

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 30 April 1987

THE SPEAKER (Mr Barnett) took the Chair at 10.45 am, and read prayers.

FORESTS: WOODCHIPPING

Denmark: Petition

DR LAWRENCE (Subiaco) [10.48 am]: I have a petition which is couched in the following terms—

To the Honourable the Speaker and the members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia assembled

The petition of the undersigned brings to your attention: that we, the undersigned, object to the proposal by McLean Sawmills of Denmark to establish a new 240 000 tonnes per annum export woodchip industry based on private and State Forests, and an expanded timber and woodchip mill at Denmark. The proposed project would have many damaging impacts, including the loss of thousands of hectares of native forest on private land and severe traffic hazards caused by log trucks on major tourist routes in the South Coast region.

We, the undersigned, call upon the Government to:

1. Not support the granting of an export licence for an export woodchip industry in Western Australia that involves the removal of native forest left on private land.
2. Support stronger and better funded efforts to encourage farmers to retain and regenerate native forest and to plant more trees on already cleared land.
3. Establish a regional land use study and public review of the existing Manjimup woodchip industry before there are any further major changes in land uses in the South Coast Region.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 1 670 signatures. I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

(See petition No. 33.)

GREAT SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 29 April.

MR STEPHENS (Stirling) [10.50 am]: At the outset I advise that the National Party supports the proposal for the establishment of the Great Southern Development Authority. The National Party and I, as a member for that area, will certainly make every endeavour to see that it works. It is absolutely essential to give an economic boost to the Albany region which is a wonderful area with an ideal climate.

Of course, it is essential to provide employment not only for the residents, but also for the children of those residents when they enter the work force. One of the sad facts of life in the Albany region is that after completing their secondary education many of the children find it necessary to leave the town in order to obtain employment. We have to be realistic and face up to the problems of that region.

I know that the general attitude is that because "Bunbury 2000" has been successful the same concept when applied to Albany would automatically be successful. Regrettably, I do not think that that is quite the case.

We must acknowledge that Bunbury has certain advantages which Albany does not have and, therefore, it would be much easier for the "Bunbury 2000" project to continue, with some problems, but nevertheless with a degree of success. Certainly it would be easier for the Bunbury region than it will be for the Albany region. We must recognise that the creation of the proposed authority will not be a panacea to overcome the problems in the region.

It requires more than just an authority. Irrespective of how dedicated and efficient the members and staff of the authority are, it will require more than just their effort. It will require positive action by the Government to complement the work the authority may be able to do in the Albany region.

I would like to mention two or three areas where the Government—not only the present Government but also Governments of any political persuasion—can assist. In the Fremantle area a small shipbuilding industry has developed. This Parliament took land from a reserve to allow an enlargement of the shipbuilding industry. Small shipbuilding in particular is an industry which could have been encouraged in one of the outports.

One of the problems with decentralising industry is the freight factor. With small shipbuilding the freight factor would have been one way. Components would have to go, but once the ship was completed it could move around under its own power. That is one area where the Government should have lent encouragement. It is not desirable to direct an industry, but it could have been encouraged by land, incentives and that sort of thing to set up in the outports.

I am referring to Albany. I suggest Geraldton and even Esperance could be considered.

Mr Watt: Easy access to deep water.

Mr STEPHENS: That is right, but we are talking about small shipbuilding which has been developed very successfully in the Fremantle area. That is one area where the Government could have assisted decentralisation.

Turning to the question of technology, once again the freight factor is important. I do not have time to go into it, but I was closely associated with the problem of Albany Batteries. What brought that company to Perth from Albany was the freight factor. It was expanding production, but the more it expanded the greater the problem freight became. Batteries, of course, are very heavy components. I know the principal of that firm, and it virtually broke his heart to leave the Albany region and come to this city to survive.

It is readily recognised that freight is a big problem with decentralised industry, but with the Technology Park concept and the electronics industry we have items of high value and very low freight component. These types of manufacturing would be ideal for decentralisation.

Mr Bryce: High value, low volume.

Mr STEPHENS: High value, low volume, but also light. Anyway, the freight percentage of the cost of the article is very small. That item is ideally suited to decentralised industry, but the Government has developed Technology Park in the metropolitan area.

Mr Bryce: May I be reasonable about that and make the point that a research park like that is normally adjacent to a major tertiary educational institution.

Mr STEPHENS: That is a pretty good argument, but with modern communications I do not think it is essential to be close to a research institution. Whether one taps a keyboard in a suburb or in Albany or Geraldton, the result is

almost instantaneous. One can use it as an argument, but with modern communications I do not think it is a convincing reason.

Mr Bryce: Yesterday I visited the biggest company out there. That company has all its senior staff lecturing at Curtin as well as working in the company. Students from the university work on projects in the company. That is the reason for that adjunct status.

Mr STEPHENS: At the same time I think a greater effort could have been made to assist in the development of these high technology industries in the country areas. I am referring to the fact that my comments must be taken in the context that more than efficiency will be required; it will also require Government assistance.

I am not a supporter of the casino, but if we were to establish a casino, why could it not be built in one of the outports? That would mean decentralisation from Perth and people from Perth would have to make a conscious effort to go there. It would result in a boost to the economy of the region. It would not have been possible for the casino to have been on such a grandiose scale, but nevertheless this is an area where consideration could have been given to decentralisation.

Governments have talked about decentralisation for many years, but as I have just pointed out there has been no effective action. A previous speaker gave a resume of the moves towards decentralisation, but it has not been really effective. I am only speaking approximately, but in 1970 Perth had about 70 per cent of the State's population. Today we have about 80 per cent, and the proportion is increasing.

There has been a continual drift away from the country. We recognise that farms have been getting bigger. Not only farms but also country towns have suffered from the drift to Perth. By the year 2020, Western Australia, with its one million square miles, will consist of a city State from Bunbury to Moore River. It will be an arc joining those two points. If there is anything left over after caring for the needs of that city State the country will get it.

Mr Bryce: I will be in retirement on my farm somewhere.

Mr Wilson: You will be retired in Perth.

Mr STEPHENS: I will be in Albany, God's own country; the best place in the world—with its perfect climate. I will not even move out of Albany; I will be deposited there eventually.

It is interesting to read some of the previous speeches in this House. During the Address-in-Reply debate in 1972 I devoted most of my time to talking about decentralisation and the urbanisation going on in Australia, particularly with reference to Western Australia.

With urbanisation there is the problem of noise. There is also a greater crime problem. The growth in crime is greater as the population increases. This means that one has social problems, all of which have an effect on the quality of life and result in costs to taxpayers.

I was interested many years ago to hear a scientist—I think it was Dr Chittleborough—talk about his research into marron. He indicated that when he had the marron population at a reasonable level, where they had all their food requirement and the oxygen levels were right, they were normal animals. But once the area was overpopulated they developed antisocial habits, such as cannibalisation and that sort of thing.

I believe that can be extrapolated to humans. That is one of the reasons why the greater the concentration of people, the greater the social and crime problems. I do not believe man in his natural environment was meant to live in massive conurbations and high-rise buildings. It is in the interest of the community to decentralise and to have smaller country towns and thereby have a much better lifestyle for every member of the community.

I recognise also, however, that the investor wants to maximise the return on his dollar. There is nothing wrong with that, and I support it. If a person is going to invest money, it is only reasonable that he has a return on the dollars he invests. As the city grows, the best return on investment is at or near the city centre. However, as cities grow, the public sector costs increase.

Although the research is quite dated, I think the information would be as relevant today as it was in the 1970s when Dr Noyes, on behalf of the New South Wales Government, did some research and discovered that with respect to traffic, for one additional resident in Sydney, the traffic costs were \$65; for an additional resident in Wollongong, the cost was \$4; and out in a small country town such as Wagga, it was only 20c. That gives an indication of the scale of public sector costs that have to be met by the community. So on the one hand one has the greater return to the private investor, and on the other the additional costs to the public sector occasioned by the

concentration of people in the cities. One has to look at spending the taxpayer's dollars in advance to effectively create decentralisation and to reduce those public sector costs.

With respect to the Albany area, for many years now, going right back to 1970, there were, firstly, industrial development officers stationed there. That idea was then upgraded and a regional administrator was appointed to the area. I make no secret of the fact that at the time I was a little critical of the system of regional administration. The member for Albany acknowledged yesterday the work of the late Ken Marshall. My comments are in no way critical of that man, and I support the comments made by the member. However, my criticism is of the fact that the regional administrator worked more or less as an additional parliamentary member in the area. He had direct access to a Minister. He administered nothing, and could make no decisions. That is essentially what the local member does. So there was an added cost, without any real benefits.

The system was then changed to one of regional managers, but it really was only a name change; there was no change in effect. In all these instances they were assisted by an advisory committee, under different names, but generally called the Great Southern Advisory Committee or the Great Southern Development Advisory Committee. Once again in no way will I reflect on the members of that committee. They were sincere, hard-working people, who in virtually every instance were successful in their own private lives or business lives, and they gave their time voluntarily. However, very little has been achieved.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is a fair amount of background chatter and I do not think it is giving the *Hansard* reporter a fair go. If members want to have their little meetings they should have them somewhere else. The member for Stirling and Deputy Leader of the National Party is the only person who should be heard for the next 15 minutes.

Mr STEPHENS: I do not think any member would dispute the fact that very little has been achieved. In fact, if it had been achieved members would not now be debating this Bill, trying to improve the situation. I believe the present Bill is largely cosmetic. It is along similar lines to what already exists. There are name changes, but in principle the structure is the same. It is a little larger this time. Instead of just the one

person at the top, there is an executive officer, assisted by a board of seven, so the decision-making is split.

Mr Watt: There are six plus—

Mr STEPHENS: Yes, the board plus an executive officer, but the board totals seven. It is assisted by an advisory committee of 15. There has also been an increase of staff of about eight or nine. So there are name changes, but basically the structure is the same. It is a little larger and one hopes it will have access to more funds, so the possibility is that it will achieve more. It certainly has the added advantage that where necessary, it can engage consultants to carry out research work. So there has been an improvement in that area and hopefully that will lead to an improvement in results.

I emphasise again that this will require Government involvement as well, along the lines that I spoke of earlier, to encourage industries such as the high technology industry into the area. All that members and the Great Southern Development Authority will be able to do is act as a catalyst to encourage more investment into those areas for which Albany has some natural advantages. It is a service area, an outlet for a good agricultural region. It has been disadvantaged inasmuch as the live sheep trade, for which Albany is ideally situated, has not been developed there to any great extent.

There is the wool selling complex down there, but it is now only a wool handling complex because the selling takes place in Perth. That means that the buyers do not come down there. While the wool handling can be kept in Albany, the town is not seriously disadvantaged. Sale by separation has proved to be quite effective, and growers in the region are not disadvantaged with regard to price as a result of the sale by separation, so it is only a small economic disadvantage for the town, but the retention of the handling centre is absolutely essential for Albany.

Mr Court: The Anchorage development would like the live sheep to go down to Albany.

Mr STEPHENS: The live sheep trade may do, and I hope it does. I am biased. I have been heavily committed to shipping live sheep out of Albany for some years. The stumbling blocks have been from the shipping firms. We have had problems with the abattoirs. Albany took a knock years ago with the decision of the Fraser Federal Government to stop the whaling. That was an indication of the environmental groups

in Sydney and Melbourne being more important than the people and economy in the Albany region.

The fishing industry has had its ups and downs. There is certainly potential in that industry. The member for Albany made reference to the tuna industry and its problems. I acknowledge there have been problems. I will be fair and acknowledge that at one stage I had never seen a Government act as quickly in trying to overcome the problem which had developed in respect of the quotas. One of the difficulties was that the fishermen were not united and unanimous in what they saw as a means of overcoming the problems. I can remember in the very early stages when only one quota had been sold out of the region. We had a meeting with the chamber of commerce and the fishing industry. I suggested that the only way to keep the quota in Western Australia was for the Government to buy the quota and lease it back or sell it to the fishermen on the basis that it had to stay in the Albany region. That was not accepted by the fishermen at the time. As time went on and problems were exacerbated, the fishermen were eventually prepared to accept that point. The Government then moved within a week and accepted the responsibility to purchase quotas.

There is potential in the magnetite mineral field, but I think the greatest potential which the Government cannot take away is the tourism industry. Once again, I do not wish to cover ground already mentioned by the member for Albany. One of the first projects with which the Great Southern Development Authority was involved was a \$40 000 feasibility report for a four-star hotel in the area. That is notwithstanding that for over 12 months a group had been actively trying to develop an excellent complex in the Goode Beach area, which comes within the Stirling electorate. They have had their problems. It is an indication that the investors are prepared to enter into developments like this when the opportunity is available. I question the need for a \$40 000 feasibility study for an additional four-star hotel. However, they have made the decision and I hope that I am proven wrong.

Reference was made earlier that the member for Albany hoped the Great Southern Development Authority would become involved in the area of amalgamations of local government. I hope they never get involved. It should be recognised that it is outside its sphere. I feel local government is for local government, and the decisions should be made by the people

involved. I think it would be outside the field of expertise and experience of the GSDA. So, I am completely opposed to that argument.

I was not particularly impressed when Dr Manea came from Bunbury to Albany and made some comments. I know him very well, having been through primary and secondary school with him. I regard him as a friend, but I do not think he should come from Bunbury to Albany and say the situations are the same. He tried to transfer his obvious expertise and success in Bunbury to the Albany region. I am very critical of him for doing so.

We are soon to have a referendum in Albany. We have a movement called the "Albany One Movement". I question the validity of some of their advertisements. This movement said amalgamation would assist the development of the area and investors would be encouraged into the Albany area. If they are correct in what they say in their advertisements, I think we are wasting our time talking about the Great Southern Development Authority. Regrettably I think it is only political advertising, and I know it has no validity. The investor is a hard-headed man who will analyse the area.

Mr Watt: Who said investors will come to Albany?

Mr STEPHENS: Has the member for Albany not seen the advertisement?

Mr Watt: No, I have not.

Mr STEPHENS: He is not very observant.

Mr Watt: You are not telling the truth.

Mr STEPHENS: I am telling the truth. I am being very factual.

Mr Clarko: You did not learn much from Dr Manea.

Mr STEPHENS: I have actually. I am not going to take any notice of a man, an ex-Minister for Education, who went into the Mt Barker area and said he could not understand the people sending their children to a secondary school in the country when it was recognised that college education in Perth was superior.

Mr Clarko: Did you hear me say that? It is a rumour.

Mr STEPHENS: It is factually correct. Four people were present. They all told me the same thing.

Mr Clarko: You made it up.

Mr STEPHENS: Typical Liberal comment! If they cannot win an argument by fact and logic they smear and denigrate. I am not going to mention the names of the four people. I am prepared to let the member know.

I refer to Borthwicks. I have a very definite view that as legislators we should create a situation in which industrial disputes can be resolved, just the same as we create laws for civil rights and criminal rights. When those matters come before the courts, it is not for the Parliament to become involved. Serious problems would develop if politicians were to become involved in these actions. We, as legislators, should provide the framework, likewise with industrial disputes. There was political point scoring over the Borthwicks affair. It is generally believed that one of the problems concerning the Borthwicks affair concerned strikers receiving unemployment benefits so they had no incentive to return to work. I have spoken to several of the strikers at Borthwicks. They said Borthwicks were not dinkum and would back down. We temporarily lost the abattoirs in the Albany region. The reason that strike was so attractive for the workers was that they were getting the unemployment benefits. I know the member for Albany will not mind my saying this, but he was given the credit for that. It is one of the reasons there was pressure to have his endorsement altered.

Mr Watt: I hope you know that was not the truth.

Mr STEPHENS: That is a generally held belief in the area.

I welcome the Great Southern Development Authority. I will support it and will do everything possible to see that it works effectively, although I have already indicated that it will not have an easy task. A great deal of goodwill will be required to make it work. A great deal of Government support will also be needed.

MR HOUSE (Katanning-Roe) [11.21 am]: I give my support to this Bill for the formation of the Great Southern Development Authority. However, some areas of operation of the authority concern me greatly. It is fair to say that my electorate of Katanning-Roe is a very good litmus test for the sincerity and for the actions of these sorts of development authorities. I do not believe that this will be the last one we see established in Western Australia. Because my electorate covers the inland areas, because it is on the boundaries of the area proposed to be

covered by the Great Southern Development Authority, I repeat that it is a fair litmus test of just how these authorities will operate.

What has happened in Bunbury is that we have had what I term "coastalism" rather than regionalism. We need to expand the system fully to make sure that it does provide some benefit for the smaller inland towns and not just those centres situated on the coast. I will not cover those areas already covered by the members for Albany and Stirling, because both obviously did their homework and they made worthwhile contributions to the debate. By and large I agree with most of what they said.

The Government has shown that it has a fairly balanced view of the region by the distribution of members it has appointed to the authority. Obviously the Minister is aware of the political background of some of those members, but this has not hindered his appointing them and seeking their opinions on the authority. I congratulate him on that. However, the region bounded by the Cranbrook and Tambellup areas missed out on having a representative on the authority, and this area encompasses two important shires in my electorate. Perhaps in the future, should a vacancy become available on the authority, the Minister will remember my comments.

In supporting the Bill I make it clear that I cannot support anything that will mean Albany will grow at the expense of towns like Jerramungup, Tambellup, and Cranbrook.

Mr Laurance: Mt Barker.

Mr HOUSE: Yes; in fact all the towns in the region fall into that category. If Albany is to grow at their expense, we have really gained nothing. We need to make sure that the same effort put into the town of Albany by this authority is also put into those small towns.

In doing that, the first thing that must be done is to support the existing businesses and industries in those areas. It is not the least bit of good running around Australia or the world trying to find new businesses and new industries to come into the area when we currently have existing businesses closing their doors because they cannot get Government support. Current businesses in those inland country towns are being forced to close their doors because of what is happening in the rural areas. They could stay open if the Government could see its way clear to opening up some of the guidelines it currently has in place for farmers and if it were to allow those rural businesses to get some help.

It is no secret that I have spoken at length in this House about the sorts of things that ought to be done. I briefly repeat that what those businesses and industries need is some sort of interest rate relief injected into the massive debts, which have been created in a lot of cases by the finance companies and the banks, which have a great deal to answer for because of the way in which they structured their finance to rural areas. These rural businesses and industries need help to get them over the hill so that they will be around in a year or two. The thrust of my argument is that the Government must make certain that the existing businesses and industries stay in place in these inland country areas before the Government wastes a lot of resources trying to find new businesses and new industries.

The first thing the Government needs to look at is how Government tenders are called and at the sorts of guidelines that might be used. I give as an example something that happened very recently in my area, because I want to underline my concern. The Katanning High School has just been allocated a rebuilding programme of about \$1 million. We are very grateful for that because the school was badly in need of such a programme. However, in the letting of the tenders for the rebuilding, something like 300 000 bricks are involved.

We have a brickworks in Katanning and it is currently being run by the third generation of the same family as the major shareholder. Obviously it is not a fly-by-night organisation and its length of tenure proves that it can produce a product that is acceptable and that is recognised as sound by a lot of people. I am told that in the metropolitan area something like three houses a week are built of bricks from this Katanning brickworks.

Mr Court: When we did the extensions to our church we had to get the bricks from that brickworks because it was the only one that could match the bricks we needed.

Mr HOUSE: A few years ago we had extensions done to our house, which is a very old country homestead, and we used bricks from the Katanning brickworks for the same reason; it was the only brickworks that could supply the matching colour and type of brick. The homestead is around 80 years old. It is not a question of the quality or the availability of the product.

The Government has accepted a tender involving the supply of Midland Bricks through the local builder who won the tender. To be fair

that needs some explanation, and I do want to be fair. The builder specified that he could do the job \$20 000 cheaper if he were allowed to use Midland Bricks. Obviously some fault lies with the local builder, although he must have had some reason for making that qualification in his tender. I have discussed this problem at some length with the Minister for Labour, Productivity and Employment and it would seem, unfortunately, that there is a clash of personalities in the local area that is the cause of the problem.

