Sponsorship Cost*

693. Hon R.G. PIKE to the Minister for Police:

On Friday, 21 September at 2133 hours, on a Channel 7 news update, an advertisement was sponsored by the Police Department. Can the Minister indicate the cost of the commercial television advertising undertaken by the Police Department?

An Opposition member interjected.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

I can assure the member who interjected that any advertisement which is run by the police would not have a smiling picture of the Police Minister on it because I have a total objection to that sort of political advertising.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Unlike the member who asked the question.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: Is the member referring to the two advertisements titled "Nurse" and "Crosswalk"?

Hon R.G. Pike: In answer to your question to my question, I heard the tail end of a program sponsored by the Police Department.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I can only assume that the member is referring to the road safety advertisements which are designed to make people more aware of the dangers of drinking and driving. One advertisement states, "Don't fool yourself, speed kills", and the other states "If you drink and drive, you're a bloody idiot." I believe those are the advertisements the member is referring to. They have been run as part of the Road Safe WA campaign, and the cost of the total campaign is in the order of \$300 000. That, depending on the legislation which will be considered by the House shortly, will be the start of an ongoing program to increase public awareness of these matters. I do not have the figures regarding the actual cost of the television advertising, but I am more than happy to obtain them. The total cost of the entire program is in the vicinity of \$300 000; however, that is a very small amount of money when members consider the fact that the advertisements themselves would have cost that much to produce. We were able to pick them up because of some very good liaison with the Eastern States. I ask the member to put the question on notice and I am more than happy to supply him with the total cost and a breakdown of that cost.

**POLICE - TELEVISION ADVERTISING**  
*Police Sponsorship Cost*

694. Hon R.G. PIKE to the Minister for Police:

My understanding, and it is not a conclusive understanding, is that those advertisements were merely a commercial type of television presentation of the sponsorship kind and bore no relationship to the program the Minister is referring to. Will the Minister take that information on board and let me know the information I seek?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

I am more than happy to do that. I am not aware of which advertisements the member is referring to.



## SPEED LIMITS - NEW REGULATIONS

*Enforcement*

695. Hon J.N. CALDWELL to the Minister for Police:

Are the new road speed regulations being enforced at the moment?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

Those regulations are the current regulations.

## HERITAGE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA BILL - HERITAGE GROUPS

*Legislation Communication*

696. Hon PETER FOSS to the Minister for Heritage:

As she referred to a letter that was sent to all members of the National Trust, has her department had any concerted communications in a written or verbal form with other heritage groups regarding the current legislation?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I am disappointed with the member because he purports to have an interest in this matter, yet he does not pay any attention to answers I give regarding this legislation. I indicated that I mailed out a letter to heritage groups inviting them to my office to be briefed on the legislation and thus be up to date on its present status.

## HERITAGE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA BILL - HERITAGE GROUPS

*Opposition Proposals*

697. Hon PETER FOSS to the Minister for Heritage:

During the briefings and other communications, did her department suggest to heritage groups either that the Opposition was delaying the heritage legislation or that the Opposition's proposals with regard to compensation would make the legislation unworkable?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I certainly would have conveyed that to some groups, although, quite frankly, the heritage groups seemed to be pretty well informed on what would be good legislation and what might work out to be unworkable legislation. The member underestimates the interest that people concerned have about heritage matters. They did not need to be led by a Minister or a Minister's representative. Groups with diverse views have followed the heritage issue from a very informed position and want to see sound legislation introduced in this State.

## HERITAGE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA BILL - DELAY

698. Hon PETER FOSS to the Minister for Heritage:

In view of the fact that the Minister is now refusing to bring the Heritage of Western Australia Bill on for completion today, will she give the House an undertaking that she will no longer blame the Opposition for delaying the legislation?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I have not refused to deal with it today. Nobody asked me to deal with it. It is my judgment, as Minister handling the Bill, that the best way to proceed is to allow the day to go without finalising the second reading in the hope that there will be a further accommodation of the concerns of those people who have expressed them. Despite the politicking by Hon Peter Foss I will not be moved from a position of very sensible deliberation to a position of being pushed for his political expediency.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: You are delaying it, aren't you?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: So sensitive is the Opposition about this matter and how bad is its record that Hon Peter Foss pursues this line. It is a disgusting indictment on the rest of his party.

HERITAGE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA BILL - GROUP NAMES

699. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Minister for Heritage:

I refer to the previous question by Hon Peter Foss and the Minister's reply that negotiations were being conducted with the representatives of four groups and the representative of the Minister. Were three of those groups the Australian Institute of Valuers and Land Administrators, the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia and the Urban Development Institute of Western Australia?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The group the member missed was the Building Owners and Managers Association of Australia Ltd.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: We already had that.

CRIME - PERTH POLICE REGION

*Offence Statistics*

700. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

I refer to question 950 on the Supplementary Notice Paper. I asked the Minister for advice on the total number of offences reported or known to the police in the Perth police region for the 12 months from 1 July 1989 to 30 June 1990 in specific categories. The Minister advised that the information sought is not readily available on the basis requested. As I had previously received information based on those categories, will the Minister now advise on what basis the information is available?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

Did the Leader of the Opposition ask that question on a regional basis?

Hon George Cash: Perth police region.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: He may have asked that question before on categories but he has not asked that question before on regions because I understand that records are not kept on a regional basis.

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