

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Third Session of the Twenty-ninth Parliament

Parliament was prorogued on the 21st February, 1979, to the 29th March, 1979, when it met for the despatch of business.

Parliament was opened by His Excellency the Governor (Air Chief Marshal Sir Wallace Kyle, G.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., K.St.J.).

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 29th March, 1979

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The Legislative Council met at 8.00 p.m.

The **PRESIDENT** (the Hon. Clive Griffiths) took the Chair.

PRESIDING OFFICERS

Guests on Opening Day

THE PRESIDENT (the Hon. Clive Griffiths): Honourable members, it is with pleasure that I advise the House that among our guests tonight we have the President of the Australian Senate, Senator the Hon. Sir Condor Laucke, K.C.M.G., and Lady Laucke; the President of the Victorian Legislative Council, the Hon. W. G. Fry, and Mrs Fry; the President of the South Australian Legislative Council, the Hon. A. M. Whyte, and Mrs Whyte; and the President of the New South Wales Legislative Council, the Hon. J. R. Johnson, and Mrs Johnson.

We are indeed honoured that they have been able to arrange their busy schedules in order to be present at this opening of Parliament during our 150th anniversary year.

PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Parliaments (Mr J. G. C. Ashley) read the Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor (Air Chief Marshal Sir Wallace Kyle, G.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., K.St.J.) summoning the third session of the Twenty-ninth Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Delivery

His Excellency the Governor (Air Chief Marshal Sir Wallace Kyle, G.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., K.St.J.) entered the Council Chamber at 8.10 p.m.; and, the members of the Legislative Assembly having also attended in the Chamber obediently to summons, His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following speech—

Mr President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:

Mr Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

You meet here today for the Third Session of the 29th Parliament.

The opening of any democratic Parliament is a solemn occasion, with its reminders of tradition founded in the freedom of the individual, and the responsibilities of those who govern to maintain it.

On this occasion there is an added factor through the pride of all Western Australians in the 150th Anniversary of their State.

It is appropriate for me to express the thanks of the Government and people of Western Australia for the outstanding results achieved thus far by those appointed to organise the celebration of this milestone in our history.

I feel privileged that my term as Governor has embraced this time of celebration and

thanksgiving—and has afforded me the honour of officially opening this Session of Parliament in such an important year.

We Western Australians have much to be thankful for.

In every walk of life, men and women have combined to provide us with our enviable inheritance.

As they planned and laboured for us, so must we plan and labour for those who will follow us... and nowhere more than in this historic Parliament.

At this time of reflection on our history, let us not forget that we in our turn will become part of history.

Since last I addressed you the State has been honoured by the visit of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, who came to share in the celebration of our 150th Anniversary.

His was a memorable visit, being by far the longest and most comprehensive tour of Western Australia by any member of the Royal Family.

We admired his willingness to travel far and wide throughout all regions of the State, and we deeply appreciated the interest he took in the people, their problems and their successes.

His good humour and cheerful approach to this most demanding programme endeared him to people everywhere he went.

Earlier, in 1978, we were privileged to be host to Her Royal Highness, Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands, and her husband, Prince Claus, and His Excellency the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Herr Walter Scheel.

The Economy

1979 shows promise of recovery—even though the world economy is still not showing strong and uniform improvement.

In recent weeks there has been evidence of recovery in the iron ore trade and in some other minerals, all of which are important factors in our economy.

A number of major new development projects have commenced or are imminent. Outstanding among these is the North-West Shelf natural gas venture, about which the formal decision to go ahead is confidently expected later in the year, and in respect of which the Government has worked closely with the consortium and with industry to ensure maximum practicable local participation in construction.

Similarly, conditions have improved considerably for another of the mainstays of our

economic life—the farming and pastoral sector, to which I will refer later.

These developments are more than usually welcome at this time, for they will do much to alleviate the burdens which unemployment has imposed upon many people, particularly the young.

Notable among the State's achievements since last I addressed you has been the approval by Loan Council of a new dimension in State borrowing powers to assist with the essential support services for major development projects.

The Government is continuing its vigorous trade promotion programme in the Middle East, and is promoting our exports in other areas.

State Finances

For the third successive year the State Budget was in balance in 1977/78.

The Budget for 1978/79, presented to Parliament on September 19, also proposes a balanced outcome.

These results have been achieved in the face of severe restrictions in access to revenue.

Agriculture

The graph of Western Australia's rural fortunes is now rising in a gratifying fashion.

