

for Belmont, Swan, and Beeloo will be concerned in the matter. I believe that anyone who is going to have his livelihood affected should be bought out and given a chance to start afresh before the price of land gets too high. Surely it is reasonable that people who have sat on land for years and who are now prepared to develop it should be given a chance to do so. They are told that they cannot develop it and cannot subdivide it or sell.

I agree with this principle where land has been bought for speculation, but not when it was bought with the idea of developing it. People are being penalised as years go by. I believe that as they get older they should be looked after, and I hope the two cases I have mentioned will get some consideration from the departments concerned. Those departments are the Main Roads Department, the Town Planning Board, and the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority. They are the three authorities one has to go through, and if one authority cannot get around a problem the buck is passed to someone else.

I want to touch briefly on a matter which I have raised several times in this House, and that is the way the Press report various items. No doubt members have been told by now that I am a member of the local authority. In a recent eastern suburban supplement, on Thursday, the 5th August, 1965, there appeared a heading "Bayswater Opposes Housing."

No doubt many people have read that and noticed that it had to do with natives and a request from the Minister for the opinion of the local authorities in regard to the housing of natives in their districts. Now, headlines are read by a lot of people who do not read the article, and those people can be misled by such headlines.

The position is that the local authority is not opposed to housing natives, as the article would indicate. The local authority believes in the assimilation of the natives, but it believes in total assimilation. In this article one councillor said that he did not notice that Melville or Dalkeith or other areas were mentioned in the letter dealing with where the native houses were to be built. Surely if we are to assimilate our black brothers into our community we will not pick out certain suburbs and say, "That is where you can live." Surely we have to do the job properly; and if it is good enough to approach the local authority of Bayswater, then surely it is good enough to go to all the local authorities. We should not pick out two or three authorities.

Our growl is not against the housing of natives. Our complaint is the lowering of the standards of the other people where the natives are going to be put, because of the lower standard of house to be built for the natives. The houses in the area I

represent are brick, or brick veneer. It is proposed, according to the plans and specifications which I read, and which are shown in the list, to put the natives into houses of a lower standard than we would allow our own white people to live in.

I do not make any excuses for the local authority, but I do say that if we intend to be really earnest in our endeavours to assimilate these people, then let us do it the right way. If we have been able to raise some of these native families to a reasonable standard, and we intend to put them into houses, is it not only right and proper that they should be placed in properly constructed homes which would be equal to those which would be occupied by white people?

I know there have been experiences where some natives in various parts of the State have torn their homes to pieces. In that case I say the department is in the wrong, because it should not put natives into houses when they are not ready for it. It could be said, "How can you get them ready for houses?" As I have mentioned before, many native families have come from the missions, and surely nothing could be said about the character of those people. They are the type that we should be gradually assimilating into our community. I know it is not possible to take nomad natives from the bush, place them in homes in the middle of civilisation, and expect them to live like the rest of the community around them.

Therefore the article I mentioned, like many others that appear in the Press, is misleading; and I hope the day will come when we will have decent reporting—unbiased reporting—which will not only lift the standard of the people, but will also retain the standing of Parliament on the highest plane.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Runciman.

House adjourned at 10.22 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 11th August, 1965

CONTENTS				Page
ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE :				
SPECIAL	....	....	....	228
BILLS—				
Coal Mines Regulation Act Amendment Bill—				
Intro. ; 1r.	....	....	....	219
Coal Mine Workers (Pensions) Act Amendment Bill—				
Intro. ; 1r.	....	....	....	219

CONTENTS—continued

BILLS—continued	Page
Constitution Acts Amendment Bill—	
Standing Orders Suspension	215
Receipt; 1r.; 2r.	220
Com.; Report; 3r.	227
Debtors Act Amendment Bill—	
Intro.; 1r.	219
Mines Regulation Act Amendment Bill—	
Intro.; 1r.	219
Mining Act Amendment Bill—	
2r.	219
Parliamentary Allowances Act Amendment Bill—	
Standing Orders Suspension	215
Receipt; 1r.; 2r.	227
Com.; Report; 3r.	228
Stipendiary Magistrates Act Amendment Bill—	
Intro.; 1r.	219
MOTION—	
Gascoyne River : Damming	215
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—	
Boards, Trusts, and Commissions : Statutory Powers	214
Eggs in Cold Storage : Number Held by Board	214
Electricity Supplies for Southern Cross : Commencement and Approximate Charges	214
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs Employees : Income Tax Group Certificates	214
Manslaughter Convictions in Five-year Period : Total, Number of Drunken Drivers, and Penalties	214
Mining—	
Oil Search : Leases and Results of Drilling	206
Prospectors and Leaseholders : Government Assistance	215
School Sports at Esperance—Transport Subsidy for Norseman Schools: Reduction	214
QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE—	
Iron Ore Agreements—Reports from Companies : Tabling	206

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

IRON ORE AGREEMENTS

Reports from Companies: Tabling

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE asked the Minister for Mines:

In view of the extensive and intensive programme of the various companies operating under agreements passed by this Parliament in connection with iron ore, will the Minister agree to table in this

House the monthly reports made available to him by the various companies?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

I will give consideration to the matter. I do not know that the actual construction reports are submitted in the form of monthly information, but if the honourable member will give me an opportunity to examine the situation, I will see what information can be provided in printed form.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Thank you.

QUESTIONS (8): ON NOTICE

OIL SEARCH

Leases and Results of Drilling

1. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Mines:

Relating to the search for oil in Western Australia, the Minister is asked to supply the following information:—

- (a) total area considered potential oil bearing;
- (b) total area held under lease;
- (c) area of each lease and name of holders;
- (d) original dates when leases were issued;
- (e) expiry dates of leases now held;
- (f) number and depth of each well completed and being drilled on each lease;
- (g) detailed results of each well drilled on each lease; and
- (h) location and holder of each lease not yet drilled for oil.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) The area in this State which is considered to have oil potential is subject to interpretation. However, it is estimated that approximately 400,000 square miles of the land area of the State has possible potential for oil generation and accumulation. In addition, some 200,000 square miles on the continental shelf may be prospective.
- (b) Total area held under oil search permits to explore is 771,970 square miles.
- (c) to (h) Lists giving required information are tabled.

The lists tabled were as follows—

Permits to Explore not Yet Drilled

No.	Holder.
106H—	Westralian Oil Limited.
134H—	Exoil Pty. Ltd. and Hunt Petroleum Corp.
135H—	Exoil Pty. Ltd. and Hunt Petroleum Corp.
136H—	Exoil Pty. Ltd. and Hunt Petroleum Corp.
142H—	Hawkstone Oil Co. Ltd.
147H—	Hunt Oil Co. and Placid Oil Co.
148H—	Hunt Oil Co. and Placid Oil Co.
151H—	Hackathorn Oils Pty. Ltd.
152H—	Hackathorn Oils Pty. Ltd.
153H—	Hackathorn Oils Pty. Ltd.
156H—	Hunt Oil Co. and Placid Oil Co.
157H—	Hunt Oil Co. and Placid Oil Co.
158H—	Hunt Oil Co. and Placid Oil Co.
159H—	Hunt Oil Co. and Placid Oil Co.
161H—	Hunt Oil Co. and Placid Oil Co.

172H—	Alliance Petroleum Australia N.L.
174H—	Alliance Petroleum Australia N.L.
177H—	Alliance Petroleum Australia N.L.
193H—	Hawkstone Oil Co. Ltd.
199H—	Pilbara Exploration N.L.
205H—	Alliance Petroleum Australia N.L.
206H—	Alliance Petroleum Australia N.L.
207H—	Alliance Petroleum Australia N.L.
209H—	Australian Oil Corporation.
213H—	Woodside (Lakes Entrance) Oil Co. N.L., B.O.C. of Australia Ltd., Shell Development (Australia Pty. Ltd.
216H—	Pilbara Exploration N.L.
221H—	Australian Aquitaine Petroleum Pty. Ltd., Arco Ltd.
255H—	West Australian Petroleum Pty. Ltd.
232H—	Victorian Oil N.L.
233H—	West Australian Petroleum Pty. Ltd.
235H—	Tasman Oil Pty. Ltd.
236H—	Abrolhos Oil N.L., BP Petroleum Development Australia Pty. Ltd.

Western Australia

Mines Department

Petroleum Act, 1936

PERMITS TO EXPLORE AS AT 5th AUGUST, 1965

No.	Area (Square miles)	Expiry Date of Current Term	Holders
27H	34,650	31/12/65	West Australian Petroleum Pty. Ltd., 251 Adelaide Terrace, Perth.
28H	30,750	31/12/65	do. do. do. do.
30H	140,200	31/12/65	do. do. do. do.
106H	11,800	29/9/65	Westralian Oil Ltd., 44 Parliament Place, West Perth.
127H	13,800	28/3/66	Alliance Oil Development Australia N.L., Melbourne.
134H	12,600	*9/12/65	Exoil Pty. Ltd. and Hunt Petroleum Corporation, 137 Queens Street, Brisbane.
135H	12,600	*9/12/65	do. do. do. do.
136H	12,450	*9/12/65	do. do. do. do.
142H	5,200	8/10/65	Hawkstone Oil Company Ltd., 135 St. George's Terrace, Perth.