However, the onus is on the Government and the Minister in some way to protect the local brickworks. This is a million-dollar project, and if the builder is prepared to say that the only reason he will not use the local bricks is that the job would cost an extra \$20 000, the Minister should have investigated the matter much more closely to find out why this was so.

Mr Carr: It is difficult for the Government when we are trying to assist a local contractor and the local contractor won't use the local product.

Mr HOUSE: In fairness, I think I made that point. I have not tried to put only one side of the argument. The contractor has not said he will not use it; he said he will charge \$20 000 more. In other words, there will be a loading on the submitted tender price to use them. So it is not a question of quality or supply. There is obviously another problem that should have been more deeply investigated, in my opinion. That order for 300 000 bricks is a very important order to that small brickworks. Obviously, it would have liked to receive the order so it could increase its profits.

Mr Watt: I share your view.

Mr HOUSE: I thank the member for Albany.

Recent Government jobs and tenders on schools at Collie and Lake Grace, and the Katanning Primary School used Katanning bricks. Those three jobs were done by different builders. I make the point again that if we must have a regional development authority that will have input into a district, it does not want to be a superficial input related to pie-in-the-sky ideas; it needs to become involved with the businesses that are already in the areas and to help those businesses face their problems so they will remain viable.

In supporting this Bill I wish to express the concerns I have for the powers and functions of local government. Having spent a great deal of time in local government, I have a lot of respect for it. I would hate to see an organisation like

the Great Southern Development Authority becoming involved, now or at any time in the future, in matters that are currently the responsibility of local government authorities. I hope that the Government of the day of whatever political persuasion does not ever take it upon itself to override the powers of local government or to bypass it in order to bolster regional development authorities' powers.

Local governments have made a great contribution not only to their own areas, but also to this great State of Western Australia. Any usurping of those powers by any authority would be a backward step. I hope the Government recognises that. I am pleased to see men of experience from local government being appointed to the authority. I am sure they share the same views as I have in protecting local government.

With those few reservations, I support the Bill.

MR BLAIKIE (Vasse) [11.36 am]: Three or four years ago, the Government set up the South West Development Authority. At the time this House debated that Bill, I expressed points of view on behalf of the Opposition similar to those expressed by the member for Katanning-Roe today. Those concerns related to local government and the need for positive representation of right by local government. I also said that I was concerned about the South West Development Authority taking over the role of local government or usurping it in any way.

Today I advise the House that some of the fears I expressed at that time have come to pass. I wish to relate a couple of instances with the hope that, with the experience of what occurred with the South West Development Authority, we can ensure that the same errors do not occur with the Great Southern Development Authority.

Members should realise that local authorities are important to their regions and these regional authorities should assist in the realisation of their aspirations. I believe that these regional bodies are a good idea.

Concerns about membership of the authority were raised. As I said in 1983, I believe it is necessary to appoint a local government person to these bodies. However, the Government did not see fit to proceed in that direction. Dr Manea, the chairman, Mr Kevin Strapp, the deputy chairman, and a woman from Bridgetown whose name escapes me but who is the president of the Bridgetown Shire Council,

are the current members of the South West Development Authority executive. I believe that people appointed by the Government have a slightly different role to play from those who have a right to be appointed. It is my view that the South West Development Authority would have been better served if a local government person had been appointed to it. The logical person to have been appointed to it was the President of the South West Shire Councils Association. That person has the confidence of the shire councils in the area and has a link with them. As the person holding that office changes from time to time, so his membership of the authority should change. However, he has a direct link with and a positive role to play in local government. I do not see him as spiking the role of the authority, but as adding a far greater dimension to it.

Local government authorities in the south west have had good reason to be peeved over three instances of the South West Development Authority's attempting to proceed with projects for which there was no support. I believe that that should never have occurred. If there had been more local government knowledge and understanding included in the expertise of the authority, it would not have occurred.

The first was the authority's desire to create a regional zoo. It was a great idea, but my understanding is that attempts to realise the desire were made before the councils in the area knew anything about it. Local government authorities should have had an input into the concept from the first day.

The same thing happened in my area with the proposal for the harbour development at Point Picquet. The Government will not forget Point Picquet; it will be an environmental albatross around its neck for some time. A boat harbour was to be established adjacent to Meelup, a very important tourist destination. While the South West Development Authority believed that Point Picquet was the most ideal and logical site for the harbour development, it failed to take into account the views of many thousands of people. Regional authorities should seek local expertise and ideas before they charge off and establish projects which they believe are ideal. If they attempt that without the support of the local people, they may find their credibility shattered. Point Picquet was a classic example of the authority's not having regard for the aspirations of the people, not only within the region, but also throughout Western Australia. There was solid objection to it. The problem with the development was that

the South West Development Authority tried to proceed with a boat harbour for which there was no country support.

The Environmental Protection Authority eventually made an assessment of it, and the outcome of its report was that a thorough survey should be done of the total Geopraphe Bay region to find the most suitable place for a boat harbour, rather than simply concentrate on the Point Picquet site, which was being promoted by the South West Development Authority. So that is one of the real dangers with authorities which are keen to get brownie points on the board for getting projects under way: They must have regard for local people. To keep the record straight, however, the South West Development Authority did receive support for the funding of that project from the Busselton Shire Council.

The third point I raise relates to another area in my electorate, Margaret River. What has happened in this area demonstrates again that regional authorities must have regard not only for local authorities but also for the community within which the project is going to be established. In November 1985, just prior to the 1986 State election, the Chairman of the South West Development Authority, Dr Manca, made a public announcement that the South West Development Authority was throwing its resources behind a project to establish an airstrip at Margaret River which would be some 3 000 metres in length and would cost upwards of \$1 million, to be built on a piece of forest land to the east of the town of Margaret River.

Although the local government body had been having preliminary investigations into the size of the airstrip and the upgrading of its facilities, that announcement caught it flat-footed because it did not know it was going to be made, nor the circumstances under which it was made. When the shire was advised that \$1 million was going to be spent and was asked to comment on whether it wanted the airstrip, it said that under the circumstances—as most of the work appeared to have been done—it did not sound like a bad idea.

That was only the start of what has now proved to be a very unfortunate saga for the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, because no sooner was the announcement made than some further investigations were carried out in relation to, firstly, the land. The land was within a Forest Department area, and it was subsequently found that parliamentary ap-

proval would be necessary to construct the airstrip, and in order to have that approval there would need to be support from the community.

After further investigation it was found this airstrip was to be some 3 000 metres in length, which was a very similar length to an airstrip on the Clarke Air Base in the Philippines, which is some 10 000 feet long. The local people said, "What would we want with an airstrip equivalent in length to that on the Clarke Air Base?"

I want to be charitable and fair to the South West Development Authority, but it was at best overexuberant in trying to get this project off the ground and it did not do its homework.

Mr Read: Did that come from the advisory group or the actual board?

Mr BLAIKIE: No, it came from the chairman.

Mr Read: It did not go to the advisory committee at all?

Mr BLAIKIE: Not as far as I am aware.

Mr Read: The advisory committee did not know anything about it?

Mr BLAIKIE: Not as far as I am aware, or if it did, it was kept at a very low profile.

Mr Read: Does Margaret River have a representative on this advisory board? There is local government representation, is there not?

Mr BLAIKIE: Yes.

Mr Read: Which shires were represented on it?

Mr BLAIKIE: I think the nearest shire represented at that time was the Shire of Busselton.

Mr Read: Jack Sheedy.

Mr BLAIKIE: No, Jack Guthrie, but I do not think he is a member of the authority now. There is another person who is a member of the authority.

The point I am raising is that while the project had considerable merit, once its size was understood, it frightened the pants off the local community. The member who has just resumed his seat, the member for Welshpool, would be one of the few members in this House who would understand how sensitive many people in the Augusta-Margaret River Shire are to overdevelopment.

A member interjected.

Mr BLAIKIE: Other members may also be aware of this situation, but the member for Welshpool would be particularly aware.

So while the local community certainly wants an improved airport facility, it was not prepared to go along with a Clarke Air Base-type facility in Margaret River. The whole thing became quite ludicrous because it was subsequently proposed that it be reduced to 2 000 metres.

What subsequently happened was that the shire then carried out a detailed investigation into alternative sites. While the community has been completely divided on this issue, by and large it rejected the proposal that was initially put forward, which had the tacit support of the local authority. The shire has been left carrying the baby.

A number of shire councils have come under what I believe are most unreasonable attacks from their local communities for matters that were not of their making but which emanated from the South West Development Authority. So the comments of the member for Katanning-Roe are in my view very pertinent.

I would ask the Minister, in considering how this is going to be administered, to have regard for some of the matters I have raised and to ensure they do not occur in the great southern region, because if they do it will destroy a lot of the good work which the Government is attempting to do. There regional authorities will work properly only if they assist and work hand in glove with local government bodies rather than attempt to score brownie points, leaving the local government bodies to clean up the mess that is left behind. That is what has happened in these particular areas.

My final point, which is a criticism, is that the Government launched its "Bunbury 2000" phase two prior to the last State election. Some 400 people attended a dinner at the Lighthouse Motel. It was a superb meal, but the whole basis of the evening was one of total politicisation of the South West Development Authority, of championing its cause and heralding what the Government was proposing for the next year. That was immediately prior to the 1986 election.

The Government must understand that that exercise did not go unnoticed by the wider community. While people may support the South West Development Authority, certain aspects of the way in which the Government has politicised it have been noticed. I found that exercise by the Government distasteful. I believe it was unwarranted, and a blatant abuse of taxpayers' money to further the political ambitions of the Government and its candidates

for the election just around the corner. If it is the Government's intention to set up these authorities and use them in a highly political way for its own advantage, bringing literally hundreds of people to savour the delights, I can assure Government members that they will take the greatest exception if those rules rebound on them when there is a change of Government.

I believe it behoves the Minister to indicate clearly to the House the intention of the Government—whether it intends to politicise these authorities absolutely, or whether it has the best of desires and goodwill to follow a policy that will bring about genuine regional development in our communities.

Mr Carr: A number of your colleagues have already commented on the composition of the Great Southern Development Authority advisory committee, making the point that we have selected people from across the spectrum.

Mr BLAIKIE: I understand that, but I issue a warning that, if in December 1988 the Government decides to have a function and brings 800 to 1 000 people to Albany to wine and dine them and tell them of the benefits the regional concept has had, using it in a political sense, the Government will then establish ground rules that it will rue when it is in opposition. I do not believe that should be the case at all, for either side, but it happened in Bunbury at the Lighthouse Motel. I enjoyed the meal, but the political message that was delivered was an unnecessary cost to taxpayers.

If the Government wants to carry out a political exercise, it should not use its authorities. I ask the Minister to explain to the House the final intentions of the Government in this regard.

MR CARR (Geraldton—Minister for Regional Development) [11.54 am]: I thank the members of the Opposition who have indicated their support for the legislation. It is a little unusual for legislation to take over three hours to be supported at the second reading stage, but I appreciate that a number of members have taken the opportunity to canvass a wide range of issues which are relevant to the establishment of a development authority in the great southern, and to regional development initiatives generally. I am sure they do not expect me to respond to all of the points raised, particularly the local items raised in the Cook's tours that took us around some members' electorates.

The member for Albany made the first important point when he said that the development authority should not be seen as a magic wand. It is not reasonable, in areas where there has not been much economic development for a whole range of economic reasons, to say that the establishment of a development authority will change that overnight. It will not, and all of us must be aware of the fact that economic development takes place or does not take place primarily on the basis of the realities of industry, of resources, and of private entrepreneurs. Notwithstanding that, there is a significant role that can be undertaken by the Government to facilitate the developments that might be able to take place. Certainly there is a role for Government to influence particular projects, and to use its influence to seek to get developments off the ground. However, it is important to recognise the point raised by the member for Albany: We should not see the development authority as a magic wand.

Another important point made by the member for Albany related to the question of whether or not the board of the authority should be able to be directed by the Minister. The Bill provides that the authority is able to be directed by the Minister. The member for Albany and I have been in this Parliament for long enough to have heard the argument between direction and autonomy raised in many contexts, and I know that is an argument that will be heard many more times in this place. There are advantages on either side. There is a tendency for Oppositions, whoever they may be at the time, to say that agencies established should be autonomous and able to buck the Government at certain times, whereas Governments tend to like to be able to keep control of agencies they have established which are, in a very large sense, part of the Government.

Mr Watt: I did make that point.

Mr CARR: I know the member did, and I am not saying this in any critical sense, except to make the point that as far as the Government is concerned the authority is an agency of Government which is going to be using, and is using, Government money appropriated from the Budget process; and if something were to go very wrong with the authority, it would be the Government and the Minister who would be responsible in the long run. On that argument we have very frequently here, my very strong view is that the buck should stop with the elected Government of the day; and in this case I defend the right of the Minister to direct the authority, although I see it very much as a re-

serve power. It would not be my intention, nor I hope the intention of future Ministers of the authority, to use that power to direct with anything other than its being considered a last-resort reserve power.

With regard to the comments made by the member for Albany in general, I might say that I have very much appreciated his positive and constructive approach to the establishment of the development authority. He has made some criticisms at times as delays have occurred, but his approach in general has been constructive and positive. I wish that was the attitude adopted by all Opposition members in all regional centres of the State.

The member for Nedlands gave us an address on the Opposition's approach to regional development without making more than a brief passing reference to the Bill itself. I was especially interested in the approach that ran through his address, which was very much different from the point made by the member for Albany. Members will recall that I referred to the member for Albany's emphasis on the point that economic development occurred basically where it could occur on economic grounds.

The member for Nedlands seemed to take an approach which I could summarise like this: When the Liberals were in Government, all the projects that occurred were to the credit of the Liberal Government of the day, and any failures to get projects off the ground were the fault of industry that did not get projects underway; whereas now that we are in Government, his attitude seems to be that any projects that have been established have been to the credit of the private industry concerned, while any projects that have not occurred are the fault of the Government.

Mr Court: I did not say that.

Mr CARR: Not in those words, but that was how I would best summarise the attitude which was outlined in the member for Nedlands' comments to the House last night.

I was interested to hear the member for Nedlands say that there was a need for a vision with regard to decentralisation and regional development. I thought that was fairly ironic because his party was in Government for most of the last 25 or 30 years in this State and really did not perform at all.

Several members interjected.

Mr Court: What about the Bunbury region?

Mr CARR: More has happened in Bunbury in the last four years than happened in all the years the Liberal Party was in Government. There has been a real turning of the corner with regard to development in that area.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Court: Woodchips, bauxite—

Mr CARR: Do not go through that woodchips and bauxite nonsense again. The member for Nedlands talked nonsense last night when he said that his party supported those industries and the Labor Party did not. That simply is utterly untrue. The reality of the situation is—

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Last night, while I was not happy about the topic, I thought the level of debate had improved immeasurably. Let us try to follow on from the standard which was set last night. Mind you, let us not go back to the sort of motion the House dealt with, but let us follow on from that standard.

Mr CARR: The reality of the situation—

Mr Blaikie: The reality was—

Withdrawal of Remark

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Vasse can get to his feet right now and sincerely apologise to me for his rudeness, and withdraw those comments. Do it!

Mr Blaikie: I have already done so.

The SPEAKER: The member for Vasse does not do anything while I am still on my feet. He must wait until I sit down, and I finish speaking and then he may get up and apologise in a proper manner. If the member for Vasse does not, I will name him immediately.

Mr BLAIKIE: I apologise and withdraw my remarks.

Debate Resumed

Mr CARR: The reality of the period of Liberal Government is that its attitude to decentralisation was one of laissez-faire; some economic developments occurred, where the economic opportunities were ripe, but where they did not, nothing happened. That was not a performance which showed anything like the vision to which the member for Nedlands referred last night.

The attitude of the Liberal Government seemed to have been what is best described as scatter-gun decentralisation, or, as the Premier often says, the handful of grain against the

barn-door-type approach where what very little effort is put in is spread very widely and thinly and achieves nothing. In contrast—

Mr Court: Even your own Premier, when the Government was setting up that concept, said that there had been a number of developments in that region and the Government's concept was drawing the things together. The same with the Pilbara.

Mr CARR: Projects have occurred in different parts of the State when the economic opportunities have presented themselves. I have said that; I was just denying that the Liberal Party had any sort of a pattern in its development. I am certainly denying the allegations made last night by the member for Nedlands that all of the projects that are under way in the Bunbury area were opposed by this Government, because they simply were not. Nothing the member for Nedlands can say in this House will alter the reality of that situation.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CARR: I move now to the change that occurred when this Government came to power because, contrary to the member for Nedlands' saying there is a need for a vision, there is in fact a Government in power in this State which has a vision for the economic development of Western Australia. That vision has arisen very largely in recognition of the points that were raised by the member for Stirling earlier, when he referred to concerns associated with having a State which has only one major urban centre, which comprises one million people, with the next urban centre comprising only about 25 000 people. While Perth is still a very fine city, there is no doubt that there are serious problems associated with growing urbanisation in any large community. The Government is simply keen that those problems should not occur here.

Mr Court interjected.

Mr CARR: Look, I did not interject on the member for Nedlands three times per sentence last night.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CARR: The Government has been concerned at the possibility of that urban effect and has been very keen to establish alternative urban centres throughout Western Australia so that people who want to live in an urban centre, but who do not want to live in a major metropolis, will have that opportunity. That is

the reason the Government has commenced a project which has very deliberately advanced places such as Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton, and Kalgoorlie as major centres with a considerable range of services which they are then able to spread throughout their particular regions. This vision that the Government has for regional development in Western Australia is based largely on three planks. Firstly, the economic and social development of all regions, because the Government recognises that economic development is the best and most effective provider of jobs and opportunities in these regions. Secondly, the Government has placed a greater emphasis than has ever been placed before on the improvement of the quality of living in all country regions, and in particular it has done that by providing an increased level of services in the major centres of Western Australia.

That is seen perhaps most directly in the attempts to improve health and education systems and the like, especially with regard to improvements in tertiary education facilities. It really does spread throughout a whole range of things that the Government has attempted to do in country areas of this State. There was a little bit of a laugh this morning when the Minister for Housing referred to a football match in Mt Barker, but something like that is relevant.

Mr Clarko: Particularly when Claremont wins.

Mr CARR: Be that as it may, the point is that the assistance given by the Government over four years to the league to hold matches in various regional centres around the State is an example of the Government saying, "We believe that people who live in the country should have an equal quality of life to people who live in the city."

Mr Stephens: What assistance was given?

Mr CARR: I am not sure about the Mt Barker match, but I know in the early ones in Geraldton, Bunbury, and Dampier considerable assistance, in the vicinity of \$5 000 or \$10 000, was given by the Government on each occasion.

Mr Stephens: My understanding is that no such assistance was given to the Mt Barker match.

Mr CARR: I certainly cannot argue the details of this particular match, but the point I make is that the general project of taking those matches to the country areas was made possible because the Government was prepared to put

funds into assisting the improvement of the living conditions in the country areas of this State.

I emphasise that with regard to the improvement of services in the regional centres, the Government's whole philosophy is based on improving services right throughout those regions. It is not just a matter of providing a college of advanced education for Bunbury people alone; it is a matter of providing a CAE in Bunbury for people from around the south west region to use. That is the sort of philosophy that is running right through the Government's approach to providing those services in the major regional centres.

