

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

#### Second Session of the Thirty-fourth Parliament

*Parliament was prorogued on 3 May 1994, to 5 May 1994, when it met for the despatch of business.*

*Parliament was opened by His Excellency the Governor (Major General Philip Michael Jeffery, AO, MC).*

### OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, 5 May 1994

#### MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The Legislative Council met at 2.30 pm.

**THE PRESIDENT** (Hon Clive Griffiths) took the Chair, and read prayers.

#### VISITORS - WELCOMED TO OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

*Pike, Hon Bob, Death Recorded*

**THE PRESIDENT:** On behalf of the members of the Legislative Council I welcome all visitors to the opening of the second session of the Thirty-fourth Parliament and hope you have an interesting and enjoyable afternoon with us.

I would like to record the death on Tuesday, 26 April of Hon Bob Pike, Parliamentary Secretary and member of this House. Tributes to his memory will be paid by the members of this House at next Tuesday's sitting.

#### PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Parliaments (Mr L.B. Marquet) read the Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor (Major General Philip Michael Jeffery, AO, MC) summoning the second session of the Thirty-fourth Parliament.

#### GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

His Excellency the Governor (Major General Philip Michael Jeffery, AO, MC) entered the Council Chamber at 2.35 pm; and, the members of the Legislative Assembly having also attended in the Chamber obediently to summons, His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following speech -

*Mr President and honourable members of the Legislative Council.*

*Mr Speaker and honourable members of the Legislative Assembly.*

Before considering the Government's legislative program for this session, it is

appropriate that I mention the recent lamentable death of Hon Bob Pike, member of the Legislative Council. It was very sudden and caused great sadness among members of this Parliament, the government officers who worked with him and many people in the wider community. Apart from his important role as a member of the Council, Mr Pike was Parliamentary Secretary for Federal Affairs. The Government is concerned about the encroachment of Western Australia's responsibilities by the Commonwealth Government, and Mr Pike's wise counsel and extensive knowledge of federal affairs will be sorely missed. I am sure members of both Houses join me in offering our sincere sympathy and condolences to his widow Patty and their seven children.

I should also mention the resignation of Hon Carmen Lawrence, who left the Legislative Assembly to extend her political career in new directions. Dr Lawrence, a former Premier and Leader of the Opposition, is now serving as the member for Fremantle in the Commonwealth Parliament.

### **Buoyant Outlook**

I now wish to remark briefly on the excellent economic outlook for Western Australia in the period ahead. By most measures, we are outperforming the rest of Australia by a wide margin. Western Australia's domestic demand growth was an impressive 5.2 per cent in 1993, compared with 1.8 per cent nationally.

The buoyant outlook is all the more remarkable when considering the depressed prices for many of our agricultural and mineral commodities, traditionally the mainstays of the state's economy.

Our most recent economic powerhouse, the petroleum industry, is facing an all-time low in the prices it receives for oil and gas. Despite this, investment in the industry is continuing, both in exploration and production facilities.

Restoring investor confidence was a central plank of the Government's first year in office. There has been considerable improvement in business confidence. In real terms, private investment expenditure in Western Australia rose by a substantial 10 per cent in 1993, nearly five times the national figure of 2.1 per cent. This is a heartening sign because the Government is all too aware that it is private sector investment which creates new jobs that are sustainable in the long term.

The state's unemployment figure has been cut to 8.3 per cent compared with 10.3 per cent for Australia as a whole. The state's figure is the lowest for four years but it is still far too high. The Government, in its legislative and administrative policies, will adhere steadfastly to its belief that private sector growth is the key to achieving sufficient new jobs to bring unemployment down to the minimum possible.

### **New Markets**

New forms of economic activity are emerging to complement our traditional reliance on mineral and agricultural commodities. There is rapid growth in a wide array of service industries. We are gaining footholds in several high technology manufacturing industries, such as high strength metals, electronic and communications systems, and new processes for extracting minerals from ores. The products involved are sold mainly in export markets.

