

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 25 October 1990

THE SPEAKER (Mr Michael Barnett) took the Chair at 10.00 am, and read prayers.

PETITION - YORK DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Services Reduction or Closure Proposal Concern

MR TRENORDEN (Avon) [10.02 am]: I have a petition addressed as follows -

To: The Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned residents of York, Western Australia, wish to express our extreme concern regarding proposals to either close down or substantially reduce the service offered by the York District Hospital.

To entertain such a proposal is to demonstrate a callous disregard for the well being of rural electors and the economics of a small town.

The Shire of York is one of the few rural communities in Western Australia which is exhibiting positive growth patterns, such growth being based on the fertile agricultural land and the ever growing tourist trade.

The York District Hospital serves the community professionally and efficiently, being recognised as an accredited hospital and recently being awarded the Commissioner's Annual Award for excellence and innovation in health care.

To reduce an essential service at a time of growth and development would appear to be an action designed to undermine such development which has been built up through hard work and diligence. To require residents and visitors to travel to larger country centres or to the Perth metropolitan area is to deny these people an existing service and would compromise their health care.

We believe the York Hospital must not be closed or have its level of service reduced and require assurances from the Government that the York Hospital will not have its services reduced or be closed.

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

The petition bears 200 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

[See petition No 154.]

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DUTY AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 18 October.

MR MacKINNON (Jandakot - Leader of the Opposition) [10.07 am]: This Bill authorises the increase of financial institutions duty in line with the Government's announcement when the Budget was presented to the Parliament. Clearly, in this instance the Opposition will not oppose the legislation to the extent of rejecting it, but we shall oppose the legislation on the basis that such an increase should not be imposed on the community at this time. The Opposition's concern about the financial institutions duty is twofold: Firstly, when it was originally introduced it was on the basis that the tax would not be a big impost, it would have a very minor impact on the community and it would allow the Government to reduce taxes in other areas. That clearly has not happened. I shall seek leave of the House to incorporate a chart and a graph of statistics which demonstrate what has happened to the financial institutions duty since its introduction. It is now reaching the stage at which it is becoming a major tax and a major impost on the people of Western Australia.

My second concern is that the Government had the opportunity with the introduction of this new tax to overhaul the taxation system and to get rid of other taxes, such as payroll tax. That could well have led to a significant increase in productivity in this State. Unfortunately, since this Government came to office its income from areas such as land tax, stamp duty and payroll tax has increased over and above the rate of inflation. Not only has the Government blown the opportunities it had with the buoyancy of the property market and the huge windfall it gained as a consequence of that, but also it has blown the opportunity that the new financial institutions duty gave it to mount a major overhaul in the taxation structure.

It is nonsense for the Government to announce such a significant increase in FID and use as justification the fact that the increase will bring Western Australia into line with other States at a time when the people of Western Australia are finding it harder than ever to exist. The Premier indicated that the increase would not impact much on families in this State. Our calculation is that in 1990-91 the cost to the community in Western Australia will be \$53 per capita. Clearly, if one averages the effect of that upon the working man or woman it will be more than that. Members should look at the photograph of the man which appeared in today's paper showing a wallet, and the reference to the people in the south west having to take a 20 per cent wage cut this year. Will it hurt those people? Will one dollar a week be of importance to that family? It is very important to them! They are the people who will be hit hardest at a time when they should be given relief and support.

I express my concern and alarm at the Government's not having the sensitivity to provide relief for families in Western Australia at this time. Ensuring that the financial institutions duty tax is increased substantially by the rate envisaged will make it much harder for people in this State to make ends meet; this includes people being denied health care services in the country as a consequence of Government cut backs. The Opposition will not support the Government's move to tax the Western Australian public even further at a time when the WA Inc chickens are very much coming home to roost. I seek leave to have the document and chart headed, "Net Financial Institutions Duty Collections 1983/4-1990/91" incorporated in *Hansard*.

[The material in appendix A was incorporated by leave of the House.]

[See p No 6657.]

MR WIESE (Wagin) [10.12 am]: On behalf of the National Party I say right from the start that this proposal to remove yet more money from businesses is a most iniquitous and poor piece of Government policy, because it will be the business community of Western Australia that will largely pay this tax. The Leader of the Opposition has already commented upon the direct effect of this legislation on families in Western Australia. The effect will be even worse than indicated by the Leader of the Opposition because not only will those families be directly affected by increases in this legislation, but also they will be strongly affected indirectly because business cannot carry the extra charges to be imposed on it by these rises and has only one course open to it - to pass on those increases to the general public. That is exactly what will happen.

The impact will occur first in a direct sense and mainly upon the business community of Western Australia. It will then occur in an indirect sense and impact on every family in Western Australia as I have just outlined. These increases are being imposed by a Government which keeps telling us that it is keeping rises in charges to, or about, the cost of inflation. Let us look at what those increases are. The financial institutions duty will increase from 3.5¢ per \$100 to 6¢ per \$100, an increase of 71.4 per cent. Even members of this Government would have to be realistic and say that is well and truly above the inflation rate. An increase of 71.4 per cent is an enormous one and will have a substantial effect upon the amount of money taken out of the pockets of Western Australians. The Government's Estimates show that its revenue take from that increase will rise from \$51.8 million last year to \$88 million this year, an increase of 52 per cent - again, an enormous rise at a time when the community can least afford it, certainly the small business community of Western Australia.

The Premier in her second reading speech tried to - and the only word I can use is *con* - con the community of Western Australia when she said that the increases would not greatly affect individuals. That is not an honest statement. The Premier must have been aware of the impact of that increase and to make such a statement when she introduced this legislation

was being far less than frank and honest with the community. We all know that to say another \$36 million can be ripped out of the community without it having an impact on the people who will be paying it is not an honest statement at all.

It is well and truly worth outlining to the House some of the other amounts this Government is taking out of, first, the business community and, secondly, the whole community of Western Australia. I will outline those figures to give members an idea of the impact of the amounts this Government is pulling out of the business community. The Government will take \$409 million in stamp duty, \$88 million in financial institutions duty - which we are talking about at the moment, \$19 million in debit tax, \$554 million in payroll tax and \$390 million in royalties from the mining and timber industries. Those direct imposts upon the business community of Western Australia total \$1.46 billion. That is an enormous sum.

There are a number of other revenue items that this Government removes from the business community that I will run through quickly. I have estimated that 25 per cent of the revenue raised in the agriculture budget item comes directly from the agricultural community, that is, \$2 million; Department of Conservation and Land Management, \$59 million, based on 95 per cent of the revenue raised coming from the business community; Ministry of Consumer Affairs, \$3 million, based upon 80 per cent of the Budget figure coming from the business community; Corporate Affairs Department, \$24 million, the whole lot coming from the business community; Crown Law Department, \$1 million, based on 15 per cent coming from the business community; Environmental Protection Authority, \$500 000, based on 80 per cent coming from the business community; Fisheries Department, \$1.5 million, based on 50 per cent coming from the business community; Department of Land Administration, \$12 million, based on 50 per cent coming from the business community; Department of Marine and Harbours, \$12 million, based on 60 per cent coming from the business community; Department of Mines, \$5 million, based on 85 per cent coming from the business community; Department of Resources Development, \$2 million, based on 95 per cent coming from the business community; and Westrail, \$173 million, based on freight of ore and agriculture produce. That is another \$295 million removed from the business community of Western Australia.

When added together the amount removed from the business community by this Government either directly or indirectly is \$1.755 billion. If members look at the situation of the business community of Western Australia at the moment they can make their own decisions whether it is in a position to carry these imposts. The Government should consider the effects of those increases on the business community. They have contributed to higher unemployment and an increase in the number of bankruptcies among private businesses and they are having an adverse affect on the business community. Rather than increasing its take from the business community, the Government should be looking at ways in which it can assist that community to improve its performance and its ability to provide employment. The result of this legislation will be one of the tragedies that we must face in the next three or four months.

Where will the young people, who will leave school in a month's time, find jobs in the present economic climate? The Government continues to screw down business, rather than assist it to do what it does best; that is, to provide jobs and employment and create manufacturing industries in this community. This is a bad piece of legislation. The increases are unjustified and unwise and should be opposed strongly.

MR NICHOLLS (Mandurah) [10.22 am]: I, too, am disappointed and disgusted at an increase in financial institutions duty of this proportion and at the trend occurring as a result of State and Federal Government policies. FID is an insidious tax; it is nothing more than an attempt to bleed the few remaining funds from the community who cannot do anything about it. Most people in our community cannot receive their income or benefits without their being deposited into a financial institution. The Government is very cleverly imposing a tax not only on people's profits, but also on the income they receive. This tax is nothing more than an additional income tax.

Dr Watson: We are not a highly taxed country.

Several members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: That sort of statement will receive the contempt it deserves.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr NICHOLLS: Western Australian families are now under siege and every area of Government is trying to wring more taxes out of them. Every person in this State is finding it hard to maintain the lifestyle to which they believe they are entitled. Many people might say that some lead far better lifestyles than do we. However, this tax does not do anything to help solve the inequities in our community. It should be removed or, at least, reduced according to the election promise made by this Government. When this Government was elected it said that all taxes and charges imposed on the family would be kept at or under the consumer price index. One does not need to be a mathematician to work out that the proposed increase in FID is far greater than the CPI, although under current State and Federal Government policies the CPI may reach about 50 per cent if they are not careful.

I am also disgusted that the State has agreed to take over the other insidious tax on savings - the Federal bank account debit tax. Once again, the Federal Government is offloading to the State Government those areas which are not acceptable.

Mr Taylor: The choice on that issue was that if we did not take the tax the money would be taken from our revenue grant anyway.

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the Minister. I was about to make that point. The Premiers' Conference is the forum in which to discuss the issue, but the Federal Government is imposing its will on the States yet again by handing down these insidious taxes. I hope that not only the Minister, but also the Premier, makes it clear to their Federal colleagues that handing down these insidious taxes to the States, with the threat of removing the funding if they do not accept them, will do nothing for Federal and State relationships. What are the Governments trying to do? They are trying to encourage people to save money and to look after themselves, but at the same time they are bleeding them before they get hold of their income or their benefits and again when they withdraw their funds. That is not a fair and equitable way to raise taxes.

In conclusion, the Minister and the Premier should have a close look at this increase and move an amendment to reduce it so that it is in line with the CPI which would be in accordance with their election promise. If they cannot do that, I cannot see any credibility in any of the promises they have made.

MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe) [10.27 am]: As all members are aware, this Bill seeks to increase the financial institutions duty from 3.5¢ per \$100 of receipts to 6¢ per \$100 of receipts. Receipts to a financial institution are simply deposits by businesses or an individual. The Bill also raises the maximum duty payable on any transaction from \$500 to \$1 200. It is anticipated that will generate \$27 million this year and \$46 million in a full financial year. The rate of increase from 3.5¢ per \$100 to 6¢ per \$100 is a 71 per cent increase. That is a spectacular breach of the Government's election promise to keep increases in rates, taxes and charges to around the inflation rate.

Mr Kierath: Maybe it is their real inflation rate.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: When a similar point was raised in the debate some weeks ago, a member opposite interjected and said that that promise was intended to apply over time. By my calculations that would take approximately 10 years to come to fruition. This increase follows the increase of 12 per cent in third party insurance premiums and increases in Homeswest rentals of up to 56 per cent. The Government's election promise has not been honoured.

Regarding the social and economic impact of this increase, the Treasurer said that the cost for an individual depositing \$20 000, will be an extra \$5 per year only. Under the fairly sophisticated rate of financial exchange used by the Treasurer, that would equate to two hamburgers. The financial institutions duty may not sound all that high in dollar terms, but the increase is a very large one. The imposition of such an increase to the financial institutions duty during a period in which interest rates have been high and will tend to stay high for at least the foreseeable future amounts, in effect, to an increase in the cost of operating a current account. It should be borne in mind by all members that, to impose a 71 per cent increase in the rate of financial institutions duty on an already high interest rate regime, is contrary to what is being preached by Government members on the need to lower interest rates.

Mr Shave: You should not make a joke about those hamburgers because the way this crowd is going you will not be able to afford them.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I will return to that. It is instructive to look briefly at the history of financial institutions duty in Western Australia. The first Budget presented by the then Premier and Treasurer, Hon Brian Burke, in 1983 introduced FID at the rate of 5¢ per \$100 of deposits to, as he said, bring Western Australia into line with New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. The next significant change to FID occurred in 1984-85 when Treasurer Burke announced with some pride a 40 per cent reduction in the rate of duty from 5¢ to 3¢ per \$100, and emphasised that this reduction was to reduce the burden of the tax on the community.

In 1985-86 Treasurer Burke boasted that while in the previous year he had reduced FID by 40 per cent, he proposed a further one-third reduction to 2¢ per \$100. He boasted also that as a result of the latest reduction, the rate of duty in Western Australia would be lower than that imposed in any other State. In 1989-90 the then Treasurer, David Parker, said that Western Australia currently had the lowest rate of FID of any State, and used that as a justification for increasing the tax from 2¢ to 3.5¢ per \$100. The 1990-91 Budget proposes - and the reason is to meet the Government's budgetary objective, and we all know what that is - to increase the rate from 3.5¢ to 6¢ per \$100.

So the history of FID in this State has been one Budget which introduced it, two successive Budgets which lowered it, and two successive Budgets which increased it. That history reflects the Government's lack of continuity and vision in respect of how the taxation structure and taxation base in Western Australia can be organised. I accept that limited opportunities are available to a State Government in the area of taxation, but it is reasonable to expect that after seven years the Government would have a clear direction in taxation policy and would be able to show some sort of consistency in the way in which it applies that policy. The FID duty is an outstanding example of Government inconsistency in taxation policy.

MR STRICKLAND (Scarborough) [10.32 am]: I thank the member for Cottesloe for his outline of the history of financial institutions duty in this State. This Bill proposes to increase FID by 70 per cent. I am concerned that FID is basically a tax on the turnover that is deposited with financial institutions, and not a tax on profit. At the proposed rate of 6¢ per \$100, a business with an annual turnover of \$1 million would have to pay \$600 in FID. We may think that a business with an annual turnover of \$1 million will make a large profit, but in the current economic climate many businesses of this nature are in fact making a loss because of high interest rates and other factors. So an increase in FID of this nature will place them in the situation where they will make a larger loss. Many businesses with a high turnover have very low margins of profit, and this tax will impact in different ways on different businesses.

In last year's Budget papers the amount of FID raised per head of population was \$24. This year the Government expects to raise \$32 per head of population. In my Budget address I took a family perspective, and said that if we assume that the average family comprises four people, the State is taking \$128 per year from the average family to meet its Budget commitments. The Government has been trying to big-note itself by providing \$50 grants for educational purposes, where it will give the average family of four people with two children at school \$100 to assist those children with their education. On the other hand, the Government is taking away from families \$128 a year through FID.

I support the comment made by members on this side of the House that the proposed increase is very high. We understand that the Government must raise taxes to meet its commitments, and that there are limitations on the sources from which taxes can be raised. I made the point in my Budget address that the work the Government is doing in this State equates to a cost for each family of \$239 per week. Another way of approaching the matter of taxation would be for the State Government to look carefully at what it is doing to see whether there are any areas in which it does not have to continue to work so that it can reduce the taxation burden on families.

When a tax is first introduced it is usually introduced at a very low rate, and everyone says there is nothing to worry about. However, it is critical when we talk about a percentage increase that we consider what amount it is a percentage of. If the base amount is small, and we want to raise large sums of money, we must increase the amount by a large percentage. The proposed increase in financial institutions duty from the small amount of 3.5¢ per \$100

to 6¢ per \$100 represents a massive 70 per cent increase. After we have built up the base of the duty to a relatively large amount, we will be able to say we will increase it by only a small percentage, say, 10 per cent. However, we would still be raising large sums of money. When we jack up the tax by large amounts, we build up the base. My concern is that we may be headed towards a situation where the Government has in mind a certain base level which it can get away with and in a couple of years' time it will increase the duty by only 10 per cent, and claim it has not increased the duty by a great amount when, in reality it has jacked up the base to raise large sums of money, mainly from small business.

MR FRED TUBBY (Roleystone) [10.38 am]: It was interesting to listen to the member for Cottesloe outline the history of this tax. The Treasurer made quite a naive statement in the Budget when she said that for an average PAYE wage earner depositing \$20 000 per annum, the annual cost of FID will increase by \$5, from \$7 to \$12 for the average family. I do not know from where the Treasurer gets her information, but she must know something about what is going on in the business community.

An Opposition member interjected.

Mr FRED TUBBY: The Treasurer is surrounded by a great throng of minders. I do not think people from the business community can get through to speak to her. Everywhere I go, at every I function I attend, when I talk to small businessmen, they tell me about the recession they are in and how many people they have had to lay off in the past few months. Some have halved their work forces.

These figures are not coming out in the statistics at this time but they will come through eventually. Business is hurting, and this is a business tax, as the member for Scarborough has pointed out, because of the high turnovers of businesses. This tax is based on banking transactions, therefore businesses are paying very highly. Currently there is not a great deal of profit in business, but because the money comes in and the money goes out they pay this FID tax.

Businesses cannot afford to pay the tax because they are in recession. They cannot even afford to pay their employees. Where, then, will this tax finish up? It will finish up with the family. For the Treasurer to say that it will increase family costs by only \$5 is naive in the extreme. It will hurt families. For the remainder of this year it will take another \$27 million out of family incomes. In a full year it will take another \$46 million out. These figures are based on the Treasurer's Budget speech. Families cannot afford to pay this extra taxation at this time. On that basis I totally oppose the Bill.

MR TRENORDEN (Avon) [10.41 am]: A lot has been said recently about the economics of the nation and the recession we are in. I suppose I shall have to retract that word "recession" because it no longer exists in the Australian vocabulary. I know the Treasurer has banned it, and I am not sure what word has taken its place.

An Opposition member: Technical adjustments to the economy.

Mr TRENORDEN: Perhaps *Hansard* can help me out with the correct term for what used to be called a recession. We are suffering pain.

The SPEAKER: I do not think *Hansard* can put in the word for you; you will have to work something out for yourself.

A Government member: You can just make the speech and *Hansard* can fill in the blanks.

Mr TRENORDEN: I understand that. That is usually the case with my speeches.

The SPEAKER: You cannot just stand there and say, "I want to say something, I cannot think what it is, I wonder if *Hansard* can help me and just put something in."

Mr TRENORDEN: *Hansard* usually does that. I am amazed when I read my speeches. The quality goes up by several hundred per cent. *Hansard* in this place does a fantastic job.

To return to the point, one of the problems in this State is that Australians are not saving money. We should look at what happens to individuals who are thinking about making deposits in banks. On one side of the ledger, we are taxed on earnings and on interest. On the other side of the ledger, in the medium to high income tax bracket, if we take into consideration the FID and Federal bank account debit charges and the bank taxes, individuals in this nation putting money on deposit are losing money. Only the low income earners end

up with a positive balance. If we add inflation, there is no possible reason for depositing money in banks. If people do not deposit money in banks, the whole system will begin to crumble.

That message has been coming over the banking system for a considerable number of years. It is okay for us in the State Parliament to scream at our colleagues in the Federal scene and say that they should encourage people to save, but we have to do our bit as well. This tax hits at the heart of one of the real, fundamental economic problems of this nation. If we in this Chamber do not recognise that, we are hiding our heads in the sand.

Governments have been tending to tax people where money accumulates. This means they can get the money easily. A good example is superannuation benefits in the Federal scene, petrol in the Federal scene, and banking deposits both in the Federal and in the State scene. Others are alcohol and tobacco. Taxes should not be raised in this manner. The Government should come to this Chamber and seek appropriation on its merits. It should not seek to get taxation by stealth.

I am not picking on this Government only; other Governments have been doing it for a number of years. The indexation of such things as fuel, liquor and tobacco is an iniquitous way of raising tax. The fair and honest way for Governments to raise tax is to decide what a levy should be in any particular area and bring it to the people. Government should not raise taxes through side issues. Government would be enhanced dramatically in this nation if we moved away from taxing measures of this type.

MR TAYLOR (Kalgoorlie - Minister for Finance and Economic Development) [10.46 am]: I had hoped to be able to thank members opposite for their support for this legislation. Unfortunately that is not the case. There is a saying that like death, taxes are inevitable. I suppose one's attitude to tax would be exactly the same as one's attitude to death. Neither is looked forward to.

What the State Government has sought to do in this Budget is to hold down taxes and charges wherever possible. As a result we have come forward with one taxation measure which involves a straight out increase in tax, and that is in relation to the financial institutions duty. I am a little disappointed that the member for Cottesloe and others have made the point about the percentage increase in relation to this tax being something like 70 per cent. As I mentioned in my second reading speech, ordinary people would put through something like \$20 000 a year in their banking account. For those sorts of people the cost would go from \$7 a year to \$12, which is an increase of about \$5.

Mr Fred Tubby: What about the businesses? They will have to carry that sort of thing.

Mr TAYLOR: I was coming to that. As far as the maximum amount to be paid is concerned, this Bill deals with that matter. It increases the maximum duty payable on a single deposit from \$500 to \$1 200. The maximum amount corresponds to a single deposit of \$2 million.

I understand the impact that these sorts of taxes have on the business community. I would not pretend otherwise. However, members opposite should not pretend from both points of view that, firstly, it will have a major impact on the business community and, secondly, it will have a major impact on consumers. Ordinary people, in the ordinary day to day running of their bank accounts, will be affected in a fairly minimal way by the taxation increase. They will pay an extra 20¢ or thereabouts a week.

Several members interjected.

Mr TAYLOR: Of course they will pay it, but the amount involved in relation to Western Australia is the same as that paid in every other State except Queensland and South Australia. It is 6¢. Queensland does not have this sort of tax, and South Australia has a tax of 10¢ per \$100, so our rate is not extraordinarily different from that which would apply anywhere else in Australia with the exception of Queensland.

In relation to Queensland's taxes, anyone who wants to make a judgment should go there and look at the quality of the health services, the education services, the roads, and a whole range of ordinary issues in Queensland which, in a general sense, are well below what Western Australians have come to expect and demand. That is a reflection on Queensland's tax efforts.

Mr Strickland: Do you concede small business generally must pass these charges on? If those charges are passed on, that will increase taxation per head from \$24 last year to \$32 this year.

Mr TAYLOR: If you take an ordinary individual, the extra increase is around \$5 a year, or something like 20¢ a week.

Mr Strickland: But when it is passed on it comes to \$32.

Mr TAYLOR: Also, if the business community has to pay this tax, increased costs will be passed on to consumers.

Mr Strickland: If it is equally passed on across the board it will be \$32 a year.

Mr TAYLOR: It is difficult to make that judgment but it is certain that the costs will be passed on. The increase will be higher than the figure mentioned in the second reading speech and the FID will increase from \$7 a year to \$12 a year.

Like death, taxation is not an enjoyable experience and is not looked forward to; however, taxation is one of the demands placed on the Government by the community in order to provide goods and services, and the Government has made a great effort in this area. The Budget was introduced later than usual this year and this was due to the amount of time spent trying to make certain that tax levels were held down and because the Government was focusing on expenditure effort. As a result, the Civil Service Association and other organisations are critical of the Government's response in this area. However, I believe the Government's approach was absolutely necessary. Governments should do only what is necessary and nothing more. Our responsibility to the wider community is to hold down as much as possible the level of growth in public services. That may sound strange coming from a Labor Party member - a broad left member at that - but the wider community expects the Government to address the problems facing those people in the community who are in need. It will take time to change the view held in the community that Governments cannot be all things to all people.