The third part of the Government's vision of an improved regional development situation is an increase in local decision-making. That is, more of the decisions are being made in the region rather than being made in some head office in Perth. That has been done in respect of local government by seeking to give more autonomy to local government and also in respect of a range of State Government departments and agencies where the Government has sought to move people from Perth to the regional areas so that they are able to make decisions in the regions based on local knowledge. That has happened with the creation of development authorities; it has happened in the State Planning Commission where people have been sent to some of the regional centres; and it has happened in the Department of Employment and Training where people have been moved to regional centres; and with regard to the Departments of Community Services and Education, and the Water Authority, more senior officers are being put in the regional centres to make higher level decisions locally.

I would like to turn now to some of the other comments made by members in the debate. The member for Stirling mentioned a number of matters relating to the Albany situation, in particular the Albany local government situation.

I do not want to get into an argument here; in the same way, as the Minister for Local Government, I have tried to avoid getting involved in an argument between Albany Town and Shire. I will try to avoid the temptation to get involved in an argument between the member for Albany town and the member for Albany shire, if I can put it that way.

Mr Stephens: I said I did not want to see the Great Southern Development Authority having power or involvement over the amalgamation of local government authorities.

Mr CARR: Indeed, I will make the comment now which I was going to make to the member for Vasse in a few moments. The Government is very conscious of the role of local government, and we do not want to intrude into local government. It is not the role of the authority to be involved. We have tried quite deliberately to frame the legislation to ensure the proper roles of the local authorities in planning matters, for example, and all their other activities are not intruded upon by the authority. For the authority to work well it needs to work closely with all local governments in its area. We have deliberately put a considerable number of local government people on the authority—something like seven out of 14 on the advisory committee; and on the actual board, if I recall correctly, at least three have considerable local government experience if they are not presently involved in local government. That is different from the South West Development Authority; and without being critical of that authority it is true to say we have made changes which we believe to be improvements on that particular model.

The member for Katanning-Roe made some important points with regard to the relationship between the regional centre and the hinterland. I stress it is the Government's wish that the development authority be seen as the authority for the development of the whole region and not just Albany. At the same time, when one considers that most people like to live in larger communities where there are good services, one has to expect that developments may take place at disproportionate rates in Albany vis-a-vis Tambellup, for example. That is very largely influenced by economic decisions people make as to where they are going to live.

Mr House: In the last twelve months Tambellup has lost its railway service, its post office, and its banking services. That is in one very small town, and two of those services are a direct result of Government decisions.

Mr CARR: By the same token, all of them are service agencies which are required by their employers to provide services where there are people. It is the old story about school teachers; if the number of students in a school declines, the number of teachers is affected. So far as service agencies are concerned, it is difficult not to respond to demographic changes which

take place, and those changes are caused by economic factors rather than by any Government decision making.

The member mentioned that the Tambellup-Cranbrook area is not represented on the advisory authority, and I acknowledge that. Part of the difficulty is that there are 13 local governments in the area of the authority, and although we have 14 members on the advisory committee, we found it difficult to appoint someone from each local government. It would be my intention, and I hope successive Ministers will follow, that none of the positions on the authority or the advisory committee should be seen to be the preserve of the council or agency they come from at the time. As appointments expire, different appointments could be made. For example, next time the Tambellup-Cranbrook area could be represented and some other area, which is presently represented, would lose one. Of course the member will realise that at the same time there will be an argument with that area saying it has lost its representation. It is difficult to please everybody.

I will comment briefly on the Katanning bricks issue because while the Minister for Labour, Productivity and Employment has been primarily responsible for the issue, I have seen correspondence on it and I am a little familiar with it. The Government has a preference policy to assist country industries, but it is very difficult when we are employing that to assist a builder who is in some dispute with the brickmaker and does not want to use the bricks, and increases the price of his tender if he has to use them. Apart from the fact that the decision has been made on this occasion, I understand improvements are in hand with regard to the supply and quality of large quantities of bricks by the brickmaker. I understand he does not have quality problems with small quantities, but there is some difficulty when larger quantities are required. The Government will ensure he is considered in future situations which may arise. The preference policy is being reviewed on a whole-of-Government basis at present, and hopefully that will provide some assistance.

Mr House: Is that preference policy generally made available to the public to view?

Mr CARR: I would not think there is any reason it should not be available; it should be public information. There is no reason why the member should not have a copy unless it was decided that because it is under review he should get a copy when the matter is in place.

Mr Court: Is that a preference for a region?

Mr CARR: It is not phrased in those terms; it is the area within a radius of the project, as I understand it.

The member for Katanning-Roe made the point that the development authority should not restrict itself to high profile ideas but should deal also with existing local problems. That is an appropriate comment, and I agree.

The SPEAKER: Order! There are far too many background conversations taking place on the Government side.

Mr CARR: With regard to the comments of the member for Vasse, I answered some of his points when referring to the comments of the member for Stirling. I give him an assurance that we see the authority as being required to work very closely with local governments. I defend the fact that it is the Government which appoints members of the authority for basically the same reasons I used when I spoke about the comments of the member for Albany. Ultimately the Government is held responsible for the performance of the authority, and because of that accountability the Government should be able to make the appointments.

I thank members for their support of the legislation.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Dr Lawrence) in the Chair; Mr Carr (Minister for Regional Development) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 9 put and passed.

Clause 10: Disclosure of pecuniary interests—

Mr WATT: This clause provides that a board member who has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a matter being considered or about to be considered by the board or a board committee shall as soon as possible after the relevant facts have come to his knowledge, disclose the nature of his interest at a meeting of the board or the board committee, as the case requires. I ask the Minister for Regional Development, given the quite definite nature of the word "shall" rather than the word "may", if he would comment about the penalty that would occur should a member of the board or the committee fail to declare his pecuniary interest.

The Minister, wearing his other hat as Minister for Local Government, would be aware of the penalties provided under the Local Government Act for members of those authorities who

fail to disclose their pecuniary interest. It raises the whole question of pecuniary interest, and the Minister will be more aware than am I of the difficulty some people have had in interpreting similar provisions. Some people take a narrow view and others take a wider view. Generally speaking, in local government the onus is placed on the elected member, which sometimes makes it difficult for him.

Again in local government we have the example that there might be some proposal to undertake work on a street in which a councillor resides. Some people would argue that he has a pecuniary interest in that matter and others would argue, more logically, that he represents an interest in common with other people and should not be subject to pecuniary interest provisions in terms of these sorts of matters.

It is an important point. There is no penalty provided in the Bill, and I wonder how we can impose a clause in a Bill of this type and say, "You cannot do something, but if you do it does not matter anyway." That is what the Bill means unless a penalty is outlined.

Mr CARR: The member has raised an interesting point because I noticed that this legislation has, in regard to pecuniary interest, been drafted in different terms from the local government legislation. It is important to recognise that it is a rather different situation between a member of a local authority who is elected by the people for a fixed term by nature of the election and a person acting on a board subject to the appointment by the Minister.

If the member reads the legislation he will see that the Minister has the scope to authorise a member to participate and to speak on a certain matter. The legislation is phrased in this way on the basis that the member on the board is there, by virtue of appointment by the Minister, in a substantial advisory role to the Minister. The Minister has the power to exempt the person from the provisions of the legislation and, therefore, he would be able to be present and to speak.

I suppose that if a situation occurred where the Minister was of the view that that person had not acted properly, the Minister would have the power to remove him from the committee at the time of the normal appointment or, indeed immediately, under the provisions of the legislation.

I accept the member's concern that there is no penalty in the legislation; but, because of the powers of the Minister to enable a person to sit

and participate in discussion, there would be less of a temptation for the person not to declare his interest in the same way as there might sometimes be in the local government situation.

Mr WATT: I accept the generality of the Minister's reply, and I note with interest that he also noticed that that particular situation applies.

I ask him to consider the matter further before the Bill is transmitted to the other House, to ascertain whether there should be some specific provision on this particular point.

People serving on advisory committees are volunteers and are appointed by the Government in that way. I concur with the comments made by the member for Stirling this morning about the excellent job they do. Some people who serve on the authority have the capacity to be paid quite substantial amounts of money in the future, and perhaps it is more important than the local government comparison.

Mr CARR: I am certainly happy to have the matter examined again to ascertain whether it is appropriate to make any changes of the nature that have been referred to. I will have discussions with the Director of the South West Development Authority to see whether it has had problems in this area because the legislation under which it operates is the same as the legislation before the House.

If the Government does not make any amendments when the Bill is presented to the Legislative Council, I would obviously be prepared to keep a close eye on it when it is put in practice and if matters come to light which indicate there is a problem, we would seek to address it at that time.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 11: Functions of Authority—

Mr WATT: As I mentioned in the debate yesterday, this clause requires the authority to plan, coordinate, and promote the economic and social development of the great southern region; and for that purpose it is required to cooperate with departments of the Public Service of the State and State agencies and instrumentalities. In that regard I shall refer to the examples I gave yesterday of the projects which were proposed in the region and on which work had been held up for considerable periods of time. One example I gave was of a project which had been held up for 11 months and another was held up for well over 12 months. The member for Stirling referred to the latter this morning; it is the Goode Beach

hotel proposal. Obviously, there is a requirement to speed up the development of these proposals.

I mentioned also the tannery proposal, and that by the time the environmental report was produced the costs had risen so much that the company could no longer continue with the project. Since that time I have been given some information in relation to an article which appeared in the *Albany Advertiser* and which is more specific. I will quote from a letter which amply demonstrates what I have been trying to say. It states—

The Tannery Company has been seeking to establish the project for two-and-a-half years and not the year as stated in the newspaper article. The Company's efforts have been frustrated by apathy within certain State Government departments and the unwarranted misleading campaign of a few who object to the tannery concept.

A combination of the points I have mentioned, aggravated by the decline in the value of the dollar, have resulted in the capital costs of the Company rising from 300,000—

I would say that that would be an estimate of 300 000. It continues—

—to 1.25 million and not the figure shown in the article.

That is a dramatic increase by any standards. The company was ready to go ahead. When it first proposed the industry, the price was \$300 000. The price has gone up more than fourfold. If one is trying to put money together, especially borrowed money, that is enough to stifle any progress. That amply demonstrates the point I made in my earlier speech about the urgent need to streamline these Government requirements, and particularly those relating to environmental matters.

Mr COURT: I support what the member for Albany was saying. I was hoping that the Minister in his summary of the second reading speeches might comment particularly on that hotel project, because it was raised by both the member for Stirling and the member for Albany. It would appear there is a group of people prepared to build the type of resort facility which, I thought was required. The member for Albany has now brought forward some more details about the case of this particular tannery, where for a couple of years people have been wanting to make that investment. Could the Minister explain why the delays have

been there, and if the problems are insurmountable, are the investors aware of that?

In the Albany region there is a big demand for products from the tannery. One business in the main street of Albany, Country Leather, has a very successful export operation. It has been able to break into the market on the west coast of the United States. It is to its credit that it has specialised in a certain type of market, a key market in a country such as the United States. However, one finds it is bringing in a lot of its products, a lot of its skins, from New Zealand and other places outside the region. That does not seem right. It has also been exporting to the United Kingdom.

Here are two cases where the Government should give some indication of what has been done or can be done to get these projects off the ground.

Mr CARR: I comment only briefly because I do not want to go into a long debate on the individual projects when what is really being talked about is an authority to be established to deal on a more general basis.

Regarding the Down Road industrial land project, my understanding was that the reason that was held up was that the tannery was considered to be a very environmentally sensitive project, located in an area that was—

Mr Watt: That is acknowledged, but 2½ years is too long. That was said in that letter.

Mr CARR: I am not sure whether it was 2½ years or not. It may be; I am not in a position to dispute that. I know the project has been proposed for a very long time. It is the old question of trying to balance the protection of the environment in a sensitive situation against the need to get economic developments under way as quickly as possible. I cannot give a more detailed analysis of why the problem has occurred with that particular project.

Regarding the hotel situation as referred to by the member for Nedlands, I was interested to hear his comments last night because he obviously has a different understanding of this particular project from the one I have. I am not saying he is wrong and I am right—it may well be the other way around—but my understanding was that the development authority was concerned that a number of different projects had been talked about for a major resort hotel development in the Albany area: At Goode Beach, at the golf club, and the one at Frederickstown. The authority was concerned that these had been talked about but were not

at the stage of being firm proposals. The authority was keen to have work done to assist any of those entrepreneurs or to assist to identify which was the most likely project to be developed.

It has been indicated to me, both last night and this morning, that the Goode Beach proposal appears to be more firm than was my understanding from the discussions I have had with the authority. That perhaps puts a different complexion on the decision to have that consultancy. I had approved the expenditure of that money on the consultancy on the basis that I understood there was some uncertainty about all of the ideas, and it was a matter of trying to identify the best opportunities.

Mr COURT: I think the Albany region can support three of those big resort projects. I used to be a regular visitor to Albany as a child because my father used to do audits down there on a regular basis, and from the type of tourist development which has been there in the past, I think the style of accommodation in the area is now ready for the resort type that is now being talked about. It is not just putting one in, it is all three, because they will all help each other, and people do want to go there. The Government should try to get the whole lot off the ground.

Mr CARR: That might be true and members would all like to see three, but if the choice is one or none, I would rather it be one. Obviously the Government wants to provide the best opportunity for at least one to get off the ground. If all three can get off the ground, that would be excellent. The Government does recognise that the public is now demanding a very different sort of tourist accommodation from what it has historically demanded, as has been seen in Margaret River, the Atrium in Mandurah, and the Lord Forrest Hotel in Bunbury, which are examples of what the public does want.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 12: Powers of Authority—

Mr WATT: I ask the Minister two questions. The first relates to 2(c), which talks about dividing land. Am I to assume that means it will go into the entrepreneurial business of subdividing land and placing it on the market, or what does it mean to divide land? Is that something different from subdividing land as it is traditionally known?

The second question relates to subclause 3(a), which says—

In performing its functions and exercising its powers, the Authority may act alone or in conjunction with—

(a) any person, firm or body corporate.

In respect of that particular part, would that body corporate include local authorities; local government?

I have some reservations and sensitivity, given the experiences of Government involvement in things like the WADC and the earlier aborted attempts of Exim to get involved in joint exercises with private enterprise and that sort of thing. I indicate my sensitivity about development authorities becoming involved. This clause would indicate to me that the development authorities would have that power. While I perhaps do not feel quite as strongly as some of my colleagues about that, I place on the record that I would like to see that happen only in the most exceptional circumstances, where it could be demonstrated there is a special need for an authority to have an interest, in conjunction with private enterprise, local government, or any individual person.

Mr CARR: This matter was canvassed quite considerably during the debate on the South West Development Authority Bill at an earlier time. I emphasise to the member for Albany that I have a fairly similar approach to that which he has just outlined. It is not intended that the authority become a development agency or be involved in large scale and continuing commercial development projects. It is seen more as an agency to facilitate development, and these powers are put in the Bill on the understanding that there may be occasions when the authority will need to play a role to enable a development to get under way.

The authority may need to acquire different lots of land from different owners, consolidate them into one lot and provide services, and in due course submit the land for purchase by private developers. The foreshore development in Albany may be one that fits into this category. It is not intended that the authority engage itself in commercial developments on a long-term basis.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 13: Direction by Minister—

Mr STEPHENS: I have no objection to the authority being responsible to the Minister. That is an accepted principle.

However, as I read the clause it seems possible that the Minister might direct the authority to do something contrary to its wishes. Subsequently the Minister's direction could be proved to have been wrong yet the authority would have to wear the odium of his decision.

In such a case, will the fact that the decision was the Minister's be made public so that the public know that members of the authority were not to blame for the decision? Members of the authority may not have given this matter any thought, but I think it is important that the authority should not wear the odium if it has had to do something at the direction of the Minister and that action proves to be a poor decision.

Mr CARR: The member for Stirling raises an interesting point, one I have not thought of before. The Bill contains confidentiality provisions which would prevent officers of the authority's being able to disclose that there had been disagreement on certain actions the authority had undertaken. I suppose this situation could occur in any Government department.

If I ever directed the authority to do something against its better judgment, I would be prepared to make that publicly known. Of course I cannot speak for future Ministers. I really do not have an answer, but it is something I will think about.

Mr STEPHENS: I hope the Minister will give thought to this, otherwise we could create a situation where there was a breach of confidentiality. We must remember that five members of the authority are private citizens whose reputations could be at risk unless we have some mechanism to let the public know that the authority had been directed by the Minister. Of course, I am thinking only of important matters. If we have breaches of confidentiality we would then be in here debating what might have happened. Perhaps the Minister could arrange in another place for an amendment to the Bill to allow the public record to show that the Minister had directed the authority.

Mr WATT: I support the suggestion by the member for Stirling. We sometimes become involved with arguments about the difference between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law. Legislation passed in recent years provides that where there is doubt about interpretations, *Hansard* debates can be read in order to interpret what was intended. I encourage the Minister either to provide here or in another

place a definitive statement of intent so that the *Hansard* record shows that the Minister accepted the argument.

Mr CARR: My understanding of the interpretation legislation to which the member for Albany referred is that it relates to interpretations of second reading speeches. Nevertheless I am happy to have recorded that it is my intention that when there is a conflict between the authority and me, I will make that known publicly.

Mr Williams: Would you consider having an amendment moved in the other place?

Mr CARR: I will look at it.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 14 to 23 put and passed.

Clause 24: Establishment and functions of Great Southern Development Authority Advisory Committee—

Mr WATT: I mentioned during the second reading debate yesterday that it probably is not a bad thing to change the name from a regional development committee to a regional development advisory committee, because this defines more accurately the role of the committee. Subclause (3) is a very broad provision, and some of the committees are starting to get carried away a whisker and wanting to do more than they are capable of doing. It is important that these committees remember that they are there to advise the authority and that they do not have quite the broad powers this clause might suggest they have.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 25 to 28 put and passed.

Clause 29: Disclosure of pecuniary interests of Advisory Committee members—

Mr WATT: When the Minister considers the disclosure of pecuniary interests of members of the advisory committee I urge him also to consider the points I stressed on the previous clause concerned with pecuniary interests.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 30 to 35 put and passed.

Schedule 1 put and passed.

Schedule 2—

Mr WATT: Clause 4 of Schedule 2 relates to the minutes of the board and subclause 4(6) states that the board shall cause accurate minutes to be kept of the meeting. Are the minutes of these boards to be made public? Is the public to be entitled, in the spirit of open government to have access to those minutes if they are interested in a particular proposal? For

example, a possible developer might require knowledge of what is going on in relation to a fairly large investment. I again make a comparison with local government where minutes are public in all respects and there are similarities in this matter. Local government considers matters in relation to zonings and development approvals as they relate to subdivisions and a whole range of matters that impact on the extent to which development may be effected. There are similarities between the activities of the development authority and local government, and I see no reason why the authority's minutes could not be public in the same way.

Mr CARR: I have not given this matter consideration. I am not sure that the authority is so similar to local government that the procedures of local government should automatically be transferred to it. Indeed, it could be seen as the authority being more similar to a Government department or agency. In that situation, we do not have minutes of meetings of, for example, very senior departmental officers being released publicly with regard to decisions made by a particular Government department or agency.

On the other hand, I do not believe it is appropriate that minutes be regarded as some great secret that nobody should know about. I know the minutes of the authority are forwarded to me for my advice. Perhaps we could look at the whole question of how widely the minutes should be distributed. Maybe it would be more appropriate to have a form of report from the authority which does not contain all the details of decisions, which might be considered confidential but which rely on the outcome of decisions made. In all honesty, I do not have a firm view on the proposal and I would be happy to give my consideration to it.

Mr STEPHENS: I would be rather apprehensive if the board's minutes were public. Potential investors, writing in with ideas to the board, might be frightened away if the minutes were to be made public. Potential investors would, I think, require assurances that confidential details would not be revealed in published minutes.

Mr Watt: As can be demonstrated if one looks at the Votes and Proceedings of this place, minutes should record only matters which are quite brief and specific in relation to decisions made.

Mr STEPHENS: There is still a possibility of confidential information being revealed which could possibly frighten off potential investors.

