

Legislative Council

Thursday, 16 June 1988

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by Hon Fred McKenzie, resolved -

That leave of absence for six sitting days be granted to Hon Doug Wenn (South West) on the ground of ill health.

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

Select Committee on Burswood Management Ltd - Report

Debate resumed from 15 June.

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan - Leader of the House) [2.35 pm]: Mr President, in view of your statement to the House yesterday, and especially the comments of the Leader of the Opposition thereafter, there is no room to doubt that the House must consider the question of its privileges. That is properly done by a Committee of Privilege. It would be important, at any time, to proceed to that consideration expeditiously, but the fact that the House is only due to meet for a further short time gives added urgency to the way in which any necessary inquiries should be conducted. Accordingly, I indicate to the House that when I move, as I shall in a moment, for the appointment of a Select Committee of Privilege, I will be taking the unusual step of proposing that it have power to sit during the sittings of the House.

Select Committee of Privilege - Appointment

I move that -

1. A Select Committee of privilege of four members be appointed to inquire into and report, not later than Friday 24 June 1988, on -
 - (a) whether material or evidence supplied to the Chairman of the Select Committee on Burswood Management Ltd and referred to in the special report of that committee presented on Tuesday 14 June, discloses an improper attempt on the part of the person or persons who compiled or supplied that material or evidence to influence or intimidate the committee, or any of its members, in contravention of the privileges of this House;
 - (b) whether evidence to support the information referred to by the Leader of the Opposition in his statement to the House on 15 June 1988, in relation to his telephone service is sufficient to establish a breach of the privileges of this House.
2. The committee have power to send for persons, papers and records.
3. The quorum at any meeting of the committee be three members.
4. The committee have power to sit during sittings of the House.

HON G.E. MASTERS (West - Leader of the Opposition) [2.38 pm]: I second the motion. I am pleased that the Leader of the House has seen fit to move what I consider to be an appropriate motion dealing with the privileges of Parliament and members of the Legislative Council. The matter is one of extreme importance and great urgency, and for that reason I accept the proposition put forward by the Leader of the House that the committee should sit, if necessary, while the House is in session. I do not propose to go into any more detail. I think the committee will do its job well. Obviously I have a great deal of information on the privileges of Parliament and its members, but I am not going to go into those privileges because I am sure that the House understands what this inquiry is all about, and will not wish to be delayed by my making a speech. I simply say that the events of recent days have caused a great deal of concern to people both inside and outside Parliament, and the sooner that is put to rest one way or another the better. I support the motion.

HON TOM McNEIL (Upper West) [2.39 pm]: I support the motion and signify the National Party's intention to cooperate in every way. I am in a most difficult position as Chairman of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into Burswood Management Ltd and the casino. I wish to make clear to the members in this House the position in which I was placed, bearing in mind, Sir, your remarks to this House regarding the special report, and the fact that the majority of members of my committee supported my comments not only being placed on the Select Committee minutes but also being brought before the House in order that the House should know of my concern.

Last Sunday night I was under the impression that the Select Committee was in place and that it would take evidence at 9.00 am the next day, being Monday. On that Sunday night I was at my daughter's home and whoever wanted to contact me obviously went to great lengths to find out where I was. After ringing Geraldton and finding out where I was the person then contacted me and I spoke to a gentleman who informed me that he had information which he believed would be essential that I be aware of in my deliberations as chairman of the committee. I told him that I would be at Parliament House at 8 o'clock on Monday morning and if he wished he could leave the information at the front door and I would collect it. I was then told by the gentleman that he felt the information was of such importance that he wished to bring it to my home, and this he duly did. I cannot recall the hour, but it was around 8.00 pm or 8.15 pm. The gentleman introduced himself to me and shook my hand and then handed me the parcel. I thanked him and told him that I did not quite catch his surname and he again told me what it was. I then closed the door and went inside.

Having read the information contained in the parcel and knowing what had transpired at previous committee meetings I felt I was caught in a bind. As chairman of that committee and appointed by this House, it was up to me to ensure that the committee over which I presided was a fair and impartial committee. The difficulty with which I was faced was: What should I do, and to whom should I go? I had information which I honestly considered put a biased viewpoint on a committee member, Hon Neil Oliver. Having studied the evidence, it was difficult for me to come to Parliament House the next morning. I tried to ignore the fact that I had read a document which had probably been procured in an illegal manner. I did not know what in the name of hell I would do with it. The committee was to take evidence from the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs at 9.00 am on Monday, and at 8.30 that morning I still did not know what I was going to do. I will not go into what was said in the Select Committee room because it was said in camera; to do so would incur your wrath, Mr President.

Now that this affair has been made public I advise that I suggested to Hon Neil Oliver that he disqualify himself from the committee. Mr Oliver refused to do that. The difficulty was that the committee had just commenced proceedings and I had asked the witness and spectators to leave the committee room to enable the committee to discuss a procedural matter. The other Select Committee members were not aware of the information I had been given. I did not want to table that information because I did not want to do the wrong thing by Hon Neil Oliver, regardless of whether it was legal or illegal information. As the information was in my hands I was in a terrible fix.

The committee discussed the matter for 30 minutes and I then called everyone back to the committee room and said that the committee was adjourning on procedural matters. What else could I say? I gave the member concerned the opportunity to think about his situation that night and he was to let the committee know of his decision the following morning. I could not tell the media that a member of the committee was suspect or biased. I did not know. Of course, proceedings had to be adjourned until the following morning. I thought that the information had been confined to me only. As a matter of courtesy to the Leader of the Opposition in this House I answered a call to go to his office and explain to him why I had asked Hon Neil Oliver to resign from the committee. I did that and I honestly felt that the conversation between us would have been kept confidential. However, it was not kept confidential. As certain parts of that conversation have already been used in the media I will tell members a little more of what was said between us. The honourable member concerned is honest enough to agree that at one time during the conversation a suggestion was made that if Hon Neil Oliver were not permitted to continue to serve on the committee it may well be that the Liberal Party would not appoint another Liberal Party representative to the committee.

What a situation I was in. In order to justify the committee's formation and in order to be fair to the people the committee intends to investigate surely we are entitled to have an all-parties committee. Having shown the Leader of the Opposition the transcript of what turned out to be the telephone conversations between Hon Neil Oliver and another person -

Hon G.E. Masters: Alleged.

Hon TOM McNEIL: Alleged as it may be - a damn good impersonation of Hon Neil Oliver if it was not him. I thought it may have lead the Leader of the Opposition to say, "Hang on Neil, I have read the information and perhaps you should not take any further part on the committee." I assure members that it was never my intention to let the media know anything about this matter. As Hon Neil Oliver knows, I wanted to make it an internal problem and would advise the media that, for whatever reason, Hon Neil Oliver would not take part on the committee. That is what I still hope will transpire. There is no need to reveal the contents of the document. However, people in the community may consider there is nothing wrong with Hon Neil Oliver and may ask what is wrong with Hon Tom McNeil. I have no defence.

Hon G.E. Masters: I have no doubt at all about your integrity.

Hon TOM McNEIL: I thank the member. We now have a situation where the Leader of the Opposition and I have been on the radio and on television, as has Hon Neil Oliver. The only thing that is separating the Leader of the House and me from reach an understanding is my view that the material provided leads me to believe that the honourable member should not take part on the committee. Admittedly there is more evidence available than what I showed the Leader of the Opposition, but on the evidence I showed him he formed a different opinion from me. How do we resolve this? Is it a political witch-hunt between the Liberal Party and the National Party or do I have to read out the contents of the document to this House so that all members can form an opinion about whether the honourable member should continue to serve on that committee?

Hon G.E. Masters: There certainly is no witch-hunt and no reflection on you personally. I have the highest regard for you and the position you hold.

Hon TOM McNEIL: Can I take it that my assumption on the evidence I had placed before me was not an ill-founded assumption?

Hon G.E. Masters: I formed a different view from you.

Hon TOM McNEIL: That certainly does not clear me because once I hand this information -

Hon G.E. Masters: On less information than you say you had.

Hon TOM McNEIL: Perhaps you, Mr President, will guide me: Once the information leaves my hands and goes into the hands of a Committee of Privileges, what happens to that information? Perhaps the Leader of the House can tell me what will happen to the information that is given to him, the committee or the Clerk?

Hon J.M. Berinson: I imagine that is a matter for a decision by the committee.

The PRESIDENT: Order! It becomes privileged information the minute the member hands it to a committee and if such a committee asks for it.

Hon TOM McNEIL: Once it leaves my possession that is the end of it and I hope it is the end of it. I am not on any witch-hunt after Hon Neil Oliver, I am only pointing out the difficult situation I was placed in as chairman of the committee. Once the information leaves my hands that is it. Therefore, it is a case that Hon Gordon Masters felt there was insufficient evidence in what he had seen to suggest that the member was not impartial, whereas I adopted a different point of view.

That is where it will finish. If I were a man of any honour I would stop now and agree to that, so that no-one will ever know whether Tom McNeil or Gordon Masters was right. Many people today are waiting to see whether I will reveal the contents of that report. I still do not know whether I shall reveal its contents because I like Hon Neil Oliver, but I do not know whether I want him to be a member of the Select Committee. How will it be when I sit opposite him on the Select Committee tomorrow taking evidence?

I have said I will cooperate fully; the evidence is in my office and I will make it available to the Privileges Committee. As a parting shot, I do not think for one moment that members of

the Liberal Party and the National Party have suggested that I acted other than fairly. However, speculation in the media suggested that it was a political witch-hunt, and certain connotations were included in some articles which suggested that your address, Mr President, somehow impugned the action I had taken. I wish to make it clear that I acted on my own behalf and it had nothing to do with the National Party. I reiterate that I will not read from the document; I hope one day the contents will be public, if only to justify the stand I took as Chairman of the Select Committee. By sitting down now I signify the National Party's total support for the formation of a Privileges Committee.

HON P.H. LOCKYER (Lower North) [2.51 pm]: I support the formation of this Privileges Committee, but I am concerned about one serious matter. I understand that this committee will consider whether the privilege of the House has been breached. I understand that as the Privileges Committee is not able to sit in judgment on whether or not telephones have been tapped and taped, that issue will remain speculation. Therefore, I request that quite apart from this Privileges Committee, at the earliest opportunity the authorities concerned - whether they be Federal or State police - should be asked to investigate the matter. I understand that the Privileges Committee will take evidence as to whether the privileges of members have been breached and not whether members of the public have taped any telephone conversations. I understand that that is a breach of Federal law, and I ask you, Mr President, as Presiding Officer, to bring this matter to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

HON D.J. WORDSWORTH (South) [2.53 pm]: I do not wish to speak to the subject as such, but rather to comment on the power of the committee to sit during the sittings of the House. I do not know how members of that committee can be paired, whether they will vote when the House is voting, or whether they will be banned from voting while the Privileges Committee is sitting. It will be a committee of the House and individual members of it cannot necessarily be identified as voting on one side or the other; often we do not know which way some members will vote. So how can they be paired? If we agree to this motion, what will be the logistics of votes taken in this House while the Privileges Committee is sitting?

Question put and passed.

Appointment

On motion by Hon J. M. Berinson (Leader of the House), resolved -

That Hon J.M. Brown, Hon Tom Stephens, Hon E.J. Charlton, and Hon N.F. Moore be appointed to the committee and that Hon J.M. Brown be the chairman.

GERALDTON MID-WEST DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon Graham Edwards (Minister for Consumer Affairs), read a first time.

Second Reading

HON GRAHAM EDWARDS (North Metropolitan - Minister for Consumer Affairs) [2.55 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Bill is to establish a Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority to plan, coordinate and promote the economic and social development of the Geraldton mid west region of WA.

In 1986 the State Government accepted a recommendation of the Geraldton Mid-West Regional Development Advisory Committee and the regional grouping of municipal councils to undertake the Geraldton Mid-West Regional Study. A management committee with representatives from both groups was formed to supervise the study, which prepared a development strategy focused on enhancing the economic and social development of the region. One of the key recommendations of the study was the establishment of the Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority. An interim authority was established on 1 January 1988 and this Bill proposes the establishment of the authority on a statutory basis.

The functions of the authority will be to plan, promote, coordinate and facilitate the economic and social development of the Geraldton mid west region. This will be achieved by close cooperation between the authority, other Government agencies, local government, private developers, and community groups. The Government recognises the need for encouraging regional development and perceives as essential the need for local community input into decision making. It is only through cooperation between Governments at all levels, private enterprise and local communities, that development compatible with community expectations can be maximised.