The Government is conscious of Western Australia's Indian Ocean orientation. This represents both a special responsibility and opportunity. The Government's investment attraction, trade development, cultural exchange and tourism policies increasingly will reflect this orientation.

Western Australia is an important component of the Indian Ocean rim. We look out to India, the Middle East, the emerging countries of east Africa and, we hope, a revitalised South Africa. It also means we are well placed to develop our established trade and cultural links with our Asian neighbours to the north.

This is not to say our traditional markets will be neglected. Major international companies based in Europe, North America and North Asia increasingly see Western Australia as a logical and desirable location for their regional headquarters. This is due

in large part to our proximity to Asia, our position in the same time zone, our competitive cost structure and the wonderful lifestyle this state has to offer. The Government will move strongly to encourage such companies to establish in Western Australia so that we can capture the job creation, technology transfer, skills enhancement and new trade links which go with these major international companies.

#### Microeconomic Reform

The Government is pushing ahead strongly with major reforms to all of its public sector agencies. Potential savings equivalent to \$400m a year have been identified, involving more than 300 specific measures. Immediate savings of \$160m have been identified and some \$78m of these will be included in the 1994-95 Budget.

Apart from the immediate financial benefits, these changes will have greater effects in the longer term as enthusiasm for productivity and a focus on customer needs become the norm throughout the public sector.

The Government is committed to providing quality goods and services to the community. Public sector agencies will be expected to consult with their customers and define the performance levels customers can be expected to receive. These will be presented as customer service charters for all agencies.

Most important of all, the public sector efficiencies achieved by government will mean lower costs for businesses and householders alike. Our firms can be internationally competitive only if they have access to cost competitive services from the public sector.

#### Legislation

I turn now to the Government's legislative program for this session of the parliamentary sittings. The program is a heavy one and involves several Bills of major importance, including the 1994-95 Budget Bills. Some of these Bills are outstanding from the first session of this Parliament. The Government will reintroduce them in the current session. Among them will be the Public Sector Management, Commission on Government, Strata Titles Amendment and Secondary Education Authority Amendment Bills.

New Bills for the current sitting include -

- Acts Amendment (Local Government and Valuation of Land Act) Bill, to codify the local government rates to be paid on mining and petroleum tenements;

- Local Government Amendment Bill, to apply uniform accounting standards to local government annual accounts;

- Subiaco Redevelopment Bill, to establish a Subiaco Redevelopment Authority and for other related purposes;

- Planning Legislation Amendment Bill, to improve the rigour, accountability and timeliness of town planning processes; and

- Land Drainage Amendment Bill, to abolish land drainage rates from 1 July 1994.

#### The Budget

The Government will present its 1994-95 Budget to Parliament prior to 30 June. This will mean departments and agencies will begin the new financial year knowing their revenue and expenditure targets. This will allow better financial and operational planning.

The Budget debate and Budget Estimates Committee hearings will take place at the usual times during the spring sittings.

#### Law and Order

There is unmistakable community concern about law and order issues. The public perceives a general deterioration in safety and respect for the law. The Government is responding to this concern.

There will be a number of Bills designed to strengthen the preventive and punitive measures available to law enforcement and community agencies. These continue the

Government's initiative across a broad front to reverse the trend to more lawlessness and lift community pride, especially among young people.

The Government will introduce a young offenders Bill which will provide a code for dealing with young offenders. This will emphasise reintegration into society and the supportive roles of parents, families and communities. The Bill will separate the justice provisions for juvenile offenders from the Child Welfare Act 1947; provide for the equivalent of parole for juveniles; replace the intent of the Crime (Serious and Repeat Offenders) Sentencing Act 1992 when dealing with serious offenders; and provide a legislative basis for juvenile justice teams when dealing with minor crime.

The Government will develop work camps as an additional sentencing option for young male offenders aged 16 to 21 so as to provide an opportunity for these young offenders to develop a sense of self-discipline and control. A period of intensive supervision will follow each offender's stay at a work camp.