At a projected record of 1 300 million dollars, the gross value of farm production in 1978/79 will exceed that of last year by at least 300 million dollars—reflecting the greatly improved harvest and sales prospects for all crops.

The estimated record of 4.6 million-tonne wheat harvest is 1.6 million tonnes higher than last year's harvest, and 400 000 tonnes higher than the previous record set in 1973/74.

The estimated value of this record harvest is 530 million dollars.

Wool prices appreciated gradually throughout last year, then improved considerably in the first weeks of the 1979 selling season.

Saleyard prices for beef in January this year were twice the level of two years ago—and still rising. Overseas markets and prices are also increasing.

Mainly because of increased prices, it is expected that the value of Western Australian livestock production in 1978/79 will increase by some 40 million dollars over last year's level of approximately 160 million dollars.

But, as always in the pastoral and agricultural industries, there have been setbacks.

Drought and Cyclone Alby involved the Government in considerable relief

expenditure—more than 31 million dollars in concessional loans for drought-affected farmers and some 3 million dollars for primary producers hit by the cyclone.

In addition, the Government provided 1.5 million dollars for employment of drought-displaced farm workers, 500 000 dollars on freight subsidies for stock feed and transport, and almost 2 million dollars for providing stock water supplies.

The Government is making its final estimate of Cyclone Hazel—the damage from which is widespread and considerable. It brings home to us the ever-present hazards to which rural communities can be subjected.

Our sympathy goes out to those who have suffered loss. And we offer our admiration to those whose resilience, hard work and ingenuity did much to minimise the combined setbacks of storm and drought.

Resources Development and Energy

Mineral production is a major factor in the Government's plans to ensure development of natural resources for the maximum benefit of all Western Australians, and is a key factor in the State's economy.

The metals and minerals area will absorb a significant part of the estimated 5 000 million to 6 000 million dollars of capital investment which will accrue to the State between now and the mid-1980s.

Offshore petroleum drilling in our waters has aroused great interest at home and abroad, with the major exploration activity to take place in deep-water areas of the Exmouth Plateau using the most sophisticated equipment.

The continuing expansion of power generation at the Muja generating station will underwrite the Government's plan to extend electricity to virtually all remaining potential customers of the State Energy Commission over the next four years.

Uranium at Yeelirrie will be developed after the pilot plant work is complete at Kalgoorlie.

Our research and encouragement of solar power is expanding as part of our energy programme.

Education

The Government's continued upgrading of primary schooling includes this year an increase in staff; strengthened instruction in basic skills; and a quarterly newspaper to improve communications with parents.

Pupil/teacher ratios have been further reduced in both primary and secondary schools. More specialist teachers have been recruited this year.

To cope with rising student numbers the Government established two high schools and eleven primary schools during 1978. Additionally, two high schools, one special school, and nine primary schools were opened during February, 1979.

Enrolments in technical education have also risen. An examination of the Technical Division's structure is being made with the aim of increasing its responsiveness and the employment of its resources.

Through its new Department for Youth, Sport and Recreation the Government has provided increased assistance and incentive for healthy leisure and sporting activities throughout the State.

Services of the Library Board of Western Australia are presently housed in nine different locations. The Government expects to receive this year design sketches and cost estimates for a new building to bring all these services together in one place.

Transport

The Government's determination to achieve the most effective transport system led to the Southern Western Australia Transport Study, the comprehensive reports of which have been released for public comment.

The Government is currently considering its future transport freight policy in the light of this and is holding extensive discussions with rural communities directly involved.

Despite a lack of Commonwealth road funds, the sealing of the Port Hedland-Broome road will be completed on schedule.

Particular attention is also being given to the vital export-producing Pilbara region, where the Government is providing from its own resources an additional 12 million dollars over the next five years for urgently-needed road works.

The new fishing-boat harbour at Carnarvon has been completed. It includes a new slipway which removes the need for the northern fishing fleet to go to Fremantle for servicing.

Following recommendations of the Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission, the motor vessel *Beroona* was sold in December, 1978. Delivery of the replacement vessel, the motor vessel *Kimberley*, is scheduled for May. The ship's advanced capability will make a substantial contribution to the long-term viability of the State Shipping Service.

Large contracts have been let for upgrading the Kwinana/Koolyanobbing railway. A major upgrading of the Kwinana/Bunbury line will commence in the near future.

Viable suburban rail passenger services will be upgraded with the purchase of ten new railcars. Moreover, improved feeder services and station parking facilities should attract increased use of public transport.