The proposed authority has three main components: A board, an advisory committee and support staff. The Bill provides the authority with powers and functions in the Geraldton mid west region similar to the powers and functions provided by the Great Southern Development Authority Act to the Great Southern Development Authority. The only significant difference is the provision of penalties for failing to disclose direct or indirect pecuniary interest in matters under consideration by the board. The seven person board will consist of a chairman, deputy chairman, the director ex officio and four other members. The board is the governing body and provides policy direction for the authority. The advisory committee will consist of a chairman and 12 to 14 members. The membership of the advisory committee will be representative of the interests of the people of the Geraldton mid west. Special emphasis is placed on the important role of local government, and at least six members of the advisory committee will come from nominees from local government. It is intended also that the membership will reflect a substantial representation of people from all areas of the Geraldton mid west. Their expertise and interest will provide a significant contribution to the development of effective policies and initiatives.

It will be noted that this legislation will enable the authority to establish committees for the purpose of assisting it to carry out its functions. Such committees will be able to examine specific areas of economic and social development and provide additional expertise and community input. I am confident that through the proposed structure the authority will integrate local community expectations into its decision making processes.

The staff of the authority is the third and most essential component of the proposed structure. Staff under the direction of the director and board will implement authority functions. A small, efficient and effective unit of eight to nine staff is proposed in the first instance, with the capacity to engage consultants where specific expertise is required. Staff will be employed under the Public Service Act 1978. Funding for the proposed authority in the main would be provided from the Consolidated Revenue Fund as approved by Parliament. In line with modern management practices in the public sector this Bill emphasises delegated authority and accountability. The authority will be based in Geraldton and through its board and advisory committee will ensure that the decisions which are made reflect the priorities of the Geraldton mid-west. The authority will be accountable to and subject to ministerial direction, and to the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985, including the preparation of audited annual reports.

A review of the operations and effectiveness of the Act is proposed after five years. The review report will be made available to each House of Parliament. I am sure that the Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority will provide the impetus for increased economic and social development in the region. The authority has already initiated a number of projects of potential benefit to the region. These include a strategy to improve post-secondary education in the region; improving commercial links between the Murchison and Geraldton; encouraging mining companies to operate from Geraldton and the mid-west rather than Perth; and ongoing planning for the redevelopment of the Geraldton foreshore. Further projects are proposed in the authority's program for 1988-89 that will benefit the region as a whole.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Margaret McAleer.

GOLD BANKING CORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon J.M. Berinson (Leader of the House), read a first time.

Second Reading

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan - Leader of the House) [3.03 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Gold Banking Corporation Bill 1987 was passed by Parliament in 1987 and received the assent of the Governor in December last year. The principal purpose of the Act is to establish a new State bank, namely Gold Banking Corporation, and to consolidate the activities of the Western Australian Mint and GoldCorp Australia as subsidiaries within a single legislative framework and group corporate structure. The major function of Gold Banking Corporation is to carry on banking business. It will specialise in the provision of international banking and other financial services initially in the gold industry and subsequently in other areas of the Australian economy.

When introducing the Gold Banking Corporation Bill last year, the former Treasurer informed members that it was proposed to adopt and conform to the prudential requirements of the Reserve Bank of Australia applying to trading banks. The amendments proposed in this Bill are designed to assist Gold Bank in so doing. Bank status is conferred upon an applicant financial institution by the issue of an authority to carry on the business of banking as a bank pursuant to the Commonwealth Banking Act 1959. A banking authority is granted by the Governor General on the recommendation of the Commonwealth Treasurer following a rigorous administrative process during which the applicant financial institution must satisfy the Reserve Bank that it is capable of carrying on the business of banking in a prudent and competent manner. The length of time taken by this process can vary. The 16 new foreign banks recently established in Australia were authorised through this process over a period of seven to 18 months. They were of course already established banks in their home countries.

The prudential supervision of a bank by the Reserve Bank of Australia is a matter of Commonwealth Government policy and a major prerequisite for formal recognition of bank status. Members will be aware that State banks do not require a banking authority to be issued under the Banking Act 1959 because they are not subject to that Act by force of section 51 of the Constitution. The authority to carry on banking business is normally conferred on a State bank under the State legislation establishing it. However, all State banks comply with Reserve Bank prudential supervision on a voluntary basis through regular consultation and discussion.

The State Government believes that a prudent and cautious approach must be adopted in the development of a new banking institution to ensure that potential clients have complete confidence in it. The Government has decided therefore that the establishment of Gold Banking Corporation as a bank should be subject to the same administrative process and prudential standards that are applied by the Reserve Bank to other financial institutions proposing to establish as a bank in Australia.

The Bill now before the House gives effect to this decision and will commence this process. It proposes three amendments to advance the bank status and prudential supervision of Gold Banking Corporation with the Reserve Bank. Clause 4 of the Bill proposes to amend section 4 of the Act to provide for the use of a transitional corporate name during the period in which the banking business of Gold Bank is being fully developed to the point where it could be accorded bank status and come within the supervision of the Reserve Bank. The timing of this outcome will be a matter for negotiation with the Reserve Bank. Developing the business to that point could involve a period of 12 to 18 months.

At establishment, Gold Banking Corporation will undertake and develop the banking business currently conducted by GoldCorp Australia and the Western Australian Mint. At this stage the banking services and products of Gold Banking Corporation would be limited to its activities in the international gold industry. It is therefore important to ensure that, during the establishment period in which its banking business is being fully developed, there is no misunderstanding or expectation on the part of the general public that Gold Banking Corporation is capable of providing the full range of banking services that is available from major banks or that its operations are being supervised by the Reserve Bank. During this period the body corporate constituted under section 4 as "Gold Banking Corporation" will be known as, and trade under, the transitional corporate name of "Gold Corporation" by deleting the word "Banking" so that -

- (1) the transitional corporate name shall apply during the transitional period in which bank status and prudential supervision is being established and the banking business of Gold Banking Corporation is being fully developed; and
- (2) the transitional period will end on a day specified by the Governor by notice published in the *Government Gazette* upon the recommendation of the board and thereafter the name of the body corporate shall be Gold Banking Corporation.

The timing of the end of the transitional period will be discussed with the Reserve Bank.

Clause 5 of the Bill proposes to amend section 5 of the Act to provide for the appointment of an additional three directors. The Reserve Bank has advised that banks must have a majority of non executive directors in attendance and voting at board meetings. The Act currently provides for the appointment of four executive directors and five other directors including the chairman, all of whom must be non executive appointments to meet this requirement. The proposed amendment will increase the maximum number of non executive directors who may be appointed to the board from five to eight and ensure that the required majority is maintained in the event that a non executive director is absent.

Clause 6 of the Bill proposes to amend section 16 of the Act to increase the paid-up capital of Gold Bank from \$10 million to the minimum amount now required by the Reserve Bank for the establishment of a new bank, that amount being \$25 million. Since the Act was passed the Reserve Bank has issued a discussion paper on the capital adequacy of banks. The paper adopts in principle the general framework for capital measurement and standards proposed by the bank for international settlements, the object of which is to achieve a common approach internationally for measuring the capital adequacy of banks and to establish a minimum capital adequacy standard in relation to their "risk adjusted" assets. In this paper, the capital of banks is proposed to be defined in terms of two tiers. Tier 1, or "core capital", comprises fully paid ordinary shares, share premium account, general reserves, retained earnings, and minority interests in the equity of subsidiaries that are not wholly owned. Tier 2, or "supplementary capital", includes general provision for doubtful debts, asset revaluation reserves, and hybrid debt capital instruments such as perpetual subordinated debt and mandatory convertible notes.

The proposed increase in the capital will form the tier 1 or core capital of Gold Bank. This is needed at establishment to enable the growth of the banking assets, profits, and banking business of Gold Bank at commercially competitive rates and so that the banking business can be fully developed within internationally acceptable prudential standards. The approach proposed for working towards the establishment of the bank status and prudential supervision of Gold Banking Corporation has been discussed with and accepted by the Reserve Bank. The process will commence with a major submission proposing the establishment of Gold Banking Corporation as a bank, as is required of other financial institutions applying for banking authority.

The Gold Banking Corporation Act 1987 represents a major Government initiative that aims at securing a long term future for our State and Australia in the international gold industry. An important objective of Gold Bank is to create wealth and generate export income by providing international banking and other financial services for the development and growth of the Australian gold industry.

Since the crash on world stock markets on 19 October last year, equity capital for small to medium gold companies has virtually evaporated. Project finance and term debt have become the major source of capital for the development of new gold projects and the expansion of existing goldmines. A constant stream of applications for financing new gold projects has been received by GoldCorp since the passing of the Act.

The establishment of Gold Banking Corporation occurs at a critical period in the growth of the Australian gold industry. Gold exports are playing a significant role in the export performance and international rating of the Australian economy. In 1988 gold is estimated to earn \$3.4 billion in export income for Australia and ranks only behind coal and wool in importance. Western Australia remains Australia's leading gold producer and it is estimated it will produce 116 tonnes in 1988 with an export value of roundly \$2.2 billion.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Max Evans.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY - SEVENTH DAY

Motion, as Amended

Debate resumed from 15 June.

HON J.N. CALDWELL (South) [3.12 pm]: I support the motion of Hon Doug Wenn and hope that he can recover from his illness. I am sure I have the support of all members of the House in saying that. I believe he has had an operation and has had some difficulties, and I wish him a speedy recovery.

I endorse the remarks of Hon Doug Wenn as they related to His Excellency the Governor, Professor Gordon Reid, and Mrs Reid. They have conducted themselves with great aplomb and I believe the Governor is a friend of everybody's. I had the privilege of meeting him at the airport in Victoria. He and his good wife were there and he greeted us as though we were long lost friends. He was absolutely like one of the boys. We sat and chatted; we were staying at the same hotel and he joined in with us as though he were one of the family. I only hope his successor, whoever he may be, will come up to his standard, though I think the people of Western Australia will be hard pressed to find somebody who will do the job as well as he has done it.

I have been privileged to be appointed to two Select Committees which have travelled around the State and also overseas. These committees are doing a great service for Western Australia and for the parliamentary process, and they are absolutely necessary. When one is appointed to a committee with Labor Party people one wonders just how one will get along with them, because when they are on the opposite side of the House one gets the feeling they are antagonistic and uncompromising people. However, when they go outside the House it appears they are quite normal, really.

Hon P.G. Pandal: I would not go that far, but I can understand what you are saying.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: It is marvellous how we can get along and it is great to see the comradeship amongst members - not so much that one would change one's politics; one would still have one's personal point of view, but we do have some very good times together.

Both the committees I have represented have travelled into country areas. This is very beneficial because the Government does not have many country members in this House - I think it has only one - and it is good to have the Government's representatives travel to the country areas to see the problems rural people and country people have. I see opposite me Hon Robert Hetherington, whose education in this field over the last 12 months has bounded ahead. I will quote just one instance - he has come to know the value of lupin growing and how it helps the libido in rams. He has become -

Hon C.J. Bell: A keen student.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: - almost a professor of lupins in his knowledge of their value to the community. I believe people actually make bread from lupins nowadays and I am sure Hon Robert Hetherington will have lupin bread on his menu from now on. I also wish him well in his retirement, in case I do not have another opportunity to say so before he retires.

I will spend a few minutes talking about the rural economy because in our travels we have seen some people in a lot of trouble. Some of them have got into very heavy debt - a debt of \$200 000 is nothing for a rural family to find itself facing. How will these families get out of that debt? Statistics from the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1986 indicated that there were 32 000 farming families in Australia, and that the average income of the lowest income earners of those 32 000 families in 1986 ranged between a loss of \$1 358 and a profit of \$2 300. I am sure fellow members would agree that that really is poverty. Another statistic from the same source indicated that, of the 37 poorest Federal electorates in Australia, 33 were in rural areas.

Sometimes, when people get into a devastating state of poverty, some of them have a little windfall such as many rural people are having now. In just about every newspaper we pick up we see that rural economies are rising. Farmers are getting record prices for their sheep; wheat prices are rising due to a drought in America; and only yesterday a newspaper article stated that a grower received a record price for the cattle that he marketed - I believe it was 197c per kilo live weight. That is an incredible price. The rural people will be getting quite a windfall with these prices and will be receiving quite a bit of money into their bank accounts.

One problem for people with fluctuating incomes is how to use the extra money; and the Taxation Office likes to keep everyone at a marginally low level of income. If a person earns \$200 000, invariably the Taxation Department takes \$100 000; so average families find life almost impossible because of high interest rates and taxation. I bring to the attention of the House the sad case of a rural family in Gnowangerup. The man was a painter - but not a member of the Painters and Dockers Union.

Hon T.G. Butler: Was he a member of the Painters and Decorators Union?