The Government will introduce a sentencing Bill to provide for the reform of current sentencing provisions so as to afford stronger sanctions for offenders imprisoned with eligibility for parole. In addition, the Bill will abolish the 10 per cent minimum remission on parole terms; will increase the period before the review of eligibility for offenders sentenced to life imprisonment to 15 years; and for offenders sentenced to life imprisonment, review eligibility is to be set between 20 and 30 years.

The Coroners Act 1920 is now outdated. A new Coroners Bill will be drafted based on the recommendations of an ad hoc committee and the Honey report of 1992, both of which sought comments from the public. The new Bill will respond to community concerns about the removal of body parts for coronial autopsies.

#### Public Sector Efficiency

The public sector reforms will be assured in the longer term through greater competition in supplying government services. The Government will introduce an Acts Amendment (Fair Trading Act) Bill. Its provisions will expose all public sector departments, agencies and instrumentalities to competitive principles which now apply to corporations under the Trade Practices Act of the Commonwealth. This will ensure competitive neutrality between public and private sector organisations seeking to perform the same activity or to supply the same goods.

The amended Fair Trading Act will apply also to unincorporated businesses, sole proprietorships and partnerships. The changes are part of a cooperative scheme involving all State, Territory and Commonwealth Governments. The intention is to bring sound competition policy into force throughout Australia and to help ensure that we achieve and sustain international competitiveness. There will be appropriate transitional arrangements for organisations likely to suffer short term economic hardship following the changes.

There will be amendments to the Transport Coordination, Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport and Western Australian Government Railway Acts to provide for service contracting and other efficiency measures.

A vocational education and training Bill will be introduced to establish a new Western Australian Department of Training. It will combine the existing Department of Employment, Vocational Education and Training and the Skills Development Authority.

#### Resources and Energy

The Government has announced that the State Energy Commission will be divided into two separate corporate entities to supply electricity and natural gas respectively. There will be Bills introduced during the spring session to create these two new corporatised utilities. They will compete with each other in the state's energy markets.

There will be Bills to amend the Alumina Refinery (Worsley) Agreement Act to provide for noise abatement and the Collie Coal (Western Collieries) Agreement Act to remove a requirement to mine underground coal.

The Government will introduce amendments to the Mining Act to reflect modern practices in the mining industry, including better reporting requirements and longer terms for exploration permits. There will be a Mines Safety and Inspection Bill to give effect to agreements about safety between the Government, industry and unions. The Bill will seek to combine and modernise the previous Mines Regulation and Coal Mines Regulation Acts.

#### Agriculture

There will be legislation to achieve a uniform screening and registration scheme for agricultural chemicals. Amendments to the Soil and Land Conservation Act will be introduced to encourage still greater success in Western Australia's efforts to prevent and correct soil and land degradation.

There will be amendments proposed to the Stock (Brands and Movement) Act to achieve a more streamlined registration system, which will improve disease tracing. Amendments will be introduced to the Marketing of Potatoes Act to facilitate eventual commercialisation of the Potato Marketing Authority.

#### Land Administration and Planning

Amendments to the Strata Titles, Transfer of Land and Licensed Surveyors Acts will be introduced to improve the smooth administration of these important pieces of legislation. Legislation will be proposed to establish a Subiaco Redevelopment Authority, which will manage development of the Subiaco urban village concept. There will be a Planning Legislation Amendment Bill to establish a new Western Australian Planning Commission, with a strong focus on strategic planning throughout the state.

#### Social Advancement

As 1994 is the Year of the Family, the Government will be advancing and coordinating many programs and activities throughout the year. These will reinforce the Government's strong commitment to families as the fundamental social unit of Western Australian society. A state-wide campaign is under way to help prevent family violence, backed up by a 24-hour Family Helpline and confidential counselling service.

The Government is determined to achieve world benchmark standards for medical care in hospitals and other health care units. There will be a Health Services (Quality Improvement) Bill which will provide for equitable procedures for dealing with patients' complaints against medical practitioners and other health professionals. There will be a Medicare Agreement Bill to implement the agreement reached with the Commonwealth Government.