Yesterday in Kalgoorlie a seminar was held on the future of the goldfields community. An economist from the University of Western Australia pointed out that when things get tough in a free enterprise economy the first thing people do is turn to the Government for help to resolve those issues. That will happen occasionally. However, the Government now intends to focus more on those people who are in real need than on those who think they need the Government to help sort out their problems. That is a personal point of view and one which will guide me in politics. The Opposition is not comfortable with this legislation, and nor would we be if we were sitting on the other side. Nevertheless, it is a necessary taxation measure and one which, I hope, will be passed as soon as possible.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Dr Alexander) in the Chair; Mr Taylor (Minister for Finance and Economic Development) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1 put and passed.

Clause 2: Commencement -

Mr TAYLOR: I move -

Page 1, lines 7 to 9 - Delete "1 November" wherever occurring and insert instead -
"2 November".

The Government has moved this amendment because the Treasurer mentioned in her Budget speech that this legislation should be dated from 1 November. In discussions with members from the other place it has been found that it will not be possible to pass the legislation by 1 November. However, it will be possible to effect the legislation from 2 November.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 3 to 6 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Bill reported, with an amendment.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT BILL

Order of the Day No 2 - Withdrawal

That Order of the Day No 2 be withdrawn from the Notice Paper.

The Local Government Amendment Bill has been extensively redrafted and instead of moving a series of amendments to it the Government has decided to introduce a composite new Bill. It is the intention of the Minister for Local Government to give notice of a replacement Bill on Tuesday of next week. In order for that to occur this motion must be passed.

MR CLARKO (Marmion) [10.58 am]: This Bill relates to regulations for backyard swimming pools. I have spoken in this House on numerous occasions about the gross deficiencies in the law regarding perimeter fencing. The existing perimeter fencing regulations do not require a person who has a swimming pool in his backyard, with three fences around it and two self closing and self latching side gates, to have anything separating the back of his house from the swimming pool. Last summer, the Government spent a large amount of money on television advertisements showing a simulated drowning of a young child after he had been able to access, through the backdoor, a backyard swimming pool. This legislation will not alter that situation one bit.

Mr Pearce: It is being withdrawn.

Mr CLARKO: I understand that the whole issue will be re-examined.

Mr Shave: So it should be.

Mr CLARKO: It is ridiculous legislation. From what I understand legislation will not be introduced to make it compulsory for isolation fencing to be erected or to overcome the problem between the back wall of the house and the pool. It will be nonsensical if the Government intends to introduce a new Bill which does not address that problem. This is a serious matter. I also understand that the second part of the new legislation will relate to the question of postal voting and will address the problems experienced during the recent local government elections, especially those problems relating to the City of Perth. That legislation will be welcomed by the Opposition.

We support this motion by the Leader of the House but it is vital that the Government address this question and correct the situation so that more young children do not die. I hope the legislation is passed this year because it has been sitting around for at least three or four years and no concrete action has been taken. It is a serious matter.

MR STRICKLAND (Scarborough) [11.00 am]: Mr Speaker -

Mr Pearce: Can members speak on a motion to withdraw an Order of the Day from the Notice Paper?

Mr STRICKLAND: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Order! I will make the decision. The answer is yes; but, while it is my job to facilitate people speaking to things, I am quite surprised.

Mr STRICKLAND: I support the comments of my colleague, the member for Marmion. It is one of the disappointments I have had since I have been in the Parliament that this piece of legislation has sat on the Notice Paper for a very considerable time. In fact, if members reflect on it they will recall that it was brought in very late in the piece, towards the end of the last financial year, and the Minister for Local Government indicated that there was a great urgency about the legislation and that the Government would cause local authorities to carry out inspections of swimming pools from 1 July. All those things were very serious and had to be attended to forthwith, yet here we are, in the dying stages of this session, with a proposal before us to withdraw the legislation. The reasons outlined for the withdrawal are not that the legislation is -

The SPEAKER: Order! I want to draw your attention to the Standing Orders which relate to tedious repetition.

Mr STRICKLAND: Mr Speaker, I am just responding to the Leader of the House, who has moved the withdrawal motion. The reasons given for the withdrawal motion relate to the need to bring in new legislation which couples a new matter, that of postal voting procedures, with matters relating to swimming pools. I object to this; I believe they are two separate matters. I believe the legislation that is on the Notice Paper could well have been proceeded with, albeit in an amended form, and that the postal voting legislation could have come in as a second Bill. It is of concern to me, not only because I have done a fair bit of research and preparation on the matter, but also because local government has been left in the lurch, wondering if and when the legislation will be coming in.

Mr Pearce: It is coming in on Tuesday - we have said that.

Mr STRICKLAND: If it is a measure of this Government to come into the Parliament and say there is an urgent problem and it wants to introduce legislation, and then to just let it float around the Notice Paper and drop off, that is not the way to govern the State in the best interests of the people.

Mr Clarko: As a former mayor, do you believe local government will be able to apply the provisions this summer even if the legislation goes through in the next couple of weeks?

Mr STRICKLAND: No, and when we get the legislation up I will have great pleasure in explaining to the House the absolute rubbish that was put before us.

Mr Pearce: You have not seen the legislation yet.

Mr STRICKLAND: I have seen the initial legislation, which we have wanted to debate.

Mr Pearce: That is the one we are withdrawing.

Mr STRICKLAND: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

MR WIESE (Wagin) [11.05 am]: Mr Speaker -

The SPEAKER: Order! As members are well aware, it has never been my practice to preclude people from speaking on matters. By the same token, I do bend the rules a little from time to time to facilitate that. I have bent the rules a little this time; in reality the motion that has been moved is one which does not allow for debate. I have allowed two people to debate the matter and I am therefore reluctant to preclude the member for Wagin from saying something, but I advise all members that when the member for Wagin has sat down they should not bother to seek my call because I will not see them.

Mr WIESE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I do not intend to take up much of the time of the House. My first point probably should be directed to you, Mr Speaker; that is, I have a couple of amendments on the Notice Paper relating to this legislation. You may be able to inform me whether those amendments will be automatically withdrawn or whether I need to take any action to follow that matter through.

The SPEAKER: They are automatically withdrawn.

Mr WIESE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Secondly, it was mentioned that this legislation will now be withdrawn and a new Bill will be brought before the House. I have no problems with that. Quite frankly, I am happy to see this legislation withdrawn because I do not believe it was wise, sensible or well thought out. As well, prior to the legislation's being brought before the House there had not been any discussion with the Western Australian Municipal Association regarding it, and I hope that the Leader of the House - or the Minister, who is not present at the moment - can assure us that, prior to bringing in the new legislation, adequate and sensible discussion with local government bodies in this State will take place so that we do not again have to go through the exercise that we are going through now.

I think that is very pertinent, especially in view of the fact that, if the Minister for Local Government manages to maintain the momentum which he thinks he has achieved in redrafting the Local Government Act, we will be dealing with a completely new Act in the autumn session of the Parliament next year; that is, within three months. I question the wisdom of bringing in a new piece of legislation at this stage of this session, with all the material that we already have before us, when we will be throwing the whole lot out and

redrafting it within three to six months. I wonder what on earth the Government is really trying to do, and why it is doing it in this way.

Local government operates in a certain way. There is a requirement for local authorities to hold meetings and most councils meet once a month; their committees likewise meet each month. If the Government is to bring forward a Bill in this spring session of Parliament I hope it does not do so before there has been good, sufficient and wise discussion with the Country Urban Councils Associations, the Country Shire Councils Association and the Local Government Association so that they are aware of what is being brought before the House and have the opportunity to take it back to their constituent councils for expressions of by the 139 local councils in the community. That is necessary so that they and we are in a position to comment upon the new legislation.

I am happy to see this legislation withdrawn but I hope we will not again go through the farcical exercise we are now going through because there was not sufficient consultation and work with local government prior to its being brought before us.

Question put and passed.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) BILL

Second Reading - Budget Debate

Debate resumed from 24 October.

MR MENSAROS (Floreat) [11.08 am]: Before Sessional Orders compelled me to interrupt my speech yesterday I was pointing out that the austere Budget was not a choice by the Government but rather was one that was forced upon it, mainly by circumstances of its own making. I said also that the cuts in expenditures did not go far enough and were not applied in the right places, and that there were still a number of extravagant expenses in fields where money easily could be saved without really endangering the services to the community.

An additional and often repeated complaint of mine which I have made in connection with several other Budgets is that this Parliament, the representative of the people and shareholders of Government business, can only scrutinise part of the Government's outgoing expenditure because Government agencies are not subjected to parliamentary approval or vote. If we add up only the largest Government agencies' expenditure - the Port Authorities in Albany, Bunbury, Dampier, Esperance, Fremantle, Geraldton and Port Hedland, the aggregate for that expenditure is \$88.3 million; Main Roads Department, \$350.6 million; the State Housing Commission or Homeswest, \$157 million; the Western Australian Water Authority, \$395 million; the Fire Brigades \$56.5 million; and the largest, the State Energy Commission \$1 733.4 million - the total expenditure is \$2 780.8 million which is much more than half the total expenditure of the Consolidated Revenue Fund with which we are dealing in this debate. We have no say in this expenditure, let alone any decision making power. These matters are entirely handled by the Executive or the administrative arm of Government. It is high time that some procedure was devised whereby Parliament will have a say in these very large expenditures.

As far as a balanced Budget goes, I do not wish to argue, like the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Cottesloe properly argued, whether we can technically call the Budget balanced if we take into consideration Government expenditure outside the Consolidated Revenue Fund. That is a fact but the public would find it difficult to understand, particularly taking into consideration past practice. Ever since I can remember, and that goes back longer than most members' memories, not only was the practice that the Consolidated Revenue Fund be separately budgeted from capital expenditure but also criticism from the Opposition of the day was always consistent on this method only, be it right or wrong.

If one makes a comparison on the same basis and compares like with like, last year's and this year's balanced Budgets could have come about only by changing past practice of utilising interest earnings by the Treasury. The Deputy Premier might be aware of the history of this practice because he worked in Treasury: Government revenue, as it comes in, is not spent immediately - the next day. Therefore, a considerable cash balance exists in Treasury accounts. This money, until about the mid-1960s, produced interest earnings only for the Reserve bank where the Treasury traditionally kept its accounts. In today's jargon, the cash balance could have been called non-performing, from the point of view of the taxpayer;

however, the then Under Treasurer, Ken Townsend, put the money to work on the short-term money market - and compared with the Consolidated Revenue Fund total turnover the interest profit represented a considerable amount. This interest has been included in the Consolidated Revenue Fund - although I think it should have been included in capital works, but that is a separate matter for argument. The interest was included in the Consolidated Revenue Fund at worst the next year but at the beginning usually only some years later. It was transferred from a suspense account.

Last year and this year were the first occasions that the interest earnings were placed in the Consolidated Revenue Fund immediately - that is, in the same year. It is a remarkable coincidence of course that this was the time that the WA Inc losses started to come home to roost. In brief, I am saying that had the Government observed the previous custom and utilised the interest earnings by Treasury only the following year, both last year's Budget and this year's Budget would have been in considerable deficit. Hence it can be objectively stated that compared with previous years, this Budget is not balanced.

Based on what I have said so far my biggest concern is not so much with the present state of the Budget but with the future consequences which will flow from the framing of this Budget. I have mentioned previously that the economic downturn, the recession, initially was entirely Australia-based; from that follows that the recovery ought to be domestic-based as well. The tendency is to use the interest earnings in the same year - and may I say it is a tendency which logically could lead to the situation where in years to come perhaps those interest earnings will be used from the next year; in other words bank loans of discounted amounts will be used in the CRF Budget where the security will be next year's interest earnings; of course that is a dangerous tendency. That combination and the policy of under-budgeting the earning departments such as the Department of Mines, the Department of Agriculture, and the Fisheries Department and the fact that capital expenditure is slowing down year after year, particularly during the reign of the Labor Government, are factors which when added to the over-optimistic forecast of the estimated growth of four per cent - which I think unfortunately will never be realised - and the estimated inflation rate of 7.5 per cent - which admittedly possibly because of events in the Middle East has already been surpassed - mean that the outlook for the second part of the year, let alone the next financial year, regrettably is very bleak.

We have a new system of dealing with the Budget Bill's Committee stage. It would be difficult to judge at the moment whether it will be a successful system. I think it is a welcome endeavour at least to have more serious consideration of the detailed variations. However, on the other hand it appears to me that we will be debarred from making general suggestions or complaints in the general debate on each part. We were able to do that in the past. Because of that, each member briefly must use his limited time at the second reading debate stage to make important comments.

Before I go on to my detailed comments, I wish to put a proposition which I hope the Government will take seriously. Members will recall that in the other place the practice was - I do not know whether it still exists - that after each Budget debate the Leader of the House would reply to every comment that every member made. The Government would be very well advised to adopt this procedure in this place as well. It is not obligatory, although it would be proper, that Ministers should reply after private members have spoken on the Budget, but even if they reply to the member in writing it would be to the advantage of the Government as well as to the member concerned. The Government must know that the vast majority of the complaints we raise come from constituents. If I receive a complaint I tell the constituent that the most proper way to deal with it is to raise the matter in public debate pertaining to the Budget. If I send a copy of my speech to the constituent and three or four months pass by without a reply from the Government, I must tell him or her - not because I want to be critical of the Government - that the Government does not care about the complaint because it did not reply. We are well endowed today as three Ministers are in the Chamber; usually one or none is present. The Premier and the Government should seriously consider my point because it would be in the interests of constituents, of the people of Western Australia and, indirectly, of the Government as well.

Mr D.L. Smith: Is that simply a practice of the upper House or is it part of the Standing Orders?

Mr MENSAROS: Nothing in the Standing Orders prevents the Minister from replying to the debate.

Mr MacKinnon: Did that not used to happen in this House?

Mr MENSAROS: It did a long time ago. When the Premier, who is usually the Treasurer, responds to the Budget debate, at least some of the comments raised by private members are referred to. The people at the Ministry of Premier and Cabinet read *Hansard* throughout the Budget debate and advise the Premier about Government policy regarding the matters raised. Nothing within Standing Orders prevents the Ministers from also replying to the points raised. When I was a Minister I used to do so.

Mr D.L. Smith: Is it done at the end of the debate or after each speech?

Mr MENSAROS: It is done at the end of the debate, although it is not a reply as such because only the Minister who introduces a Bill replies to the debate. The Ministers could wait until all private members have spoken and they could then speak to the points raised.

The first of my miscellaneous complaints was drawn to my attention in relation to the Agent General's Office in London. This office used to provide a wide range of services to Western Australian citizens in London; it was recognised by everyone as a home base to which people could turn for advice and help. However, this service has gradually been reduced and now even the postal service has been withdrawn. Many young people spend a year in London to gain experience before attending university. They must find accommodation and work, and before they do so the only way that parents can contact their children is to write to the office of the Agent General. A letter can be addressed to, say, Miss Teresa Smith, care of Western Australia House, The Strand, London. The cost involved with the service is minimal and the employees at WA House are dedicated, long serving people who are happy to work even overtime without extra pay. The service is an enormous help to Western Australian families. To withdraw this service is very unbecoming - the Government should consider restoring it.

Another issue which was raised by two of my constituents relates to an illness called lymphoedema. This condition is caused, if it is not inherited, through accident, surgery or radiotherapy treatment and it frequently occurs after breast cancer treatment; so it often affects young women. In lay language, the illness results in a lack of lymphatics in the body which soak up the constant leak of water and protein into tissues. A swelling is caused. This condition is not curable but it can be treated - it is not immediately terminal. The complaint is that the treatment is not deductible from Medicare or private insurance. I realise that this is mainly a Commonwealth Government matter, but the State Government could apply some influence. On the other hand, an entirely State matter is that of insufficient treatment facilities being provided in public hospitals in Western Australia; I believe one unit only is available. This is not a cheap facility but if one considers that these young people can lead a healthy and productive working life after treatment, it can be seen that the facilities should be provided. If people are not treated they suffer throughout their lives and they will have to receive social benefits. When considering the cost involved with the treatment and comparing this to the cost of social benefits, a great saving would be involved if the treatment was provided.

Most of the complaints I receive in my electorate are from elderly constituents, and many complaints have related to the collapse of some investment trusts, finance companies and large corporations. As members would realise, my electorate is not a housing commission area and it is confronted with different problems. People in my electorate are considered to be affluent, but many of them do not have a great many assets. Many have worked all their lives and have paid off the mortgage on their houses. These homes are not necessarily palatial mansions but it is a good suburb and the property values are high. When these people retire they have the accumulated assets in their homes and they often have received a lump sum superannuation payment. If these people sell off their homes they can move to a high class retirement village and they use the interest from their lump sum superannuation payment to sustain themselves.

A number of such people have invested in Estate Mortgage Trusts and had shares in, say, the Bond Corporation or Elders. These investments became virtually worthless and these people have no income. It is enormously difficult for these people because they have suddenly been left without an income and to apply for the pension is a lengthy procedure as last year's tax

return has to be shown which indicates a reasonable income. The old age pension is not sufficient to sustain these people staying in such retirement homes. I realise we cannot give the money back. It has been a long term endeavour of mine, however, to change the corporate laws in this regard. I do not have time to go over this now - I will do so on another occasion - but this kind of problem cannot happen in a country like Germany. The laws in that country are such that two boards are appointed to a company with a supervisory board being responsible for all private assets.

Even from the point of view of criminal law there should be a great change, taking into consideration the effect of the crime on the victims. What I am suggesting is not out of order. Take for example a brawl in a park where somebody hits another person. If the victim survives the offender is charged with causing grievous bodily harm, but if he dies he will be charged with manslaughter. So there is a precedent in law where the effect on the victim is taken into consideration from the point of view of the penalty. I suggest that when a large number of people lose their livelihoods and have been caused enormous problems and suffering as a result of, at the best, false company records or no proper auditing and, at the worst, deliberate criminal action, the penalty should be the most severe one could imagine, and not one which equates with the penalty for a simple break-in.

Governments, both State and Federal, owe a duty to the public to protect them from situations where, through no fault of theirs, they lose their whole life savings. I can assure members that I have spoken to many of these people in my electorate and that is a very sad exercise. There is nothing I can offer them from the point of view of the Government. That is a question that must be seriously considered.

I trust that my comments and suggestions will be read by the relevant Government circles and that serious consideration will be given to their implementation, because this is the only way a private member can contribute to the wellbeing of the State.

MR RIPPER (Belmont) [11.44 am]: In making my comments on the Budget I will deal with two issues: The protection of persons and property, and the protection of the environment. In dealing with the protection of the environment in my electorate I will also deal with the issue of my constituents' access to some of the nicer parts of that environment. My electorate is fortunate in that its northern boundary is the Swan River. Belmont, Rivervale and Redcliffe are riverside suburbs, but unfortunately without the level of access which one would expect. Because of the location of Great Eastern Highway and because of previous foreshore development my constituents do not have the access to the river that I would like them to have, and which in my view they should expect as residents of suburbs adjacent to the river. The part of the river to which they seek better access is narrow, and it is not adequately flushed in the summer by tidal movement and therefore it is vulnerable to the buildup of excess nutrients and pollutants, and it is subject to erosion. There is a narrow band of shoreline vegetation along many sections of the river in my electorate which is vulnerable to erosion from natural processes and from the use of power boats. It is subject to many competing pressures and if members go down to the river in my electorate they will see people fishing, boating, canoeing, swimming, picnicking, walking, cycling, using jet skis, water skiing, participating in wine tours or horse riding and all of those conflicting and competing pressures have to be taken into account in planning and managing the river's resources.

Through the establishment of the Swan River Trust and the preparation of the Swan River Management Strategy the protection of the river - particularly in my electorate - has been improved, but more remains to be done. I will consider some of the recommendations of the Swan River Management Strategy as they relate to my electorate in the context of some particular opportunities which exist to improve access to the river and facilities in the vicinity of the river for my constituents.

Three of the recommendations of the Swan River Management Strategy relate to the Belmont tip site, otherwise known as the Improvement Plan 20 site. This 110 hectare site is adjacent to the Ascot Racecourse and Garratt Road Bridge. It is a wonderful site which has a great potential to house an outstanding development; a development which, nevertheless, will protect the nearby System 6 area M51. It is an area with both regional and local significance. It can be used - various suggestions have already been made - to provide additional residential development in a choice location close to the city. It can also be used

for some commercial development; it can provide recreational areas and waterfront leisure areas. In doing all of this it will help to boost the population of the City of Belmont, which in recent years has tended to be stagnant in its development. One very exciting possibility was raised in a recent speech by the Deputy Premier. He suggested there might be a new ferry service on the Swan River and he included in his suggestion the possibility that ferries might travel to the Redcliffe area. This IP20 site would provide the possibility for a ferry terminal and for an expanded ferry service to improve public transport facilities in my electorate. I look forward to further elaboration of the Deputy Premier's suggestion, because I believe a ferry service from the Redcliffe part of my electorate, and perhaps from the IP20 site, would be popular with my constituents and other residents of the metropolitan area.

In developing the IP20 site we must consider both regional and local aspirations. My particular concern as the member for Belmont is to ensure that local needs and aspirations are taken into account in the planning process. Both the Belmont City Council and I are very determined that this will occur. I am pleased to say that I have had discussions on this matter with the Minister for Planning. I believe that an improved consultative process has been established which will provide for local input which, as the local member, I am determined will occur.

Another opportunity in the area is certainly worth mentioning. I have said that my constituents do not have the access to the river that I believe they deserve because of developments which have occurred in the past. One very exciting project aims to give them better access, and that is the proposal to develop in the long run a Perth to Midland river ride for cyclists. I congratulate the Belmont City Council for the way in which it has pursued the development of dual use paths along the river foreshore in order to provide better access for people. In that project it has had assistance from the State Government through Bikewest. Already we have a dual use path from the Causeway to Bunbury rail bridge in the Burswood area and another past the Ascot Racecourse from the Ascot Inn to Garratt Road in the Belmont area. Eventually I hope to see those two cycleways linked through the IP20 area and right along the Rivervale foreshore to enable residents in my area to cycle to either Midland or to the Causeway and the Narrows Bridge and on to Kings Park. That is an exciting possibility which will open up the river and more recreational opportunities to residents in my electorate.

Recommendation A113 of the Swan River Management Strategy reads -

Investigate the desirability of a Regional Park linking Garvey Park, Ashfield Flats and other foreshore areas . . .

Garvey Park is a wonderful park but unfortunately is inadequately used. We now have an opportunity to promote a better use of the Garvey Park area. We also have the opportunity, to which attention was drawn in the Swan River Management Strategy, to link it with other areas to produce a wonderful regional park in that part of the Swan River. In developing Garvey Park and the regional park it is very important that local people and residents living near that park have adequate input into the planning process. One of my priorities, as the local member, is to ensure that my constituents have an input into that planning process.

There is a further opportunity for improving the amenity of the Swan River in areas adjacent to my electorate. Recommendation A92 of the Swan River Management Strategy reads as follows -

Release for public comment management plans currently being prepared for Burswood Island to ensure they enhance the aesthetic appeal of the area, improve public access and conserve and enhance wetland vegetation.

Much of that area referred to in that recommendation is now under the control of the Burswood Park Board. That body is not subject to direction by the Government nor does it contain a majority of Government appointees. However I believe it should pay more attention to the need for public consultation on developments within its control. In fact, together with the member for Victoria Park, I have written to the Burswood Park Board suggesting that it needs to improve its processes of public consultation on developments in that area. Further, we suggested that it needs to prepare a draft management plan and put that management plan out for public consultation and then take account of the public comments before finalising the proposed development of that area.

Of course, the Burswood Park Board does not have complete control of the area to which I refer. Part of that area is also subject to planning processes for the link roads to the proposed Burswood bridge. Some of the area has suffered as a result of the phenomenon of planning blight. Because the roads have been proposed for a very long time, there are many vacant blocks and dilapidated buildings and a final decision on the link roads to that proposed bridge will provide a great opportunity to prepare a plan for the whole area to improve its amenity and facilities and to provide more options for people living in my electorate.