The Metropolitan Transport Trust's bus fleet is also being further expanded with the acquisition of additional air-conditioned buses.

Major works of dredging, berth construction and the provision of facilities are either in progress or completed at Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton and Wyndham.

Work will begin this year on new facilities for the fishing industry at Fremantle, Green Head and Port Gregory.

The Government will strive to ensure that Western Australia reaps the full benefit from the lower international air fares recently introduced.

It will continue to press the Commonwealth for internal fares and services to be reduced and for major improvements to bring Perth International Airport up to modern standards.

Labour and Industry

The Government has submitted to the Commonwealth Government, to industry and to trade unions new proposals for intensive training programmes to ensure adequate availability of skilled manpower for work on the North-West Shelf and other major projects.

In addition, the Government will continue to expand its current programmes to improve job prospects for school leavers including increased use of technical training facilities.

A wide-ranging review of the industrial legislation, including workers' compensation, is being undertaken.

Local Government and Town Planning

In pursuing its objective of clarifying and updating both the Town Planning and Development Act and the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Act, the Government proposes to introduce Bills amending both statutes.

As a result of an examination of the Local Government Act, amendments to the Act's electoral provisions are proposed.

A proposal to include specific reference to recognition of local government in the State's Constitution is currently receiving consideration.

Housing

Despite the restrictions in Commonwealth funding, the State Housing Commission has found ways to increase building activities through its own resources and so help to maintain the highest possible level of activity in the building industry.

As a result, special measures to stimulate the local building industry will permit construction of 500 additional homes in 1978/79.

This has been achieved in two ways:

Firstly, the Commission has almost doubled its own programme to a total of 670 dwellings.

Secondly, the number of homes financed under the homes' assistance scheme has been lifted from 350 to 520.

The Commission is also encouraging employment of apprentices in the building trade.

The Government proposes to re-enact the State Housing Act to bring it into line with modern trends.

Lands

More new farm land allocations have been made in the Ravensthorpe, Esperance and Lake Grace Shires. Releases continue, where necessary, of residential blocks throughout the State.

Aerial mapping of the entire Collie Coal Basin will be carried out this year.

Forests

Measures to contain dieback in jarrah forests continue. New initiatives by the Forests Department include the vital matter of mapping 150 000 hectares of dieback-affected areas.

Health and Community Welfare

Works programmes on Western Australian public hospitals will involve expenditure of some 38.8 million dollars this year.

The programme of free basic dental care for primary school children is being further extended with the provision of 16 new fixed clinics and four mobile therapy clinics. By the end of the year, 75 per cent of primary pupils will be covered by the service.

The Kwinana and Cervantes Community Health Centres have been completed. A 1.5 million dollar teaching health centre will be opened soon at Claremont, and a new day-care centre at Mandurah.

A new Alcohol and Drug Authority clinic is being established close to Perth.

The 2.2 million dollar Irrabena Headquarters for the Mental Health Services' Intellectually Handicapped Division is almost completed in West Perth.

Work has begun on Stage Two of the Swanbourne Hospital.

Legislation is proposed to provide for recognition of proper arrangements made overseas for the adoption of children by people living in Western Australia.

The Government considers the provision of adequate housing appropriate to the needs of Aboriginal people to be crucial to their health, welfare and community spirit. The Government has undertaken a variety of initiatives in this field and will continue to do so.

Public Works

The major works of water conservation this year are the Wungong Dam, which will be finished in 1979, and the completion of a design for a dam on the South Canning River.

Further, in a comprehensive programme of water supply, sewerage works, irrigation and waste water treatment, the Government is pressing on with its undertaking to provide maximum service to the public in these areas.

The Government has acted to arrest encroaching salinity in southern catchment areas. In 1978 it extended clearing control legislation to a further four of the State's important rivers threatened by increasing salinity.

Research into the causes of the salinity problem on a more far-reaching basis and its possible prevention and control, is being expedited. However, some clearing controls, as covered by the legislation, are urgently necessary to protect the land and water resources immediately involved. They are the subject of discussion with the farmers concerned.

In locations ranging from the metropolitan area to the Eastern Goldfields, and the South-West to the Kimberley, the Architectural Division has had a busy year providing for hospitals, Government buildings and schools of all kinds.

Major works for completion this year are the first stage of the new Perth Technical College and the new Western Australian Art Gallery.

Tourism

Intensified tourist promotion has been undertaken to coincide with the State's 150th Anniversary celebrations.

