

# Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, 13 May 1981

The SPEAKER (Mr Thompson) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

## TRAFFIC

### *Reduction of Road Carnage: Petition*

MR WATT (Albany) [4.32 p.m.]: I present a petition in terms similar to those previously presented to the House in respect of measures taken by the RTA to reduce the road toll. The petition bears 173 signatures and I certify that it conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

(See petition No. 45.)

## TRAFFIC

### *Reduction of Road Carnage: Petition*

MR WILSON (Dianella) [4.33 p.m.]: I have a petition couched in terms similar to those of the petition which has just been presented to the House. It bears 35 signatures and I certify that it conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

(See petition No. 46.)

## BILLS (2): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Mental Health Bill.
2. Acts Amendment (Mental Health) Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by Mr Young (Minister for Health), and read a first time.

## ART GALLERY AMENDMENT BILL

### *Second Reading*

MR GRAYDEN (South Perth—Minister for Cultural Affairs) [4.37 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is primarily to give the necessary statutory authority to the Art Gallery Board to operate a restaurant within the Art Gallery building, as specified in new paragraph (i) of section 18(2) of the principal Act.

It is also to permit the Art Gallery Board to undertake other activities as required to encourage art development in this State, such as the sale of publications, stationery, souvenirs and artifacts, as the Minister may from time to time determine. This provision is outlined in new section 18(2)(j).

Negotiations to establish a restaurant facility were finalised last year and the restaurant began operating on 1 August 1980. As a result it has been necessary to date this legislation retrospective to this date.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Parker.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AMENDMENT BILL

### *Second Reading*

MR GRAYDEN (South Perth—Minister for Education) [4.39 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The main purpose of the Bill is to make changes in the membership of the Council of the Western Australian Institute of Technology and also to tighten up certain conditions of membership of that council. At the same time a change is being made in the title of the institution by dropping the word "The" from the present title. The Bill provides also for the deletion of certain sections which are no longer applicable.

Changes to the Act referring to the membership of the Council of WAIT are as follows: They delete the Director of Technical Education as an *ex-officio* member of council, but it should be noted that the Director General of Education or his nominee remains an *ex-officio* member; and two additional members are proposed—namely, one who is a member of the full-time salaried staff, other than academic staff, and one who is a member of the alumni association. In both cases they are elected by people who comprise their constituents.

A proposed new section 9A of the Act has been introduced which specifies conditions under which members hold office on the council. In general, members who are appointed or who are elected, other than the student member, hold office initially for a basic term of three years, and may be reappointed or re-elected for a total of three successive terms. Following the expiration of three successive terms, the person must stand down for 12 months before being eligible for further consideration.

In the case of the student member of council, the period of office is for one year; and he may be

re-elected once only at the expiration of that term.

Provision is made in subsection (5) of section 9A for the term of office of an appointed member to be less than three years where this is desirable to ensure continuity or uniformity or, in the case of a member who is representing a branch of the institute, where that branch ceases to exist.

A further amendment reduces the allowable period of absence without leave for council members from six to three meetings; and also makes more precise the requirements whereby a member ceases to hold office on council if the basic qualification entitling him to be appointed has changed.

The proposed new section 10A includes the existing provision that a vacancy which occurs before the effluxion of time of a member's term will be treated as a casual vacancy and filled accordingly. However, the second part of the amendment provides that such a casual vacancy need not be filled if it occurs within six months before the expiry of the term of office of an elected member, so as to avoid the need to hold unnecessary elections within a short period of time of each other.

I commend this Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Parker.

### ACTS AMENDMENT (ELECTORAL PROVINCES AND DISTRICTS) BILL

#### *Third Reading*

**MR HASSELL** (Cottesloe—Chief Secretary) [4.42 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

**MR TONKIN** (Morley) [4.43 p.m.]: First of all, I would like to express my admiration for my colleagues who worked so hard right through the night to try to prevent the passage of this Bill.

Mr Coyne: Do they reciprocate?

Mr TONKIN: I use the term "colleagues" in its correct sense, not in the meaningless way in which it has come to be used at times which suggests that all members of the Parliament are colleagues of one another. Certainly I am not in league with the Premier, and certainly I could not be one of his colleagues. When I say "colleagues" I mean those members of the Opposition who have attempted to do what they could, not necessarily to stop the legislation, which was beyond their power because of the numbers in this place, but to bring to the attention of the people of Western Australia the kind of injury and the kind of savage attack upon democracy that is enshrined in this Bill.

My colleagues on this side of the House are truly honourable men, in the best traditions of the word "honourable." Unfortunately, in this place and in other places similar to it, the word "honourable" has become meaningless because it is used of people no matter how dishonourable they may be. When the currency is debased, it loses value; and the word has lost value, so I use it in an advised and thoughtful manner, rather than in the loose, meaningless fashion in which it is used in this House.

We hear the suggestion at times that we should "Advance Australia". The Commonwealth Government has been spending money on the suggestion that we should advance Australia—that we should put Australia first; that the great, greedy unions should not ask for so much; that we all should be proud of our country and, to paraphrase the words of John Kennedy, or to use his idea, "not asking what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country". Yet we have here a divisive piece of legislation, which is clearly aimed at keeping one bunch of politicians, one political party in power, and giving them an unfair advantage. How can the Government expect the people of Australia to take it seriously if it says that we should advance Australia, while it continues to advance its own narrow, petty interests?

We also hear talk about the erosion of the respect for Parliament—that the Parliament is not respected as it once was. The Government cannot expect politicians or Parliaments to be respected if, in fact, it brings a shabby piece of legislation to this House which has brought shame to Western Australia, and which brings shame upon the Parliament. It brings shame upon all those who have voted for it. So, Mr Speaker, I hope that you and all your colleagues in the Liberal Party and the National Country Party, and the member for Mt. Marshall, are prepared to accept on their shoulders the blame for the fact that the Parliament is respected no longer, that politicians are respected no longer, because the people "out there" whom we are supposed to be representing will say "How can you respect an institution like that? How can you respect such people if this is what they do?"

This law is not an ordinary law. It is a fundamental law. It is a law from which all other laws flow. It is the law that decides the composition of this place; and therefore it decides the composition of all other laws. Therefore members can see that we of the Opposition, in a truly responsible manner, have put far more emphasis upon the importance of this law than upon any other law which has come before this

Parliament. This is why we are so concerned, because democracy in this State has been destroyed.

This law that we are debating actually chooses the instrument which creates all other laws. If the instrument is faulty, then all those things which flow from it must be faulty also.

Mr Bryce: Hear, hear!

Mr TONKIN: If one has an instrument for measuring, and the instrument is faulty, the measurements which come from that instrument cannot help but be faulty also.

Mr B. T. Burke: It would result in a crooked world.

Mr TONKIN: Therefore, from the inception of this fundamentally undemocratic law, it must produce distortion of the popular will, and it must produce laws which are themselves distorted. In other words, one cannot obtain a good law from a corrupt institution—

Mr Bryce: Hear, hear!

Mr TONKIN: —and from an institution which, by its very nature and its composition, is not good. That is impossible. Everyone has to obey the law. Every day we find men and women brought before the courts and they are charged with failing to obey the law. If they are found guilty, they may be incarcerated in one of Her Majesty's prisons or may pay a fine to the Crown; but everyone has to obey the law. If that is the case, everyone should have an equal say in the making of that law.

Of course, we can look back in history at the old corrupt times when the King decided the law and expected the serfs to obey it, and they did, otherwise their heads and hands were cut off and various horrible things were done to them. However, morally that system was bankrupt, because the people who were required to obey the law had no say in it.

If this Parliament wants to be held in respect—I want it to be, as does the Opposition as a whole—it must ensure everyone in the community has a feeling that he has a say in deciding what the law shall be; that he will have some fair and equitable influence over what that law will be.

After all, this is what the chartists asked for in the last century. Over 150 years ago the chartists of England were marching up and down demanding electorates equal in the number of people they held. These chartists were demanding something which has been achieved in democratic countries and which we have not yet seen in Western Australia. I might say we have achieved

it in Australia as a whole right from federation, in spite of the vast differences between some parts of this continent. A fundamental malapportionment has never been built into the federal electoral law.

Those with a discerning ear will have noticed in the past the Opposition has talked more of malapportionment than gerrymander. The term "malapportionment" refers to the fact that different weights are given to votes. Of course, we do not believe in malapportionment; but I want to say this legislation moves far beyond the 2:1 ratio between country and metropolitan seats which was actually written into an earlier Electoral Districts Act. We no longer just talk of malapportionment, which we would do if there were genuine metropolitan and country areas. Then we would talk only of malapportionment; but with this crooked line which has been drawn, we must talk now of a gerrymander. Your seat, Sir, if ever a seat was gerrymandered, is an example of what can happen when ordinary men and one woman on the Government side are seduced by power and have the opportunity to alter the laws a little bit and give themselves a little extra advantage. How they can be seduced and corrupted by power!

That is how I use the term "corruption", in the way Lord Acton used it: that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. We do not have absolute power in this State, thank God! There are various brakes on the Government's power and I will not go through them; but we do not have absolute power, so I shall dismiss that matter for the moment, although in some parts of the world there are such things as absolute power. We might talk about the Soviet Union and Chile where we see the naked nature of their corruption.

Although we do not have absolute power here, we do have power exercised by the Government which has a majority in both Houses of this Parliament. So we have seen this line drawn. Why was not Kalamunda brought into the metropolitan area when Rockingham was?

I pause to let you, Sir, interject, because you have been known to interject on speakers before now.

Mr Davies: Only to bring them to order.

Mr Bryce: Shame!

Mr TONKIN: I invite the Speaker to tell us why it is that Kalamunda, which is only 12 miles from the GPO, has not been brought into the metropolitan area whilst Rockingham, which is much further away from the GPO, has.

Mr Barnett: It is three times as far away.

Mr TONKIN: Those who read *Hansard* will not be aware I have paused twice for a lengthy time and the Speaker has not deigned to answer my question. I will tell you, Sir, why Kalamunda has not been brought into the metropolitan area: It is because it is held by you and you are a member of the Liberal Party.

Were a Liberal-held seat like Kalamunda brought into the metropolitan area, as it most assuredly should be if Rockingham is, it would become half or two-thirds of a seat and, therefore, the Liberals would be more likely to lose power.

You know that, Mr Speaker, and I know it. I do not intend to talk about the member for Mundaring being relieved about what happened with the map or the Speaker being relieved. I believe you, Sir, had a hand in the drawing of that map.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member will resume his seat. I want to say I am prepared to listen to the member when he speaks about the seat of Kalamunda and suggests the boundary has been drawn in order that the seat held by the Government has been preserved by the drawing of the boundary; but I am not prepared to listen to the member when he accuses me of having had a hand in the drawing of that line. In point of fact, I want to say to him that I have not attended any party meetings in the last nine or 10 months.

The only party meetings I have attended have been the ones to which I have gone because of some domestic matter. I have not attended any party meetings at which discussions have taken place with respect to legislation which comes before this House. I also want to point to the fact that there have been a number of occasions when I have acted in this position in a way which I hope indicates I am prepared to act independently of the party.

Mr TONKIN: As between you, Sir, and me there is no-one to arbitrate and I certainly leave that line of argument and let the people and history judge.

However, I should like to tell you, Sir, a joke about the president of a shire council whose business interests were going to be discussed and who left the room. When he returned, lo and behold all the other eight councillors had voted for him not to be given the contract. What a pleasant surprise and he was absent from the room!

I should like to know why Mundaring has not been brought into the metropolitan area. Last night, against his leader's wishes, the member for Mundaring interjected—apparently the order has gone out again—and asked "Would you say

Toodyay was metropolitan?" No, I would not say that and if we accepted there was a metropolitan area in the country, I would not expect Toodyay to be put into it. However, if members had the intellectual honesty to be aware of what I was driving at, they would know I was not talking about the seat of Mundaring; I was talking about a boundary line which, if the Government wished to do the decent thing, should have included the Town of Mundaring and the other urban parts of the Mundaring electorate.

I pause to ask the member for Mundaring why is not Mundaring brought into the metropolitan area when in fact the Rockingham area is?

Mr Herzfeld: You tell me.

Mr TONKIN: There is the smart aleck response and the member is grinning sheepishly.

Mr Herzfeld: I was laughing at you.

Mr TONKIN: We have spent a night telling Government members why. We have spent hours and hours telling Government members why.

Mr Herzfeld: You were thrown out.

Mr TONKIN: I was thrown out because I insisted on telling the truth, and I am proud of it. The member for Mundaring is squirming in his seat because if the urban parts of his seat had been brought into the metropolitan area it would have reduced the value of the votes; that is, of Liberal voting people. He knows he cannot stand up in this place and justify the reason for Mundaring being left out in the country area while Rockingham is being included in the metropolitan area.

The member knows in his heart as I know in my heart that a crooked line has been drawn to include crooked seats.

Mr Herzfeld: If you had been here last night you would have heard what I had to say.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask the House to come to order!

Mr TONKIN: I certainly do not need to wonder about what was said by the member for Mundaring. He knows very well that there is a much better case for bringing the urban parts of the seat of Mundaring into the metropolitan area than there is for the Rockingham seat being included in the metropolitan area.

He knows that it does not matter what he says, he has to look at himself in the mirror and he has to sleep. His conscience will tell him that his words are nonsense and it is actions which count. The member's specious reasoning will not convince me or anyone else.

I pause and ask why the seat of the Minister for Transport has been left in the country? The seat of Dale has been left in the country when the seat of Rockingham has been brought into the metropolitan area.

Mr B. T. Burke: Nothing at all from mumbles.

Mr Bryce: He sort of indicated last night that he might stand for the metropolitan seat which will take in Armadale. We got that impression.

Mr TONKIN: There has been no answer from the Minister for Transport. The Minister for Transport knows that he cannot justify it. He knows that the line which has been drawn around the fair city of Perth is a crooked one.

Mr Rushton: I would win the seat there at the present time but I do not know what the position will be in the future.

Mr TONKIN: With the help of the crooked line the Minister knows that he will be safe. The Minister knows that with the help of the crooked line his political career will be assured.

I ask the member for Darling Range whether he can drag himself away from the *Daily News* for a moment to tell me why his seat has been kept a country seat when most of the people who live in his electorate travel to Perth to work? Why is his seat a country seat when the area is really part of the metropolitan area? Why should his seat receive preferential treatment before the electorate of Rockingham and the electorate of Kimberley? It seems the member for Darling Range cannot answer the question because he continues to read the paper.

When we speak of a gerrymander, we are speaking of a term which was named after a governor of Massachusetts. That man was the first person to draw such a line. How would members like to have that claim to fame? Imagine how proud that man's family and descendants must be and just imagine how proud the Government members' relatives will be when they realise just what has happened with this legislation?

When we note the situation in Kimberley, we realise that there has been some savage treatment of that area. The member for Kimberley defeated a Liberal Cabinet Minister. A Minister who was found by a Supreme Court judge to have cheated at the election, together with the Liberal Party.

Mr Bryce: And they are paying out on him now.

Mr TONKIN: If one dares to defeat a Liberal Minister, then this is what will occur; the Government will make one seat so large that it will make a mockery of the claim that the country

area has special problems which must be looked after. That is the action of a party which says it is there to look after country people.

For the sake of this argument I do not wish to talk about weighted votes. For the purpose of this argument we are prepared to accept weighted votes; but for the purpose of this argument only. Even if that principle were one which was believed in, they have been false to their own principles. If one believes in doing something for country people so that they may have access to their member of Parliament, as the Government claims, why are more people to be placed in the Kimberley electorate than there are in the seats of Mundaring, Kalamunda and Darling Range?

I pause once again to have explained to me how that is consistent with Government protestations. Members will notice that I did not say Government policy; I said Government protestations. We all know Government policy because it has been revealed by this Bill; it is a policy to hang-onto-power-at-any-cost.

Let us consider the four metropolitan districts which have been kept as country seats, and the Rockingham and Kimberley areas. If it is said that this is a policy to serve country people because of their problem of access to their members, etc., that is a lie. If the Government members were concerned about country people and access, they would ensure that Kalamunda, Dale, Darling Range and Mundaring be made parts of the metropolitan area, along with Rockingham. I can see the reason for Rockingham being included. But Kimberley has been savagely treated.

For some months now Liberals have been openly speaking of the likelihood of their being defeated at the next election. I am not necessarily speaking of Government members, because they do not often speak to me, but I am speaking of rank and file members of the party and those who vote for the Liberals. They have been speaking of the likelihood of losing the next election, and because of that danger every attempt is being made to strengthen the weak links.

With the special help being provided to the areas of Mundaring, Dale, Darling Range, and Kalamunda, those seats will be made safe. So, we have here a blatant gerrymander, and for the Minister to get up and say in his second reading speech that this is one of the best and fairest electoral systems in the world, it is a disgrace. We all know that the Minister giggled when he said that.

Mr Hassell: You know that that is an incorrect statement.

Mr TONKIN: Perhaps the Minister was not aware that he giggled, or perhaps he forgot what happened at that precise moment. We interjected that he was giggling when he made his statement. The Minister said that it was a fair system for the commissioner to draw boundaries.

That was a confidence trick, and I do not know why the Government members have not gone into the confidence trickery business because they are superb at it. They would certainly make more money than they do now.

Three commissioners have been called into question—the Chief Justice, the Surveyor General, and the Chief Electoral Officer. We all know that if one is given crooked parameters, nothing decent can be produced. The Chief Justice and the other gentlemen I mentioned have to work within crooked parameters.

If the Government believes in country weighting of votes it should ensure that that is enshrined in the legislation. It is a system we would not be in favour of, but it would be a better system than the present crooked one. If the injunction to the Commissioner to give due weighting to country votes was inspired in the Statute we would have a fairer, more honest system.

If the Government members were genuine they would do that, then they could say that it is true that some parameters have been set out but we are really concerned that there should be equality of representation of interests. The Government members could then put their dogma into the Statute and ask the commissioners to carry it out.

I believe the Chief Justice should dissociate himself from this legislation and refuse to draw the boundaries. The Government is bringing the Chief Justice's high position into disrepute because everyone wants to believe that the Chief Justice is a man above reproach. However, if he is forced to deal with legislation which involves a crooked line which surrounds the metropolitan region, he is compromising himself and his high office.

I believe the Chief Justice should say that he has been charged with ensuring that his high office must be above reproach. I believe he should say that he cannot carry out the Government's wishes.

So that members do not run away with the idea that we are arguing about weighted votes or malapportionment, the Government has shown that with the drawing of this line it is not interested in country people. Government members have shown that they are concerned with power and are not concerned with

representation of interests, let alone the representation of people. I add that the Opposition is in no way criticising the people who live in the country areas. The people in the country areas were never asked what system they wanted. The people setting up this system have been only those people who have been in power.

How can the Government lose if it is in power and makes up the rules?

Mr Hassell: You want to ensure their representation is reduced substantially; that is what the effect of your policies would be—a substantial transfer of representation from the country and remote areas to the metropolitan area.

Mr TONKIN: I challenge the Chief Secretary, if he believes in the representation of country interests, to do something about the line that marks out the Kimberley electorate.

Mr Hassell: Unfortunately, you see, you have not been here for the debate, because you deliberately got yourself suspended.

Mr TONKIN: Members can see how dishonest the Minister is. He says that because I was absent last night, somehow I do not know what goes on. I can tell him I am aware that two Government members spoke; I have been briefed thoroughly on this matter by my colleagues. Nothing further came up except the same rubbish we have heard already. So it is very cheap for the Chief Secretary to say that I have an Achilles heel, and to talk about other things. I challenge him to talk about doing something for the people of Kimberley if he believes in representation of interests.

Mr Hassell: We have done more for the people of Kimberley than you have ever dreamt of.

Mr TONKIN: By drawing this line? The Chief Secretary, in that intellectually dishonest way, starts talking about other things, but he will not defend this line and this Bill because he is in an untenable position and he knows it.

Mr Hassell: One-vote-one-value would produce the same line and you know it; it would have to produce the same line.

Mr TONKIN: I beg your pardon?

Mr Hassell: One-vote-one-value would have to produce the same distribution; it would have to on the population.

Mr TONKIN: That is not true at all. When we were in Government we introduced a Bill in this Chamber. You will remember it, Mr Speaker; it was the Legislature of Western Australia Bill. That Bill provided for a unicameral Parliament

and there would have been approximately 7 000 electors in each of the 81 seats.