Mr Carr: We will certainly preserve confidentiality.

Schedule put and passed.

Schedule 3 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 Carr (Minister for Regional Development), and transmitted to the Council.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.15 pm

DOOR TO DOOR TRADING BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 2 April.

MR WATT (Albany) [2.15 pm]: The purpose of this Bill is to introduce uniform legislation between all States to control those people who go from door to door selling various goods and services. As a general principle uniform legislation has many desirable features. It is particularly beneficial to those people and companies or organisations which operate across State boundaries. People who operate door-to-door from State to State can easily infringe the regulations or laws in one State unwittingly. Therefore, uniform legislation is desirable in this area.

There are probably a number of areas where problems sometimes exist and we could have uniform legislation; for example, the traffic laws and the use of firearms. These are areas where I have encountered difficulties through my electorate office with people not being aware of the law or committing offences without realising what they were doing.

I understand the proposal to create this uniform legislation arose from a ministerial conference of consumer affairs Ministers which meets every three months. The introduction of this Bill will repeal the Door to Door (Sales) Act which has been in operation for some time in this State. Similar complementary legislation has been introduced and is operational in

Tasmania, and has been introduced in South Australia but I do not think it is operating there yet.

One of the difficulties I see with uniform legislation is that it tends to put us in a strait-jacket. If it is to be uniform it must be strictly adhered to by every State. I understand that Tasmania has already introduced some amendments to its legislation which begins to defeat the object of having uniform legislation. I will make some suggestion later on about some of the minor deficiencies in this Bill and suggest to the Minister that he might like to take these matters to the next ministerial conference so that agreement can be reached and the legislation can be truly uniform. It must be truly uniform if it is to meet its objectives.

The principal changes relate to what is known as the cooling-off period. Under the Door to Door (Sales) Act the cooling-off period was seven days. That is being extended to 10 days, and the Opposition has no objection to that. Other changes relate to the activities which may occur during that cooling-off period. No money or any other consideration—which usually means the acceptance of a trade-in—may change hands or be entered into, or any work commenced. This has a special value, and the Minister made the point very well in his second reading speech by referring to the activities of some of the shady dealers who have been operating in his electorate; I have some of them in mine. Some people play the game straight and are honest and decent, but there are a few cowboys who bring all other itinerant sales people into disrepute. It is unfortunate that most of them seem to prey on elderly and retired people and those with a limited amount of money. Often these people seem to be involved in the home improvement area, and perhaps the very nature of the homes that some people live in, being of construction inferior to brick, lends itself to this type of approach. Elderly and retired people often get sucked into handing over large sums of money without any evidence that the services will be provided. I have never been able to work out why they hand over the money; it is something that has always amazed me. It seems that either the salesmen are slick operators or the customers are gullible. Perhaps it is a combination of both.

I thank the Minister for giving me the opportunity to have a briefing on this Bill by a legal officer from the Department of Consumer Affairs. In discussing the Bill he pointed out to me that this uniform legislation had the ap-

proval of the Direct Selling Association based in Melbourne. I contacted the director of that association, Mr John Fulton, not because I did not accept the word of the legal officer, but because I wanted to discuss with him ramifications of this Bill. I might add that membership of that association requires a strict adherence to a code of ethics, and I think that is desirable. It is probably a pity that more people involved in this type of activity do not belong to that association. Perhaps if that were so, we might not need this legislation. Nevertheless, they do not, and we have the legislation.

Mr Fulton told me that, while it was true that his association had given its approval in principle to the legislation, it was not entirely satisfied with the Bill now before us. I will cover some of those areas in the Bill in more detail when we get to the Committee stage.

In the main, the association's complaints related, firstly, to the provision that requires that a dealer may not accept a trade-in for an item. The difficulty might be that a householder may open his door to someone selling a carpet cleaner. The householder may decide to take it for the 10-day cooling-off period for which time he pays nothing. He may use that cleaner to clean his carpet and then return it after the 10-day period. The vendor then has a second-hand item which is difficult for him to sell. It loses value.

Another area of concern relates to itinerant sales agents who operate in country area. At times, they cover quite large areas, and, in many instances, the population of the areas they canvass may be small. They could move through a series of towns quickly but would have to retrace their steps every 10 days to collect cash, sign contracts, or do what they have agreed to do. One of the consequences of that would be that the vendor would be required to wait for a longer period for his remuneration from the sale. It may also mean that he would perform less work because of the time spent retracing his steps.

Another group has complained that the Bill removes the right of the cash purchaser to complete a deal quickly. I understand that there are similar provisions in the existing South Australian legislation which will presently be replaced as this legislation will replace our Act. I am told that that legislation also removes rights of cash purchasers. I suppose we cannot have it both ways. Nevertheless, pressure is placed on the salesman whose customer may wish to buy his product immediately and not go through the 10-day cooling-off period. It has

been argued that the cash purchaser should have the right to complete the transaction immediately if he decides that he wants the goods.

Concerns have also been expressed to me about the provision relating to the days on which salesmen can knock on doors to sell their products. To keep it in perspective, the present Act contains the same provision. I will raise that matter in the Committee stage, too. It has been argued that other organisations, such as religious groups, can knock on people's doors whenever they like. The point has been made to me that salespeople do not make as great a nuisance of themselves as do religious organisations. Even politicians and aspiring politicians are allowed to canvass for votes door to door at election time. I suspect that most of us have found out at one time or another that people do not appreciate that.

Mr Stephens: We don't appreciate the dogs they have in their yards, either.

Mr WATT: That is true.

The Opposition supports the legislation. We will enlarge on the concerns we have in the Committee stage and hope that some of those concerns may have merit. I hope the Minister will take those concerns to the next ministerial conference so that uniform legislation can be introduced throughout Australia.

MR STEPHENS (Stirling) [2.30 pm]: The National Party supports this Bill. It is not a controversial issue. The member for Albany has indicated the Opposition's support for the Bill and I would like to do likewise.

This Bill was to have been handled by the member for Avon but he was not available. I did not request the Minister to defer it because the Bill is not controversial and it will be supported. It is one which is necessary for the community, mainly because it is a regrettable fact of life that everyone in the community is not honest and we must protect those who are disadvantaged from the smart alecs who are prepared to take advantage of them. This Bill goes a long way to giving that very necessary protection.

We also support the concept of introducing a degree of uniformity throughout Australia. As I read the Bill, it overcomes problems of licensing some of these door-to-door salesmen. The member for Albany said he is under the impression that in Tasmania, where the Bill has been brought in, amendments have been made. This may mean that weaknesses have been found. It may be that weaknesses become ap-

parent when this Bill comes into operation in this State. This is an ongoing exercise and experience may show that amendments should be made and a degree of uniformity maintained throughout the Commonwealth.

With those few comments I indicate the National Party's support for the legislation.

MR TAYLOR (Kalgoorlie—Minister for Consumer Affairs) [2.32 pm]: I thank the member for Albany and the member for Stirling for their support of this legislation. It is nice to see one thing on which the member for Albany and the member for Stirling agree.

Mr Stephens: We agree on many things.

Mr Watt: Two Bills in a row.

Mr TAYLOR: Is it?

Mr Stephens: Like politics, all parties agree 95 per cent of the time.

Mr TAYLOR: It is only the odd occasion!

This legislation, as the member for Albany said, is uniform legislation. He indicated one of the problems with uniformity is that even though Ministers at ministerial conferences can agree on the need for uniform legislation, and go even further and actually come up with uniform legislation to be implemented on a State-by-State basis, there are a couple of problems. As the member for Albany indicated, in Tasmania, where this legislation has been introduced on this uniform basis and put into operation, some additional amendments have become necessary, which immediately does away with the uniformity provision.

The other difficulty which all States face is that in drafting legislation parliamentary counsel in different States have different views about what is appropriate and what is not in their particular State and how that piece of legislation relates to other laws which differ from laws in other States. That can lead to some difficulties. Parliamentary counsel can be given a Bill agreed upon by a Minister, but might not necessarily agree on what is appropriate. In this case we are fortunate in that we have been able to introduce a Bill which accords with the uniformity agreement between the Ministers.

The member for Stirling said that this sort of legislation is necessary only because of the shady dealers involved in some of these areas. I suppose just about every piece of legislation put through this Parliament would be unnecessary if it were not for those people who did not do the right thing. Unfortunately, in

our community some people do not do the right thing and the result is that we have to introduce legislation of this type.

In my second reading speech I mentioned the problems I have had as the member for Kalgoorlie with door-to-door trading, and they are difficult to overcome. They are difficult to overcome because even if I stand in this Parliament and speak about a firm, as I did with Continental Homes, run by a man called Robert Ian Cheetham—an appropriate name—that gives that firm publicity and merely serves to make that firm better known to the public.

I remember being interviewed by one of the Willesees after those comments in the House. He said he had come across this firm on three separate occasions, and he had come to the conclusion that it welcomed bad publicity because representatives could go from door to door and people who often read nothing but the headlines would welcome them and say, "Yes, I have heard about your company, come in."

Mr Watt: Politicians reckon that any publicity is good publicity.

Mr TAYLOR: That is not something everyone agrees with. It is a difficult issue, even from the point of view of being Minister for Consumer Affairs. That is one point about being able to get the whole story across to everyone rather than have people read the headlines and pick out the name of the firm. Three or four or six months later they have forgotten in what context they read the name of the firm.

As the member for Albany said, if more people involved in door-to-door trading were from reputable firms, the job of people involved would be much easier. It would encourage that organisation to attract people of quality.

The member for Albany mentioned the provision in the legislation providing that people were not able to go from door to door on public holidays. I understand that public holidays include all Sundays throughout the year, and that cuts them down effectively to six days a week.

The member mentioned some religious groups which went from door to door on Sundays. I can recall in Kalgoorlie some years ago being visited on Christmas Day, and that religious group considered it an appropriate day for visiting.

Mr MacKinnon: Did you buy it?

Mr TAYLOR: They did not get very far. This is a difficult problem to tackle. I think this legislation, in restricting those door-to-door dealers to six days a week, is appropriate. There must be at least one day when we can expect a day of rest. I acknowledge the difficulty of tackling any area associated with religious groups. I do not know how to deal with this problem but it would seem to be an infringement of religious freedom and therefore difficult to overcome.

I thank both members of the Opposition for their support of this legislation.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mrs Henderson) in the Chair; Mr Taylor (Minister for Consumer Affairs) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 put and passed.

Clause 3: Interpretation—

Mr WATT: I do not have the benefit of a university education, and do not make any pretences to that.

Mr Taylor: It is probably more to your benefit. Benjamin Franklin said, "Never let your schooling interfere with your education."

Mr WATT: I am concerned about the definition of "goods", which reads—

"goods" includes anything growing on, or attached to, land that is severable from the land.

That seems an odd definition. I do not know whether it means there are many other things one can assume are classed as goods that come within that definition, because it says it "includes" those. It suggests to me that perhaps there are many others. Notwithstanding that, if I am right, things like household appliances come within the definition of "goods", but I do not know how one relates things "growing on, or attached to, land that is severable from the land." It seems to be a piece of drafting gobbledegook, and while admitting I am not super-bright, I have trouble grasping what that means.

Mr TAYLOR: After consultation, I understand it relates to goods under the Sale of Goods Act. It is an unusual definition and one that even I, with a university education, have a little difficulty understanding. I gather it covers a whole range of goods that can be sold from door to door. It is all-encompassing. If we had a definition which tried to cover good by good by

good all those things that could be sold door to door, we could never cover them all. That would lead to too many loopholes.

Mr Watt: They could have made it a little more succinct and said "goods" includes everything.

Mr LEWIS: I refer to the definition of "trade premises". Before making my point I will explain the potential for people to circumvent this legislation. I refer to what I would call carpetbaggers—people who visit from the Eastern States or overseas. They can hire a suite in one of our city hotels and, for the ensuing week, or fortnight, or other period, advertise in the newspapers to sell specialist goods of various types.

I understand that this legislation does not catch these people, most of whom are fair-trading and honourable. However, as the Minister said, unfortunately our laws are made for the lowest common denominator and to that extent we are catering for the unscrupulous people. In the light of that, it would seem that the definition of "trade premises" is somewhat loose. Does it mean that if someone sets up shop in, say, the Sheraton Hotel, for 10 days he is deemed to be trading from his trade premises? Indeed, is he caught by this legislation?

Mr TAYLOR: I am not sure, to be honest. I would like to think that if that person were selling from door to door he would be caught. However, if for example he went to Albany and set up in a motel room and sold out of that room but did not go from door to door, I understand he would not be caught by this legislation, which is to cover people trading from door to door.

Mr LEWIS: That is how I read it, too. It seems there is a great gap in this legislation through which people could drive a truck. They can set up in a motel, advertise in the newspaper, have people come and view their goods, take deposits, close their bags, and be gone. There is absolutely no provision in this legislation that will capture those people.

Mr Taylor: It is not meant to capture those people. Anyone can drive his truck to Kalgoorlie, park in the main street, and sell his apples under a hawker's licence. This legislation is not aimed at solving that problem; it is aimed at people who sell from door to door. I know the problem you are talking about, but it is not relevant to door-to-door selling.

Mr LEWIS: I am not trying to be flippant, and I accept what the Minister is saying. I understand that the Bill is headed the Door to

Door Trading Bill. But I refer to the area of carpet trading. Every couple of months a person comes here from the east, sets up shop in a hotel in this town, puts a couple of advertisements in the newspaper, opens the door of his hotel room, and establishes his room as a trading premises or a shopfront. People come in and view samples of the goods. He pays no rates or taxes, nor any of the necessary bills that accrue to people normally engaged in running a retail premises at an established shopping centre or the like. He writes his book, closes it, packs up, and goes off.

Mr Taylor: I agree with that, but it is not related to this legislation.

Mr LEWIS: But would not what I am suggesting be prudent? Maybe I should have framed an amendment.

Mr Taylor: No, an amendment along those lines would have no relevance whatsoever to this legislation. This legislation concerns salesmen or saleswomen who sell from door to door.

Mr LEWIS: Going from hotel to hotel is probably worse than going from door to door. However, the Minister is not prepared to accept my suggestion.

Mr Taylor: I have had complaints from retailers in my own electorate about hawkers who come to the town selling fish, or fresh fruit, or whatever, and I am sure other towns have that problem because hawkers sell things very cheaply and then move on. It is a problem, but is not relevant to this legislation.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 4 to 6 put and passed.

Clause 7: Requirements in relation to prescribed contracts—

Mr WATT: My first question about this clause relates to paragraph (g) of clause 7(1), which requires the consumer to be given two notices at or immediately before the making of the contract. I am interested to know, firstly, why it would not be possible to combine those two forms into one. I do not know whether that would be feasible, but a plethora of forms is required to be carried around by a salesman. He might have to put a trailer behind his car to cart the heap of forms around to fulfil the requirements of this legislation.

Can the Minister also advise whether the forms are to be printed by the Government and made available at the department; and if so, at what cost.

My second query relates to subclause (3). I am intrigued to know what needs to be done to give conclusive evidence that the relevant document was given to the consumer and also under what circumstances conclusive evidence would be needed.

Mr TAYLOR: Clause 7(1)(g)(ii) refers to the part of the notice that will be sent back if the consumer is unhappy.

Mr Watt: Wouldn't it be better to use perforated paper?

Mr TAYLOR: Perforated paper is more expensive. They could easily staple the notices together. They are separate because if a consumer is unhappy with a product he or she needs to send the second notice back. The second notice is retained by the consumer so that he or she knows the details.

The forms would be printed by the person doing the selling and would be paid for by that person. The Government would not be doing the printing. Regulations would cover the nature of the form to be printed.

In relation to the member for Albany's query on subclause (3), I am told that the acknowledgment is not accepted as conclusive evidence because the salesperson could find some way of covering up the fact that the document had been made available to the consumer. If a case goes to court there would need to be further proof than the fact that the consumer acknowledged the detail of the document.

Mr Watt: What would be accepted as conclusive evidence?

Mr TAYLOR: I am not a lawyer and I suppose the courts would decide.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 8: Consideration not to be accepted from consumer nor services supplied before expiration of cooling-off period—

Mr WATT: I most enthusiastically support this clause so far as it relates to the non-payment of any consideration before the commencement of any services. This covers the problem we have all identified involving some of these cowboy home repair outfits—I mean no disrespect to cowboys.

However, the clause raises a query that appears not to be answered in the Bill about whether post-dated cheques and post-dated credit cards can be accepted. These days many people operate on credit cards, but I am not sure how the system operates with respect to post-dated credit card payments. I am thinking

of itinerant salespersons who travel in remote areas, because the ability to stop payment on a cheque is a very simple procedure. I would not have thought that a post-dated cheque could be seen as an immediate payment because the money would not be available until the date specified on the cheque. I would like that point clarified.

Mr TAYLOR: A post-dated cheque probably would not be regarded as being payment if it was dated after the cooling-off period, because no payment would have been made in reality. A credit card payment would be different. If a person used a Bankcard, he or she has obviously paid for the service because the transaction would be credited to his or her account.

Mr Watt: I am talking about post-dated credit card payments, although I do not know whether that can be done.

Mr TAYLOR: Let us assume it was possible to have a post-dated credit card transaction. I would think it was possible to stop the transaction or to make sure that payment was not made until after the cooling-off period. I do not have a legal background so I really cannot comment. In any case these matters would be addressed by the courts.

Mr Burkett: I believe all credit cards have "on demand" drawing.

Mr Watt: I thank the former banker.

Mr TAYLOR: So do I.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 9: Dealers not to call during certain hours—

Mr WATT: I raised this matter during the second reading debate and will do so again now just briefly. I thank the Minister for his earlier explanation but I make the point that I am not altogether happy to have public holidays included. I could make a better case for the inclusion of Sundays rather than public holidays.

These days we have many working couples and public holidays are some of the few occasions when they can be at home together. If the object of these restrictions is to prevent people from being annoyed by door-to-door salesmen, we really need to think of some other legislation to cover all those other people who come and annoy us not only on public holidays but also on Sundays.

I see no reason why an itinerant salesman should not be able to come to my door and ask me whether I want to buy a vacuum cleaner. I can simply say, "No thanks," and off he goes. I

have been known to shut the door very curtly in the face of those people who call occasionally on other matters, mainly religion, when I have not been interested in talking with them.

I suggest the Minister might canvass this matter with his ministerial colleagues on the basis that the majority of people who make these purchases prefer to consult with each other before a decision is made. In many respects there is a great benefit in a salesman being able to call on a public holiday.

Mr TAYLOR: I think the member for Albany should look at this matter more through the eyes of people who, unlike him, are more vulnerable to the pressures of door-to-door salespersons. Most of us here are more than capable of dealing with someone who calls at our door, but many people in the community are vulnerable to door-to-door salespersons who call. They find it very difficult to shut the door in their face or to say, "No thanks," and politely shut the door. Their vulnerability is one of the very reasons for this legislation.

Public holidays, and Sundays, are days for family activities rather than for having to cope with door-to-door salespersons.

I understand the problem is as I mentioned before with people who go door-to-door "selling" religion. I think the difficulty in dealing with that is tied up with the question of religious freedom in our community. I see no reason why we should extend this legislation to allow door to door selling on public holidays or Sundays. As far as working couples are concerned, the legislation allows people to call until 8.00 pm, or on appointment, and I think that is more than sufficient to allow working couples to make themselves available to use the services of door to door sales people.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 10 put and passed.

Clause 11: Dealers to indicate their purpose for making calls—

Mr WATT: This clause requires the production of an identity card of some form. Are there any special requirements in this respect? Would the salesman's simply taking a business card out of his pocket and saying "That is who I am", suffice? If that were the case someone could go along with a pocketful of different business cards and say that was his identity, although that would no doubt be an offence. Are any regulations to be promulgated for a standard form of identification photograph or some other requirement which will be slightly

more foolproof than the production of a card or letterhead which may not identify the person at all?