The Government proposes to add to its chain of travel offices in the other States by opening a centre in Brisbane.

Police and Traffic

With the induction of 56 officers by June 1979, the authorised strength of the Western Australian Police Force will reach 2 527.

Completion of the integrated Police and Road Traffic Authority complex at Warwick by the end of the year will fill an urgent need for such facilities in the expanding northern suburbs.

Department of Corrections

The 2.2 million dollar first stage of the new Metropolitan Prison Complex at Canning Vale is scheduled for completion this year.

This, together with other action being taken, will relieve pressures in other areas of corrective services.

Fisheries

In relation to the projected 200-nautical mile exclusive fishing zone in Australian waters, the Government has approved four feasibility projects involving Australian and overseas interests to assess the fishing potential of the extended zone off Western Australia.

Legal Affairs

The Government is currently engaged on the most comprehensive review of the Criminal Code since its enactment in 1913.

Legislation is proposed to give certain Aboriginal communities control over the maintenance of social conduct among their people.

It is also intended to clarify the situation in regard to offices of profit which affect the position of Members of Parliament.

Cultural Affairs

In September the Western Australian Museum's new Commissariat Building will be opened in Fremantle. The reconstructed *Batavia* hull—which is ultimately to be the main exhibit—will be supported by displays illustrating the involvement of the Dutch and other nations in our maritime history.

The Western Australian Arts Council plans to extend community access to the arts during 1979.

Electoral Matters

As a result of a judicial inquiry, legislation is to be prepared to amend the Electoral Act.

Legislation

In addition to legislation specifically referred to earlier, a further programme of legislation covering a wide range of subjects will be introduced as necessary.

Mr President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council; Mr Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly; I now declare this Session of Parliament open, and trust that Providence will bless your labours.

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

QUESTIONS

Question without notice was taken at this stage.

PUBLIC NOTARIES BILL

Leave to Introduce

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South West—Leader of the House) [8.56 p.m.]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice—

For leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to make provision in respect of public notaries and for related purposes.

Question put and passed; leave granted.

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Leader of the House), and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Distribution of Copies

THE PRESIDENT (the Hon. Clive Griffiths): I have to announce that for the sake of accuracy I have obtained copies of His Excellency's Speech which will now be distributed to members.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIRST DAY

Motion

THE HON. N. F. MOORE (Lower North) [9.00 p.m.]: I move—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency—

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

Mr President, I consider it a great honour to have been asked by the Premier to initiate this Address-in-Reply debate, particularly as 1979 is the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Swan River Colony.

His Excellency the Governor has, Sir, expressed in very clear terms the meaning behind this year's

celebration. It is a year for us to remember the dedication and achievements of our forebears; a year for us to realise just how much we have to be thankful for.

A brief glance at the history of Western Australia since 1829 illustrates very clearly that the society we enjoy so much today was achieved only by a great deal of hard work and a great deal of vision.

Our history shows periods of depression—times when our forefathers must have seriously considered giving up. Our history shows periods of boom—times when our ancestors reaped the benefits of their labours.

However, one thing remains: in 150 years the people of Western Australia have created a society which is envied by most people throughout the world. They developed a free, stable, and democratic society; one which is, unfortunately, all too uncommon throughout the world. So, Mr President, as His Excellency has said, we have much to be thankful for.

Yet, in remembering the achievements of the past, we must also realise that future generations will so judge us. We have an enormous responsibility to maintain and foster the great traditions that have been passed down to us during the past 150 years. Our acceptance or otherwise of our heritage will decide how we are judged in the future.

As members are aware, Mr President, my province covers a large proportion of the remote and isolated communities of Western Australia. To me, Sir, the people who live in these communities are the epitome of the pioneers who first settled these shores in 1829. They are the people who have gone into the remote, often inhospitable parts of our huge State, to carve out a living for themselves and their families.

Mr President, we read in our history books of men who, in the 1890s, pushed wheelbarrows from Perth to Kalgoorlie—a distance of some 600 kilometres—largely through waterless and unexplored country. We read of pastoral families taking up properties hundreds of miles from any known civilisation, and bearing the worst aspects of heat, flies, isolation, and drought.

Yet, without these people, there would be no mining industry; there would be no pastoral industry; and there would be no agriculture.