That figure was not very different from the quota in those days, and it would have reduced considerably the number of electors in the Kimberley seat.

We put before this Parliament a proposal for a one-House Parliament and that proposal was rejected by the then Opposition which is now the Government. So for the Chief Secretary to say what he did is absolute nonsense.

The Chief Secretary knows, if he believed in representation of interests, that the line drawn around the so-called metropolitan area would have been much fairer. The country people and the people of Western Australia generally have never asked for this line to be drawn; they have never asked for this kind of representation. However, it has been carried out by conservatives, by people in power, and I assure members that if most of the people in the metropolitan area voted for the Liberal Party and most of the people in the country voted for the Australian Labor Party, and if this Government were in power, it would soon forget about its country cousins and it would draw up a system to give an enormous proportion of the seats to the metropolitan area to ensure that it did not leave office. The line on the map proves what I have had to say because it bears no relation to country interests.

In an interview the other day the Leader of the Opposition was asked whether he would do the same, or words to that effect, if he were in Government. I will give an undertaking to you, Mr Speaker, and to this House, that if ever a party of which I was a member did this sort of thing, I would join members opposite in a campaign against such a Bill.

I would not be a party to this kind of skulduggery and dishonesty. I do not believe that our party would ever have the numbers, or anything like them, to do that kind of thing. However, certainly that is the answer, and I think the Leader of the Opposition replied to the question in much the same way.

I heard the Premier on television talking about the immoral behaviour of the Fraser Government.

Mr Bryce: What a hide he has to use that word.

Mr TONKIN: The Premier should look to his own linen before talking about the stain on someone else's shirt. What a cheek for him to talk about the immorality of the Fraser Government when he brings an immoral Bill of this nature to this Chamber. How can he justify the seat of Kalamunda being in the country area? How can he justify what he has done to Kimberley?

Sir Charles Court: Do I take it—

Mr TONKIN: How can he justify bringing Rockingham into the metropolitan zone and leaving Kalamunda out?

Sir Charles Court: I asked a question: Do I take it from your remarks that you do not espouse our stand on the Premiers' Conference?

Mr TONKIN: Let us have a little honesty on this. That is not what I am saying at all. Of course I agree that the Fraser Government is immoral; on that matter we agree.

Mr Pearce: The Premier put him there, so it is not surprising.

Mr TONKIN: The Premier is acting equally immoral with this sort of legislation.

Sir Charles Court: Nothing of the sort. The legislation is straightforward, and the only people who mind about it, are you and your colleagues.

Mr TONKIN: The Fraser Government is immoral, the Premier's Government is equally immoral. Let the Premier get to his feet, as he will have the opportunity to do in a moment, and defend bringing Rockingham into the metropolitan area and keeping Kalamunda in the country.

Sir Charles Court: We don't have to.

Mr TONKIN: He does not have to because he has the numbers. He does not have to explain how immoral he is. I say again that we agree with the Premier's statement that Mr Fraser is immoral, and especially in regard to the subject matter the Premier was talking about. However, he, above all, should be the last to be talking about immorality when we have this crooked line drawn on the map.

Sir Charles Court: Can you tell me when I said that word in respect of the Prime Minister and his Government?

Mr TONKIN: Yes, the Premier used it on television last night.

Sir Charles Court: That word?

Mr TONKIN: By courtesy of the Premier, I was able to watch television last night, and I saw the interview. The Premier said it was illegal and immoral. I wrote the words down at the time. I agree with the Premier.

Mr Bryce: He is a bit old; he is forgetting.

Sir Charles Court: I know what I said, and I know the context in which I said it.

Mr TONKIN: The Premier did say it.

Mr Bryce: Immoral all right.

Mr B. T. Burke: He will get a means test free pension.

Mr TONKIN: I know that one cannot remember all one has said over the course of even 24 hours, but the Opposition agrees with the Premier's comment. I am saying that the Premier has the cheek to get on his high horse and to talk about the Prime Minister in this way.

I believe the Premier has a sense of history. At various times it has been suggested that he has lined his own pockets.

Sir Charles Court: Oh you get into the gutter.

Mr TONKIN: I am not saying that.

Sir Charles Court: You just get into that gutter with your snorkel.

Mr TONKIN: I am saying that the Premier is far more motivated by a sense of history than by attempting to line his own pockets. The Premier sees himself as a giant, some kind of colossus, a kind of poor man's Churchill. If in fact the Premier has this sense of history and wants to be remembered highly by history, he must be concerned that people of the future will know he was the architect of this crooked line.

Mr B. T. Burke: The robber baron!

Mr TONKIN: I believe the Premier has this sense of history and wants to be thought of well by the people of Western Australia. In fact, he will be remembered as the man who drew this crooked line.

Sir Charles Court: Only by people like you who distort it.

Mr TONKIN: Four seats, which were clearly metropolitan seats, were held by the Liberal Party. The Premier drew this line in order to hang onto power. Let me assure you, Mr Speaker, and let me assure the Government that the time will come when democracy will be born in Western Australia. Democracy has been aborted many times in this State. Many attempts have been made to give it life, but the Premier has been a bad midwife and he has strangled democracy with its own cord. However, this situation will not prevail forever. After all, in 1910 no-one would have believed that the almighty House of Lords would be humbled. Yet the next year, the House of Lords, because it was not democratic, had much of its power taken away.

Who would have thought, during the period of the introduction of the reform legislation in Great Britain in 1832, when castles were being burnt and riots were occurring in England, that democracy would soon be introduced? Who would think, in 1981 in Western Australia, that democracy may one day be brought to this State. I am saying that democracy will arrive. This evil system that the Government has spawned will not

be immortal; it will not last forever. It will be swept away.

I say this more in sorrow than in anger. How can people sitting opposite do this kind of thing to Western Australia? Is there no-one opposite, not one single person, who believes in democracy?

Mr Bryce: Not even the member for Subiaco.

Mr TONKIN: I pause for a reply, but Government members are too embarrassed to reply. Is there no-one opposite who is man enough to admit that the line drawn on that map is a crooked and a dishonest line? Not one person appears to be man enough to admit that a mistake has been made, to admit that the line proposed is purely to perpetuate the Government in power.

Mr Speaker, the Opposition urges you, the Government, and all members of the Liberal Party to think about what you are doing to the good name of Western Australia, and to the name of this Parliament. This Bill brings shame upon your head, not just collectively, but each and every individual is responsible for it. When the division bells ring you have the opportunity to vote against this Bill which is dishonest and corrupt, which will not allow a proper reflection of the people's interests to be shown in this place.

If any member opposite believes in democracy, if any member opposite cherishes his good name, if any member opposite wants to be regarded by posterity as a man or woman of honour, then he or she should admit what all the world knows: this is an infamous piece of legislation that should never appear on any decent Statute book. This legislation is a cynical abuse of power.

Members opposite were not elected to perpetuate themselves in power; they were elected to look after the interests of the people of Western Australia. Members opposite have betrayed their trust; they have abused the privilege of power that has been given to them. They have used this power purely to look after the shabby political careers of a few members, who are really metropolitan members but who, because of this crooked line, are so-called country members.

If members opposite had any conscience, any decency, they would not agree to this proposal for the seat of Kimberley. I hope that some people opposite will demonstrate that they have a conscience, a sense of decency; that they know they will be judged by posterity and by history, and will realise that this legislation is a blot upon the Parliament, a blot upon the people of Western Australia, and a blot upon democracy itself.

MR COWAN (Merredin) [5.29 p.m.]: After 20 hours' debate on this Bill, it is very difficult to



introduce new material into the third reading. Some points I think should be re-made, and I will refer to them. Firstly, I would like to talk about the metropolitan boundary that has been drawn by this Government. There is no question in anyone's mind that the boundary was drawn up to ensure the safety of the four peripheral seats surrounding the metropolitan area, and there is no question that the safety of those seats has been sought in order to protect the members who represent them at the moment, because they all happen to be members on this side of the House.

It is no coincidence the seat of Rockingham is the only peripheral rural seat to be included in the metropolitan area and given twice the quota it currently enjoys; that is because it happens to be held by the Labor Party.

Right from the commencement of debate on this Bill we have maintained that the Government could have utilised the MRPA boundary, which would have satisfied the argument put forward by members in this place when talking about country electorates. I am now talking about vote weighting. Every member of the Liberal Party and every member of the Country Party—albeit, they are one and the same—talks about responsible vote weighting yet this Bill does nothing to bring that about.

If we were to utilise the MRPA boundary, that would be a different matter altogether because there are certain shires drawn into that boundary which contain those portions of the metropolitan area which, whilst they have somewhat of a rural flavour, can be considered to be only urban. Yet this Government, because it happens to have the numbers and because it wants to protect those four seats, has decided it will disregard the natural boundaries around the metropolitan area and instead, will draw some trumped-up line on the map indicating where it believes the boundaries should be.

Mr Hassell: You know that, as a country member, you are recommending a system which would result in a substantial reduction in country representation.

Mr Bryce: Rubbish; he has already been through it. You are intellectually dishonest.

Mr COWAN: Apparently I made the mistake last night of according the Minister some degree of intelligence. Surely he must recognise that if the Government takes part of the metropolitan area and gives it a country designation, what it is doing is adding to the number of metropolitan seats because, in fact, those seats are metropolitan. They may have been designated "rural" by this Government and by previous

Governments and in fact given a country quota, but in reality they are metropolitan seats with the result that the metropolitan area has more seats than it deserves. If the Minister cannot see that, he does not deserve to hold his portfolio.

Mr Hassell: Even if you are right, you would know there are large tracts in those very electorates which are totally rural.

Mr COWAN: Would the Minister deny that under the current boundaries and the boundaries proposed in this Bill there are large tracts of allegedly rural areas which are totally urban?

Mr Bryce: Of course he will not deny it; he cannot.

Mr Hassell: There are areas on the borderline which could be so described. However, wherever we draw the line that will be the case.

Mr COWAN: I must apologise to the House; the Minister appears to be a slow learner. The point I am making is that there are natural boundaries around the metropolitan area.

Mr Hassell: And one of them is the foothills.

Mr Bryce: When was the Minister born? Cottesloe is about as rural as Kalamunda, you dope!

Mr O'Connor: That is nice.

Mr Bryce: Of course it is. Didn't you hear the rubbish he came up with? How dare he call the foothills a boundary of the metropolitan area.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Ascot will desist from interjecting.

Mr COWAN: The point has been made. Everybody in this House is aware there is a natural boundary around the metropolitan area. Everybody is aware that if we utilise that boundary there will be some urban areas which have a rural flavour which will be brought into the metropolitan area of Perth. However, I believe it would be far better, and we would be far more able to defend a system of vote weighting, if we were to say "We will take the near-rural area and designate it urban, rather than the other way around." No arguments can be sustained for vote weighting under the present boundary, or the boundary proposed in this Bill.

Let us now look at Kimberley. The requirements laid down in the Electoral Districts Act quite clearly provide the commissioners with criteria to make decisions. By his own admission, the Minister stated that those criteria had to be denied in determining the new boundary in the statutory seat of Kimberley.

Had the Government been genuine and fair, what it should have done was to draw the southern line of those statutory seats and say to the commissioners "Please draw in what you consider to be the appropriate boundaries of the four statutory seats north of that southern boundary line." Of course, the Government was not prepared to do that for obvious reasons: Three of the four statutory seats are held by the Government. When we are confronted with that sort of statistic, we can understand that the Government is not prepared to allow those members to be placed at risk.

I come back to the point I made last night: This Government has a working majority of one and, after eight years in the wilderness, at long last the Opposition has started to perform. Because the Government is fearful of losing that working majority, we are faced with a redistribution of State electoral boundaries.

Despite the independence and integrity of the commissioners I am very much afraid that the result of the new electoral boundaries will be that no matter how big an issue comes up between now and the 1983 election, that issue in itself will not be sufficient to win the election; the election will be won on the way in which the boundaries have been drawn. I am sure every member on this side would not be very proud of that fact.

What about the so-called policy and performance of the Government? I know that each year, the Government goes to great expense to produce a 300-page document outlining its policy and performance. However, apparently the Government has no faith in its own policy or performance because it must turn around and rig the electoral boundaries to guarantee that when the dust has settled after the 1983 election, it will still hold the key to power; namely, government.

I have talked most about the consequences of the new boundaries as they will affect this House. I would also like to consider the situation in the other place. It does not matter what the Government does under the present system, the malapportionment—to use the word so often used by the member for Morley—of the electorate continues to grow under the present system under which we operate. It is high time this Government gave consideration to proportional representation in the upper House, based on a sliding scale of numbers of members representing regions. This would certainly reduce the weighted voting ratio in that place to a level acceptable to the public.

Our greatest opposition to a weighted voting system is the excessive manipulation of the system which occurs; this Bill does nothing to alter that.

In fact the Government is prepared to manipulate the vote weighting system in order to ensure its retention of power.

I come back to the final issue, which relates to the new members who are going to come into this place and the other place as a consequence of this legislation. Had the Minister been prepared to adopt the MRPA boundaries he would have discovered he could reduce the metropolitan quotas to something similar to the quotas this rigged arrangement is going to produce and there would be no need for an increase in members. Had the Minister been prepared to switch to proportional representation and given the metropolitan area perhaps half of the total representation of the upper House, there would have been no need to increase the membership of Parliament for some time to come.

Every time the Premier writes to me and tells me funds are not available for whatever request I may make, I intend to remind him he was able to find at least \$500 000 a year for the purpose of increasing the membership of Parliament. If the Premier can do that, knowing full well he does not have to, surely he will scrape around the bottom of the barrel and find something for me and the people I represent. Additional expenditure is a very big factor when we take into consideration the events at the last Premiers' Conference.

Mr Davies: Would you consider Agent General as a job? I think the Premier may be pleased to send you there.

Mr COWAN: I assure the Leader of the Opposition that I would not consider it; I am even more firmly of the opinion it would not be offered to me.

The point I make to the Premier is that when he adopts double standards as transparently as this, he must lose credibility. I would have thought he was a man very proud of the position he holds, and the credibility in which he is held by the public. Without doubt, this legislation will destroy that credibility in the eyes of the public who are concerned about Parliament and about the performance of members in this place.

Many people—particularly those on the Liberal back bench—believe performance in this place does not matter. However, I remind members that, with the exception of the Crown, this Parliament is the only body which has the power to place constraints upon Governments.

This Parliament had a golden opportunity to place some constraints upon the Government with respect to this measure.

Mr Davies: Do you not think they were more concerned with self-interest and self-survival?

Mr COWAN: Yes. The Minister when introducing this Bill said this was the Government's measure. It was not a measure of the Parliament, it was not a measure of those back-bench members who support the Government. It was a measure taken by the Government. The Parliament, through its legislative powers, had the capacity to deny the Government this gerrymandered measure. Regrettably it did not do anything. I can only warn the Premier that his credibility has been destroyed, just as his Government's credibility has been destroyed. The public will not accept this sort of attitude.

Mr SHALDERS: I move—

That the House do now divide.

Motion put and a division taken with the following result—

## Ayes 28

Mr Blaikie	Mr Mensaros
Mr Clarko	Mr Nanovich
Sir Charles Court	Mr O'Connor
Mr Coyne	Mr Old
Mrs Craig	Mr Rushton
Mr Crane	Mr Sibson
Dr Dadour	Mr Sodeman
Mr Grayden	Mr Spriggs
Mr Grewar	Mr Trethowan
Mr Hassell	Mr Tubby
Mr Herzfeld	Mr Watt
Mr P. V. Jones	Mr Williams
Mr Laurance	Mr Young
Mr MacKinnon	Mr Shalders

## Noes 22

Mr Barnett	Mr Harman
Mr Bertram	Mr Jamieson
Mr Bridge	Mr T. H. Jones
Mr Bryce	Mr McIver
Mr B. T. Burke	Mr Parker
Mr T. J. Burke	Mr Pearce
Mr Carr	Mr Stephens
Mr Cowan	Mr Taylor
Mr Davies	Mr Tonkin
Mr H. D. Evans	Mr Wilson
Mr Grill	Mr Bateman

Motion thus passed.

The SPEAKER: In order to pass in the affirmative, the question "That the Bill be now read a third time" will need the support of an absolute majority of the House. If, when I put the question, there is a dissentient voice, I will have to divide the House.

Question put.

There being a dissentient voice I shall divide the House.

Division taken with the following result—

## Ayes 28

Mr Blaikie	Mr Mensaros
Mr Clarko	Mr Nanovich
Sir Charles Court	Mr O'Connor
Mr Coyne	Mr Old
Mrs Craig	Mr Rushton
Mr Crane	Mr Sibson
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Mr P. V. Jones	Mr Williams
Mr Laurance	Mr Young
Mr MacKinnon	Mr Shalders

(Teller)

## Noes 22

Mr Barnett	Mr Harman
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Mr Carr	Mr Stephens
Mr Cowan	Mr Taylor
Mr Davies	Mr Tonkin
Mr H. D. Evans	Mr Wilson
Mr Grill	Mr Bateman

(Teller)

The SPEAKER: I declare the third reading of the Bill carried with an absolute majority.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

## QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

## MARINE AND HARBOURS BILL

*Second Reading*

Debate resumed from 12 May.

MR McIVER (Avon) [7.30 p.m.]: This Bill is designed to improve and strengthen the administration and development of maritime and port affairs of Western Australia. I indicate at the outset that the Opposition has no objection to the measure, although we require clarification of a couple of points.

We are all aware that in the last few years changes have occurred in our ports as a result of the development occurring in the maritime field in Western Australia. As a result of this it was found necessary in 1977 to bring all maritime authorities under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Transport. I refer to the Harbour and Light Department and all port authorities in Western Australia. The authorities were inhibited in respect of regulations, hence the legislation before us.

The Bill provides for the setting up of a new authority to be known as the department of marine and harbours, having as its head a general manager, which brings me to my first query. The Opposition would like to know from where the general manager will be appointed. Will he come from the Harbour and Light Department or one of the port authorities?

I note with a feeling of security that the new department has the blessing of the Public Service Board and the Treasury, and it is apparent those bodies have liaised with the Minister and agreed with the implementation of the new department. However, we would like to know whether the setting up of the new department will in any way impede the port authorities. Who will have the say in respect of additions to the various ports? When a decision is to be made, will it be made by the port authority or the new department?

In clause 14, to which I will refer in greater detail in Committee, we note that any money received by the new department shall be paid into Consolidated Revenue. As an alternative we suggest that perhaps the money could be retained by the department to enable it to be autonomous and to expand its work, which, of course, is the essence of the Bill before us.

I indicate to the House that the Opposition is in no way opposed to the Bill; we merely seek clarification of those few points. I will raise further queries in the Committee stage. With those remarks, I indicate the Opposition's support of the Bill.

**MR RUSHTON** (Dale—Minister for Transport) [7.36 p.m.]: I express my appreciation to the Opposition for its support of the legislation. It is most important legislation in that it draws together all the marine agencies, as the member for Avon pointed out. When I was appointed to the Transport portfolio it was made known to me that the position in respect of maritime affairs required to be consolidated, and before long I became aware that a report had been made by the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee—at that time chaired by the present Minister for Health—and as a result of that report legislation was drawn up based firstly on the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee, and secondly, on the advice of consultants.

In response to the member's queries, the general manager has yet to be appointed. Obviously we have a very good manager in the Harbour and Light Department, and applications will be called and an appointment made after the passing of the Bill. I do not want to say more

about that at this time. However, we have very good people in the Harbour and Light Department and obviously every consideration will be given to them.

In respect of his second query, port authorities are autonomous bodies. In fact, we are redrafting the legislation and regulations because the present set is found to be wanting. I can assure the member the new department will assist the Minister in the day-to-day activities of maritime affairs, but the port authorities will be separate and will do the decision making, and they will report direct to the Minister. Obviously liaison will occur between the new department and the various authorities.

In respect of income received, to which clause 14 refers, obviously as is the case with any other department receipts must be paid into Consolidated Revenue. The department's budget will be considered along with the budgets of other departments. It will be the only department in the Transport portfolio, and it will have a very satisfactory arrangement in respect of loan funds and revenue funds which will be dealt with through the Treasury.

**Mr McIver:** So in essence there would be no advantage in the money going back to the authority, and it would be more advantageous to pay it into Consolidated Revenue?

**Mr RUSHTON:** For management control, yes, just as is the case with every other department. I see no need for the new department to be autonomous in respect of finance.