Mr TAYLOR: This clause is exactly the same as that in the existing legislation and requires a salesman to produce a card the same as most business cards which are used in the community. He is not necessarily required to have a photograph on it. I understand the Department of Consumer Affairs has had no particular problems with the previous legislation and it is not seen as necessary to make the clause stricter than it appears in the Bill.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 12: Offence to harass or coerce—

Mr WATT: This, too, may be covered already in existing legislation, and if so I apologise for not spending quite enough time looking up the Act. I would like to know how harassment or coercion by a dealer or other person is determined. The difficulty I see is like the situation of an alleged speeding motorist who is apprehended on the road and the policeman says he was speeding, and the motorist, who may be the member for Stirling, says that he was not. There may be a conflict as to who is right and wrong and each person may be a fine upstanding person and absolutely convinced he is right. It is a one-to-one situation. How is this determined? A penalty of \$1 000 is provided, which makes it a reasonably serious offence, and I wonder whether it should be determined in a magistrate's court or a local claims court.

Mr TAYLOR: This clause is based on one in the Trade Practices Act. I suppose the way the question of whether a person has been harassed or coerced would be tackled would be that someone would complain to the Department of Consumer Affairs about what may have taken place at the door. If the department thought the matter was of sufficient concern, or the person wanted to press the case, the proper place for it to be decided and whether any penalty should be imposed would be in a Court of Petty Sessions. The member for Stirling and others have mentioned that a one-to-one situation is difficult, but it is one which faces magistrates and others in the legal profession on a daily basis. They have to determine who is telling the truth. It is part of their job, although an unenviable part.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 13: Right of consumer to rescind contracts to which this Act applies—

Mr WATT: This clause says a consumer may rescind the contract within six months whether or not it is a prescribed contract if it contains a provision contrary to section 5 in certain circumstances. I am curious to know why the six-month period should apply. There is already a 10-day cooling-off period. If the contract is entered into and the problem is not discovered within 10 days, I would have thought that at some point the well-known Latin maxim "caveat emptor" ought to apply. If it does not apply, why impose a six-month limit? If the error is not discovered for some time after that the supplier of the goods or the perpetrator of the faulty document or contract should still be responsible. The 10-day cooling-off period is there for that purpose, among others. This legislation, while obviously designed as a consumer protection device should not be unfairly discriminatory against the vendor, the agent, or the sales people.

Mr TAYLOR: The six-month period relates to the period allowed under the Justices Act to bring a prosecution, although I understand that can be extended if necessary. We are dealing with section 5 of the Act in part III which relates to contractual terms which are prohibited and the regulation of door to door trading practices. We are talking about serious offences against this legislation if a door to door salesman does not adhere to the Act in the performance of his duty. It is an important section and one which may be slightly biased in favour of the consumer, but the activities of people in this area are such that it is necessary to introduce legislation which is if anything undoubtedly biased in favour of the consumer.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 14 put and passed.

Clause 15: Restitution following rescission—

Mr WATT: Subclause 1(a) states that the supplier shall return or refund to the consumer any consideration or the value of any consideration given by the consumer under the contract or a related contract or instrument. It has special relevance in respect of the trading-in of a piece of machinery or a domestic appliance. Quite often appliances or machinery are traded-in at an inflated value in order that a sale can be made. A dealer is prepared to sacrifice some of the profit to secure a deal.

It may well be the case that a trade-in is a dud, but is repaired and resold. The dealer would pay for the repairs and it might well leave him out of pocket. I do not think the Minister understands what I mean.

The clause states that the supplier shall return or refund to the consumer any consideration or the value of any consideration. In other words, if a dealer allows \$100 for a piece of machinery which is worth \$20 and he spends another \$100 to have it repaired and sells it for \$100 only to secure a deal, he loses his profit.

Subclause (1)(b) states that where the consumer makes goods available for collection by the supplier they must be collected within 28 days. Again, it relates to the trade-in. If someone agrees to the trade-in of a piece of machinery, the dealer must pick it up within 28 days. If he does not, the owner does not have to part with it.

I am unhappy about this clause because it will affect the remote parts of the State. I am sure that most people would not be aware that if the dealer does not collect the goods within 28 days he loses the value of the trade-in. I would prefer a period of three months.

Mr TAYLOR: The first point raised by the member relates to the actual consideration. For argument's sake, if a person trades in his vacuum cleaner for a new one and the supplier decides that the vacuum is worth only \$30, but gives a \$100 trade-in and the person decides he does not want to continue with the deal, it is the dealer's bad luck. The dealer can either return the old vacuum cleaner or, in this case, pay \$100 for it.

The second point the member raised does not refer to trade-ins but to new purchases. The question is one of whether 28 days is sufficient time to collect the goods. I agree that it is uniform legislation and that in the case of Victoria 28 days would be plenty of time in which to collect goods. I do not know of any place in Western Australia where goods could not be collected within 28 days. We have a very good road transport system which allows goods to be carted from one end of Western Australia to the other. It would allow Bellway Pty Ltd to pick up goods at Wiluna and transport them to Perth.

Uniformity of this legislation is something we have to judge when considering whether it is a sufficient period for a State the size of Western Australia and because of the remoteness of some communities in the State.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 16 to 23 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.

MR TAYLOR (Kalgoorlie—Minister for Consumer Affairs) [3.17 pm]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

I thank the Clerk of the House for providing me with a textbook titled *Legislative Drafting* written by Garth Thornton, who is a Parliamentary Counsel in this State. The textbook is used worldwide by Parliamentary Counsel, and the following deals with the matter raised by the member for Albany—

EVIDENCE BY CERTIFICATE¹¹

When provision is made for matter to be provable by the certificate of a particular public officer, the primary function of the provision is to declare the admissibility as evidence of the certificate and in this way to ensure that the certificate cannot be excluded by a court. In addition, the provision may go further and determine the probative value as evidence.

A certificate may be declared to be "evidence", "*prima facie* evidence", "sufficient evidence", or "conclusive evidence" of its contents.¹²

If the certificate is declared to be "evidence", it is evidence which, if accepted by the court, establishes a fact in the absence of acceptable evidence to the contrary.

It refers also to sufficient evidence and *prima facie* evidence. In relation to the matter of conclusive evidence which we have been debating it states—

"Conclusive evidence", in the absence of fraud or patent inaccuracy, precludes evidence to the contrary and provision that a certificate is conclusive evidence is therefore proper only where either the accuracy of what is certified is quite beyond doubt or the matter is such that a definitive ruling from a public authority is appropriate.

In most cases, it is best to provide that a certificate is "evidence". From a practical point of view, the certificate is likely in any

proceedings to be given the probative value appropriate to the comprehensiveness and relevance of its content. It does not of course follow that because a certificate is made evidence, the court will be satisfied by it. It must be complete and must be most carefully drafted. A certificate has no magic of its own. Admissibility is no more than the gateway to proof. Particular care must be taken with preserving the chain of evidence of possession where expert evidence concerning some item is to be given by certificate. In some contexts it will be desirable to prescribe the form of the certificate.

That gives a little background to the matter of evidence before the courts. I hope that the writings in this textbook will cover the views of Parliamentary Counsel in relation to this uniform legislation.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time, and transmitted to the Council.

BUSH FIRES AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 2 April.

MR CASH (Mt Lawley) [3.20 pm]: The Opposition supports the proposal before the House but wants to draw a few matters to its attention. First, the Bill is basically a technical one in so far as it transfers the powers currently vested in the fire service. Secondly, it seeks to increase the penalties for offences committed under the Bush Fires Act, and those penalties have not been reviewed for the past 10 years.

This amendment to the Bush Fires Act is very much a bipartisan approach, because I am sure all members of this House understand the worth and wealth of the Crown land in this State, which comprises State forests and all those other natural resources which we desire and which should be protected in any way possible.

In general terms, the situation is that if a forest officer arrives on the scene of a fire on Crown land he is required, under the provisions of the principal Act, to take supreme control over all fire operations. It has been shown by experience that that is often not necessarily the best situation, and so one of the

amendments the Government proposes is to section 39 (2) (b) of the principal Act which states as follows—

- (b) Where a forest officer is present at the bush fire the powers and authorities are not exercisable by the fire control officer so appointed, except with the approval of and subject to the directions of the forest officer.

It has become very clear in recent years that there has been a significant increase in the number of forest officers throughout this State. Not all are necessarily qualified to issue instructions and offer advice on the fighting of bushfires. In fact there is no question that incidents have occurred within this State where a bushfire has begun, a call has been answered by various voluntary brigade people, and then a forest officer appears on the scene. Under the terms of the principal Act he is required to take absolute and supreme control of the situation.

On occasions it has become patently obvious that that forest officer does not necessarily have the skill, the experience, or the expertise to deal with the situation. This has caused some conflict between the various parties fighting the fire. It is in recognition of some of the conflicting situations which have occurred that the Department of Conservation and Land Management has approached the Government and requested changes to the Bush Fires Act. The Government has obviously recognised the need for these changes, and this amendment is to put into effect the changes desired.

I make a few points in respect of the various Acts of Parliament which have been passed over the last 80 or so years in respect of bushfires. If we look at the Act which was assented to in 1902, it was also called the Bush Fires Act, and it was an Act to diminish the dangers resulting from bushfires. At that stage it comprised a mere 16 sections and consisted of only four pages. That Act remained in force with some amendments until 1937, when it was decided there was a need to rewrite the Bush Fires Act as it operated in this State. The 1937 Act was rewritten with significant amendments and significant additional powers vested in various parties.

That 1937 Act remained in force until 1954, when it was suggested that as the 1937 Act which stood in the office of the Minister looked like a filing system in itself, in that all the amendments had been shoved into the principal Act by the Minister, there was a need

to consolidate them into one Act. The Bush Fires Act was rewritten and put through Parliament in 1954.

That Act was assented to on 23 December 1954, and that is the principal Act we are referring to today. In the ensuing period it has been subject to a number of amendments—not greatly significant, but certainly it has been brought up to date over the years to ensure it reflects the current standards. Today again the principal Act is being amended to take into account the current management of Crown areas throughout the State.

The Opposition supports the amendments before the House. We regard anything to do with the fighting of fires to be a bipartisan matter, and having spoken already to the member for Katanning-Roe, who will speak on behalf of the National Party on this amendment, I know that his party supports the amendments. The whole Opposition does, and we offer that confirmation to the Government.

I take this opportunity to mention the volunteer fire service in Western Australia. It is a service which has now operated for more than 80 years. In fact only recently we saw the annual championships held at Gilbert Fraser Reserve in Fremantle. They were the 84th annual championships of the volunteer fire service in Western Australia.

A number of members of the volunteer service have rendered effective and efficient service to the State and to the people over the years. They have put to me their fears that there are to be some changes—

Point of Order

Mr GORDON HILL: I do not wish to inhibit the member for Mt Lawley from making a point on that issue, but I would draw the attention of the House to the fact that the championships to which he refers relate to the Western Australia Fire Brigades Board, not the Bush Fires Board and brigades which this Bill addresses.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Thomas): I am sure the member for Mt Lawley will return to the subject.

Debate Resumed

Mr CASH: I understand the Minister. I shall not respond because there is no point of order at all. In fact I am canvassing fire services generally in Western Australia.

It is interesting that I should commence my words this afternoon in reasonable and moderate tones, offering the support of the Opposition, and the National Party in this State is also prepared to support the Government's amendment; but as soon as I mention the volunteer fire services in Western Australia the Minister jumps to his feet and for reasons unbeknown to myself wants to stop me from making a comment in that regard.

Mr Gordon Hill: That is not true at all.

Mr CASH: If the Minister just calms himself, I will make a few concise points to which he will have the opportunity of responding in due course. I am not trying to put the Minister down. It is not a case of his suggesting he is the Minister for Police as well as for Emergency Services, and he knows that on a number of occasions I have had the need and the opportunity to make comment as to his actions relating to his Police portfolio. We are now talking about the Bush Fires Amendment Bill, and his responsibility in that area. I ask the Minister to remain silent so that he can listen to the comments I make and respond in due course. I confirm that the Opposition has already offered its support, so there is really no need for the Minister to get upset about the situation.

As I was saying, I want to draw to the attention of the House the situation of Volunteer Fire Service members. I am sure many country members also have been approached by members of the Volunteer Fire Service in their electorates, who have expressed concern at the perceived changes about to occur to that service in this State. There have been various reports in the media that it is the Government's intention to place the Volunteer Fire Service under the control of the State Emergency Services. Obviously, with the volunteer service having been in operation for more than 80 years, many of the members are very concerned and alarmed at that proposal.

I understand the Minister has made some concessions to the various people who have raised this matter with him, and generally his answer goes along the lines that he will be producing a submission and putting it to Cabinet, and that he anticipates there will not be any major or significant changes. That is the very problem that now presents itself to members of the Volunteer Fire Service. They want to know from the Minister, and I offer him the opportunity in due course to clarify the situation, just what the words "no major or significant changes" mean. They want to know just

where they stand in respect of the services they have rendered to the State over many years. I am not challenging the Minister; I am inviting him to clarify the position so the volunteers in this State are able to sleep better at night knowing the direction in which they are headed.

I take this opportunity on behalf of the Opposition to express the Opposition's appreciation of the magnificent support offered by volunteers throughout this State over so many years, and the excellent job they have performed. There is no question that if those volunteers were not prepared to band together and work as a team in our rural areas there would have been many occasions when part of the agricultural areas of this State would have been wiped out as result of fires. There are obviously many occasions, if I can refer to some very significant fires in Crown land in Western Australia over the years that would have impacted much more severely on the economic situation in Western Australia had the volunteers not been prepared to offer their assistance. So I ask the Minister, not by way of criticism but by way of invitation, to clarify the position so the volunteers in this State can know the direction in which they are to proceed in the future.

The proposed amendment talks about forest officers. The Bush Fires Act in its definitions refers to a forest officer by referring to the Forests Act, so I want it on record that in the Forests Act the definition of a "forest officer" is "Any person appointed to be an officer of the Department." It is a very wide definition and as a result of changes in the Department of Conservation and Land Management in recent years we now have a large number of people who fit into that category. Quite obviously they are not all skilled in bushfire work, and the amendment before the House seeks to change the specific requirements under the Bush Fires Act to require that they do not automatically assume supreme control the minute they arrive at the scene of a fire. There are also some other, consequential changes which are set out in the other sections.

As to the second part of the amendments, they basically deal with changes to the fines that can be imposed by a court in the case of a person who commits an offence against the Bush Fires Act. As I said before, they have not been changed for some years and it is a case of those fines being updated to reflect 1987 standards. If we look at the general penalties imposed we see that penalties which in the principal Act were in the order of an \$800 fine

or six months' imprisonment have been upgraded to a penalty of, say \$2 000 or six months' imprisonment; and penalties formerly of \$200 for an offence are now to be upgraded to \$500. The Opposition recognises that in view of the fact that penalties have not changed over 10 years there is a need for these changes, and it accepts the various penalties put forward.

I confirm that the Opposition supports the Bill before the House and in the Committee stage I will address the Minister on a number of items. I remind the Minister of some comments he made in his second reading speech to this Bill. In the fourth paragraph he referred to the need to change the forest officers' jurisdiction, and went on to suggest that the question of professional competence may arise should a mistake be made resulting in loss, damage, injury, or death. I wonder whether the Minister would be good enough to expand on that, because I have been through the principal Act and cannot see where that obligation presently lies with forest officers.

With those comments, the Opposition supports the Bill.

MR HOUSE (Katanning-Roe) [3.37 pm]: I indicate that the National Party supports this Bill and the changes to the principal Act contained within it.

It is very right and proper that the Bill should be updated at this stage to allow people who have had more experience at fighting fires to take control when that becomes necessary. However, it does raise a couple of questions in relation to people's abilities and competence to manage any sort of fire. It is clearly understood in the country areas in which I live that there is not nearly as much controlled burning done now as used to be done when land was being cleared at rapid rates in the 1950s and 1960s. Largely, the people who gained experience in fighting fires during that period have now departed from the agricultural scene.

It is also fair to say that in most areas very few farmers of my generation have seen fires that I would consider to be raging out of control for any great period. There are often small outbreaks which are dealt with very competently, but in my 20-odd years of farming I have attended only one fire that was very definitely raging out of control. This indicates there is a gap in the knowledge of the younger generation of people in agricultural areas in relation to fire-fighting. That in itself presents a problem. All the schooling in the world will not

make up for the real thing. What concerns me most of all is the question of who will make the decision about whether that forest officer will hand over the power.

It may be that he will decide that he has more competence and more experience than the local people at the scene, and one can imagine an argument developing over who should control the fire. I would like the Minister to explain how he sees these difficulties being overcome, bearing in mind that they arise very quickly and under conditions of great pressure.

The whole business of fire management and control has to be one involving cooperation. This is what we have developed within my own electorate and in my own shire where I have lived and worked for many years. My electorate has two of the largest national parks in Western Australia along its borders, the Fitzgerald River National Park and the Stirling Range National Park. Both parks have had a fire of some dimension in almost every summer over the last 20 years. It has always been a moot point among those fighting the fires as to who should make the decisions, such as whether we should use bulldozers or graders, whether we should burn back certain areas, or whether we should take any other action. These decisions often have to be made under pressure, sometimes at night, at times when we do not have the necessary manpower or the physical resources required. I trust the Minister will be able to answer my queries when he replies to the debate.

Controlled burning in national parks particularly has always been a controversial subject and we will get a good argument over their merit from most people in agricultural areas. It is also worth putting on the record that many so-called controlled burns are those that get out of control and become a real fire problem.

What really concerns me about the Bill is a point that was touched on by the member for Mt Lawley and concerns a comment the Minister made in his second reading speech, which was—

The question of professional competence may arise should a mistake be made resulting in loss, damage, injury, or death.

It would seem to me that the Minister is seeking to transpose that risk from a paid forest officer to a voluntary fire fighting officer. I hope that is not the case, because if it is I will change my mind about supporting the Bill and will vote against it. We definitely should not allow those people who do a voluntary job of

fighting fires to be put in a situation where they may make a decision, albeit under a Government Act, and then find themselves being sued by an individual or a group of people, when that decision was made in the best of faith under the circumstances of the time.

Mr Cash: We are looking for confirmation that that will not be the case.

Mr HOUSE: Absolutely. I will vote against the Bill otherwise.

Finally, I support the increased fines. The present fines are out of date and are in need of updating. I do have a query about the fine relating to permit abuse. The minimum fine is to be \$400 with a maximum of \$1 000. At the Committee stage I will give an example to show that the \$400 minimum is probably too great as a minimum fine.

With those reservations, I support the Bill.

MR GORDON HILL (Helena—Minister for Police and Emergency Services) [3.45 pm]: I thank the Liberal Party and the National Party for their support of the Bill. However, the fears both members referred to are really quite unfounded. The description of the Act as given by the member for Mt Lawley was quite accurate; quite clearly he has read the second reading speech and in repeating it has given an accurate description of the Act and the intentions of the amendments contained in this Bill.

I assure him that he was wrong in saying there was a conflict occurring on the arrival of the fire officer. There is no conflict.

Mr Cash: There can be conflict.

Mr GORDON HILL: The member said there is a conflict.

Mr Cash: I meant there can be a conflict.

Mr GORDON HILL: I accept that the member made a mistake. We all do from time to time and it is good that he should admit it. The point is that the potential is there for conflict, but there is no conflict, there has been no conflict. With the passage of this Bill the possibility of any conflict would disappear. The reality is that the potential for conflict exists, but it will now be minimised. With this Bill there will be no conflict.

The mutual aid approach referred to in my second reading speech, an approach which exists between the various voluntary organisations, the Department of Conservation and Land Management, and other bodies involved in fire fighting, does exist. There is a great deal of cooperation between those organisations.