PERMITS TO EXPLORE AS AT 5th AUGUST, 1965—continued

No.	Area (Square miles)	Expiry Date of Current Term	Holders
147H	12,850	16/8/65 (Renewal applied for)	Hunt Oil Co. and Placid Oil Co., c/o Keall, McCall & Brinsden, 29 Barrack Street, Perth.
148H	12,600	16/8/65 (Renewal applied for)	do. do. do. do.
151H	14,200	7/2/66	Hackathorn Oils Pty. Ltd., c/o Keall, McCall and Brinsden, 29 Barrack Street, Perth.
152H	11,650	7/2/66	do. do. do. do.
153H	13,050	7/2/66	do. do. do. do.
156H	12,450	10/7/65 (Renewal applied for)	Hunt Oil Co. and Placid Oil Co., c/o Keall, McCall & Brinsden, 29 Barrack Street, Perth.
157H	12,600	10/7/65 (Renewal applied for)	do. do. do. do.
158H	12,800	10/7/65 (Renewal applied for)	do. do. do. do.
159H	12,800	10/7/65 (Renewal applied for)	do. do. do. do.
161H	12,900	24/8/65 (Renewal applied for)	do. do. do. do.
172H	6,150	30/3/66	Alliance Petroleum Australia N.L.
173H	12,250	30/3/66	do. do. do.
174H	6,100	30/3/66	do. do. do.
175H	6,050	30/3/66	do. do. do.
177H	6,050	30/3/66	do. do. do.
193H	2,750	5/2/66	Hawkestone Oil Co. Ltd., 135 St. George's Terrace, Perth.
205H	10,700	17/9/66	Alliance Petroleum Australia N.L.
206H	12,950	17/9/66	do. do. do.
207H	13,000	17/9/66	do. do. do.
209H	12,200	31/8/65	Australian Oil Corporation, c/o Parker & Parker, 164 St. George's Terrace, Perth.
210H	12,100	31/8/65	do. do. do. do.
213H	104,000	20/6/66	Woodside (Lakes Entrance) Oil Co. No Liability, B.O.C. of Aust. Ltd., Shell Development (Aust.) Pty. Ltd., 792 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, C.I.
217H	17,600	30/5/66	West Australian Petroleum Pty. Ltd., 251 Adelaide Terrace, Perth.
221H	44,000	28/7/66	Australian Aquitaine Petroleum Pty. Ltd., Arco Ltd., Perry House, 129 Elizabeth Street, Sydney.
225H	8,000	20/7/66	West Australian Petroleum Pty. Ltd., 251 Adelaide Terrace, Perth.
226H	34,700	6/4/66	do. do. do. do.
227H	11,400	6/4/66	do. do. do. do.
228H	2,900	13/5/66	do. do. do. do.
232H	3,000	10/9/66	Victorian Oil No Liability, 792 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, Victoria.
233H	6,800	10/2/67	West Australian Petroleum Pty. Ltd., 251 Adelaide Terrace, Perth.
235H	19,400	21/1/67	Tasman Oil Pty. Ltd., 179 St. George's Terrace, Perth.
236H	2,600	3/2/67	Abrolhos Oil No Liability, BP Petroleum Development Australia Pty. Ltd., 135 St. George's Terrace, Perth.
237H	8,950	Application pending	West Australian Petroleum Pty. Ltd., 251 Adelaide Terrace, Perth.
238H	1,220	do.	B.O.C. of Australia Ltd., Shell Development (Australia) Pty. Ltd., Woodside (Lakes Entrance) Oil Coy. N.L., 792 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, C.I.
Total Area	771,970		

WELLS DRILLED FOR PETROLEUM EXPLORATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Name	Type	Location		Total Depth (feet)	Bottomed in	Drilled for	Year completed	Results
		Lat. (S)	Long. (E)					
PERTH BASIN								
Abbarwardoo No. 1	Strat.	28° 35' 10"	115° 09' 35"	2,000	L. Permian	WAPET	1962	Dry.
Allanooka No. 1	Oil Test	29° 08' 31"	115° 00' 40"	3,895	L. Permian	WAPET	1965	Dry.
Allanooka No. 2	Oil Test	29° 06' 00"	114° 59' 36"	3,300	Precambrian	WAPET	1965	Dry.
Alexandra Bridge No. 1	Strat.	34° 09' 32"	115° 15' 54"			WAPET		Drilling.
Arrowsmith No. 1	Oil Test	29° 36' 38"	115° 06' 53"	11,306	Precambrian	F.P.C.	1965	Gas well.
Bookara No. 1	Strat.	28° 59' 28"	114° 45' 50"	926	Precambrian	WAPET	1965	Dry.
B.M.R. No. 10 (Beagle Ridge)	Strat.	29° 49' 38"	114° 58' 30"	3,910	L. Permian	B.M.R.	1959	Minor oil shows.
B.M.R. No. 10A (Beagle Ridge)	Strat.	29° 49' 38"	114° 58' 30"	4,862	Precambrian	B.M.R.	1960	Minor oil shows.
Cadda No. 1	Oil Test	30° 20' 10"	115° 12' 55"			F.P.C.		Drilling.
Eganu No. 1	Strat.	29° 59' 05"	115° 49' 35"	1,970	U. Jurassic	WAPET	1963	Dry.
Encabba No. 1	Oil test	29° 34' 14"	115° 19' 56"	13,712	L. Triassic	WAPET	1961	Minor oil and gas shows.
Eurango No. 1	Oil test	29° 07' 34"	115° 08' 10"	7,470	L. Permian	WAPET	1965	Minor gas shows.
Gingin No. 1	Oil test	31° 08' 32"	115° 49' 35"	14,908	L. Jurassic	WAPET	1965	Oil and gas well.
Gingin No. 2	Oil test	31° 10' 18"	115° 50' 35"			WAPET		Drilling.
Hill River No. 1	Strat.	30° 16' 00"	115° 18' 00"	1,900	L. Jurassic	WAPET	1962	Dry.
Hill River No. 2	Strat.	30° 11' 00"	115° 14' 00"	1,620	L. Jurassic	WAPET	1962	Dry.
Hill River No. 3	Strat.	30° 00' 32"	115° 11' 13"	865	U. Triassic	WAPET	1962	Dry.
Hill River No. 4	Strat.	30° 23' 24"	115° 13' 49"	1,010	U. Triassic	WAPET	1962	Dry.
Jurion No. 1	Oil test	30° 08' 40"	115° 02' 54"	3,366	Precambrian	WAPET	1962	Minor gas shows.
Mt. Hill No. 1	Strat.	29° 04' 05"	114° 58' 53"	1,858	L. Triassic	WAPET	1964	Dry.
Mungarra No. 1	Strat.	28° 51' 02"	115° 06' 55"	1,998	L. Permian	WAPET	1964	Dry.
Mungarra No. 2	Strat.	28° 54' 30"	115° 04' 54"	2,010	L. Permian	WAPET	1965	Dry.
Mungarra No. 3	Strat.	28° 57' 52"	115° 04' 53"	2,070	L. Triassic	WAPET	1965	Minor gas shows.
Mungarra No. 4	Strat.	28° 54' 15"	115° 15' 50"	2,110	U. Jurassic	WAPET	1965	Dry.
Mungarra No. 5	Strat.	28° 54' 40"	115° 08' 03"	2,040	L. Permian	WAPET	1965	Dry.
Mt. Horner No. 1	Oil test	29° 07' 42"	115° 05' 00"	7,390	L. Permian	WAPET	1965	Oil well.
Mt. Horner No. 2	Oil test	29° 08' 41"	115° 04' 34"	6,746	L. Permian	WAPET	1965	Minor oil and gas shows.
Wicherina No. 1	Oil test	28° 49' 53"	115° 14' 19"	5,530	L. Permian	WAPET	1964	Dry.
Warren River No. 1	Oil test	34° 34' 00"	115° 55' 00"	81	U. Jurassic	W.M. & O.	1902	Dry.
		(approx.)	(approx.)					
Warren River No. 2	Oil test	34° 35' 00"	115° 54' 00"	504	U. Jurassic	W.M. & O.	1902	Dry.
		(approx.)	(approx.)					

I Wednesday, 11 August, 1965. 1

WELLS DRILLED FOR PETROLEUM EXPLORATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA—*continued*

Name	Type	Location		Total Depth (feet)	Bottomed in	Drilled for	Year completed	Results
		Lat. (S)	Long. (E)					
PERTH BASIN—continued								
Warren River No. 3	Oil test	34° 37' 00" (approx.)	115° 51' 00" (approx.)	1,719	U. Jurassic	W.M. & O.	1901	Dry.
Woolmulla No. 1	Oil test	30° 01' 24"	115° 11' 28"	9,224	Precambrian	WAPET	1963	Gas shows.
Yardarino No. 1	Oil test	29° 13' 13"	115° 03' 10"	7,800	L. Permian	WAPET	1964	Gas well.
Yardarino No. 2	Oil test	29° 12' 22"	115° 03' 38"	10,090	L. Permian	WAPET	1964	Dry.
Yardarino No. 3	Oil test	29° 13' 27"	115° 03' 10"	8,857	L. Permian	WAPET	1964	Oil well.
Yardarino No. 4	Oil test	29° 13' 03"	115° 02' 30"	8,168	L. Permian	WAPET	1964	Dry.
CARNARVON BASIN								
Barrow No. 1	Oil test	20° 49' 06"	115° 38' 38"	9,785	U. Jurassic	WAPET	1964	Oil and gas well.
Barrow No. 2	Oil test	20° 49' 40"	115° 23' 07"	7,040	U. Jurassic	WAPET	1964	Oil and gas well.
Barrow No. 3	Oil test	20° 40' 22"	115° 23' 11"	7,250	U. Jurassic	WAPET	1964	Oil and gas well
Barrow No. 4	Oil test	20° 50' 32"	115° 23' 05"	7,816	U. Jurassic	WAPET	1965	Gas well.
Barrow No. 5	Oil test	20° 48' 03"	115° 23' 40"	7,390	U. Jurassic	WAPET	1965	Oil well.
Barrow No. 6	Oil test	20° 48' 55"	115° 23' 40"	7,732	U. Jurassic	WAPET	1965	Oil well.
Barrow No. 7	Oil test	20° 43' 58"	115° 25' 25"	8,002	U. Jurassic	WAPET	1965	Oil well.
Barrow No. 8	Oil test	20° 50' 58"	115° 23' 53"	7,400	U. Jurassic	WAPET	.....	Testing.
B.M.R. No. 5 (Giralia)	Strat.	22° 39' 15"	114° 14' 25"	2,070	L. Permian	B.M.R.	1958	Dry.
B.M.R. No. 6 (Muderong)	Strat. and struct.	24° 05' 55"	114° 46' 30"	1,002	L. Permian	B.M.R.	1958	Dry.
B.M.R. No. 7 (Muderong)	Strat. and struct.	24° 05' 55"	114° 46' 30"	1,997	L. Permian	B.M.R.	1958	Dry.
B.M.R. No. 8 (Mt. Madelino)	Strat. and struct.	25° 44' 50"	115° 40' 40"	3,004	L. Permian	B.M.R.	1959	Dry.
B.M.R. No. 9 (Daurie Creek)	Strat. and struct.	25° 32' 20"	115° 52' 50"	2,299	L. Permian	B.M.R.	1959	Dry.
Cape Cuvier No. 1	Strat.	24° 13' 30.3"	113° 23' 43.6"	1,500	Devonian	WAPET	1955	Dry.
Cape Range No. 1	Oil test	22° 03' 56.5"	114° 00' 32.5"	8,019	M. Jurassic	WAPET	1954	Gas shows.
Cape Range No. 2	Oil test	22° 05' 50.5"	113° 59' 41.2"	15,170	L. Jurassic	WAPET	1956	Gas, non-commercial.