I appreciate the support of the Opposition, and look forward to observing the administration of this department.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee*

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr Blaikie) in the Chair; Mr Rushton (Minister for Transport) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 4 put and passed.

Clause 5: Functions of the Department—

**Mr McIVER:** When I first read the Bill I was a little disappointed—this is my only criticism of the measure, and I offer it constructively—because I found the Government has not given consideration to the licensing of power boats. Every weekend we pick up the newspaper and read of mishaps on the various waterways of Western Australia. It is apparent that some people in control of power boats give

no thought to and have no responsibility in respect of the handling of their craft.

Western Australia and Victoria are the only States which do not license power boats, and I thought when the new department was being set up the Minister would give consideration to making provision for licensing power boats and to requiring owners to undertake a test. I concede the fact that it would still be impossible thoroughly to police the situation because of the number of craft on the waterways, but we must make people more conscious of the fact that it is as important to take care on the waterways as it is to take care on the highways.

Many people go out in their boats without realising that the engines in their craft use more fuel than the engines in their motor vehicles. Any person off the street can purchase a power boat and without any knowledge of navigation take his craft onto the waterways and out to sea.

I do not have to emphasise to the Committee the huge cost of looking for the people who become lost—on many occasions because of their lack of knowledge and their lack of responsibility in this field. Without labouring the point, I would like the Government's view on this, because of the increasing number of fatalities on our waterways.

Mr RUSHTON: I have sought advice on this from time to time. One recommendation is that we should develop our safety measures. We should educate people to be more thoughtful about what they do. From time to time, films have been developed in co-operation with other States; and they are shown by the media in this State.

I expect a recommendation from the boating advisory committee at any time now. I will be able to advise the member further when that information is before me.

The States which license boats have better records than Victoria and Western Australia. The member indicated that he is aware of the very large cost of collecting licence fees. Obviously we should have safety as our prime objective.

I will pursue the question; and I expect to have the report before me shortly.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 6 to 8 put and passed.

Clause 9: Vesting by proclamation of Governor—

Mr McIVER: I would like the Minister to clarify this clause. I have my own views; but for the benefit of members of the Opposition, would he elaborate on the intent of the clause?

Mr RUSHTON: The clause provides for the Governor to vest in the Minister for Transport all the land and other marine facilities involved. I am looking towards the accountability of this authority, to ensure that we have the very best management. Whilst I am the Minister, I will hold the general manager and his staff accountable for everything that happens in relation to the assets and economic management.

We are moving towards the authority being fully accountable, as recommended by the Public Accounts Committee—

Mr McIVER: The jargon of that particular clause is a little complicated. I just wanted it explained in more simple English.

Mr RUSHTON: It relates to the management of the assets. I could go into it at great depth. If the member would like further explanations, I would be pleased to give them to him later.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 10 to 20 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

### *Report*

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

### *Third Reading*

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Rushton (Minister for Transport), and transmitted to the Council.

## **CITY OF PERTH PARKING FACILITIES AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from 12 May.

MR T. H. JONES (Collie) [7.52 p.m.]: In relation to this Bill, the Opposition must rely on the information contained in the second reading speech of the Minister. He indicated that the City of Perth had made representations to the Government to amend the Act because it was encountering problems under the provisions of the City of Perth Parking Facilities Act.

Without giving any clear definitions, the Minister mentioned in the second reading speech that a number of anomalies had been discovered when people were setting up private car parks. They were not being set up under the provisions of the Act; and they were being set up to circumvent the requirements of the Act, especially in relation to the requirement to make payment

for each bay located within an area. The Minister went on to say that illegal parks had been set up by illegal operators. They had not paid the parking bay fee, which is currently \$13.50 per bay. He indicated the problems that the City of Perth was having, because the money is used in the running of the Perth "Clipper" bus services; and any shortfall is provided out of the parking fund.

The Minister indicated further loopholes in the Act in relation to parking bays generally. In addition, there is provision in the Bill for the setting up of parking bays for a limited period.

The Act provides at the moment that where there is a penalty of \$200 per month or imprisonment for operating a park unlawfully, the Bill provides that the fine for a continuing offence will be \$100 per day; and the provision relating to imprisonment is to be deleted.

The legislation also gives the council the power to impose restrictions in relation to any land sold under its aegis.

With reference to the temporary licence provision, the council has permission to issue temporary licences for a period of two years. If the council rejects applications for approval, the Bill provides for appeals to the Minister; and the Minister can grant a licence, or extend a licence for a car park, as he sees fit.

Also contained in the Bill is a clause to amend the maximum fine from \$40 for a breach of the regulations to \$200. That is five times the existing amount. The Minister did not indicate the reason for that change. All the Opposition can do is to rely on the information given by the Minister in the second reading speech. We have had no opportunity to check it.

Unfortunately, this Bill was introduced into the Parliament only last night. Members will appreciate that having sat until a little before midday today, the Opposition has had little chance to consider the Bill and approach the Perth City Council with a view to checking the information given by the Minister in his second reading speech. The Minister would agree that we have had little time to check the situation. It is regrettable.

We hope there will be a change in the Government's planning on the introduction of legislation, because not enough time is provided. We are not saying we are not equipped to handle the Bill; but certainly the Opposition has not been given much time to check through the relevant points mentioned by the Minister, to decide whether the provisions go far enough, or whether amendments are necessary.

The Act provides for the provision of car parks in the city. The Opposition queries whether we should be looking at the extension of parking facilities, or whether the Government should be trying to keep traffic out of the main city area.

The Minister made an inspection similar to the one I made in Nottingham, England. The corporation there leads the world in relation to traffic problems generally. The bus services keep the main flow of traffic out of the city block. The car parks are erected outside Nottingham; and the people who wish to go into the city park their cars and are transported into the city block free of charge. The buses have expressways, which give them a free run over the private motorists. This method encourages the motorists to leave their cars out of the city block and use the facilities available to go into the city.

The Minister would agree that the traffic congestion in the city is worrying. There are moves to extend our freeways, and to make other changes to the flow of traffic. I would not be wrong in saying that the congestion in peak hours in the city is very disturbing.

The Opposition wonders what the Government is doing to encourage the motorists to leave their cars out of the city block. What is it doing to encourage them to use public transport on the same basis as Nottingham? That would overcome many of the traffic hazards experienced in the city, especially at peak times.

With those remarks, the Opposition supports the Bill.

**MR RUSHTON** (Dale—Minister for Transport) [7.59 p.m.]: First, I would not want to press ahead with the Bill if the Opposition would like more time. I understood that the Opposition was prepared to proceed with the measure; but I agree there has been little time. If the Opposition needs to be accommodated further, I would be prepared to wait a little longer.

I thank the honourable member and the Opposition for their support of the legislation. I assure the member for Collie the Perth City Council has been seeking these provisions for some time. The council has jurisdiction over parking in the metropolitan area with the power of veto by the Minister. Parking in the city arouses great interest and we have to be very careful to ensure our city remains a viable place for pedestrians and that it is able to develop on sound lines. I do not believe we should have a large number of cars within our city block.

The parking objectives at the present time follow the Perth City Council declared policy which encourages parking on the periphery of the

city. The free "Clipper" service then operates through these parking areas and distributes people throughout the city. Personally, I believe that service has a great deal to commend it. I have travelled on the "Clipper" service and I have heard only good reports about it. It has been enlarged from time to time and recently it was extended to West Perth.

Mr T. H. Jones: You have been to Nottingham, haven't you?

Mr RUSHTON: No, I have not.

Mr T. H. Jones: In Nottingham all the parking is out of the city block, so it is not necessary for the traffic to go into the city at all.

Mr RUSHTON: The member would be aware that the Perth City Council has peripheral parking areas at the present time; so the situation is similar to that in Nottingham.

My views and those of the member for Collie seem to be similar in regard to this matter. I note in recent times there has been a change of direction in the thinking of some of the Perth City Councillors. A number of councillors have been pressing for more and more cars in the city and retailers have been supporting that attitude. However, I have written to my colleague, the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning, to see whether the town planners have had a change of heart on this matter. Such a situation will show up in the town plan when it is released.

As far as I understand the policy of the Perth City Council, it favours peripheral parking, limitation of cars in the city, and the "Clipper" service so that people can move freely around the city. I believe the member for Collie and myself are in agreement in that regard. I appreciate his contribution and thank the Opposition for its support.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee, etc.*

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

#### *Third Reading*

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Rushton (Minister for Transport), and transmitted to the Council.

## MINING AMENDMENT BILL

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from 26 March.

MR HARMAN (Maylands) [8.07 p.m.]: The purpose of this Bill is to resolve a problem which resulted from a decision of the Full Court of the Supreme Court in respect of mining tenements on temporary reserves. The first proposal in the Bill is to validate all the tenements which have been applied for in the past and to overcome the problems presented to the Government and the Mines Department as a result of the decision by the Full Court.

The second proposal in the Bill is to make some arrangements with respect to the miners' right to ensure that position applies in future legislation.

The Opposition does not raise any objection to these provisions.

MR GRILL (Yilgarn-Dundas) [8.09 p.m.]: I follow our shadow Minister and indicate the Opposition supports the Bill which arises out of a Supreme Court action whereby CRA Exploration fought an action against Australian American Prospecting Limited. It was a battle of the giants over a temporary reserve and it related to section 226 of the old Mining Act, not the new one passed in 1978.

Up till that date, it had always been considered that with an area which had been pegged on what was later made a temporary reserve, or pegged for a mineral other than that reserved by the tenement itself, or where a bona fide prospector had worked the tenement prior to the marking out of the temporary reserve, and made an application for a tenement within three months of the granting of the temporary reserve, there was a provision to make it a tenement.

They were the exceptions to the rule that where a temporary reserve was granted by the Minister it gave exclusive proprietary rights to the reserve holder.

The decision in the matter of CRA Exploration and Australian American Prospecting Limited threw that previously held view into jeopardy. It meant that those three categories of exceptions—even where the tenements within the temporary reserve were pegged by the owner of the tenement—were placed in jeopardy and were invalid. That decision went against the previous construction placed on the Mining Act.

It is now considered necessary to cancel part of the temporary reserve and then grant the tenement within that cancelled area. We on this side of the House accept that such a remedy to

the situation is in fact impractical, mainly because of the reason outlined by the Minister, namely, that it was almost impossible to designate with any accuracy an area within a temporary reserve until such time as the pegs are placed in the ground. We go along entirely with the Minister on all these questions; but here is the rub.

The introduction of this particular Bill to amend the old Mining Act raises the question of the implementation of the new Mining Act. We on this side of the House thoroughly abhor the new Mining Act. We think it is a monstrosity which should never be proclaimed. I am pleased to see this particular Minister has approached with some trepidation the subject of bringing down the regulations under the implementation of the new Mining Act. Maybe that is putting too much emphasis on the situation, but certainly the Minister has not acted as speedily as the former Minister might have done. From some of the statements made by the Minister I gleaned the impression that perhaps he is having second thoughts about the new Act and is altogether rethinking the regulations.

If that is not the case, perhaps the Minister can tell the House and the people of Western Australia—in particular, the prospectors of the eastern goldfields who are forever on my back about this particular piece of legislation—what will happen and when it will happen.

If the Minister could tell the people that in fact he does not intend to proceed with the implementation of the regulations under the new Act, they would be delighted and he would be the most popular man in the eastern goldfields. If the Minister could give us some information it would be of benefit to a number of people in the area, including individuals and companies both large and small.

Just while we are talking about the new Mining Act, let me restate the position of the Opposition. It is totally opposed to the new Mining Act and if the Opposition came into power, it would repeal it. We say again that it places undue restrictions on prospectors and small mining companies, especially in the nature and number of tenements they may hold; it makes the holding of tenements for smaller mining companies and prospectors a bureaucratic nightmare; it places onerous financial burdens on prospectors in respect of rents and bonds; and last, but not least, it allows a form of policing of the Act which we believe will only fetter the industry.

Inevitably the policing of the new Act will be carried out by computer, with its inflexibility,

authoritarianism, and lack of sensitivity. Tenements will be cancelled automatically for minor breaches of the Act and regulations. The computer will supplement X hundred inspectors who would normally have been necessary to police the Act if that function were carried out by people in the field.

I have expressed privately to the Minister previously the view that any Act must have within it adequate flexibility for it to operate in a practical sense. If we have an Act which will be policed and operated by a computer, we will not have the requisite flexibility within the Act and the requisite flexibility which is within the department at the moment, as the Minister is well aware, to allow minor transgressions of the Act without making the whole tenement void.

If possible, I should like the Minister to comment on that matter also, because it worries a number of tenement holders in the eastern goldfields.

Mr P. V. Jones: You could have asked me a question about it.

Mr GRILL: I thought this was probably the appropriate time to do so. No doubt the Minister is more than well equipped to answer the queries I have put to him.

MR P. V. JONES (Narrogin—Minister for Mines) [8.16 p.m.]: I thank the Opposition for its support of the Bill and the amendments to it. As the two previous speakers have indicated, the amendments relate to a technical matter and as the member for Yilgarn-Dundas has said it has been a situation which has existed for a long time and is one which will be very well accepted by the industry.

What happens with the pegging of a temporary reserve is that portion is cancelled; in effect, the amendment had to be changed and we were in a situation where we had to qualify it. Indeed, the first draft required additional qualification and that is the reason for the amendments which appear on the notice paper and which will be made during the Committee stage.

With regard to the questions asked by the member for Yilgarn-Dundas, I have already indicated the situation in answer to a previous question. I said that this was necessary because the transitional provisions will allow what we do here to go through into the new legislation. So, that particular aspect will be rectified before we move to the conditions of the new legislation.

As far as the other matters are concerned I will wrap them in one bundle. We are proceeding along a path quite satisfactorily, certainly an amount of printing must be done, and discussions



have to be carried out with various groups regarding regulations. I am sure the member is aware of those discussions with industry, and people in the eastern goldfields will become aware of the changes which are proposed in the regulations. One such change relates to the smaller prospector.

The member for Yilgarn-Dundas mentioned the bureaucratic aspects involved—and I am quoting his term. However, significantly they have been removed and all aspects of reporting have been improved in that there is a quarterly report and an annual report. That means that we have a report which has some meaning.

The member for Yilgarn-Dundas referred to the funding aspect and sureties. I have mentioned that the leaseholders and representatives I have met were advised of what we were proposing and I sounded them out. I was told that we would be removing the financial requirements which were of concern to them and that will now further assist the prospector.

If the member wishes a discussion I will be quite happy to indicate what has been done. We are moving down the path quietly where these things are concerned.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee*

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr Blaikie) in the Chair; Mr P. V. Jones (Minister for Mines) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1 put and passed.

Clause 2: Section 277B inserted—

Mr P. V. JONES: After the introduction of the Bill I received some legal advice in relation to matters contained in the Bill. It was at a stage where we were first dealing with the technical aspect of tenements and subsequent advice from the Crown Law Department indicated that it would be desirable that this matter be put right, as far as the technical aspect was concerned. The members for Maylands and Yilgarn-Dundas have said that we should still add a further paragraph; however, I move an amendment—

Page 2—Add after proposed new subsection (2) the following new subsection to stand as subsection (3)—

(3) The occupation and marking off of land temporarily reserved under section 276 of this Act shall not confer nor be deemed at any time to have conferred a right other than that of marking off until that land has been made the subject of an application for

the grant or registration of a mining tenement and that application has been granted or registered. .

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 3: Continuation of miners' rights—

Mr P. V. JONES: A similar situation arose with this clause after the Bill was introduced. A technical matter involved the issue of a miner's right and when clarifying the first point the opportunity was taken to ensure that the situation with respect to miners' rights and their transfers into the new mining legislation would not be in any way jeopardised. So this amendment is to clarify the last two paragraphs. I move an amendment—

Page 2—Add after subclause (2) the following new subclauses to stand as subclauses (3) and (4)—

(3) A miner's right issued under the Mining Act 1904 before 8 December 1978 shall be deemed to have been valid and in force until the date of expiry expressed thereon.

(4) Subsection (3) of this section shall not be construed so as to derogate in any way from the effect of the Mining Act Amendment Clause 1978 as set out in Clause 3 of the Second Schedule to the Mining Act 1978. .

Mr GRILL: The inclusion of the miners' rights and the perpetuation of this particular provision in the amendment marks a very significant departure from the initial philosophy set out in the Mining Bill as it was introduced in 1978.

It was only under pressure that the Government was prepared to include a provision in the new mining legislation which related to miners' rights with traditional licences whereby prospectors have, over the years, prospected on Crown land and private land throughout the State.

The Opposition is pleased to see that vestige of the traditional licence being included in the new legislation and that it is being carried on with these transitional provisions.

I think the Government has probably come to the conclusion that the miners' rights are more than just sentimental. The reason for their inclusion in the legislation is very significant and this inclusion is greeted with some alacrity in the goldfields and by the members of the Opposition. We support the amendment.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Bill reported with amendments.

### **WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Message: Appropriations*

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the Bill.

### **BILLS (2): RETURNED**

#### **1. Industrial Arbitration Amendment Bill.**

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

#### **2. Settlement Agents Bill.**

Bill returned from the Council with amendments.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)**

#### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from 5 May.

**MR CARR** (Geraldton) [8.28 p.m.]: This Bill intends to do two things: Firstly, to allow the payment of reasonable expenses for the partner of a councillor when attending Local Government Week or similar conferences on local government business. Secondly, it allows the introduction of uniform by-laws with regard to building conditions in earthquake areas.

When introducing the Bill the Minister for Local Government said that the question of the payment of expenses for councillors' wives had been of some interest to local governments quite recently.

That was quite an understatement in general and with regard to one local government authority it is a very considerable understatement. I refer to the experiences of the Shire of Carnarvon which subject, amongst others, led to the introduction of this Bill.

At the 1979 Country Shire Council's Association conference during Local Government Week, many councillors queried their entitlement to expenses for the spouses or partners.

It came to a head when an auditor from the Department of Local Government visited the Shire of Carnarvon and reported on the situation. He found that four council members or officers and their wives had attended Local Government Week and that expenses had been claimed for the four wives. The council people involved included the deputy shire president, Mr Wilson Tuckey, a

gentlemen well known in local government circles at the time, as President of the Country Shire Councils' Association, and who has since distinguished himself by becoming a member of Federal Parliament.

Mr Davies: And calling for extra expenses.

Mr McIver: Which political party is he with now?

Mr CARR: That is a very interesting question. I intended to trace the experiences that led Mr Tuckey into Federal Parliament. Members will remember that in 1974 he stood for the seat of Gascoyne as an endorsed candidate for the National Alliance. Then between 1974 and 1977 he approached the Australian Labor Party for endorsement for the 1977 election. We would have nothing to do with him, and subsequently, as a last desperate measure, he resorted to joining the Liberal Party and is now the Federal member for O'Connor. He distinguished himself recently by his great concern for egalitarian considerations by seeking an additional electorate allowance of \$30 000 a year!

Mr Davies: Has he been with the Country Party at all?

Mr CARR: He was with the National Alliance, which was in a sort of semi-marriage situation with the Country Party.

He was one of the four people involved. The others were two councillors of the Shire of Carnarvon and the shire clerk.

Mr McIver: We have to tolerate him in O'Connor.

Mr CARR: The auditor who visited Carnarvon reported that the air fares for the four wives were \$176.60 each. Also, an outstanding account had been forwarded from the Parmelia Hilton Hotel for \$1 638.37 for accommodation over Local Government Week.

Mr Davies: That was a fairly reasonable week, wasn't it?

Mr CARR: When introducing the measure, the Minister said in most cases the expenses would be reasonable, and I agree with that general comment. For that reason I will not argue the right of representatives of local government authorities to visit Perth for Local Government Week and to stay in reasonably comfortable accommodation—without its being too excessive.

Mr McIver: A pity we could not do that when I was in local government.

Mr CARR: The auditor made the point in the report that a number of matters of law had been raised. He referred specifically to the possibility that the three councillors concerned may have

disqualified themselves from their seats on the council on the ground of having received a pecuniary interest and not having declared it. The auditor recommended to the Shire of Carnarvon that a legal opinion be sought.

The whole affair then became a little seamy; the shire clerk, who had an obvious involvement, refused to be party to obtaining a legal opinion. When a special meeting of councillors was called to instruct the shire clerk to seek a legal opinion, the meeting was boycotted and a quorum could not be obtained.