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: I am about to relate a true case relating to the only house painter in Gnowangerup. He was a great sporting man and an excellent rifle shooter who saved his money for a once in a lifetime trip to England. During the first week of his trip, while he was waiting for a taxi with his mates, a vehicle ran into the group. The man ended up in hospital with horrendous injuries and took a long time to recover as his painting arm, lungs and back were all damaged. Compensation action took place and the proceedings dragged on for around four and a half years. Ernest Gollen from the town of Gnowangerup finally received some compensation for lost earnings over the four and a half years amounting to \$56 517. The man received \$27 000 interest bringing the total to \$83 517; his tax assessment this year was \$82 773 leaving a balance of \$744. I made inquiries and the figures are correct. The man has an overdraft - I do not know the exact amount - but because he was about to receive compensation, the bank loaned him money to keep his family going. The overdraft would be close to \$20 000; however his cash balance is only \$744. Admittedly, half the taxation assessment is for provisional tax and he does not need to pay that immediately, but in the long run he will pay around \$41 000 tax.

Anomalies exist in the taxation system when we consider a person in this situation. He is a hardworking family man who has had bad luck and the taxation system will place him in a situation of poverty. Unfortunately his income was not averaged out over four and a half years and he was taxed on the lump sum paid for lost earnings. Payments for other disabilities have been made to him in the past also. Country people have faced enough problems over the years, and the Taxation Office adds to the burden. I think the taxation system could be improved to assist people in this situation.

I turn now to my electorate and the Albany sea rescue group which does a wonderful job. Recently a member of the Legislative Assembly was in trouble and received assistance from the Albany sea rescue group. Perhaps I should advise all members of Parliament who travel down that way to make sure they are members of that group. One concern expressed in Albany is that the State Emergency Service wishes to take over the local group and people are up in arms about this. A meeting of sea rescue groups was held in Perth recently during which a vote of no confidence was moved against Superintendent Sparks, who may be removed from office. The matter is serious and the local group anticipates an attempt to amalgamate sea rescue groups with the SES; this action will undermine sea rescue groups who wish to remain independent. The assets of the Albany group have been paid for as a result of fundraising; members are volunteers and the group does not wish to see interference by Government departments. Bureaucracy can interfere and take away the rights and privileges of the local people.

The Albany sea rescue group operates with equipment valued at \$200 000; it has 2 000 members which include licensed radio operators; qualified first-aid people; a doctor; many mechanics; master mariners; six qualified pilots; and access to four light aircraft. The organisation has 212 registered boats equipped with radios. The general feeling within the organisation is that interference by outside bodies is not wanted. The group is prepared to cooperate with the SES but opposes an amalgamation or takeover; feelings are so strong that the group may disband and sell its equipment. I remind this House that the work carried out by the Albany group is on a voluntary basis. I appeal to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mr Ian Taylor, to consider the situation very carefully before making a decision on the amalgamation of the two groups. I had occasion to ring the Albany police for an opinion on the sea rescue group and they had nothing but praise for the group; it appears that the group is definitely needed in the area. Unfortunately the Minister supports the amalgamation of the two organisations.

I will comment briefly on a matter that has received publicity recently, especially in Albany; that is, sex shops. I read in this morning's paper that the Melville City Council wants the

relevant Act amended so that it can make decisions about the establishment of shops of this kind in its area. I understand that a private member's Bill has been introduced into the other place that will give local authorities the right to allow or disallow these types of shops in their towns. It is up to members in this House to support the wishes of the people, who have a right to say what kind of shops should be established in their towns. Next week I will present a petition to this House from residents in Albany about the establishment of sex shops. Albany has the second highest number of retired people of any town in Western Australia. They like their town because it is quiet, clean and the air is fresh. Members who have been to Albany know what I mean when I say that the air is fresh and that is how the residents in the town would like to keep it. I am not saying that sex shops will pollute the air, but it is a matter of having the sorts of shops that local people want in their towns. They know what they want.

I refer now to my hardy annual; that is, mining and the veto over private land holders. It is apparent that mining companies like to go onto private land holders' properties, but the problem is that they have no means of identification. They approach a land holder, show him a pamphlet and say they want to look around his farm, and when they are asked for identification they cannot show any. Recently in my area there has been a lot of sheep stealing and a \$20 000 award is being offered for any information leading to the conviction of offenders. I warn representatives from mining companies to have some form of identification because if they go onto private property, especially in the Kojonup area, they will be suspected of sheep stealing.

Hon C.J. Bell: Are you suggesting they could end up like some jolly swagman?

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: I refer members to an article which appeared in *The West Australian* on Tuesday, 31 May and which was headed "Mining industry sounds alarm". It states -

But, as Brett Lane reports, companies say that with access restrictions already in force, the future of a \$6 billion a year industry is on the line.

That is sensationalism; it is not on the line. Private land accounts for only 10 per cent of Western Australia and to say that it is a \$6 billion a year industry and that it is in jeopardy is not on. The article also states -

The Premier, Mr Dowding, says he wants to encourage public debate on multiple land use.

I agree with that and I am pleased that the mining lobby is holding meetings with agricultural leaders and anyone interested in mining to ascertain if they can find a way to come to grips with the problem of access to land. The article also states -

The WA Chamber of Mines is in the midst of a \$300,000 campaign to get its message across on the economic importance of its industry, its concern for the environment and land access.

The chamber's chief executive officer, Mr Peter Ellery, says the alarm bells on land access began ringing loudly earlier this year when, after months of debate on recommendations of the Bailey committee, the State Government extended controls on exploration and mining activities in WA's 147,700sq km of national parks.

Further on it states -

For miners, the restrictions in parks came on top of those already applied to almost 10 per cent of the State under freehold title - where owners such as farmers retain a veto power on access - and the 8.8 per cent allocated to Aboriginal reserves.

I have absolutely no quarrel about that veto remaining on private property. I have seen many examples of where miners have had access to private land holdings. Those holdings look like battlefields after the miners have completed their work. I have a report titled "Report of Working Group on Access to Agricultural Land", which was the result of a geological survey carried out by the New South Wales Department of Mineral Resources. One of its recommendations concerns mining companies' having access to private land and it states that they should offer to seed down any areas of activity where vegetation has been damaged. I have not seen any evidence of that in Western Australia.

Another recommendation of that working group was that the mining companies should

backfill all holes and ram tight at surface when completed. There is definitely no evidence of that in Western Australia. I am not saying it is a requirement of mining companies in Western Australia, but it is now a requirement of mining companies in New South Wales. If some of the recommendations to which I am referring were implemented in Western Australia land holders may approve of mining companies having access to their land.

Another recommendation of that working group was that the mining companies should remove all pegs and stakes when the job is completed. That is not done in Western Australia and, as a result, pegs are left everywhere. A most amusing recommendation was that they should not drill holes on agricultural airstrips. I can imagine what would happen if they did. I have seen instances of where the drill holes have been very deep and when it rains the result is a much larger hole and if a wheel of an aircraft or a wheel of an agricultural vehicle were to fall into such a hole it would cause many problems.

In New South Wales mining companies are required when digging trenches to separate the topsoil and subsoil for backfilling. That is not done in Western Australia. They must also refill trenches as soon as possible after completion. Also they must reseed on completion. Those requirements are not adopted in Western Australia.

The last recommendation I will relay to the House is that a mining company should select a person with an affinity for people on the land and, if possible, with a knowledge of farming and grazing practice to be the field supervisor for the survey. I have had personal experience of employees of mining companies coming onto land and invariably they are either British or American. I reiterate that the recommendation states that the selected person should have an affinity for people on the land. It is a good statement, but it is not followed. I have nothing against Yanks and Poms, but I draw the line when they go into agricultural areas and suggest to farming families that they give up their land for mining. It is just not on. The people who go out into these areas must have a good knowledge of farming and grazing practices, and must be selected very carefully. They must also have some knowledge of the people who live in rural areas. I support the motion.

HON C.J. BELL (Lower West) [3.40 pm]: I rise to support the motion moved by Hon Doug Wenn. In doing so I express my best wishes to Doug and hope he will soon regain good health. When a member as young and healthy as Doug becomes ill, it reminds us of our human frailties. We all hope he will return to this House very soon.

During the last week that this House sat, I drew to the attention of members the effect of the mini-Budget on Western Australia. I made the point that the Minister's response to the impact of that mini-Budget on the agricultural industry was absolutely astounding and almost criminal in its neglect. The Minister for Agriculture is in charge of the industry and no statement of substance has been made by him about its impact on Western Australia. He and the Deputy Premier tore off to Canberra at a rate of knots at the very thought of a gold tax; they were almost paranoid and hysterical in their attitude to that issue. It is an important factor in Western Australia, but when something a good deal worse happened - as I shall demonstrate the mini-Budget was and is - there was not a single peep, apart from a statement that generally the mini-Budget was good for Western Australia.

The impact of the mini-Budget on agriculture in Australia for 1988-1989 will be a deficit of \$62.6 million. The impact for 1989-1990 is projected to be a deficit of \$112.6 million. With those figures, one must ask why the Minister has not made a statement on the matter. In *Elders Weekly* on 2 June, the President of the Western Australian Farmers Federation stated in an article headed "Time to get tough - Crane" -

It's time for farmers to get tough again and tell the Government it's time it got its hands out of the industry's pockets.

That is an indication of how the industry in this State has been duped. It has been let down by the very person who is supposed to be its strongest supporter - the Minister. In fact, he is charged with that responsibility. The article also continued rather cynically to state that -

The only good result is that when the Government delivers future budgets there will be nothing left to take from the farmers.

That is very true.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.00 pm

Hon C.J. BELL: As a further illustration I would like to read from an article referring to a statement made by Winston Crane, President of the WA Farmers Federation. I will read the complete statement because it encapsulates all the concerns -

Western Australian Farmers Federation General President, Winston Crane said today . . . farmers had been taken to the cleaners by the May mini budget.

"The May mini budget was a clever piece of Keating deception in that he has taken away the remaining Government assistance to agriculture, while delaying any moves on the gold industry and tariffs till some time in the future," he said.

"Mr Keating's statement proves just how devious Governments can be.

"We had sought a tops-down approach on the removal of assistance to industry, and we find that the Government has instituted a bottoms-up approach.

"The only good result is that when the Government delivers future budgets there will be nothing left to take from the farmers.

"Once again Primary Industry Minister Kerin has failed to deliver equity for the farm lobby."

Mr Crane said that while the \$55 million superphosphate bounty had been removed, any decision on the tariff on spare parts was dependent on an Industries Assistance Commission review some time in the future.

The reduction of other tariffs would be phased in over four years, and any real decision on the gold tax had been put off till after the next election.

"I predict that we will see massive lobby campaigns launched by the gold miners and other protected industries in the lead up to the next election," he said. "And we know what politicians do under the threat of an election."

Mr Crane said that the May mini budget was an abject lesson to the farm lobby that Governments cannot be trusted to treat farmers equitably.

The current Budget was the worst that had ever hit farmers in terms of equity of treatment.

The removal of superphosphate bounty was particularly unfair to W.A. farmers because although they only made up eight per cent of Australian farmers they used 35 per cent of the fertiliser.

Farmers would continue to be denied access to essential, high-cost inputs like farm chemicals and fertilisers because there had been no reform to the Dumping Act.

In addition, the introduction of the income equalisation deposit scheme for farmers had been delayed for two financial years.

Even the alleged off-setting grants for conservation would go mainly to areas along the Murray River.

Mr Crane said that the National Farmers Federation had agreed that it would be part of the Industries Assistance Review provided that measures were taken across the board, including reforming the Dumping Act and reforming the tariffs on spare parts and machinery.

"The academic approach has not worked and we have to get back to political and social reality in presenting our case," he said.

"Farmers have to get as tough as the mining and manufacturing lobbies.

WAFF will take up the case on behalf of farmers throughout Australia to achieve some equity by seeking an acceleration of the restructuring of the whole protection issue.

"Why should the wool and wheat industries pay tax while the gold industry escapes.

Farmers have to go back to the tough attitude that they were known for a few years ago and say to the Australian government that it is time that it took its hands out of the farmer's pockets.

"Each farmer is paying \$6 000 a year to provide protection measures for other Australian industries.