Cape Range No. 3A	Oil test	22° 08' 42.9"	113° 59' 54.2"	3,737	U. Jurassic	WAPET	1956	Dry.
Cape Range No. 4	Oil test	22° 19' 26.5"	113° 56' 09.1"	3,858	U. Jurassic	WAPET	1956	Dry.
Dirk Hartog Nos. 1-16	Struct.	25° 42' 00"	112° 58' 20"	778	Eocene	WAPET	1955	Dry.
		25° 57' 45"	113° 00' 20"	1,500			1956	
Dirk Hartog No. 17B	Oil test	25° 51' 58"	113° 04' 40.5"	4,998	L. Silurian	WAPET	1957	Dry.
Exmouth No. 1	Struct.	22° 23' 01"	114° 06' 38.5"	1,759	U. Cretaceous	WAPET	1956	Dry.
Exmouth No. 2	Struct.	22° 21' 25"	114° 08' 17"	2,029	U. Cretaceous	WAPET	1956	Dry.
Giralia No. 1	Oil test	22° 59' 35"	114° 14' 20"	4,080	L. Permian	WAPET	1955	Dry.
Grierson No. 1	Strat. and struct.	24° 12' 00"	113° 46' 20"	1,437	Devonian	WAPET	1955	Dry.
Grierson No. 2	Strat. and struct.	24° 12' 00"	113° 47' 20"	1,478	Devonian	WAPET	1955	Dry.
Grierson No. 3	Strat. and struct.	24° 12' 02"	113° 45' 30"	1,450	Devonian	WAPET	1955	Dry.
Learmonth No. 1	Oil test	22° 10' 58.5"	114° 03' 31.2"	7,636	L. Permian	WAPET	1958	Minor gas show.
Learmonth No. 2	Oil test	22° 17' 35"	114° 03' 48"	6,137	U. Triassic	WAPET	1964	Minor gas show.
Marrilla No. 1	Strat.	22° 55' 45"	114° 30' 00"	1,498	? Silurian	WAPET	1963	Dry.
Minderoo No. 1	Struct.	21° 50' 40"	115° 04' 00"	2,000	U. Carboniferous	WAPET	1963	Dry.
Paterson No. 1	Oil test	22° 27' 34"	113° 55' 56"	7,500	Jurassic	WAPET	1964	Minor gas show.
Quail No. 1	Oil test	23° 57' 04"	114° 29' 57"	11,747	? Silurian	WAPET	1964	Dry.
Rough Range No. 1	Oil test	22° 25' 06.6"	114° 04' 54.4"	14,607	Devonian	WAPET	1955	Oil well.
Rough Range No. 1A	Oil test	22° 25' 06"	114° 04' 55"	3,657	U. Jurassic-L. Cretaceous	WAPET	1955	Oil well.
Rough Range No. 2	Oil test	22° 25' 50"	114° 04' 05"	4,079	U. Jurassic	WAPET	1954	Dry.
Rough Range No. 3	Oil test	22° 24' 40"	114° 05' 09"	3,915	L. Cretaceous	WAPET	1954	Dry.
Rough Range No. 4	Oil test	22° 25' 23"	114° 04' 54"	3,760	L. Cretaceous	WAPET	1954	Dry.
Rough Range No. 5	Oil test	22° 25' 07"	114° 04' 33"	3,772	L. Cretaceous	WAPET	1954	Dry.
Rough Range No. 6	Oil test	22° 25' 12.7"	114° 04' 48.8"	3,697	L. Cretaceous	WAPET	1955	Dry.
Rough Range No. 7	Oil test	22° 26' 40"	114° 04' 06"	4,281	U. Jurassic-L. Cretaceous	WAPET	1955	Dry.
Rough Range No. 8	Oil test	22° 26' 46"	114° 03' 44"	3,919	L. Cretaceous	WAPET	1955	Dry.
Rough Range No. 9	Oil test	22° 26' 50"	114° 04' 22"	3,844	U. Jurassic-L. Cretaceous	WAPET	1955	Dry.
Rough Range No. 10	Oil test	22° 25' 04.6"	114° 05' 02.4"	3,739	U. Jurassic-L. Cretaceous	WAPET	1957	Minor oil shows.
Rough Range South No. 1	Struct.	22° 37' 17.5"	113° 57' 37.6"	2,866	L. Cretaceous	WAPET	1956	Dry.
Rough Range South No. 2	Struct.	22° 23' 48.2"	114° 00' 20.4"	1,523	L. Cretaceous	WAPET	1956	Dry.
Rough Range South No. 3	Struct.	22° 30' 08.7"	114° 02' 29.5"	1,900	U. Cretaceous	WAPET	1956	Dry.
Rough Range South No. 4	Struct.	22° 32' 00"	114° 01' 28.4"	2,289	U. Cretaceous	WAPET	1956	Dry.
Rough Range South No. 5	Oil test	22° 34' 24.6"	113° 59' 16.5"	4,760	L. Permian	WAPET	1956	Dry.
Rough Range South No. 6	Struct.	22° 32' 22"	114° 00' 42.4"	1,594	U. Cretaceous	WAPET	1956	Dry.
Wandagee No. 1	Strat.	23° 53' 15"	114° 23' 51"	3,520	L. Silurian	WAPET	1962	Minor gas show.
Wandagee No. 2	Strat.	23° 53' 13"	114° 31' 38"	1,013	L. Permian	WAPET	1962	Dry.
Wandagee No. 3	Strat.	23° 49' 43"	114° 20' 03"	730	pre-Cretaceous	WAPET	1962	Dry.
Warroora No. 1	Oil test	23° 30' 30.1"	113° 52' 48.1"	5,902	Carboniferous	WAPET	1955	Minor oil show
Whaleback No. 1	Oil test	22° 43' 35"	113° 51' 37"	5,013	L. Permian	WAPET	1963	Minor oil show.
Yanrey No. 1	Oil test	22° 15' 15.7"	114° 34' 56.8"	1,413	Precambrian	WAPET	1957	Dry.

[Wednesday, 11 August, 1965.]

WELLS DRILLED FOR PETROLEUM EXPLORATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA—continued

Name	Type	Location		Total Depth (feet)	Bottomed in	Drilled for	Year completed	Results
		Lat. (S)	Long. (E)					
CANNING BASIN								
Babrongan No. 1	Oil test	18° 23' 23"	123° 35' 37"	6,395	U. Devonian	WAPET	1962	Dry.
Barloo No. 1	Oil test	17° 48' 23"	122° 42' 40"	8,101	U. Carboniferous	WAPET	1960	Minor gas show.
B.M.R. No. 1 (Jurgurra Creek)	Strat.	18° 19' 49"	123° 42' 45"	1,680	L. Permian	B.M.R.	1955	Dry.
B.M.R. No. 2 (Laurel Downs)	Strat.	18° 07' 06.1"	123° 20' 05.1"	4,000	U. Devonian	B.M.R.	1956	Dry.
B.M.R. No. 3 (Price's Creek)	Strat.	18° 39' 40"	125° 54' 05"	694	Precambrian	B.M.R.	1956	Dry.
B.M.R. No. 4 (Wallal)	Strat.	(approx.) 19° 44' 12"	(approx.) 120° 44' 28"	1,410	Jurassic	B.M.R.	1958	Dry.
B.M.R. No. 4A	Strat.	19° 44' 12"	120° 44' 28"	2,223	Precambrian	B.M.R.	1958	Dry.
Dampier Downs No. 1	Strat.	18° 18' 00"	123° 06' 00"	3,028	L. Ordovician	WAPET	1956	Dry.
Fraser River No. 1	Oil test	17° 25' 04"	123° 09' 39"	10,144	Post-Carboniferous Gabbro	WAPET	1956	Dry.
Frome Rocks No. 1	Oil test	18° 11' 48"	123° 38' 42"	4,003	Rock Salt	WAPET	1959	Dry.
Frome Rocks No. 2	Oil test	18° 15' 15"	123° 39' 35"	7,504	U. Devonian	WAPET	1959	Minor oil show.
Goldwyer No. 1	Oil test	18° 22' 47"	122° 22' 58"	4,720	Precambrian	WAPET	1958	Minor oil shows.
Grant Range No. 1	Oil test	18° 01' 00"	124° 00' 25"	12,915	U. Carboniferous	WAPET	1955	Dry.
Hawkestone Peak No. 1	Oil test	17° 14' 45"	124° 24' 26"	3,897	Precambrian	WAPET	1962	Dry.
Langoora No. 1	Oil test	17° 18' 07"	124° 06' 48"	5,299	Precambrian	WAPET	1962	Dry.
Meda No. 1	Oil test	17° 24' 00"	124° 11' 30"	8,809	Precambrian	WAPET	1958	Oil and gas shows.
Meda No. 2	Oil test	17° 24' 36"	124° 11' 23"	7,628	U. Devonian	WAPET	1959	Oil and gas shows.
Mount Wynne No. 1	Oil test	18° 05' 35"	124° 23' 44"	896	L. Permian	F.K.O.	1923	Minor bitumen present.
Mount Wynne No. 3	Oil test	(approx.) 18° 05' 35"	(approx.) 124° 23' 44"	2,154	L. Permian	F.K.O.	1925	Minor oil shows.
Myroodah No. 1	Oil test	(approx.) 18° 16' 15"	(approx.) 124° 11' 27"	6,001	L. Permian	A.F.O.	1956	Dry.
Nerrima No. 1 (A.F.O.)	Oil test	18° 26' 55"	124° 22' 17"	9,072	U. Carboniferous	A.F.O.	1955	Minor oil shows.
Nerrima No. 1 (F.K.O.)	Oil test	18° 28' 16"	124° 24' 02"	4,271	L. Permian	F.K.O.	1941	Dry.
Parda No. 1	Oil test	18° 56' 08"	122° 00' 34"	6,256	Precambrian	WAPET	1965	Dry.
Pool Range No. 3	Oil test	18° 53' 06"	125° 47' 20"	3,264	L. Permian	F.K.O.	1930	Minor oil shows.
Pool Range No. 5	Oil test	(approx.) 18° 52' 27"	(approx.) 125° 49' 02"	1,545	L. Permian	F.K.O.	1933	Dry.

Prices Creek No. 1	Oil test	18° 40' 30" (approx.)	125° 55' 00" (approx.)	1,008	Ordovician	F.K.O.	1922	Minor oil shows.
Prices Creek No. 2	Oil test	18° 40' 40" (approx.)	125° 55' 55" (approx.)	340	Ordovician	F.K.O.	1923	Minor oil shows.
Prices Creek No. 3	Oil test	18° 41' 25" (approx.)	125° 55' 15" (approx.)	809	Ordovician	F.K.O.	1923	Minor oil shows.
Prices Creek No. 4	Oil test	18° 40' 55" (approx.)	125° 54' 05" (approx.)	444	L. Permian	F.K.O.	1923	Dry.
Roebuck Bay No. 1	Strat.	18° 09' 33.9"	122° 27' 27.8"	4,000	L. Ordovician	WAPET	1956	Dry.
Sahara No. 1	Oil test	21° 04' 40"	123° 23' 30"	6,956	?	WAPET		Dry, suspended.
Samphire Marsh No. 1	Oil test	19° 31' 07.6"	121° 10' 50.8"	6,664	Precambrian	WAPET	1958	Dry.
Sisters No. 1	Oil test	17° 43' 31"	124° 25' 09"	9,828	Devonian	A.F.O.	1957	Dry.
Thangoo No. 1	Oil test	18° 22' 06"	122° 53' 22"	3,475	L. Ordovician	WAPET	1959	Minor oil shows.
Thangoo No. 1A	Oil test	18° 21' 52"	122° 53' 09"	5,420	Precambrian	WAPET	1960	Minor oil shows.
Wallal No. 1	Strat.	19° 51' 45.5"	120° 37' 58.5"	1,014	Jurassic	WAPET	1957	Dry.
Willara No. 1	Oil test	19° 10' 48"	122° 04' 14"			WAPET		Drilling.