I look forward to an overall plan for the Burswood area, including the areas under the control of the Burswood Park Board and the area to which I have just referred subject to the planning decisions on the link roads to the Burswood bridge. In preparing that plan, I hope there will be a possibility to provide for the relocation of the Swan Portland Cement Ltd works because, with the relocation of those works, there will be an opportunity again in that area to create a wonderful development which will enhance the City of Belmont, adjacent areas of the City of Perth and the metropolitan area as a whole.

Mr P.J. Smith: I think there is a heritage building there. You will find the chimney was the first concrete structure built by using a certain process.

Mr RIPPER: Having spoken in support of the heritage legislation in this House, I hope that any considerations relating to that building will be taken account of. Recycling heritage structures and putting them to new use is not always detrimental to the area. It could provide a feature which would be of great interest to people living in or visiting the area.

Mr P.J. Smith: If it does have to come down, Bunbury has the second structure so we won't mind.

Mr RIPPER: The member should be preserving heritage in Bunbury, too.

I said that more needs to be done to protect the river in my part of the metropolitan area. I am very pleased that something is occurring on the other side of the river because pollutants and excess nutrients that flow into the river from the Bayswater side of the river also affect the stretch of the river that Belmont residents seek to enjoy. I am pleased to see that a testing program for pesticides and heavy metals has been established near the Bayswater main drain. I am also pleased that an integrated catchment management plan is being developed for those drains that come into the river from the Bayswater side. In the long run, I would like to see a similar catchment management program for the Belmont side of the river, because, on that side as well, drains empty waste from industrial and commercial areas. We need to look closely at the management of that area because this part of the river is not adequately flushed by tidal movements in summer and, therefore, it is vulnerable to nutrient and pollutant build-up. I look forward to a catchment management plan being prepared for the Belmont side of the river in the same way as one is being prepared for the Bayswater side.

Some of the developments occurring on the Bayswater side are also hopeful. One of the major sources of ground water and Swan River pollution from the Bayswater side is the old CSBP site. It is a measure of progress that that site is being redeveloped as the Tonkin industrial park and will propose significantly less threat to both the ground water and the Swan River. As the local member representing the area immediately adjacent to this part of the river, the protection of and access to the river will continue to be a high priority in my consideration of local issues.

The second issue that I wish to address is the protection of persons and property. In my electorate there has been great interest in community policing. A number of initiatives have been undertaken which I think are worthy of imitation by other members of Parliament and communities. When I was elected to Parliament, I was aware of considerable concern in my electorate about crime and the need to control criminal activities. A forum was organised at which the then Minister for Police and Emergency Services and now Deputy Premier spoke to representatives of community organisations about these problems and about the Government's philosophy of the community working together to beat crime. As a result of that community forum, a committee was established which was then called the Belmont crime prevention committee and which is now called the Belmont community policing committee. I chair it, but in making my remarks about its activities, I do not want to claim credit for what it has done because it depends on the work of all of those who have volunteered to serve on it.

It had initial success in the second half of 1988 when it was instrumental in the establishment of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the City of Belmont. Committee members, with the assistance of community organisations, collected more than 4 000 signatures in support of Neighbourhood Watch and, with the assistance of police and Belmont council, organised six public meetings. In a relatively short time for these matters, it was able to establish a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the City of Belmont which is helping to control crime levels in my electorate. The committee has not rested on its laurels. It has embarked on a number of other initiatives to help control crime in the area. For example, it has encouraged School Watch. It has not been adopted by all local schools but it has been successful in some schools in reducing vandalism.

The committee has considered the matter of all night street lighting and, partly as a result of the committee's representations to the Belmont City Council, all night street lighting is provided in the City of Belmont. That has been of great reassurance particularly to senior residents of the district. Various Neighbourhood Watch coordinators, under the umbrella of the committee, have organised public meetings on home security to give people professional and expert advice on the measures they can take to reduce the opportunity for criminal activity. The committee has also considered local security issues and has lobbied appropriate authorities; for example, concern was expressed about the poor quality of street lighting outside certain shopping centres, and the committee has lobbied the Belmont City Council and obtained its agreement to those required improvements being made.

The committee also considers other issues, such as the need for certain laneways and Water Authority of Western Australia reserves to be fenced. These are examples of local security issues where local community action can reduce the opportunity for criminal activity.

The committee has also considered broader social issues; for example, it has organised a forum on solvent abuse. Leaders of community organisations in my electorate were invited to a forum where an expert advised them on the nature of the problem and the various remedies which might be adopted. That forum on solvent abuse was part of the committee's broader concern about juvenile crime in the area. As a result of the committee's and the community's concern a juvenile crime forum was organised for representatives of local community organisations. That juvenile crime forum has had a most interesting effect. Volunteers from among those attending agreed to form an interim committee to organise a forum of young people. That forum of young people was held and further volunteers were obtained from among the adolescents. Together the adult and adolescent volunteers have formed the Belmont youth recreation committee. The object of that committee is to improve recreational facilities for young people in the Belmont area. The facilities for young people in that area are inadequate, and the committee is considering a proposal, among others, for an alcohol-free nightclub for young people between 15 and 18 years, fitted out, managed and staffed by young people. It is also considering proposals to involve young people in circus activities. I thought that might be a proposal to involve them in the Liberal Party, but I understand it has nothing to do with the Liberal Party! The committee is also considering the need to improve existing community facilities with the aim of better meeting the recreational needs of young people. It is unfortunate that the Minister for Youth is not in the Chamber at the moment because as the committee develops its proposals he can be assured that I will approach him for whatever assistance the Government can provide to improve the recreational facilities for young people in my electorate.

Mr Fred Tubby: Don't bother, I can tell you what the answer will be.

Mr RIPPER: We shall see what the answer is when the Minister is approached by a member such as me.

Mr Kobelke: And a very good member too.

Mr RIPPER: I thank the member for Nollamara for that comment. Other initiatives can be adopted by communities in order to provide better facilities for young people and to reduce the possibility of young people becoming involved in juvenile crime. I am encouraged by a scheme operating in Gosnells which aims to reduce the problems of graffiti and vandalism by providing official facilities for young people who wish to become involved in graffiti art. I understand that the provision of those facilities is saving the Gosnells City Council money because the savings on repairs to property which has been the object of vandalism and graffiti more than outweighs any expenditure on the program. I am interested in encouraging

my local community, through the Belmont youth recreation committee and the Belmont City Council, to consider adopting a similar program.

Mr Fred Tubby: Did you see the coastal stall at the Royal Show recently? I understand it was decorated by those people, and it was brilliant.

Mr RIPPER: No, unfortunately I did not, but I understand the program has been very successful and worthwhile. It is an example of a positive and imaginative initiative to overcome juvenile offending problems, and it should be considered in all communities.

One particular success of the Belmont community policing group is related to the problem of vandalism in Homeswest housing. That vandalism and organised pilfering has been associated with Homeswest redevelopment in Redcliffe and Rivervale. Some people apparently assumed that because some houses were being demolished in those areas, all houses were fair game for vandalism and pilfering. This was of great concern to Homeswest and local residents. The community policing committee invited the regional maintenance manager of Homeswest to a meeting to discuss ways in which the community could respond to this problem. I understand that as a result of this meeting Homeswest has adopted some community policing measures to control the problem. Part of the response has been to convince people that the houses are valuable and are needed and, therefore, they became aware that they are not fair game. Homeswest has placed signs outside its vacant houses warning people of the security measures which have been undertaken. Homeswest has also cooperated with the local Neighbourhood Watch groups so that the houses receive some attention from that area. I believe Homeswest will seek to cooperate with residents surrounding these vacant houses to improve the security and protection of public property. It is an example of how a local community organisation can help to organise a community response to a community crime problem. I am pleased with the way in which Homeswest has responded to the suggestions by members of the Belmont community policing committee.

It is a basic function of Government to protect the person and property of individual citizens. However, it is not a service which can simply be purchased from Government. Everybody in the community has a responsibility to contribute to the maintenance of order. Everybody needs to be involved, not in the sense of vigilante or some other disruptive activity, but by being prepared to cooperate with the police when necessary, by being prepared to give evidence in court if necessary, by being prepared to look after the interests of their neighbours when necessary, and by tackling the local security issues which contribute to criminal offences. It is important to say to the community that the control of crime is a community issue and the control of crime will not be successful unless we involve the community by working together to beat crime. Community policing is based on the lifeblood of policing; it is based on improving the flow of information to the police, reducing the opportunity for crimes to occur, and reducing the opportunity for people to profit from their crimes. It has a number of benefits. Firstly, it helps to improve police and community cooperation and understanding. It also helps to improve the understanding of policing and legal issues among members of the community. This was particularly apparent to me in the public meetings held to organise the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. It was clear that at the end of the meeting not only had the people who attended become involved in Neighbourhood Watch and community policing, but also they had a better understanding of their rights and obligations with regard to criminal matters. Of course, the major and most sought after benefit of community policing is a reduction in the level of crime. This applies particularly to crimes such as breaking and entering, and car theft, which are less serious when compared with crimes of violence such as murder, but are nevertheless very important and extremely aggravating for householders.

One of the most interesting benefits and side-effects of community policing is an improved sense of community, which can benefit other community projects. We should all be concerned at the decline in our society of the sense of community. It is interesting that it takes something like Neighbourhood Watch for people to get to know who their neighbours are. That is an appalling reflection on the lack of a sense of community and on the loneliness of many people in society today, but if it takes Neighbourhood Watch to achieve that objective and if Neighbourhood Watch is successful, which I believe it is, that is another argument for community policing initiatives.

The sense of community to which Neighbourhood Watch contributes can be used as a base for the development of other community projects, such as the Belmont youth recreation project, which has been an outcome of the community policing committee's activities. I am very pleased with the way in which people in my electorate have been prepared to work together on community policing issues. I am also pleased that the phenomenon of community policing has helped to improve the sense of security and freedom enjoyed by seniors in my electorate. One of the things which concerns me is the fear which seniors have about crime, and the way this fear inhibits their ability to participate fully in society. I do not want to see develop a society where elderly people are too frightened to go out after dark, where they feel they need to lock themselves away, and where they are frightened when they see a group of young people walking down the street, kicking beer cans.

Mr Bradshaw: Do you believe we should have guards on trains?

Mr RIPPER: That is a separate issue. The proposal put out by Westrail indicates that a lot of concern and consideration has been given to security issues.

I would like to commend individually those members of the Belmont community policing committee who have been responsible for the initiatives to which I have referred. It is important that public credit be given to those people for their efforts. I commend Councillors David Powell and Charles Rich for their involvement, and also Frank Dans, Rob Bradshaw, Laurie Sumner and Jenny Gartner for the help they have given to the community policing committee. I commend the Neighbourhood Watch area coordinators in my electorate: Bill McWhirter, Pat Bryant, Len Smith, Laurie Price and Rita Peters. I commend also the police officers for the way in which they have cooperated with the community policing committee and Neighbourhood Watch in my electorate, and I thank in particular the community policing liaison officer, Constable Terry Elkes, for his sterling work in supporting community policing initiatives, and also the officer in charge of the Belmont Police Station, Sergeant Kerry Baker.

This year's Budget increases the allocation for community policing from \$3.7 million to \$4.02 million. That money supports not only Neighbourhood Watch, but also other community policing initiatives. For example, it supports the school-based police officer program. There are 13 police officers, serving in 16 high schools and visiting another 35 primary schools. One of those officers is based at Belmont Senior High School, which is an extremely progressive school in many ways, and his presence at that school is only one part of the exciting and progressive program which is offered at that school. I am very grateful that one of those officers has been stationed in my electorate. The work of those officers does much to encourage cooperation and mutual respect between members of the Police Force and members of the community, particularly young members of the community.

The Community Policing budget also supports blue light discos. Belmont has an extremely successful blue light disco program. The last time I visited the blue light disco it was a junior blue light disco night, and 40 adult volunteers were on duty. I understand that on other nights up to 70 adult volunteers may be present and that over 800 young people may be enjoying the recreational facility provided. I commend all members of the Belmont blue light disco committee for the community service they provide. Sergeant Bob Langford is one of the key figures in that committee and in improving youth recreation facilities in the Belmont area, although he is now no longer stationed in Belmont. I am pleased to say that Sergeant Langford has been recognised for his services to the community by his receiving this year's "Police Officer of the Year" award. Members of the Belmont community have every reason to be very pleased with the service which he has given to young people in that area and to be very proud that he won that award on the basis of that service. He is one of 284 police officers and 845 civilians who are running blue light discos in this State.

If we are to deal with the crime that will occur in society tomorrow, next month or next year we must rely on policing responses. Community policing can help by improving police-community relationships and the flow of information to the police. However, in order to deal with crime in the long run, during the next decade, we must look at other issues because in the long run our level of crime is a symptom of the overall health of the community. So in the short term we need to think about the number of police officers, penalties, community policing measures, and similar initiatives, but in the long term we need to think about the overall health of our community. Are we providing a place in the sun for all members of the

community? Are we tolerating gross inequalities in our community? Are our education and training systems working properly? Can people obtain satisfying and rewarding employment? Are we offering sufficient support for families and for the needs of children? The answers to these questions will be reflected in our long term crime trend.

I will continue to take a close interest in community policing and crime control issues in my electorate, and I will continue to take a close interest in the need to protect our environment, as embodied in the Swan River, and the need to provide for residents proper access to the enjoyment of that environment.

MR FRED TUBBY (Roleystone) [12.10 pm]: There is no doubt in my mind that the decade of the 1980s will go down in history as the decade of lost opportunity. In 1983 when the Burke Government came into office it took over a State which was in a very sound financial situation, but it immediately set about increasing taxation across the board. In the first Burke Government Budget, taxation Statewide increased by 40 per cent. At that time I was buying a caravan to go on a trip, and the stamp duty payable on that caravan purchase increased from \$1.50 per \$100 to \$3 per \$100, and I did not thank the Burke Government very much when I had to pay the additional stamp duty. This is one example of how taxes increased during the first year of the Burke Government. These substantial taxation increases, plus the windfall collections due to the boom in the economy prior to the 1987 stock market crash, saw the State's coffers absolutely overflowing with money.

Not only were the State's coffers overflowing with money, but also the R & I Bank, the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust, the Government Employees Superannuation Board and the State Government Insurance Office had substantial reserves. Now what has happened? The whole lot has gone; and what do we see for it? Absolutely nothing. For three or four years when the Government did not need money, it was putting its interest accrued from the Consolidated Revenue Fund into a Western Australian Development Corporation fund. That was built up over three or four years, at some \$50 million to \$70 million a year. Where is it now? It has gone - the whole lot has disappeared; and we find now that the Government is to spend all interest earned on the Consolidated Revenue Fund in the year in which it is earned. Last year was probably the first year in this State's history in which this occurred - that interest earnings from the year were actually used to balance the Budget - and we see exactly the same thing in this year's Budget.

Mr Clarko: But it did not really balance, did it? They only changed the rules to enable them to make it balance.

Mr FRED TUBBY: That is right; it is only figures. A decade of opportunity has been sacrificed and utterly wasted on the altar of WA Inc exercises. At a time when the State is facing one of the deepest recessions for many years the Treasurer naively hopes the economy will grow at 4.3 per cent and inflation will be kept down to around seven per cent. I can guarantee that at the end of this year no fat will be left; nothing will be left anywhere. The Government cannot advance next year's interest earnings into this Budget because they are already there, and at the end of this financial year, come April or May, we will be in very deep trouble.

We have seen cutbacks across the board, and I wish to mention particularly three areas where cutbacks have occurred in education.

Mr Clarko: Are you going to talk about the maintenance story which is in today's newspaper?

Mr FRED TUBBY: Yes, they beat me to the punch on that. It is a very serious matter. I wish to talk about minor works, maintenance and the saga of the *Evening Star*, and I hope I will have enough time left to mention the Small Business Development Corporation and the error of the Government's ways in that matter. I hope the Minister is somewhere in the House because I would like some answers to the queries I propose to raise. I should say that last night I attended a very enjoyable concert which was held at the Concert Hall by 13 schools. Some 600 students gave an excellent performance, showing some of the excellent work being done in our State schools. If the Minister had been with me he could have spoken to some of the teachers and principals who were accompanying the students. I was hammered on two things every time I shook hands with one of my principal or teacher friends: The first was minor works and the second was maintenance. I am sure that if the Minister had been there he would also have copped some flak.

For many years minor works moneys were used to do very small works around schools - to put in cupboards, build storerooms, repair and lay new paths, and carry out minor structural changes and health and safety improvements. The works were of a quite insignificant nature and were usually done by or in conjunction with the parents and citizens' associations. Minor works fund moneys were allocated by principals on an advisory committee to the superintendent of the district, so the money was well spent. It went a long way because it received, in the main, subsidies from parents and citizens' associations and it was spent on exactly what the schools wanted. It addressed exactly the problems faced by teachers in the classrooms and by children in the school grounds.

Mr Clarko: And it was the Court Government that made the changes to give the headmasters the opportunity to make those minor changes.

Mr FRED TUBBY: Exactly. In recent years, due to a shortage of funds for the refurbishment of schools on a cyclic basis, and also the fee for service policy of the Building Management Authority, all minor improvements have been referred to the minor works committee for the expenditure of minor works funds. Even requests made to the buildings branch of the Ministry of Education have been referred to the minor works committee, and that money has had to go a terribly long way to try to address the problems in schools. As a result of the education cutbacks there will be no further minor works funds for schools this year. I will quote from a letter which was sent out to all superintendents. They were instructed to undertake a minimum amount of minor works. The letter then read -

In this regard the second moiety of minor works will not be allocated to district officers. To this end district officers must not exceed the "early starts" allocation previously advised.

That is absolutely disgraceful because those works are important to schools, to teachers and to the children who attend those schools. The need for those minor works will not go away, and those problems will still need to be addressed at some stage. Will they be addressed next year, or the year after?

Dr Gallop: You have spoken on two occasions today. The first time was to cut a substantial slice out of our revenue, and the second time it is to substantially increase expenditure. That is voodoo economics.

Mr FRED TUBBY: It is not voodoo economics at all. The Government is cutting back on things on which it cannot afford to cut back - minor works, maintenance and areas like that. There are areas where the Government could afford to save money. The Minister for Consumer Affairs could save \$1 million with a snap of the fingers by wiping out that ridiculous, money wasting exercise called the Prices Monitoring Unit. Earlier this year a Bill passed through this House to set up the Goldfields-Esperance Development Authority. Why? The Government is trying to cut back. It is cutting back on minor works and maintenance in schools, but when it has to prop up its members in their electorates it can set up development authorities with no worries - it has the money for that. How much money is the South West Development Authority costing?

An Opposition member: Five million dollars.

Mr FRED TUBBY: We could cut back on that. It is just a political exercise. We could have an advisory committee go through the Department of Regional Development and the North West. We could do it that way and save a lot of money; but no, the Government cuts back on minor works and maintenance in schools. The point is that at some stage in the future those things will have to be addressed. They will not go away. Either the Government will address them this year, next year, or the year after that, or it will wait until we come into Government and then we will have a heck of a burden trying budget for all the works not done in previous years.

Mr Clarko: It is dearer to put it off.

Mr FRED TUBBY: Yes, it is getting dearer all the time, and those problems will remain on the books until they are dealt with.

My next area of concern is maintenance. Maintenance funds come from two areas - the Consolidated Revenue Fund, which funds regular maintenance needs, and the General Loan and Capital Works Fund, which funds major building maintenance. I want to quote some

figures for regular maintenance funds which have come from the Consolidated Revenue Fund over the last few years. They are broken up into three areas - minor faults, unprogrammed maintenance and programmed maintenance.

In 1987-88 minor faults expenditure was \$9.6 million, unprogrammed maintenance expenditure was \$1.2 million and programmed maintenance expenditure was \$4.2 million. In 1988-89 the figure for minor faults rose to \$10 million. The amount for unprogrammed maintenance stayed the same, which meant a real decrease because of inflation. The amount for programmed maintenance for 1988-89 was \$3.8 million, a significant decrease on the previous year. In 1989-90 expenditure on minor faults escalated to \$12.7 million. It had increased from \$9.6 million in 1987-88 for minor faults and rectifications. Under programmed maintenance \$1.6 million was expended in 1989-90 and the allocation was \$1.2 million for the two previous years; this is hardly keeping pace with inflation. Over the three years from 1987 to 1989 the programmed maintenance allocation decreased from \$4.2 million to \$3.8 million and then to \$3.6 million. What sort of a move is that? The unprogrammed maintenance item includes rectification of urgent faults with such things as vandalism, fire damage and other more serious, out of the ordinary maintenance problems. Programmed maintenance includes things such as cleaning heaters, gutters and soakwells - maintenance which must be carried out to ensure things function properly.

There are three reasons for the significant increase in the allocation for minor faults and a decrease in the allocation for other maintenance: Firstly, there was a change to day labour in 1987-88. Previously minor faults were corrected on a contract basis; a private contractor was called in to do the work. When the system changed to day labour the allocation increased from \$9.6 million to \$12.7 million. It costs substantially more to employ day labour than to use contractors; a contractor will come in and get the job done quickly - to him time is money and the more jobs he does the more he is paid. On the other hand, it does not matter how many jobs the day labour employee does during a day, as he will receive the same amount of money at the end of the fortnight. Secondly, if we decrease the amount of money available for regular maintenance each year, faults will start occurring and that is reflected in the minor faults allocation. I quote from the letter regarding preventive maintenance -

No routine gutter cleaning to be undertaken . . .

No routine soakwell cleaning to be undertaken . . .

No routine sump cleaning to be undertaken.

Those items will be repaired when they become faulty. The letter continues -

Limited preventive maintenance on air-conditioning plant in northern areas. For other buildings preventive maintenance for cooling towers, evaporative coolers, and filter cleaning to package plant only to be undertaken.

The letter continues -

No routine tree lopping to be undertaken. Where hazards occur the work is to be undertaken as a fault.

That means that tree lopping will be done only when a tree branch falls. These things have to be done. It is the same with a motor vehicle. With the tight economy at the moment a person would be foolish not to maintain his car, as in time the car will blow up and he will be up for a great deal of money. The letter also contains the following guidelines, "Flyscreens, defer; Asbestos/Fibro, defer; Ceiling repairs, defer; Window repairs - Carpentry, defer; Door/Cupboard repair, defer; Blackboard/Noticeboard/Pin up, defer; Audio/Visual equipment, defer; General Carpentry, defer; Painting, defer; Carpet, Lino, Curtain, defer; General repairs - Plumbing, defer; General repairs - Elec, defer; Electronic TV systems, defer; and graffiti removal, defer." Defer until when, Minister?

Dr Gallop: We do our budget every year under the Westminster system.

Mr FRED TUBBY: Will it be deferred until next year?

Dr Gallop: You tell us how you would spend money on those things when you said earlier that you would not increase funds. You are a joke!

Mr FRED TUBBY: The Minister makes an inane statement but does not give an answer.

The letter says "defer, defer, defer", but until when, Minister? Does the Minister believe that his budget will be any better next year? All the minor faults from this year will be there next year plus all the minor faults which occur over the next 12 months. The Minister is living in a fool's paradise! These matters are functions of Government which must be attended to - they cannot be deferred. As the maintenance allocation is reduced, the number of faults will increase. We will end up with more and more problems like we had in Albany. The Minister tried to save a few dollars by not doing the maintenance program on the heaters, and what happened? The heaters starting blowing up. It is like the motorist who does not do the maintenance on his car; he does not repair the minor faults and the car blows up. The heaters are blowing up through no fault of the teachers, although the Minister blamed the teachers. The Minister for Works specialises in heaters. She will become known as the Minister for heaters. The Government did not carry out the programmed maintenance because it did not have the money and the heaters started to blow up. The same thing will happen with these other things. The maintenance cannot be put off.