The shire president considered taking legal advice, but he was confronted with the situation that he might be liable for the cost of any ensuing action. So that was a stalemate.

In the early stages I believe the Minister took the correct action of not becoming involved. She said that the council could take appropriate action and that she hoped the matter would resolve itself. My understanding is that nothing has been done about the situation; it has just been allowed to drift on. If the Minister has different information, I would be happy to listen to her comments. She may be able to put my mind at rest. However, I believe the issue dithered along until the stage was reached where the problem was acknowledged and the solution was to introduce legislation to correct it.

I would like to leave aside the particular situation in Carnarvon, and turn to the measure itself. Quite clearly, the Opposition does not oppose the measure. We think it is quite reasonable for representatives of a shire council to be able to take their partners with them to such an event as Local Government Week.

I would like to raise one query about a matter referred to by the Minister in her second reading speech, and the reference to this point in the Bill. In the second reading speech the Minister said that the local government authority could meet the reasonable expenses incurred where a councillor's partner accompanied that councillor. Slightly different terminology is used in the Bill which refers to the expenses being met where a councillor incurs additional expenses by reason of his being accompanied by not more than one other person.

That is very wide wording, and we could need a finer interpretation. I am not for a moment suggesting that the wording should not be reasonably wide. In our modern-day society, people live in a whole range of circumstances. For instance, it might be reasonable for an elderly widowed councillor to take his daughter with him, just as a councillor may wish to take along his *de*

*facto* wife. Certainly we would have no objection to such people coming within the provision. Perhaps the Minister can explain the interpretation of this provision to my satisfaction.

On this particular point I would like to refer to a query involving the other local government legislation on the notice paper. In that Bill which relates to electoral provisions for local government, we are told that the right to vote will be extended to the wife or husband of the occupier or owner of a property. That is very tight wording, and in that Bill, the Opposition will seek to amend the provision to include *de facto* spouses. However, it seems to me to be inconsistent to have a wide provision in one local government Bill and a restricted provision in another. I would like the Minister to comment on this point.

The Bill refers to the right of local government authorities to draft building by-laws in earthquake zones. We see no objection to the general principle that councils should be able to lay down the requirements for safe buildings in certain places. However, the Minister has made available to me a copy of some draft by-laws on this particular point, and I have passed this on to my colleague, the member for Avon.

While I claim no expertise in the building field, it appears to me that the draft by-laws are fairly prescriptive, and one could almost say they are extreme. The member for Avon, whose electorate is close to the earthquake area, has looked at the provisions closely, and also, he has discussed the matter with people in his area. He intends to pursue this question more closely. That is all I would like to contribute to the debate.

**MR SODEMAN** (Pilbara) [8.40 p.m.]: I support the Bill and, like the previous speaker, I refer to the fact that it covers two particular aspects.

I would like to comment on the matter of uniform building by-laws in earthquake zones. In cyclone-prone areas, the local authorities experience a great deal of trouble in regard to uniform building by-laws. No common agreement has been reached on this subject throughout Australia. So when the shire lays down that a building must be of a specific standard to withstand cyclone-strength winds, that standard varies throughout Australia. Perhaps this matter does not impinge on this Bill, but I would like to indicate, by way of comment to the Minister that in the Pilbara in particular, and in other parts of Australia—certainly in Queensland—this problem exists. As a Government, we should endeavour to do something about it. Certainly it

will take a considerable amount of time and a great deal of consultation to reach common agreement.

In regard to the provision to permit councils to meet the reasonable expenses incurred when a councillor's partner accompanies that councillor to attend a municipal conference, or on other duties, I am very pleased about the inclusion of this provision, particularly for people in remote areas. The task of a councillor is a fairly thankless one; rarely do councillors receive a pat on the back. They are more likely to receive brick bats, in the same way as members of Parliament do. The role of a councillor is a voluntary one, so the provision in this Bill will be a small nicety to show appreciation for the excellent job of work that councillors do right throughout the State.

I would like to refer also to the spouses of shire clerks. The wives of these officials give up a great deal of time to assist their husbands in their official duties. Frequently they prepare meals for guests, attend numerous functions, and on many occasions they are left home alone while their husbands attend to other duties.

Like the member for Geraldton, I realise that society is changing very rapidly—in fact, it is changing far too quickly. I am apprehensive also about the use of the word "partner". However, I think the provision could be extended to cover the wives or partners of shire clerks. I hope that in most instances this would be the spouse of a shire clerk, and certainly it would be so in regard to the four local government authorities in my area.

Although it may not be convenient to consider this matter now, I would ask the Minister at a later date to consider the possibility of broadening this provision to cover the wives of shire clerks. Frequently these women make a far greater contribution to local government than do the wives of the councillors. Usually the wife of a shire clerk has a full commitment, but there are very few perks associated with her voluntary job. One way to look at the matter perhaps could be in line with the provisions relating to the wives of members of Parliament when a member travels to his electorate. Some provision could be made for travel on a once-a-year or twice-a-year basis, of course subject to the authorisation of the particular council involved.

Mr McIver: If you allow that concession, where does it stop? The gardener and his wife will want to go next.

Mr Davies: And they would be entitled to.

Mr SODEMAN: It would depend on the finances of the shire. For that reason I said it would be subject to the authorisation of the local

government authority concerned. The funds may not be available at the time, but if the provision were there, it would allow a local authority to make the decision. The amount involved could be limited. The main problem may be where to draw the line. Certainly it should not apply to councillors in the metropolitan area, but should it include councillors in near metropolitan country shires? Who should be included and who should be excluded? The decision will not be an easy one to make, but I put that forward as a serious recommendation. With those remarks I support the Bill.

**MR McPHARLIN** (Mt. Marshall) [8.45 p.m.]: The provisions of the Bill to lay down more stringent building requirements for earthquake and seismic zones will be welcomed in those areas in which earthquakes occur. I refer particularly to the Meckering district, where a major earthquake occurred in 1968 and to the Cadoux district, where an earthquake occurred in 1979. Both areas are in my electorate.

Mr Pearce: Do you think that is a coincidence?

Mr McPHARLIN: It is due to the dynamic representation they receive.

I have had numerous discussions with people whose properties were damaged as a result of those earthquakes. In fact, I was recently approached by a person who wished to build a new brick home within the seismic zone. He had found a builder who was prepared to incorporate safety measures in that structure to enable it to withstand earth tremors, and he was prepared to pay the extra building costs involved.

When this person approached the local shire council he was advised that, due to the building by-laws, the council was unable to agree to the building plan. The builder appealed to the Minister and he was advised by the Minister that, after careful consideration, the appeal was denied. The builder firmly believes this type of structure has a place in earthquake zones. He believes it should be treated as a prototype and that similar safety measures could be incorporated in other buildings and houses in the area.

At the present time, the house is being built according to the by-laws. I believe it was a little unfortunate the local authority and the Minister were not more flexible to enable this man to have adequate safety precautions built into his new home. People still want to build in brick, and these safety measures would lessen the possibility of damage during an earthquake. Of course, many people will not build in brick because of the damage which often occurs during earth tremors.

It is interesting that although there have been only two major earthquakes in these areas, tremors of varying magnitudes occur almost daily; they never completely cease. The people of the area are so used to earth tremors they do not worry unduly about them until the tremors reach sufficient intensity to start causing damage.

I was in Cadoux on the night of the earthquake. After the earthquake, some people moved away from the district; others rebuilt their homes. The earthquake caused a considerable amount of stress and unrest amongst the community. However, after a time, the people settled down and realised they would simply have to face up to the problem; their attitude is now tremendous. They have invested in a very large sporting complex which is a credit to them.

Mr Bertram: What is that constructed of?

Mr McPHARLIN: It is not constructed of brick, but of steel with an external cladding material. I understand the roof is of aluminium or asbestos.

Mr Spriggs: Did the Government contribute to the complex?

Mr McPHARLIN: Yes, quite considerably, and I am sure the people of the district appreciated it.

I should like the Minister in her reply to outline what are these special building requirements because this is a matter of great interest to builders in the area. After all, they are the ones who will be required to install strengthening braces and the like in new homes, and they should know what is required of them.

I have discussed this matter with architects who say, "Yes, we can design homes which will stand up to earthquakes but they will cost you a lot more money." I refer the Minister to her second reading speech when she made the following statement—

A graduated scale of additional structural requirements is proposed, with the most stringent requirements applying to the highest risk areas and less stringent requirements applying to areas on the periphery.

People are prepared to put their money into new buildings which incorporate strengthening procedures, and they will welcome these additional requirements, provided it does not involve them in excessive cost.

Mr Bertram: What was the position with insurance?

Mr McPHARLIN: In most cases, after the Cadoux earthquake insurance claims were met

without a great deal of haggling; of course, there were some prolonged discussions as to whether or not the claims would be met; however, I understand they have all now been settled. In addition, donations were made, and the Lord Mayor's Earthquake Appeal Fund also raised \$10 000 for the area. I can assure members this money was greatly appreciated by the people of the district.

The second aspect of the legislation refers to the payment of the travelling expenses of what is described as a "councillor's partner". The Minister made the following statement in her second reading speech—

I believe that permitting councils to meet these expenses, which would on most occasions be only a fairly modest amount, will not impose any great burden on ratepayers.

I understand the councils will still be able to make the decision as to the amount of money they are prepared to allocate towards these costs, and I think that would be accepted by the authorities involved.

I support the amending legislation, believing it to be aimed in the right direction.

MR McIVER (Avon) [8.55 p.m.]: I wish to question the Minister on several aspects of the legislation. I find myself a little at variance with the member for Mt. Marshall. In my opinion, builders and other people connected with the construction industry in earthquake zones are becoming a little over-cautious. For example, recently a police station was constructed in the town of York. Because it was thought York was in an earthquake zone, the shire was required to accept a substandard building.

Mrs Craig: Do you mean substandard aesthetically? I take it the authority is happy with the actual construction of the building.

Mr McIVER: That is quite correct. Following the Cadoux earthquake, the Public Works Department drew up what, for the sake of convenience, I shall describe as "model by-laws" as a guide for builders and local authorities.

In recent times, I have spoken to a few well-known and very capable builders in the Avon electorate and they have brought to my attention the fact that if they are required to adhere rigidly to the by-laws prepared by the PWD, the cost of constructing a home in the country areas will rise considerably. I am not referring specifically to the Avon electorate. As the member for Mt. Marshall indicated, small tremors occur almost daily. Although they are stringently monitored at the Mundaring monitoring station, they are not

reported in the Press. Therefore, people in these areas should not be over-cautious about the possibility of major earthquakes occurring.

When we consider other earthquake-prone countries, we see they are far more relaxed in their building by-laws and their entire attitude than we seem to be becoming.

I understand the Bill allows the Government, as well as local government, to make additional uniform by-laws. Would it be correct to say that once a uniform by-law is accepted by a local authority, that is the end of it?

Mrs Craig: Once it is adopted by a shire. Are you afraid this will mean higher standards than those which have obtained previously.

Mr McIVER: No, I am principally concerned about the cost.

Mrs Craig: Do you believe the cost will be higher because more stringent building requirements will be applied?

Mr McIVER: Yes.

Mrs Craig: I can assure you that will not be the case. These standards have been available for the past 10 years.

Mr McIVER: I am delighted to have that assurance from the Minister; I will be able to short-circuit my remarks.

I would like to quote the following from a circular which was issued by the Department of Local Government to municipalities for the attention of their respective building surveyors. I quote as follows—

Buildings with tile roofs should be professionally designed in accordance with AS 2121 "The Design of Earthquake Resistant Buildings".

This means the usual architect or builder in one of these earthquake-prone areas may not be able to meet those requirements, necessitating a person engaging someone who could design a professional type of roof to meet these requirements. I understand that each tile has to be screwed down separately and there are requirements in relation to the struts to be used. The combination of all this means an additional cost of perhaps several thousand dollars and this is the reason I have raised this question with the Minister. The builders in my region are concerned that they will have to impose this additional cost when building homes.

I believe if a couple want to build a home of brick and tile, irrespective of the earthquake area involved, they should be able to do so. These stringent requirements should not be imposed. I would like some clarification. Will local

authorities be able to set their own by-laws or will they have to adhere to the uniform building by-laws involved here?

MRS CRAIG (Wellington—Minister for Local Government) [9.02 p.m.]: I thank members for their support of this legislation. In the first instance I would like to refer to remarks made by the member for Geraldton in relation to the surcharge applied to some councillors from the Shire of Carnarvon who, with their spouses, attended Local Government Week. I assure the member the Carnarvon Shire was not the only one involved. The matter of the payment of expenses of spouses or partners of authorised delegates to municipal conferences has long been a vexed question in local government circles. It goes without saying the problem is one that is much more apparent among those people who have to travel considerable distances than with those who are resident in the metropolitan area.

There has been no provision in the Act for the Minister to allow expenditure of this sort, although in recent years prior to Local Government Week a directive from the department went out to local authorities indicating that certain expenditure for spouses could be met by councils, and that usually related to specific social functions which are a necessary part of Local Government Week. It was not possible for other reasonable expenses to be paid.

The case referred to by the member for Geraldton was fairly accurately described and I would like to say those amounts have been paid, with the exception of a small proportion of one person's account, and I would not like to mention names in the Chamber tonight. I am not sure whether the other account was paid by the association or met by the councillor concerned. At that time there were a number of councils which decided they would act in exactly the same way. They were all surcharged in exactly the same way and they all met their obligations in relation to the surcharge.

I was approached by both associations with a request that the Government look to an amendment of this sort in order that these reasonable expenses could be met. I am very pleased the proposal has the general acceptance of members here today, because the thing that must be borne in mind always when we are talking about councillors is the fact they do work in an honorary capacity and that surely, once every two years or for other specific municipal conferences, it ought to be possible for them to get some assistance from the council for expenses of a reasonable nature if that council has decided that is the way it wishes to act.

The member for Geraldton also referred to the subject of disqualification, which I suppose was really extraneous to the matters contained in this amendment. He referred to the fact that there was a provision in another Bill we will be considering later tonight that makes the action to be taken in relation to disqualification clearer and more concise. The absence of clarity is a difficulty which has existed in the past.

Mr Carr: It was not the disqualification provision I referred to in the other Bill but the spouses of occupied homes getting the vote.

Mrs CRAIG: That is a different matter. The matter of a partner was the other question raised by the member. He mentioned that one Bill defined a spouse in relation to a person's ability to vote, and in the other it was "partner". On face value there is a disparity and perhaps some believe a change should have been made. However, in relation to this legislation, it became apparent that there are many councillors who are in fact widowed, and as suggested by the member for Geraldton, would like to be accompanied by a daughter, friend, or a sister-in-law. A great proportion of Local Government Week is given over to social functions and it is much more enjoyable to be able to attend with a partner rather than by oneself.

The situation is not so loose as some people may think, because these people attend functions with the express permission of the council. So the council will be making the decision and I believe we can quite sensibly let that responsibility rest with the individual councillors.

The member also referred to the wife of the shire clerk. I believe it is already possible for a council formally to decide to meet the expenses of a shire clerk if it so wishes. However, it is in a different context to the expenses of councillors' partners because we must remember that a group of people are unpaid and the other person is paid. As was suggested by the member for Avon, if we are to say there is one person who is a paid officer of the council who must be allowed to take his wife to functions at the expense of ratepayers, it becomes very difficult then to say where we should start and where we should stop. I agree with the member for Pilbara that a shire clerk's wife is very committed to the activities of the council, but her husband is also the recipient of expenses which allow him to be able to meet some of his requirements.

The important thing to realise is that a council can decide to meet those expenses. The incident referred to by the member for Geraldton in relation to the surcharge applied to the wife of the

Carnarvon Shire Clerk. In this case the council had not agreed to meet those expenses and an account was rendered even though the council had not agreed to meet the expenses involved.

The other matter this small amending Bill deals with is that of the application of uniform building by-laws in seismic zones. The arguments advanced have been many and I should point out that after the Meckering earthquake there was public concern that no special standards had been defined for buildings in earthquake-prone areas.

At that time, because we had no specific by-laws, we adopted for circulation those that applied in New Zealand. Indeed, the circular from which the member for Avon and the member for Geraldton quoted was one I handed to the member for Geraldton and was circulated to all local authorities. Those by-laws were adopted from that. We have to understand that we are talking about two different sorts of standards. The class 1 building, which is a residential type building, is one where the standards of the circulated building by-laws apply. The building the member for Avon referred to that was not aesthetically pleasing is very safe and is built to Australian association standards which are more stringent because they cover situations where members of the public gather, and the safety of the public is of great importance and must be ensured.

The Building Advisory Committee in this State does a tremendous amount of work in relation to the changes in uniform building by-laws, whether it be advances in those by-laws that presently apply or whether it is an examination of something that now seems to be obsolete or something which could be improved on. I express my appreciation for the work those people do. They work very hard and give us good advice. They are a very competent body of people. In defining the by-laws they do look to prescribe minimum standards. There is nothing to preclude a person from building above those standards. Whilst I know it can be said that when a person wants to ensure a building is going to provide the highest standard of safety possible it will mean additional expense, the higher standards are something that those people who have lived in these earthquake-prone areas agree they would rather meet.

Mr McIver: Does that mean that where these by-laws are proclaimed, tiles will have to be screwed down? Will the circular have to be adhered to?

Mrs CRAIG: The member must remember that there are various seismic zones, and the

standards diminish as we get away from the principal areas.

Mr Melver: What about Northam?

Mrs CRAIG: The member should look at the map attached to the papers to ascertain what area Northam is in. There is a lowering of standards as the risk becomes lessened.

Mr Melver: Do you realise the costs involved?

Mrs CRAIG: I realise it is possible to build a home that does not have a tiled roof but which can be made safe for the occupants at far less cost. While I can understand that people might prefer a brick and tile house, it will be as it always is in this world a matter of balancing what can be afforded with the standards to be applied in order to ensure the safety of those people and their children. They can build themselves a fibro house with a roof of cladding rather than a brick and tile house. This legislation really allows us only to write into the uniform building by-laws these special measures. There was no provision in the Act to do that before. They will apply in areas where shires adopt these by-laws.

The member suggested local authorities have their own by-laws in relation to building standards. Of course that is not so. They all work within the uniform building regulations which are the basic standard. The building surveyors examine buildings according to that standard. In fact, the regulations have been the standard, it would be fair to say, for over 10 years and for at least 10 years the public has been aware of them but they have not been able to be applied on a mandatory basis because they have not been fashioned into shape for that.

I can assure the member for Avon that I do not want to go overboard in regard to this. The expenses are enormous and we would be unfeeling and irresponsible indeed if we knew a necessity to apply certain safety standards existed but turned our backs and did not seek to have local authority and State building surveyors enforce those standards.

The member for Mt. Marshall referred to a building which he hoped could be built. He quite rightly said this matter came to me by way of appeal. It is fair to say that the construction of that building was not in accord with the uniform construction by-laws. It came to me by way of appeal and the differences I remember were that there were no cavities in the walls. I have learnt in this portfolio that not to have a cavity in a wall is regarded as something dangerous to the health and well-being of the occupants of a household. I have asked the building advisory committee to examine this matter to see whether under certain

climatic conditions it would be possible to accept a building that did not have cavity walls and, of course, would not be to the detriment of the occupants within the building.

The member for Mt. Marshall was fair in saying this matter was given careful consideration. I have sent the matter back twice and it would not have been competent for me to agree that a building of that sort could be constructed when the professional advice I was able to obtain indicated clearly it would not be in the best interests of the occupants of the house to have the house built in that way.

I indicate again my thanks to those members who have supported this legislation.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee, etc.*

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

#### *Third Reading*

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mrs Craig (Minister for Local Government), and transmitted to the Council.

### **RESERVES BILL**

#### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from 5 May.

**MR H. D. EVANS** (Warren—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [8.22 p.m.]: I make the observation that every item in the Reserves Bill is difficult to check at firsthand. It always has been and always will be a problem for Opposition members, or any member of Parliament for that matter, personally to know the full contents of a Reserves Bill; but at least in this instance, with comments provided by the Minister, it has been possible to check with each shire council and certain other bodies to ascertain their feelings with regard to particular items.