ORD BASIN

Okes Durack	Oil test	17° 16' 00" (approx.)	128° 57' 00" (approx.)	1,196	L. Cambrian Basalt	O.D.K.	1924 (app.)	Dry.
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BONAPARTE GULF BASIN

Bonaparte No. 1	Strat. test	15° 00' 50"	128° 44' 35"	10,530	U. Devonian	A.O.D.	1964	Minor gas shows.
Bonaparte No. 2	Oil test	15° 05' 07"	128° 43' 16"	7,008	L. Carboniferous	A.O.D.	1964	Gas well.

EUCLA BASIN

Eyre No. 1	Strat.	32° 07' 00"	126° 58' 00"	1,718	Precambrian	Exoil	1960	Dry.
Ganganga No. 1	Strat.	32° 16' 00"	124° 50' 00"	1,282	Precambrian	Exoil	1960	Dry.
Eucla No. 1	Strat.	31° 52' 15"	128° 13' 21"	728	Precambrian	A.O.D.	1964	Dry.

Abbreviations :—

Strat. = Stratigraphic Hole.
 Struct. = Structure Hole.
 Approx. = Approximately.

L. = Lower.
 M. = Middle.
 U. = Upper.

A.F.O. = Associated Freney Oilfields N.L.
 B.M.R. = Bureau of Mineral Resources.
 F.K.O. = Freney Kimberley Oil Co.
 WAPET = West Australian Petroleum Pty. Ltd.
 W.M. & O. = Westralian Mining and Oil Corporation.
 O.D.K. = Okes Durack Kimberley Oil Co.
 Exoil = Exoil Pty. Ltd.
 A.O.D. = Alliance Oil Development Australia N.L. and associated companies.
 F.P.C. = French Petroleum Co. (Aust.) Pty. Ltd.

MANSLAUGHTER CONVICTIONS IN FIVE-YEAR PERIOD

Total, Number of Drunken Drivers, and Penalties

2. The Hon. R. THOMPSON asked the Minister for Justice:
- (1) How many persons have been convicted of manslaughter during the past five years?
 - (2) What number of these were drunken drivers?
 - (3) What were the minimum, maximum, and average penalties over this period?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) to (3) I will have to ask that this question be postponed. Some examination is necessary in order to determine the answer, particularly in relation to (2). We have to carry out some examinations of depositions in order to get this information.

BOARDS, TRUSTS, AND COMMISSIONS

Statutory Powers

3. The Hon. R. THOMPSON asked the Minister for Mines:

Would the Minister make available the names of the various boards, trusts, commissions, etc., that have statutory powers?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Yes; but the information will require some time to collate and will be made available to the honourable member as soon as possible.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES FOR SOUTHERN CROSS

Commencement and Approximate Charges

4. The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) When will S.E.C. power be available to consumers at Southern Cross and adjacent districts?
- (2) What will be the approximate cost per unit of S.E.C. power in these areas?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Subject to delivery of material and availability of funds, the commission expects to complete the substations and energise the Merredin-Southern Cross-Koolyanobbing line towards the end of 1966. Following this the availability of funds will determine when consideration can be given to supplying the present Southern Cross system.
- (2) Electricity will be sold at the commission's standard south-west and country tariff. (The schedule is tabled herewith.)

The schedule was tabled.

SCHOOL SPORTS AT ESPERANCE

Transport Subsidy for Norseman Schools: Reduction

5. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is it a fact that the transport subsidy previously provided by the Education Department, amounting to approximately £137, for the use by the Norseman schools to pay the cost of transport to Esperance to participate in an interschool sports meeting, has been reduced to £50?
- (2) If so—
 - (a) is it a ministerial decision; and
 - (b) what is the reason for this decision?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Yes.
 - (b) A formula has now been fixed to cover all cases and it has been decided that £50 is the maximum that can be granted for such occasions.

EGGS IN COLD STORAGE

Number Held by Board

6. The Hon. J. DOLAN asked the Minister for Local Government:

How many eggs were held in cold storage by the Western Australian Egg Marketing Board as at the 31st July, 1965?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

7,305 cases (30 dozen) for shipment to the Arabian Gulf, and 3,836 cases (30 dozen) for local consumption.

KALGOORLIE ABATTOIRS EMPLOYEES

Income Tax Group Certificates

7. The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN asked the Minister for Mines:

Will the Minister inform the House why employees of the Kalgoorlie Abattoirs do not receive their income tax group certificates until late August each year, whilst employees in private industry in the same district are issued with their certificates in the first week in July?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

This problem arises through wages employees at outstations paid by cash order being included in one taxation group and the need to balance the group before group certificates can be issued. The

majority of these certificates, including all those for Kalgoorlie Abattoirs employees, have now been despatched.

The system is being improved, but some delay in the issue of group certificates is inevitable for this type of wages payment.

PROSPECTORS AND LEASEHOLDERS

Government Assistance

8. The Hon R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

What is the total value of assistance, under the separate headings set out hereunder, that has been provided to prospectors and leaseholders from 1959 to the 30th June, 1965—

- (a) Financial;
- (b) Plant equipment; and
- (c) Work, in the form of diamond drilling and geophysical surveys, for goldmining or prospecting carried out on their behalf?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) and (b) £349,413 9s. 7d. under the Mining Development Act for assistance for development work and purchase of plant.

£70,848 11s. 3d. under the Commonwealth Gold Mining Encouragement Act.

It would take considerable time to segregate assistance for pure development from assistance only for plant and equipment, as most applications are for both development and plant.

£68,922 5s. 11d. as assistance to prospectors.

- (c) Pound for pound diamond drilling £32,954 3s. 5d.

Considerable assistance is also given in cartage subsidies on prospectors' ore to batteries, while battery treatment charges are also purely nominal and nowhere near cover treatment costs.

CONSTITUTION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL AND PARLIAMENTARY ALLOWANCES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Standing Orders Suspension

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines [4.49 p.m.]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the Constitution Acts Amendment Bill and the Parliamentary Allowances Act Amendment Bill to be taken on

receipt of messages from the Legislative Assembly and to have precedence each day before the Address-in-Reply, and to be passed through all stages at any one sitting.

I would ask the House to agree to a suspension of Standing Orders to deal with the two Bills mentioned in this motion upon their receipt from another place, where the two Bills are at present under consideration. I am not sure when they will arrive here for our consideration, but I think it will be appreciated that for Bills dealing with matters of this nature—and whilst I am not making a second reading speech on the contents of the Bill, because you would not permit me to do that, Mr. President—

The Hon. W. F. Willesec: You aren't doing too badly.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Thank you.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I will not go any further than that. I think members will have some idea of the purpose of the two Bills. It is the desire of the Government that their passage be facilitated; and, pending receipt of them, I ask that the House agree to the motion.

Question put and passed.

GASCOYNE RIVER: DAMMING

Motion

THE HON. E. M. HEENAN (Lower North) [4.51 p.m.]: I move—

That the damming of the Gascoyne River for the stabilisation, development, and expansion of intensive agriculture on the Gascoyne delta, and other suitable land along the Gascoyne River, is of such State and national importance as to require urgent action by the State Government to proceed at an early date with the construction of necessary head works.

I would like to preface my remarks by referring to the Governor's Speech and quoting a couple of extracts therefrom. His Excellency, in the course of his Speech, had this to say—

Western Australia's continued economic progress and development gives us all good reason to look ahead with confidence. Production and productivity are rising steadily. Investment capital is flowing into the State at a high rate. Natural resources are being opened up to create new avenues of wealth and employment.

He later said—

Iron ore reserves in Western Australia are now assessed at more than 15,000 million tons of good grade ore. Five iron ore companies have arranged

sales to Japanese buyers totalling 258.5 million tons worth £1,200 million over the next quarter century.

Those comments by the Governor are factual, and they indicate that a prosperous era is opening up for this State. We do not only have to quote figures regarding iron ore to demonstrate that it is evident from Esperance in the south to Wyndham in the north that this State is on the move at a rate which few of us anticipated a few years ago. We see development on a vast scale going forward in the Esperance-Ravensthorpe area; at Albany, Busselton, and Kwinana; around Perth; and further north.

That is all to the good because, in the world in which we now live, I am sure we all realise the obligation that we owe not only to the present population of Western Australia, but also to forthcoming generations and to the people of the outside world, to develop our resources to the fullest extent.

It is fairly obvious to everyone that the days have gone when a relatively small population, such as we have in Australia, can hold on to this vast continent, unless we fulfil the obligation to use our natural resources to their fullest capacity and to the utmost of our ability. We can all agree that a fairly brave effort is being made to do that; and I am not going to delude myself by ignoring the fact that the rate and the scope of development are dependent on factors such as the resources at our command.

In dealing with this motion, however, I hope to place before the House certain facts and figures regarding the Carnarvon area and the Gascoyne River which may impress on members the worthiness of carrying the motion.

I do not intend to be hypercritical in my remarks, but I hope that when I have concluded, and after other members have spoken—members with a vaster knowledge of the subject than I profess to have—the House will carry the motion and thereby emphasise to all concerned that something other than has been done in the past should be done.

The Gascoyne area has only recently been added to my province, and I must confess that I have represented it for only a little over a few weeks and have not yet had an opportunity to visit it. I have had to glean my facts from reading statistics and other ample data that has been published by experts and others. I have found the exercise a very interesting one, and I hope to mention figures and to give other information that will be of interest to members.

I will start by saying that the immediate area of Carnarvon produces such fruit and vegetables as: beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, capsicums, eggfruit, pumpkins, rock-melons, watermelons, oranges, grapefruit, mandarins, paw-paws, mangoes, and

bananas. These are produced in an area of approximately nine miles by two miles in extent immediately around Carnarvon, and which, I understand, was, not so many years ago, part of a sheep station which ran about 150 head of sheep.

Only one third of this area is now being used for production, because lack of water restricts the growing of various products to that area. Nevertheless it produces vegetables and agricultural products to the value of approximately £1,000,000 a year. It is interesting, perhaps, to mention that for the year ended the 30th June, 1965, 35,464 centals of beans were exported to South Australia. A cental is 100 lb. so it will be realised that that item alone is very significant. In the 1963-64 season the production of bananas amounted to 140,603 bushels.