Mr Bradshaw: Like the roads.

Mr FRED TUBBY: It is exactly the same.

Maybe the Minister disagrees, but I estimate that in the 761 primary and secondary schools in Western Australia we have \$3 billion to \$4 billion-worth of assets. I took a trip to the SCM Chemicals Ltd plant at Kemerton the other day. This company spent \$150 million on building the plant and every year it spends on maintenance \$3 million, or two per cent of the capital asset. Private enterprise generally spends on maintenance two per cent of its capital asset every year, without fail. Private enterprise realises that if the works start to run down, it will cost time and money to rectify the situation. Therefore, funds are allocated and time is taken to maintain the capital asset. What is the Government doing? It is letting our capital asset run down and at some stage it will have to be maintained. I believe that local government allocates one per cent of its capital asset to maintenance every year; that can be seen in most local government budgets. What has the Government allocated in this year's Budget? This year \$4.45 million has been allocated for improvements and additions to primary and secondary schools. That does not include the new schools. These improvements are listed under the heading of Improvements and Additions in the Budget papers, but it does not specify which are additions and which are improvements.

Let us say that half of that money is for additions and half for improvements. Even if all that money is to be used for improvements, only 0.01 per cent of our capital assets would be allocated for building maintenance. Last year a record \$70 million was spent in the Education Capital Works Program. Just over \$10 million was allocated for additions and improvements. That was a significant amount compared to what is normally allocated. However, that still amounts to only 0.34 per cent of the total capital assets, and as it includes additions it could probably be halved if looking only at maintenance.

Is it any wonder that school buildings are deteriorating? School principals are beginning to put pressure on us and parents and citizens' associations are using the media to complain about the lack of funds being allocated to improve school buildings. At least \$30 million a year from the Capital Works Budget should be allocated for maintenance of that \$3 billion to \$4 billion-worth of assets. That money should be spent on maintenance, not on additions and new schools. No amount near that is being allocated. A blow-out is occurring in minor works, faults, program maintenance and unprogrammed maintenance and is causing tremendous problems. These problems cannot be addressed and are becoming worse because funds are not being allocated out of the CRF and buildings are not being maintained. Sooner or later these problems must be addressed. More than \$30 million a year will have to be allocated for maintenance of schools. If the Government does not do it now future Governments will have to do it; they will have to pick up the backlog. This Government is leaving an appalling legacy for future Governments to address.

One of the first things the Government should do is abolish day labour. If the Government used contractors it would be getting value for money. More jobs would be completed at less cost. All school buildings must be maintained and minor faults rectified. The Government cannot put off addressing the problems because sooner or later there will be a reckoning. The Government should also ensure that one per cent of the capital assets program is spent on maintenance each year. The Government must go back to a period of cyclic maintenance.

Things cannot be done on a needs basis because it will simply result in people who demonstrate the greatest need getting their problems addressed. That is not right and it is not fair.

Dr Gallop: On a needs basis?

Mr FRED TUBBY: Yes. That is how the Government is addressing building maintenance at the moment - on a needs basis. Maintenance should be carried out on a cyclic basis. If that is not done faults will start to occur. If paint peels off wood, the wood will absorb water and the wood will have to be replaced as well as the paint. The Government is not addressing any of those problems now but they will have to be addressed at some stage.

The third education point I wish to raise in this debate concerns the demise of the *Evening Star*. Budget cuts always involve questions of priority. It is my view that the *Evening Star* program should not have been so high on the list of programs to suffer cuts in funding. Western Australia has the longest coastline in Australia, probably longer than any other country. The marine environment plays a significant part in our economy, and that includes revenue raised from crayfishing, prawning, line fishing, pearling, oil and gas production and boat building. In addition, most of the population at some time during the summer months holiday near the beach and engage in boating activities. Unfortunately, during that summer period many people experience difficulties on the ocean. That happens because they do not have skills, knowledge or experience in the marine environment. In the early 1970s it was recognised that the marine environment played an important part in our economy and recreational life, and the *Vivienne of Struan* was purchased via a Commonwealth grant; no State money was involved in the purchase of that boat. For nearly 10 years prior to that purchase the same yacht was used, through the benevolence of the owner, by school groups on excursions to carry out research and other activities on the ocean. However, when the boat was purchased it was not big enough - it was only 17 metres long - and could carry only 11 students, a third of a class. Something bigger was needed. There was a demonstrated need for such activities and a bigger boat was required. A decision was made to purchase the *Evening Star*, a 30 metre brigantine, from Brunei at a cost of \$300 000. Unfortunately, even with the best will in the world, if only \$300 000 is spent on a 30 metre brigantine one gets exactly what one pays for.

The activities carried out on the *Evening Star* and the *Vivienne of Struan* were not holiday adventure trips. Some of the activities on those trips included learning about the parts of ships; the types and functions of the various sails; rigging, derigging and sail trimming; elementary navigation, which included working out a three point fix, steering by compass and plotting a course; keeping watch; securing a vessel at anchor; weather studies, which included monitoring radio weather reports, reading weather maps, observing and recording wind direction and strength, atmospheric conditions and cloud formation; keeping a log; and daily evaluation of personal performance and watch performance. Some of the skills learned by those students included raising and lowering small boats; embarking and disembarking from small boats; ferrying people ashore; anchoring and beaching a small craft; and rowing and outboard techniques. They also learnt about diving and pre-dive preparation; a number of diving accidents have occurred in Western Australia and the children involved in those programs learned how to dive properly and safely. They learned about entry and exit techniques which are applicable to the dive location. They learned about buddy diving - in other words, not diving alone - and the use of flags and safety procedures. Other activities undertaken included observation, identification and counting of sea birds, whale and dolphin populations; periodic collection of plankton for microscopic observation; observation and identification of fish species and coral reefs, and specimen collection for identification and later return to the reef; a study of the interaction within and between the supertidal, intertidal and subtidal zones on island shores; and identification and observation of birds in their habitats, plotting their locations and nesting habits. All of these skills are important in understanding the marine environment.

I think the Minister would agree that those activities are worthwhile educational endeavours. It is now a matter of history that the *Evening Star* turned out to be a financial disaster. Even before it reached Australia money had to be spent on the vessel. Throughout its short career money was continually poured into keeping it afloat. During August this year it was advertised for sale by tender. I am not sure whether it has been sold. In a reply to a question on notice on 13 September the Minister made the following comment -

The Ministry of Education decided to dispose of the *Evening Star* following reports from the Department of Marine and Harbours and an independent maritime consultant. The reports detailed extensive structural problems with the vessel, and indicated that costs of rectification were exorbitant, and would not guarantee the avoidance of excessive costs in the future.

Members should take note of that last sentence. The Minister also indicated that the Government would not be replacing the vessel and had no plans to do so in the near future. There is a demonstrated need for such a vessel. The Government is penny-pinching when it says that the program cannot be continued. The member for Nedlands and I took a trip down to Fremantle and spoke with two people, Professor Marchant and Mako Sambrailo, about this matter.

The SPEAKER: Good shipyard that. My son works there. He is the best apprentice there.

Mr FRED TUBBY: It is a very good shipyard. Mako is a fifth generation shipbuilder; he knows his trade. He has the biggest hands of any person I have ever met in my life. He knows how to build ships and how to maintain them..

Professor Marchant is in charge of marine studies at the University of Western Australia. He is very interested in the marine environment and in making sure that our students know about the marine environment. Professor Marchant has been so interested that he is now using his own yacht and another boat on loan to him to try to ensure that school groups continue to have access to the types of programs that were being undertaken by the *Evening Star*.

Mr Sambrailo, the owner/operator of Mako's Slipway, is very concerned about the demise of this program. On 16 July, he wrote to the chief executive officer of the ministry detailing a proposal to salvage the program. If the ministry paid him \$10 000, he would guarantee to bring the *Evening Star* up to a standard of seaworthiness to meet survey requirements. Furthermore, he offered to maintain the vessel at no further cost for three years. All it would have cost the ministry was \$10 000 to ensure that this program continued for the next three years. He undertook to construct, during that period, a replacement vessel which would be privately financed by a foundation to be established by Professor Marchant. This vessel would then be available to continue the program commenced with the *Vivienne of Struan* and continued with the *Evening Star*. Prior to commissioning, the *Evening Star* would be cannibalised of fixtures and fittings, the engine and a few other fixtures of value. That would have been done at the very last moment.

Unfortunately, Mr Sambrailo had not received a reply to his letter by 21 August and he wrote again. On 29 August, Professor Marchant wrote directly to the Minister on exactly the same topic. On 13 September, in reply to my question on notice, the Minister said that the proposal was not acceptable because the *Evening Star* would only be available to operate as a motor vessel and would therefore be unsuitable for the ministry's needs. I find it a little strange that we now have no vessel for the program to continue. Surely that is not in the best interests of the ministry's needs. Surely a motor vessel which can carry a class of 30 students and which would cost a measly \$10 000 for the program to continue for three years would have been worthwhile for the Minister to consider. Why did he not consider that?

Dr Gallop: It is always a question of the priorities one addresses.

Mr FRED TUBBY: All that was required was \$10 000.

Dr Gallop: The assumption you make is that that would have fixed up the boat.

Mr FRED TUBBY: The Speaker and I had a conversation a little while ago about Mako Sambrailo's shipyard. He is a fifth generation shipbuilder. The Speaker's son would probably help to maintain the vessel. For \$10 000, he guaranteed to bring the vessel up to survey standard and maintain it.

The SPEAKER: My son would not do it for \$10 000. It would cost more than that.

Mr FRED TUBBY: In other words, Mako will lose money on this. He was willing to maintain that vessel in survey for three years for \$10 000. The Minister's decision was very shortsighted. Is the ministry going to flog it? What is it worth? It will not last anybody more than two or three years anyway even if he or she could do the work that Mako was prepared to do. The ministry would get only a few dollars for it and it would save itself

\$10 000. That is as shortsighted as the Minister's lack of attention to minor works and maintenance.

I now come to the final point I wish to raise in this debate; that is, small business sector is involved in every section of the economy. It is one of the most significant employers in this State. Small businesses range from the corner shop, the local garage, doctors, dentists, lawyers and other professional people to the local hairdresser. It is engaged in supplying goods and services for mining, textiles, boat building and home building, and is involved in specialised manufacturing in farming industries. It makes up about 96 per cent of all businesses in Western Australia. A total of 49.5 per cent of Western Australian employed people work in small businesses; it is a very significant part of our economy. Including agricultural enterprises, there are approximately 72 000 small businesses.

Clearly, small business in this State is big business. Demands for specialised and personalised services can be addressed more readily by owner-operated businesses than by any other business. They are trend setters. They go out of their way to start new enterprises which can grow and be taken over by bigger enterprises as they become too big for small business operators. They are vastly different from big business. Big business has accountants, lawyers and other expertise on tap; small business does not. Small business requires somewhere to go to obtain expertise to solve its problems and to get advice on accounting, legal matters and on marketing. In this State, they go to the Small Business Development Corporation. That is an excellent organisation. It costs the State very little and the State gets great value for its money. The main reason for that is its board comprises members of the small business community. Also, the people who work in the Small Business Development Corporation come from the small business sector. They know small business. That is something that is foreign to Government and is different from big business and large ventures. Small business has certain needs and, at this time especially, needs good advice more than ever before.

In addition, the corporation is responsible for the business loans guarantee scheme which is an excellent scheme. It has a ceiling of \$6 million and it has on guarantee at the moment something in the order of \$3.6 million. This guarantee scheme is used to guarantee the gap between what banks will lend to small business people wishing to start up and the equity that they have in the business.

Since its inception, approximately 120 businesses have started up using the small business guarantee scheme. It is an excellent endeavour and I congratulate the Government for continuing with it. In fact, it extended the ceiling a few years ago. As I said, it is run by private enterprise people and it is at arm's length from the Government. There is no interference at all from the Public Service. The proposal to merge this corporation into a mega department such as is proposed by the Government as a result of this Budget is absolutely astonishing. It will be run by public servants rather than by people involved, concerned and connected with private enterprise. In my mind, that is a retrograde step. If the Government wants to merge organisations - I believe this is the seventh time it has reorganised this area - it should include other bodies. Surely, if one is talking about economic development and trade, the Department of Regional Development and the North West should be included in that mega department long before the Small Business Development Corporation is merged into it? Surely the plethora of development authorities in the Goldfields, the south west, Albany and Geraldton, should be merged into a mega department - Ministry of Economic Development and Trade? Surely they have more in common with that sector than the Small Business Development Corporation? The people concerned are public servants, so it would be one Public Service department merged with another.

The people about whom I am talking are from private enterprise. They know about private enterprise and small business. I urge the Minister not to allow this corporation to be merged with and swamped by a mega department concerned principally with big business, big enterprise and big development. The small business sector needs a corporation for small business to address its specific needs, which are completely different from the needs of big business and venture development. They need advice on marketing and all the other matters I have mentioned which are related specifically to small enterprises.

The major concern held by many people in the small business sector, and by me, is that when

this merger takes place all that expertise will go out the window. We will see public servants trying to do the same job. We will see people more interested in large scale development than in small business, which I said previously employs nearly 50 per cent of our work force and makes up 96 per cent of all business enterprises in this State. I urge the Government to reconsider its approach and to allow the Small Business Development Corporation to stand on its own so that it may continue to do the excellent job it has done in the past well into the future.

As I said in my introductory remarks, the 1980s will go down in history as the decade of lost opportunity. During this decade we have seen the coffers overflowing and money wasted. The real function of Government, the thing which it is elected to do and for which people pay their hard earned taxes, is to maintain buildings, roads, hospitals - and keep them open - and the Police Force; that is what it is employed to do. That is the duty of Government. However, these services are being allowed to run down. The Government is closing hospitals and operating theatres. It is allowing our capital building assets and our roads to deteriorate while it has wasted all that money. Now it is coming to crunch time. People are starting to scream because buildings are deteriorating. The Government must start allocating funds for these purposes. It must look seriously at where it is allocating funds in its Budget and start addressing these real problems.

Debate adjourned until a later stage of the sitting, on motion by Mr Omodei.

Sitting suspended from 12.55 to 2.00 pm

[Questions without notice taken.]

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION - PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND EXPENDITURE REVIEW COMMITTEE

MR RIPPER (Belmont) [2.33 pm]: I have for tabling the annual report for the year 1989-90 of the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee, which is the seventeenth report of the committee. I move -

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

The annual report of the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee reveals that for the year 1989-90 the committee met on 34 occasions. Over that period it worked on three major reports, two of which have recently been tabled in the House. The committee also dealt with many other smaller matters. It is worth noting that the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee has spent less than 20 per cent of its contingencies budget, including travel expenditure of less than eight per cent of its budget.

Mr Donovan: Showing the lead in constraint.

Mr RIPPER: As my colleague said, the committee has been showing the lead in constraint. I am pleased to say that this report is unanimously supported by members of the committee. That situation is much closer to the spirit of the operations of the committee than was the debate last week dealing with the report on the State Government Insurance Commission.

Mr Watt: It is time honoured and normal practice that ordinary reports rather than specific reports are supported by all members.

Mr RIPPER: The spirit in which the committee has operated over the past year is closer to that of bipartisanship than the spirit between committee members last week indicated; in other words, the dispute last week was unusual in the operation of the committee.

At this time of the year we are more conscious than ever of Parliament's role in scrutinising and reviewing Government expenditure. The Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee has an important role in the chain of accountability and, in view of comments made yesterday about the role of the committee, it is worthwhile quoting Standing Order No 412 which establishes the functions of the committee -

The functions of the Committee shall be to inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on any proposal, matter or thing connected with the receipt and expenditure of public moneys, including moneys allocated under the Annual Appropriation Bills and the Loan Fund.

It is clear that the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee has a fairly broad role. I assure members of the House that all members of the committee take the role of that committee seriously and, despite, or perhaps because of, occasional robust debate between committee members, the committee has worked well.

As the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee is charged with the parliamentary scrutiny of expenditure, its effectiveness depends mainly on the performance of its parliamentary members. Nevertheless, our staff play an important role, and on behalf of other committee members I thank our research officers for 1989-90, Carol Davis and Michael Baker, and the research officer who provided the annual report, Jillian Pyvis. During the year covered by the report the former chairman of the committee, the member for Victoria Park, relinquished that office after he was elevated to the Ministry. On behalf of the committee I express our appreciation to the Minister for Education for his services to the committee, and I congratulate him on his appointment to the Ministry. Finally, on behalf of the committee I express our appreciation of the work done by the retiring deputy chairman, the member for Scarborough, and I congratulate him on his elevation to the shadow Ministry.

[See paper No 641.]

MR STRICKLAND (Scarborough) [2.37 pm]: I take this opportunity to say a few words because my 19 month term on the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee is drawing to a close. I thank the chairman for his kind words and indicate to members of the House that I have enjoyed my participation in that committee. The only reason I approached the Leader of the Opposition, who has approached the Leader of the House, to formalise a change in the membership, is that I have new responsibilities and it is important that I focus as much attention as possible on them. However, it provides an opportunity for another member in this place to give service to the committee and I think that is a positive side of the matter.

In my service on the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee I can lay claim to one feat that is very interesting. I believe I am the first member who was able to correct the minutes of an earlier meeting which he did not attend. I alluded to that in my comments a week ago and it arose because with due diligence I compared the two reports and the minutes in which the differences appeared, and it was possible to locate the problems.

Mr Pearce: Are you saying that you were more effective as a committee member when you were absent from meetings than when you were present?

Mr STRICKLAND: No, it is an indication of a total commitment both when the committee was sitting and when it was not sitting. The Leader of the House is about to find that out because in my remarks on this annual report I make one very important point to the House, which relates to the major inquiries and statutory obligations of the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee. When members receive the printed report they will see that there is one statutory obligation of the committee which relates to competitive neutrality inquiries. I quote from the report -

Pursuant to Section 48 of the *State Government Insurance Commission Act 1986*, the Committee is required to determine and report whether the State Government Insurance Corporation receives any unfair advantage or preference over its competitors in the insurance business.

As the Committee was committed to a major report on the State Government Insurance Corporation and many issues in that inquiry related to competitive neutrality, it was decided to defer a full report on the Competitive Neutrality of the SGIO. The Committee tabled an interim Report on 7 June 1990.

I have raised that statutory obligation at committee meetings from time to time. I am well aware that the committee has devoted a large amount of its time to investigating SGIC matters. However, I will provide some background for members. It is imperative for the committee to continue its work and to build on that interim report and provide a competitive neutrality report to the House. I refer to the previous annual report which contains the background on the last and, I believe, the only competitive neutrality report which was tabled in the House on 24 November 1988. I quote from report No 13 of the committee -

The committee has therefore concluded that the State Government Insurance Corporation does not receive any unfair or improper advantage or preference over its

competitors in the insurance industry. The Committee also considers that legislative amendment to the State Government Insurance Commission Act is not required as the Corporation is considered by the Committee to operate in an environment of competitive neutrality with private sector insurers.

That was the last report to the House. To continue -

In concluding the report, the committee considered that following its first thorough investigation of the policies and accounting methods of the Commission and the Corporation, conducting an annual review would be both time consuming and expensive. Periodic spot checks to ensure that the status quo remained and that earlier recommendations had been addressed and, where appropriate, implemented would be a more efficient use of resources and the committee therefore recommended:

That both Houses of Parliament amend the terms of reference of this Committee's inquiry into the competitive neutrality of the State Government Insurance Corporation - by deleting "every twelve months" and replacing with "periodically as determined appropriate by the committee or when requested by either House of Parliament".

Arrangements have been made for a notice of motion to be given in the Parliament to give effect to the above recommendation.

Further on the report states -

The committee was satisfied that the solvency ratio and minimum valuation basis requirements had been met at the 1987/88 financial year end.

A move was made at committee level to remove the 12-month requirement to report on competitive neutrality and to allow an investigation to occur periodically. Approval for that was required from each House. Every member in the House will be aware that he has heard nothing about that. The matter was discussed, but no action was taken because the Government realised that the Opposition parties would oppose that move.

The Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee has a statutory obligation to report every 12 months on competitive neutrality. I do not lay any blame on the committee because it has uncovered all sorts of very important information during the past years. An opportunity exists before this year finishes to give consideration to compiling a competitive neutrality report. Another reason I believe the committee should undertake that task is that, as a member of the committee, I have reason to doubt the previous finding, because new matters have come to light. The previous report concerned the 1987-88 years and we are now two years further down the track. Because various movements of moneys by regulation have occurred and investments made, the committee has a responsibility to address those matters urgently.

Mr Ripper: Would the member agree that the proposed corporatisation of the SGIO and the SGIC will have an impact on competitive neutrality issues?

Mr STRICKLAND: I am not fully aware of the Government's intentions concerning corporatisation. However, it is important that not only should the committee meet its obligations, but also the committee members and the members of this House must be aware of the problems which occurred. They must also be aware of the matters which need consideration in agreeing to any legislation or regulations required to change the organisation to a corporation. A report would be valuable. The annual reports distributed by the committee are an indication of the tremendous amount of work done by the committee. Approximately 51 meetings have been held over the 19 months I have been a member of the committee. A great deal of evidence is available and one could not possibly put it all into a small report. It is, therefore, important that from time to time members raise matters for the public record. I want to include on that record a comment made in evidence to the committee by Mr Michell, who heads the SGIO. In November 1989 he had the following to say to the committee -

In regard to the actual solvency percentage, with a parent the size of the State Government Insurance Commission, the SGIO could certainly have solvency margins as large as it could possibly want. It has the resources to be able to increase solvency

substantially. However, it was felt that for the purposes of competitive neutrality, it would be improper to give it an unfair capital base while at the same time any funds or profits earned by the corporation are subject to tax or the equivalent of income tax payment. Therefore, it is not in the interests of the commission as such to see the corporation with a large capital base because any interest it earns while it is holding those funds to its own credit is not taxable. It then allows for a dividend to be made from the commission back through the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The profit to the commission is based on an after tax equivalent; therefore, it is in its interest to run the organisation with a modest capital base rather than a high and flamboyant one.

Members will be aware that the corporation's capital base can be changed by regulation. The money comes from commission funds and is required to assist in meeting prudential solvency requirements. The chairman has indicated that care must be taken concerning competitive neutrality and that some concerns exist about the impact the proportion of funds in one body would have on the funds in another body.

Two of the recommendations of the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee in Report No 16, "State Government Insurance Corporation Inquiry", support what I am saying. One recommendation is -

The Committee recommends that when the Auditor General appoints an auditor to the SGIO, under the *Financial Administration and Audit Act*, the contract be given to a private sector auditor who has been approved by the Commonwealth Insurance Commissioner under the *Insurance Act 1973*.

The members of the committee supported these recommendations, and decided that an appropriate person must be appointed who, in the Commonwealth Insurance Commissioner's own words, would be suitable for the job and have experience in assessing insurance matters.

Last week I put on record the problems that the Auditor General indicated in his evidence to the committee. He told the committee -

I am not in a position to know what the policy of the insurance commissioner is with respect to other insurance companies -

Point of Order

Mr P.J. SMITH: I believe the member for Scarborough is now repeating the debate we had last week about the SGIC rather than commenting on the report.