The Government will continue to give high priority to the social and economic advancement of Aboriginal people. There will be a Bill to establish an Aboriginal Affairs Department as recommended by the Task Force on Aboriginal Social Justice. The new department will be responsible for implementing many of the recommendations made by the task force to achieve better administrative management, better lives for Aboriginal people and better support for Aboriginal communities.

The Government has begun an \$800m sewerage construction program to enhance the living standards of people occupying houses with septic tanks and to begin a comprehensive set of measures to rehabilitate the Swan and Canning Rivers.

#### Finance

To improve normal working arrangements in the finance industry the Government will introduce a Stamp Amendment Bill to facilitate modern computerised stock exchange transactions. There will be a Bill to amend the Trustee Companies Act to permit such companies to use interest rate swaps.

#### Conclusion

Since becoming Governor, I have had the opportunity to travel some of the state's enormous distances and to meet its cheerful, self-reliant and friendly people. I was reminded at first-hand of a truth too often forgotten; that is, the most important resource is our people.

From what I have seen and those I have met, I have nothing but confidence for Western Australia's future. By working together under the guidance and management of a caring and principled Parliament, Western Australians will achieve great things in the years ahead.

Mr President, Mr Speaker, and members of both Houses, I now have much pleasure in declaring the second session of the Thirty-fourth Parliament open. I trust that Providence will bless your deliberations.

[His Excellency and the members of the Legislative Assembly then withdrew from the Chamber, and the President resumed the Chair.]

[Questions without notice taken.]

## MINING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

*Leave to Introduce*

**HON GEORGE CASH** (North Metropolitan - Minister for Mines) [3.26 pm]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice -

For leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Mining Act 1978.

Question put and passed; leave granted.

*Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by Hon George Cash (Minister for Mines), and read a first time.

## GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

*Distribution of Copies*

**THE PRESIDENT** (Hon Clive Griffiths): For the sake of accuracy I have obtained copies of His Excellency's speech, which will now be distributed to honourable members.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY - MOTION

**HON M.D. NIXON** (Agricultural) [3.28 pm]: I move -

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency -

May it please Your Excellency -

We, the Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

We are here today no doubt because the early settlers who came to this country brought with them the parliamentary and legal system they knew in their homeland. That was the system which evolved from their community, and it began in Westminster. In the last 165 years that system has been slightly altered, but the best parts of it have been retained. Originally, it was based on the recognition of rights and responsibilities, freedom with responsibilities, and the need for people to choose for their personal salvation. Society has changed a fair bit since then. The early free settlers had an infusion of convict labour. Nevertheless, the basic principles they brought to this country live on today. In addition, they brought with them an architectural heritage. As one visits towns in Western Australia, particularly in my electorate of Agricultural Region, the evidence of that heritage is there for all to see. Members may recall that the first settlement was in Albany, followed by the Swan River colony comprising farming communities at Guildford. The settlers moved north to York where broadacre farming was established along the Avon Valley. Today, most of the architectural heritage in this State can be found along the major roads. From Albany Highway to the major roads linking York, Northam and Toodyay and then along the Old Plains Road to New Norcia, to Gingin and

to Greenough there is evidence of early colonial buildings. The early settlers had a policy of developing country that was well watered and did not require fertiliser. They were very careful in choosing the areas in which they settled. A little later the goldfields was established and civilisation moved further east and once again there is evidence of important heritage buildings in that area. Of course, there are also modern buildings including Monsignor Hawe's Catholic churches in the northern agricultural areas which are of tremendous value. In my home patch some magnificent buildings have been erected and I refer to the school buildings and the monastery at New Norcia which are of tremendous value to the community. Further down the road is Keane College. People in every area have their favourite buildings and regardless of where they are erected they must be retained.