Another interesting development has occurred in this area. It has now been almost positively revealed that it is a fertile source for the growing of cotton. I am sure some members may have read in this afternoon's issue of the *Daily News* an interesting article under the heading—

FOCUS

CARNARVON COTTON: BETTER THAN THE ORD?

By Dale Walsh

To the right of that heading there is a picture of cotton trees or bushes bearing bolls of cotton, and then follows this article:—

The picture at right shows part of what could well be a bumper cotton crop at the Ord . . .

It IS cotton but it is NOT the Ord—it is the trial cotton crop at the Agriculture Department's Gascoyne research station, Carnarvon.

They are saying around the town that Carnarvon can grow better cotton than the Ord; that this is another argument for damming the Gascoyne.

Such a dam would be a necessity if commercial cotton were to be grown at Carnarvon. At present the tropical fruit industry is being rationed on the water it draws from the river.

The trial cotton crop at the research station covers only half an acre and was grown by irrigation but the success does indicate that Carnarvon might have the right climate and soil for high-yield, high-grade cotton.

Yields compare more than favourably with those obtained in similar trials in the early days of the Ord River. Samples have been sent to the Ord for testing.

If the tests prove as successful as anticipated there are indications around the town that this may be used as a new lever in Carnarvon's plea for a dam.

That the Government knows this is indicated by the fact that officials at the research station are loth to discuss the cotton being grown there.

In *The Northern Times* of the 29th July, 1965, another interesting article appears, and I quote—

CARNARVON COTTON TRIAL A SUCCESS

Cotton yields from the trial plot at the Agricultural Department's Gascoyne Research Station, Carnarvon, are some of the highest ever recorded in Australia.

The plots of eight varieties planted on December 1 last year and harvested in April appeared to be of high quality and samples have been sent to the Ord for testing.

Preliminary yield results from the point four of an acre range from the equivalent of 4,800 lb. to 2,400 lb. of seed cotton an acre, depending on the variety.

A top yield of 4,800 lb. came from the Rex variety, now grown as the main variety on the Ord river, where average big-scale commercial yields are around 2,000 lb.

The other Ord variety, Delta Pine, yielded the equivalent of 4,500 lb. of seed cotton an acre.

Most of the lower-yielding types which included American and Egyptian varieties were long-staple. They are a highly specialised type of cotton which sells at a premium.

Yields compare more than favorably with similar trials in the early days of the Ord River or in New South Wales and indicates that Carnarvon might have the right climate and soil for high-yielding, high-quality cotton.

Cautious

Mr. W. Hawson, officer-in-charge of the station, was cautious but optimistic about the results.

He said more research would be needed to confirm these early results before big-scale economical cotton production on the Gascoyne could be considered possible.

However, the district appeared to have an ideal climate for this crop because of the dry summers.

Commercial cotton could not be grown at Carnarvon without a dam built on the Gascoyne.

For many years now the Government has been carrying out surveys for sites for such a dam.

Since the disastrous 1960 and 61 floods, planters have been fortunate in the Gascoyne flowing every year, thus assuring them of good yields with their bananas, bean and vegetable crops.

However, as local residents know, the rivers generally flow to a cycle—that is a river for two or three years. It has happened, and it can happen again, when the river will not flow.

Ten years ago this would not have put such a burden on the industry or the town. Today it would be a calamity if the river did not flow once or twice a year.

Expansion

With the expansion of the industry and the increase of Carnarvon's population, brought about to a large extent by the establishment of the Space Tracking Station with more than 60 families, can truly be said that the Gascoyne River is the life-blood of the district.

The Carnarvon people generally, feel that the government has by-passed them in not providing a dam. This is a must if the present industry is to be retained, let alone expanded.

It is estimated that a dam in the Kennedy Ranges or an alternative site would cost £4 million. Not a large sum compared with the Ord scheme and certainly not much to ask for an industry which is worth £1 million a year to Carnarvon. A dam in 10 years time may be too late.

From an abstract of statistics which was placed on my table this afternoon, I notice that the population of Carnarvon now totals 1,809 people. The Premier recently said that Exmouth, with a population of 500, is looking forward to a population of 2,000 by the end of next year. The Chairman of the Fremantle Fisheries Co-operative Limited also made a statement recently to the effect that his company was considering forming a subsidiary company to establish a canning factory at Carnarvon to process fish—mainly tuna—and vegetables. His company proposed to spend £60,000 on the first stage of the project, and the whole venture would cost £250,000.

Recently, in company with The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson and The Hon. H. R. Robinson I travelled to Port Hedland, Nullagine, Mount Tom Price, and surrounding areas with the all-party goldmining committee. I am sure that all of us were bewildered by the tremendous amount of activity that was going on and the stupendous vistas that were opening up.

It is obvious that we are now on the verge of developing this north-western portion of the State which for so long has been a great problem to us because little or nothing could be done with it. It is equally obvious that Carnarvon is one of the main centres in that area; and, further, that the vast water resources of the Gascoyne River—much of the water of which flows into the sea and is wasted—could be harnessed. It would seem that the sky would be the limit of what could be produced and achieved by way of closer settlement.

How many more sheep could be carried if water were made available to farmers, station owners, and other agricultural producers is beyond my comprehension, but it does seem that every effort should be made to open up a vaster area than the nine by two miles which I quoted at the opening of my remarks. It also has to be borne in mind that no longer can we go on counting on the river running every year, as it has done over the past six years. Those who know more about the subject assure me that as certain as the sun rises tomorrow the time will come at any time when that state of affairs will stop and there will be a drought. With this expanding town, and with the development that is going on all around it, that is a risk which can no longer be taken.

When Mr. Wise came to this State he found there was little or nothing grown in this area, and he was the man who introduced the growing of bananas and other crops; and no-one in this State knows more about the area's potentialities than he does, but its potentialities are restricted and limited by this water problem. How often do we hear it said in Australia, "If only we had water, what we could do." We have the water up there, and it is just a matter of harnessing it and damming it to avoid the element of risk.

I have already quoted articles to the House, but I now propose to quote from what is known as the Furphy report made several years ago, and this is the summary of that report—

Apart from findings which were mainly of engineering consequence, the conclusions of the Furphy Report were as follows:—

"The potential productivity of the Gascoyne River delta is so great that its development to the fullest extent permitted by the total available water supply, seems justifiable."

"While an expert investigation of the markets that would be available for greatly expanded production should be made, there seems to be every reason to be optimistic in this respect."

If optimism was justified at the time of the Furphy report, it is far more justified in this year of 1965. To continue—

"The over-exploitation, by uncontrolled private pumping, of the water bearing strata under and near the river can cause permanent impairment of the underground storage that now exists."

"In the absence of any natural site for a large reservoir near the irrigation area, and because of the very high evaporation rate, the best and least expensive

method of conserving at least sufficient water to assure the continuance of the existing development is (a) to prevent unwise and excessive pumping, and (b) to promote recharge of the underground storage."

"Excessive pumping from a single bore or group of bores can produce 'salting' of other bores from which only moderate pumping has been done. This can be prevented only by limitation of pumping rights or, preferably, by the complete abandonment of private pumping and its replacement by a coordinated pumping scheme under Governmental or cooperative control."

"Under such a coordinated system, the water could be drawn from locations and at rates determined by the availability of the water rather than at locations convenient to the points of usage. In this way 'salting' of the aquifers could be avoided and the total available supply greatly increased."

"For the maximum exploitation of the water resources of the river, a large scale storage will, most probably, be necessary, and the most suitable site for such a storage is, almost certainly, that at Kennedy Range. The economic capacity of such a reservoir cannot be determined, however, until reliable streamflow data are collected over a period of years."

"It is probably sound, when viewed from the standpoint of gross return from the region, to permit or encourage development in excess of what can be watered with certainty every year. It may be that losses due to partial or complete droughts at calculated intervals would be more than offset by additional production in normal years."

There is also a very informative report on this subject compiled by Messrs. J. S. Nalson and M. L. Parker of the University of Western Australia. It is dated September, 1963, and is called *Irrigation on the Gascoyne River—An Economic Appraisal*. I do not intend wearying the House with much from this report, but there are one or two significant conclusions with which I shall content myself. I think I will quote only the last one, which is a paragraph headed, "Economic forces favouring some expansion of irrigated agriculture at Carnarvon." The paragraph states—

- (1) The expanding Perth market for out-of-season vegetables which is expected to increase with the

growth of the Western Australian population at a rate of about two per cent. per annum. In addition, the quickening of development in the north-west suggests that the area may eventually provide an outlet for Carnarvon produce over a longer season than is possible on the Perth market.

- (ii) The expanding market for beans sold on the Adelaide market. By 1975 this market could require a further 90 acres of additional production at Carnarvon, and further penetration of interstate markets appears likely providing that an effort is made to ensure regularity and quality of supplies.
- (iii) The likelihood of displacing Eastern State bananas sold on the Perth market.
- (iv) The total potential demand for Carnarvon produce which, by 1975, could amount to an additional 1,100 acres of vegetables and between 900 and 1,200 acres of bananas. This could be supplemented by a small acreage of citrus and tropical fruits for the Western Australian market, and a much larger acreage of dates for the Australian market.
- (v) The cost advantage which Carnarvon appears likely to have relative to the Kimberleys in the production and marketing of medium staple cotton.
- (vi) The arid climate at Carnarvon which is believed to favour the production of long staple cotton, commanding premium prices on world markets, and the opportunity for integrating this labour-intensive crop within the present area of irrigated agriculture.

If any members are interested in the subject—and I am sure they all are interested, because this is a portion of our State which according to this report by eminent men has vast potentialities—I suggest they make themselves conversant with this most interesting and informative report. It seems obvious to me that in the light of the evidence available, this subject will now have to be given top priority. Therefore I feel that the motion which I have moved is worthy of support.

Shortly after introducing it I admitted the fact that in this vast State of ours there are lots of things which we would like to do, but in this life it takes time. It has taken a long time to get Western Australia to the state of development which it now enjoys. I know the Esperance area; I knew it in my boyhood; and I now realise that the harried pastoralists and pioneers who went down there had little or no chance of achieving material success in their own lives. It

has taken almost a couple of lifetimes to get Esperance to the stage where it now is. However, we have to bear in mind the fact that the outside world is looking in our direction and that there are tremendous repercussions right up north of Australia. The ball is now at our feet, and the responsibility is ours to step up the pace of development of this State, otherwise we will be failing in our duty and also perhaps running risks which should not be run.

It seems to me, therefore, that the Government will have to step up its interest in this area of Carnarvon with which I have dealt. Whether the Commonwealth Government can be induced to give assistance to a scheme like this, which has many features similar to those applying to the Ord River scheme, seems to me to be something which should be taken up by the State Government.

Those are my remarks—inadequate as perhaps they might be, and with the lack of knowledge and experience of the area which I have—which I submit to the House. I hope that members who know more about the subject than I do will have something to say about it.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines).