Mr STRICKLAND: This is the annual report of the activities of the committee during this year, and it includes the work it did on the SGIC report, which was tabled last week. The interim report on competitive neutrality is intertwined with the SGIC report because the work done in the SGIC report provides the background for competitive neutrality.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was turning this matter over in my mind before the point of order was raised. Provided your remarks are directly relevant to the annual report and do not start a further debate, because we are not in a position to have a debate this afternoon - the question is that the report be printed, and please bear that in mind in your comments - I do not think we will have any further problems.

Debate Resumed

Mr STRICKLAND: It is important on these occasions to raise matters in the report. The main issue I am raising is the competitive neutrality of the SGIC and what I believe to be the requirement for the committee to now proceed in an urgent fashion to examine that question. I am pointing out to the House some of the difficulties that need to be addressed and the reason the committee should proceed with its statutory obligation.

Just to conclude my quote, which I do not think I completed, the Auditor General told the committee -

I am not in a position to know what the policy of the insurance commissioner is with respect to other insurance companies and how he might value them - whether he does use those commercial valuations. I just do not know.

Mr Catania: Will that not now all be rectified with the changes that are proposed?

Mr STRICKLAND: That is an interesting interjection because it implies that the Government has come to the House and said, "There are a lot of problems with the SGIC."

We are going to fix them all up by corporatisation" - whatever that means. Other members of this House do not know exactly what is proposed. It is all very well for one member to say, "We have had a lot of problems but we are going to fix them, so don't ever bother to go back and see what the problems were; don't ever go back to find out what went wrong so that everybody can make sure it does not happen again." I do not support that approach. We should have a jolly good look at what has happened, and we should make sure we identify the problems and that we do not repeat them.

Mr Catania: They have been identified and they will be rectified.

Mr STRICKLAND: Prior to the commencement of the inquiry into the SGIC - and this was before the member for Balcatta was appointed to the committee - a report from the SGIC was sent to the committee to provide it with background information which would assist it in its inquiry. The report said on page 3, under the heading "Supervision of the Corporation" that -

A solvency test based upon the requirements of the Insurance Act is conducted on a quarterly basis. The Board of Commissioners supervises the Corporation on a basis similar to that of the Insurance and Superannuation Commissioner (the Commissioner) in his supervising the operations of private insurers under the Insurance Act.

Point of Order

Mr DONOVAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I assure you that I respect to the utmost the ruling you made about the previous point of order, but what it illustrated, and what we are seeing still, is that the member for Scarborough, in answering a debate ostensibly about this report, and a debate of which no indication was given previously, is utilising this opportunity to raise again the debate about the SGIC which we had last week.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was about to make the same point. I do not agree that when the previous point of order was raised you had gone down that path, but since I have made that statement you have. You are, in my view, transgressing the indication that I gave in response to the previous point of order. The question before the Chair is that the report be printed. The question is not about the SGIC specifically, and I believe you are now debating that matter. You are not in a position to canvass my ruling. We are not here this afternoon to debate the issues which the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee considered during the year. The motion that the report be printed is almost a procedural motion. It comes back to the point that the Speaker made this morning: We are allowing a bit of latitude, but, as the saying goes, we are giving people an inch and they are taking a mile. I advise you not to do that, otherwise the whole purpose of the motion will be subverted.

Debate Resumed

Mr STRICKLAND: I am aware that last week several members spoke on the motion that the previous report be printed, because that was the one opportunity members had to talk about the work of the committee. I am talking not about the work the committee has done but about the work the committee is required to do and has not done; that is, to examine the question of competitive neutrality, or whether an unfair commercial advantage has been bestowed on the SGIC. The SGIC does not, by regulation, have to prepare quarterly returns on prudential solvency, so it could well be that a commercial advantage has been conferred on it. That is part of the reason that I am suggesting the committee should address competitive neutrality as a matter of urgency before legislation is introduced to corporatise the SGIC so that every member of this House will be in a better position to judge that proposal. The matter has been sensitive for the Government but in due course all these things will come out, even if we as Opposition members have to move a Notice of Motion.

Point of Order

Mr LEWIS: The motion is that the annual report of the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee be printed. It would seem to me that this is probably one of the few opportunities during the course of the parliamentary year that members have to debate the operations, and the performance, I suppose, of the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee. I seek your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker, for the benefit of the House, and ask: At what other time do members of this House have the opportunity to inquire as to the performance and work of the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are two points in relation to that. There are plenty of opportunities for matters to be brought forward, particularly under private members' business. If members of the committee were concerned about the findings of a particular report - and I have not read the report that is before the Chair today -

Mr LEWIS: None of us has, unfortunately, and we are voting on its being printed.

Mr Pearce: The motion is that the report be printed.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Exactly, the motion is for it to be printed so that it can be circulated to members. Incidentally, I hope the member for Scarborough was not implying that in making my ruling I was seeking to protect the Government in some way. That is not my intention.

Mr Strickland: No, I was not.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was simply to apply Standing Orders.

Mr Clarko: It was the others who were.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a matter of interpretation. There are opportunities under private members' business or Notices of Motion to debate matters of concern once they are included in a report. Having been a member of Select Committees, at least, I understand the point the member for Applecross is making; that is, that there is not often a chance to talk to the matter that is actually raised in the report. However, there are channels through the Parliament if members are particularly concerned, and it is open to the member for Scarborough to put a Notice of Motion following the printing of this report if he thinks those issues justify further debate.

Rather than turning what I regard as a procedural matter into a full scale debate on the State Government Insurance Commission, which is obviously a matter of public concern, I think we should observe the convention. I am quite happy for members of the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee from either side of the House to comment on the workings of the committee or, indeed, on matters contained in the report. However, given the fact that other members of the House do not have access to the material in that report I do not think it is opportune, or in accordance with Standing Orders, to debate the matters contained therein.

Mr Lewis: It is something of a nonsense that we are debating something that no-one has seen and we are moving to print it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is precisely why I am ruling in the way I have.

Debate Resumed

MR WATT (Albany) [3.02 pm]: I would have been just as happy if the member for Applecross had not taken that point of order because I feel much more constrained now about the few remarks that I wanted to make. They will now be even fewer, but I do have a couple of observations about this matter.

Having been both a member of the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee and the chairman of it for some time, I have a very strong respect for the role of the committee and will always do everything to uphold the right and the integrity of that committee to do the job it needs to do. Every Parliament needs to have this watchdog-type committee to do what is necessary. However, we have this problem of just when we can debate issues which are raised by the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee. Notwithstanding the fact that none of us has seen the report and that we have only the briefest knowledge of the sorts of matters canvassed in it, there does not appear to be an opportunity other than by substantive motion to debate the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee's work in a constructive way, and that is a pity. Perhaps the committee members could benefit by a debate of that type.

Mr Read: It has been nothing but a Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee debate in the last couple of weeks.

Mr WATT: I think the member for Murray exaggerates.

Mr Clarko: I put it to the member for Albany that the question that the report be now printed is a device to enable debate to occur.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I believe that by that interjection, the member for Marmion is canvassing my ruling. That is out of order.

Mr Clarko: No, I was asking the member for Albany. My remark was directed to him, not to you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will direct comments from the Chair to the member for Marmion as I think appropriate if he is in breach of the Standing Orders, which I believe he is.

Mr WATT: I do not want to incur your wrath or canvass your ruling, Mr Deputy Speaker; but to return to the point I was making, it is a little difficult to canvass the work of the committee. What I want to say relates specifically to the SGIC and the role that has been given to the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee to require it to do two things, as I understand it: Firstly, to report on the competitive neutrality of the State Government Insurance Office, and, secondly, to report annually on that. I ask the chairman of the committee whether that is correct.

Mr Ripper: Yes, we are required to report annually on competitive neutrality.

Mr WATT: All I want to say is that I strongly support the former as a legitimate role for the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee; that is, to make a detailed report on that competitive neutrality and to investigate all matters associated with that. However, I do not think it is the role of the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee to be saddled with particular items which are required of it every year. That task is properly allocated to somebody like the Auditor General, or the Solicitor General, or one of the legal eagle departments the Government has under its wing. They have the expertise. I do not mean to denigrate in any way the expertise both on the committee and available to the committee, but I do not think that the committee is able to perform that task as well as is one of those agencies, nor do I think it is properly the committee's role. We could easily reach a situation where a number of these things are directed to the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee for it to deal with throughout the year, which would just about rob it of any time it might have available to search and seek out -

Mr Ripper: I must say that, as chairman of the committee, I support those comments very strongly. They reflect a recommendation of the committee in 1988, which was to have a change in the Standing Orders so that the committee was not required to do it annually but as and when appropriate. Owing to the fact that members of the committee received an indication of opposition to that, that recommendation of the committee has not gone forward.

Mr WATT: I must admit that I do not recall that debate, but I have clearly indicated my opinion. It is a matter which should perhaps be resurrected and considered by both the Parliament and the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee. Perhaps the committee could bring a recommendation to the Parliament for debate so that we could have something of substance to debate in order to determine that matter, because I feel very strongly that it is not the committee's role to be bogged down in annual reviews of certain things. That is another job altogether.

Mr Ripper: I will put that on the committee's agenda.

Mr WATT: Good.

Question put and passed.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DUTY AMENDMENT BILL

Report

Report of Committee adopted.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) BILL

Second Reading - Budget Debate

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR OMODEI (Warren) [3.09 pm]: I am glad of the opportunity to speak in this debate. It is interesting to note that during question time today we had yet another indication of the

Government's right hand not knowing what its left hand is doing, this time on the matter of mineral sands mining. The Premier and Treasurer indicated that the due processes would take place with regard to approvals for mineral sands exploration, when the Minister for the Environment has indicated he will stop this in his electorate.

It is strange that yesterday at Corrigin the Federal member for Kalgoorlie said that the Government should allow mineral sands developments to proceed so that the benefits of the projects could flow to the community. However, the Minister for the Environment in this House states that the projects should not proceed. It is interesting that at that same Corrigin function, which was attended by more than 2 000 farmers, the Minister for Agriculture indicated to the gathering that the country hospitals issue, which attracted a great deal of attention in this House last week, was not condoned by the Government. The motion that was moved by Liberal Party members on this side of the House, and supported by the National Party, called for the Government to reverse the decision and to maintain the health services to those areas. The Government opposed the motion, yet the Minister for Agriculture stated that the Government did not agree with what was happening with health services - we have yet another contradiction.

I shall also take the opportunity to refer to the question of health and education facilities, particularly in my electorate. Members would be aware of the situation with the Warren District Hospital and events surrounding the deferral of funding for that facility. In 1986 and in 1988, prior to a State election, approval was given for funding for this hospital to the tune of \$8.4 million. The project advanced to the stage that the Minister for Health, Mr Keith Wilson, wrote to the hospital board and congratulated it for the funding approval. However, funding for that hospital was spent elsewhere. An amount of \$679 000 was spent on the planning stage which advanced to the point of determining the colour of the carpet and the positioning of electric light switches. The then Premier, Mr Peter Dowding, redirected the funds. To this date no-one, neither a Minister nor a member, on the other side of the House has been able to explain why or where the funding was redirected. This is a matter of great consternation to the Warren community. Why has the Government treated them in this way?

One could have expected at least part of the funding for that project to be included in this year's Budget. In a deputation to the Minister for Health and the Minister for Finance and Economic Development I indicated that in the current harsh economic climate the hospital should receive \$1.5 million to commence the project, and the subsequent amount to make up the \$8.4 million could be provided later. The deputation comprised hospital board members and other concerned members of the community and it was given the impression by the Minister for Health and the Minister for Finance and Economic Development that the funding would be considered only after the Federal Department of Community Services and Health funding for a nursing hospital was considered. That was a clever way of introducing a red herring to the issue.

This is a vital facility for the Manjimup district and the people of that community are deeply concerned and very angry. Three deputations have been to the Government on this matter and the matter is yet to be resolved. The Commonwealth Department of Community Services and Health is proposing a 30-bed nursing hospital at Manjimup, and anyone who knows anything about nursing hospitals would know that they usually cover a health district. The nursing hospital in question would serve the Blackwood health district, which includes the towns of Boyup Brook, Bridgetown, Greenbushes, Manjimup, Pemberton, Northcliffe, Nannup and Walpole. Questions are being asked about the Government's proposal to build the nursing hospital in Manjimup to the exclusion of all the other small towns.

After the deputation had been to the Government we immediately established a committee in my electorate to examine the Commonwealth Department of Community Services and Health funding. We found that the 30-bed nursing hospital would be the minimum size acceptable and this would require funding in the vicinity of \$1.5 million. Also, another sticking point is that half of these funds would have to be raised by the local community. In the current economic climate it is not possible to do this, so yet another deputation was organised to meet with the staff of the Minister for Health. Assistance was provided to apply for the Commonwealth funds.

Apart from everything else, it is against my philosophy to have a huge monstrosity, as in this proposed nursing hospital, dragging people away from the community in which they have

lived all their lives. It is an indictment on the Government that it has introduced a red herring into this debate. It is saying to the people of Manjimup that it should accept the Commonwealth proposal. The matter gets worse: What happens if the community cannot raise the funds? In that case is the community to be penalised? Those questions are being asked and it is a matter of grave concern. I like to think that the Government will see the error of its ways and will make a commitment to fund the Warren District Hospital. The ideal situation would be to have geriatric services at each of the country towns to which I have referred, instead of having a huge edifice in the centre of the region which will drag elderly people away from their homes and families. The Government must face this problem. The Government's philosophy appears to be to regionalise health and education services and to dislocate people from the community, and by so doing it is destroying the social fabric of that community. This is a matter which the Minister for Education should take into account when considering relocating education facilities.

The Government should be aware of the fact that we have a hospital at Manjimup; certainly it has received widespread media attention. Members would also be aware that that facility is more than 30 years old. It is clear that the regional areas are receiving inadequate health facilities. The prime objective of the State Government should be the provision of health facilities, and the second objective should be the provision of education facilities for our young people. The Government should take note of the community concerns about the funding for the Warren District Hospital and the fact that this proposal has been around for a number of years. If the Government cannot fund this program this year - it has allocated only \$177 000 to it - it should make a commitment to a timetable so that people would know where they stand.

The reduction in the health allocation in the Budget has an impact on a number of other hospitals. I was talking today to doctors at the Augusta Hospital and they are concerned about budget cutbacks at that hospital. The specialists who provide a service to that area will no longer be able to operate with no recompense. The patients' assistance travel scheme will be utilised and the doctors know full well that the Bunbury Regional Hospital is overcrowded so people will be forced to travel from Augusta to Perth. The community should not be subjected to this. People who are infirm and unable to look after themselves should be able to receive the services locally.

Over the past couple of days, we have seen cutbacks to hospitals in the wheatbelt. It was interesting at that meeting of 2 000 farmers yesterday that most of the anger was directed at the cutbacks to country hospitals. Of course, they know that once \$300 000 or \$600 000 is cut back from the budgets of country hospitals, it will not be long before they will no longer retain their country doctors, people will begin to drift to regional centres, they will lose their hospitals and their school teachers and, in the end, the fabric of the country communities will break down.

The Minister of Education will be aware of the next subject about which I will speak.

Dr Gallop: Pemberton District High School.

Mr OMODEI: That is right. Last year, the Pemberton school was described as a disaster waiting to happen. To the credit of the Government, it allocated funds for a new school at Pemberton. Those funds were well received by the people in that community. To the community's credit it lobbied the Minister for South-West and the Government and things started to happen. Once again, it is an example of the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing! The Minister mentioned in the House the other night in response to questions that the Government was considering not building the secondary section of that high school.

Dr Gallop: I did not say that. I referred to the upper secondary section. I specifically said "upper secondary".

Mr OMODEI: I apologise. In answer to the question the Minister said -

I recently received an assessment of the future numbers that would attend the schools in the Pemberton region. I am happy to make that available to the member.

The question of whether there will be upper secondary schooling in Pemberton is a complex one.

The only difference is, there is no upper secondary school at Pemberton. It is only a district

high school which goes to year 10. The Minister has indicated that it is a very complex subject. He said also -

... on the evidence that I have available to me, it is not appropriate to try to achieve that because the number of students involved will not make it possible for us to provide a good program of education for them ...

That was met with real concern by the community. The community is expecting a district high school to replace the one that exists. In the very early stages of that proposal, it was indicated that the secondary section would be made up of transportable buildings. That did not go down too well and I petitioned the Government on a number of occasions to make the school a permanent district high school.

I referred to the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing! It appears to me that the Government intends to downgrade that school to a kindergarten to year seven school.

Dr Gallop: That is not the case.

Mr OMODEI: I am delighted to hear that. I know that, at the moment, one of the Deputy Premier's officers, Ernesto Siroli, is working hard with the Pemberton P & C Association to try to upgrade the transportable building that was to be the manual arts building. That was well received by the community. They will be very happy with the permanent manual arts facilities.

Dr Gallop: Somebody from the ministry will be down there next week to have a look at the idea that has been presented. I will look at it when he comes back.

Mr OMODEI: That is good news. I understand the community will invite the Minister down to be part of the upgrading. He will be made welcome as long as he guarantees that it remains a permanent district high school.

Dr Gallop: The issue I was trying to address the other night related to whether there would be years 11 and 12. Are you telling me it has never been an issue?

Mr OMODEI: It probably was in the past, but not in the near past. I am very pleased, because the Minister gave me the impression the other night -

Dr Gallop: I was trying to address years 11 and 12.

Mr OMODEI: Very good.

I have also received a number of comments about the demographic study. There is no doubt in my mind that the demographic study was done in indecent haste. There are a number of mistakes in the study. The Pemberton community is a healthy, growing community. It will never be a booming community, but it will grow steadily. There are now 60 secondary students at the Pemberton District High School. They are a closely knit community and are a credit to their school. I am looking forward to a long association with this school that will remain at least a district high school and will probably become, at some time in the future, an upper secondary school.

The Bridgetown school also concerns me. It has been seeking funds for approximately 10 years and constantly receives the stock answer from the Ministry of Education that its application will be reviewed in the Budget context. People get very tired of that. People in PCAs throughout Western Australia, particularly in country areas, work very hard in an attempt to gain adequate facilities for their students. Of course, many of them have vested interests because they have children going to those schools. However, there are others who spend a lifetime working hard for P & C associations.

Dr Gallop: I am not bragging, but, over the past two or three years, this Government has made significant inroads into upgrading country district high schools. Last year, we upgraded Boyup Brook and Pemberton, which is following through to this year. This year Gingin, Jurien, Morawa, Narembeen and Toodyay schools and, of course, Harvey agricultural school will be upgraded. We acknowledge our commitment to those country high schools and Bridgetown is among quite a few that are very close to being completed.

Mr OMODEI: I welcome that commitment. It is probably catch up time. I do not think all of the fault for the backlog of work that needs to be done lies with this Government. It has happened over time.

Mr Fred Tubby: I would not go that far.

Mr OMODEI: We need to be fair. Some of these schools have needed upgrading for some time. People know that the Government has lost a lot of money in its business dealings. However, these people see their projects as having high priority and they get very angry when nothing is done. The local members then have to face these communities and if the funds are not forthcoming in the Budget, we have to petition the Government to ensure it is aware of the priority the community places on their projects.

The Bridgetown school has to be dealt with. The library building given to the school last year was a second-hand building in a very dilapidated state. I am aware that the ministry has to have some transportable buildings at schools. However, it should not have them to the extent that we have them in some country towns. The Bridgetown school is looking for funding to refurbish the home economics area which is approximately 30 years old. The students use the same bowls that were used when Adam was a boy. I ask the Minister to take their cause on board. That school has been receiving the stock reply for 10 years and it is about time something more positive was done. At least the Government should give the community a timetable for the future.

I place health and education at the highest level in my priorities. The Augusta school will need upgrading as a result of the mineral sands project at Beenup and Jangardup. At the moment, there is a primary school in Augusta, but a strong community support group is now seeking an amount of funds for a school upgrade. The boost to employment in that area will result in many people looking for adequate education facilities. I am aware that the Margaret River Primary School has been allocated \$200 000 this year. That school has over 490 students and it is overcrowded, and many people employed in the mineral sands industry will probably reside in that town. I ask the Minister for Education to look closely at the Margaret River school. If ever there was a place which required an upper secondary section it would be Margaret River.

Dr Gallop: I think the allocation was greater than \$200 000, but that is all that will be spent this year.

Mr OMODEI: I concede that \$800 000 has been allocated to bring the school up to standard over the next few years. If anyone were to visit the Margaret River Primary School he would be confronted with a village of transportable buildings. While the climate is mild for the greater part of the year, there are months in which it is very hot, and in winter it can be very cold. I ask the Minister to look very carefully at the education facilities in Margaret River, Augusta and Bridgetown.

As members will be aware from today's *The West Australian* there has been a decline in the timber industry. The decline in the housing and construction industry has been brought about by the high interest rates and the Commonwealth Government's reliance on the high value of the Australian dollar. Instead of standing down the employees in the timber industry, the employers are reducing the number of days they work. Most of the timber mills have weekly shifts of four days or three nights, and this is causing a great deal of anxiety to the workers. The people affected are virtually no better off than they would be if they were on the dole. Many of the employees in the industry come from families which have been in the industry for in excess of three generations and the cutbacks are causing them a great deal of heartache. I am aware that in the town of Pemberton the doctors have agreed to waive charges for medical services. Most of the doctors receive samples of pharmaceutical goods and I understand the doctors in that town have used up to three quarters of their samples already.

I have a petition which contains more than 400 signatures which I will be presenting to the Parliament within the next few weeks and it illustrates the concern of the people in those communities. It is essential that this Government put in place programs which will ensure that the necessary counselling and financial assistance is available to those families. If the Government does not take action quickly, people, many with young families, will be out of work and this State will be faced with a very serious situation. I ask the Government to take this issue on board and to deal with it as soon as it possibly can. Even if interest rates were to drop by three per cent tomorrow it would take three or four months for the housing and construction industry to be in full operation. If that occurred we would be fortunate, but I cannot see it happening in the near future. The people in the timber industry can look

forward to a bleak future as a result of this Government's poor decisions. It is an issue which needs to be addressed as quickly as possible.

The situation confronting the agricultural area is of great concern to me. I attended the public meeting held at Corrigin yesterday at which there were a lot of angry farmers. Of course, the Minister flew in and out in a Kingair-Beechcraft B200 while many people who attended had to drive to Corrigin, which took two and a half hours. In answer to a Dorothy Dix question in this House yesterday the Minister said that the attitude of the 200 or 300 farmers who attended the meeting was very positive and that there was some mock hostility. I advise members that I was asked many questions and I did not find them to be very kind. I was asked what I was doing about providing jobs for young people in the country areas. In the very short time that the Minister was in attendance he obviously gained the wrong impression. Country people are very upset and the high interest rates are creating problems for them. The current economic plight of the Soviet Union and Germany is affecting the wool market and wheat prices have been severely affected by the Gulf crisis.

I made the statement at the meeting that I thought it would have been more intelligent of the Prime Minister to send 20 doctors or nurses to Iraq rather than three ships, especially as that country owes Australia \$480 million for wheat sales. As a result of the embargo on Iraq Australia has lost a further \$400 million. It has also lost \$50 million in the live sheep trade and the dairy industry has lost \$20 million. It astounds me that we have politicians in this country who are making those sorts of decisions.

Everyone thinks that the Minister for Agriculture is a nice bloke. At the meeting at Corrigin yesterday he announced that another 30 tonnes of chemicals would be made available for the eradication of plague locusts. I have been told that the Government knew on 15 September that there would be a serious outbreak of plague locusts, and it has had adequate time to make arrangements for sufficient chemicals to spray that pest. Members in this House are aware that a few people in Jerramungup and Gnowangerup expressed their concern about the effect of the spray on human beings and on the environment. The Government knew full well that the chemical had been tried and tested, but once again it buckled to community opinion and failed to order the chemical. The locusts congregate at a certain stage of their life cycle, and if they are sprayed at that time at least 75 per cent of them will be destroyed. At Carnamah and Three Springs the locusts are dispersing and greater quantities of the chemical will be required to eradicate them.