The other day I was in the Hay Street Mall and on looking around I became aware of the many buildings which were built post federation. Many of those buildings are still in their original state and they are magnificent. Unfortunately a few of them have been modernised and I do not think it has improved them. Be that as it may, many of the buildings in Western Australia are in poor condition and in need of repair. I have spent most of my life on the land and I am amazed at the number of buildings which were established in the first few years of settlement. I am reminded the major reason for that was the settlers were able to build these magnificent buildings without the burden of taxation. It would be very difficult to build them today and few farming communities have been able to match them. Nonetheless, unless the existing buildings are attended to shortly they will be lost to all of us. The best way they can be preserved is for the people who own and love them to care for them. Fortunately many of the early buildings are churches, and where they are still in use the local community care for them. Only last Sunday I attended a service at St Luke's at Gingin which was established in 1865. The church community is raising money to restore that church. Unfortunately, many of the buildings were built by enthusiastic amateurs and in those days they did not provide dampcourses. Often the stones were held together by mud - it was in the days before the use of cement. Once the buildings lose their roofs it is not long before they are destroyed. As a community we will be far poorer unless action is taken now to preserve these buildings.

I do not know what the Government can do because obviously the preservation of these buildings requires large amounts of money. However, if we were to reverse the process a little and return to some form of taxation deduction it would go a long way to solving the problem. Recently I was talking to a person who has a heritage lot of approximately three acres in the country. He told me that his rates are much higher than the rates on a house in Peppermint Grove. Surely some form of rate relief would go a long way to enabling people like him to do some maintenance on their buildings. I am sure the same thing applies to taxation, but that is a federal matter. Certainly a taxation deduction for the restoration of these heritage buildings would be of tremendous value. In the end the ordinary citizens will have to put their hands in their pockets, either privately or by way of government charges, to restore these buildings while we still have the opportunity to do so.

The ability to restore heritage buildings in Western Australia would be a most fitting way to celebrate 100 years of federation, which is not very far away. Shortly after then we will celebrate 200 years of settlement in Western Australia. These are the kinds of projects which this State and this nation should undertake. It was recently suggested to Hon Bruce Donaldson and me that if the Government were able to offer interest free loans to enable people to undertake maintenance on their buildings when it was required it would be a practical way for private citizens to protect their assets. The borrowed money could be paid back into a pool and be recycled. Regardless of what assistance can be given the need is urgent and something must be done now or the opportunity will be lost. The past is important and the only thing more important than it is the future and it is based on what is done now. As His Excellency said, the future of any country is based on its people, particularly its youth. In my travels around Western Australia I have become concerned that while most of the youth today are probably better educated, work

harder and in many cases are more successful than their parents, unfortunately too many of them are unemployed. Unemployment is the greatest social problem facing this nation. To feel part of society people must believe they are making a worthwhile contribution to it. In most cases this contribution starts when a person has a job or, even better than that, a career. This nation must work in every way possible to create permanent jobs for all people who wish to work. Fortunately, the economy has turned around to a certain extent. However, there are still areas facing tremendous economic difficulty. I am inclined to think that much of the turnaround in Western Australia is linked to two very good wheat harvests. The benefit from those harvests has made a tremendous difference to the economy. However, the south coast, which depends largely on wool, has had some bad seasons with high winds and excess rain and this has led to increased poverty in that area. People are being forced off their land and it is something which must be addressed.

Some of the industries in Australia are moving on to greater things. I am very proud of what has happened to the beef industry in Australia in recent years. In Western Australia it has been a Cinderella industry. The beef industry in the south of the State developed after the Second World War. Prior to that the area was renowned for its dairy industry. Of course, Australia's cultural heritage has been built around the beef industry. I am sure that most members were brought up on Banjo Paterson's poems and stories of people who served in the 10th Light Horse drawn from people in the pastoral industry used to riding their horses rounding up stock. I am pleased that not only is the beef industry the greatest agricultural export earner in the nation, but also is second only to coal as the greatest export earner for Australia. Although it has doubled its export income in the last 10 years it amounts to approximately \$5b a year. If one compares that with the current balance of payments figures one would have to multiply it by three for it to keep up with this country's deficit. The beef industry has demonstrated the direction which Australia should take. It is competitive on world markets and it has been successful, from the bottom of the industry through to the top. Producers have used the latest genetic material and the transport industry has improved to such an extent that it allows cattle to be easily transported from the north to the south of the State. A tremendous amount of work has been done by government to improve regulations relating to disease control. Many of the abattoir operators have done a tremendous job in upgrading their standards. In Japan, Australian beef lasts longer on the supermarket shelf than does beef from any other country. That is one of the reasons Japan has become this country's greatest export market.