BILLS (5): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Coal Mine Workers (Pensions) Act Amendment Bill.
2. Coal Mines Regulation Act Amendment Bill.
3. Mines Regulation Act Amendment Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), and read a first time.

4. Debtors Act Amendment Bill.
5. Stipendiary Magistrates Act Amendment Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Justice), and read a first time.

MINING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [5.37 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Towards the end of last year application was made to the Mines Department for a license to treat tailings lying on what was an abandoned tailings area—Crown land area.

In dealing with the application, it was found that while the Mining Act was quite clear in granting to the Crown ownership of tailings on abandoned leases, some doubt exists as to ownership in regard to

tailings on abandoned mining tenements other than leases, such as tailings areas, machinery areas, etc., which would all produce tailings. Crown Law advice received early in January confirmed the doubt and, as a consequence, the application had to be refused.

The purpose of this Bill is to rectify the position and also to validate any past licenses granted in respect of similar applications. This latter provision is necessary because it has always been the understanding and practice in the Mines Department to assume that such tailings were Crown property.

There is no doubt that the original intention was that the Crown should have ownership in regard to tailings from abandoned mining tenements, of all descriptions and not solely from abandoned leases. The provision will apply to mining tenements which comprised either Crown or private land.

The Bill also amends subsection (9) of section 322 of the principal Act by replacing the word "Court" with the words "W.A. Industrial Commission." This particular alteration was overlooked when similar consequential ones were previously dealt with in 1963.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs.

CONSTITUTION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Justice), read a first time.

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Justice) [5.43 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Constitution Acts Amendment Act of 1899 provided that there should be six principal executive officers. The 1927 Parliament decided that this number should be increased to eight. This number remained unaltered until the introduction of the Acts Amendment (Increase in Number of Ministers of the Crown) Bill of 1950, which increased the number of Ministers to ten.

Previous Governments, when faced with the necessity for imminent reshuffle of portfolios brought about by an overall expansion of State activities, found it necessary in effectively bringing about a satisfactory reshuffle to nominate one or two Honorary Ministers nominally in charge of certain departments, but appointed as assistants to Ministers of the Crown.

These have been rare occasions, for obviously a normal reshuffle of Cabinet portfolios becomes necessary owing to an upsurge in activity in a particular direction, and is sometimes counterbalanced by an easing up of work in one or more other directions.

The nomination of Honorary Ministers is normally made objectively with a view to their being granted full ministerial status by Act of Parliament at the earliest opportunity, with financial provision being made also.

Two of the most heavily overloaded portfolios, prior to the recent reshuffle, were those of Industrial Development, North-West, and Railways; and Mines, Housing, and Justice. The long term programme of law reform, together with the Australia-wide trend towards uniformity in State legislation affecting the Australian economic scene, and the pursuit of reciprocal legislative enactments, have resulted in State Ministers for Justice, and Attorneys-General, being more than fully occupied.

I have had my own personal experience of endeavouring to cope with three portfolios in addition to the obligations entailed as Leader of the Government in this House. Mining activity, which for some considerable time had been somewhat latent, has been given greater impetus through the demand for iron and new metals. This placed a heavy burden on my portfolio and, as a consequence, the responsibility of State housing was passed to Mr. O'Neil.

Industrial development of the State's secondary industries has been intensively and satisfactorily pursued. Development of the iron ore industry, together with the promotion of its ancillary requirements, such as housing, harbours, roads, and railways—much of this coming within the province of the North-West portfolio—is self-explanatory as far as relief in this portfolio is indicated.

Additionally, and in hand with the rehabilitation of the State railways, there has been the added responsibility of launching and constructing the standardised railway scheme. Consequently, it is considered this portfolio is best relieved through the nomination of an Honorary Minister for Railways responsible, pending the passing of appropriate legislation, to the Minister for Industrial Development, Railways, and the North-West.

Consequent upon the development of the iron ore industry, involving the important Department of Works, together with the relinquishment of this portfolio by Mr. Wild to become Agent-General, the re-allocation of that portfolio as between Works and Health, so to speak, suggested the advisability of the appointment of an Honorary Minister to attend the reallocated portfolio of Health, Fisheries, and

Fauna. With Mr. MacKinnon now also occupying the third seat in the Government's front bench in this House, a more even distribution of Government business will be possible.

The purpose of this Bill is to increase the number of Ministers of the Crown from 10 to 12. It is to be supported by an amendment to the Parliamentary Allowances Act to make provision for the payment of allowances and salaries to the new Ministers in recognition of the added responsibilities which have been accepted by them.

In seeking the approval of Parliament to the increase in the number of principal officers of the Crown, it is submitted for the consideration of members that there has been a great increase in the general activity of Government departments and instrumentalities throughout the State. Expansion and development work is being carried out on a large scale, requiring increased Government activity. Every department of the State Government plays an integral part in our progress, and many are very closely associated with the developments in all areas from Wyndham to Esperance, and from the coast almost to the South Australian border. It was interesting to hear Mr. Heenan's remarks a short time ago, when speaking on another matter, regarding the development of the State.

Up to the present, the burden of responsibility and decision making has been shouldered by 10 Ministers of the Crown. I think, if I recall rightly, references have been made in this Chamber to the pretty obvious fact that Ministers, generally, were becoming much overworked; and, of course, the ideal would be for one major responsibility to be allotted to one Minister. While this may not be considered practicable at the present time, the move to increase the number from 10 to 12 is a move in the right direction.

This is an age when Ministers of the Crown are expected to travel frequently, and they must do this if they are to keep in touch with the work in various parts of the State, particularly in a State containing a third of the area of the Commonwealth, as Western Australia does. Regular visits of inspection are necessary if Ministers are to have personal knowledge of the developments which are taking place—necessary if the right decisions are to be made in the progression of the State's development. Quite often it is necessary for Ministers to be away from their offices for up to a week at a time. On the other hand, it is equally necessary for Ministers to be very closely in touch with what is being done in their offices; and this, bearing in mind particularly the complex situation in which the State finds itself today in the matter of trade, commerce, government, and administration.

While the Ministers of the Crown are greatly dependent upon the expert advice available to them from their more highly placed officers, it remains the responsibility of Ministers to make the decisions. So the Minister is required to spend a great deal of time in his office in order to keep in touch with what is going on. It is necessary not only to keep in touch by personal inspection in order to have a complete knowledge of what is being done outside but also to know at first hand what is being done on the administrative side in his departments.

It has always been desirable that Ministers of the Crown should be enabled to proceed beyond the borders of their own State and country in order to keep abreast of the latest developments in other parts of the world. The facilities provided by modern means of travel enable present-day Ministers to travel and see what their counterparts in other parts of the world are doing and, by becoming more knowledgeable in the very complex problems of the day and acquainting themselves with the latest scientific developments, be enabled to carry out their responsibilities to the State to the highest degree possible.

As the Government has now already administratively increased the number of Ministers of the Crown, the purpose of this measure is to grant to the two Honorary Ministers full ministerial status; and, as they are not receiving the ministerial allowance and salary, though carrying out their appointed duties, the passing of this Bill and its supporting measure is a necessary procedure to enable this to be done, and it is commended to members for the reason that the added demands on the Government justify its spreading the burden of administration.

THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North—Leader of the Opposition) (5.54 p.m.): Since the appointment of the Honorary Ministers by the Government, following the election, it was obvious they could remain as Honorary Ministers—and I take it they have been sworn in as members of the Executive Council—only until Parliament met.

If we were to gauge the importance and the merits of this Bill by the requirements of the office of a Minister in this Chamber, there would not be any doubt, I am sure, in the minds of all members that there is a complete warrant and necessity for a third Minister to be in this House. When I first entered this Legislative Council, in very recent years, the Minister in charge of the work of the Government in this House—firstly, Mr. Fraser, and then Mr. Strickland—had more than a full-time job in the handling of the departments which both those men controlled as well as in the conduct of all the business being introduced into this Chamber by Government measure or action.

The work those two members did took its toll of their health and finally, after a breakdown, Mr. Fraser was stricken with an illness which ultimately brought about his death. Since that time, without being in any way unkind, I have, on more than one occasion, deliberately drawn attention to the fact that Ministers in this House were overwrought and under strain; and it has become an obvious necessity to add to the numbers handling Government business as Ministers in this Chamber.

However, in this Chamber we cannot possibly gauge how effective is the work of Ministers in another place, or how hard some of them may work; but I wish that one or two—and I shall not even be provoked into naming them—were serving the State as diligently as the Ministers in this Chamber. Be that as it may, with the growth of responsibility to the public of this State, through departments, one of the most important things in our democratic way of life and form of Government is to ensure that the responsibilities accepted by Ministers are carried out by them. Unfortunately, either through dilatoriness, incapacity, or lack of desire, by deliberate intent or by accident, there has been a delegation of duty and authority to those who are not responsible to Parliament and to the community through their election.

I am averse to anything that would in any way foster a bureaucracy as against a democracy properly functioning through the activities of active Ministers in Government. Although there are definite signs in Australia of bureaucracy increasing in its incidence, not merely in a State sense but in a Commonwealth sense, I hope with great earnestness that Ministers will find themselves extremely busy in carrying out their functions.

I support the Bill, and members who are interested in what is being amended will find on page 166 of the Standing Orders the section of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act to which this Bill refers. The amendment is simply to increase the number applying to the number of executive officers, the intention being to substitute the word "twelve" for the word "ten" in two separate lines.

I hope the State will continue in its progress and activity, and that it will prove the judgment of this Parliament is right in supporting the Government in this measure.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan) [6.1 p.m.]: This move was not unexpected; in my opinion it was inevitable. There is no person who sits in this Chamber from year to year who does not sincerely appreciate the work that has been done by previous Ministers. There have been times when in all humanity one felt they were doing more than they were physically capable of doing.

I think it would be logical to assess the present situation on the basis of a business enterprise where, if responsibility increased, it would not be conducive to efficiency to load that responsibility upon one individual, or two individuals, who might by nature be endowed with a limited capacity. Not only is the State's population growing, which, in turn, increases the responsibility upon Ministers at the personal level, but the industrial situation in the State is explosive; and this must call on the Ministers to give considerable time to their duties—far more time than was ever envisaged several years ago.

The simple issue of travel for Ministers means there is a dearth of ministerial representation within an office. Therefore it is sensible, and indeed essential, in the efficient working of a Government through Parliament to have representatives available at all times to the public; and more especially should we have Ministers available at all times where activity is foremost. The travel in question is not only interstate or intrastate, it is international. We all know that; the Leader of the House has travelled to Japan on two occasions; and it is only reasonable to assume that while he was away a considerable backlog of work must have been created within his department, and it would be unreasonable to expect him to catch up with it when he returned to the State.

So, while there may be some problems associated with departmental activities, I feel sure that an increase in the number of Ministers is justified. The State's activities acknowledge this fact; and, after all, if we reach equilibrium at some future period of time when these activities are not so fierce, we can then have another look at the Constitution Acts Amendment Act. I support the Bill.