Once again, the Government has failed. The Minister can attend a public meeting and say that another 30 tonnes of chemical is available, but if it is too late, the damage will have been done. I am sure that the damage caused by plague locusts going through a district will have a greater psychological effect on people in the community than will the use of the chemical. The cost to the wheat industry will be astronomical if the Wheat Board has to clean grain which is contaminated by locusts. Not everything the Minister for Agriculture says is true, and it annoys me that he has misled the country people of this State, particularly by his comments regarding hospitals in the wheatbelt area and the plague locusts.

Mr Shave: If the problem is not rectified this year will there still be a problem next year?

Mr OMODEI: If the plague locusts are not brought under control this year the problem will be worse next year.

While the Minister was at Corrigin he made a statement that the Government had provided the Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation with additional funds. I have been able to ascertain that RAFCOR provides funding for natural disasters and assistance to pastoralists. The natural disaster relief fund, the household support fund to relieve personal hardship, and a fund which provides assistance to farmers to improve their business performance and financial control have been in place for some time.

The Minister actually referred to improving farm performance under the Rural Adjustment Scheme, part A, and said there would be a reduction of three per cent on already subsidised interest rates, which would mean that people would pay interest rates as low as nine per cent. That has been the case for some time. I know for a fact that farmers are already getting funds at 10 per cent interest. They are scaled over a period rising from 10 per cent to 12 per cent and then 15 per cent. Funds for the purposes of improving farm performance have been available at nine per cent interest. Of course, an applicant would qualify if he had difficulty

in making repayments, or if he had a property with enough potential to enable him to continue repaying the loan. Funds also have been available for some time for increasing farm size, farm water supply assistance, drought assistance and re-establishing people who leave their farms. Funds are also available for farmers affected by pesticide residues.

It concerns me when members of the Government travel around this State saying things to people which give them hope when the facilities they talk of are already in place. It concerns me that this Government's representatives contradict themselves at every turn. It does not matter whether this relates to a pulp mill, mineral sands or country hospitals, it is really frustrating for me as a member of Parliament.

I turn now to Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation funding. The Budget allocation for RAFCOR this year, bearing in mind this Government knew in April there would be a rural crisis and the situation would be serious in country areas, has increased from \$2.3 million to only \$2.4 million. The number of full time equivalent employees for RAFCOR has increased by two, so that \$100 000 increase probably just covers the two extra people put on the payroll. We are looking at a disaster of mammoth proportions in the rural sector of Western Australia.

One area where the issue can be addressed is in the readjustment of debts. To the Government's credit, it has lifted the stamp duty on mortgage transfers, which will assist farmers to some degree. The Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation is virtually maintaining its position, but its funds have been reduced in real terms at a time when agriculture in Western Australia needs every assistance it can get. That concerns me. Under the heading "Planned Achievements for 1990-91" volume 1 of Program Statements states -

- new applicants to gain a better understanding of their circumstances;

That is a noble aim, something that must occur. It should not just be a planned achievement, because in the end, when the crisis really hits and wool drops to its real value, rural Western Australia will be well and truly in dire straits.

It is interesting to note in relation to the Agriculture budget that the number of employees in the department has been reduced. When one adds up the numbers for 1990-91 and compares them to previous years one finds a reduction of 147 personnel. However, if one goes through it section by section one finds that the reduction is 157 personnel. I hope that someone from the department can clarify where those 10 people disappeared to. There has been an increase of eight people under Corporate Services, a reduction of 35 people in the Animal Production Program, and a reduction of 51 people under the Plant Industries Program, which covers crop improvements, pasture improvements, crop science, biometrics, plant nutrition, modelling, plant pathology, and weed science. This is an important area of the Agriculture budget. One finds under the Horticulture Program a reduction of 10 people. That concerns me most because the overall budget for agriculture has been reduced by something like \$5 million since last year. The Minister claims that part of that reduction was because 10 people employed on the control of Queensland fruit fly were taken out of the horticulture program. Eleven people have been taken out of the Marketing and Economics Program. I would have thought that marketing and economics was an area to enhance rather than reduce. The Regional Operations Program shows a reduction of 89 people, and there has been a reduction of 24 people in the Resource Management Program. That program includes the following under Issues and Trends of the Hydrology and Water Resources Subprogram -

Phosphate input from agricultural land continues to cause eutrophication of the Peel-Harvey estuary and Albany Harbours.

That is of real concern. As I mentioned earlier there has been a reduction of about \$4.5 million in the Assistance to Agriculture Program, yet the number of people involved has been increased by 30. Under the subheading "Issues and Trends" Program Statements volume 2 states -

There is an increasing realisation in the community that the economic future of Australia will depend upon export development/import replacement and the impact this has on balance of payments.

State Government financial grants can stimulate much greater private investment in selected initiatives of benefit to the community.

I cannot see what an extra 30 people in that program will do when their actual funding allocation has been reduced by \$4.5 million. I cannot understand why that has occurred.

Mr Pearce: That is why we are having Estimates Committees - so that these matters can be explained to you.

Mr OMODEI: I look forward to that explanation. I know the problems of Queensland fruit fly eradication and apple scab were addressed in the Budget last year. If there is no increase in the Budget to coincide with the increase in the number of people I wonder what those people will be doing. It concerns me that at a time of rural crisis in Western Australia and when this Government knew well, after warnings from both the Liberal Party and the National Party that there would be a rural crisis, we now see a cutback in the agricultural base. It defies logic. To suggest that the RAFCOR budget under the Minister for Finance and Economic Development should be cut does not make sense, particularly when there will be demands for further funds. That area in particular is a great disappointment to me because the criteria for eligibility for RAFCOR funds should be reconsidered.

The Government should reassess that program to ensure that farmers are eligible for these funds. It is well known in the bush that a farmer has to be on the bones of his backside or have a good accountant or lawyer before he is considered eligible for RAFCOR funds. Nothing runs true in this section; the same set of circumstances is treated differently. In my area a person who had a nursery affected by apple scab lost \$500 000 worth of apple trees because of two lousy apple scab spots in his nursery. The assistance program offered to him a reduction of in his bank rate, which brought it down to 15 per cent. That caused him great financial hardship. At the same time others are receiving funds at a 10 per cent subsidy, or a 50 per cent subsidy, yet in this case he receives only a minor reduction.

In the short time I have left I want to cover the area of the south west, which is the other area in my shadow portfolio. I bring to the attention of the House some points of interest about the South West Development Authority. The staff manning the offices at Manjimup and Collie have been reduced. I would like to think that the service provided will be maintained because the shires in that area are very happy with what is happening in those regional offices. At the moment those offices are operating in Manjimup and Collie for only three days a week. The secretariat staff have been removed, which makes the job very difficult. They have to travel all the way to Bunbury and service their districts from Bunbury. Mike Sanford, from Manjimup, has been providing an excellent service, particularly to the pensioner organisations and people who are looking for some kind of housing accommodation. The staff of those offices have dealt very well with family type issues where people need family centres, or to make applications for social and community type projects.

The Minister for South-West made great capital of building up the economic development brief of the South West Development Authority and trimming the social strategy. This received big headlines in the *South Western Times* and right across the board. The Press release talked about schools, prisons and the harbour in the Budget program, and about major boosts in construction. It will be interesting to find out during the Committee stage exactly what the rationale was. We will find that the economic, social and development program has been increased so that the social program has gone up from \$689 000 to \$701 000. That is in complete contrast to the Minister's Press release. The economic and resource development program has been reduced from \$510 000 to \$488 000.

In the south west we had huge headlines, and this was just after the mayor of Bunbury, Dr Ernie Manea, called a summit meeting from which the Minister was excluded. A week after that the Minister came out with his statement saying that the social strategy would be trimmed and the economic development increased in the south west across the board. This was all to cover the things which the community were demanding. When we look at the program in the Budget papers, quite the opposite has occurred. The Minister's office has supported studies on the mineral sands industry.

As part of the planned achievements for 1990-91, the question of the coal fired power station at Collie will receive unqualified support from the South West Development Authority. That is a step in the right direction. I commend the Minister for South-West for supporting the Collie proposal. There is no doubt in my mind that the next power station for Western Australia should be established at Collie. The infrastructure is there, the people are dedicated to their task, and they are entitled to that support.

On a recent trip to that area we met with a lobby group which has been set up in Collie. To its credit, it gave the Parliamentary Liberal and National Parties a briefing. It was presented in a very professional manner. I understand the group has been trying to get the Government to give it the same briefing. With the support the Government has had from the miners in the past I would have thought the Government would have taken a little more notice. The miners are fast waking up to the fact that the Government in Western Australia is anti development and it does not really care about their jobs.

MRS EDWARDES (Kingsley) [3.54 pm]: I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak in this debate, in particular because it gives members an opportunity to review not only what is happening in our electorates and in Western Australia and where this Government is taking us, but it gives us an opportunity to decide for ourselves what a Budget is. What is a Budget? What does it mean and why do we have it? It is not just the books we are given; it is not just how we earn money and spend it. It is a matter of our future and exactly where we want to take Western Australia into the year 2001.

Going back over the Treasurer's speech and looking at how this Government has approached this Budget, I turn to the first page of the Budget speech. The Treasurer refers to responsibilities, and she refers to priorities, beliefs and goals. Last night I was reading a book on propaganda. Propaganda has several different meanings and definitions. It may refer to words, to the selling of marketable products, to political propaganda, or nothing more than words inside a glossy cover. I suggest that in trying to identify the responsibilities, the priorities, the beliefs and the goals set out on page 1 of the Budget, they are nothing more than just words set inside a glossy cover.

One of the matters I raise was brought up by the Minister for Justice through a Dorothy Dix question earlier today. That question referred to Quill Wills Ltd. This is a franchise service which is presently trying to become established in Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

Mrs EDWARDES: No, I am not backing the legal fraternity. While the Law Society and the legal fraternity are concerned about Quill Wills Ltd, they are not concerned with Quill Wills Ltd because it poses a threat to the profession. The profession earns no money out of wills. If one solicitor set up to do wills and took them away from other solicitors, it would pose no problems to solicitors. We earn no money from wills. The majority of solicitors undercharge for what it costs to prepare a will. If members do not believe me, I can tell them that the average price ranges from \$50 to \$100 for a will. That will includes all the powers and responsibilities which the trustee would have. It can also include gifts the person wishes to give, for instance, to aunt Mabel, the amount of money and a whole range of variations. Quill Wills Ltd poses no threat to the profession, but it does pose a very dangerous situation to the public. As all solicitors know, we can have a standard precedent on our word processors. We can have various standards of precedents. However, every single will that I have done has been totally different. The reason every single will has been totally different is because the advice I have been able to give in answer to the testator's questions about what he wants to do with the estate has been different; the property he wants distributed on his death. Various concerns can be raised.

With Quill Wills Ltd, the person who wishes to make the will can choose from 150 different phrases. That is great if the person knows what he wants to do, but in most cases the person does not know that. He has an idea what he would like and the effect he would like to achieve, but he cannot advise himself from the phrase precedents on the word processor about the effect of capital gains tax on his choice. Who will advise him on that? Not the franchisee, because he would be breaking the law if he gave any legal advice. Nobody in this State other than a legal practitioner, under the Legal Practitioners Act, is permitted to give legal advice. I am sure every member of this House would fully understand the reasons why. It is because of the effect of unqualified advice from people who are not in the profession.

As the Minister said, quite rightly, what will happen with these wills is that the problems drafted into those wills by the persons advising themselves as a result of picking a clause here and a clause there will have to be corrected on their deaths. No testator that I have come across wants his family or his beneficiaries, remaining spouse or children, to have any problems on his death as a result of having the will interpreted and the estate distributed.

The underlying concern of every single person who makes a will is to make it as easy as possible on every beneficiary.

It is extremely important when discussing a franchise service such as Quill Wills Ltd offer to consider some of the difficulties such a business will face. I have mentioned the need to advise a client regarding capital gains tax. I issued a Press release this week on the matter and several weeks ago I wrote to the Federal Treasurer and the Federal shadow Treasurer, as well as the Premier, the Law Society and the Law Council of Australia. I took that action because I am concerned about the effect that capital gains tax provisions have on life estates.

It is difficult to isolate each possible situation that may arise. One example would be when a testator dies having requested his children receive his home. The home is in the testator's name; the testator leaves the home to his wife for her lifetime, until she remarries, or until such time as she no longer requires to reside in the home. Perhaps for health reasons the wife wishes to enter a hostel. In that case, the beneficiaries - the children of the testator - technically are the owners of the property at the date of death. However, they are not in possession of the home because life estate has been granted. I am aware of cases in the Eastern States where such property has become subjected to capital gains tax because the owner is in possession technically. These are the sorts of considerations which the franchisee is totally unqualified to deal with. The franchisee cannot interpret the Income Tax Assessment Act. Were members to refer to section 166 of that Act they would understand exactly the difficulties in attempting to advise anyone about the potential effect of capital gains tax on life estates.

Mr Shave: So capital gains tax is paid when the property is transferred to the children, or does that occur when the children dispose of the property?

Mrs EDWARDES: When the children dispose of it. Many people find themselves in that situation. The Minister for Justice and I were conferring earlier about wills which we have drafted for clients upon clients' instructions prior to the capital gains tax legislation coming into force. In those cases life estates were created. In many instances, long before my time in drafting wills, when death duties existed, many people were advised to create life estates to avoid death duty. They did that; now they face capital gains tax. This is an anomaly. It was not intentional. It is a matter that was adverted to during the second reading debate. It is an anomaly which I am attempting to remove. That is the reason for my concern earlier this week, and the reason for my letters.

This matter highlights the difficulties that organisations such as Quill Wills Ltd will face in trying to advise clients on the potential liability for capital gains tax on the administration of estates. Such businesses also need to advise about the distinction between the ownership of property as joint tenants and as tenants in common. Some people possess homes as tenants in common and others as joint tenants. Probably many members in this place own homes as joint tenants; however where homes are held as tenants in common that property becomes part of the estate and needs to be distributed. When property is held by people as joint tenants that property automatically goes to the surviving spouse.

In another case, perhaps a person requires advice because that person does not wish his or her son to receive any part of his or her estate. Every solicitor is aware of the Inheritance (Family and Dependents Provision) Act. Under that Act solicitors are required to advise clients of the chances of success of an action by such a son in relation to his rights to the estate. How can a franchisee give such advice? He cannot. How can a client of Quill Wills Ltd pick up such advice from the clauses on the word processor? That will not be possible. A testator may be adamant that a son or daughter should not receive any part of an estate, and may attempt to delete them from the will. However, such people have not been advised professionally on the impact that will have on the estate at the end of the day. Testators do not wish their families to suffer; if action is taken under the inheritance legislation that will delay distribution of an estate.

What about the client who has placed most of his property in a discretionary trust? Who is to advise that person of the difficulties and responsibilities when attempting to distribute property under such trusts? Who is to advise such clients about problems with superannuation entitlements? Who will peruse the documents and advise clients about the best method to incorporate superannuation entitlements into a will? Who will advise on the Trustees Act, the Wills Act, and the Administration Act? No-one will give such advice.

Quill Wills Ltd will offer to the client the opportunity to write a will from clauses on a word processor, and to pay for that service. The client could do that by going to the local newsagent and paying for a blank will form. The client need only follow the suggestions on the back of the blank will form.

I endorse wholeheartedly the remarks of the Minister -

Mr Carr: You are supporting the legal profession.

Mrs EDWARDES: Anyone buying a franchise and spending \$50 000 would be better off acquiring a law degree, a full set of Halsbury's *Laws of England* and a will precedent. The service offered by Quill Wills Ltd is not unlike the service offered by settlement agencies.

I heard the comment from the other side regarding support for the legal profession. If the Minister believes that, after all I have said, he should go to Quill Wills Ltd and get a will.

Mr Carr: This is support for the legal profession.

Mrs EDWARDES: It is not. Were the Minister to consult Quill Wills Ltd he would be creating a problem for his children and his spouse. If the Minister does not believe that, he has not heard a word I have said. No-one at Quill Wills Ltd can advise regarding all the problems a person will face. Those clients must advise themselves when they attempt to have a will made by such organisations.

Every solicitor that I know draws up wills free of charge and reduces charges for pensioners. Every solicitor I know makes sure that the cost of writing a will is kept to a minimum. I have received few complaints about the cost of wills. In one instance when a person did complain about the cost of a will - I thank my lucky stars I did not have to draft it - it was 23 pages long. The \$200 bill for that service was justified because it provided for such things as the clown with the broken arm going to Aunt Myrtle, and other specific details. The service professional legal practitioners offer to the public far exceeds the fee they charge, which is usually between \$50 and \$100. In the long run it is better for the family if a person has sought expert legal advice rather than choosing a precedent or a set clause in a word processor when making a will. If that is not done many problems will be left behind for the family.

The establishment of Quill Wills Ltd will create for solicitors new avenues in which to make money because they will have to interpret the problems that arise when distributing the estate of the deceased person. That in turn will only create enormous distress for the family at a time when it is not needed. If the Government knew the problems associated with trying to distribute estates or solve problems of probate at the present time it would not do this. Those families are upset already and often do not wish to deal with the distribution of a will or the problems associated with it. For example, what will happen to young Johnny who was excluded from the will for no apparent reason? There is not a note in the will saying that he received \$50 000 during the life of the testator, which is the reason he will not receive more money. That is only one example of the difficulties that may be faced. It is one of the reasons the public, and not the profession, will be threatened by the service to be offered by Quill Wills Ltd. The public need to be protected.

Mrs Beggs: Your constituents are very lucky because you do their wills for nothing.

Mrs EDWARDES: Sometimes I do them for lemons. I love lemon butter.

Mrs Beggs: That's bribery, you should be careful.

Mrs EDWARDES: When I was a solicitor in Wangara I often received lemon butter or jam as payment for doing a will.

Mr Shave: Do you do free wills for people outside your electorate?

Mrs EDWARDES: Does the member want one?

Mr Shave: My solicitor charged me a whole lot more than \$100.

Mrs EDWARDES: We need to remember that goals, responsibilities, beliefs and priorities need to be taken into account in a budget. The Wanneroo Hospital has been at war trying to retain its two speech therapists. It has had the services of one permanent and one temporary speech therapist for the past 12 months. The northern suburbs is a huge and growing area. It is undisputed that the area needs a speech therapist. The Minister for Health is aware of the

concerns that have been expressed by the constituents of Wanneroo. They have been calling for the temporary speech therapist to be made a permanent employee of the hospital. The people need to know that they have access to the services of the speech therapist for more than one or two months. It is important that those children who see that speech therapist know there will be consistency in their treatment. Those patients need to know after their appointment on a Friday whether that speech therapist will be there again on Monday. It is imperative that that person be made a permanent employee.

Wanneroo is currently experiencing a baby boom and the hospital must cope with that. I have already mentioned that the Wanneroo area has one of the fastest growing populations in the metropolitan area. However, children and adult patients still share wards at the Wanneroo Hospital. The people of the area have been crying out for a children's ward for the past six or seven years. The need is still there and it is becoming greater as the suburbs grow. The Government should give this matter serious consideration because it is important for the children's sake and also for those adults to have separate wards in the hospital. Anybody who has visited Wanneroo Hospital would see the need for this.

I now refer to the minor works allocation for the Joondalup and Balga schools in the Budget. The Joondalup district office has been allocated \$131 300 in this Budget; it spent \$233 700 last year. That is a real reduction. Balga has been allocated \$102 700 this year; it spent \$205 182 last year. When principals go to the office asking for minor works to be carried out at their schools they are told that the minor works allocation does not allow them to claim anything. That is fine; the Government can continue cutting back on minor works funding because it will result in problems in the long term. The Government should keep doing it. It should keep cutting back. The paint on the walls will keep peeling, the carpets will curl up and safety problems will increase. The frustration by people at the P & C associations will become greater, until they have had enough.

I refer to a letter I received from a lady regarding her child, who wishes to attend Springfield Primary school. This matter has been referred to the Minister. One of the reasons her son cannot attend Springfield Primary school next year is a lack of money provided in the minor works allocation. Her son suffers from spina bifida and requires a special toilet to be installed and the services of an aide. The Joondalup district office has explained that cannot be provided because there is no money for it. This child will not be able to attend that school, which is at end of his street, next year. His family has been told on numerous occasions that quality education is available for children with handicaps. That boy's brothers and sisters attend the Springfield Primary school and he has been told that he will be attending that school. His teacher has attended a seminar on spina bifida, but now it is not known whether he will be able to attend because of a lack of money in the Budget for minor works programs. I call on the Minister's compassion and ask that he not allow this to happen. The boy's mother does not know how she will be able to tell her child that he cannot attend that school with his brothers and sisters next year.

Mrs Beggs: I, too, have written to the Minister about that.

Mrs EDWARDES: I am pleased about that. Perhaps our efforts will make the Minister look with compassion at this case.

Dr Gallop: Why don't you mention the millions of dollars that we are spending in other areas? This negative stuff is pathetic.

Mrs EDWARDES: It is not negative. The Treasurer's Budget speech mentioned responsibilities, priorities, beliefs and goals. The Minister should not make them out to be more or less than they are. The words are simply enclosed inside a glossy cover.

Last week I spoke in a grievance debate about specific learning disabilities. I do not propose to go back over that, other than to say that those volunteer organisations provide a very worthy service that this Government could not afford to provide. Those volunteers deserve a lot of thanks. The Government could assist those organisations and thank them by simply providing them with a few dollars. The organisation in the Joondalup area has prepared a pamphlet entitled "Is Your Child Having Difficulties at School?". It refers parents of children who may be having difficulties at school to a range of places which will help their children with hearing, vision, speech, coordination or behavioural problems. This is the type of thing that the Government should be doing. It could help these organisations and support

them in their initiatives. These organisations serve very worthwhile functions in the community.

Mr Ripper: They should make a submission to the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee.

Mrs EDWARDES: They have done that, but they have not as yet received a response.

Mr Ripper: We are considering the submissions.

Mrs EDWARDES: I refer to the Youth Services Program. I have received a couple of letters as a result of the considerable concern about the closure of youth drop-in centres because of funding cutbacks. They are very important as they help children to meet and mix with their peers other than at shopping centres and parks and also provide them with the opportunity to talk to a counsellor. I have received touching letters from children who attend the Greenwood YMCA and the Check-In centre at the Warwick Church of Christ. These centres offer worthwhile services and these children do not want to see them closed. The Government can support these types of organisations very cheaply without going to the expense of providing the services itself.

Mr D.L. Smith: An unfortunate rumour campaign preceded the Budget which indicated cutbacks in youth services and drop-in centres; that is not the case at all.

Mrs EDWARDES: Unfortunately with the new Budget format I cannot identify that that is not the case. We are waiting for the estimates so that we can identify these problems.

Mrs Beggs: You have only to telephone and ask the Minister; you don't have to perpetuate rumours.

Mrs EDWARDES: I do not perpetuate rumours. I write to the Minister for an answer, although it sometimes takes a little longer to get the answers.

I refer to the proposed heavy industry sites planned for the northern suburbs. The Government has a proposal on the options for future heavy industry in Western Australia. Two of the sites which are being investigated are Breton Bay and Wilbinga. Several weeks ago I attended a public meeting, as did the member for Wanneroo, and the residents of Breton Bay and Wilbinga do not want a heavy industry site in their area.

Mr Pearce: Where do you think it should go?