I refer to the fact that the Lands Department traditionally has been meticulous in the manner in which it has presented the items mentioned in the Reserves Bill. In this Bill the detail that has accompanied the description of each item is in itself very thorough and must be appreciated by members of this House when they attempt to determine what is involved in each action taken. In this Bill eight actions are involved, three of which simply require a change of designation. In



each situation it is a matter of a change from vested Crown land held as flora reserves to flora and fauna reserves under the Department of Conservation and Environment. They are the first, second, and fourth actions as they appear in the Bill and in the second reading speech of the Minister. I see no problem with each of those. The action is a step in the right direction.

I noticed—this may require some clarification—that in the fourth paragraph of the Minister's second reading speech she stated—

It follows that once Parliament has consented that certain lands will be no longer of Class "A", deletion of a specific direction in the Act will allow great flexibility for the future administration of those lands under the Land Act.

In that case, if that is to be the established practice, I require some indication of the future use of those lands, and it would be desirable if the attention of the department were drawn to this matter so that no misunderstanding with any item will be encountered.

The first and second items refer to changed purposes in the Pingelly and Corrigin Shires. Both shires are in agreement with the action to be taken—this has been verified. Reserve No. 8613 is in a similar situation. The local shire has been under pressure for something like three years in regard to the creation of a rifle range. The member for Greenough probably will make some comment about that, no doubt having had personal involvement with the matter.

Reserve No. 27310 is one which I know quite well. Originally it was an area of land left aside to provide timber for the requirements of settlers. It has been sought for alienation on a number of occasions and, indeed, I have put forward a submission on at least two occasions. It seems the Manjimup Shire, for a reason that is not quite clear in the Minister's second reading speech, is not very happy with the change, but according to a verbal communication with the shire it has no objections. I see no problem being encountered with that action. The adjacent reserve will be left for camping, and that is a good idea. It is for any emergency camping situation such as when caravan parks are full.

Reserve No. 27575 at Quinns Rocks is referred to. I understand the council is in agreement with the rationalisation of boundaries proposed. The National Parks Authority also is in agreement with the action to be taken. It is not quite clear what the precise exchange will be, but both parties are satisfied. The boundaries are not indicated clearly on the map as I read it.

It appears no problem will be encountered with the action to be taken with regard to Reserve No. 31362 at Walpole. It is a matter of providing a water supply to the town. I do not know whether this will be the most ideal site for a water supply catchment area. However, one point is certain, and that is that Walpole which receives the heaviest rainfall in Western Australia has one of the poorest town water supplies. Any step to improve that supply certainly is welcome and most desirable from the point of view of the residents. The action in regard to Reserve No. 3362 relates to the removal of a trust to allow a sale to take place. This has been carried out on a number of previous occasions, the precedent going back at least seven years to my knowledge. In this case I have seen no indication of precisely who will establish the nursing home and details in that regard. The member for Yilgarn-Dundas has a particular knowledge and interest in this matter. I am sure he will make some comments.

In relation to Reserve No. 2851 the original intention was to clear a six-hectare lot for the basic use of recreation with power vested in the authority to operate a bowling club. The council has not had the opportunity to take the matter further and it is sought to excise an area of three hectares and vest it in the Shire of Mandurah. Any delay now would set back its planning and involve additional costs. I can see no objection to the proposed action.

I have a recollection that such a vesting came before this House on a previous occasion. I do not know whether it lapsed, or what happened, but it seems to me that this action is similar. I am almost certain it appeared before this House at one time.

Those are the matters contained in the Reserves Bill for the first part of this session. The wisdom of introducing two Reserves Bills in the course of a year is quite obvious. I can see no reason that these eight reserves should not be deleted, but I would be surprised if the members for Greenough, Yilgarn-Dundas, Murray, and Geraldton did not take a personal interest in the matters in the Bill and make some pertinent observations.

**MR TUBBY** (Greenough) [9.31 p.m.]: This Bill is an important one which permits the alteration of reserves for various reasons, and in this case it is of specific interest to me because of the amendment to Class "A" Reserve No. 8613. The reserve contains approximately 56½ hectares of coastal sand dunes, and it is under the control of the Shire of Greenough. It is classified as a park, but it is coastal reserve and used for recreation purposes. It is covered with low scrub

which is of little significance and is typical of most of the coastal sand dunes in the area.

The amendment provides for approximately 23 1/3 hectares to be excised to permit a buffer zone for the new Geraldton rifle range which is to be established nearby. The reason for the excision of the reserve is the fact that the range will run east and west, and the portion of the reserve will be a buffer against the base of the sand dune area.

The excision of portion of the reserve completes a long line of negotiation with various departments, both Federal and State, which include the Department of Defence, the Department of Administrative Services, the Lands and Surveys Department, the Fisheries and Wildlife Department, the Town Planning Department and the Department for Conservation and Environment. It includes also the National Trust which became involved because the land is in close proximity to the Greenough Hamlet development. It was a great experience for me to be involved in negotiating for the acquisition of this land for the rifle range, and I now realise how difficult it is to co-ordinate the thoughts of various departments in order to bring about a successful conclusion to negotiations.

The need for a new rifle range in Geraldton was created by the acquisition by the State Housing Commission of the old rifle range which was in close proximity to the residential area of Geraldton. The acquisition occurred some seven or eight years ago and since then the club has been without a home range. No fewer than nine different sites have been considered and claimed by the Department of Administrative Services to be unsuitable. Those sites were mainly in the farming area, and were situated against hills in order to afford protection. However, the area surrounding Geraldton is fairly intensively farmed, and the various sites were not approved for that reason.

The new, 12-target range is to be situated on freehold land adjoining the reserve to which I have referred. The final approval of the site was brought about only by the sheer determination and perseverance of those involved, and indeed at times it appeared this would be the 10th site to be refused by the Department of Administrative Services. The turning point in the negotiations resulted from action taken by the now Deputy Premier and then Minister for Conservation and the Environment. During one of his very busy visits to Geraldton I had occasion to take him early one morning before breakfast along with the President of the Geraldton Rifle Club and another official to visit the site, because I believed

his refusal to approve the site was unjustified. The result clearly indicated to me the benefit of an on-the-spot appraisal of a site before decisions are made; and I felt strongly in this case that the initial refusal was completely unjustified. Immediately the Deputy Premier understood the situation, and I pointed out that the department's fears regarding stray bullets being deflected out to sea were groundless, and that there was little possibility of bullets affecting the fragile environment of the sand dunes.

I pointed out to him that as a result of the lie of the country which sloped towards the dune area and the site of the butts at the base of the sand dunes where they start to lift from the heavy land plain the area would be quite suitable, and he agreed. It was clearly indicated there would be no concern whatsoever in respect of environmental protection. Common sense prevailed and the Minister indicated after his on-the-spot appraisal that he was quite prepared to reverse the decision of his department. He said he would have to hold discussions with the department in case some circumstances of which he was not aware influenced the decision.

The new range will be the headquarters for the north-west zone of the Rifle Clubs Association, which includes clubs as far north as Broome, as far east as Meekatharra, and as far south as Morawa and Carnamah. Plans have been drawn up for extensive club premises which will be the pride of the zone and no doubt will be used for State competitions. The club has members who have identified themselves well in State and Australasian competitions. I am very proud to be associated with this development and I am appreciative of the assistance given by the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Lands in bringing about a successful conclusion to the negotiations.

I appreciate the co-operation I received at all times from the club and zone president (Mr Dennis Marsden), who was as keen as I was to see that the site should be made available to the club, and to ensure that it did not become the 10th site refused.

I support the Bill

**MR CARR** (Geraldton) [9.39 p.m.]: I would like briefly to join with the member for Greenough in welcoming the move to provide the land necessary for the rifle range for the Geraldton Rifle Club. It has been a long and difficult job, as the member said, to gain approval for the site for the rifle range. Several sites were considered.

**Mr Davies:** I started this. I think it was in 1972.

Mr CARR: The site which has now been approved was in fact the subject of considerable wrangling; and, in particular, wrangling between Government departments and more specifically between Federal departments and State departments. For a long time we had a peculiar situation in which nobody knew what anyone else was doing. At one stage I had a letter from the Minister for Defence (Mr Killen) in my hand—and the member for Greenough had an identical letter—saying that as far as the Federal departments were concerned everything was all right, but that the matter had been referred to three different State departments, and the attitude of those departments was not known. At the same time in my other hand I had an answer to a question asked in this place two months earlier which advised me that the three State departments were opposed to the site.

So we had a situation where the Federal Government departments had not been advised of decisions made in State Government departments two months earlier. Clearly we had a real problem of communication; and while I am not normally one to criticise public servants and bureaucrats, I thought we could well do with a better set of communication channels.

As the member for Greenough said, when it became obvious that State Government departments had not approved the site, steps were taken to gain their approval. As so often happens when men of common sense become involved, the problems were resolved fairly quickly.

Firstly, the officials of the club itself met with local professional fishermen and discussed the problems raised by the Fisheries and Wildlife Department in respect of shooting across water where boats might be operating, and those problems were quickly resolved. The member for Greenough and I both inspected the site separately and we agreed it was perfectly reasonable. We had the assistance of the Deputy Premier and the Leader of the Opposition who at different times inspected the site.

Mr Davies: That is a pretty heavy group.

Mr CARR: Yes. At that time, just before the 1980 election, the Leader of the Opposition made an election commitment that if we were returned to Government he would overrule the departments which were in opposition, and the land would be made available to the club. About the same time the Deputy Premier visited the site, as the member for Greenough has pointed out, and he also could see there was no problem involved with it.

The matter proceeded from there; and in fact it would have been completed six months earlier except that the Department of Administrative Services was unable to get documentation to the Department of Lands and Surveys before the cutoff date for the Reserves Bill for the last session.

This provision is certainly most welcome in the region.

MR GRILL (Yilgarn-Dundas) [9.42 p.m.]: I wish to make some comments in respect of Reserve No. 3362. As a previous speaker mentioned, this refers to the cancellation of a trust for the purpose of a resale. The reserve comprises portion of Kalgoorlie Town Lot No. 510 and is approximately 1.685 hectares. The property is presently used for a hospital in the hands of the St. John of God organisation, and I understand portion of the lot is used for a convent and primary school.

I wish to put a specific and pertinent question to the Minister concerning the cancellation of this trust and the revesting order, because some of this just does not seem to make sense.

The Bill specifically states that the land was vested in the St. John of God organisation for one purpose only; that is for the purpose of a hospital of St. John of God. That is very important; it is not just for any old hospital, but for a hospital of St. John of God. The land in question is valuable. It is right in the centre of Kalgoorlie, and it belongs to the public. As I have already mentioned, it has been vested in the St. John of God organisation for a specific purpose. I do not think it is reasonable for the vesting order to include provision for resale of property. I think the resale will be made at a considerable profit.

I have several questions of the Minister. As the property has been vested for one purpose and one purpose only, how does she account for the fact that there are also a school and a convent on the piece of land? That fact is obvious from the notes she supplied to this side of the House. I thank her for those notes. On the face of it, there appears to have been a breach of trust. What does the Government say about that?

The second question would appear to be even more important, as this property has already been sold for a substantial figure. Could she tell us when the sale took place, what was the sale price, and whether that in itself is a breach of trust? I would have thought it would be a breach of trust to sell the land without obtaining prior approval of the Government and the Parliament.

It is unfortunate—and I think the Minister for Health shares this view secretly—that the

freehold of this land was sold to a private group. It had been indicated to me by the administrator of the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital that the best use for the St. John of God Hospital would have been as an extension of the regional hospital. It could have been purchased by the Government and formed part of the regional hospital. The administrator felt very strongly, six months or so ago, that the St. John of God Hospital would have made a very adequate geriatric ward and relieved a very congested and cramped position at the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital. That may have removed from the Government some embarrassment about the very long delay in reconstructing the regional hospital.

On the surface, it appears that the ideology of free enterprise has been promoted above the interests of the public. I have raised two questions with the Minister, and a supplementary question now arises. It appears that the reserve is divided into two parts. Lot 1 is to be vested in the Sisters of St. John for the purposes of the sale; and Lot 2 apparently goes back to the Crown. The subsidiary question relates to what will happen to the convent and the school on Lot 2 when the land goes back to the Crown, as provided in the legislation. That question needs to be answered, for the protection of the convent, for the protection of the school, and for the protection of the students who attend the school.

I put those two questions, and the subsidiary question, to the Minister. I would be grateful if she could answer them.

**MRS CRAIG** (Wellington—Minister for Local Government) [9.49 p.m.]: At the outset, I thank the members who have indicated their support for this legislation.

I indicate to the member for Warren that I have taken note of the comment he made about asking the Department of Lands and Surveys to advise the Parliament of the special circumstances involved in relation to the leasing of an "A"-class reserve. I will ensure that that request is carried through.

To those members who have spoken in support of the rifle range reservation at Geraldton, I know that that has been an ongoing saga. To my great surprise, at the time when I was in the Department of Lands and Surveys, we were working to release land, and negotiating with the Department of Administrative Services in that respect. When I went to the Town Planning Department, I found that it was one of the departments opposed to the application. A considerable amount of work was done in relation to it.

The member for Geraldton indicated that things do not always run smoothly in negotiations between departments; and many departments were involved. I know that the member for Greenough was involved in this for a very long time; and, indeed, his colleague, the late Jack Heitman, spoke several times about this matter. I hope many pleasurable hours will be spent by those who pursue the sport of shooting, and that they will be able to have the sorts of competitions they have wanted to provide for a long time.

Now I turn to the questions raised by the member for Yilgarn-Dundas. He asked what was the sale date, and what was the sale price. I do not have any information on that; but I will certainly see whether it is available. It may be that the Government cannot have that information. Reading the notes of the speech made in the other place, it is my understanding that the land was a Crown grant in 1898 to the Sisters of St. John. The land was held in fee simple; and I imagine from that that it was held for the purposes of a hospital. It would be necessary to change that in order that it be sold.

It is my understanding that the other portion of that land still has the convent and school on it. I am not able to inform the member whether there has been any change in the use of that land. I will seek that information on his behalf by tomorrow, and I will pass it to him. I hope that will satisfy him.

Other than that, I believe everybody has signified his general approval for the measures contained within this legislation. I thank members for that.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee*

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr Sibson) in the chair; Mrs Craig (Minister for Local Government) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 6 put and passed.

Clause 7: Reserve No. 2851 at Mandurah—

**Mr SHALDERS:** The clause excises an area of three hectares from Reserve No. 2851, which is an "A"-class reserve. This reserve is situated at South Mandurah, which is one of the most attractive areas within the Mandurah Shire. Until now, it has been relatively sparsely populated; but the permanent population is increasing—

**Mr Davies:** Wait until the developers get there.

**Mr SHALDERS:** The developers have been opening up some rather attractive areas. The

permanent population is growing; and community facilities are required.

As members would know, there are no more dedicated sportsmen in the community than those who are interested in bowling. A number of residents formed themselves into a bowling and social club in the South Mandurah area.

The area to be excised will be vested in the shire; and it is the intention of the shire to lease this area to the newly formed bowling and recreation club. The people concerned with that club are very dedicated; and in my opinion they will establish facilities of which the shire can be proud.

I indicate my support for this clause.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 8 put and passed.

Clause 9: Reserve No. 3362 and adjacent land—

Mr H. D. EVANS: Would the Minister make clear what has now become unclear? In her second reading speech she mentioned that the Sisters of St. John desired to sell the hospital which had been erected on portion of the land; and a survey had been effected to define the land adjoining the buildings. There is no objection to that action being taken. However, if it has already been done and we are rectifying an omission or a mistake, we need to know that. Can she clarify that situation?

Mrs CRAIG: I will find out that information for the member. As with the member for Yilgarn-Dundas I will ensure that the information is in his hands tomorrow.

Mr GRILL: Normally I would not be satisfied with the explanation given by the Minister. It would appear she is substantially in ignorance of the actual transaction. I do not blame her for that. Probably she has not been given full notes on the subject. As she has undertaken to give both myself and the member for Warren more information on this tomorrow, we shall not oppose this clause.

Clause put and passed.

Title put and passed.

### *Report*

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

### *Third Reading*

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mrs Craig (Minister for Local Government), and passed.

## **MEDICAL AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from 7 May.

**MR BERTRAM** (Mt. Hawthorn) [9.59 p.m.]: The obvious question which arises with this Bill is how many more Bills will be presented by the Minister to amend the principal Act in respect of the qualifications of medical practitioners who practise in the State of Western Australia.

We have seen a number of amending Bills of this nature and, at the time the Minister has introduced them, he has either expressly said or implied that the legislation would solve all the problems in relation to the qualifications which must be held by medical practitioners to enable them to practise in this State.

The last amending Bill of this nature was dealt with in 1979 and, only 18 months later, the Minister seeks once again to amend the Medical Act as it relates to the qualifications of medical practitioners practising in Western Australia.

We also dealt with Bills of this nature in 1975 and 1976. I do not intend to set out the details contained in the Bill, because members may refer to the Minister's second reading speech in that regard. However, it is a fact that certain qualified medical practitioners who should be able to practise in Western Australia are unable to do so, because of the present state of the law. Were the law to remain unchanged, it would operate against the public interest.

I do not know whether the Bill was drafted by that union, which is the Australian Medical Association or the Minister; but there certainly seems to be an urgent need for an improvement in the way in which the legislation has been handled. Of course, some people believe the Australian Medical Association has a tendency to do that which other unions do, but perhaps on a larger scale; that is, to keep down the number of medical practitioners practising in Western Australia in order that the incomes of those who do in fact practise may be maintained at a high level. It is clear that with a greater number of medical practitioners practising, a smaller margin of profit will be available to them.

It appears that the Australian Medical Association and the Minister acting together went too far on this occasion. Therefore, it has been necessary to amend the legislation.

The Opposition does not object to the Bill. We support it in the hope that, on this occasion, the

legislation will be amended in such a way that it will operate efficiently in the future and it will not be necessary for us to deal with further amending Bills of this kind.

On a previous occasion when the Minister introduced the Bill he said the amendments were necessary to bring our legislation into line with that of other States. Such an assertion was made in 1979; therefore I wonder whether this Bill will result in our legislation falling out of line in relation to the Medical Acts of other States.

Subject to those comments, the Opposition supports the Bill.

**MR YOUNG** (Scarborough—Minister for Health) [10.05 p.m.]: I thank the Opposition for its general support of the Bill, and the member for Mt. Hawthorn for the points he raised.

If all legislation were perfect the first time around, we would spend a great deal less time in this place.

**Mr Bertram**: We would not need so many members of Parliament.

**Mr YOUNG**: I think we could deal with the legislation in this place with fewer members causing mischief. The member for Maylands handled a similar Bill for the Opposition in 1979 and he made a very pertinent comment at that time to the effect that "Whether or not these provisions will have the effect of making the registration of medical practitioners more restrictive will not be known until 12 to 18 months have passed and only then will we be able to judge the results of the legislation."

Of course, the member for Maylands was quite correct when he said that. Some medical practitioners who were licentiates of the various bodies which are now being written back into the legislation as having acceptable qualification levels have found themselves in a state of limbo, because their qualifications were not acceptable unless they either came under section 12A or sat for the examinations of the Australian Medical Examining Council. It was felt such a situation was wrong.

Our experience over the past two years has indicated the necessity to write those conjoint qualifications back into the legislation. I concede that, as a result of a rather profound amount of foresight, this Bill may not have been necessary. It would, however, have been necessary to introduce legislation in respect of the other two amendments in the Bill which pertain to the registration of psychiatrists who are very hard to come by in this State because there is a shortage of professionally qualified psychiatrists

throughout the world, and the provisions with respect to temporary registration.

I thank the member for Mt. Hawthorn for his support of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

### *In Committee*

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr Sibson) in the Chair: Mr Young (Minister for Health) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 put and passed.

Clause 3: Section 11 amended—

**Mr McPHARLIN**: This clause refers to the registration of persons who prove to the satisfaction of the board they have passed through a regular graded course of medical study. It then lists a number of colleges at which graduation may take place.

Last year a doctor in a country town in my electorate wished to sell his practice, but he had difficulty doing so. A doctor practising in Queensland applied, but his qualifications were not accepted in Western Australia. He qualified in London as an LMSSA which stands for Licentiate of Medicine and Surgery of the Society of Apothecaries. He registered and was able to practise in South Australia and Queensland. He then went to Hong Kong for a few years and, on his return, he again practised in Queensland. He has been advised that he could register and practise in New South Wales.

On further investigation of the situation it was revealed that, if he took the examination of the Australian Medical Examining Council and obtained a satisfactory pass, he would be allowed to practise as a general practitioner anywhere in Western Australia.