That statement is somewhat rhetoric and perhaps it should be backed up. I have here a magazine called *The Land*, dated Thursday, 2 June, which presents a balance sheet. It presents the scenario very clearly and seeks, with professional advice, to equate the costs and benefits of the mini-Budget. The article deals with what farmers will get by way of extra payments and states that the Rural Science Bureau core staff will get an extra \$1.4 million in 1988-89 and the same in 1989-90; the Rural Adjustment Scheme will get \$8.4 million in 1988-89 and \$9.1 million the next year; the Commonwealth services providing information for rural areas will get an extra \$1 million in the first year and \$0.6 million the next; brucellosis and TB programs will receive an extra \$2.6 million in the first year and \$4.4 in the second; exotic diseases preparedness will receive \$1.5 million for each of the two years; the national soil conservation program will get \$4 million in the first year and \$6 million the next; the Murray-Darling Basin initiatives will get \$2.2 million in the first year and \$3.1 million in the second year; the National Resource Information Centre will receive \$1.9 million in both years; and income equalisation deposits will receive nothing in the first year and \$20 million in the second year. This gives a total in the first year, 1988-89, of \$23 million and in the second year, \$48 million.

That sounds reasonably good, but the hard figures really start to show when we look at what they will lose. Wool promotion showed a loss of \$10.4 million in both years; fertiliser subsidies showed a loss in the first year of \$37 million and in the second year of \$50 million; and the levy collection charge showed a loss of \$1.2 million in each year. Then we start to get the real cost. The figures for higher valuation of natural increase of livestock, which effectively taxes farmers on the livestock they have on hand at a much higher rate, were zero in the first year and \$35 million in the second year. The mains electricity tax changed and the figure was \$5 million in both years; and the export inspection recovery scheme showed figures of \$9 million in the first year and \$11 million in the second year. That gives a total loss in the first year of \$62.6 million and in the second year of \$112.6 million; netting \$39.6 million in the first year and \$74.6 million in the second year. These are very substantial sums of money, and the previous speaker, Hon John Caldwell, talked about some of the problems agriculture faces in terms of variations in incomes.

One of the problems for agriculture is that it is emerging, though only marginally, from the worst ever period of depressed prices and extremely low incomes, yet the Federal Government has hit it with almost a total elimination of the benefits that have come about by the market improvement. Yet our Minister has not seen fit to make any representations in this matter, or none that we are aware of. Some people might say, "Well, so what? Agriculture does not mean much to us any more", but 40 per cent of our national earnings still come from agriculture. It is a very important facet of our economy and for Western Australia it is a facet of even greater magnitude, although we do have very high levels of mining activity. If we keep on in this way, we will have no option but to continue to lose much more of our agriculture. I just do not believe it when I see the constant attacks on agriculture and the lack of equity - that is what really hurts. Agriculture must and will survive if it is treated equitably with the rest of the community, yet we see no evidence that Government, State or Federal, is of that mind.

Another area I will address shows further evidence of lack of appreciation of the agricultural industry. At the West Australian Farmers Federation's annual dairy industry conference in Bunbury earlier this year the Minister for Agriculture announced some very major changes to the rules under which the industry operates. In fact he said he had consulted with the industry. The industry disputed that claim and said that no such consultation had taken place, yet those alterations were proceeded with.

The matter to which I referred earlier was the negotiability of milk quotas. Some 18 months ago the Minister instituted a scheme of a market auction system. It was agreed at the time with the industry and quite frankly I thought the limitations placed upon it were reasonable and that the introduction of that system would make it accessible to all purchasers. A little over one year later the Minister dramatically altered that scheme by changing the maximum quota which any one purchaser could buy in a year.

The original system was causing concern in that quotas were in fact lessening in value. There were two reasons for that; firstly, it failed to allow the price of milk to keep up with inflation and therefore the industry was becoming less attractive for people to buy the quota which attaches to that industry, and secondly, the very nature of the scheme almost naturally

led to a decrease in the price which would be offered because, while at the auction one paid the price one bid, the seller received the average of all prices bid. So, when the next auction came up, it was obvious that the buyer would not bid above the average of the previous auction and there was an automatic downward movement of prices. We saw that price drop by some \$80 a litre in the three auctions conducted. I do not know whether somebody panicked, or whether somebody who sought for personal reasons to access a much larger share of the cake changed very dramatically the limits within which a person could buy a quota in one year. Whereas under the previous system which one could buy only 100 litres a year, they altered that to 245 litres of both whole milk and special milk products quota. This has meant a very marked decrease in the availability of quota for the numbers who might seek to purchase and the natural consequence of that is that it has tended to hold the price up. I do not believe the capitalisation of quota is a good thing in any event. The scheme was in fact bringing that down. In my own case, perhaps I should have sold my quota in the first auction. I think it was worth about \$220 000 then and under the present system it is worth only \$170 000; but that is not the point. I participate in the industry because I want to, not because of the dollars on the contract, and that is the same for most purchasers. However, the new system really serves to allow the very big operators to become much bigger and causes a natural strangulation of the small and medium sized farmers.

I believe the system will impose on the Western Australian dairy industry such a financial burden that when the full impact of the Kerin plan is felt here in Western Australia much of our dairy industry will come under tremendous pressure because of the sheer weight of borrowings made to purchase an invisible asset called quota. We will see some of our very good dairy properties forced out by economic hardship, when in fact there was no necessity for that to occur. If it had been left as it was, there would have been every chance of that industry being in a very sound position in 1990, when the full impact of closer economic relations with New Zealand, and of the Kerin plan, would really have allowed almost unrestricted markets in dairy products in Australasia.

Fortunately for Australia the effects are still being felt from the Chernobyl disaster, and dairy values in this country are buoyant. Last week, a local operator approached me seeking dairy products to the value of \$2 million to \$3 million for the Middle East, which refuses to buy out of Europe due to the disaster. Apparently the level of contamination in skim milk in Europe is so high that it can be registered on a Geiger counter, which gives an indication of the seriousness of the situation. Australia benefits because many buyers will not trade with European countries for fear of that contamination even though substantial stocks are held in Europe. How long these effects will be felt is another question and it will probably be less than we would like. I wished to make that point because actions taken have been too inward looking and will place the industry at a disadvantage in the future.

I urge the Government to make representations to the Federal Government on behalf of the agricultural industry in this State. The mini-Budget has been disastrous and will impact on Government finances because the profitability of the industry will diminish substantially. The present season has been a very good one and due to the drought wheat prices have increased. We should take advantage of the situation and not transfer all our finances to Canberra. I urge the Government to take this matter on board in discussions with Canberra.

HON BARRY HOUSE (South West) [4.23 pm]: In rising to support this motion I wish Hon Doug Wenn a speedy recovery. Doug and I cover the same territory; we often wave to each other on the road. He lives in Bunbury and has an office in Busselton; I live in Busselton and have an office in Bunbury. Perhaps to sort that situation out we could change political parties, although I am not inclined to do that.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: Nor is Doug.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I congratulate Professor Gordon Reid and Mrs Reid on the excellent job they have performed over the past few years. I acknowledge the important role that the occupant of the position of Governor plays in the Westminster system reflected in our Parliament - a system which is under threat from various directions and should be protected at all costs.

I have now been a member of Parliament for almost eight months. I wish to comment on that time and on a range of issues affecting my electorate, the South West Province. Being a member of Parliament is a hectic and demanding occupation but I have found it interesting,

stimulating and challenging. After a day's work, or even a week's work, it is difficult to assess our achievements but I am sure that at the end of the road our achievements will be positive.

My electorate office has been established in Bunbury and I wish to thank certain officers in the Departments of the Premier and the Cabinet who have been very helpful. I wish to thank the Building Management Authority in Bunbury for their excellent work in fitting out the office. I believe it is not only important to live in one's electorate but also, for better servicing, to have an electorate office within the electoral area. This has enabled me to become more organised and to be a more effective member. After the next elections we will enter the glorious unknown to a certain extent with the change in electoral boundaries. I am beginning to realise that it will be impossible to be an electoral politician in the traditional sense. In many respects I will reserve my judgment, but we will face problems in the future as Legislative Council members.

Before entering Parliament, the bulk of my working experience was in the education area. During this session Hon Norman Moore has adequately covered the problems surrounding the introduction of changes in education in Western Australia with the introduction of Unit Curriculum. Like me, he is convinced that the introduction of Unit Curriculum was too soon and made with indecent haste. The pity of it is that the signs were obvious two years ago but the then Minister for Education was very reluctant to take notice of anyone. Some of the results of the implementation of Unit Curriculum have been touched on in earlier debate and likened to fitting square pegs into round holes. For example, the staffing formula which existed was inappropriate for the changes introduced, resulting in experimentation with all students within a generation, and now their education and futures have been put at risk. I do not deny that some aspects of Unit Curriculum are positive and deserve support. Unfortunately that support has not been forthcoming from the Education Department or the Ministry.

I applaud the role played by teachers over the last 12 months in the implementation of Unit Curriculum, together with staff within the education system. They have displayed hard work, dedication, professionalism and loyalty throughout Western Australia and Unit Curriculum would not have been remotely workable without their efforts. Every teacher in this State has been put under extreme stress and pressure by the implementation of Unit Curriculum, although 99 per cent of the teaching staff in Western Australia have performed well. In most cases, the teachers have set up the system - in some centres better than others - despite being deserted by the Ministry, the Education Department, or whatever it is called. I am pleased to see that legislation will come before Parliament next week to legitimise the title Ministry of Education, which has been used on a de facto basis over the last six months.

The Education Department has withdrawn support for in-servicing, provided very little money or other resources for staff in high schools and very little guidance. Subject superintendents were removed, as were the props available to teachers in schools to get Unit Curriculum up and running. The Teachers Union is the second body which has deserted individual teachers in this State. The union hierarchy has tried at times in a positive way; I do not wish to criticise people who may have had their hands tied by the decision years ago to ally the union with the Trades and Labor Council.

Hon N.F. Moore: That was the biggest mistake.

Hon T.G. Butler: That occurred about five years ago and it was a progressive step.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: In terms of membership of the union the step was a regressive one because the Teachers Union has lost its teeth. Any action taken by the Western Australian Teachers Union is tempered by the political relationship it has with the ALP, and the members come a very poor second.

Hon T.G. Butler: Previously I thought there was some hope for the member.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The union has been forced to represent the ALP first and members second, resulting in a total loss of effectiveness and a decline in membership. I do not wish to criticise individuals in the Teachers Union because everyone has tried hard under the circumstances even though hands have been tied.

Another aspect of education to which I referred earlier this year is the safety aspect involved in the implementation of Unit Curriculum in high schools. There has been a move away from the core subjects such as maths, science and social studies into other subjects including

physical education units, outdoor education units and recreation units. Dangerous situations have been brought to my attention at schools in my electorates. For example, maths teachers without any first aid or resuscitation qualifications find themselves in charge of water based units and take up to 25 students scuba diving. The administration, the teachers, the students and the parents are all concerned about that. I brought that matter to the attention of the Minister for Education, Dr Lawrence, and to her credit she took action in a couple of cases and provided the extra staff which alleviated the short term problem. However, the long term problem remains. Every term a new timetable is introduced into a school and the schools enter another unknown phase with staff requirements changing rapidly. Can members imagine a science teacher qualified in physics suddenly finding himself in charge of a manual arts elective where he is in charge of students using very dangerous equipment?

As an educator, I have tried to assess some of the changes in education in recent years. I set my goals and then attempted to analyse whether those goals are being achieved. I guess the two broad aims of the education changes would be to provide a better education for all students and to better utilise human and capital resources. When I try to assess the changes to education in those terms I find it difficult to come up with anything positive. I do not believe that the Unit Curriculum will necessarily result in a better education for all students. I certainly cannot claim that the Unit Curriculum will make a better use of human and/or capital resources in schools. If an aim of introducing the Unit Curriculum was to produce confusion, chaos, disillusionment and anger among teachers, staff, students and parents, that aim has been successful. If the aim was to erode the quality of education, that aim has also been successful.

It is interesting to note that the Minister for Education has announced some changes in the last few days.

The PRESIDENT: Order! There are about half a dozen audible conversations going on in the Chamber. The member addressing the Chair can hardly be heard. I suggest that they cease.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Those changes are an attempt to restore the emphasis being placed on some of the more traditional core subjects. That is a positive step. Whether she has gone far enough remains to be seen. If one of the goals of the introduction of the Unit Curriculum was to erode public confidence in education, it has been achieved. If another aim was to produce extra stress and pressure on staff, it has achieved that. I know of situations in at least three schools where staff members are away from work due to stress. In my time as a teacher I can remember only two cases in 14 years of a teacher taking time off for stress reasons. I have heard of many examples in the last couple of months. These stress problems have been borne out in studies undertaken by the Teachers Union into stress borne by staff.