Mrs EDWARDES: Far be it from me to pre-empt the speech of the member for Avon, but the Minister should talk to him as he would welcome a heavy industry site in his area. That is only one site; Kalgoorlie and Geraldton are others. Put it where people want it; do not introduce one industry at the expense of another. That is what will happen to the fishing industry in Breton Bay and Wilbinga.

Mr Pearce: I do not necessarily disagree with you, as the Government has made no decision. However, it is incumbent on those people who oppose particular propositions to put forward proposals of their own.

Mrs EDWARDES: I have done that in my correspondence and in the Press releases I have issued. The message from people in the northern suburbs - as the member for Wanneroo can tell the Minister - is, "Keep your hands off Breton Bay and Wilbinga."

Transport has a vital role in the community. It provides for the community's wellbeing, especially for women, senior citizens, youth and other special groups such as people on low incomes and single parent families. It is important that the transport system service their needs. Wanneroo residents have been calling for an east-west link, a circular route, call it what you will, for a long time. It has not arrived as yet.

Mrs Beggs: A trial service was introduced from Wanneroo to Mulla; it had an average of two passengers every two days. The service was well advertised and pamphleted but it was not utilised. The member for Kingsley knows that an east-west link will come in conjunction with the northern suburbs transit system. That is the whole intention of an integrated bus and rail system. If we introduce an east-west link now, buses will be travelling with no passengers.

Mrs EDWARDES: We keep hearing the same thing. I refer the Minister for Transport to a

letter which I received from her yesterday. I wrote on behalf of a student who lives in Two Rocks. He wants a better bus service, and he is not the only one. It is as simple as that. The Minister for Transport said -

Transperth's resources are presently fully occupied in meeting existing timetable commitments.

Further on she said -

Transperth must set priorities and I understand that their first priority is to attempt to supply services to new residential suburbs which are without any form of public transport at all. I am sure you will agree with that principle.

I do not have to agree with that principle, because the people in those suburbs which have existed for longer than these new suburbs, would also like to have buses that service them.

Mrs Beggs: That is true, but you have to prioritise things.

Mrs EDWARDES: The Treasurer has stated that her priority is to serve the people of Western Australia, to listen to and work with them. Servicing new suburbs is a good priority, but the older suburbs also want some sort of service. I can talk about the Mitchell Freeway in the same vein, and the member for Scarborough raised it in his speech yesterday. The Minister for Transport said several months ago that the Mitchell Freeway gets clogged only from time to time. That is nonsense because it gets clogged every single day, twice a day, and those commuters know it.

Mrs Beggs: I come in at peak hour, the member does not.

Mrs EDWARDES: *Hansard* will have great difficulty in recording this, but I am showing a photograph from a newspaper of the freeway and it is clogged. It is the largest parking lot in the area.

Mrs Beggs: What is the average travelling time on the freeway at peak hour from Hillarys to Perth?

Mrs EDWARDES: It took me 40 minutes this morning, and just under 40 minutes yesterday.

Mrs Beggs: What time did you leave home?

Mrs EDWARDES: I was here yesterday by 9.00 am and today I was here by 9.40 am.

Mrs Beggs: If it took you 40 minutes and you left at 9.00 am, you must have been travelling at 25 kilometres an hour.

Mrs EDWARDES: Hold-ups occur if a car has broken down, and in one instance they were painting the underside of an overpass and people slowed down.

I refer also to the recreational facilities in Wanneroo. In the motion dealing with the Joondalup Development Corporation I talked about recreational facilities in the Joondalup Centre. I will not raise that matter again because a motion is on the Notice Paper which will allow me to speak on that subject on another occasion.

Mrs Watkins: What about the \$2 million?

Mrs EDWARDES: I am glad the member for Wanneroo referred to the \$2 million. Of that amount \$1 million will be provided by the Treasurer on 9 November. When will the other \$1 million be provided?

Mrs Watkins: Ask the Treasurer. What about the \$175 000 towards a swimming pool and the other money towards the Greenwood-Warwick open space?

Mrs EDWARDES: An amount of \$2 million has been promised and \$1 million will be paid on 9 November. There is a great need for a major athletics track in Joondalup and the northern suburbs, perhaps at Craigie or whatever location is considered best.

Mr Gordon Hill: You know that the Department of Planning and Urban Development, together with sports consultants, is looking at some sport and recreation facilities of that nature at Joondalup.

Mrs EDWARDES: Yes, I do. I spoke with people from the hockey associations last Saturday and they are looking forward to that. I put on record the fact that people want to make sure that the two facilities are put in place.

Another issue of concern to people in the northern suburbs relates to safety crossings. From

time to time in my electorate it has been necessary for me to fight very hard, together with P & C associations, not only to obtain approval for safety crossings, but also to obtain the necessary funds for those crossings. One of my constituents, who is also a school crossing warden, made a very good suggestion.

Mr Pearce: The Government would have to put the financial institutions duty up to \$100 in \$100 just to pay for all the things you want in your electorate.

Mrs EDWARDES: The member for Whitford said yesterday that I was parochial. I confirm that I am extremely parochial on behalf of the people I represent. They come first as far as I am concerned and if they want me to raise their concerns in this House and indicate what they want done by this Government, it is incumbent on me to do so. The school crossing warden to whom I referred earlier mentioned the need for child safety zones. I read a petition on that subject to the House several weeks ago, which petition raised the issue of reducing the speed limit in school areas. I encourage the Government to seriously consider that suggestion, which is a very worthwhile initiative from my constituent.

The subject of Yanchep National Park is raised from time to time. It was brought to my attention during the last State election campaign that this park is in need of upgrading. It is a great tourist attraction and one of the few left, with the demise of the Atlantis Marine Park, which can be used as a day tour by tourist operators. The promises the Government made during the election campaign with regard to work on Yanchep National Park have not been fulfilled. It is of the utmost importance that some work be done on restoring the park. It is one of the few attractions left in the northern suburbs and a strong Government commitment is needed to a regular maintenance program.

I now refer to the Yellagonga Regional Park, which falls in my area and is close to Lake Goollelal. An election promise was made that it would be developed and marketed as the "Kings Park of the north". The name "Yellagonga" was given to that regional park after a competition in the community. At present the Department of Planning and Urban Development or the State Planning Commission is assessing all the submissions that have been made about what people want in that area. It will not be an easy task to go through those submissions and the diverse views of how the project should be undertaken. The development of that regional park is not proceeding at the pace which was originally promised by the Government. The amount allocated in this year's Budget for the study undertaken is only \$32 000. Last year \$5 771 was spent on the planning study.

Mrs Watkins: The study is almost completed and will be handed down next month.

Mrs EDWARDES: That is excellent, but only \$32 000 is allocated in the Budget.

Mrs Watkins: It was a very good committee with a very good chairperson.

Mrs EDWARDES: That is excellent, but we want to know what the next step is. The people who attended the meeting want to know how the Government proposes to proceed.

Mrs Watkins: We did not receive a submission from you.

Mrs EDWARDES: No, but I collated all the submissions from the northern suburbs.

I refer now to the Beenyp waste water treatment plant. I constantly receive calls from people living in Woodvale about the smells from that plant. It was originally thought that the smell was coming from the incinerator but that was closed in May, and people are still complaining about the smells from the waste water treatment plant. I have taken up this matter with the Minister for Water Resources because it is causing a major problem in that area, and that will extend to any future developments. I refer also to the Beenyp waste water proposed to go into the Marmion Marine Park.

Mr Pearce: It already does.

Mrs EDWARDES: It is proposed to increase the amount of waste water into that area.

Mr Pearce: That is because more people up your way are creating more waste.

Mrs EDWARDES: That is why consideration is being given to the Mindarie tip - more people are creating more waste. The environmental protection activity relating to the Mindarie tip and the outlet into the marine park is absolute.

Mrs Watkins: Do you support the concept of having a landfill site there? It was a great pity

that you did not come to the protest rally the other day. We would have welcomed your input.

Mrs EDWARDES: No, not at all. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the meeting because of a prior engagement. However, I have consistently said that Lake Goollelal is part of the ground water system in that area, and if the waste goes below the aquifers, there is likely to be a major problem. That is a real concern for the constituents in my electorate who live close to Lake Goollelal.

I congratulate the Government on the provision of two family centres in the northern suburbs, one at Kingsley and the other at Woodvale. I also congratulate the Government for providing the North Woodvale Primary School, which will be officially opened on Friday, and the Dalmain Primary School, which will officially open in November.

The people in the northern suburbs need many more facilities and it is incumbent on me to raise these matters in this place.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Clarko.

House adjourned at 4.40 pm

APPENDIX A

NET FINANCIAL INSTITUTION'S DUTY COLLECTIONS 1983/4-1990/91

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u> <u>\$M</u>	<u>INCREASE</u> <u>\$M</u>	<u>INCREASE</u> <u>%</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u> <u>PER</u> <u>CAPITA</u> <u>\$</u>	<u>INCREASE</u> <u>PER</u> <u>CAPITA</u> <u>\$</u>	<u>INCREASE</u> <u>PER</u> <u>CAPITA</u> <u>%</u>
1983/4	16.5	-	-	12	-	-
1984/5	34.9	18.4	112	25	13	108
1985/6	27.0	-7.9	-23	19	-6	-24
1986/7	26.4	-0.6	- 2	18	-1	- 5
1987/88	31.9	5.5	21	21	3	17
1988/9	36.7	4.8	15	24	3	14
1989/90	51.8	15.1	41	32	8	33
1990/1 (EST)	88.0	36.2	70	53(1)	21	66

SOURCE: Budget Papers.

(1) WA population

Projection for 1990/91:

Series C	1,675,400 June 91
	<u>1,631,200 June 90</u>
Average 1990/91	<u>1,653,300</u>

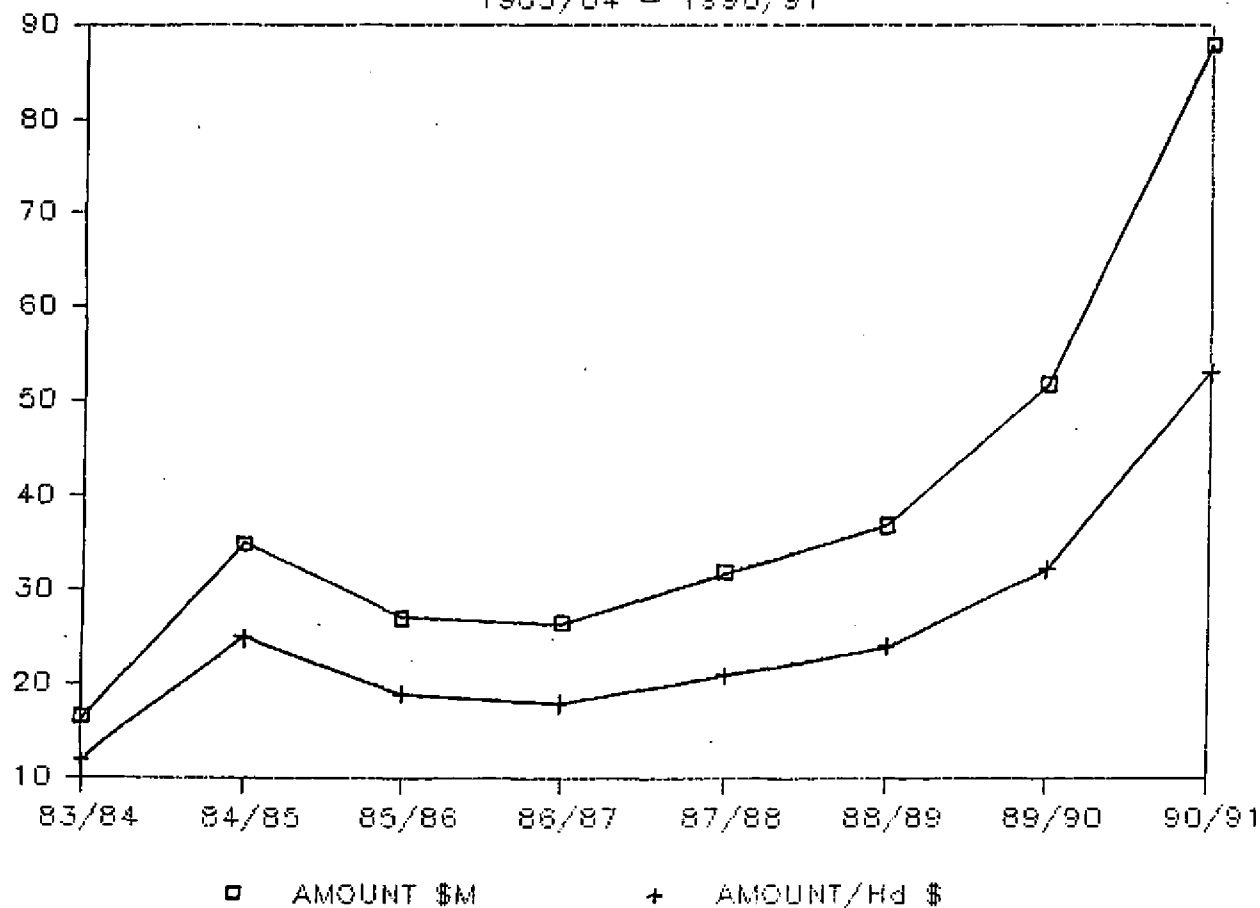
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Increase 1988/89 to 1990/91

Net collections	=	\$51.3M	(140%)
Collections per capita	=	\$29	(121%)

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DUTY COLLECTIONS

1983/84 - 1990/91



Source: BUDGET PAPERS.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TAFE - TUITION HOURS
Reduction Plans

1371. Mr SHAVE to the Minister assisting the Minister for Education with TAFE:

- (1) Is the Minister planning to reduce the teaching hours worked by Technical and Further Education lecturers?
- (2) If so, is the Minister aware that students will take longer to complete courses and as a result many will remain out of the work force and recipients of welfare for longer periods?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

ASBESTOS - SOUTH FREMANTLE POWERHOUSE
Emu Brewery Site

1531. Mr KIERATH to the Minister for Productivity and Labour Relations:

In regard to the removal of asbestos from buildings, particularly -

- (a) the old South Fremantle Power House -
 - (i) are monitored asbestos fibre readings above acceptable levels when the wind blows from directions between north and west;
 - (ii) if so, does this put residents affected by those wind patterns at risk;
- (b) the South Fremantle Power House and the disused Emu Brewery site in Spring Street -
 - (i) is demolition of those sites being delayed because of delays in removing asbestos from the sites;
 - (ii) has the Government allocated, or does it intend allocating, funds to remove asbestos from those sites;
 - (iii) if so, when will the asbestos be removed?

Mr TROY replied:

- (a) The role of the Department of Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare in relation to removal of asbestos in the work place is to facilitate adherence to the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act and the relevant regulations.

The Department of Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare has advised me that SECWA carries out periodic monitoring for airborne asbestos fibres within the South Fremantle powerhouse. All results have shown less than 0.01 fibres per millilitre which is less than one tenth of the allowable exposure level stated in regulations under the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act.

- (b) In accordance with Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Regulations asbestos must be removed from buildings before any demolition work can commence.

The other matters referred to in this question do not fall within my brief as the Minister responsible for the Department of Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare.

These matters would be more appropriately dealt with by the owners of these buildings.

HOSPITALS - BUNBURY REGIONAL HOSPITAL
Upgrading Funds

1540. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Have funds been allocated to carry out upgrading or repairs and renovations to the Bunbury Regional Hospital?
- (2) If yes, how much and what work or works can be expected this financial year?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)

\$800 000	for ongoing planning.
\$177 600	for repairs and maintenance.
\$ 22 000	for new pan sanitisers.
\$ 40 000	for a kitchen upgrade.
\$ 32 000	to relocate the carpenter's workshop.
\$ 80 000	for completion to the upgrading of air-conditioning in Forrest Lodge.

ASSET MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE - LAND SALE
Albany Town and Shire Area

1558. Mr WATT to the Minister for Finance and Economic Development:

- (1) How many blocks of land have been identified in the Albany Town and Shire area by the Asset Management Taskforce as being surplus to Government requirements and suitable for sale?
- (2) What is the location and size of each block?
- (3) When and how is it intended that they will be sold?
- (4) What is the budgeted estimate of revenue in this financial year from the sale of assets identified by the Asset Management Taskforce?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

(1)-(3)

I refer the member to question 37.

There are currently no surplus State properties in Albany currently on the market under the AMT program.

- (4) As indicated in the State Budget paper:
Consolidated Revenue Fund Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure: The AMT is estimated to raise \$57 million from the sale of surplus property assets in 1990-91.

TAFE - COURSES
Technical Education Certificate Phase-out

1579. Mr MENSAROS to the Minister assisting the Minister for Education with TAFE:

- (1) Is it the Government's policy to phase out technical education certificates for various TAFE courses?
- (2) If so, which are the courses affected?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

**GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES SUPERANNUATION SCHEME - FULLY FUNDED
SCHEME EXAMINATION**

1665. Mr COWAN to the Minister for Finance and Economic Development:

Is the Government examining the possibility of a fully funded Government Employees Superannuation Scheme?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

No.

FERAL CATS - VERMIN LIST CONSIDERATION
Foxes - Bounty Reintroduction

1675. Mr HOUSE to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Will the Government consider the placing of feral cats on the vermin list?
- (2) Will the Government consider reintroducing a bounty on foxes?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) No. There is no realistic method of control and therefore no point in considering feral cats as declared animals or vermin.
- (2) No. Bounties are not an effective method of ensuring control. Poisoning and other techniques are highly effective where there is a need for control.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT - PUBLIC SECTOR CLAIMS

1699. Mr COWAN to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) How many claims of sexual harassment have been substantiated within the public sector in each of the last three years?
- (2) In how many of these cases was the offender -
 - (a) disciplined;
 - (b) dismissed?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1) The Equal Opportunity Commission has conciliated a total of 12 complaints of sexual harassment within the public sector in the last three years.
- (2) (a) This information is not apparent from the files. It is believed that the alleged harasser was disciplined in two cases.
(b) This information is not apparent from the files. It is believed that in one instance the alleged harasser's contract was terminated prior to the due date.

Complaints conciliated by the commission do not usually involve disciplinary action or dismissing of the alleged harasser. The employer may choose to take such action in substantiated cases.

AIDS COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC) - STATUTORY BODY
Funding Source

1708. Mr MINSON to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome Council of Western Australia a statutory body or is it a branch of the Health Department?
- (2) What are the sources of funding for the AIDS Council?
- (3) To whom is the AIDS Council answerable?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) The WA AIDS Council is an independently incorporated body.
- (2) The WA AIDS Council receives most of its funds from the cost shared Commonwealth-State AIDS Prevention Program. It also receives substantial amounts from its own fundraising program.
- (3) The WA AIDS Council has its own board of management. The WA AIDS Council provides annual reports to the Health Department of Western Australia on activities relating to Commonwealth-State funding.

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL - LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS
"Clause Notes" Distribution

1711. Mr MENSAROS to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

Following the practice in the Legislative Council, will the Minister be able to distribute among members of the Legislative Assembly "clause notes" to the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, as introduced in the Legislative Assembly?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

Yes. Copies will be available from the Bills Office.

SPORT AND RECREATION - FACILITIES
Budget Allocation

1715. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) How much money in the last two financial years of 1988-89 and 1989-90 was allocated for sport and recreation facilities proposed by local governments and sporting bodies throughout Western Australia?
- (2) Where was this money allocated?
- (3) How much money is allocated for 1990-91?
- (4) Will this financial year's amount be allocated to various applicants throughout Western Australia?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

- (1) I presume the member is referring to the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund. The Budget provision for that fund was \$3.309 million in 1988-89 and \$1.939 million in 1989-90.
- (2) The list of organisations which received grants is quite extensive. If the member requires this information I can arrange for a written list to be forwarded to him.
- (3) \$2.4 million.
- (4) No. The Budget provision has been allocated to fund previously approved projects and commitments.

SWIMMING - WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS
Facility Expenditure - Pools

1716. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) How much money is expected to be spent on providing facilities for the World Swimming Championships to be held in Perth next year?
- (2) How many pools will be used for the event?
- (3) What is planned for the use of these pools after the championships?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

- (1) The total capital works provision for the World Swimming Championships is \$8.794 million.
- (2) Six, comprising two existing pools and three new pools at the Superdrome plus the existing Bicton pool.
- (3) At the Superdrome four of the five pools will remain in use after the event. They will be used by both elite swimmers and the public.
 The fifth pool is a temporary one and it is expected it will be removed and sold after the championships.

MICRO-ECONOMIC REFORMS - AGRICULTURE INQUIRY

1719. Mr HOUSE to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has the Minister announced an inquiry into the impact of micro-economic reforms on agriculture?

- (2) If so, who will be conducting the inquiry?
- (3) What will the specific terms of reference of the inquiry be?
- (4) Over what period of time will the inquiry be conducted?
- (5) On what date will the report be released?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) No; however, the Department of Agriculture will be undertaking research into the economic impact of particular micro-economic reforms on agriculture.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

NURSERIES (HORTICULTURE) - ADVISORY SERVICES INCREASE PROPOSAL

1720. Mr HOUSE to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is the Minister proposing to increase the advisory services available to the nursery industry in Western Australia?
- (2) How many nurseries does the Department of Agriculture expect to service in 1990-91?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Nursery industry inquiries are answered on demand and through programmed extension. The floriculture industry newsletter is sent to 247 nurseries.

RABBITS - MEAT EXPORT MARKET POTENTIAL *Agriculture Department Examination*

1721. Mr HOUSE to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has the Department of Agriculture completed an examination of the potential for the export of commercially produced Western Australian rabbit meat?
- (2) If so, what markets were identified?
- (3) What steps is the Minister taking in relation to the identification of these markets?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) In conjunction with Austrade, markets were examined in the USA, France, Italy, Germany, Holland, United Kingdom, Japan and the UAE. A report has been made available to the rabbit industry.
- (3) The study indicated that rabbit meat from Western Australia is generally not price competitive in the world market. Markets are being monitored, and rabbit producers will be alerted should circumstances change.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT - NEW AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES *Economic Evaluation*

1722. Mr HOUSE to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What new agricultural products and processes will the Agricultural Department be evaluating in the year 1990-91?
- (2) Can the Minister outline for the House the type of economic evaluation that the department carries out on new agricultural products and processes?
- (3) What action will be taken on the results of these evaluations?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) The Department of Agriculture is involved in evaluating a wide range of new agricultural products and processes. This is an ongoing activity. Examples are emu leather, meat and oil, new fellmongering technology, extraction of

biochemical products from offal, hay production and export, lupin processing, noodle manufacture, the goat and deer industries, the wildflower industry, new export vegetables, new apple varieties and export of agricultural technology.

- (2) The type of economic evaluation depends on the product, the market, and the stage of development of the industry. Typically a desk top study is completed which draws the facts together and gives an indication of economic viability. Austrade and other sources may then be requested to follow up particular matters to fill in gaps and provide initial market contact. A mission is then sent to the market, wherever possible involving Department of Agriculture and private sector experts. Funds are sought from a variety of Commonwealth and State Government sources to carry out these studies.
- (3) Reports are prepared which are made available to interested parties.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT - FARMING INDUSTRY

Market Information Dissemination

1723. Mr HOUSE to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) To what extent will the Department of Agriculture be disseminating market information to the farming industry?
- (2) If so, in what form will this information be given to the industry?
- (3) What agricultural markets will be examined?
- (4) How will the examination of agricultural markets be carried out?
- (5) How often will the department be releasing this market information?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) The Department of Agriculture will continue to place a high priority on the dissemination of market information.
- (2) Market information will be disseminated through the department's AgMemos, Farmnotes, extension services and through the rural media.
- (3) Market information will be provided for all major commodities and for realistic alternatives.
- (4) The assessment of market prospects will be by an analysis of market trends and recent developments, in close consultation with industry, statutory authorities and the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics.
- (5) Market information is provided on an ongoing basis. Commodity outlook papers are being revised to incorporate recent developments and will be released in November. A further major assessment will be provided after the National Agricultural and Resources Outlook Conference in January 1991.