Mr President, Western Australia covers 32 per cent of the area of Australia, yet it has only 8.5 per cent of its population. In 1977, Sir, Western Australia produced 24 per cent of Australia's wool; 30 per cent of its wheat; 10 per cent of its meat; 13 per cent of its fish; 93 per cent of its iron

ore; 50 per cent of its gold; and 43 per cent of its bauxite. Western Australia has 8 per cent of Australia's cattle and 23 per cent of its sheep. We are responsible for 22.3 per cent of Australia's overseas exports and use only 8 per cent of its imports.

These statistics make it quite clear from where the wealth of Western Australia is derived, and they also make it quite clear how important this State is to the Australian economy.

Who is responsible for this situation? It is the people about whom I spoke earlier—the farmers, the pastoralists, and the miners. It is the people who, in the past, gave up the relative security of the Swan River Colony and pioneered the remote areas of this State, and the people who, even today, are moving to the new mining towns scattered throughout Western Australia, particularly the Kimberley, the Pilbara, and the north-eastern goldfields.

Western Australia unquestionably rides on the economic backs of the miners, the farmers, and the pastoralists. Yet, Mr President, in many of the export-producing parts of this State today, there are people whose living conditions can best be described as primitive by 1979 standards.

There are people without adequate roads or transport; there are people without telephones or mail services; there are people without shopping, recreation, or education facilities; there are people, Sir, who, after seeing the tremendous progress that has occurred in urban areas, may well ask where has progress been for us in the last 150 years.

I was delighted therefore to read a Press statement issued recently by the Federal Minister for Posts and Telecommunications (Mr Staley). In his release the Minister gave details of a new remote area television system, employing the Intelsat 4 satellite which is stationed over the Pacific Ocean.

This system allows for the establishment of some 50 earth stations and 26 translator or transmitter stations at remote towns throughout Australia. Two separate ABC television programme signals will be fed into the satellite—one from Carnarvon in Western Australia, and the other from Moree in New South Wales.

When this system is functional—hopefully the whole programme will be completed in 1981-82—76 small isolated communities will receive direct television for the first time. Naturally, the people living in these towns are very pleased with the Government's decision.

However, there are two major drawbacks inherent in this system—

- (1) It does not cater for the needs of isolated homesteads as distinct from isolated towns.
- (2) It provides only for television services and does not provide other types of telecommunications seen by most as being of far greater importance than television.

In the light of these two problems, I sincerely hope that the Federal Government will see fit to proceed with the establishment of an Australian domestic satellite.

I was privileged to attend recently a conference sponsored by the Australian National University in Canberra. This conference was convened to discuss the recommendations of the Federal Government's task force into domestic satellites, and to consider the many ramifications of the task force report.

It was particularly significant that many of the delegates at the conference were from remote areas of Australia—people who travelled very long distances to attend in the hope that they could convince the conference that a domestic satellite may well be the answer to their telecommunications prayers.

In very brief terms, Mr President, an Australian domestic satellite could provide the following services for all Australians—

- (1) direct television,
- (2) telephones,
- (3) telex,
- (4) data and facsimile transfer, and
- (5) radio reception,

services that are now not available to many remote-area communities, but are taken for granted in urban areas.

The Federal Minister (Mr Staley) summed up the advantages of such a satellite when it was reported in *The West Australian* of the 15th March that—

He (Mr Staley) agreed... that, the domestic satellite would have a "magic wand" effect on outback communications.

Once the system was operating, communities presently operating by shared radio telephone facilities and receiving no radio or television system at all, would be able to obtain all three services by pushing a button.

He envisaged a system in Australia in which a remote cattle station would install an

earth receiving station in the back yard or on the house.

The station would receive television and radio services and an adjustment would make telephone services available.

Mr President, the benefits of a domestic satellite are enormous, particularly for the remote areas of Australia.

The cost of such a system is still the subject of much debate. Estimated total costs of the scheme range from approximately \$100 million to \$500 million. However, it was very heartening at the Domsat Conference to hear Mr Staley predict that, based on the Canadian experience, it may well be possible for Australia to achieve a multi-purpose satellite system for less than \$100 million.

It seems to me that this is a small price to pay for a system which will bring modern telecommunications services to all Australians, regardless of where they live.

In many countries throughout the world, considerations other than purely cost-benefit analyses are being seen as vital in decisions on whether or not to proceed with domestic satellite systems.

Mr President, country people are renowned for "getting things done". They have had to improvise and invent in order to survive.

However, we now face a situation in which outback country people need assistance. They need urban communities to understand their needs, they need trade unionists and businessmen to understand their needs, and, most of all, they need Governments to understand their needs.