Yesterday, Hon Sandy Lewis referred to the decline in capital expenditure in schools. I am sure most members have been involved in the distribution of the bicentennial medallions to students. Every school I attended for that purpose demanded some sort of basic education facility. Some needed covered assembly areas, others storage space, and others still staff rooms. Some of the staff rooms I saw were built to cater for schools with three rooms, but those schools have grown to now have 10 or 15 rooms and the staff facilities are inadequate. In relation to that I wish to refer to an editorial which appeared in the *Augusta-Margaret River Mail* of 8 June 1988. It states -

The accident at the Margaret River Primary School last week in which a student was cut by flying glass, demonstrates the sad state of some of our educational facilities.

At that school alone, classes are taught in derelict buildings that should have been condemned well before they were transported to Margaret River a decade ago.

Just how long does the Education Department consider these smelly, drafty and drab buildings to be temporary?

I know that the Minister for Education, Dr Lawrence, will tour schools from Augusta to Bunbury tomorrow. I hope that when she visits the Margaret River Primary School she will look closely at the situation and also at other problems, not only in my electorate, but in other schools in the south west, many of which need money for capital works.

The South West Development Authority has an important role to play in my electorate. However, I would like to put the record straight on a couple of matters. The authority has a

role to play if it sticks to playing that role. It has been set up as a facilitator and not a player in the game. The fact that it has a role to play has been demonstrated in a couple of cases that come to mind. For example, the Geographe Bay artificial reef project has been very successful. The authority, local government, the Federal Government through its CEP grants, unemployed groups, community service clubs, and the Army got together and performed a worthwhile function by developing an artificial reef, which has been an extremely positive project.

The *Australind* train project has also been a positive step. It is a nice train and is mostly reliable although it has had a couple of hiccups. It is a high class and efficient train. I am pleased that the Labor Government completed the project which was set in train - excuse the pun - by the previous Liberal Government. However, there are a couple of problems with that service, the first of which concerns ticketing arrangements.

Hon C.J. Bell: It is appalling.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: It certainly is. Anyone wishing to travel on that train, even with a gold pass, should allow himself half a day to organise it. One has to ring up to obtain a piece of paper. That piece of paper has to be presented in person to a Westrail official. One then waits while somebody punches something into a computer. After sitting around for a while the traveller is presented with another piece of paper, which is his ticket. I cannot see that this fits with the rest of the train. The rest of the train is good, but the ticketing arrangements are antiquated, to say the least. They should be looked at very closely.

The smoking car of the *Australind* should also be looked at. On one occasion, I organised my ticket for the *Australind* a day in advance and was told by the voice on the end of the telephone that space was very short that day. I was travelling with my wife and I could get a seat only in the smoking car. I accepted that. When we hopped on board the next day we found that there were six to eight people in the smoking car and six to eight people in the rest of the train. There was space all over the place. That is the sort of situation that is operating. To a non-smoker, a smoking car is putrid. The *Australind* may have to look in future to the same situation that applies to airlines and some public facilities which have banned smoking.

The other small problem with respect to travelling on the *Australind* relates not to the train itself, but to facilities at the other end. People need to make sure that they are organised because they will be in trouble if they are not. Anyone wanting a taxi from the Perth station will find it almost impossible to get one. I know that there are problems with the construction that is going on around the platform at Perth, but it is almost impossible to get a taxi. I travelled to Perth from Bunbury on a Monday which happened to coincide with the end of a boarders' weekend for some of the private schools. Some young people I knew were also on the train. I took a couple of boys who board at Wesley across to St George's Terrace. They had to lump their bags along with them. Eventually we were able to catch a taxi from the Terrace. Later I found out that some 16 year old girls from a private school had to wait two hours for a taxi. They still could not get one and eventually they had to ring for someone else to pick them up. The taxi driver I hired told me that the drivers will not pick up at the station because there is nowhere for them to stop.

Hon C.J. Bell: There are no pick-up bays.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: They do not stop because there is nowhere for them to pull in.

Hon B.L. Jones: The problems at the Perth railway station will be resolved as soon as the building is finished and then it will be a very nice area to wait in.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I will await that with great anticipation.

Hon D.K. Dans: All over the world cab drivers seem to avoid railway stations.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: They also avoid the international airport terminal for the same sorts of reasons. They will not go to the international airport. The problem could easily be overcome if they were allowed to use the access road between the domestic and international terminals. They will not go the long way around because it is too costly an exercise for them to travel empty that distance of 12 to 15 kilometres. It seems that it is a small logistical problem that should be able to be overcome very easily.

At the other end of the rail journey, the Bunbury station is serviced by a town bus. However, anyone wishing to travel further south to Busselton, Margaret River or Augusta should make

sure that he is organised because there are simply no services. Westrail runs intermittent services, but no services connect with the *Australind*. That is something we should look at. We should also look at maintaining the railway line between Busselton and Bunbury, at least to a level where it is suitable for tourist trains. I would hate to see it deteriorate to the point where it was not of sufficient standard to take tourist trains because in the foreseeable future that railway line will be needed.

Hon B.L. Jones: There will be a lot of good tourist development through that way.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I am sure there will be. I am sure that tourist development will happen despite the Government.

A couple of matters have clouded the reputation of the South West Development Authority. The first is the silicon smelter saga. The South West Development Authority was responsible for selecting the Picton site, mysteriously just two weeks before my by-election date last year. It selected the site subject to the Bunbury region plan. This was confirmed in the answer to a question I asked the Deputy Premier, Mr Parker, just a few days ago. The South West Development Authority overrode the local government authority, the Dardanup Shire. That is all history. The Bunbury region plan itself has a few flaws which have been brought to my attention. It was not the original Bunbury region plan. The original Bunbury region plan was called option A. The Ridden lines designated the area where the smelter was to go as light to medium industry. It was called class 3, industrial zone. Option B was also put out for public submission. It had designated the bulk of the area as residential. This option was preferred by the majority of the people. Eventually the Bunbury region plan appeared as option C. It was based on something called an industrial sites plan in Bunbury which was not put out to public submission. It had the area designated for the smelter as class 2, which is heavy industry. The people feel that they had the wool pulled over their eyes during this exercise, which happened three to five years ago.

There are clauses in the Bunbury region plan to cover reclassification of an area from class 3 to class 2, subject to comprehensive justification, whatever that means. Nobody has ever been able to find out. Although questions have been asked, nobody has ever revealed the comprehensive justification for the change in industry classification of the Picton site. People in the Bunbury region who asked such questions were given the Public Service merry-go-round. They were sent from one office to another and never really received answers.

The second stage of the silicon smelter saga occurred when the Bill was rushed through Parliament in November and December last year. Concern then started to mount in earnest. Here I must compliment the Dardanup Shire Council and the Eaton Ratepayers Association. They mobilised their thoughts and organised a public meeting which was attended by about 700 people. The member for Mitchell quickly saw the way the wind was blowing and made statements opposing his Government's decision, a decision to which he had been party just a few months earlier.

Hon B.L. Jones: He represented the ratepayers very well really, didn't he?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: In March, the Environmental Protection Authority clearance was given for the Picton site, subject to certain conditions, but its terms of reference were really only economic or industrial considerations. It had not considered social costs which were at the core of the people's objections to the Picton site. A second public meeting in March was attended by about 500 people. Premier Dowding was in Bunbury that day, but did not have the gumption to attend that meeting.

Hon B.L. Jones: I think he was rather busy at the time.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: It is a little unusual that the Premier, although in town that day, did not have the courage to show up at a huge public meeting organised for him. That was noted by a lot of people.

Hon Mark Nevill: That's your opinion.

Hon Robert Hetherington: That's a lot of nonsense. It is a false assumption.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: At that meeting the 400 or 500 people present passed a motion to register a vote of no confidence in the South West Development Authority's handling of the situation. A couple of days later, following meetings with the Harvey Shire, it was an-

nounced that the site would shift to Kemerton. Legislation ratifying that move was introduced today in the other place.

Let us consider the legacy of the South West Development Authority's political involvement. There has been a huge cost to the taxpayer. For example, \$9.6 million was set aside to finance the shift from Picton to Kemerton.

Hon B.L. Jones: Don't you think they should have shifted it?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Yes.

Hon N.F. Moore: Not at taxpayers' expense.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The \$9.6 million is in addition to the original inducement of \$5 million to shift it from Pinjarra to Picton. It is in addition also to infrastructure costs for roads and Telecom installations which were put in at Picton on the South West Development Authority's land. It is an addition also to the extra infrastructure such as power and even a railway that will be required at Kemerton. That is taxpayers' money. In addition, the land at Picton owned by the South West Development Authority is laying idle. Another plant had made moves to situate itself there but opted out in the past couple of weeks. This is to do with the refining of mineral sands, so they have their problems now actually doing something with that land. They are left with a lemon. The land was originally purchased from Worsley which was glad to get rid of it. I believe the purchase price was in the vicinity of \$1.2 million, so taxpayers are left with a huge bill for the Government's messy handling of the matter through the South West Development Authority.

The other development in Bunbury where the South West Development Authority has got itself heavily embroiled in controversy is the Tilli development on lots 1 and 3 of the old marshalling yards in Bunbury. The selection process for that development was very rapid just before the South West by-election last year. All of these things start to add up and point to political misuse of the South West Development Authority. The selection process in itself was shady. A developer was selected who was heavily in debt to Teachers Credit Society, which had just gone to the wall. That developer was of very doubtful financial status and was selected ahead of successful and reputable developers. The whole process was questionable and subsequent events have posed further questions about it.

The original "financier" was reputed to be Elders, which quickly withdrew and was replaced by Mercantile Credits after the announcement was made. There have always been rumours of a Government guarantee that I have not been able to substantiate. However, the South West Development Authority does have a caveat on lots 1 and 3 to protect it in the event of any problem with the development. These are unusual circumstances for a Government department to become involved in.

The Tilli development has staggered along from day to day. It is behind schedule and there are all sorts of problems with it. There are only a few workmen on site at any time. It is illuminating to compare that development with one just across the road where St John of God Hospital is being developed by a local contractor. It has gone up rapidly and efficiently with a minimum of fuss, while just on the other side of the road there are problems with building. Contractors will work on this troubled site on a cash basis only. Subcontractors have come to my office, which is close by, worried that they will not be paid in the event of the developer meeting financial problems and that is very serious for these people as their houses and families are on the line, as are the jobs and livelihoods of 10 or 12 other families of people who work for them.

The *South West Times* confirmed my worst fears under the headline on Tuesday, "Tilli Development in doubt", which states -

The second phase of the multi-million dollar Peter Tilli office and retail development has run into serious problems. Mercantile Credits Pty Ltd, financier of the Bunbury Central Business District Project has told the South West Development Authority it is reluctant to proceed with funding of the proposed office block and shopping complex on lot 3.

So our worst fears may be realised. I hope not, for the sake of Bunbury, because the last thing it needs is a half finished development hanging over its head.

I will summarise a couple of matters in relation to the silicon smelter, Tilli developments and the South West Development Authority. This authority should not have been involved as a landowner or guarantor in those two situations. Its role is not in that capacity. Its role is as an umpire and not a player in the game. It has involved the Government in business to an unacceptable level. That, unfortunately, follows the course of some other Government arms in Perth such as the SGIC.

Hon B.L. Jones: Do you know how many good things the South West Development Authority has done?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: If we believe its propaganda, it has done marvellous things. We can read a long list of those things, but if we look a step further we realise that nearly every one of those things would have been achieved through a different department. It has claimed credit, for example, for additions to high schools in the area which would have been done anyway. The South West Development Authority is unfortunately perceived in the south west as working more for the ALP than for the people of the region. The perception is that it is a propaganda machine.

Hon B.L. Jones: That is your perception, not that of the people.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: That is the perception of the people. I am conscious that I am a representative of those people, so I pass on their thoughts.

I have a couple of other general comments about the South West Development Authority. It has made claims about all sorts of things that could and would have been done anyhow. It is really the opposite of decentralisation in the south west because it is attempting to regionalise or centralise by taking away the power of local government. That is the opposite of decentralisation. It has created a glut of office space in Bunbury and is making life difficult for private owners in the central business district. With all of this it has been unable to stop a few things such as the gutting of Telecom's operation in Bunbury and the south west.

Hon Mark Nevill: Are you going to abolish it?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I will come to that in a moment. It has also been unable to stop the loss of air services to Bunbury. I would have thought that if it were serious about the status of Bunbury as a city it would have been serious about maintaining an air link between Bunbury and Perth, but that link is now lost and the South West Development Authority was unable to stop that. It has also been unable to attract the number of public servants and departments to Bunbury from Perth that it said it would. The result is plain to see; there is a tower in Bunbury with three empty floors for which the Government is paying St George's Terrace rents.

Hon Mark Nevill: You're a pack of whingers.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: It is also concentrating heavily on Bunbury. That is a valid criticism for people not living in Bunbury. The South West Development Authority -

Hon T.G. Butler: Tell me what it took to bring Mr House into this House?