This Bill merely recognises and acknowledges that the power which was previously vested in a fire officer ought to be mutually shared.

It is appropriate that I comment on the contribution of the volunteer fire fighters of this State. When I took the point of order earlier from the member for Mt Lawley I was wanting to point out to him, in case he was not aware, that there is a volunteer fire brigade in WA under the control of the WA Fire Brigades Board and that there is a voluntary bushfire brigade under the control of the Bush Fires Board. The voluntary fire brigade comprises about 2 000 volunteers and the volunteer bushfire brigade comprises almost 30 000 volunteers. The Government recognises the contribution made by these volunteers.

As Minister for Police and Emergency Services, I have a great appreciation of the work undertaken by these volunteers, and as the Minister perhaps I appreciate more than most the work they do. With 87 volunteer fire brigade units in WA and with a large number of volunteer bushfire brigades, country communities especially have come to depend very much on their efforts. So, too, do many country areas depend on the hard work of State Emergency Service volunteers, who number in excess of 2 000. I have travelled the length and breadth of this State since I have been the responsible Minister and I have spoken to many volunteer fire brigade, bushfire brigade, and State Emergency Service personnel. They are a dedicated bunch of people who enjoy the confidence of this Government. This is so much so that in the voluntary fire brigade area we have made significant contributions through the Fire Brigades Board to the upgrading of equipment, to the establishment of new fire stations, and the provision of new appliances throughout the State.

We have recently issued to every volunteer fire brigade unit throughout the State new clothing—overalls. We are continuing to upgrade that equipment and plan to provide boots and gloves to the volunteers. They are aware of the contribution of the State Government. Volunteers around the State are also aware that we are looking at a programme of upgrading appliances, and in many areas providing second appliances to volunteer fire fighting units.

The member for Mt Lawley commented that bushfire fighters have operated for about 80 years in this State. That is true of the volunteer fire brigade units; they have been operating for

something like that time, and I expect he meant that. Bushfire fighters have operated for a considerably longer time.

It is acknowledged there is some concern about the possibility of a change in roles or certain rescue roles being allocated to other than the volunteer fire brigade units. I believe that concern will disappear as Cabinet gives consideration to this matter in the near future. To give the background, the State counter-disaster advisory committee which advises the Government on emergency services co-ordination has addressed this issue over a long period of time. It established a rescue concept working party which looked in detail at the rescue roles, and the working party and the advisory committee reported a couple of weeks ago. The matter will be considered by Cabinet in the near future.

The Government recognises the contribution made by all volunteers including those in the Fire Brigade, the Bush Fires Board, and the State Emergency Service, and will take that into account in its deliberations.

The comments made by the member for Katanning-Roe in relation to bushfire fighters are obviously of interest to me. I acknowledge the concern that bushfire fighters and the Bush Fires Board have in regard to the resources which are made available. However, we have to acknowledge that local government authorities throughout the State are responsible for the funding of bushfire brigades at the local level. The State Government makes a considerable contribution in terms of education. Perhaps it could be argued that we do not make sufficient contribution, and that may be a matter which should be addressed. Nevertheless, the State Government makes a significant contribution to the ongoing training and provision of some resources to the bushfire brigades. The Government is responsible for an education campaign to make people in the local community aware of the dangers of fires and in particular of the need for preventive measures. I accept that perhaps the State Government does not do enough in that area, but that is a matter that needs to be addressed in the budgetary context.

I understand local government authorities in the country have expressed some concern about the allocation of the Bush Fires Board by the Premier recently to me as Minister for Police and Emergency Services because they thought it possible that the police or the Fire Brigades Board would take over that responsibility. I place on record here, as I have done with local authorities which have raised this

issue with me, that neither the State Government nor I have any intention of doing that. However, it is acknowledged that a need exists for better emergency services coordination, and while the Bush Fires Board came under the responsibility of the Minister for Lands there was not the same degree of coordination as is possible under my portfolio.

A comment was made in relation to a remark in my second reading speech about professional competence. I assure members opposite that reference to professional competence is in the sense that those most closely involved in fire fighting should continue to take control and exercise their authority in fire situations. There is no suggestion that the risk will be transposed to volunteer. I assure the House that as Minister responsible for about 30 000 volunteers in the State Emergency Service, the volunteer fire brigades and the Bush Fires Board, I would be the last person to suggest that that risk should be transposed.

Mr Cash: Can you run through the legal significance of including in your speech the words that there is a need to remedy this situation and that the question of professional competence may arise should a mistake be made resulting in loss, damage, injury or death? Are we shifting responsibility to any other party now that we are reducing the authority of the forest officer?

Mr GORDON HILL: I understand the point the member is making, but he is taking words from one paragraph of my speech and adding them to another. He is not quoting me correctly. I apologise if I did not make myself clear. There is no intention to transpose the responsibility of risk to volunteers. The question of professional competence which may arise should a mistake be made resulting in loss, damage, injury, or death is to be read in the sense that those most closely involved in fire fighting—the hands-on people in control of the situation until a forest officer arrives—would continue to share in the control if the need arose. There is no suggestion of transferring to volunteers responsibility in terms of the potential for risks being taken in any action which may result in loss of property, injury, damage, or death.

Mr House: I want an assurance that, should a volunteer officer take over the control of a fire and then make a mistake, he will not be liable under the Act.

Mr GORDON HILL: For the third time, I give that assurance.

Question put and passed.
Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mrs Henderson) in the Chair; Mr Gordon Hill (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 4 put and passed.

Clause 5: Section 45 amended—

Mr HOUSE: Under this amendment, what will happen if the fire control officer appointed by a shire council under the Act arrives at a fire in a national park being controlled by a forestry officer? Who takes charge of the fire if they do not agree? How will the dispute be settled?

Mr CASH: I also pursue the point raised by the member for Katanning-Roe. I am still unsure whether we are transferring some legal responsibility to someone else having, by this amendment, relieved the forest officer of his supreme authority over the control of a fire. If we reduce his authority to control a fire and make it a joint responsibility, have we not also transferred the legal responsibility to someone else? If the answer is no, I want the Minister to say no.

Mr GORDON HILL: Perhaps the member did not hear my answer to the member for Katanning-Roe's interjection at the end of the second reading debate. I said no. Under this amendment the responsibility for the supreme control of a fire becomes optional. Fire officers in control of a fire at the time are best equipped to handle the situation.

This situation has been examined closely. If it is thought at the time that responsibility should not be transferred, it will not be transferred. If it is thought that it should be, it will be. The legal liability will not change.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management has considered this matter very carefully. It put the proposal to the Bush Fires Board, to local government, insurance companies, and other authorities with interests in this matter. It has been considered at length and accepted as an appropriate change without changing the question of legal responsibility.

I believe that, if the amendment were passed, there would be better management of bush fire control. The Department of Conservation and Land Management, fire brigades, the Bush Fires Board and the police have a good relationship. As a result, we do not have the devastating fires in this State that occur in other

States. The control of the fire will depend on the officers at the scene. However, there will be no transfer of legal liability.

Mr HOUSE: I am prepared to accept the Minister's assurances on the legalities. He certainly believes that is right and I am not questioning that. However, I am doubtful about the management of a fire. Having been involved in these situations, I know there can be disputes between fire officers.

I remind the Minister that fire officers have enormous power. They have the power to back-burn a property to stop a fire spreading and they have the power to order men into the face of a fire. My concern is that if there were a disagreement between the chief fire control officer and the forestry officer, whom would their subordinates obey? Who would be in supreme command?

Mr CASH: I reiterate the member for Katanning-Roe's concern. Under section 45 of the present Act, when a forestry officer arrives at the scene of a fire he exercises supreme control without question. This amendment relieves the forestry officer of that supreme power and vests in him a discretionary authority. If the amendment were enacted and a situation of neglect arose because of an order to back-burn a farmer's property to prevent the fire spreading, who would be responsible for the damages caused by the neglect?

It seems to me that under the principal Act everything went back to the forest officer; he was responsible for all actions because he had supreme authority. Once that power is transferred to others, does that mean there will be negotiations in an operational sense? During a fire when many people are involved, at times they are unsure as to who is giving lawful orders. Who will be responsible for any orders given, whether lawful or unlawful? That is the nub of my question.

We have reduced the authority of the forest officer by putting him in charge of a fire at his discretion. We have transferred that authority to other people and in the case of a negligent act which person will be sued for damages?

Mr GORDON HILL: There is no suggestion of transferring the authority; it is a discretionary transferral which is not automatic. The member is saying that it will automatically happen but that is not necessarily the case. The forest officer has the power to decide whether it is to be allocated elsewhere. He may be a less experienced person than the fire control officer in charge of the scene at the time.

There would be no transfer of legal liability. I do not know how many times I have to say that. I have said it on four or five occasions previously. It is perfectly clear in my view and I cannot understand why the member for Mt Lawley is having difficulty with it. The power resides within the forest officer to determine whether or not he will take control.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 6 and 7 put and passed.

Clause 8: Various penalties amended—

Mr HOUSE: I cannot equate what the Minister said in his second reading speech about penalties for permit related offences being increased from \$400 to \$1 000 with the Bill because the figure \$400 does not appear.

Perhaps a mistake has been made but, if not, I still think that the minimum penalty for permit-related offences is a little too high.

Mr GORDON HILL: I indicate for the member's edification that in South Australia for a similar offence a fine of \$5 000 or six months' imprisonment is imposed; and in Victoria the penalty is \$5 000 or 12 months' imprisonment.

We decided we should be more realistic, and arrived at the figure of \$1 000. We do not suggest that the optional term of imprisonment should be increased but since there has been no increase in these penalties since 1977 it was decided as a result of a general review that they should be increased in accordance with inflation.

Mr House: It is a maximum penalty?

Mr GORDON HILL: To my understanding, that is correct.

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 Mr Gordon Hill (Minister for Police and Emergency Services), and transmitted to the Council.

BOXING CONTROL BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 18 November 1986.

MR GRAYDEN (South Perth) [4.17 pm]: The Opposition supports this Bill. The ground it traverses is not new. Between 1973 and 1976 a movement existed in Western Australia to bring about control of combatant sports and, in particular, boxing. Concurrently there were thrusts in New South Wales and Victoria along the same lines.

In 1975 Victoria introduced legislation similar to that before the House and in 1980 similar legislation was introduced in New South Wales. Federally in 1973 an interdepartmental committee was set up to examine combatant sports and it reported in 1974. One of its recommendations was that an Australian combatant sports commission should be formed. The initial charter was to refer to professional boxing. It also recommended that complementary legislation should be introduced in all States of Australia in order to ensure uniform control.

In 1984 the member for Nollamara, the present Minister for Housing, set up a working party, the major purpose of which was to prepare an information base on which to establish control of professional boxing. Hon. Graham Edwards, the present Minister for Sport and Recreation, was appointed chairman of the working party. He faced a particularly difficult task inasmuch as many interests in Western Australia were associated with professional boxing and most of them were at loggerheads with each other. The two principal protagonists were the Professional Boxing Association of Australia and the Australian Boxing Federation. It was no mean feat that the working party was able to obtain consensus from the various groups. I attribute that mainly to the chairman of the working party—his personality and the competent way in which he carried out the investigation enabled that consensus to be reached.

I congratulate the chairman on the work that he did and also congratulate the Minister on initiating the working party and sponsoring the Bill.

The Bill is an excellent one. It will play a major part in the future in eliminating many undesirable practices that have taken place in professional boxing in Western Australia, and in minimising the physical injuries which are inevitably associated with boxing.

It will also have some side effects, in that I took the opportunity of asking the chairman of the committee to forward copies of the report to Tonga. Professional boxing has been well established in Tonga for many years. Tongan boxers travel throughout the world and have gained a very formidable reputation. However, injuries were commonplace. The report was forwarded to Tonga and I personally gave it to various people from Tonga associated with professional boxing who were visiting Western Australia. They were extremely pleased to receive it. It would appear they are going to act upon it.

The report will certainly benefit boxing, not only in Western Australia but also in Tonga and possibly elsewhere in the world. Other States may also use it as an example for their own legislation. I therefore congratulate the Minister on having introduced the Bill and have pleasure in strongly supporting it.

MR WILSON (Nollamara—Minister for Housing) [4.22 pm]: I thank the member for South Perth for his support for the Bill on behalf of the Opposition. I particularly thank him for his well-deserved commendation to the chairman of the working party which led to the development of the legislation and the introduction of the Bill. I emphasise again my own remarks in the second reading speech in congratulating Hon. Graham Edwards for his excellent efforts in that regard.

The member for South Perth, who was himself a member of that working party, made a very valuable contribution to the report. The working party was assisted by his experience and knowledge in that area. On a lighter note, there have been times in the past where the member concerned has been keen to challenge members on this side of the House to have personal experience of his knowledge and expertise in that area. It is with a great deal of relief on the part of members on this side that such an event has never eventuated.

I reiterate my comments in the second reading speech, which have been supported by the member, that this measure will contribute greatly to the safe regulation of this sport in Western Australia and will be responsible for the better development of the sport, the bringing of more young people into it, and ensuring that particularly the young people in the sport have proper protection of their rights and interests as they pursue it. I thank the Opposition for its support and commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr Thomas) in the Chair; Mr Wilson (Minister for Housing) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1: Short title—

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Members, you will note that the short title of the Bill is the "Boxing Control Act 1986". Of course, that should be "1987", and I direct the Clerk to make the necessary alteration.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 2 to 65 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, with an 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 Wilson (Minister for Housing), and transmitted to the Council.

STOCK (BRANDS AND MOVEMENT) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 7 April.

MR CRANE (Moore) [4.29 pm]: The Opposition does not oppose this Bill; it commends it. It is a simple Bill. As explained by the Minister in his second reading speech, it concerns the registration of brands and earmarks for stock, which includes cattle, sheep, horses, pigs and goats. The main purpose of this amendment is to do with the branding of pigs.

I just mention stock branding, because there has been a problem in the country for many years with stealing. This is a problem which will remain with us, because with sheep one cannot change the earmark. Only cleanskins can have an earmark put on them.

Sheep are often sold many times during their lifetime. It is very difficult to identify them back to their original owner, although it can be done by checking their earmark. Still, it is not a simple matter. This has caused a great deal of trouble in the rural industry for a number of years.

Quite a number of years ago I suffered the loss through stealing of about 400 wethers which were valued at around \$40 a head, so it was quite a considerable loss. We do not count our sheep every day when we have a few thousand of them, so we cannot tell when some have gone missing. I mention this in passing because the branding of stock and the policing of the Act are difficult matters still causing a great deal of concern.

The penalties for stock stealing should be increased considerably. Perhaps we should follow the ways of the old west and "string 'em up to the old cottonwood tree". Stock thieves cost producers a lot of money. The loss of those 400 sheep at \$40 a head that I suffered many years ago was considerable just because someone decided he wanted to steal some sheep. I am not asking the Minister to do anything in particular, but I just wanted to make those points.

The reason for the amendment, as was explained in the second reading speech, is that approximately 70 per cent of pigs do not go through the normal marketing procedures in a saleyard but go directly from the properties to the saleyard.

These days pigs are taken directly to the abattoirs, and there is a good reason for that. If a person takes a ute-load of pigs to the saleyard he finds it costs him one pig in commission. If he takes them directly to the abattoirs it costs him nothing. In these stringent financial times producers are more careful with their money. Because of this procedure there is now no need to identify those pigs.

That brings me to my final point: For those members who have seen a pig tattoo, this legislation will be very welcome. The brand or tattoo is a little pad about five inches long and three inches wide studded with what can only be described as gramophone needles. The pad is put in a dye and then slapped very firmly on the pig's shoulder. It is a very cruel operation and I am sure not even the Spanish Inquisition saw such an implement used. Any legislation which can do away with the need to use such a brand is good legislation. We commend the Government for introducing the Bill. I am sure all stock owners and certainly all animal lovers welcome this legislation because it will take away a lot of unnecessary suffering from animals which throughout their lives suffer more than they should.

We certainly support the legislation.

MR GRILL (Esperance-Dundas—Minister for Agriculture) [4.34 pm]: I thank the member for Moore for indicating the Opposition's support of the Bill.

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 Grill (Minister for Agriculture), and transmitted to the Council.

TOTALISATOR REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 7 April.

MR LIGHTFOOT (Murchison-Eyre) [4.37 pm]: This is a Bill which my side of the House endorses subject to a brief preamble, which is that there appears to be in the Bill no penalties attached to the juvenile who should commit that horrible sin of betting on course, as we have all done at some stage; and there appear to be no penalties attaching to the bookmaker who accepts that wager.

For some years now I have attended the East Gascoyne Racing Club, for the last few years as its official timekeeper. I have seen many kids, some as young as seven or eight, who have sidled up to the lone bookmaker there and offered their \$1 or \$2 and received a great deal of joy. It seems to me to be a fairly innocuous thing although some might say it is the start of a betting career. I doubt it.

However, if this Government in its wisdom believes it should tighten up these anomalies in the regulations, we will not oppose the Bill.

MRS BEGGS (Whitford—Minister for Racing and Gaming) [4.39 pm]: The member for Murchison-Eyre said no penalty attached to a juvenile having a bet with a bookmaker. The Bill has nothing to do with a bookmaker. It is to correct an anomaly which allows juveniles to bet on course with the tote.

Mr Lightfoot: Is there any penalty?

Mrs BEGGS: There is under the parent Act for anyone betting without the right to do so. The same penalty will apply.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr Thomas) in the Chair; Mrs Beggs (Minister for Racing and Gaming) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1 put and passed.

Clause 2: Section 3 amended—

Mr LIGHTFOOT: Could the Minister elaborate on what the penalties are under the parent Act applying to anyone betting under the age of 18 at the course?

Mrs Beggs: The totalisator is operated under licence and the person betting under age is banned from the course. If it can be proven that the totalisator was negligent, the licence can be revoked at any time.

Mr LIGHTFOOT: Is there any penalty for an underaged person who lodges a bet?

Mrs Beggs: There will be no penalty for a juvenile found to be betting but they will be guilty of an offence similar to a shoplifting offence and dealt with in the Children's Court.

Mr LIGHTFOOT: Is there a fine?

Mrs Beggs: No there is not, but it is an illegal act for a juvenile to bet on the totalisator.

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 Beggs (Minister for Racing and Gaming), and transmitted to the Council.

BETTING CONTROL AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 7 April.

MR. LIGHTFOOT. (Murchison-Eyre) [4.45 pm]: This is a more comprehensive Bill and some questions arise from it. The Bill creates another bureaucracy. It expands the Betting Control Board so that it will consist of the Permanent Head of the Office of Racing and Gaming; an independent person who is not a member of any of the following representative organisations; and persons nominated by the

Western Australian Turf Club, the Western Australian Trotting Association, the Western Australian Greyhound Association and the WA Bookmakers' Association Inc. It removes from the TAB—an efficient organisation—responsibility for control of the board. I do not know who has responsibility for the TAB. It seems that by separating the two bodies, it creates duplication to some degree. I ask the Minister where the extra funds come from to pay for that and who nominates the independent person who is not a member of the above representative organisations.

I think it is a good move to give the bookmakers an agent. The agent can be appointed subject to the permission of the racecourse or the meeting where that agent can attend in place of the bookmaker. There are several instances given where an agent may be appointed, such as in the case of sickness. I would like to know what constitutes "sickness". Does the agent need to have a doctor's certificate or a statutory declaration from the bookmaker and what are the "special circumstances" for an agent to be appointed to act on behalf of the bookmaker when approved by the club? Does it mean that if the agent attends the meeting in the capacity of bookmaker, the bookmaker could not attend that racecourse at all on that day? If he had a broken leg, could he attend in a wheelchair or is he barred altogether? Could he attend another meeting?