Our future lies in the Indian-Pacific rim countries, where there is tremendous demand for feeder cattle. That market will enable the beef industry in Western Australia to expand a great deal. However, the industry faces a few problems, one of which is that it is almost impossible to get shipping space. The Government will need to work on this problem to ensure that producers can bring their product to the market place. The industry is hamstrung by excessive costs. For instance, it costs \$160 000 to put a Department of Primary Industry inspector in an abattoir. That is a major cost for large abattoirs, but it represents an even greater cost when establishing smaller, regional abattoirs - and smaller abattoirs will be the way to go in future. These problems will need to be overcome if we are to achieve our export potential.

I refer to other value added industries in Australia, particularly wine. Perhaps wine has been successful because it goes so well with beef. Our native wildflower industry has great potential for cut flowers and for the genetic material which can lead to a major industry in Australia. Our future will depend on what we do now. I am sure that Australia can succeed in the world as a competitive nation but we must take action now to ensure that success.

**HON MURIEL PATTERSON** (South West) [3.41 pm]: I formally second the motion.  
Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Tom Helm.

*House adjourned at 3.42 pm*

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## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### TAFE COLLEGES, INTEGRATED AUTONOMOUS - SECOND POSITION PAPER, WIDESPREAD CONDEMNATION

1. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will the Minister confirm that his second position paper on integrated autonomous TAFE colleges, circulated on 18 April 1994, has received widespread condemnation, as exemplified by the comments of the Chief Executive Officer of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Lyndon Rowe, in a letter to the Minister dated 21 April 1994 in which he says that, if full autonomy is not part of its policy position, then the pretext of moving in that direction should be dropped and all agencies directed to put in place a fully accountable centralised system?
- (2) What other organisations have complained to the Minister about this proposal?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) No. There has not been widespread condemnation. There has been considerable support for the proposition. Mr Rowe's views are not necessarily those of the people of Western Australia. I take on board the comments that he has made, but no decision has been made on the matter. As members will be aware, the Government announced that new legislation would be introduced this year. The question will be addressed in that legislation.
- (2) None.

### WHITEMAN PARK - DEGRADED AREAS *Rare or Endangered Species*

2. Hon T.G. BUTLER to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Planning:

Some notice of this question has been given to the Minister.

- (1) What sections of Whiteman Park have been classified as degraded areas?
- (2) What type of wildlife inhabits or is supported by these degraded areas of Whiteman Park?
- (3) In the event of these degraded areas being sold, what action will be taken to protect that wildlife?
- (4) What species of fauna or flora within the park are considered rare or endangered?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

The Minister for Planning has provided the following reply -

- (1) No sections of Whiteman Park have been classified as degraded areas. There are areas of cleared pasture which could be regarded as degraded in terms of natural vegetation content.
- (2) Grey kangaroos, southern brown bandicoots and several bird species inhabit the pasture areas.
- (3) No decision has been made to sell any area of the park.
- (4) I will provide the member with a list of rare and endangered flora and fauna in the park at the earliest opportunity.

**ROAD FUNDING - EFFECT OF FEDERAL WHITE PAPER ON  
EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRY INITIATIVES**

3. **Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY** to the Minister for Transport:

What effect will the Federal Government's White Paper on employment and industry initiatives have on road funding for Western Australia?

**Hon E.J. CHARLTON** replied:

I was interested in the White Paper delivered yesterday by the Prime Minister of Australia in which he outlined these initiatives. He has missed the best opportunity of his life. In the past 12 months, the motorists of Western Australia have had to pay an additional \$150m following an increase of 7¢ a litre in the federal fuel excise. That money could have been used to build new roads, which would have created jobs. The statement has been a failure in that the Prime Minister missed out on a golden opportunity to create jobs across the nation. In the past 10 years, federal fuel excise has increased from \$2b to \$9b. Members could imagine the number of road related jobs that could have been created with that money. Those jobs would not be just earthmoving jobs for people using shovels; they would be in planning, drafting, the environment and the oil industry.