Hon N.F. Moore: You are blind.

Several members interjected.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: May I go on, Mr Deputy President?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon John Williams): Order! It appears to me that the speaker has the floor. If Hon Norman Moore and Hon Tom Butler want to conduct a conversation as late as this on Thursday afternoon, might I suggest they go outside and keep it to themselves?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Thank you, Mr Deputy President. The SWDA has also been criticised for too heavy a concentration on Bunbury. It has heard those criticisms and it has announced plans to establish special regional offices in Manjimup, Collie and Busselton, and to upgrade its office in Mandurah. I would remind members that this will cost at least an extra \$100 000 each.

Hon Garry Kelly: They should not do that in that way.

Several members interjected.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Perhaps there is a reason for these regional centres of the South West

Development Authority, but I want to warn the Government of a view held by many in the south west. The best way to do that is to read a letter to the editor of the *Busselton-Margaret Times* of 26 May. It is headed "The department of ideas moves in", and reads -

Oh joy, oh bliss! We are to get an office of the South West Development authority here in Busselton. And so will Collie and Manjimup.

That we should be so lucky!

To have our own little helper, who will give us money and tell us when and where to put marinas, five-star hotels, airports and all manner of wonderful things which we didn't think we could afford.

Perhaps we may become successful like Bunbury - Oops!

Will we get a tower too?

Remember when our council just had annual grants of tax monies from big brother to run our own affairs?

In fact we had to think: "How will we spend all this money?"

Now big brother's little brother might do all our thinking for us.

We are all one region so let's get it all together with SWDA.

Perhaps compose a jazzy jingle and play it at least 10 times a day, lest we forget our good fortune.

The regional development idea must be great. I believe it works well in some other countries.

These people are known as "commissars" there.

Several members interjected.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I am just telling members that that is the perception of many of the moves of the South West Development Authority. Members can listen and take heed or ignore it at their peril.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon BARRY HOUSE: To conclude my remarks on the South West Development Authority I reiterate, so that there is no misunderstanding, that we are not out deliberately to torpedo the South West Development Authority.

Hon J.M. Berinson: You could have fooled me.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: We are not out to abolish the South West Development Authority. All we want it to do is to perform the role it is supposed to; that is to be a coordinator for projects and a facilitator in order to cut through some of the red tape of Government.

Several members interjected.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The next point is the housing crisis which is looming in the south west. I refer to a discussion document released a few days ago by my Federal colleague, Mr Geoff Prosser and myself.

Several members interjected.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: This document highlights a desperate shortage of private and public rental accommodation in the south west. As a result we have people under intense competition for housing in the south west. Rents for houses are rising rapidly and Homeswest queues are lengthening. The crisis is there at the moment, and some families face a winter without a roof over their heads. The situation is bound to get worse as the population rises. I remind members that the population in the south west is rising at a much more rapid rate than the State average.

Hon Mark Nevill: Because of our policies.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The position will only get worse -

Hon Graham Edwards: Or better.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: - as the population demands increase. It will get worse as home loan interest rates increase, and they are increasing now as a result of our Federal Labor colleagues.

Hon T.G. Butler: If you wait they will come down.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I cannot afford to wait that long.

Hon Graham Edwards: How did you get on before we came in?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The situation will get worse, because funding cuts were announced recently in the May mini-Budget for the first home owners' scheme, and there is also a six per cent cut in the State's housing allocation which was announced at the Premiers' Conference.

Hon Garry Kelly: Who introduced the first home owners' scheme?

Hon J.M. Berinson: Are you saying we should put more taxpayers' money into that?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The position will get worse as delays in land releases continue, due to planning bottlenecks.

Hon Mark Nevill: Do you think we should spend more money on our policies?

Hon P.G. Pental: You could not promise more than you did last October.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I have a few statistics dealing with private rentals. Let us take Albany for a start. When this survey was taken three properties were available for rent. In Bunbury rentals have increased from 20 to 25 per cent over the last year. The rental market there has been very tight for a year. Busselton is still desperately short of rental accommodation. Average home rentals run from \$100 to \$110 a week, up \$10 to \$20 over last year.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Is that for a three bedroomed house? What sort of house are you talking about?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The net result is that the proportion of the take home pay for a newly wed couple on a single income, for example -

Hon Graham Edwards: What is the size of the house?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: - for rent has increased from 26.2 per cent at 1 July 1987 to 30.5 per cent at 30 June 1988. I have a couple of statistics relating to Homeswest housing. In Albany there is a waiting list of 200. In Bunbury the list increased from 367 in April 1987 to 420 in April this year; that is a 14.4 per cent increase. The average waiting period for Homeswest assistance has risen from eight months to 13 months during that time, which is a 62.5 per cent increase. In Busselton, 334 people are on the waiting list. This is the largest waiting list in years, and the average waiting period has risen from eight to 10 months a year ago to around 16 months.

Hon Mark Nevill: That is a lot better than when you were in Government.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: In Collie 40 people are waiting for accommodation. That is a three month waiting list. In Denmark the waiting list is six months.

Hon Mark Nevill: We are very proud of that.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: It has probably gone up from a month last year.

Hon Mark Nevill: Six months.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: In Manjimup 80 people are waiting. There are other statistics to back up the argument.

Several members interjected.

Hon Mark Nevill: We must be doing a great job.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon John Williams): Order! I could leave the Chair for half an hour until the House settles down.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: To exacerbate that problem, there have been cuts in Homeswest funding. In 1986-87 The State Government spent \$58.4 million on building Homeswest accommodation. That figure was cut in 1987-88 to \$42.5 million, a 34 per cent cut in real terms.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: What was it in 1982?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: This has delayed the construction of millions of dollars of Homeswest housing throughout the State. I will reiterate the problem I mentioned a short while ago. At the Premiers' Conference recently the State's allocation for Commonwealth housing funds for 1988-89 was set at the same monetary level as in 1987-88. That is a real reduction of around six per cent. Clearly, there is no hope for an increase in housing construction to match the level of expenditure in 1986-87. However, being a constructive political party, the Liberal Party offers positive solutions, which revolve around the Federal Government committing itself to a drop in the interest rates. The Federal Government has not really shown the way in this respect.

Hon Mark Nevill: You could do that by reducing Government expenditure.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: There was some hope recently, but in the last week or so interest rates have turned around and are heading up again. There is also a need federally for the capital gains tax to be scrapped. That does not mean there is not a case for a speculative tax for people who enter the market on a speculative basis. However, the scrapping of the capital gains tax would provide incentive and encouragement for people to enter the private rental market. There is also a need for more incentive for long term tenants of Homeswest homes to purchase their homes. The Opposition spokesman on housing, Mr Richard Lewis, announced policies that will go a long way towards providing incentives for long term Homeswest tenants to own their homes. He proposed a scheme whereby discounts are offered to people who have lived in Homeswest accommodation for more than five years.

Hon B.L. Jones: We are already doing that.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The other solution is for Homeswest to use its full Budget allocation, which it has not done in recent years.

Hon J.M. Berinson: You are joking!

Hon BARRY HOUSE: That may improve the situation.

Hon Robert Hetherington: You are surprising the Minister for Budget Management.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I refer now to Government department reports, which have come out in multiples in the south west and have mystified and confused a lot of people. It seems to be the age of reports and inquiries. It actually prompted one local shire councillor recently to remark that a certain consultant in the south west, who has been responsible for many of these reports and was suddenly saddled with another, was doing more studies than the whole staff of the University of Western Australia.

Hon Mark Nevill: That is petty.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Currently there are studies into a south west airport; a south west regional museum; the Leeuwin-Naturaliste region, stage two; the Leeuwin-Naturaliste draft management plan for the Department of Conservation and Land Management; and there is also the Geographe Bay trawl fisheries draft management plan.

Hon B.L. Jones: What is wrong with that?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: There is the Lee report into drainage, and an inquiry into the effects of sand mining in the south west.

Hon Mark Nevill: What is your problem?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The other day I heard it mooted that there might be an inquiry into the future of the old Margaret River Hospital. The last two studies I mentioned possibly have more to do with the fact that we are entering into an election climate than good Government. The Government has pushed the debate on them sideways and out of the public eye until after the next election. I acknowledge that in many of these reports some good ideas are put forward and much good work is done, but I would question the purpose of some of these inquiries.

Hon Mark Nevill: Which ones?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Firstly, some of them go through a charade of inviting public sub-

missions. This is done so that the Government can say later that it has reached consensus and the public have been consulted.

Hon Mark Nevill: So you are not going to have submission on your report?

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon John Williams): Order! I now warn Hon Mark Nevill, Hon Robert Hetherington and Hon Beryl Jones, who have been constantly interjecting. I ask them to desist or I will take the next step.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Some of them are organised by seminar, by invitation only. I refer to one in Bunbury on Monday night which I attended. I was promptly informed by the member for Bunbury, who was the chairman of the law and order seminar, that I should not have been there because I was not invited and did not represent anybody, but I stayed anyway. The guest speaker at that seminar was to have been the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mr Taylor. However, Mr Taylor did not get there because somebody forgot to organise to have the lights turned on at the airport for his plane, and he was unable to land. His plane circled Bunbury for a while and then flew back to Perth. I wonder how much that cost the taxpayer.

Hon J.M. Berinson: If I could just clarify that: I heard from the Minister what happened. The reason the plane did not land eventually was the weather problem.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Well, maybe.

Hon Tom Stephens: That is the Attorney General speaking.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The reason given publicly at the meeting was that somebody forgot to turn the lights on.

Hon J.M. Berinson: The lights caused the delay; the weather caused him not to attend at all.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I did not mind him not attending anyway. I return to the issue of Government reports. These reports are released and sometimes that is done in a strange way and the public are not really aware of what is happening. The public suddenly realise that all sorts of things are proposed in these reports into which they did not have any input and which are thoroughly objectionable. The only way of getting their point of view across then is to organise public meetings - at great expense and inconvenience at times - and even then there is no guarantee that their point of view will be taken into account in the end. One example is the CALM Leeuwin-Naturaliste draft management plan. A lot of good things were proposed in that but a couple of aspects of it restricted people's access to coastal areas, which was clearly impractical and unacceptable to the people who live in that area and to the tourists who visit it. The only way of objecting to that was for people to get their act together and to hold a public meeting to make their objections known. Another example is the Geographe Bay trawl fisheries draft management plan, which proposed to allow trawling of Geographe Bay to continue into the future. That is unacceptable to a lot of people in the south west and they organised themselves very skilfully; they were able to get 600 people to a public meeting in order to raise objections to that.

Hon Garry Kelly: That was a draft plan. Surely it is better to do it like that than merely to have a plan adopted?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: As long as some notice is taken of the draft plan. However that is the point I am making. Often the public submission period is for appearances' sake only, like the Lee report on drainage, and the public submissions are totally ignored. The Lee report on drainage was theoretically presented to the Cabinet last November. The Minister for Water Resources promised the Busselton drainage committee that he would release it and discuss it with them before any public announcements were made. The Minister for Water Resources arrived in Busselton, and released his plans for the future and the report on the same day. That is a strange way of doing things. None of the recommendations of the Lee report was implemented. The Minister had made up his mind a long time before that and he did not take the report into consideration at all; he was not even prepared to consider it. I question the value of that report.

In conclusion, the south west is still one of the best places in the world in which to live and work.

Members: Hear, hear!

Hon BARRY HOUSE: One example of the projects which are occurring in the south west, making it a very progressive place, is the Margaret River Hospital. I commend the new Minister for Health for making the announcement which got that hospital off the ground. At long last the people of Margaret River will receive some reward for their efforts, as Governments, both Liberal and Labor, have procrastinated for far too long about the hospital. It is good to see some action has been taken.

If any members visit Dunsborough they will see a townsite mushrooming before their eyes. We have already seen the development of a new hotel complex and further extensions recently announced involve a major shopping complex. That is a fair indication of the growth in that region. There is concern in Dunsborough about planning bottlenecks which are causing industrial blocks, in particular, to be in very short supply. Several businesses have indicated they will leave the district if they cannot expand in the near future. There has been a hold up because of the State Planning Commission.

[Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.]

Hon BARRY HOUSE: There is talk of a marina complex on the coast around Dunsborough. There is an obvious demand for that facility and it is important that it develop in line with the wishes of the local people in the near future.

In Busselton, developments such as the Busselton Boulevard have resulted in the area growing very rapidly. I believe we will soon see new developments, including a total management plan for the area, which will encourage tourist and environmental aspects, residential developments, a marina and commercial developments.