I refer again to the expanded board. How and by whom is the independent person nominated to the Betting Control Board? It does not seem to be of concern to the Western Australian Turf Club that although it enjoys 70 per cent in round figures of betting turnover in Western Australia, and although the Western Australian Trotting Association receives only 25 per cent and the Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association receives something less than 5 per cent, the three bodies are to be equally represented on that board. It seems inequitable that the other two associations should be able to enjoy the same status, privilege and vote weighting as the Western Australian Turf Club.

Why should a bookmaker be allowed on the committee? It is not something I would have thought the Western Australian Turf Club would endorse. Could the Minister elaborate on that point?

I refer to the proposal that the committee's first review should be in January 1991. That is some 3½ years away.

I would have thought that if that committee of review were to function properly, it would have had something to report earlier than 1991. I recommend that the Minister consider that seriously.

Another matter, which relates to that, is that thereafter it is proposed that the committee report every five years. That seems to me to be an inordinately long time; perhaps the Minister should reconsider that and reduce the time to two or, at the most, three years. Possibly this aspect is covered in some way in the parent Act but it seems to me that there is no limitation of time on when that committee report should be tabled in the Parliament. I would like there to be a limitation of some sort, whether it be 30, 60 or 90 days—some appropriate limitation period—and I would like to see the committee of review delivering its report to this House after the limitation of time applying whether it be two, three or five years.

Subject to satisfactory answers to those questions the Opposition supports the Bill.

MRS BEGGS (Whitford—Minister for Racing and Gaming) [4.52 pm]: The member for Murchison-Eyre raised several points during his speech.

The first point he raised referred to the appointment of an independent member by the Minister of the day. The chairman of that board will be either the Permanent Head of the Office of Racing and Gaming or an independent person appointed by the Minister of the day.

I did not quite understand what the member for Murchison-Eyre said in regard to the representation of the WA Turf Club and its contribution to the industry.

Mr Lightfoot: There seems to be a greater contribution by the WA Turf Club if it is measured in attendances and betting turnover. It may be something that does not affect this matter.

Mrs BEGGS: It certainly does not. The whole purpose of these changes is that when the Government's Functional Review Committee examined what was happening, it drew attention to the fact that the Betting Control Act provided for the establishment of licensing of oncourse bookmakers. I think that is quite appropriate when one considers that the bookmakers and the TAB are in direct competition. The whole purpose of separating the TAB from the Betting Control Board is to make it much more equitable than it was before. The representation in that structure of the bookmaker

is to determine that they—that is, the bookmakers—have a voice in their own industry, which is more than appropriate.

Mr Lightfoot: What does the Western Australian Turf Club say about that?

Mrs BEGGS: The Western Australian Turf Club has no objection to this Bill.

The member also raised the matter of reporting to Parliament. The amendments state quite clearly that the report to be made should be presented to both Houses of Parliament as soon as is practicable after the preparation of the report.

Mr Lightfoot interjected.

Mrs BEGGS: I do not think that is completely necessary. All reports presented by departments are presented as soon as practicable after the preparation of the report. There are deadlines on some of the reports, but this is not an earth-shattering thing. The committee will be reporting on whether the board is achieving the purposes envisaged in the Bill.

Mr Lightfoot interjected.

Mrs BEGGS: It states quite clearly that the report has to be tabled and I am sure that if there is some concern at a later stage because the report has not been tabled, it can be brought to the attention of the Parliament at that time. The only reason the Government is suggesting that there should be a review is in case there is some dramatic occurrence in the industry in the future which will obviate the need to change some sections of the Act. I would think that a five-year period will not see the industry changing dramatically, and that is the only purpose for including this clause in the legislation.

Mr Lightfoot: I think there should be some provision to allow an earlier review to table its report here rather than wait for four or more years.

Mrs BEGGS: I am sure that if there were some dramatic event in the industry, this Act could be changed to lessen the impact. I am sure we would be able to do something about it, but this Act will not correct some dramatic happening in the industry. I do not think it is necessary to look at it; it is really just to see whether the industry changes. In five years' time this Act might be irrelevant, if, for example, there were no bookmakers and betting went to an all-tote bet. Then the Government would review the situation.

Mr Lightfoot interjected.

Mrs BEGGS: I will have another look at that but I do not think it is absolutely necessary to bring it forward in any shorter time than that, because I cannot see that anything dramatic will happen in regard to the aspects of this Act. Perhaps the TAB legislation might have some effect on the situation, but I do not believe this Bill will create any major problems, necessitating reducing the time by which the committee must report.

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 Beggs (Minister for Racing and Gaming), and transmitted to the Council.

[Questions taken.]

**ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE:
SPECIAL**

On motion by Mr Pearce (Leader of the House), resolved—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 19 May at 2.15 pm.

House adjourned at 5.30 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

PLANNING

Mosman Park Tearooms: Jetty Lease

511. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Referring to the fact that he has confirmed that the Mosman Park tearooms development jetty lease is not yet completed, when is the lease expected to be completed?
- (2) When the 21-year lease was granted by the Marine and Harbours Department in 1985 for the Mosman Park tearooms, what were the conditions of operation to apply at that time?
- (3) Will the jetty lease now being prepared contain a condition that a minimum tearooms service must be maintained e.g. between the hours of 8.00 am and 8.00 pm with the penalty that if the service is not maintained, the jetty licence will be revoked?
- (4) Will he table the jetty licence document and lease document when it has been completed?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) I refer the member to my answer to part (1) of question 308.
- (2) The 1985 lease to which the member refers relates to the occupancy of the riverbed and not to the operation of a business carried out upon the jetty structure.
- (3) The jetty licence will limit the tea-room operation to a maximum of 12 hours per day between the hours of 8.00 am and 8.00 pm. It would be inappropriate to dictate to any business the minimum hours during which it must trade, and accordingly the licence will not be revoked if the tea-room is not open 12 hours per day on 365 days per year.
- (4) I refer the member to question without notice 336 of 1986 and to part (6) and (7) of question 308 of 1987. My answer remains unchanged.

MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS: TRAINING FACILITY

Private Operation

547. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware of a proposal from Howard Butler and Associates Pty Ltd for the development of a privately-operated driver training facility incorporating an off-road recreational complex in the Perth metropolitan area?
- (2) If yes, does the proposal have merit and what assistance can his department or the Government provide to expedite the construction of such a facility?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I have received a brief resume of this private venture. To date I have received no request for Government assistance in the construction of this venture. I will consider any detailed proposal for assistance when such a proposal is received.

INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY PORTFOLIO

Review

555. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Industry and Technology:

- (1) Who is undertaking the review of the Industry and Technology Portfolio?
- (2) Have any restructuring changes yet been implemented?
- (3) If so, what changes have been made?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) Cabinet's decision to establish a new Technology and Industry Development Authority followed a review of the departments and agencies of the portfolio undertaken by a working party comprising representatives of the Public Service Board, Functional Review Committee, the Deputy Premier's Office, and an outside consultant.
- (2) and (3) Legislation to establish the authority will be introduced shortly.

SUPERANNUATION BOARD

Chairman: Conflict of Interest

565. Mr HASSELL, to the Treasurer:

- (1) With regard to information provided in answer to questions 254 and 189 of 1987, and when considering the provisions of the Public Service Act directed to possible conflict of interest, conflict of responsibility, and the trustee status of funds held by the Superannuation Board—
 - (a) has the Public Service Board considered these issues in relation to the multiple appointments held by Mr Tony Lloyd in addition to his part-time chairmanship of the State Superannuation Board;
 - (b) if so, when;
 - (c) what conclusion was reached;
 - (d) have any conditions or directives been applied to Mr Lloyd in relation to the performance of his duties as part-time Chairman of the State Superannuation Board?
- (2) Is he satisfied that in the operations of the State Superannuation Board the interests of the contributors will be absolutely paramount, as is required in relation to trust funds, and that those interests will not be confused in any way with the commercial interests of the Western Australian Development Corporation, the State Government Insurance Commission, or Western Australian Government Holdings Limited, or any other interests which Mr Lloyd may represent?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) (a) No; it should be noted that many senior public servants serve on boards or committees with management or advisory functions to governmental organisations, other than the organisation in which they are substantively employed;
- (b) and (c) not applicable;
- (d) no.
- (2) Yes.

SUPERANNUATION BOARD

Trust Account: Interest

566. Mr HASSELL, to the Treasurer:

Further to the answer to question 254 of 1987—

- (a) Are the investments of daily balances of the trust fund account made by the State Treasury itself, or delegated under any arrangement;
- (b) if delegated, what is that arrangement;
- (c) is the State Superannuation Board paid all interest earned on the daily balance of its trust account;
- (d) if not, what fee, charge, or percentage of interest is deducted, and who is the beneficiary of that deduction?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (a) The State Superannuation Board trust fund account maintained at Treasury forms part of the public account. Public moneys are invested in accordance with the Financial Administration and Audit Act. As the member is aware, a commercial arrangement exists between the Treasurer and the Western Australian Development Corporation for the investment of Treasury funds.
- (b) Refer to (a).
- (c) Interest is paid to all trust funds annually in June at a rate based on the average earning rate of investment of public moneys over the preceding twelve months, 1 June to 31 May each year.
- (d) Not applicable.

POLICE

Promotional Assessment Courses

579. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) Will he provide a schedule indicating the number of police officers who will be required to attend the promotional assessment courses at the Maylands Academy in the next 12 months, and also indicate the respective number of officers from each of the police regions?

- (2) What will be the cost of the PAC courses in the next 12 months, inclusive of travel, higher duties allowances, accommodation, and other associated costs?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

- (1) No. Any such schedule is an internal departmental working document.
- (2) The cost of PAC courses in the next 12 months will depend upon the number of officers attending, travelling costs, higher duties allowances, accommodation, and a range of other associated costs.

AGRICULTURE

*Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation:
INWATS Telephone Number*

581. Mr SCHELL, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is he considering the installation of a 008 telephone number in the Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation office in Perth?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL

Membership: Appointments

586. Mr MENSAROS, to the Treasurer:

Who are the persons presently appointed under subsection (4) of section 10 of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Act 1975?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

Mr W. F. Willesee was the person appointed from 22 April 1982, under section 10(4)(a) of the Salaries and Allowances Act 1975, on the nomination of the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. I recently appointed Mr F. J. Campbell, Chairman of the Public Service Board, under section 10(4)(b) of the Act.

GOVERNMENT TRAVEL

Expenditure: Comparisons

599. Mr COWAN, to the Premier:

Further to question 292 of 1987 relating to the cost of Government travel and accommodation—

- (a) how does the \$7 million cost for the period 1 July 1986 to 28 February 1987 compare with costs incurred in the previous six years;
- (b) what proportion of the \$7 million cost was incurred by Ministers;
- (c) was any Government travel and accommodation in the period 1 July 1986 and 28 February 1987 not booked through Holiday WA?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

The matter is being looked into in order to provide the member with a detailed response. I will reply in writing as soon as I am in a position to do so.

TRANSPORT: ROAD

Interstate: Legislation

603. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will the Government introduce legislation that is complementary to the Commonwealth's Interstate Road Transport Act 1985?
- (2) If yes, when?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) The Interstate Road Transport Act covers two major elements affecting the road transport industry—firstly, the introduction of a vehicle registration scheme for vehicles registered to engage only in interstate transport; and, secondly, the introduction of an operator's licence also for interstate transport.

Interstate registration in accordance with the Federal legislation has now been operative in WA, as is the case in other States, since 1 January 1987. In conjunction with the registration scheme, this Government agreed to the principle of the fast track package, which picked up a number of the recommendations of the national road freight industry inquiry. As an example, truck speed limits in non

built-up areas were increased from 80 km per hour to 90 km per hour. Conversely, we were not in favour of the graduated driver's licence scheme recommended by the inquiry, and therefore this element remains unchanged.

Further consideration of the second part of the interstate legislation—the operator's licence—will not be pursued without liaison and full discussion with this State's road transport industry groups.

(2) Answered by (1).

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dianella: Enrolment

612. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many students attend Dianella Primary School?
- (2) How many children are enrolled in year 1?
- (3) For how many staff does a school with the number of enrollees at Dianella Primary School qualify?
- (4) Is he aware that the large number of year 1 students is causing undue pressure on the teaching programme of teachers at the school?
- (5) Given that the current statistics indicate another substantial increase in year 1 students in 1988, will he consider having an additional teacher placed at the school to prevent the need for class splitting?
- (6) (a) Are there other primary schools in the State which have more teachers than the department's arbitrary staffing formula;
- (b) if so, will he provide the justification for such additional staff?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) 214, including four who have left but are still on the roll.
- (2) 34, including two who have left but are still on the roll.
- (3) nine—principal + seven teachers + 0.3 administrative relief + 0.3 non-contact + 0.4 specialist.
- (4) Yes. A letter from the P & C Association was received on 7 April 1987.

(5) No. Staffing for 1988 will be made from enrolment information received in October.

- (6) (a) No; all primary schools are staffed according to formula;
- (b) not applicable.

PREMIER

Photograph: Dr Ken Withers

613. Mr CASH, to the Premier:

Further to his answer to question 26 without notice of 1987, does he still maintain that he did not have his photograph taken with Dr Ken Withers during the week ended 7 April 1987?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

Yes.

TRANSPERTH

Passenger Liaison Committee: Lockridge

620. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does Transperth have a passenger liaison committee to address the scheduling and routes in the Lockridge area?
- (2) If yes, will he advise the composition and membership of the committee and indicate the Lockridge residents' representatives?
- (3) If no to (1), will he take the appropriate action to establish such a committee and include in its membership residents of the suburb of Lockridge?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Action has already been taken to initiate a more formal community liaison. Transperth recently appointed a senior officer to be responsible for community liaison and development of service proposals for all individual areas to satisfy consumer needs. I would be happy to ensure that Transperth includes the residents in the suburb of Lockridge.

TRANSPORT: BUSES

Rerouting: Diana Crescent, Lockridge

622. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware of requests from residents of the Lockridge area to have Transperth re-route existing buses into Diana Crescent to serve the various community facilities located in Diana Crescent, Lockridge?
- (2) If so, what action has been taken to meet the residents' request, and does he have evidence to indicate the residents are satisfied with the actions and decisions of Transperth in resolving this matter?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) Yes. Representations have been made to Transperth for the provision of a bus service to the Senior Citizens' Centre in Titus Road near Diana Crescent.
- (2) The traffic planning manager from Transperth attended a meeting, which was arranged by Mr Fred McKenzie MLC, with the senior citizens from the Lockridge centre. Unfortunately it was not possible to alter the existing route without depriving some residents of a service they currently enjoy. However, future plans provide for an additional bus service along Altone Road; and prior to the implementation of any new service, I have asked for the Diana Crescent situation to be reviewed.

The present arrangements may not satisfy all the residents of the area, but future planning will help to alleviate the problem.

SUPERANNUATION BOARD

Motor Vehicles

637. Mr MacKINNON, to the Treasurer:

How many motor vehicles did the State Superannuation Board own on—

- (a) 1 July 1983;
- (b) 1 July 1984;
- (c) 1 July 1985;
- (d) 1 July 1986;
- (e) 31 March 1987?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (a) 1 July 1983, 1;
- (b) 1 July 1984, 1;
- (c) 1 July 1985, 3;
- (d) 1 July 1986, 4;
- (e) 31 March 1987, 4.

ROAD

Karel Avenue: Extension

647. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Transport:

When will funds be allocated to allow the construction of the southern dual-carriageway extension of Karel Avenue, Leeming?

Mr TROY replied:

Karel Avenue in Leeming is a local government road under the jurisdiction of the Melville City Council. Limited funds are available annually to council under the metropolitan councils' arterial road programme for such works, but determination of priority for such projects rests essentially with council.

HEALTH

Head Injured Society: Future Operations

651. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Health:

What commitments has he given to the Head Injured Society concerning its future operations?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

Please refer to parliamentary question 519 answered in the Legislative Assembly on 28 April 1987.

HEALTH: HOSPITAL

Heathcote: Closure

652. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it the Government's intention to close Heathcote Hospital?
- (2) If so, when is it expected that closure will take place?
- (3) What alternative arrangements are being made for the current patients at the hospital?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) 12 to 18 months.
- (3) Patients in hospital at the time of closure will be transferred to the replacement facilities as appropriate. Admissions to Heathcote will be controlled prior to the closing date to limit the numbers of patients so affected.

ENERGY

Commercial Accounts: Fixed Charges

654. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) What was the State Energy Commission's fixed charge on its private and commercial accounts as at 30 June—
 - (a) 1982;
 - (b) 1983;
 - (c) 1984;
 - (d) 1985;
 - (e) 1986 and
 - (f) to March 1987?
- (2) How much was collected by the SEC in each of the following years from this source as at 30 June—
 - (a) 1982;
 - (b) 1983;
 - (c) 1984;
 - (d) 1985;
 - (e) 1986?
- (3) How much is it estimated will be collected from this source during the year ending 30 June 1987?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) The fixed charge in cents per day at 30 June was—

	Domestic Tariff (A1 & A2)	Industrial, Commercial and General Tariff (L1 & L2)
(a) 1982	11.70	13.97
(b) 1983	12.0	15.78
(c) 1984	15.0	18.15
(d) 1985	15.57	18.84
(e) 1986	18.1	21.91
(f) March 1987	18.1	21.91

- (2) The revenue from the fixed charge for these two customer groups is not separately accounted for by the SEC.
- (3) The estimated revenue from the fixed charge for these two customer groups for the year ending 30 June 1987 is—

Domestic \$30 million

Industrial, commercial and general \$4 million.

STATE FINANCE

Assistant Under Treasurer: Mr Tony Lloyd

663. Mr MacKINNON, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Does Mr Tony Lloyd still hold the position of Assistant Under Treasurer?
- (2) Since when have there been two positions of Assistant Under Treasurer in the Treasury Department?
- (3) What is the current salary applicable to these positions?
- (4) For how long now has he personally known Mr Lloyd?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Since a reorganisation of Treasury in 1984.
- (3) \$65 735.
- (4) About 20 years.

STATE FINANCE

Assistant Under Treasurer: Appointment

664. Mr MacKINNON, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Was the vacant position of Assistant Under Treasurer, subsequently occupied by Mr Tony Lloyd in June 1984, advertised—
 - (a) within the Public Service;
 - (b) in the general Press?
- (2) How many people applied for the position?
- (3) Were interviews conducted as part of the selection process and, if so, who carried out those interviews?
- (4) On what basis was Mr Lloyd chosen for the position above the other applicants?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) Two positions of Deputy Under Treasurer were advertised inside and outside the Public Service on 21 March 1984. Subsequently it was decided that there should be only one position of Deputy Under Treasurer, to which Mr R. Bowe was appointed. The second position of Deputy Under Treasurer was changed to Assistant Under Treasurer, giving rise to two

positions of Assistant Under Treasurer. Mr Farrell and Mr Lloyd were appointed to these positions on 26 June 1986 on the basis of applications received for the Deputy Under Treasurer positions.

- (2) Eleven.
- (3) Yes, by the Under Treasurer.
- (4) Ability and qualifications.

CRIME

Gross Indecency: Convictions

666. Mr COWAN, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

When was the last occasion a person was—

- (a) charged with;
 - (b) convicted of,
- an offence under section 184 of the Criminal Code?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (a) Charges are a matter for the police, and that part of the question should be directed to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services;
- (b) 13 April 1987.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Flexitime: Review

667. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Public Sector Management:

- (1) Has the review of flexitime within the public sector been completed?
- (2) If so, what has been the outcome?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) In answer to a question asked on 11 November 1986, the board provided the then Leader of the Opposition with a copy of the new flexitime arrangements. A similar copy will be provided to the Leader of the Opposition, drawing attention to the specific areas of change.
- (2) The board has had no indication of any problems occurring with the current flexitime arrangements.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Computer Aided Design

669. Mrs HENDERSON, to the Minister for Industry and Technology:

- (1) What is the extent of use of computer aided design—CAD—and computer aided manufacturing—CAM—in Western Australian industry?
- (2) Is the State Government doing anything to increase CAD-CAM usage by local companies?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) Most Western Australian manufacturing companies have a good understanding of, and are aware of, the significant benefits which can be realised through computer aided design—CAD. The course "Auto Cad" held at Wembley TAFE college is well supported by local industry. With respect to computer aided manufacture—CAM—this technology is reasonably well spread throughout local manufacturing industry.
- (2) The State Government has a major industry policy objective to ensure that the State's technological potential is developed for the maximum economic and social benefit of the community. The Government is actively pursuing this strategy with specifically targeted programmes to aid the manufacturing industry sector.