I should like to ask the Minister whether that situation still applies.

The doctor to whom I refer was prepared to take the examination. However, some doctors who have been practising for 25 years as he has, may not be prepared to do so; therefore, I should like the Minister to clarify the position.

**Mr BERTRAM**: I should like to repeat the question as to whether the registration procedure in this State, as a result of this legislation, will be in line with the requirements of other States. The example referred to by the member for Mt. Marshall highlights the situation in which a medical practitioner who has been practising successfully for many years cannot practise in Western Australia unless he takes an examination.

Mr YOUNG: In reply to the member for Mt. Marshall, I have to advise him that the amendments contained in the Bill will not entitle a person who holds only the Licentiate in Medicine and Surgery of the Society of Apothecaries of London to be registered. Prior to 1979 the qualifications obtained by a medical practitioner at the Society of Apothecaries in Dublin were acceptable also; but they will not now qualify any licentiate from that institution to be registered automatically.

The position is that the person to whom the member for Mt. Marshall referred will be in no different position as a result of the Bill. In other words, if he was prepared to take the examination for registration of the Australian Medical Examining Council previously, he would still have to do so prior to being registered in Western Australia.

Mr McPharlin: Would he be allowed to register if he sat that examination?

Mr YOUNG: Yes, he would. The Medical Board of WA, not the Australian Medical Association, is the body which has the responsibility to register medical practitioners in this State. Therefore, it is the body with which I am in contact in the drafting of legislation of this kind. In their wisdom and with the experience of the people who made up the Medical Board of Western Australia—which includes some very highly-qualified people—it was considered that these two apothecary halls were not acceptable though the licentiates of other bodies, as shown in the clause, will be.

With regard to the member for Mt. Hawthorn's query, it is an interesting point that these registration Bills can never be the same from State to State. Obviously this is because the views of the Medical Boards of various States vary. However, generally the medical profession throughout the country has attempted to maintain a fairly standard and acceptable level of qualification.

I think with the exception of the apothecary halls, which are acceptable in some States and not in others, we will maintain that standard.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 4 and 5 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

### *Report*

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

### *Third Reading*

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Young (Minister for Health), and transmitted to the Council.

## **RURAL AND INDUSTRIES BANK AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from 7 May.

MR DAVIES (Victoria Park—Leader of the Opposition) [10.20 p.m.]: There is in Belgium a corporate company which is known by the acronym SWIFT. I am not able to find out what the letters stand for but it certainly indicates the nature of the company.

If we refer to the second reading speech of the Premier when he introduced the Bill we note that he said—

Recent developments in the field of computer based inter-bank telecommunications to facilitate international funds/message transfers have led to the formation of a Belgium incorporated company of which the Rural and Industries Bank of Western Australia must be a member if it wishes to participate in the transfer system.

When the bank sought to become a member of that organisation it found that the existing legislation prevented it from doing so under section 35(3) (a) and (b). The bank would have to take up shares in that company but the company is not a corporate company incorporated under the laws of this State or another State of Australia or in the Commonwealth and is not registered as a foreign company, etc.

As the company did not meet those conditions the bank could not take out shares in the company and without shares in the company it could not take advantage of the facilities which are essential to any large banking organisation if it wishes to operate in the national and international sphere.

The Government has decided to amend the Rural and Industries Bank Act by taking the two paragraphs from section 35 and moulding them into one provision which will overcome the conditions which prevented our bank, the bank that lives here, from taking out shares in a company which is not actually "registered".

I have already mentioned the first provision of the legislation. The second provision sets out that the bank can do as it wishes, provided the activities are associated with banking.

One may think that this legislation will give the bank open slather to do all kinds of things, because when dealing with business undertakings almost any activity is associated with a financial transaction in some way or other. One could easily apply an interpretation of that clause to cover other situations. However, that is not intended—it is not a back-door method.

I am quite certain the bank does not have *carte blanche* in this regard because there is one safeguard in the legislation. Before the bank can do what it wishes, under this legislation, it will first have to obtain the Minister's approval and the Governor's approval. So there is a double safeguard and I do not think we need worry about it at all.

Indeed, I think we should be quite proud of what our own Rural and Industries Bank has accomplished in Western Australia and we should be ever-anxious to see it further itself in the national and international banking field.

**SIR CHARLES COURT** (Nedlands—Premier) [10.23 p.m.]: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his support. I think it might be as

well if at the same time I extend my appreciation for the support I provide the full name of SWIFT, which is the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications S.C.

It is typical of the modern trend to try to have initials for everything. I suggest that the people involved must have sat up all night in an attempt to place the words in the correct sequence.

I do appreciate the support. It is something the bank has to be involved in. I think all the banks in Australia will participate and it would be odd if our bank did not have the advantage of this international communications information centre.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee, etc.*

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

*Third Reading*

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Premier), and transmitted to the Council.

*House adjourned at 10.25 p.m.*



**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

1116. *This question was postponed.*

**LIQUOR***Licence Fees*

1120. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it anticipated there will be a rise in liquor licence fees before the end of the year?
- (2) If and when any increase is considered will he first get in touch with the trade to ascertain the likely effect on hundreds of small businessmen many of whom are at present struggling to survive?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) The Government has had no plans to increase liquor licence fees, but the severe cut to the States' share of personal income tax amounting to \$38.5 million imposed by the Commonwealth last week will require the Government to consider increases in the whole range of State taxes and charges.

We will take all possible steps, including a review of all expenditure, before placing increased burdens on the public, but the magnitude of the financial problem facing the State next year is such that we may have no choice but to seek additional revenue.

**HEALTH: MENTAL***Convicted Persons*

1121. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does the Government recognise there is an urgent need to provide adequate and separate facilities for individuals the court has ordered to be kept in strict custody on the grounds of unsound mind?
- (2) If the Government has recognised this need what steps will be taken by the Government to provide such a facility?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) It is recognised that problems exist in relation to the provision of security facilities for mentally disordered offenders.

- (2) The present situation is being assessed and existing facilities will be inspected with the object of determining the most appropriate measures to alleviate current difficulties.

1122 to 1126. *These questions were postponed.*

**FUEL AND ENERGY: SEC***Computer, and Accounts Written Off*

1127. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) How much does the State Energy Commission write off per annum on outstanding accounts which are not pursued?
- (2) What is the cost to the State Energy Commission in rental for its computer?
- (3) How many school leavers have been taken on by the State Energy Commission in each of the last four financial years?
- (4) When was the State Energy Commission's computer installed?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) The State Energy Commission pursues collection of all outstanding accounts. For the year ended 30 June, 1980, \$851 000 was written off as uncollected. However, the introduction of more frequent billing cycles has reduced this figure.
- (2) Rental charges for the central computer system are 0.3 per cent of total revenue.
- (3) Employment records identifying school leavers are not kept, therefore this information is not readily available.
- (4) The first large computer was installed on 31 December, 1975.

**FUEL AND ENERGY: ELECTRICITY***Connections*

1128. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

Since it is no longer necessary to personally fill out forms for electricity to be put on, is it fact that instances have occurred where people have phoned using fictitious names and addresses or names and addresses belonging to other people?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

Yes. However this problem also existed under the old system when written applications were required.

## FUEL AND ENERGY: SEC

### *Carpet*

1129. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

Is it fact that carpets were laid in the State Energy Commission building, but were subsequently taken up within 12 months and replaced?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

Yes. Carpet was laid to the ground floor of 132 Murray Street in late 1979 and proved unsatisfactory. It was replaced by the suppliers free of cost in early 1980.

## ROAD

### *Mandurah By-pass*

1130. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it a fact that his department considers an early start to stage two of the Mandurah by-pass road unlikely?
- (2) Will an allocation be made in the 1981-82 budget for commencement at least of stage two?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) What are the other priorities?
- (5) Is it a fact that the Mandurah Shire Council has been asking the Government to build a new bridge for six years?
- (6) How much will the bridge cost if building begins within the next 12 months?
- (7) What escalation per annum is expected if building is delayed?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) There may be some expenditure on land, but no major works are proposed in 1981-82.

- (3) As the member anticipates in part, there are other projects which have a higher priority for the limited funds available. It is also desirable to observe the effects of stage one improvements to the traffic pattern in Mandurah. This work cost \$900 000.
- (4) The 1981-82 Main Roads Department programme has not yet been finalised but there are many projects large and small, too numerous to mention, all over the State with a higher priority at present.
- (5) The Mandurah Shire quite naturally would support improvements to the road system in its area.
- (6) A detailed estimate has not been taken out, but it is envisaged that the total project in stage two would cost in the order of \$4.5 million excluding land.
- (7) The costing could change depending on the general price escalation in the construction industry and finalisation of detailed design.

## FISHERIES

### *Abalone: Greenlip*

1131. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

Would the Minister please provide greenlip abalone production figures for block 3414 for—

- (a) 1979; and
- (b) 1980?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (a) 5106 kg;
- (b) nil production for the first six months of 1980; no production summaries available for the second half of 1980.

## FISHERIES

### *Abalone: Temporary Permits*

1132. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

How many temporary permits and/or permits for abalone fishing were issued for zones 1, 2, and 3 with figures for each in—

- (a) 1970;
- (b) 1971?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (a) The system of zones was not introduced until February 1971; a total of 59 fishermen were licensed to take abalone along the Western Australian coast in 1970;
- (b) the number of concession holders for 1971 is given below. However, departmental records indicate that not all those who held concessions actually operated.

Zone 1	12
Zone 2	10
Zone 3	18.

#### ALUMINA REFINERIES

*Alcoa of Australia Ltd.: Caustic Mud Lakes*

1133. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

In answer to my question 1028 of 1981, the Minister said he would not agree to arrange for his department to brief me on the leaks of Alcoa mud ponds and the possibilities of recovery. Would he please tell me why not?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The maps are merely two-dimensional representations of a complex three-dimensional movement of subterranean water, as such they are capable of misinterpretation by a layman.

#### COCKBURN SOUND

*CSBP & Farmers Ltd.*

1134. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

Further to his answers to my question 1033 of 1981 in respect of landfill operations of gypsum from CSBP, what are the conditions which have been applied to the licence granted to the company under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

As this legislation does not come within the portfolio of the Minister for Conservation and the Environment, it is suggested that the member redirect his question to the appropriate Minister.

#### COCKBURN SOUND

*CSBP & Farmers Ltd.*

1135. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Is the Environmental Protection Authority aware of the conditions which have been placed on CSBP to enable it to dispose of gypsum under the licence granted to it in the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act?
- (2) Is the Environmental Protection Authority now satisfied that no seepage into the water table will occur?
- (3) Is the Environmental Protection Authority now satisfied with the proposed method of disposal in Pickles Swamp?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) and (3) The proposed arrangements have not been considered by the Environmental Protection Authority.

#### COCKBURN SOUND

*Australian Iron and Steel Pty. Ltd.*

1136. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

Further to answer to question 1032 of 1981 relating to Cockburn Sound water clarity, what are the results of water clarity tests conducted adjacent to the Australian Iron and Steel plant in Kwinana?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The technical data sought is being processed and the member will be advised by letter.

#### JERVOISE BAY

*Marine Industries*

1137. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Further to his answer to my question 1024 of 1981 relating to Jervoise Bay marine industries, has the

Environmental Protection Authority been asked for its opinion on the guidelines for applications for consent to undertake—

- (a) sandblasting;
- (b) spray painting;

from industries based on Jervoise Bay?

- (2) How was that request for opinion made?
- (3) What was the reply from the Environmental Protection Authority?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) No.
- (2) and (3) Not applicable.

### FISHERIES

#### *Cockburn Sound: Shellfish*

1138. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Further to his answers to my question 1026 of 1981 relating to fisheries in Cockburn Sound, showing test results for contamination of shellfish by heavy metals, is he aware that for the period March 1980 to April 1981—the period of the reduction—no sites are given to show where the samples came from?
- (2) Where did the samples come from?
- (3) Why are mussels from the areas which showed high concentrations in the Chittleborough report no longer tested?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The shellfish sampled were from a processing plant and not from the sound.
- (3) Because the sites are not commercially farmed, people were advised not to consume shellfish from these areas and there has not been sufficient time or change in circumstances to warrant further testing.

### FISHERIES

#### *Owen Anchorage: Shellfish*

1139. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it fact that shellfish in Owen Anchorage are no longer tested for bacteriological content?

(2) Is it fact that on a previous occasion the bacteriological content was so high it was considered necessary to advise the public through the media?

(3) Is he able to indicate how further monitoring could indicate an alteration, when he has already said this is not taking place in Jervoise Bay?

(4) Is the bacteriological contamination and the heavy metal contamination of shellfish in Owen Anchorage now worse than at the time of media coverage referred to in (2)?

(5) Why are the general public not being informed of this contamination and its possible effect on their health?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) I can find no record of any previous answer from me relating to Jervoise Bay specifically.
- (4) This is not known. Until major changes are made to the discharge of effluent into Owen Anchorage, further tests would be a waste of scarce resources and funds.
- (5) The general public have been advised.

### COCKATOOS: SULPHUR CRESTED

#### *Shooting*

1140. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Have any studies been done into alternatives to shooting the sulphur crested cockatoos at Pinjarra?
- (2) What options were canvassed?
- (3) Why was each discarded?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Professional trapping, netting, drugging, and poisoning.
- (3) All these options are still being considered. The birds have proved very wary and have not fed consistently in the same place. Attempts are being made to use rocket nets.

# COCKATOOS: SULPHUR CRESTED

## *Shooting*

1141. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the efforts of the Agriculture Department to shoot approximately 200 sulphur crested cockatoos in the Pinjarra region?
- (2) Is this being done in conjunction with the Fisheries and Wildlife Department?
- (3) What consultation has taken place between the Agriculture Department and the Fisheries and Wildlife Department?
- (4) What alternatives to killing have been looked at by the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife?
- (5) (a) Have they all been rejected: and  
(b) if so, why in each case?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Consultation has been undertaken within the interdepartmental co-ordinating committee comprising officers from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Agriculture Protection Board.
- (4) Trapping live birds by commercial operators and aviculturists, netting by rocket nets and drugging with view to taking them alive by APB officers.
- (5) (a) and (b) Still continuing but lacks effectiveness because of the wariness of the birds and their sentinel system when in flocks.

## FISHERIES

### *Cockburn Sound: Heavy Metals*

1142. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Further to his answers to my questions 801, 1026, and 1051 of 1981 relative to heavy metals discharge into Cockburn

Sound, is he aware that the quote in the Chittleborough report "The results of the study need to be assessed by appropriately qualified specialists to determine the actual risk to human beings" was related at least in part to heavy metals being discharged into Owen Anchorage?

- (2) If he is aware of this, is he also aware that cadmium was not one of the main heavy metals polluting the Owen Anchorage area?
- (3) Is he aware that the report showed chromium as being discharged in sufficient quantities to give readings of 21.7 ppm while the total for all the other industries bordering Cockburn Sound was 5.9 ppm?
- (4) What has been done by his department to effect a substantial decrease in the heavy metal chromium being discharged into Owen Anchorage?
- (5) What testing has been done to determine if any reduction has taken place?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) No. The figures quoted are not those which appear in the report.
- (4) The member will be perfectly well aware that the Government has agreed that alternative methods of disposal of effluent must be found.
- (5) None. Until there is significant change in circumstances, testing will be a waste of scarce resources and funds.

## COCKBURN SOUND

### *BP Refinery and Sewerage Effluent*

1143. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Is the Minister still of the opinion as in answer to question 807 of 1981 that "Heavy metal content in the sewerage effluent is below levels set by the World Health Organisation for drinking water"?

(2) Would the Minister please tell me what World Health Organisation levels are for the following heavy metals in drinking water—

- (a) cadmium;
- (b) chromium;
- (c) cobalt;
- (d) lead;
- (e) mercury;
- (f) nickel?

(3) Is it a fact that the World Health Organisation heavy metal limits in shellfish are—

- (a) cadmium 1.0;
- (b) chromium 1.0;
- (c) cobalt 1.0;
- (d) lead 2.5;
- (e) mercury 0.5;
- (f) nickel 1.0?

(4) Is it a fact that the Chittleborough report showed that effluent from Woodman Point waste water treatment plant contained heavy metals at the following levels—

- (a) cadmium 0.1;
- (b) chromium 2.6;
- (c) cobalt 0.2;
- (d) lead 1.6;
- (e) mercury 0.1;
- (f) nickel 0.4?

(5) Is this cause for concern by the Department for Conservation and Environment?

(6) What is the department doing about it?

(7) Is it a fact that subsequent to the Chittleborough report and as shown in answers to question 807 of 1981, BP refinery has carried out process improvements to reduce all heavy metal inputs to Cockburn Sound as much as is practicable?

(8) Is it a fact that the Chittleborough report showed BP effluent as containing heavy metals at the following rates—

- (a) cadmium—not determined;
- (b) chromium—0.6;
- (c) cobalt—not determined;
- (d) lead—1.3;
- (e) mercury—0.1;
- (f) nickel—0.7?

(9) As it is shown in the report that all but one of the metals mentioned in (8) were below levels emanating from Woodman Point treatment plant, why was it considered necessary for BP to upgrade its treatment but not the Woodman Point treatment plant?

(10) Is the Minister aware of the following section of the Chittleborough report on page 55—

“The W.P.T.P. is a major contributor of cobalt, chromium, copper, lead and mercury”?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

It is presumed the member is referring to the Cockburn Sound environmental study report.

(1) Yes.

(2) to (6) The member is obviously confusing heavy metal ambient levels in water with standards for biota, and is further confusing the units in which the technical data are expressed.

(7) BP has reduced zinc input to Cockburn Sound.

(8) (a) to (f) The figures are correct, but the member has selected from the full list of data.

(9) BP voluntarily replaced the anticorrosive zinc anodes, eliminating this source of metal contamination into the sound.

(10) Yes.

## COCKBURN SOUND

### *Heavy Metals: Studies*

1144. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

(1) Relative to heavy metal discharges into Cockburn Sound and with specific reference to the Chittleborough report finding—

The results of the study need to be assessed by appropriately qualified specialists to determine the actual risk to human beings, and further work needs to be carried out on lethal and sublethal effects on all stages of the biota:—

when can it be expected that this recommendation will be adhered to?

- (2) If as stated in answer to question 902 of 1981 higher priority was placed on action to reduce discharges of heavy metals into the sound, why has no effort been made to reduce heavy metals in the effluent from Woodman Point treatment plant?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Presuming the member is referring to the Cockburn Sound environmental study report—

- (1) Not in the immediate future.
- (2) As the member should know from his examination of the report, the metals in sewerage effluent are not the source of the localised problem of heavy metal contamination in Cockburn Sound.

#### SEWERAGE: TREATMENT PLANT

##### *Woodman Point: Flow Rate*

1145. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Is it a fact that the pipeline option recommended for Point Peron by the Chittleborough report assumes a flow rate from all sources of 188.9 Ml/d?
- (2) What is the current flow rate from Woodman Point treatment plant now?
- (3) (a) Has an estimate been done of the expected flow rate when all suburbs south of the river link up with the Woodman Point treatment plant;  
(b) what is this expected daily flow rate?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Presuming that the member is referring to the Cockburn Sound environmental study report—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) The member is referred to the answer to question 889 which he asked of the Minister for Water Resources.

#### CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

##### *Water Quality Criteria*

1146. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

As the report on water quality criteria by the working group is not expected to be brought down until the parliamentary break, possibly next month, will the Minister please forward me a copy when it becomes available?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

After consideration by the Government a decision will be made as to its release.

#### COCKBURN SOUND

##### *Density Currents*

1147. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

Further to the Minister's answers to my question 905 of 1981 relating to density currents in Cockburn Sound, when can it be expected that a study to obtain a better understanding of the factors producing density currents in Cockburn Sound will be carried out?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Proposed effluent reduction to Cockburn Sound will eliminate the need for this work.

#### SEWERAGE

##### *Point Peron Outfall Pipe*

1148. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Relevant to the studies on the proposed Point Peron pipeline and submarine outfall, what is the expected discharge rate of all heavy metals expected to be within the effluent disposal system?
- (2) What are the boundaries of the total area likely to be exposed?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) As the relevant studies do not come within the portfolio of the Minister for Conservation and the Environment, it is suggested that the member redirect his question to the appropriate Minister.