The whole Australian community, not just the Federal Government, will decide whether the telecommunications needs of remote areas will be satisfied. Pressure from all sides of the political spectrum will be brought to bear before a decision on the establishment of a domestic satellite is reached.

So that there can be no misconceptions, I must point out that several powerful groups and lobbies within our society are strongly opposed to the satellite, or have serious reservations about it.

Whilst I personally believe that the objections raised by the ALP's Senator Susan Ryan, and the Australian Postal & Telecommunications Union, have been adequately answered by the task force chairman, it can be expected that the anti-technology lobby will never be convinced of the satellite's great benefits.

I have until now emphasised the benefits of a domestic satellite purely from the point of view of

telecommunications for remote areas. However, it has many other advantages which apply to all members of the Australian community.

Satellites have enormous applications in relation to education. The Schools of the Air could be totally revamped with children having direct access to their teacher and a whole variety of teaching aids. Each child, who is currently a student with the School of the Air, could become an integral part of a class which has direct audio and visual contact with his teacher even though they may be hundreds of miles apart. Education for isolated students would take on a whole new meaning.

I was very interested to read the recommendations contained in a report prepared by Mrs Sue Broad. Mrs Broad received the Western Australian Women's Fellowship Award in 1978, and used her overseas trip to study remote-area education in other countries.

Recommendation 5 of her report states—

The successful use of television in Colorado indicates that a similar satellite communications system would be of enormous benefit to the education of children from isolated families.

A domestic satellite would be of considerable benefit to Australia's defence capacity. Vastly improved communications, particularly to and from our remote northern coastline, would be of great assistance. The whole question of coastal surveillance could be reassessed.

Further, a domestic satellite would provide a back-up to existing terrestrial systems, and thus provide a more flexible communications network in times of emergency.

Mr President, I wish to conclude by briefly returning to where I started this evening. The economy of Australia and Western Australia in particular, depends very heavily on the export earnings of the mining, pastoral, and agricultural industries. Unless something concrete is done to make life for those engaged in these industries more tolerable, we will find that the drift of people to cities will accelerate. It is of absolute importance that we actively encourage people to involve themselves in these industries—that we encourage them to live in country areas. Whilst a great deal has been done, we still have a long way to go.

In our sophisticated society, people expect a certain standard of living. Unfortunately, the standards they expect are not available to all.

The provision of a domestic satellite and its associated telecommunications services will go a

long way towards improving living standards in remote areas.

Mr President, I hope that those who agree with me that it is time to return some of our wealth to the areas from which it is produced will do their best to ensure that this satellite becomes a reality.

It will take six years from the time a decision is made for a domestic satellite to be functional. In the past 150 years we have not been able to provide totally adequate communications to outback towns and homesteads. Now we have the capability and the capacity to do it in six years. Obviously, we must now grasp the opportunity in both hands, make a positive decision, and get on with the job. Future generations will thank us for it.

THE HON. G. W. BERRY (Lower North) [9.18 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. D. K. Dans (Leader of the Opposition).

House adjourned at 9.19 p.m.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

RECREATION

Football: Clearance of Players

The Hon. Tom McNEIL, to the Attorney General:

- (1) Is the Attorney General aware that the Trade Practices Act has been invoked in Victoria in a dispute regarding the clearance of three footballers, two of whom are currently under the control of the Subiaco Football Club?

- (2) If so, are not the Western Australian players involved in this dispute protected by the Trade Practices Act following the recent High Court decision of the 27th February, 1979, that football clubs, such as Subiaco, were trading corporations and therefore came under the Trade Practices Act?
- (3) If not, in light of the High Court ruling, will he please investigate the situation regarding what protection can be afforded these young players seeking to play football in another State?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) I have seen references in the Press to the cases mentioned by the honourable member, but have no particular knowledge of the facts involved.
- (2) It is true that in the case of Adamson v West Australian National Football League, the High Court refused to intervene in a Federal Court proceeding in which Adamson claimed that the WANFL, in preventing his playing in South Australia, was in breach of the Trade Practices Act. By a majority of four judges to three the High Court held that the substantial activities of a corporation determine its character, rather than the purposes of its incorporation and, hence, the Trade Practices Act could apply to such a situation. The High Court decision appears merely to have cleared the way for the case to be argued on its merits.
- (3) As the case is still pending and incomplete, it would be inappropriate to seek to extend it to other situations.