WINE INDUSTRY - SOUTH WEST

Agriculture Department Survey

1725. Mr HOUSE to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) When will the Minister be releasing the Department of Agriculture survey of the wine industry in the south west of Western Australia?
- (2) What local governments are included in this survey?
- (3) Which wineries participated in this survey?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1)-(3) The confidential survey involved all vineyards south of Bunbury. The initial survey results will be released to the 170 respondents by January 1991.

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD - OPERATIONS INQUIRY

1729. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Is there currently an inquiry into the operations or any aspects of the Totalisator Agency Board?
- (2) If so, who is conducting that inquiry?
- (3) When is it likely that the inquiry will be completed?
- (4) When did the inquiry commence?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Separate inquiries are being conducted by the Auditor General and the Public Service Commissioner.

Concurrent with these inquiries advice from the assistant senior Crown Solicitor was referred by me on 15 August 1990 to the Commissioner for Police for inquiry as he considered necessary.

- (3) The inquiries by the Auditor General and Public Service Commissioner are due to be completed before the end of December 1990.
- (4) On 20 July 1990 the Premier publicly announced the start of the inquiries by the Auditor General and the Public Service Commissioner. The inquiries commenced in August 1990.

AUDITOR GENERAL - NEW APPOINTMENT

Leader of the Opposition and National Party Consultations

1747. Mr COWAN to the Premier:

- (1) Will the Premier be consulting the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the National Party before appointing the new Auditor General?
- (2) If yes, when?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

(1)-(2)

The Auditor General is appointed by the Governor on advice from Cabinet. Such advice is not normally a matter for consultation with Opposition members but I am prepared to discuss it with them on this occasion prior to consideration of the Auditor General's discussion paper on this issue.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

BUDGET - OPTIMISTIC FOUR PER CENT ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE

Over Budget Expenditure - Amendments

766. Mr MacKINNON to the Treasurer:

- (1) Does the Treasurer share my concern that -
 - (a) the Budget has been framed on the highly optimistic estimate that economic growth in Western Australia will be four per cent in the current year?
 - (b) the Budget in the first three months of this year is already well over budget in terms of expenditure, and as a consequence significant amendments will need to be made to it as presented?
- (2) When will the Treasurer announce the changes that will be made to the Budget as a consequence of these impacts on the Budget?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

(1)-(2)

Members opposite will be aware that I have on a number of occasions

responded to inquiries on the question of the four per cent growth rate by indicating that given the current economic climate it may prove to be optimistic. However, I remind members that the growth rate of the Western Australian economy last year was over eight per cent. We are projecting roughly half the growth rate which occurred last year. The Western Australian economy is typically growing faster, and has been over the last decade, than any other State. Part of the reason is the growth in population; part is the fact that we have a very vigorous primary sector. Some sections of that sector are suffering great difficulties at the moment; I acknowledge that.

The Budget is not likely to go over budget because strict discipline will be exercised by departments. If there are to be amendments, they will be in the direction of requiring departments to come down within the revenue that the State achieves, not by bringing out a second Budget or a secondary statement. That is what happened last year when revenues were slightly reduced on what was anticipated in the Budget. That is precisely the action we will take if those Budget figures prove to be optimistic.

In the same way as there was some apparent discrepancy in expenditure and projections, those variations are considerable from month to month, and I suggest that the Leader of the Opposition looks at that. Some of the areas where we expected quite a significant downturn in our revenue have, in fact, rather exceeded our expectations. Payroll tax, for instance, was actually slightly higher than we projected. The picture is uneven; it is one which we are monitoring very closely; one about which we are not complacent. Restrictions on Government expenditure will be the mechanism used.

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL - ENTITLEMENTS REVIEW
Former Premiers, Ministers and Members of Parliament - Current and Future Benefits

767. Dr EDWARDS to the Premier:

Will the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal review of entitlements to former Premiers, Ministers and members of Parliament announced today include current benefits as well as future benefits?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

Members will probably be aware, since I believe the tribunal has written to them, that the tribunal is currently undertaking a review of the entitlements of members of Parliament, Ministers, Premiers and Deputy Premiers, upon retirement. The review will include an examination of some of those entitlements which have already been given to some Ministers, former Ministers and Premiers, as well as what should apply in the future.

I took the opportunity today to announce that we have appointed a new Chairman of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, Mr Bruce Collier, who was the Chief Commissioner of the State Industrial Relations Commission until 1987. He served as a commissioner for 14 years, and this is the first time that we have had someone on the tribunal who fully understands the wage fixing system in this State and nationally. He will be in a position to judge what is fair and reasonable. I am not saying that the others have not made judgments, but he has the special expertise to judge, not only in respect of salary allowances of the normal kind, but also the entitlements of politicians when they leave public life. His invaluable experience will help to ensure that politicians from both sides of the House, both former and current, are kept in line with what is a reasonable community expectation and a reasonable reward for the job they do.

Mr Clarko: Is that an addition or a replacement?

Dr LAWRENCE: No, it is an addition. We were one member short. Mr Collier will now become the Chairman. He will replace Mr Beeson, who will remain on the tribunal.

EDUCATION MINISTRY - PROGRAM MAINTENANCE
Delays

768. Mr COWAN to the Minister for Education:

In view of the number of occasions when there seems to have been a delay in the implementation of program maintenance, can the Minister advise the House whether there has been an instruction for maintenance projects to be deliberately delayed, or if that is not the case, can he explain why so much program maintenance is being delayed?

Dr GALLOP replied:

I answered a question on this issue only last week in the Parliament. The Leader of the National Party would be aware of the fact that as a result of our efforts to contain taxes and charges, especially as they pertain to those who are under the hammer at the moment as a result of the downturn in our economy, we have had to make our own economies in Government expenditure. One of those areas has been within the maintenance budget of the Ministry of Education. There will be some delays in certain areas of maintenance.

The Leader of the National Party would have heard the member for Roleystone this morning quoting from a document which has been circulated within the ministry system outlining some of the areas where delays will be felt as a result of our efforts to contain expenditure.

This raises a very interesting point. For the first half of this morning the Opposition told us that this increase in FID was a terrible thing and members opposite outlined the amount of money involved. In the second half of the morning members opposite told us how awful it was that certain areas of expenditure were being cut. Let me say one thing about education which is not being said: Well over \$1 billion is being spent in the education area, and all of that money is being put to good use.

SHARK BAY - WORLD HERITAGE LISTING
Federal Commitment Abandonment

769. Mr READ to the Minister for the Environment:

Did the Commonwealth Government offer to abandon its commitment to nominate Shark Bay for World Heritage listing during its recent negotiations with the State Government?

Mr PEARCE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of that question. I suppose it was sparked by an article in this morning's *The West Australian* quoting the Federal Minister for the Environment, Ros Kelly, in response to a speech at a Press Club lunch yesterday.

The simple answer to the question is no. After what was a lengthy and at times firm set of negotiations on both sides, the Commonwealth never put itself in the position of abandoning the election commitment it had given to nominate Shark Bay for World Heritage listing. The Minister, Ros Kelly, herself made that point in *The West Australian* on Monday, 30 July 1990 where the following words appeared -

World Heritage listing will proceed for Shark Bay, irrespective of the State Government's or locals' wishes.

That is the clear message from Federal Environmental Minister Ros Kelly, who attended meetings in Carnarvon and Denham at the weekend on the controversial long-running issue.

Afterwards Mrs Kelly said: "I do not want to do it in conflict but we have an Australian mandate on the issue. We made an election promise.

"It is not going to die if I walk away from it."

Subsequently in the same story this appears -

But the Federal Government could proceed without WA backing, Mrs Kelly said.

Listing would go ahead because of the area's unique qualities which needed protection.

"It deserves international recognition," she said.

"If you fight it off this year it will happen in the years to come. The conservation pressure for listing is increasing."

In negotiating with the Minister, Ros Kelly, and the Commonwealth, I was very firm with regard to the State's position, and that meant that the negotiations dragged out over a considerable period of time. In the course of those negotiations, when I stood firm on some boundary issues, the negotiations were held off for a particular week, and in the course of that time Mrs Kelly indicated that if the Commonwealth could not reach agreement with the State on the time line for 1 October nomination, the Commonwealth would be prepared to consider -

Mr Lewis: Do you believe Shark Bay should be listed?

Mr PEARCE: I shall come back to that in a moment, if the member wants to ask the question. The matter was held up for a longer period of negotiation. Ros Kelly was back on the phone with me the following day emphasising the Commonwealth's commitment to the listing of Shark Bay for World Heritage listing. Also the indication was that the Commonwealth wished to do it on the basis of a cooperative arrangement and not on the basis of a unilateral arrangement by the Commonwealth. She sought at all times the agreement of the State Government and a cooperative approach with regard to this matter. To that extent the Federal Minister made concessions in negotiations on the management side which far exceeded management concessions negotiated by any other State Government on World Heritage listing for any other area.

In the compromise of negotiations I conceded some ground on the boundary issue to gain a tighter arrangement for management issues. They have been expressed in the agreement tabled in the House yesterday. From the State's point of view, the deal reached regarding World Heritage domination of Shark Bay is a good one. It gives management to local people and to the State; it ensures that the provisions of the Federal legislation cannot be used to overrule the management arrangements which have been set in place. It is not only a good deal for the State but also it is the best deal arranged with the Commonwealth regarding World Heritage listing.

I regard Minister Kelly's comments in the newspaper this morning as a compliment to the firmness of the State Government in negotiations. At the same time, I pay my compliments to Minister Kelly who worked furiously to ensure the matter was resolved to the satisfaction of the Federal Government, the State Government, and many other parties.

Returning to the interjection by the member for Applecross, it is the case that there remains a hard core of people in the Carnarvon area who are opposed to World Heritage listing proceeding. Those people are forming a committee and will ask industry bodies for financial support to fight the matter internationally. We live in a democracy, and people can take that action if they wish. I do not mind people expressing views in this way, nor does the Government. However, we hope that the campaign will be fought by those people with a margin of more honesty than that shown in the past in relation to various claims about the matter. Judging from the calls I have received today, the report in this morning's newspaper has led to another round of dishonesty from people involved in the Shark Bay Protection Society.

The final irony of the Shark Bay business in relation to criticisms made

against the State Government on the matter came when the Western Australian Farmers Federation - which has not been a strong supporter of Government in this matter - was quoted in *The West Australian* a few days ago as not only supporting the agreement I made with the Commonwealth over the Shark Bay issue, but also indicating that that was enough to rebut the claim by the Prime Minister that World Heritage listings in the past had been dominated by confrontation between the Commonwealth and the States. The Farmers Federation, in its release, stated the agreement which I negotiated with the Commonwealth was a good example of how listings could be carried out on a cooperative rather than a confrontationist basis. I agree heartily with the Farmers Federation in that matter.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION - "INFORMATION SUPPORT" EXPENDITURE

770. Mr CLARKO to the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Reform:

In the 1990-91 Budget papers it is stated that an estimated \$574 000 will be spent on "Information Support" by the Electoral Commission. In 1989-90 only \$50 000 was spent on this item, a significant difference of \$524 000. What does "Information Support" specifically mean and why is the estimate so much greater than last year's expenditure?

Dr GALLOP replied:

I thank the member for Marnion for some brief notice of the question. I checked the matter with the Electoral Commissioner, Les Smith. An error has occurred in the Program Statements 1990-91 - not in the overall estimate for the program but in the method used to allocate the funds. Information Support should read \$45 000, and Information Systems \$574 000. Unfortunately the totals interchanged in the printing process.

The Electoral Commissioner informed me he raised the matter when the first draft of the Program Statements came to him. However, unfortunately, in the printing process the correction was not made. When we vote on these matters, we will vote on the total Estimates. This is merely a document supporting the Budget papers generally; it is an unfortunate error that should not have occurred.

HERITAGE BILL - PROGRESS

23 View Terrace, East Fremantle - Demolition Prevention

771. Mr MCGINTY to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Heritage:

Can the Minister report on the progress of the heritage Bill in the Legislative Council and whether it is likely to be passed in sufficient time and form to save the heritage building at View Terrace, East Fremantle, from demolition?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

I have been advised by the Minister for Planning in the other place that this piece of legislation was referred by the Legislative Council last Thursday to the Standing Committee on Legislation. That presents significant problems for the heritage building mentioned in the question.

Apparently the East Fremantle Town Council has received an application to demolish a 90 year old historic two-storey stone residence at 53 View Terrace, East Fremantle. Opulence Pty Ltd is the company applying to demolish the building. In 1988, the East Fremantle Town Council resolved to classify the building as a heritage building. On 5 June 1989 the building, on 5 340 square metres of land, was purchased for \$1 550 000, in full knowledge of the heritage value and classification of the building. If the building is demolished, the vacant land value is estimated at \$3 million. The council does not want the building demolished; it wants to preserve it for heritage reasons. The council cannot afford to pay the sort of compensation which would be necessary if Opposition amendments to the heritage Bill are carried. A windfall gain would be made by Opulence Pty Ltd if the Opposition amendments are carried.

Several members interjected.

Mrs BEGGS: It is important to note that this piece of our heritage, and many others, would be lost -

Mr Clarko: A windfall for some.

Mrs BEGGS: The building was bought with the full knowledge that it was a heritage building.

Mr Pearce: What discussions have been held between the Opposition and Opulence on this matter?

Mrs BEGGS: That is a fair question. We have learnt from the Opposition; we know how to ask questions.

Mr MacKinnon: The Government knows how to give windfall profits. I would call that a hurricane-fall profit.

Mrs BEGGS: What is the Leader of the Opposition talking about?

Several members interjected.

Mrs BEGGS: Apart from the obsession by the Opposition with just one issue, it is important for the Opposition to take note of some other issues concerning people in the community. Until the Opposition does that -

Mr Clarko: It is a windfall for some.

Mrs BEGGS: The member for Marmion should get out into the electorate and talk to people who have telephoned his office without getting a response; those people have then telephoned my office.

Mr Clarko: I don't know what the Minister is talking about. If she gives me the details, I will look at it.

Mrs BEGGS: The building referred to is an important part of our heritage. That building and many others will be lost if the heritage legislation is further delayed - which would be a disgrace - or if the compensation provisions proposed by the Opposition are inserted in the Bill.

ESSENTIAL SERVICE LEGISLATION - INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

Awards Inclusion - Electricity Continuity

772. Mr KIERATH to the Minister for Productivity and Labour Relations:

- (1) Will the Government support moves by the Industrial Commission to have essential service provisions included in awards that would ensure continuity of electricity supplies?
- (2) If yes, will this include making submissions to the hearing next Thursday in the Industrial Commission?
- (3) Has the Trades and Labor Council asked the Government not to support these provisions?

Mr TROY replied:

(1)-(3)

I made the point clearly to the media last night that we see a distinct difference between our view and the Opposition's view of essential service legislation, with its horrifying impact on the total industrial relations system and threatening everyone by its presence on the Statute books. If the Opposition ever does anything in that area it will cop the ramifications.

Mr MacKinnon: Has legislation been passed in either New South Wales or Queensland?

Mr TROY: New South Wales for the past week has had fuel problems. Did that State implement legislation? If not, why not? The Opposition should get the facts. Who is the industrial relations spokesperson on that side of the House? Is it the Leader of the Opposition? Is it the member for Nedlands, or the

member for Riverton? The Opposition should make up its mind. It is in a helluva mess in the industrial relations area.

I will make my answer very clear. We are supporting the continuity of supply in the Industrial Commission next week.

SORRENTO QUAY - HILLARYS BOAT HARBOUR

Lease Sale

773. Mrs WATKINS to the Minister for Transport:

Would the Minister advise the House of the current situation on investigations of the transfer of the lease of the Sorrento Quay at the Hillarys boat harbour?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

I am pleased to advise the House that the lease of Sorrento Quay at Hillarys boat harbour has been sold to Victoria Company. The sale follows lengthy investigations by a number of Government departments, including the Department of Marine and Harbours which administers the harbour complex.

Mr Clarko: Is that the company that owns 50 per cent of the casino?

Mrs BEGGS: That is correct; have you a view about that?

Mr Clarko: I asked you a question.

Mrs BEGGS: I am asking the member one. Sorrento Quay was leased to the Lombardo Group in 1986; however, since the collapse of that company in May last year the complex has been operating in restrictive circumstances. The sale of the lease will now provide a strong impetus for the return of normal trading conditions. A bonus of the agreement is that a substantial sum will be spent in each of the next three years by the new owners on the marketing and promotion of activities at Sorrento Quay. It has also been agreed that a year round ferry service will be established from Hillarys to Rottne Island. We are confident that the Hillarys boat harbour, which combines the Sorrento Quay, Underwater World and other retail outlets, is now in a position to return to be one of the main focal points for tourism in Western Australia.

Mr Clarko: It has an unfortunate history.

Mrs BEGGS: Yes; and for someone who campaigned against its establishment, I note that the member for Marmion placed his election signs outside it at the last election.

Mr Clarko: The point is that it is another one of your flops.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

SCHOOLS - BUNBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Asbestos Cement Roof - Asbestoguard Sealing Offer

774. Mr P.J. SMITH to the Minister for Education:

Is the Minister aware of an offer by a company called Asbesto Guard to seal the asbestos cement roof of the Bunbury Primary School at no charge?

Dr GALLOP replied:

I became aware of that offer yesterday. Mr Deputy Speaker, you would be aware of the interest in our system at this point in our history because over 300 schools in our education system have asbestos roofs. I am pleased to say that as a result of the report that came out earlier this year put together by Dr Bruce Armstrong, the Health Commissioner, and other members of the WA Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances, we now have a framework within which we can consider this matter. That is, we must look at it from the point of view of the structural integrity or the maintenance of those roofs. An allocation of \$1.4 million is made in this Budget.

The Building Management Authority has assessed 170 schools. The BMA is looking at the thickness and age of roofs, and their ability to withstand weather conditions over time. They are classifying them according to the need for ongoing maintenance. Bunbury Primary School has been assessed against the criteria and it does not need maintenance compared with some other schools. In respect of the offer that has been made, we, of course, will have a look at that. However, we need to be sure that the type of product proposed meets the requirement of the Health Department and the Building Management Authority. We need to be assured that the process of putting the coating on the roof will be conducted in the proper manner and according to the standards of the Ministry of Education. I am aware of that offer and certainly we will have a look at it with a view to allowing it to happen if it meets those criteria.

TRANSPORT - ONE CENT PER TONNE PER KILOMETER CHARGE
Cabinet Abolition Proposal

775. Mr COWAN to the Minister for Transport:

Given that the Cabinet will consider the 1¢ a tonne a kilometre charge, and that that charge has already been applied particularly in the northern wheatbelt area, what steps will the Government take, if Cabinet makes the determination that it should be abolished, to reimburse those people who have made application and have had to pay the additional permit fee?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

The Leader of the National Party must have been at the meeting in Corrigin yesterday where the Minister for Agriculture said that a whole range of issues were being considered by Government and that proposals to lessen the freight burden on rural industry would be put to the rural taskforce at an urgent meeting tomorrow. Several proposals have been considered, including deferring the 1¢ a net tonne a kilometre on fertiliser and grain. I have asked that question in discussions with my department in looking at those proposals. If the taskforce accepts that as a recommendation and it is subsequently accepted by Cabinet, in my view it would be unfair if those people who have already paid the 1¢ a tonne were not reimbursed. I have asked the department to examine that question.

MINERAL SANDS MINING - MUNDIJONG
Minister for the Environment's Refusal

776. Mr BRADSHAW to the Premier:

- (1) Does she support the Minister for the Environment in his apparent off-the-cuff statement that while he is Minister for the Environment he will not allow mining near Mundijong to take place before the due process of exploration and mining applications have been assessed by either the Wardens' Court or the Environmental Protection Authority?
- (2) Is the Premier aware that the area concerned is in the Minister for Environment's electorate and he is showing a knee jerk reaction because some residents are opposed to the mining?
- (3) If the Premier is not aware of the circumstances, will she acquaint herself with the facts and remove the Minister from the assessment of this project and allow an unbiased Minister to review the application when the normal due process has been completed?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

(1)-(3)

Obviously the question of mineral sands mining is one that always gets a great deal of attention from local communities. Anyone who has seen a mine site in operation will know that even with the best will in the world, and the best safety precautions, it is not until some time after the mining is completed that one can see any level of rehabilitation. May I say that I think some of the

companies now do a very good job. Their record is a vast improvement on the past. It was not surprising that - not just in the case of Mundijong but in other areas - when suggestions were made in the Press recently that very large areas of scenic, tourism and town areas were the subject of pegging by mining companies that there was a very strong reaction. The mining companies themselves were not surprised at that. They thought that everyone understood that the process was such that obviously if it were to have an impact on the community or environment it would not be given the necessary approval, and that due process would in fact exclude that. Nonetheless I think the Minister and I have both said that we hope in future a little more care will be taken by the mining industry - I have put that view to it - in making those applications, to reassure communities about what they really mean. For instance, at one stage a tenement was drawn so that the Valley of the Giants was included in the application. Obviously no-one would accept that as a reasonable request. The Minister is quite properly supporting his local electorate in their concerns and, as he said, the due process will be properly followed and carefully examined.

Mr Bradshaw: He has ruled it out of order.

Dr LAWRENCE: The Minister will be given very clear advice. The environmental assessment is done independently of the Minister. It is not a process in which he interferes, and the proper decision will be made taking account of the environmental assessment. Everybody in this community recognises that some of those issues are very sensitive and if we ignore that we will get community reaction, which is immediate opposition. I think it is reasonable for local members, and for the Minister, to express an opinion about the likelihood of those approvals being made. The Minister responsible must go through the due process and he has given a very clear assurance that he will. There is no suggestion, nor has there ever been, that he would act in any other way.

WILLS - QUILL WILLS LTD *Service Benefit*

777. Dr WATSON to the Minister for Justice:

Will the Minister please advise members of the House of an appropriate response to a constituent who asks about the benefit of the new instant will service?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

I suppose in response to that question the first thing I would do for the constituent is remind that person that a will takes effect upon the death of a person and, to that extent, none of us gets the opportunity afterwards to fix mistakes that might have been made.

The second thing we need to emphasise is that it is a document which purports to deal with all the assets one has acquired during one's lifetime and to discharge all the responsibilities one has to one's family or anyone else one might need to take account of when making a will. In that regard, one must ask the question when new services are offered as to why one should use that service in preference to other services already available. The only advantage Quill Wills Ltd might be able to offer some people is that it is slightly cheaper than a will prepared by a professional solicitor, a trustee company, or the Public Trustee. However, if there is any error in that will the cost of remedying the error subsequently, by contesting it under the Inheritance (Family and Dependents Provision) Act or other provisions of the Supreme Court Act or the Wills Act can be very expensive. The cost of an hour of a solicitor's time after the death would be sufficient to make up the amount saved on the preparation of the will.

Quill Wills is a franchise service being sold out of England and it is based on the notion that those people who buy the franchise in Western Australia will

acquire 150 standard will clauses and a computer program which will help them in the drafting of the will. They will then go to the proposed testator, invite the testator to examine the 150 clauses and select from them what the testator, without any expertise at all, decides are the appropriate ones. The word processor operator then tries to put those clauses together in a meaningful way.

My strong advice to anyone interested in buying the franchise is that they would be better off spending the \$50 000 in acquiring a law degree or a full set of Halsbury's and a complete set of will precedents. I advise those who might use their services to remember the adage that a fool and his money and assets are soon parted.