The Bunbury City Council has recently shown positive support for the entertainment centre. There is an active committee in Bunbury which has started raising funds, and has obtained tax deductability from an idea which I presented to them during my election campaign last year. Extensions are planned to the Forum in Bunbury through the Merrifield-Cooksey Group and, it is hoped, major industries such as the Sarich plant and the pulp mill can be attracted to the south west.

In general terms the future of the south west looks good, and it will look even better given the correct climate to work in after the election next year.

Hon B.L. Jones: It certainly will be.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I support the motion.

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

SILICON (PICTON) AGREEMENT AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon J.M. Berinson (Leader of the House), read a first time.

Second Reading

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan - Leader of the House) [5.25 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Bill is to ratify a variation agreement between the State, Barrack Silicon Pty Ltd, hereinafter referred to as the company, and Barrack Mines Limited, hereinafter referred to as the guarantor, which will enable the company to construct a silicon manufacturing plant on Government owned land at Kemerton, approximately 10 kilometres north of Australind.

To put the variation agreement in context, I shall briefly describe the background of the principal agreement. Members may recall that the principal agreement, namely the Silicon (Picton) Agreement, was passed by both Houses of Parliament and assented to in December 1987. The purpose of this agreement was to enable the company to establish and operate a silicon plant for the manufacture of silicon at Picton.

The Environmental Protection Authority's report on the company's proposals published in March of this year for the Picton site concluded that the project was environmentally acceptable at Picton and could be implemented subject to the company accepting the EPA's recommendations and also undertaking the company's own environmental commitments. The company believed that the plant could have met the stringent environmental standards required at the Picton site. However, the environmental review process saw the neighbouring Eaton community galvanised into solid opposition to this industry in the Picton area.

In response to this public concern, the Government asked the company to investigate the feasibility of locating the silicon plant on Government owned land at Kemerton. Members may recall that the Kemerton land was purchased by the Government as the site for an aluminium smelter, and is where SCM is building a titanium dioxide plant. The company has identified the cost penalties of relocating the silicon plant to Kemerton and the Government has agreed to meet a portion of these costs, which I shall detail later.

The EPA has reviewed the environmental impact of the silicon plant at Kemerton and has set conditions for the implementation of the project. These revised conditions set by the EPA have been accepted by the company. It is now appropriate for me to describe briefly the new proposals which are the subject of this amendment to the agreement.

With the passage of time since the Silicon (Picton) Agreement was enacted last year, the silicon project has been defined by a project description document. This will become the "approved project", which will supersede the need for the submission and consideration of the project's proposals, required under the current clause 5. One hundred and sixty hectares of land in the Kemerton Industrial Park is intended to be granted to Barrack Silicon on terms and conditions to be agreed, and I now table plan marked "B", which describes the said land.

[See paper No 249.]

In recognition of the extra costs of relocating the silicon plant site from Picton to Kemerton, the State has advanced by way of loan to the company the sum of \$8 million. As previously stated by the Deputy Premier Mr Parker, this figure represents \$3 million compensation and \$5 million to meet regional development objectives. Repayment will be by annual instalments of \$400 000 for each year the production of silicon is in excess of 20 000 tonnes after June 1990.

In view of the expected economic benefits to the State resulting from the maximum utilisation of the installed capacity, the Government will pay a reciprocal production grant of \$400 000 per year to Barrack Silicon for production of silicon in excess of 20 000 tonnes each year after June 1990. In recognition of the financial holding costs of any delays which the site relocation has directly caused, the State will pay \$1.1 million for each month of delay in the commissioning of the silicon plant furnaces, which is directly attributable to the shift from Picton to Kemerton beyond 30 June 1989. This compensation is limited to six months.

Benefits of the project include the prospect of effective market penetration both in Australia and overseas, and potential export earnings in the order of \$50 million per annum over the 20 year life span of the project. In addition, with regard to employment, the latest information indicates that 350 people will be employed in the construction phase of the project and 107 during operations.

I will now summarise the clauses contained in the Silicon (Picton) Agreement amendment and in so doing I will refer to the original agreement dated 12 November 1987 as the principal agreement. Clause 1 ensures that words and expressions have the same meaning as they have in the principal agreement. Clause 2 provides that the main clauses of the amending agreement shall not come into operation until the ratifying Bill has been passed by Parliament. Clause 3 provides for the main variations to the principal agreements. Paragraph (a) of subclause (1) of clause 3 of the variation agreement introduces definitions for the approved project and commissioning. Paragraph (b) of subclause (1) of clause 3 identifies the silicon plant as being at Kemerton. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subclause (1) of clause 3 change the plan marked "A" for the silicon plant site at Picton to the plan marked "B" for the silicon site at Kemerton.

As I previously indicated, clause 3(2) of the variation agreement substitutes the previous submission of proposals with the approved project which the company shall implement. Clause 3(3) allows for the granting of the Kemerton silicon plant site and enables the com-

pany to gain early access for preparatory building works. This subclause also provides for the return of the silicon plant site or value thereof if the company has not proceeded with the implementation of the approved project by 31 March 1990. Clause 3(4) of the variation agreement introduces new clauses 6A and 6B into the principal agreement. As I have previously stated, the State has agreed to compensate Barrack Silicon for the real costs incurred in the change of sites from Picton to Kemerton. Clause 6A provides \$8 million to be advanced by way of a loan to be repaid in instalments of \$400 000 per annum for each fiscal year in which the production of silicon exceeds 20 000 tonnes. Clause 6B provides for the State to pay the company \$1.1 million per month for delays in commissioning beyond 30 June 1989 directly attributable to the site relocation. The sunset date on this compensation is 31 December 1989.

Clause 3(5) of the variation agreement introduces clause 7A into the principal agreement. Clause 7A provides for the payment of a production grant to the company which may, at the discretion of the State, be offset against the outstanding balance of the loan under new clause 6A. Clause 3(6) of the variation agreement expands the scope of clause 8 of the principal agreement with revised requirements for the submission of additional proposals as detailed in subclauses (1) to (8). This substitutes the same requirements as would have been needed under the former arrangements. Clause 3(7) of the variation agreement amends clause 9 of the principal agreement on environmental protection to reflect the substitution of the submission of proposals mechanism with the approved project. Clause 3(8) of the variation agreement introduces new clause 17A into the principal agreement to permit construction of the facilities at the silicon plant site to proceed while the formal approvals are being processed. There is still a requirement for the company to comply with the normal statutory requirements. Clause 3(9) of the variation agreement introduces a new subclause (4) to clause 22 of the principal agreement to provide for determination of the agreement if the company fails to make payments pursuant to the new clauses 6(3) and 6A. Clause 3(10) of the variation agreement extends the application of clause 23 of the principal agreement dealing with payments on the cessation or determination of the agreement to include the new clauses 6(3) and 6A. Subclauses (11) and (12) are necessary word changes resulting from the foregoing changes. Clause 4 gives the guarantor's consent to the variation agreement.

I believe the establishment of the silicon plant at Kemerton, the subject of this amendment agreement, will secure for the State a substantial investment by Barrack Silicon Pty Ltd on a site that is environmentally superior to the previous Picton site.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Max Evans.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: ORDINARY

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan - Leader of the House) [5.32 pm]: I move -

That the House do now adjourn.

Local Government Amendment Bill (No 2), 1987

HON N.F. MOORE (Lower North) [5.33 pm]: I want to convey to the House a matter which is causing serious concern and which is of an urgent nature. Last week I read in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* some comments made by the Mayor of Kalgoorlie, Mr Ray Finlayson, who is also Chairman of the Country Shire Councils Association. He said -

Mr Finlayson joined WA Local Government Minister Jeff Carr in voicing criticism of the Opposition, which has rejected the Government's proposed amendments to the Local Government Act, one of which would have re-affirmed the principle that all councils were entitled to rate mining tenements.

Further on he said -

"It is a pity if the Opposition is opposing this amendment just for opposition's sake.

I then decided to try to track down what was going on. As members are aware the Local Government Amendment Bill (No 2) was passed through the Assembly last year and came to this House. The Government sought to reinstate it this session and the Opposition, for proper

reasons, refused to go down that path. I do not want to argue about the merits of that argument because the House has already made a decision. The members opposite should not cast aspersions on the decisions made by this House.

I wondered where Mr Finlayson had obtained his information. He is clearly wrong because he said that the Opposition rejected the Bill. The Opposition did not reject it, it rejected the procedure the Government had sought to use in this House. I then checked the questions and answers from another place and found that the Minister for Local Government is reported on page 856 of *Hansard* as follows -

The Bill completed its passage through this Chamber -

That is the Legislative Assembly. He continued -

- last year and had reached the second reading adjourned debate stage in the Legislative Council when Parliament closed. When Parliament opened for the current session the normal procedural motion was moved to reinstate the Bill at the same stage reached last year so that debate could be resumed. The Opposition in the Legislative Council then took the extraordinary step of defeating the motion, thereby rejecting the whole Bill.

I do not know whether the Minister for Local Government has any knowledge of parliamentary procedure or whether he is being deliberately provocative and telling untruths. The pity is that copies of that question and answer were sent to local authorities, particularly to those in my area where the question of the rating of mining tenements is an important issue.

Hon Graham Edwards: It was not important enough for you to reinstate the Bill.

Hon N.F. MOORE: It is important enough for the Bill to be reintroduced, but it is not important enough for the Government to break all the conventions of the parliamentary system to get its way in this matter. We have argued this before and the Government lost the vote and the House made the correct decision.

Hon Graham Edwards: Be man enough to accept the decisions that are made here.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Will the Minister justify his argument by saying that Mr Carr is correct when he said that the Opposition rejected the Bill? We did not. The Bill was introduced into this House on 8 December 1987. All members know that we sat in this House until 22 December debating the Government's legislation. Why did the Government not seek to debate that Bill during that period? It had plenty of time to debate it.

Hon Fred McKenzie: There was other business to be debated.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The Government did not worry about sitting until 22 December.

Hon B.L. Jones: You had too many speakers on your side.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Mr Deputy President, will you do something about that. I cannot believe the inane interjections.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon John Williams): Order! I have noted it once, and I will note it again.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The Government had time to proceed with the Bill last session. The Opposition expressed opposition to a small part of the Bill and, in fact, expressed support for that part dealing with the rating of mining tenements. The Government, for its own purposes, decided not to debate the Bill in December last year and sought to have it reinstated this session. Bearing in mind that the Government did not win that procedural argument, it has had time to reinstate the Bill in the Assembly and to go through the normal stages again so that it could be debated in both Houses in order that we can make a decision about it. The Opposition would have agreed to virtually the whole Bill, particularly that section relating to the rating of mining tenements. The problem that has come to my notice is that if the Bill is not passed by 30 June there is considerable doubt about the capacity of local authorities in my electorate to rate mining tenements. That will have a substantial affect on their revenue.

During the three weeks that Parliament has sat the Government has not given any indication that it intends to proceed with the Bill and, therefore, I propose to introduce a private member's Bill next week to deal with the clause relating to the rating of mining tenements. We will see whether the Government is playing games, whether it will not introduce the Bill, and

whether it will try to blame the Opposition because many local authorities will have their revenue reduced. That is the sort of trick the Government played with random breath-testing. The Government has told fibs about the procedure of the House; the Minister for Local Government is doing the same thing in this case. The Government is perpetrating nonsense and a lie in the community about this issue. I will challenge the Government to deal with the Bill before 30 June.

Hon Mark Nevill: You will be embarrassed.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I will not be embarrassed. If I have to introduce a private member's Bill next week, I will and if the Government will not debate it the problem that the local authorities face is on the head of the Government. I would rather that the Government acknowledge that the Minister for Local Government has made a mistake and bring the Bill before the Parliament as soon as possible so it can be passed. I am certain that as far as the Opposition is concerned there are no problems in having this legislation passed as a matter of urgency and it could be passed before the end of this session.

Hon Mark Nevill: You cannot take the pressure.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The Minister told a lie about what happened in this House.

Withdrawal of Remark

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon John Williams): I ask the member to withdraw that three lettered word.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I withdraw.

Debate Resumed

Hon N.F. MOORE: I get upset when members interject and they know darned well that what I am saying is correct. The Government has the opportunity to take this action and I ask the Minister to talk to Cabinet about reintroducing the Bill. I would like the Leader of the House to speak to the Minister for Local Government and tell him that if the Bill is not passed by 30 June problems could be encountered by some local authorities, particularly those in my electorate which are not very wealthy and are in the more remote areas of the State. They need every cent of rateable money they can get. I would like the Leader of the House to tell the Minister for Local Government that and request him to introduce legislation as a matter of urgency. I guarantee that I will support this clause and I hope the Opposition will pass it as expeditiously as possible, certainly before 30 June. If the Government will not do that, I repeat that I will introduce a Bill next week, dealing only with that one clause, and we shall see whether the Government is prepared to debate it.