**SCHOOLS - QUINNS-CLARKSON AREA, NEW HIGH SCHOOL PLANS**

4. **Hon JOHN HALDEN** to the Minister for Education:

The announcement that a new high school in the Quinns-Clarkson area will not be built until 1997 has caused considerable concern among local parents who now believe their children will be subjected to gross overcrowding in existing high schools in the area and this will have a detrimental effect on their educational opportunities. Will the Minister accede to the requests of the Joondalup District Council Parents and Citizens Association and provide the necessary funds to have the new high school built and ready for occupation in 1995?

**Hon N.F. MOORE** replied:

Unfortunately, the Leader of the Opposition chooses to forget that the State is in serious financial circumstances. There simply are not funds available for the number of buildings that are required. I have no doubt that the school is needed in the northern suburbs of Perth. However, I remind the member that a school costs \$20m to build. Plans have been made to build a school in the vicinity in 1997. During 1996, students will be housed in other schools. Negotiations are taking place to build a new high school in the northern suburbs, which will alleviate overcrowding.

**LIVER TRANSPLANTS - WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PATIENTS**

5. **Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON** to the Minister for Health:

What is the latest position with Western Australian patients awaiting liver transplants?

**Hon PETER FOSS** replied:

Everybody is aware of the stress suffered by Western Australians who require a liver transplant because they are required to wait in Sydney for a suitable liver to become available. It has been a difficult battle because, following a five year program, we are now very close to being able to commence liver transplants in Western Australia. Much debate has occurred about the need for a liver transplant unit in Western Australia. There have been disputes as to whether people are currently adequately treated here. Those disputes are mainly between the people on the surgical side and those on the intensive care side, who say that only in an

emergency should they carry out that procedure here. Today, I was pleased to say that we may be able to arrange for patients to be flown to Sydney when a liver becomes available. It had previously been suggested to me that people would be made sick by that movement and that it was not possible.

My department contacted the Australian National Liver Transplantation Unit at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney, with a view to determining whether we could arrange special flights to Sydney for Western Australian patients, and received a copy of its letter to Professor Reed, dated 13 April 1994, which states that Western Australian patients and their families have been experiencing difficulties in having to remain in Sydney while waiting for a liver transplant. It also mentions that the waiting time has been extended because of a lack of livers. The letter goes on to state -

I am pleased to say that recently Qantas has revised its domestic airline timetable effective from 27 March 1994 and I note that it would now appear feasible for West Australian patients to remain at home in Perth whilst on the Waiting List, until the time of transplant and still be able to catch a commercial Qantas flight to Sydney in time for their liver transplant.

I do not believe that, given our current transplant organisation, any West Australian citizen, residing in Perth, would be disadvantaged by remaining at home until the time of transplant. If a West Australian lived outside the Perth metropolitan area, then alternative arrangements would need to be made, ie. they reside in Perth or in Sydney whilst on the Waiting List. Obviously, medical considerations would take precedence with any particular patient. It has been our usual practice to offer patients on the Waiting List from Hobart, Melbourne or Adelaide the option of residing at home or waiting in Sydney, whichever they prefer. We are now pleased to be able to offer this same facility to your group of patients. It is axiomatic that if the patient prefers to remain in Sydney or medical circumstances dictate this, we would be happy to oblige and the current arrangements would continue to apply.

The question arises why Professor Reed has not mentioned this matter to the Government or the Health Department in the meantime. I do not know whether the two patients who are waiting in Sydney could have waited in Perth. One recently returned to Perth. Since this letter was written and following publicity in the newspaper, at no time did anyone raise this matter with me. Professor Reed is one of the advocates of transplants in Western Australia; however, he did not raise this matter with the Government, despite some of his colleagues being unwilling to perform the operation. I think he owes us an explanation why this letter has not been raised in the current debate.