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central) [6.4 p.m.]: I also support the Bill. I believe that the Ministers of this House, particularly in the last 12 years or so, have done a sterling job. They have had to carry a tremendous burden. In considering this matter, my mind goes back to the years 1930 and 1933 when, in the early stages of those years, there were, during the term of the particular Government, two Ministers in the House. Later, in 1932, there was only one Minister.

I took the opportunity a few moments ago to check on the number of amending Bills that were passed in the 1932 session, and I find that they totalled 55. A glance at last year's programme will show that 117 Bills came before this House, 114 of which were passed. Some of these measures were of a very complicated nature, and the Ministers had to put in a great deal of study to enable them to reply to questions raised by members in this House. The pressure of work has increased since

1930 and the Ministers are having a very heavy responsibility thrust upon them. When we consider the rate at which the State has developed and see the many problems that arise—some of them most intricate ones, as mentioned by Mr. Willesee—then an increase in the number of Ministers in this House to handle that burden of work is fully justified.

I agree with Mr. Wise that in the past Ministers have struggled along with the Bills they have had to handle. They have had a most difficult job on their hands, and their nerves have been badly frayed by the end of the session. Although I am generally a bit hard on Ministers during the session, I do appreciate the burden of work they carry.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: It also affects the Opposition.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: That is so. I am glad that the Premier and the Cabinet have agreed to increase the number of Ministers in this House and in another place.

THE HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [6.7 p.m.]: I consider this measure is long overdue, and I think we should applaud the Premier and his Cabinet for having made the decision. I should also like to congratulate those members who have been appointed. I have had evidence of the immensity of energy and direction they have given to their office. The relief that these appointments will give to those who have had to carry the burden over the last few years will, I am sure, be great indeed.

I would like to go a little further and say that not only do I applaud this move, but I think another move might also be very welcome. I refer of course to making more use of committees of members of Parliament. I am quite certain the man in the street does not believe that the individual member of Parliament takes any real active part over a certain portion of the year. The public believes that members of Parliament are knowledgeable on almost every point of government, and I feel it would help the Ministers considerably if we appointed such committees—not actually official committees, but committees appointed by the House, and by the Ministers—to inquire into certain matters.

I say this because I believe there are many conditions upon which the viewpoint obtained by members of Parliament outside any statutory body or department could be considerably different from the advice given at times by the departments to their Ministers. I will not suggest or try to outline the various aspects which might be investigated by such committees, but they are numerous. We all have sufficient imagination to know what types of conditions could be investigated. Like Mr. Wise, I feel there is the fear of bureaucracy—of government by departments, rather than of government by Parliament.

The private member mixes amongst the community, and very often he hears more than does the Minister, because the two would speak in different terms. If this suggestion were given some thought, I am sure it could be beneficial to the Government of this big State. I am not suggesting that I be appointed to any committee, nor am I looking for any self-adornment; I simply say that any member of this House has the brains and quality to be capable of assessing for himself what he learns from the man in the street, which he could convey in a different sense to the Minister, who is more than ordinarily busy in his department. If that were done I think there would be less thought by the man in the street that he is being governed by a system which he does not understand. Accordingly, I applaud the move that is being made.

What I have said does not convey any feeling of disfavour to what any Minister has done. It is merely designed to correct a wrong impression in the minds of the people and to make use of the members themselves. I feel that as a result of the work that would be imposed upon private members, we would be assured of a constant supply of well-trained members who could easily, as our two colleagues have done, fill the post of Minister.

Sitting suspended from 6.10 to 7.30 p.m.

THE HON. J. HEITMAN (Upper West) [7.30 p.m.]: I did not intend to speak on this measure, originally, but I do so now to applaud the Government for introducing it. In my view the Ministers of the Crown have been greatly overworked. I congratulate Mr. MacKinnon on his elevation to the Ministry. I feel sure he will take a keen interest in his job, and will give satisfaction to all—not only to the members of this House. In Mr. MacKinnon we have a man who will, I am sure, also give satisfaction to the departments which he is looking after.

I would like to say the same to the other new Ministers who have been appointed. I feel they have been well chosen and will do a very excellent job in their new sphere. I support the comments of Dr. Hislop about members of this House serving on committees. The back-benchers should have a chance to further their education on the subjects which they delve into. I suggest that the proposed method of inquiry be adopted from time to time so as to give the back-benchers a chance to further their knowledge as a result of their work on these committees.

Much mention has been made of the excessive work which the Ministers have done over the years. I realise that in our leader in this House we have a man who has had to look after many portfolios. As has been mentioned, at times his nerves must have been frayed, and that

reflects on the back-benchers. We all appreciate the large amount of work which he has done at various times. I realise it has been a terrific strain on him. Last year he dealt with some 30 Bills, besides handling many others which came from another place. I thank the Minister for the work he has done, and for the courtesy which he has shown to members of his party and to members of this House. I support the Bill, and hope that having extra Ministers in the Cabinet will prove to be of great benefit to this State.

THE HON. A. R. JONES (West) [7.34 p.m.]: I shall not let this opportunity pass without making some small contribution to the debate, for I consider I have had possibly as much as anybody else to do with the decision which has been made. I can recall that many years ago through my own party, and through advances to the Government, suggestions along these lines were made. I remember occasions when not only the existing Ministers in this House, but also previous Ministers, had to face the chaos which was created towards the end of the session, in particular, when two Ministers tried to handle all the Bills which came forward in a very short space of time.

Everyone will realise the difficulty in which the Ministers are placed when they have to introduce Bills and speak on them from the notes with which they are supplied. Sometimes when queries are made they have to obtain the information to satisfy the members concerned.

This measure is a good move, particularly as the House requires extra ministerial help. It was felt by all members here that the two Ministers in this House had too much to cope with.

In the past I have advocated for relief for the Ministers, but in the future they could still be under pressure, to a degree. When they have too many Bills to handle they should give back-benchers some experience in handling the less important Bills, so that members generally will be able to have a guide when new Ministers are selected in the future. Back-benchers should be allowed to pilot less important measures through this House. I put this forward as a recommendation to the Ministers. I have every satisfaction in supporting the measure before us.

THE HON. H. C. STRICKLAND (North) [7.37 p.m.]: I support the Bill and congratulate Mr. MacKinnon on his elevation to the Ministry. I have often wondered why the various parties have not appointed more Ministers to this House. In the past the business of the House has been dealt with by one Minister, and one or two Honorary Ministers. There is nothing in the Constitution to stop the Government from appointing more than one, because it provides there must not be less than one.

When I first came into this House there was only one Minister, and he was assisted by an Honorary Minister. In those days they were quite capable of handling the legislation which came forward; but I should point out that legislation got short shrift if it was not acceptable to the Government, or if it was not a Government measure. It is very common knowledge that when such a Bill came along some member would say, "Open the windows and throw it out." The windows were opened and many Bills never saw the light of day. They were merely introduced, the second readings were moved, but no replies were given; nor were adjournments asked for. The question was put, and the Bills were not agreed to.

There has been quite a change since those days. As the State progresses and expands, more legislation will be required to be passed, and the business of Government will increase. After all, the Government is a business. The Ministers are no different from managing directors of companies, or the responsible officers in charge of institutions.

Unfortunately some Ministers did become lax and allowed beaurocracy rather than themselves to take over the administration. I hope that with the expansion of the Ministry such will not be the case in the future. If it does exist at present it should be discontinued with the elevation of the new directors to the Government.

In our democratic way of life it is important that the general public and public bodies which have grievances should have the opportunity to make an approach through their parliamentary representatives to as high an authority as the Ministry. That has not always applied. Ministers in the past have been too busy and have become too involved in their ministerial duties, in the work in their offices, in their political obligations to their parties, and in their attendance at social functions, to keep in touch with their constituents. So I am very pleased that the present Ministry has been enlarged. I sincerely hope this will enable the Ministers to give more attention to the official duties which they are required to perform.

As a Minister who has represented a Government—a Government which had not got the wind behind it in this House—I would like to remind the present Ministers that their responsibilities and worries are minor compared to those which confronted the previous Government.

I can recall some of the moves which were made in this House during my six years as a Minister. I speak with some authority on these matters. During the unfortunate illness of the Chief Secretary, the late Mr. Fraser, I was only able to conduct the business of the House with the assistance of my colleagues, who handled Bills on my behalf.

I support the proposal put forward by Mr. Jones that the Government should give back-benchers the opportunity to handle Bills. I cannot remember one occasion when this Government requested a back-bencher to handle a Bill through all its stages. Admittedly that is not the responsibility of private members. I found this practice very helpful during the period I was a Minister, and I was able to concentrate on the more important measures before the House.

As the Government we ran into all sorts of difficulties, and we experienced a very trying time when, as a minority in this House, we attempted to put a particular measure through—one for which we had a mandate from the people. All kinds of wily tricks were used, such as the moving of the debate to be adjourned till Christmas Day, to defeat a Bill. Another trick was to move for the Chairman to go out of the Chair, in order to defeat a measure. In those days many wily tricks were used.

One would not expect such tricks in a non-party House such as this. In the early days there was no recognised Leader of the Opposition. The House was looked upon and upheld as being a non-party House. With those remarks I do, of course, congratulate the three Ministers because they do not have any danger of running up against that sort of problem.

As I have said, there were all sorts of tricks. There were measures such as the Bank Holidays Act Amendment Bill which was introduced three or four times by the Labor Party, which had a mandate, but straight out the window it went. But what happened the first year there was a change and the wind was behind the Ministry? It went through. That is what occurs when Ministers represent the minority in this House.

Therefore I congratulate the Ministers, and particularly envy their fortunate position of knowing that anything they submit is almost certain to be passed.

THE HON. C. R. ABBEY (West) [7.46 p.m.]: I rise to support the measure and I do so because there are a couple of points I would like to bring to the attention of the House. However, before doing that I would like very sincerely to congratulate Mr. MacKinnon on his elevation to the Ministry. I feel that the administration of the State with the 12 Ministers we now have is in very good hands.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: A matter of opinion, that.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: We all agree, of course—even the Opposition, as I have heard some of them say in the last couple of days—that this State is really going places. This being the case, the administration and the responsibilities must become very much greater in the future, and I suppose it is not too silly to envisage that a time will come, perhaps in the not

too distant future, when it will be considered that the number in the Ministry should be increased again. I am not forecasting this on behalf of the Government, of course.

Having listened to the debate this evening and the Address-in-Reply contribution by Mr. Wise, it does seem to me that, considering the importance of the work the three Ministers have to carry out in this House, the accommodation on the front bench is rather inadequate. The Ministers have very many important documents to arrange before them and in the past with only two Ministers a great deal of congestion occurred.