HON GRAHAM EDWARDS (North Metropolitan - Minister for Consumer Affairs) [5.41 pm]: That was one of the most extraordinary speeches I have ever heard in the adjournment debate. The Opposition was given an opportunity to support the Government's wish to reinstate that very important Bill to the Notice Paper. Had it done so, we could have dealt with the matter, it could have passed through this Chamber and gone back to the Legislative Assembly. The Opposition chose not to do that, and it is remarkable that it ignored the needs of the rural communities of this State.

Hon N.F. Moore: That is not true.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: It also ignored the needs of the disabled people in this State who for some time have been seeking protection for disabled people's parking bays, which protection was included in the Bill. It dug a hole for itself and is now wriggling like a worm on a hook trying to wheedle its way out of a decision made when it misused its numbers in this House. I am not surprised that Hon Phil Pandal sits squawking and interjecting in an endeavour to substantiate the absurd claims made by Hon Norman Moore. The Opposition got itself into this predicament and now comes to the Government in an endeavour to solve the problem.

Hon N.F. Moore: I will give you a chance to pass the Bill.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: Opposition members can say what they like; they did not allow the Bill to progress through this Chamber as it should have.

Hon N.F. Moore: We do not break the rules of Parliament for your purposes.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: It is simply a nonsense to say the Government would have been breaking the rules of this Chamber or that it would have been breaking any convention. The member is trying to hide behind a very thin veneer. The Chamber is its own master and in an issue as important as this the Opposition should have accepted some responsibility. I am not surprised that people such as that very honourable and great Western Australian, Mr Ray Finlayson -

Hon N.F. Moore: He has become a Labor Party stooge.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I do not agree; he is a great Western Australian with a great record of service to this State. I am not surprised that he and others like him are upset or that the Minister for Local Government is upset. It was unwarranted of the Opposition to adopt the course it did, and it is unacceptable to me and to the Government for the Opposition to ask the Government to get it off the hook in the manner in which it has.

HON MARK NEVILL (South East) [5.45 pm]: I did not intend to make any comments in the adjournment debate, but the attack on the Mayor of Kalgoorlie, Mr Ray Finlayson, was unwarranted. I have always found Mr Finlayson a very even handed person. He criticises the Labor Party occasionally and also criticises the Opposition occasionally. He is a very fair person and I have never regarded him as a Labor Party supporter. He should be defended.

Hon N. F. Moore: You sent all your people to get him elected; they were at the polling booths and handing out how to vote cards. You used the Labor Party machine to get him re-elected.

Hon MARK NEVILL: The Liberal Party held its conference at the Kalgoorlie town hall on the same day as the election, so the member can draw his conclusions from that.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! Hon Mark Nevill will finish his speech without interruptions from any members.

Hon MARK NEVILL: I was disappointed when the local government Bill was rejected in this House. It was debated fully in the Legislative Assembly last year, introduced in this House on 8 December and was in the House for at least 14 days before the end of the session. The Bill had been lying around during the summer break.

Hon P.G. Pandal: For six months.

Hon MARK NEVILL: The Opposition had plenty of time to consider the Bill, and it rejected it. There is nothing unusual about a Bill not being reinstated to the Notice Paper when it has been debated fully in another place. The Opposition made a tactical error when it bullied the Government with its numbers, and it is now paying the price. Many local authorities in this State will be in a desperate financial position because of the bullying tactics of the Opposition.

Hon N. F. Moore: What tripe.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.47 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

AIDS

Sexual Partners - Notification

152. Hon P.G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is consideration being given to the possibility of making it compulsory for medical practitioners to inform the sexual partner of a known AIDS sufferer of his/her condition?
- (2) If so, what person or body is considering the matter?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that in the United Kingdom the General Medical Council now permits doctors to inform partners of AIDS sufferers, even if permission by the sufferer is withheld?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) Legislation changes to the Health Act are being considered.
- (2) The Health Department and the AIDS Advisory Committee.
- (3) I am aware of newspaper reports to this effect, and expect to receive more information shortly.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Carson Street Special School - Educational Admission

153. Hon P.G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

Adverting to question 51 of 1988, will the Minister give an unequivocal assurance that no steps will be taken to artificially "talk down" potential new enrolments at the Carson Street Special School in view of previous experiences where parents have been dissuaded from enrolling at Carson Street because of advice that the school "won't be around much longer"?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

Neither I nor Ministry officers will seek to dissuade parents from enrolling their children at the Carson Street School, if that school offers the most appropriate educational program for those children, given the nature and extent of their disabilities and the child's home address. However, I expect Ministry staff to offer parents of disabled children counselling on the most appropriate educational opportunities and placements for their children.

MARSH, MR L.

Cleaning Services - Termination of Employment

154. Hon N.F. MOORE, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it correct that Mr L. Marsh has lost his cleaning contract at the Applecross and Booragoon Pre-primary Centres?
- (2) If so,
 - (a) who is now to clean these buildings;
 - (b) why has the contract been terminated; and
 - (c) what is the anticipated saving in the cost of cleaning these two centres as a result of the termination of the contract?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) Mr Marsh's contract to clean the Applecross and Booragoon pre-primary centres will terminate on 24 June 1988.
- (2) (a) Ministry day labour cleaning staff;

- (b) a policy decision in respect of the cleaning of off-site pre-primary centres; and
- (c) as the number of hours of cleaning at both centres is to be increased from the beginning of third term, no direct comparison of costs can be made.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

Lynwood Primary School - Drainage Problems

156. Hon N.F. MOORE, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Lynwood Primary School has severe drainage problems?
- (2) If so, what action is being taken to overcome this problem?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A two part program of rectification work has been devised. Approval was given on 14 June 1988 to proceed urgently with the programmed maintenance component of the work. The upgrading component has been referred to the district office for consideration as a minor work.

FIRES

West Lynwood Primary School - Repair and Reconstruction

157. Hon N.F. MOORE, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) When did part of the West Lynwood Primary School burn down?
- (2) Where are the children who are unable to attend West Lynwood Primary School because of the fire damage currently attending school?
- (3) When is it expected that work will commence and be completed to repair the damage done to West Lynwood Primary School?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) The morning of 30 January 1988.
- (2) Lynwood Primary School.
- (3) Reconstruction and upgrading work is currently under way. Completion is anticipated during October 1988.

AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF

Shearer Training

158. Hon H.W. GAYFER, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is it correct that the Department of Agriculture is planning to discontinue its shearer training course?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that 800 learners are put through the learners training school at Midland annually?
- (3) If (1) is yes, how is it proposed that shearers can be taught in order to replace those who retire or leave the industry.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(3)

The Department of Agriculture is discussing with the Australian Wool Corporation, western region, shearer training with the objective of the AWC assuming full responsibility for all facets of shearer training in WA. This is in line with the growers' own decision confirmed at their annual conference in Albury last month.

In transferring these activities, the understanding is that shearer training in WA will not be penalised. This policy is supported by the PGA and WAFF, on the basis that it will enable increased advisory activity in sheep production, without affecting shearer training.

The AWC is currently reviewing the structure of shearer training in WA, to ensure that sufficient shearers are available to meet the needs of the wool industry. In part, they see a need for increased training to improve the quality of shearing as well as the number of shearers, and so their program will be developing such areas of training.

- (2) The Department of Agriculture currently trains about 160 trainees annually, not 800, at both Midland and on sheep farms.

ABORIGINAL LANDS TRUST
Wingeleena-Warburton Area - Road Permit

159. Hon P.G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

I refer to his answer to question 54 of 1988 and further ask -

- (1) Why in part (3) of the question did the Minister fail to state the reason why the applicant was refused permission to use the road which travels past the Blackstone community and near Winburn Rocks, on his route through the Wingeleena-Warburton area?
- (2) Was the reason for the refusal due to the fact that the applicant is a white man?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2)

In my previous response I stated to the House by way of providing the reason for the refusal that the Ngaanyatjarra Council opposed the issue of a permit for the road in question; however, permission was given for transit through the central reserve area by the direct route via Warburton, Giles and Docker River.

LANDCORP
Holiday WA Centre

160. Hon P.G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Holiday WA Centre is one of 30 sites being considered for sale by LandCorp?
- (2) Has this been at the instigation of LandCorp or the Tourism Commission?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(2)

The Western Australian Tourist Centre is one of 30 sites included in a report prepared by LandCorp in its role of monitoring and reviewing the Government's property portfolio. The report has not yet been considered by Government; however, I am not aware of any proposal to sell the site.

OLD PEOPLES' HOMES
Electricity Tariffs

161. Hon P.G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Economic Development and Trade:

- (1) Is it correct that some aged persons' complexes are charged for electricity at a corporate rate?
- (2) Is that corporate rate higher than the electricity rate for individual private residences?
- (3) Is he aware that residents of the Salvation Army's Hollywood Village are

fearful that the increased corporate electricity rate for the next financial year is likely to be passed on to them?

- (4) Will he undertake to intervene so an immediate examination of the corporate rate charge for aged persons' complexes can be conducted to see if it can be abolished or modified?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
 (2) The basic corporate rate is higher than the domestic rate for individual premises. However, this situation does not necessarily prevail in multiple unit complexes.
 (3) No.
 (4) I have asked the commission to review the position.

ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Colbung, Mr Ken - Dismissal

162. Hon P.G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) Is it correct that the Chairman of the Aboriginal Advisory Council, Mr Ken Colbung, has been either sacked or asked to stand down from his position?
 (2) If so, was this because he spoke publicly about the need to educate the Aboriginal community about the dangers of AIDS?
 (3) If yes, how were his comments related to his vacating the position of chairman of the council?
 (4) If no to (2), what were the reasons for Mr Colbung being asked to vacate the position?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(4)

Section 18(3) of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972 provides for the Chairman of the Aboriginal Advisory Council to be chosen by and from amongst the members of the council. The change of chairmanship to which the member refers was a matter therefore for the members of the Aboriginal Advisory Council and not a matter determined by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs or the Government. The member could direct his question to the Aboriginal Advisory Council.

ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Colbung, Mr Ken - Dismissal

163. Hon P.G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it correct that the Chairman of the Aboriginal Advisory Council, Mr Ken Colbung, has been either sacked or asked to stand down from his position?
 (2) If so, was this because he spoke publicly about the need to educate the Aboriginal community about the dangers of AIDS?
 (3) If yes, how were his comments related to his vacating the position of chairman of the council?
 (4) If no to (2), what were the reasons for Mr Colbung being asked to vacate the position?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

See answer to question 162.

AIDS

Aboriginal Education

164. Hon P.G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has consideration been given to implementing special programs to educate the Aboriginal community to the dangers of AIDS?
- (2) Have any plans for such programs been formed?
- (3) If so, what are the details of these programs?
- (4) If special AIDS educational programs have not been considered for Aborigines, what is the reason?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2)

Yes.

- (3) A wide range of programs for Aboriginal communities have been implemented as part of the Health Department's AIDS education program. These have entailed extensive consultation with Aboriginal communities, and have met an extremely encouraging response.
- (4) Not applicable.

GREYHOUND RACING

Mitchell Report - Costs

167. Hon G.E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) What was the cost of the Mitchell report on greyhound racing?
- (2) What was the objective of the report?
- (3) Has the report been acted upon?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) \$120 000.
- (2) The Mitchell inquiry into greyhound racing was initiated by the Government to ascertain the extent of the financial problems confronting the Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association and to recommend on the long term future of the industry.
- (3) Yes. A major restructure of the administration of greyhound racing has been implemented and a Bill to reflect the recommendations contained in the Mitchell report will be introduced in this session of Parliament.

GREYHOUND RACING

Mitchell Report - Tabling

168. Hon G.E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Will the Minister for Racing and Gaming table the Mitchell report on greyhound racing?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(2)

The Minister refers the member to the answer given in the Legislative Council to his question 363 of 13 October 1987.

HOMESWEST

Housing - White Street, Bunbury

171. Hon BARRY HOUSE, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many homes are owned by Homeswest in White Street, Bunbury?
- (2) When were they purchased or built?
- (3) How many vacant blocks are owned by Homeswest in White Street, Bunbury?

- (4) When were they purchased?
- (5) Are any of these vacant blocks going to be sold?
- (6) When will houses be built on the vacant lots owned by Homeswest in White Street, Bunbury?
- (7) Is the Minister aware of the concern of existing homeowners in White Street that their homes will be devalued by any further increase in the number of Homeswest properties?
- (8) What steps are being taken to alleviate the concerns of these residents?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) Nil.
 - (2) Not applicable.
 - (3) Nil.
 - (4)-(8) Not applicable.
-