### SEWERAGE

#### *Point Peron Outfall Pipe*

1149. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

Relevant to the studies on the Point Peron pipeline and submarine outfall, what are the boundaries of the total area likely to be exposed to—

- (a) enteric bacteria;
- (b) nutrient enrichment?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (a) and (b) As the relevant studies do not come within the portfolio of the Minister for Conservation and the Environment, it is suggested that the member redirect his question to the appropriate Minister.

### COCKBURN SOUND

#### *Gypsum*

1150. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Relative to the gypsum deposits already in Cockburn Sound and further to his answer to my question 897 of 1981 showing that the rate of release from undisturbed sediment will be low, what guarantees are there that the sediment will remain undisturbed by—
  - (a) human endeavour;
  - (b) storm and wave action?
- (2) How long will this low or otherwise rate of release continue?
- (3) Is it a fact that the Chittleborough report found that storm and wave action in the sound was having an increased effect as a result of the denuding of seagrass meadows?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) (a) The only likely source of human disturbance would be by dredging which would remove the material anyway;
- (b) the deposits are at a sufficient depth to remain substantially undisturbed.
- (2) Unknown, but a progressive decline may be anticipated.
- (3) It is presumed that the Member is referring to the Cockburn Sound environmental study report. Some effects have been noted.

### CSBP & FARMERS LTD.

#### *Soluble Fluoride*

1151. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Further to answers to my question 896 of 1981 relating to soluble fluoride in Cockburn Sound, if there are no reports available on the expected change by CSBP to landfill operations, on what does the Minister base his answer to me that this will affect the discharge of soluble fluoride into the sound?
- (2) In what way will the discharge of soluble fluoride be affected?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Advice from CSBP that the fluoride will be contained in gypsum being transported to Lot 17 Wellard Road for disposal.
- (2) Answered by (1).

### CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

#### *Polychlorinated Biphenyls*

1152. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Further to answers to my question 886 of 1981 on PCB phenol which showed no studies had been done by the Department of Conservation and Environment, is the Minister aware of stocks of this substance being stored by the State Energy Commission?
- (2) How much is being stored?
- (3) How is it being stored?



- (4) What precautions are being made to ensure the safety of people in the vicinity?
- (5) Why does the department not ask for or demand its destruction or removal from the metropolitan area?
- (6) Are reports claiming it to be one of the most toxic substances available, correct?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) to (4) These matters lie within the responsibility of another Minister.
- (5) Because there is no need.
- (6) No. PCBs are of concern because of their persistence and capacity to spread through the food chain, rather than because of their acute toxicity to humans.

## CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### *Coastal Zone: Management*

1153. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Who are the members of the steering committee conducting a detailed review of coastal management procedures and policies in Western Australia?
- (2) When was it formed, and how often and when has it met?
- (3) Who is the contract coastal planning and management adviser?
- (4) What are his areas of expertise?
- (5) When can it be expected a report will be brought down?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Mr J. L. Bannister, Director WA Museum (Chairman)
- Mr M. G. Anderson, Engineer for Harbour & Rivers, Public Works
- Mr R. I. Candy, City Engineer, Cockburn City Council
- Mr J. C. Grasby, Senior Adviser, Soil Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture
- Dr. B. J. Hamilton, Chief Environment Officer, Department of Conservation and Environment
- Mr N. R. Hiller, Senior Planning Officer, Town Planning Department
- Mr C. P. Hutchison, Divisional Surveyor, Lands & Surveys Department

Mr B. J. O'Leary, Actg. Principal Assistant, Department of Resources Development

Mr A. A. Skinner, Administrative Officer, Lands & Surveys Department

- (2) April 1978. The committee's first task was to recommend an appointment to the position of coastal planning and management adviser. Since this position was filled in July 1980, the committee has met on eight occasions—in August, October, November, and December 1980, and February, March, and April (twice) 1981.
- (3) Mr G. C. Sansom, coastal planning and management adviser, Department of Conservation and Environment.
- (4) Geography—including coastal studies—and urban and regional planning.
- (5) The committee is expected to report to the Conservation and Environmental Council in August 1981.

## ALUMINA REFINERY

*Alwest Pty. Ltd.: Worsley*

1154. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Mines:

Further to his answer to my question 880 of 1981 on mining activities associated with Worsley, would he please provide me with further details, including mines for railway ballast and all other mines begun as a result of the construction of the Worsley refinery?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

Westrail has a contract to construct a public rail line into the refinery and will be using ballast for this construction. I am advised that all ballast will be coming from the Rowlands quarry to the north of Bunbury and I am advised this will be quarried next summer.

The earthworks for the rail line have been completed and some 600 tonnes of coarse sand brought in from a local sand quarry. I am not able to ascertain the exact source of this sand at this point in time.

To my knowledge these are the only additional operations connected with Worsley which could be regarded as

mining. If the member can be more specific as to the matter of concern to him I would be happy to provide more information.

#### CSBP & FARMERS LTD.

##### *Gypsum Disposal*

1155. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) When is it expected that CSBP will begin using lot 17 Wellard Road, known locally as Pickles Swamp, for full-time disposal of its gypsum waste?
- (2) Is it a fact that it is expected to increase from 350 tonnes per day to 1 000 tonnes per day?
- (3) When will this happen?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) It is understood that disposal is likely to commence shortly.
- (2) and (3) It is believed that the production of gypsum waste is likely to increase by this amount when the new plant is in full production.

#### COCKBURN SOUND

##### *Groundwater: Studies*

1156. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) What studies have been done on the flow rate of ground water from Lot 17 Wellard Road to Cockburn Sound?
- (2) Can I please have a copy of those studies?
- (3) What is the flow rate?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) The Minister is not aware of any specific studies on this matter.

#### CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

##### *Borden Chemical Plant: Reports*

1157. Mr BARNETT, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce:

Further to my question 879 of 1981 relating to Borden chemical plant

reports, would he please provide me with copies of—

- (a) WA environmental assessment by MacDonald, Wagner & Priddle Pty. Ltd. for Borden Chemical Co. resin plant at Bunbury;
- (b) hazard analysis of the proposed project prepared by Borden's insurance assessors;
- (c) results of the noise evaluation survey by Vipac and Partners Pty. Ltd.;
- (d) Resin Plant at Bunbury WA—report and recommendations by the Environmental Protection Authority, September 1980?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

- (a) Yes;
- (b) yes;
- (c) yes;
- (d) yes.

*The papers were tabled (see papers Nos. 205-208).*

#### ANIMALS

##### *Foxes*

1158. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) In respect of the Agriculture Department's attempts to poison foxes on the Burrup peninsula, what methods will be used to ensure carnivorous native animals and birds are not poisoned?
- (2) How many officers from the—
  - (a) Conservation and Environment Department;
  - (b) Fisheries and Wildlife Department:
 are involved in the exercise?
- (3) How many will be actually on site to supervise the poisoning?
- (4) Would the Minister please provide me with a list detailing all known carnivorous animals and birds which frequent Burrup peninsula?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Positioning of baits to minimise chance of them being taken by other animals, use of poison at controlled concentrations sufficient to kill foxes, but insufficient to kill native species, and use of baits palatable to foxes.

- (2) (a) None;  
(b) three
- (3) The officers of the Fisheries and Wildlife Department are there to assess if there is any non-target mortality.
- (4) I refer the member to the environmental impact statement prepared by Woodside Petroleum Pty Ltd., which has been available in the Parliamentary Library since May 1979.

## EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS

### Rockingham

1159. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that in answer to question 968 of 1981 he agreed to provide me with a map showing present and proposed primary schools in the Rockingham region?
- (2) Why did the map sent show only one proposed primary school and no proposed high schools?
- (3) Will he please arrange for someone in his department to provide the details he promised me in answer to question 968 of 1981?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) to (3) Information supplied in answer to question 968 of 1981 is complete. In the three-year building predictions there is only one primary school considered as possibly being required during, or immediately after that period, in the Rockingham area.

As explained in my letter, further schools will be proposed when housing developments warrant such considerations.

## WATER RESOURCES

### Mullalyup

1160. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Water Resources:

Would it be possible to use the Westrail dam at Mullalyup to supply water for Balingup?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

No, as there is only sufficient water to supply the existing services at Mullalyup.

## MINING

### Coal: Collic

1161. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Mines:

In his reply to question 551 of 1981 he said that the extractable coal reserves at Collic were—

deep mine coal—118 million tonnes.

open cut coal—286 million tonnes:

In view of the fact that Mr B. Kirkwood, State Energy Commissioner, stated at the Bunbury seminar on Thursday, 7 May 1981, that the estimates put Collic coal reserves between 600 and 800 million tonnes, which figure is correct?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

The latest estimate of economically extractable reserves of coal from the Collic coalfield made by the geological survey in 1979 is 405 million tonnes based on present mining practice.

With improved economics, further exploration and changing mining technology it seems likely that this figure will increase, possibly to between 600 and 800 million tonnes.

## MARRICK MORRITT

### Damages Claim

1162. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Is it fact that on 2 April 1981 interrogatories were registered in the Supreme Court and sent to the Crown Law Department concerning claims against the Warren District Hospital for damages concerning Marrick Morritt in October 1971?

- (2) In view of the delays in settling this matter is the Attorney General able to advise—

- (a) the reason for the delays;
- (b) when the case will be heard;

- (c) why the Crown Law Department did not respond to discoveries registered in the Supreme Court on 18 February 1981 within the mandatory 10-day period?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) There has been no unusual delay at all on the part of the defendant or the Crown Law Department. There has been substantial delay on the part of the plaintiff or his legal advisers;
- (b) it is up to the plaintiff to enter the matter for trial;
- (c) prior to February 1981, the Crown Law Department had provided the plaintiff's solicitors with relevant discoverable documents; the plaintiff's solicitors subsequently agreed that formal discovery was unnecessary and thus not required.

*The paper was tabled (see paper No. 204).*

#### GRAIN: WHEAT

##### *Sales to USSR*

1163. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

In view of the fact that from the figures released by the Deputy Prime Minister recently it is shown that Australian agricultural overseas sales of commodities increased from \$221 521 000 in 1978-79 to \$887 837 000 in 1979-80 including wheat sales to the USSR during a wheat sale embargo to that country from \$15 million to \$452 million—i.e., the wheat sales to the USSR comprising approximately 65 per cent of the total increase—

- (a) does the Agriculture Department disagree with the figures, and if so, what are the correct figures;
- (b) did Western Australian wheat sales increase benefit proportionately to the Australian results, and if not, what was the proportionate increase in wheat sales to the USSR in the years from 1978-79 to 1979-80?

Mr OLD replied:

- (a) The Bureau of Agricultural Economics in the December 1980 issue of "Trends" reports that total Australian rural exports were \$5 990 million in 1978-79 and \$8 480 million—preliminary figure—in 1979-80.

Bureau of Agricultural Economics figures for wheat sales to the USSR are in agreement with those quoted in the question.

The wheat sale embargo to the USSR did not apply for the whole of 1979-80. It was applied on 4 January 1980.

- (b) In 1978-79 no shipments of wheat were made to the USSR from Western Australia.

In 1979-80 shipments of wheat worth \$50 million were made to the USSR from Western Australia.

#### WOOD CHIPPING

##### *Shannon River Basin*

1164. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Forests:

- (1) What quantity of wood-chip logs was extracted from the Shannon basin in each of the years 1979 and 1980?
- (2) What percentage of the total material received by the wood-chip plant intake did this amount represent?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) The information requested was provided in answer to (3) (b) of the member's question 1044 of 6 May 1981.
- (2) 1979 11 per cent.  
1980 7 per cent.

#### STOCK

##### *Boyanup Sales*

1165. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is it a fact that in recent weeks some operators who have purchased cattle at the Boyanup sales on a live-weight basis, have requested a re-weight of their total live weight purchases?

- (2) If "Yes"—
- on how many occasions has such a re-weight occurred in the past three months;
  - what differentiations, if any, were shown in each such re-weight;
  - what is the cost to the industry through additional work and injury to stock of each re-weight;
  - what financial benefit did the purchaser gain from each re-weight?
- (3) Is there any intention to establish a standard code for conduct of live-weight selling, and if so, will he give details?

Mr OLD replied:

- Yes.
- At most sales a buyer or buyers have requested re-weighings;
  - my department has no record of any weights at stock sales;
  - additional direct costs are borne by the operators of the live-weight facility; no increase in injuries has been apparent according to the purchasers;
  - in most cases there was no financial benefit, except on the few occasions when a downward adjustment to the weight recorded was made.
- Yes. Standing Committee on Agriculture established a working party on standardised live-weight selling procedures and their draft report is currently being considered by all sections of the industry.

## WATER RESOURCES

### *Dam: Channybearup*

1166. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Works:

What is the estimated cost of work being carried out on the Channybearup dam site?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

The estimated cost during 1980-81 for investigations of the Channybearup dam site on Lefroy Brook is \$35 000.

## MEAT: BEEF

### *Imports*

1167. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- What quantity of beef was imported from New Zealand into Western Australia in 1980?

- What quantity of beef has been imported from New Zealand into Western Australia in each of the past four months of 1981?

Mr OLD replied:

- 1 280 cartons approximately 27 kg/cartoon.
- Nil.

## STATE FINANCE

### *Agricultural Expenditure*

1168. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Following the recent announcements that Federal Government finance to the States will be cut—

- by how much will funds for agriculture be reduced in Western Australia;
- what specific areas of agricultural expenditure will be reduced in Western Australia and by how much?

Mr OLD replied:

- Funds have been absorbed into the total tax base,
- answered by (a).

## WATER RESOURCES

### *Catchment Areas: Clearing Bans*

1169. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Works:

In cases where farmers in water catchment areas where clearing bans apply have applied to have land which they are not allowed to clear exchanged for land held by the Crown and have been refused by the Rural Adjustment Authority, what avenues of appeal are open to them?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

It is understood that there is no provision for appeal in relation to a decision by the Rural Adjustment Authority under the catchment areas compensation and reconstruction scheme. Additional information could

more properly be given by the Minister for Agriculture, under whose province the Rural Adjustment Authority operates this scheme.

In cases where exchange land is unavailable, however, farmers can apply to the Public Works Department for cash compensation under the Country Areas Water Supply Act.

## REGISTRAR GENERAL

*Kantini Abdul Rahim: Registration*

1170. Mr PARKER, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Is he aware that there has been correspondence between the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs and the Registrar General in Western Australia on the subject of the registration of the name of a child registered as Kantini Abdul Rahim Kasim, but whose name is actually Kantini Abdul Rahim?
- (2) Is he aware that as a result of the mixup in registration the child's name now makes it appear that she is the daughter of her grandfather and is her father's sister?
- (3) Is he also aware that her parents are permanent residents of Australia residing in Christmas Island?
- (4) Is he further aware that the official secretary of the Department of Home Affairs at Christmas Island has described the Registrar General's attitude as "... not very encouraging and unnecessarily bureaucratic"?
- (5) In view of the fact that a comparatively simple situation is causing embarrassment and problems to all concerned, will he take steps to correct what is obviously an honest mistake at the time of the birth of the child and have her registered as Kantini Abdul Rahim; i.e., surname shown as Abdul Rahim?
- (6) If "No" to (5), will he advise the parents and me how they can resolve the situation without incurring unnecessary expense?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) to (6) I have been advised that no mistake was made at the time of the registration. The birth was registered in accordance with the Western Australian Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act. The fact that our customs conflict with those of Malaysia is unfortunate, but if a child is born in Western Australia, the registration must comply with Western Australian law.

The remedy is not to alter the registration, but for the parents to have the child's name changed by whatever means are available in their place of residence and to then apply to the Western Australian Registrar General's office for the change of name to be endorsed on the birth registration.

## TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

*Review Group*

1171. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) In view of the fact that the grand council of Government salaried officers' industrial organisations of Western Australia represents a large number of public servants as well as school teachers and other Government employees, who could be greatly affected by the introduction of new technology, why was consideration not given to appointing a representative of this body to the State Government's technological review group?
- (2) How many organisations and individuals sought representation on the technological review group?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) The technology review group has an overviewing role to keep Government advised on developments, prospects and impact of technology as a guide to policy determination.

The responsibility for research and detailed examination of specific issues will rest with subcommittees which have yet to be selected and formed.

Consideration was given to all applications for representation but it was not possible to include all in the technology review group. The group membership will provide as wide a base as possible and unsuccessful applicants to this group may be asked to provide input through the subcommittees or working parties.

- (2) Ten professional organisations and six Government departments sought representation on the technology review group. Some verbal inquiries from individuals were received, but no formal applications made.

## PRISONS

### *Prisoners: Injuries or Sickness*

1172. Mr JAMIESON, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Why were the next of kin of the remand prisoners who attempted to escape at Canning Vale not made aware of the injuries of the prisoners?
- (2) Whose responsibility is it to advise next of kin when prisoners are seriously ill or injured while in the control of the Department of Corrections?
- (3) Is he aware that the mother of the seriously injured prisoner was refused permission to visit her son in Fremantle Hospital?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) and (2) Notification of the next of kin of a prisoner, where a prisoner attempts to escape or is injured, is a matter within the discretion of the superintendent of the institution concerned.

In the view of the senior medical officer who examined the prisoners, their injuries were superficial and did not warrant notification being given to next of kin.

- (3) None of the prisoners was seriously injured and none is in the Fremantle Hospital. The mother of the prisoner presently in Fremantle Prison infirmary requested permission to visit her son on Tuesday, 12 May 1981, and was informed by the superintendent that she could not visit her son on that day in view of pending disciplinary charges, but that she could visit her son after 9.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 13 May 1981.

## PRISONS

### *Prisoners: Number*

1173. Mr JAMIESON, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) How many prisoners are at present in each of the institutions under the control of the Department of Corrections?
- (2) How many of these prisoners are serving sentences as a result of drug offences other than that of alcohol?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) Musters as at 1 May 81 are shown below—

Albany	73—As at 1 May 81
Bandyup	42—As at 1 May 81
Bartons Mill	94—As at 1 May 81
Broome	56—As at 1 May 81
Brunswick	25—As at 1 May 81
Bunbury	67—As at 1 May 81
C. W. Campbell	
Remand	82—As at 1 May 81
Eastern Goldfields	59—As at 1 May 81
East Perth	14—As at 1 May 81
Fremantle	481—As at 1 May 81
Geraldton	73—As at 1 May 81
Highgate	3—As at 1 May 81
Kalgoorlie	22—As at 1 May 81
Karnet	89—As at 1 May 81
Pardelup	38—As at 1 May 81
Roebourne	80—As at 1 May 81
West Perth	32—As at 1 May 81
Wooroloo	109—As at 1 May 81
Wyndham	28—As at 1 May 81

TOTAL — 1 467

- (2) A total of 106 prisoners in these institutions were serving sentences for drug offences as at 1 May 81.

## FUEL AND ENERGY: SOLAR

### *Kyoto University*

1174. Mr T. J. BURKE, to the Premier:

In view of its special significance to Western Australia, what action has been taken by the Government to check claims that a Kyoto University team has found a way to cheaply store and release solar energy?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I am advised that the Solar Energy Research Institute of Western Australia is aware of the development and is presently obtaining details.

## EDUCATION

*Multi-cultural Advisory Committee*

1175. Mr T. J. BURKE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the composition of—
  - (a) the State advisory committee on multi-cultural education; and
  - (b) the criteria for membership?
- (2) When was it formed?
- (3) Would he please advise the dates on which it has met?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) (a) Dr H. Pearson (Chairman), Asst Director of Schools  
Mr J. Buhagiar, State Immigration & Ethnic Affairs  
Mr J. Darcey, Senior High School Principal  
Mr L. Fox, Superintendent of Languages  
Mr V. Mandyczewsky, President, Multicultural Education Council of WA  
Mrs C. Panos, Community member  
Mr J. Skivinis (on LSL—Mr B. Wells replacing temporarily) Superintendent of Social Studies  
Mrs R. Tang, Catholic Education Commission  
Mr O. Paccagnella (Executive Officer), employed by the advisory committee
- (b) Ministerial appointments either as representatives of systems or because of the capacity to contribute.
- (2) First met on 30 May 1979.
- (3) 30 May 1979; 4 July 1979; 13 Sept 1979; 11 Oct 1979; 15 Nov 1979; 7 Dec 1979; 6 Feb 1980; 22 Feb 1980; 21 March 1980; 2 May 1980; 9 May 1980; 5 June 1980; 11 July 1980; 25 July 1980; 30 July 1980; 1 Aug 1980; 19 Sept 1980; 26 Sept 1980; 9 Oct 1980; 6 Nov 1980; 2 Dec 1980; 3 March 1981; 20 March 1981; 13 April 1981.