Leave granted for paper to be tabled. [See paper No 18.]

#### SCHOOLS - CLOSURES *On Published List, No Deterioration*

6. Hon DOUG WENN to the Minister for Education:

Will the Minister give an undertaking that the schools named on the published list of possible school closures in Western Australia will not be allowed to become rundown?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

Yes.

**SCHOOLS - BUREKUP PRIMARY**  
*Toilets, Urgent Repairs*

7. Hon DOUG WENN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) In the light of the Minister's answer, will he urgently direct the Education Department and the Building Management Authority to repair the toilets at Burekup Primary School?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

(1)-(2)

The Burekup Primary School is being assessed along with every other school in Western Australia.

**MOTOR VEHICLE (THIRD PARTY INSURANCE) ACT - POLICE  
OFFICERS' INJURY CLAIMS**

8. Hon A.J.G. MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Finance:

Some notice has been given of this question.

- (1) How many claims were made by police officers under the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act in 1991-92 and 1992-93 for injuries incurred in the course of their duties?
- (2) What was the total value of these claims?

Hon MAX EVANS replied:

- (1)-(2) I thank the member for some notice of this question. Seventy-two claims were made in 1991-92 and the total paid to date is \$748 550.53. Ninety-one claims were made in 1992-93 and the total paid to date is \$257 562.66. These figures do not distinguish between on duty, off duty or journey to work claims.

**ROTTNEST ISLAND AUTHORITY ACT - REVIEW**

9. Hon A.J.G. MacTIERNAN to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

Some notice has been given of this question.

- (1) Has the review of the Rottne Island Authority Act which was commenced nine months ago been completed?
- (2) If not, when is it expected to be completed?
- (3) If yes, when will the review be made public?

Hon GEORGE CASH replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Premier has provided the following reply -

- (1) No.
- (2) The review will be forwarded to the Premier at the end of May 1994.
- (3) Not applicable.

**SHARK BAY - REGIONAL PLAN, ABANDONED BY MINISTER FOR  
PLANNING**

10. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the recent publicly stated position of the Minister for Planning that he is abandoning the current Shark Bay regional plan that was developed after five years of extensive consultations with community, local government, industry and environmental groups and relevant government departments and agencies?

- (2) Does the Minister agree with the position of the Planning Minister to abandon that plan?
- (3) Does the abandonment of the plan now enable the Minister for Lands to grant a land application to the Monkey Mia Dolphin Resort for the establishment of a golf course at Monkey Mia or any other land applications in that area?

Hon GEORGE CASH replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) This matter will require further research. I will look into it and inform the member in due course.

**POLICE - NEW STATIONS, BUNBURY, CAPEL AND AUSTRALIND**

11. Hon DOUG WENN to the Minister for Mines representing the Minister for Police:

Some notice has been given of this question.

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the member for Bunbury promised new police stations at Bunbury, Capel and Australind prior to the last election?
- (2) If yes, can the Minister indicate when these commitments will be met?

Hon GEORGE CASH replied:

The Minister for Police has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Planning for the region, which includes Bunbury, Capel and Australind, is the subject of a review by the Police Department. Until that review is finalised I am unable to provide the member with the precise details of the timing for these projects.

**ROTTNEST ISLAND - ABORIGINAL BURIAL GROUND, FULL RECONCILIATION PROGRESS**

12. Hon A.J.G. MacTIERNAN to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

There is a slight error in the way this question was framed when notice of it was given. That may cause some difficulty for the Leader of the House because he is not answering in his own right. However, the question as it was submitted to the Leader of the House states -

What progress has been made to reach a full reconciliation of the Aboriginal burial ground at Rottnest - and what issues remain to be resolved?

The intent of the question is to determine what progress has been made to reach full reconciliation of the issues surrounding the Aboriginal burial ground, and what issues are outstanding.

Hon GEORGE CASH replied:

The member is correct. I am answering the question in a representative capacity. As such, and as the question has changed, I suggest the new question be placed on notice and I will seek a reply for the member.

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