We have in this House a great deal of room—much more than in another place—and I feel it would be fairly reasonable for us to consider the spacing out of the seats in order that the three Ministers might be supplied with individual desks. This would provide more accommodation for their documents and papers. It is not unreasonable to suggest that the front bench of the Opposition should be provided with the same facilities. The Ministers should be afforded every opportunity to administer their portfolios and to handle the debates in this House in an efficient manner.

It is for that reason I make the suggestion, and I hope that you, Mr. President, will find some merit in it. I know that should you do so you will take steps to implement it. It is not a question of comfort, either, but one of good working ability which would be to the advantage of all. I support the measure.

THE HON. R. F. HUTCHISON (North-East Metropolitan) [7.50 p.m.]: I did not have any intention of speaking on this debate, but I cannot let the swan song go over without a challenge. I congratulate the Ministers, too. I congratulate anyone who is elevated to a higher position. However, I cannot say that I am pleased with the House, and the set-up as it has always been, because in my opinion democracy has never been evident in this House.

The **PRESIDENT** (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: It cannot be when it is impossible for the Opposition to obtain enough seats to govern the country; and that is owing to the gerrymandering of boundaries.

The **PRESIDENT** (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order! I draw the honourable member's attention to the fact that boundaries are not mentioned in the legislation before the House.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I thought that might be the hidden barbed wire, but will not mention it again. I would like to say that when the Labor Government was in office it never had power in this House—it never has had—and I must register that point.

Labor stalwarts of the past have left a proud record behind them, to have battled as long as they did against the circumstances in which they always found themselves in this Chamber. I hope that some day some semblance of equality will be evident and that those present now—the new Ministers—will make it possible for a fairer and more democratic system that will enable electors to make a real choice of whom they want to have in this Chamber.

Labor members here are men of substance and they have earned and held honourable positions in this State. For instance, our present Leader (Mr. Wise) was once a Premier of this State and has a very proud record. We also have Mr. Strickland and others who have proud records behind them, and I must voice my protest that they have never had an opportunity of bringing to fruition their real desires. Therefore I do congratulate the Ministers and with that will end my contribution to the debate.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Justice) [7.53 p.m.]: I am naturally very pleased with the general reception of this Bill. Mr. MacKinnon has asked me to convey his appreciation of the remarks made by members in relation to his elevation to the Cabinet, and this I sincerely do for him.

I feel compelled to bring members back to the contents of the Bill. As Mr. Wise further explained to us, it is simply one of mathematics, because it merely alters in the Constitution Acts Amendment Act "ten" to "twelve". However, I feel compelled to say that the composition of the parties as they exist at present in this Chamber is as a result of a general election at which the people of this State voted, for members of this House, on the same franchise as they did for another place.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I said boundaries.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: And of course the reference to the gerrymandering of seats is nothing more nor less than a scathing, slanderous attack on those people who are responsible . . .

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order! I would draw the Minister's attention to the fact that I asked Mrs. Hutchison to restrain herself on that point, and I ask him to do the same.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes, Sir. I would have thought up to a point of time that the general way of dealing with this Bill was the acceptable one, but I fear it was a little bit spoilt. I would like to say, however, in reply to Mr. Wise, that Mr. MacKinnon and the other Honorary Minister have been sworn in as members of the Executive Council.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I felt sure they would have been.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I felt sure he would have felt that way. I am particularly pleased with the approach so far as this House is concerned. I share the thoughts of Mr. Strickland in relation to the period when he stood where I am standing now, when our good friend, the late Gilbert Fraser, was indisposed. I must assure Mr. Strickland that all of us were very conscious of the work he did on that occasion under extreme difficulties. He even found himself in the position of being one Minister in this House, the same as the Minister who first led this House when the Constitution provided for a distribution of Ministers between the two Houses, because there was only one here then, and he had to do all the work and had all the Bills to attend to.

Although in the last six years, and prior to that, Mr. Logan and I were two Ministers here, we both felt the burden; and, as an overwrought Minister, I have tried to understand perhaps the overwrought feelings of some of the back-bench members in the House.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: And the Opposition, too.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I was referring to them—no-one in particular, but all of them in general.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Why look at me?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: All I can say to the honourable member is that if the cap fits, wear it. But, joking aside—

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: It is no joke!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH:—I was thinking a little about the remarks made by Dr. Hislop when he spoke to us on this matter before the tea suspension. He spoke about the part private members can play in the conduct of the State, and without any hesitation I would say that a private member of Parliament can get out of his job exactly what he puts into it.

In relation to the suggestion made by Mr. Jones that some private members should be asked to help with the conduct of some legislation, I think this is something we could do. It will be appreciated of course that we will not be in a position to ask Labor members to help with the Government legislation, but if any of them are willing to help on controversial matters, they can do so.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: We usually do help.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Not in the direct sense to which Mr. Jones was referring. It occurred to me that in following Mr. Jones' suggestion we might get Mr. Willmott to conduct a Bill for us on the question of bushfires; Mr. Watson might handle a company's Bill for me some time; and Mr. Jack Thomson, or Mr. Baxter, could perhaps deal with a Bill on the fluoridation of water supplies.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: And I am quite sure I could think of some other ways in which these members could be helpful to us on occasions.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Subject of course to our acceptance.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I would like to say in all seriousness that if we try this—and I think we could try it—then it would be up to the honourable member whom we asked, to accept the responsibility and assist not only for our benefit as Ministers, but his too. He would have to take the trouble to study the Bill and come into our offices and find out what it was all about and steer it through the House, thus helping in the same way as members helped Mr. Strickland on the occasion that he found himself obliged to seek help because of the heavy load.

What I said about some members and various Bills will, I hope, be accepted in the manner in which it was intended. We would be happy to think that members will help; and, of course, this brings me to the point that we are not always sure what is going to happen to some of these measures. However, as a result of the general election and the state of the House now, I hope we can be a little surer from time to time.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: You cannot expect 10 to defeat 20, can you?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: This is one of those mathematical equations when one, or five, from 10 makes 10. However, I do not think I should continue in this way any further, except to say it is gratifying that a Bill of this nature has been received in the manner in which it has, particularly in respect of the understanding that has been expressed from the point of view of the Ministers in the Government at the moment and those members who have been in a Government in the past. That, because of the appreciation of the amount of work involved in a Ministry—if I can express it this way—is where the better understanding lies.

I satisfy myself with once again thanking members for the support they have given the Bill.

Question put.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): The Bill requires an absolute majority of members present. Therefore in accordance with Standing Order 243, it is necessary for a division. Ring the bells.

Bells rung and House divided.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): As it is obvious we have an absolute majority, I declare the question passes in the affirmative.

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Justice) [8.5 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

Question put.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): In accordance with Standing Order 243, a division must be taken. Ring the bells.

Bells rung and House divided.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): It is apparent that all members are voting with the ayes, so I declare the division off as we have an absolute majority as required.

Question thus passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

PARLIAMENTARY ALLOWANCES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), read a first time.

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines [8.8 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The measure we have just passed increases the number of the executive officers of the Ministry from 10 to 12. The Bill now before us follows that measure and seeks to amend the Parliamentary Allowances Act. It is very brief; it simply substitutes for the word "seven" in line 1 of paragraph (c) of subsection (4) the word "nine."

The reason for the difference between these numbers—an increase from 10 to 12 in the Constitution Acts Amendment Bill, and seven to nine in this measure—and the actual number of Ministers of the Crown comes about through the Premier, the Deputy Premier, and the Leader of the Government in this House being paid under a separate heading. The effect of this Bill will be to permit the payment of allowances and salaries to the two additional Ministers appointed administratively by the Government.

I believe it is not necessary for me to further enlarge upon this point for, in effect, I have already placed before members sufficient argument—and it has been readily accepted by all members—for the increase in the Ministry. That has been

done by the measure amending the Constitution Acts Amendment Act, and therefore it is not necessary for me to make any further explanation.

THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North—Leader of the Opposition) [8.10 p.m.]: I am quite prepared to allow this Bill to pass without debate. It is merely consequential—in justice to the new Ministers—upon the Bill that has just been passed, and I support it.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by **The Hon. A. F. Griffith** (Minister for Mines), and passed.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines [8.12 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 17th August.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 8.13 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 11th August, 1965

CONTENTS

	Page
ADDRESS-IN-REPLY : FIFTH DAY—	
Speakers on Motion—	
Mr. Grayden	251
Mr. Moir	270
Mr. Runoiman	246
Mr. Tonkin	258
Mr. Williams	267
BILLS—	
Constitution Acts Amendment Bill—	
2r.	243
Com.	246
Report	246
3r.	246
Returned	276
Parliamentary Allowances Act Amend- ment Bill—	
2r.	246
Com.	246
Report	246
3r.	246
Returned	276

CONTENTS—continued	
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—	Page
Builders' Registration Act—Subcontractors : Registration	238
Dredge "Sir James Mitchell"—Watchman : Employment from Sunset to Sunrise	235
Eivers, Mr. C. J. T.—	
Deputy Commissioner of Railways : Length of Service	232
Retirement Allowances	232
Electricity—	
Charges : New Method—	
Effect on Pensioners and Widows	236
Effect on Revenue	236
State Electricity Commission Accounts—	
Charges : Itemisation	238
Equal Pay for the Sexes : Government Policy	235
"Export Action" Television Session : Free Advertising Medium	231
Gas Supplies : Charges to Consumers	237
Hardie Tyres : Use on Government Vehicles and Defects	231
Hawker Siddeley Building Supplies : Cutting of Permissible Intake of Timber	239
Health—	
Dental Treatment at Fremantle—	
Juveniles : Post-operative Facilities	234
Medical Practitioners—	
Albany Regional Hospital : Additional Appointment	229
Shortage in Country Areas	229
Hospitals—	
Albany Regional Hospital : Use as Nurses' Training Centre	229
Nurses' Training : Qualifications	229
Industrial Commission—Jurisdiction : Extension	236
Land—	
Kununurra : Release of Blocks	238
Recreation Reserve at Wembley Downs : Land Released—	
Adequacy and Suitability	237
Extent and Previous Owner	236
Market Value	237
Reasons for Release	237
Reserve No. 24006—	
Classification	232
Vesting and Location	232
Long Service Leave for Government Employees : Reciprocal Agreement with Commonwealth	238
Mining—	
Iron Ore Deposits at Deepdale : F.O.B. Prices of Products	237
Mining Reserves—	
Murchison Area : Details	239
North of 26th Parallel : Details	239
Nuclear Power : Use by Government	236
Rainfall in Gascoyne Area : Carnarvon Statistics and Gascoyne River Flow	232
Technical Education—Tertiary Training : Appointment of Committee of Inquiry	232
Traffic—	
Drivers' Licenses : Inclusion of Age	230
Traffic Control in Country Areas : Duties of Police and Local Authorities	233
Water Supplies at Point Samson : Extension	231