## HEALTH: TOBACCO

*Advertising: Billboards*

1176. Mr T. J. BURKE, to the Premier:

What action has been taken, or is contemplated, to prohibit cigarette

advertising on billboards, the subject of the contract between the Government and Australian Posters?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

None at this stage.

## HEALTH: TOBACCO

*Advertising: Public Transport*

1177. Mr T. J. BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

What action has been taken, or is contemplated, to prohibit cigarette advertising on buses and trains in the metropolitan area?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

None at this stage.

## AVON HOUSE

*Purchase*

1178. Mr McIVER, to the Premier:

- (1) Is a Government department interested in purchasing Avon House situated in York Road, Northam?
- (2) If so, would he indicate what department is involved, and for what purpose is Avon House being purchased?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) The State Housing Commission in collaboration with the Aboriginal hostels was interested in the purchase of Avon House for the housing of pensioners needing hostel-type accommodation.  
Because of the lack of funding from the Commonwealth for the hostel, the Aboriginal hostels were not able to accept this responsibility and as a consequence, the Housing Commission was unable to attend the recent auction.

WATER RESOURCES: METROPOLITAN  
WATER BOARD*Employees*

1179. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Is it intended to retrench water supply staff at Northam?



- (2) (a) If so, when will retrenchments take place; and  
 (b) how many employees will be affected?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) There is no present intention to retrench water supply staff at Northam.  
 (2) (a) and (b) Answered by (1).

## RAILWAYS

### Wool

1180. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the amount of income received by Westrail by the carting of wool in the years—  
 (a) 1978;  
 (b) 1979;  
 (c) 1980?
- (2) Has he received correspondence from rural organisations requesting that farmers be allowed to cart their own wool?
- (3) If "Yes", what has been the essence of his reply to the organisations?
- (4) Is it the intention of the Government to ease the present regulation on the transport of wool this year?
- (5) If so, when, and will it apply State-wide?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1)

Financial Years	\$
(a) 1978	3 176 000;
(b) 1979	3 496 000;
(c) 1980	3 502 000;

- (2) Yes.  
 (3) This is somewhat detailed and I will advise the member direct.  
 (4) and (5) This matter is under consideration.

## TOWN PLANNING

### Glendalough

1181. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Has she recently altered the zoning classification of lands situated at 323 Harborne Street, Glendalough?

(2) If "Yes"—

- (a) who owns that land;  
 (b) what are the circumstances said to justify the altered zoning?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes. The zoning was altered on 29 February 1980, if 323 Harborne Street is the same land as Lot 2 Harborne Street.  
 (2) (a) and (b) The information is not readily available. However, I will obtain it and forward it to the member.

## HEALTH: TOBACCO

### Advertising: Railway Property

1182. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Are hoardings advertising drugs—those contained in cigarettes—permitted on Westrail lands?
- (2) If "Yes", how many such advertisements have so far been established?
- (3) When did Westrail give permission for cigarette advertisements to be constructed on its land?
- (4) How much is Westrail paid for permission for cigarette advertisements to be positioned on railway land?
- (5) When did Westrail give permission for the advertising of cigarettes on railway land?
- (6) What persons, firms or companies have permission to advertise cigarettes on railway land?
- (7) If any companies have permission to advertise cigarettes on railway land, who has the controlling interest in each of them?
- (8) When will the right to advertise cigarettes on railway land be discontinued or expire?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Hoardings advertising cigarettes are permitted on Westrail lands.  
 (2) 110.

- (3) Westrail has a contract with Australian Posters Pty. Ltd. which provides that company with exclusive rights to use advertising facilities on the railway reserve for the purpose of commercial advertising.

The company has recently exercised an option to renew the agreement for a further 10 years from December 1980.

- (4) Westrail is not paid specifically for cigarette advertisements on Westrail land. Its contract with Australian Posters covers payment for all advertising under the contract.
- (5) Answered by (3).
- (6) Contracts for all advertising are negotiated direct between Australian Posters and its clients.
- (7) Not known.
- (8) There is no proposal to discontinue cigarette advertising or advertising facilities on Westrail land at this stage.

#### TRAFFIC: MOTOR VEHICLES

##### *Insurance Trust*

1183. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Is it still the Government's policy to refuse to answer questions relating to the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust?
- (2) If "Yes", for how much longer is the public to be denied information through answers to parliamentary questions on matters as important as the activities of the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust?
- (3) If "No" to (1), is it a fact that the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust premiums have been or will be substantially increased?
- (4) If "Yes", did Cabinet approve this increase?
- (5) (a) If "Yes", when;  
(b) if "No" why?
- (6) (a) Did she or the Premier announce the said substantial increases in premiums;  
(b) if "No", why?
- (7) Who did make the announcement?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) To my knowledge, there has never been any such policy.

- (2) As a number of questions relating to the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust have been answered in this and another place, I am astounded that the member should now assert that the Government has had a policy of refusing answers. What makes the assertion even more astounding is that at least five questions which he personally asked on this subject were answered about 18 months ago.

- (3) It has already been announced that an increase of 25 per cent in Third Party insurance premiums will become effective on 1 July next.

- (4) Yes.

- (5) (a) and (b) 28 April 1981.

- (6) (a) No;

- (b) because, in accordance with the provisions of the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act, the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust is responsible for the determination of premium rates although any such determination is subject to the approval of the Minister.

- (7) The Manager of the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust.

#### LAND: AGRICULTURAL

##### *Beaumont*

1184. Mr COWAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) What is the estimated area of each of the 15 blocks which it is proposed to release in the Mt. Beaumont area of the Esperance Shire?
- (2) Will the blocks be released subject to price, or will the price be determined before allocation?
- (3) Will successful applicants be subject to the usual conditions under a conditional purchase lease?
- (4) What is the maximum length of time successful applicants are given to pay for the blocks?
- (5) What deposit is required?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Survey instructions are about to be issued for the fifteen locations at Mt. Beaumont. The area of each will be in the vicinity of 2 000 ha.

- (2) The price per hectare of the locations will be fixed prior to applications being invited for the land.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) 30 years.
- (5) A "deposit" required from a successful applicant would represent a half-yearly instalment of interest charges on survey fees plus lease and registration fees and for a block of around 2 000 hectares would be in the order of \$160-\$170.

- (5) When are those plans to be implemented?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) 23 January 1979.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Eight.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.

## COMMUNITY WELFARE

### *Children: Physically Abused*

1188. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

Further to question 1104 of 1981 concerning a counselling centre for families in which children have been physically abused, can he advise which other sites have been considered?

Mr HASSELL replied:

Exhaustive inquiries were made throughout December and January 1980-81. The type of accommodation essential to the efficient operation of the proposed counselling centre was generally not available. Only five premises came near to the necessary requirements and were examined and considered. These were as follows—

Two houses in South Perth;  
one office in West Perth;  
one hospital in Applecross;  
house and office in Rivervale.

## SUPERANNUATION

### *Waiving of Benefits*

1186. Mr BERTRAM, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Which fund benefits from the superannuation payments which are waived by superannuants who do so to preserve their pension and fringe benefits?
- (2) How much has been waived so far?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) The Consolidated Revenue Fund and the superannuation fund benefit from the withholding of superannuation increases in order that superannuants' fringe benefits may be preserved.
- (2) The total amount of superannuation increases withheld to date is—
  - (a) Consolidated Revenue Fund—\$23 000—approximately;
  - (b) superannuation fund—\$630—approximately.

## EDUCATION

### *Regional Office: Yilgarn*

1187. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) When was the Yilgarn regional office of the Education Department established?
- (2) Is it department policy to continue with regional offices, particularly the Yilgarn regional office?
- (3) How many officers of the Education Department work from the temporary buildings in which the regional office is situated?
- (4) Are there any plans to establish the regional office in buildings of a more permanent nature?

## WATER RESOURCES

### *Pilbara and Kimberley*

1189. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Further to question 1103 of 1981 relating to calcium levels in drinking water can he advise what—
  - (a) maximum desirable;
  - (b) maximum permissible;
 levels of calcium in drinking water supplies are recommended by the World Health Organisation and the National Health and Medical Research Council?
- (2) Can he advise the average calcium levels in the water supplies of each Pilbara and Kimberley town?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) (a) National Health and Medical Research Council maximum levels.  
Desirable current criteria Calcium 200 mg/L  
Long-term objectives 75/L

- (b) Notes from NH and MRC.

"Desirable current criteria—sets our maximum levels which may be used as current criteria appropriate to present Australian conditions to give a drinking water of satisfactory quality".

"Long term objectives—sets out more stringent levels which could be aspired to as long term objectives, and which, if achieved, result in drinking water of excellent quality. These levels are based on W.H.O. International Standards for Drinking Water, 1971".

- (2) Recent analysis—

	Calcium ions mg/L
Broome	21
Derby	16
Fitzroy Crossing	50
Halls Creek	35; 41
Camballin	8
Wyndham	2
Kununurra	38
Port Hedland	26
Marble Bar	68
Nullagine	46
Wittenoom	
Gorge	44
Karratha	75
Roebourne	85; 81; 89.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### HEALTH: TOBACCO

#### *Advertising: Railway Property*

258. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Transport:

In answer to my question 1182, the Minister informed me there were 110 cigarette advertisements on railway land and the company that establishes those hoardings had recently exercised an option to renew the agreement for another 10 years from December 1980. Has the Government or Westrail any power whatsoever to put a stop to a continuation of those advertisements of

drugs through cigarettes by way of hoardings on railway land?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Because of the technical nature of the question I ask that it be put on notice.

Mr Davies: Cut it out. It is not technical.

## ACTS AMENDMENT (ELECTORAL PROVINCES AND DISTRICTS) BILL

### *Cabinet Subcommittee*

259. Mr DAVIES, to the Chief Secretary:

Who are the members of the Cabinet subcommittee associated with the drawing of the boundaries for the Acts Amendment (Electoral Provinces and Districts) Bill?

Mr HASSELL replied:

It is quite a long tradition that the affairs of Cabinet are not subjected to discussion in this House, so I am not prepared to identify those members.

Mr Davies: You go to the Press and explain that a Cabinet subcommittee has been appointed.

Mr HASSELL: I am not prepared to identify the Government subcommittee which dealt with this matter.

## TOWN PLANNING

### *South Perth City*

260. Mr WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the City of South Perth, at a special meeting on 6 May 1981, approved the immediate implementation of its town planning scheme No.5?
- (2) Has this scheme been given preliminary approval by the Minister?
- (3) Has the City of South Perth a legal right to enforce this scheme?
- (4) What is the necessary procedure to give this scheme statutory force?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

I thank the member for some short notice of this question the answer to which is as follows—

- (1) to (4) I have not had any formal notification of the motion passed by the City of South Perth; however, I have been passed a copy of the minutes of that meeting and I did read an article in this morning's edition of *The West Australian* about this matter.

The scheme has not been given preliminary approval. The scheme has no statutory force; in fact, it has no legal effect.

In reply to the third part of the question, it is my understanding that the City of South Perth has just completed a review of its scheme, and the meeting on 6 May decided it would have force and effect as from the day after the meeting. The scheme has not yet been submitted to the Town Planning Department for examination, so the department has not examined the scheme nor made a recommendation to me.

The preliminary approval process is very necessary because it is after that that the scheme goes out for public submissions. At that time the people who live in the area have an opportunity to comment as to the form of the scheme and to indicate to the council whether the people are in agreement with its scheme. At the end of that advertising period the council would consider the submissions and then indicate to the department and myself whether those submissions should in their view be upheld or dismissed. Following that the board would consider the submissions and then I would do so myself. I do think it is important this process is followed because it provides a protection for the people who live in and own property in the community. The action of the council to implement a scheme in this way is very detrimental to those persons who are owners of land within the area who now find that the purpose for which they purchased that land has been changed or there is an attempt to remove from them the development rights to the land, when they were previously given an

indication that they would be able to develop in accord with the scheme which presently has statutory force; that is, scheme No. 2.

## COMMUNITY WELFARE

### *Adoptions: Delays*

261. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Is he aware there is an inordinate delay in the adoption of children, particularly when it is the adoption of overseas babies, which is causing great distress to people who have been waiting a very long time for such adoptions?
- (2) Will he make inquiries to see whether steps can be taken to expedite these matters and to overcome the delays?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) and (2) There is a very considerable delay in relation to the adoption of children generally. It takes approximately 4½ years to achieve an adoption because of the shortage of children available for adoption. There is a waiting list of people who wish to adopt children, notwithstanding the narrowing down of the list of people waiting by the establishment of guidelines to give preference to those who have the strongest case. That action is the only thing the department can do in the circumstances where there are so few children available for adoption.

As far as overseas adoptions are concerned, steps were taken recently in co-operation with the Commonwealth and other States to improve the availability of children from other countries for adoption in Australia. That system works on the basis that certain areas are designated as being in the interests of this State or another. In other words, the available centres have been identified by this co-operative arrangement.

Attempts have been made to improve the checking process and procedures at ground level in the places from which the children come.

The Leader of the Opposition said by way of interjection there appears to be some strange criteria adopted. I do not think so.

Mr DAVIES: I have had before me some complaints about questions asked of prospective parents.

Mr HASSELL: That might be so, but prospective parents tend to feel fairly sensitive about the issue, and when they find the waiting period is so long, which we cannot avoid, they tend to follow other avenues or attempt to bring pressure to bear on the authorities in complaint of specific matters. If a specific complaint is referred to by the member I will have it investigated.

Mr DAVIES: No action, just an investigation.

Mr HASSELL: If the member referred generally to these matters I think he will find the overall position is as good as we can make it. The best that can be done for adoption and many other problems within the community would be reduced if we did not have such a high rate of abortion.

## WATER RESOURCES

### *Greenbushes*

262. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Works:

In view of the fact that the PWD has pumped water from a former mine pit to augment the Greenbushes town water supply in the last week, and bearing in mind that the population of the town is expected to increase very substantially in the next few years, what specific plans does the PWD have to ensure that the town's water supply will be upgraded to meet the increased water demands in the 1981 and 1982 summer seasons?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

The general position is substantially the same as given in the replies to the member's questions without notice on 29 April and 6 May.

In the short term, to cater for requirements in 1981 and 1982, consideration is being given to augmentation of the Greenbushes' water supply from a mining dam approximately two kilometres downstream from the existing dam and from disused mine sites.

In view of the fact that expansion by Greenbushes Tin NL will affect growth

at Balingup, consideration is being given to augmentation of Balingup water supply from an adjacent stream or alternatively from resources in the vicinity of Greenbushes.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### *Rates: Loss of Revenue*

263. Mr PARKER, to the Premier:

In September of last year the Commonwealth Government announced that the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in Federal Affairs would write to all Premiers seeking their agreement in referring the matter of Government obligation to compensate local government municipalities for loss of general rate revenue as a consequence of Commonwealth Government immunity in respect of Crown properties to the ACIR. I ask—

- (1) Has the Premier replied to the letter?
- (2) has the Premier replied to the letter?
- (3) Did the Premier support the Commonwealth's suggestion that the matter of non-ratable land be referred to the ACIR?
- (4) Will the Premier please table the letter referred to above?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (4) I have no recollection of the letter to which the member referred. That does not mean to say it has not been received, because normally a letter of that kind would be given to the Minister for Federal Affairs. I will follow the matter through for the member to determine the position. I will then decide whether it is right and proper to table the papers.

## ACTS AMENDMENT (ELECTORAL PROVINCES AND DISTRICTS) BILL

### *Cabinet Subcommittee*

264. Mr JAMIESON, to the Premier:

Who were the members of his Cabinet subcommittee responsible for drawing up the electoral boundaries recommendations?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

It is not customary to make that sort of information publicly available.

Mr Jamieson: It usually is.

Mr Bryce: Are you ashamed of it?

Sir CHARLES COURT: Of course we are not ashamed of anything.

Mr H. D. Evans: Why so coy?

Sir CHARLES COURT: The member should grow up a bit and give himself a bit of stature around the place.

Mr Bryce: You know what you have done is putrid.

Mr Davies: Stuff out of the sewers.

Sir CHARLES COURT: In answer to the member for Welshpool, it is not customary for information of this kind to be made available because it relates to Cabinet activities.

Mr Jamieson: It usually is.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I remind the member who has had experience as a Minister that the information is often made public in cases where an inquiry is set up, the names of particular Ministers are mentioned, and they have some direct relationship with the public. I have the feeling that in the course of these studies more than one group of Ministers was involved. I cannot be precise because I do not have the knowledge off the cuff. Certainly I would be only too pleased to consider the matter and determine whether a precedent exists. I will then give a further answer to the member's question.

## EDUCATION

### *Community College: Kalgoorlie*

265. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that the new community college in Kalgoorlie formed by the forced amalgamation of the Eastern

Goldfields Technical College and the Kalgoorlie School of Mines is experiencing considerable difficulty in recruiting staff to operate the college next year to the extent that the college will not be viable next year in terms of the level of staff recruitment so far achieved?

- (2) If that is a fact, what contingency plans is the Minister considering to ensure that post-secondary education at the goldfields next year does not collapse altogether?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) I am not aware the college is experiencing any excessive difficulty in obtaining staff.

## COMMUNITY WELFARE

### *Children: Physically Abused*

266. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

This question relates to question on notice 1188 answered today and question on notice 1104 answered on 7 May. I refer to a proposed counselling centre for families in which children have been physically abused. Has a firm decision been made on that proposal and, if so, is it intended by the Government to take over the premises at Subiaco which were offered? If that is so, will that be done by overriding the wishes of some local residents in that area and, more particularly, the Subiaco City Council?

Mr HASSELL replied:

A decision has been taken after a most careful consideration of all the issues involved. The Kensington annex is a Government building and will continue to be so. Formerly it was used as an annex to the King Edward Memorial Hospital. Short of closing that building and redeveloping it as a multiple residence structure, it will be used for some Government activity. We have considered the issued very carefully and have met with local residents of the area and the Mayor of the Subiaco City Council. In addition, we have received

correspondence from them. It has been decided, notwithstanding some objection, that the annex will be used by the Child Life Protection section of the Department for Community Welfare.

The character and appearance of the building as a residential type of structure will be maintained carefully. Essentially the building will be used as a centre for activities and some counselling will occur. It is our view the community will suffer no detrimental effect and, indeed, if the community considers the matter carefully I think it would reach the conclusion that the building will be used for some Government activity and that the one proposed will be the least offensive.

I conclude by asserting that although some opposition to the proposal has been shown, we have received some support.

#### COMMUNITY WELFARE

##### *Children: Physically Abused*

267. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

Supplementary to the question I just asked, will the Minister reply in relation to my query about the overriding of the Subiaco City Council. Was that necessary? I noted the Minister said discussions were held, but as a result of those discussions was it necessary to override the wishes of the council?

Mr HASSELL replied:

I apologise to the Leader of the Opposition for not answering that part of his question. I understand that notwithstanding a recommendation from the town planner employed by the Subiaco City Council that the proposed use should be approved, the council adopted a resolution that the proposal should not be approved by the council; but because of the existing usage of the building and its background the Government is not required to have local authority approval. We will proceed without the express formal consent of the council.

#### INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

##### *Borden Chemical Co. (Aust.) Pty. Ltd.*

268. Mr BRYCE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce:

- (1) Is he aware that during his absence overseas the Bunbury City Council by a vote of six to five decided against the siting of the Borden chemical plant at the waterfront in the city of Bunbury area?
- (2) Does the Government intend to override the decision of the council?
- (3) Will the Minister use the good offices of his department to encourage the establishment of the Borden chemical plant in the zone designated in that town for noxious industries?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

- (1) to (3) I am aware of the decision made by the Bunbury City Council. No decision has been made in respect of any particular action to be taken as a consequence of the council's decision. We will continue discussions with the Borden company and others with a view to encouraging the establishment of that industry in Western Australia.

#### ROAD

##### *Ranford Road*

269. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Transport:

Following the rejection by Government back-benchers of the proposal to build a bridge across the Canning River which would alleviate the massive traffic snarls experienced generally throughout the south-east corridor, can the Minister indicate whether a timetable has been set by the Main Roads Department for the construction of the Ranford Road extension to link it with South Street?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

The extension of Ranford Road is under consideration for construction, and the matter will be given attention as soon as it is practicable to do so.