To increase the usage of CAD and CAM by local industry, a new initiative has been taken by the State Government with the establishment of a manufacturing technology centre located within the offices of the Department of Industrial Development. The centre offers a variety of services such as—

- consulting with companies on CAD and CAM requirements;
- staging of awareness seminars and training courses for all levels of management;
- making available facilities for feasibility studies and development projects;
- providing advice on technology and its financial implications;
- providing limited technical consultancy and problem solving.

DEFENCE PROJECTS

Quality Standards

672. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Industry and Technology:

What programmes are provided by the Government to encourage Western Australian companies to meet quality standards laid down by the Defence Department?

Mr BRYCE replied:

The Government is encouraging Western Australian companies to meet Defence Department quality requirements—Australian Standard 1821-23/85—by exposing such companies to the necessity of quality of products and/or services. This is done by means of seminars arranged by the Department of Industrial Development, in conjunction with the Department of Defence, which provide specialists to explain the reasons such requirements are necessary for the efficient operation of the armed services.

In addition, other seminars and briefings are also staged to explain contract-quality requirements for both Australian and overseas defence projects, including involvement in US Department of Defence equipment supply. This has resulted in 14 companies currently participating in the Government's QA/QC programme, with three other companies due to join the programme this financial year.

TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Establishment

675. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Industry and Technology:

(1) When will the Minister announce the final details of the latest restructuring of the Department of Industrial Development, the Technology Development Authority, and the Technology Directorate?

(2) When will the main appointments to the new positions created be made?

Mr BRYCE replied:

(1) As indicated in my recent Press announcement, legislation to amend the Technology Development Act 1983 will be introduced in Parliament shortly.

Final details of the internal organisational design of the proposed new Technology and Industry Development Authority will be determined following passage of the legislation and consultation between the new chief executive officer of TIDA, the Public Service Board, and the Civil Service Association.

(2) Interviews with applicants for position of chief executive officer will be held in the next few days. Other appointments will be made following the appointment of the chief executive officer.

EDUCATION

Bunbury Institute of Advanced Education

679. Mrs HENDERSON, to the Minister for Industry and Technology:

Will he outline details of the computer facilities recently approved for the Bunbury Institute of Advanced Education?

Mr BRYCE replied:

A tender for the supply of computer facilities to be located at the Bunbury Institute of Advanced Education closed on 6 March 1987. The tender responses are currently being evaluated. The tender called for computing facilities to support the educational requirements of each school of study on the BIAE campus, and to provide an interim computing capacity for the South West Development Authority. Also it is intended that the system will be connected to the mainframe computer located at the Western Australian College of Advanced Education, Churchlands campus.

It is anticipated that an order will be placed in the next few weeks to enable installation of the system for second semester usage.

COMMUNICATIONS: TELEVISION

Remote Areas: Initiatives

680. Mrs HENDERSON, to the Minister for Communications:

What specific initiatives have been taken by the State Government to enable remote area residents to receive television?

Mr BRYCE replied:

This Government is not only conscious of the desire of remote area residents to receive television, but has also taken very positive steps to ensure that—

a choice of television services is available;

the commercial service is not only got on the air but is also owned by Western Australians;

remote area residents were made aware of how to receive the services;

the Federal Government meets its obligations in providing ABC services; and

the practical problems in providing earth station and retransmission facilities are being overcome.

The most significant initiative has been the granting of a subsidy to Golden West Satellite Communications Pty Ltd which has ensured that remote area residents have access to a choice of television programmes, namely commercial and the ABC. This needs-based subsidy covers up to 70 per cent of Aussat's charges for the transponder, and has ensured that the commercial service not only went to air but is also distinctively Western Australian. The total outlay for 1986-87 will be \$1 491 000, and for the full year 1987-88 is expected to be \$2 378 000.

However, it is not sufficient just to get the signal through the satellite. It is also necessary to ensure that it can be received on the ground. Prior to the remote commercial television services commencing in 1986, I mailed information on how to receive the satellite services to 50 000 remote area households.

The State Government was instrumental in persuading the Federal Government to forgo sales tax on earth stations for remote homesteads. In towns, the satellite services are received by a combination of an earth station and conventional television transmitters, so that individual households need only an ordinary television set. The ABC provides this facility in about 40 remote towns, which is well short of the number required. The State Government, through its Office of Communications, is continuing to negotiate with the Federal Government for provision of ABC services eventually to all towns with populations over 200 people.

The self-help broadcast reception scheme was created to enable shire councils or other organisations to establish, at their own cost, earth stations and retransmitters. Last year this Government amended the Local Government Act so that residents within the viewing area could be selectively rated to pay for this service.

The State Government has been very active in persuading the Federal Government to dramatically simplify the licensing procedure for shire councils, and such simplified procedures are expected to be introduced shortly.

In towns which have an ABC but no commercial service, the shire council can provide the commercial transmitters and, to minimise costs, can site-share with the existing ABC station. The Government is actively persuading the Federal Government to significantly reduce the site-sharing fee which councils are expected to pay.

COMMUNICATIONS

Remote Areas: Government Policy

682. Mrs HENDERSON, to the Minister for Communications:

What steps have been taken to meet Government policy in respect of communication needs of people disadvantaged by distance?

Mr BRYCE replied:

The following initiatives have been taken by the Government to meet its policies in serving the needs of Western Australians disadvantaged by distance—

Radio—

A report on radio coverage in regional and remote areas of Western Australia was released in July 1986, and action on its 14 recommendations—designed to improve radio coverage—is proceeding according to plan. All members of Parliament have been provided with a copy of that report.

The ABC is currently installing radio stations in 26 towns in Western Australia as part of its second regional radio network. The Western Australian Government was instrumental in ensuring the proposed network met Western Australia's needs and was installed as soon as practicable.

Television—

Covered in my response to question 680.

Government Services—

The Department of Computing and Information Technology is currently finalising the Western Australian Government's strategic telecommunications plan for the next five years. From this is expected to flow a number of initiatives which will provide improved Government services to the Western Australian public.

The use of 008 telephone numbers in State and Federal Government agencies, to allow remote residents local call access to Government services, is being actively encouraged.

Newspapers—

Improved reliability of newspaper deliveries in remote areas has been pursued.

Rural students—

A report addressing the communication needs of rural students and handicapped persons is nearing completion.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Rolls-Royce of Australia Ltd: New Facility

683. Mrs HENDERSON, to the Minister for Industry and Technology:

- (1) What are the details of the agreement announced recently by the Government with Rolls-Royce to establish a new facility in Western Australia?
- (2) What benefits are likely to accrue to the State from the agreement?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) The details are included in a commercial agreement established between the joint venturers and the State.
- (2) Benefits to the State include—
 - (a) a \$14 million high technology industry established in WA;
 - (b) guaranteed \$8 million export orders over five years;
 - (c) minimum guaranteed employment of 40 in stage one and 30 in stage two;
 - (d) significant expansion potential to meet the Rolls-Royce Federal offsets obligations and to service other markets;
 - (e) potential expansion of the industry within five years;
 - (f) opportunity to expand to service other sectors of the aerospace industry;
 - (g) introduction of the Rolls-Royce company, which will have an advantage in attracting other international investment to WA;
 - (h) design and construction of buildings and other local content as agreed.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Quality Control: Policies

685. Mrs HENDERSON, to the Minister for Industry and Technology:

- (1) What has the State Government done to address the quality assurance and control capabilities of local companies?
- (2) What lasting benefits could be achieved by an improvement in such capabilities?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) The Government has instigated a programme of financial assistance to companies which wish to achieve a level of QA/QC management—AS 1821-1823/1985. The proposed assistance is in the form of a subsidy for the employment of a QA/QC consultant by the company. The extent of the subsidy is on a dollar for dollar basis to a maximum of \$90 000 per company. In addition, an additional \$1 000 per company on a dollar for dollar basis has been assigned for the purpose of final assessment by a registered assessor.
- (2) For a company achieving a quality assurance standard, the benefits which arise are—

ability to actively pursue both major and minor projects in the defence-commercial field with a greater success rate;

allow for the achievement of the aim of increasing WA's proportion of the defence dollar from its current 3 per cent share to the desired 8 per cent;

possible immediate benefits for those companies engaged in tendering for the submarine and new surface combatant projects;

an overall enhancement of the WA industry infrastructure.

LANDBANK

Ministerial Responsibility

686. Mr LEWIS, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Could he confirm that the Government land development agency known as Landbank has been put under his ministerial responsibilities?

(2) Would he advise who has been appointed chief executive officer of Landbank, and what are the qualifications and experience of that person?

(3) What are the terms and conditions relating to the employment of that person, with particular reference to his being an officer within the Public Service?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) There have been no new appointments to any substantive executive positions in Landbank.

COMMUNICATIONS: TELEPHONES

Cabling: Subdivisions

687. Mr LEWIS, to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Is he aware of Telecom's policy of requiring developers in urban subdivisions to pay for the capital cost of installation of telephone cables and conduits?
- (2) Is the State Planning Commission prepared to support this policy, and if so, will the provision of underground cabling for telephones be made a condition of subdivision approval?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Yes, I have received various items of correspondence on this matter.
- (2) No.

LAND

Development: Committee

688. Mr LEWIS, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Has he set up a joint Government-industry committee to inquire into the impact of local and State Government regulations on the land development industry?
- (2) Is he aware of a policy of Telecom to request developers of land to pay for the capital cost of the installation of telephone cabling and conduits within the road reservation of new urban subdivisions?
- (3) If yes to (1) and (2), has he referred Telecom's request for the payment of provision of telephone cabling in subdivision to this committee?
- (4) When is the committee expected to report?

(5) Will this report be made public?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) End of 1987.
- (5) Yes.

HOMESWEST

Land Planning and Development Section

689. Mr LEWIS, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Is the land planning and development section of Homeswest to stay under the jurisdiction of Homeswest?
- (2) If not, under what department or jurisdiction is this section to operate?
- (3) What department will be responsible for the provision of vacant urban allotments for development by Homeswest?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) to (3) The involvement of various Government agencies in land development and marketing is currently under review. A decision in respect of Homeswest's land activities will be made on completion of the review.

UNION: ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NURSING FEDERATION

Elections: Letter

691. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Was a letter from a "Concerned Nurses Group" circulated through the Health Department concerning the Royal Australian Nursing Federation council election?
- (2) Does his department support such literature being circulated through the Health Department?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.

HEALTH: HOSPITAL

Heathcote: Closure

692. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the committee finalised its report on the closure of Heathcote Hospital?

(2) If so, is this report public?

(3) If the report is not finalised, when does he expect the report?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) See (1).
- (3) June 1987.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Ngal-A Mothercraft Home and Training Centre: Review

693. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Services:

- (1) Has the review of Ngal-A been completed?
- (2) If so, is the report public?
- (3) Has the Minister decided on the future of mothercraft nurse training?
- (4) If yes to (3), what decision has been taken?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) The Minister understands from Ngal-A that it is continuing to run the course.
- (4) Not applicable.

HEALTH: NURSES

Kimberley: Shortage

694. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) In the last six months, has there been a shortage of nurses in public hospitals in the Kimberley region?
- (2) How many public hospitals are in the Kimberley region, and where are they?
- (3) If there has been a nurse shortage, which hospitals in the Kimberley are affected?
- (4) What is he doing to overcome the nurse shortage?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

- (1) Always a seasonal shortage during the wet season.
- (2) Seven—Fitzroy Crossing, Wyndham, Kununurra, Broome, Derby Regional, Halls Creek, and Derby Nursing Home.

- (3) Derby Regional Hospital, Derby Nursing Home, and Halls Creek Hospital.
- (4) Registered nurse, enrolled nurse refresher re-registration courses; immigration—target Kimberley area; emergency nursing service supply of registered nurses on a needs basis with nine persons currently in the Kimberley.

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pinjarra: Carpeting

695. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware that the carpets in rooms 1 to 10 and the administration area at Pinjarra Primary School have deteriorated to the point where they are now regarded as a health and safety hazard?
- (2) Does he intend to replace these carpets?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) and (2) The matter of carpet replacement is one which comes under the regional education office minor works scheme. Due to the shortage of funds, only the most urgent repair work is being undertaken at present.

ENVIRONMENT

Inlet Management Authorities: Restructuring

696. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Environment:

Adverting to question 424 of 1987 and the reply contained in his letter to me dated 23 April 1987, does he intend to restructure the existing authorities for the Swan, Peel, and Leschenault Inlets in line with the management that will be set up for Princess Royal Harbour, Albany?

Mr HODGE replied:

No decision has yet been taken on the form of management for the waterways at Albany. As I previously said to the member, I will await the report of the Waterways Commission on the best means of management for the various waterways.

There is no intention to change the structure of the authorities for Peel and Leschenault Inlets but I have

asked the commission to consider the existing authorities and their operations as part of their report to me.

In relation to the Swan, the member will be aware that an extensive review of existing legislation and the roles of all involved State agencies and local government is being undertaken by a barrister, and that he is shortly to report to the Government.

HEALTH: HOSPITALS

Psychiatric: Replacement

698. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) With respect to the closure of Heathcote Hospital, does he intend to establish a new independent psychiatric hospital when Heathcote Hospital is closed?
- (2) Does he intend to build or establish psychiatric clinics-community centres throughout the metropolitan area?
- (3) If yes to (2), where?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) No. There are presently eight community psychiatric outpatient clinics in the metropolitan area.
- (3) See (2).

LAND: NATIONAL PARK

D'Entrecasteaux: Extension

699. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) Does he intend to extend the D'Entrecasteaux National Park to include the areas currently being explored by Cable Sands (WA) Pty Ltd and other known areas where deposits of mineral sands have been found?
- (2) Does he intend to extend the D'Entrecasteaux National Park?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) No decision has yet been made on these specific areas.
- (2) Yes. This is a long-term commitment of the Government, and is consistent with the EPA system 2 recommendations.

WA EXIM CORPORATION

Emanuel Pastoral Leases: Accounts

702. Mr HOUSE to the Minister for Agriculture:

Will he detail the account paid by the Department of Agriculture to Exim Corporation for services rendered with regard to the Emanuel properties in the Kimberley, particularly—

- (a) what employees of Exim were involved;
- (b) what services were involved?

Mr GRILL replied:

The Department of Agriculture paid the Western Australian Exim Corporation \$189 000 for services and work in the agricultural sector in 1985-86.

- (a) The senior consultants and employees involved included Exim's Mr John Horgan, Mr David Hatt, and Mr Brian Easton; and WA Livestock Holdings' Mr David Pentelow and Mr Jim Coulthard;
- (b) services provided by Exim and WALH included—

- TB eradication programmes;
- rangeland regeneration projects;
- co-ordinating two Government and industry consultative committees;
- south west feedlot experiments;
- exploring alternative markets for Kimberley beef;
- identifying export opportunities for live cattle;
- reintroducing Kimberley cattle auctions;
- stocking rate assessment trials;
- herd conception rate trials.

The member's leader and deputy leader have been fully briefed on these matters by Exim and WALH. I suggest the member consult them if he requires further detail.

HOMESWEST

Carpeting: Underlay

703. Mr HOUSE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it a fact that the State Housing Commission now uses luxury underlay for carpeting in State houses in place of standard underlay?
- (2) If so, what would be the increased cost of that policy per year?
- (3) What is the advantage of using luxury underlay in place of standard underlay?
- (4) Is it a fact that luxury underlay under standard quality carpet will make the carpet's life shorter?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) (a) As a general policy, the State Housing Commission—Homeswest—does not use carpet in rental units;
- (b) the Government Employees Housing Authority uses carpet with approved underlays. There are two approved underlays, one made of urethane foam with a polyethylene topping; and the other is a rubber underlay with a nylon fabric surface. The term "Luxury" applied to one of these is a trade name.
- (2) Usage of either of the approved underlays is left to the contractor's determination; and as each product competes with the other, it can be presumed that no additional cost is involved.
- (3) The two approved products for underlays were recommended by trade sources at the time of evaluation to be of equal value in performance criteria.
- (4) The Government Employees Housing Authority has no evidence that would lead to the conclusion that the relative life of standard carpet with various underlays differs.

LAND: NATIONAL PARK

Fitzgerald River: Road Upgrading

704. Mr HOUSE, to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) With reference to part (3) of question 38 of 1987, as the money came from the Main Roads Department, was it allocated dollar for dollar with other funds from another department?
- (2) On what basis is the need for funds established?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The need for funds is determined from the condition of the roads in the park and the level of use by the public. The requirements for Fitzgerald River National Park are then given a priority in relation to the requirements of other national parks in the State.

MINERAL SANDS

Deposits: South Coast

707. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) Has he been made aware of the significant deposits of mineral sands in the south coast?
- (2) Is it the Government's intention to permit exploration of Crown land surrounding the existing D'Entrecasteaux National Park before increasing the size of the national park? If not, why not?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No decision has yet been made.

CHEMICALS: POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS

Incinerator: Other States' Waste

708. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Environment:

Has the Government given any consideration or been requested to allow the proposed PCB incinerator at Koolyanobbing to incinerate PCBs from other States?

Mr HODGE replied:

This question has been incorrectly addressed to the Minister for Environment. It has been referred to the Minister for Health, and he will answer the question in writing.

CHEMICALS

Sodium Cyanide: Imports

709. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Environment:

- (1) Further to question 473 of 1987, was the sodium cyanide used in Western Australia imported direct from overseas or from interstate suppliers?
- (2) Can he advise those countries that produce sodium cyanide in—
 - (a) solid form—briquette;
 - (b) liquid form, for
 - (i) internal use;
 - (ii) export?
- (3) Can he advise the main methods used to transport liquid sodium cyanide within other countries, i.e., road, rail, etc.?

Mr HODGE replied:

Information gained by the EPA in its assessment of the proposed sodium cyanide proposal at Kwinana indicates that—

- (1) All sodium cyanide used in Western Australia is imported directly from overseas.
- (2) Countries which produce sodium cyanide in—
 - (a) (i) solid form for internal use—UK, USA, India, Taiwan, Japan, Canada;
 - (ii) solid form for export—UK, USA, India, Taiwan, Japan;
 - (b) (i) liquid form for internal use—South Africa;
 - (ii) liquid form for export—Holland.
- (3) The main method of transport in other countries is by road.

FORESTS

Woodchipping: Federal Government Inquiry

710. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Premier:

What is the State Government's response to the legislated action by the Commonwealth Government Lemonthyme Southern Forests (Commission of Inquiry) Bill Tasmania, which bans logging in an area of about 284 000 hectares until a Federal Government inquiry has been conducted when similar circumstances could prevail in Western Australia over—

- (a) WA Chip and Pulp Co Pty Ltd woodchipping proposals;
- (b) McLean Sawmills Pty Ltd woodchipping proposals?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

This question has been addressed incorrectly to the Premier. It has been directed to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management, and he will reply in writing.

FORESTS

Timber: Private Property

711. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

Further to the answer to question 319 of 1987, in which he stated, "Very little assessment of availability of timber on private property is carried out by the Department of Conservation and Land Management", will he now provide details of any assessments that have been made, the dates they were carried out, the locations involved, and the reason for the department to be involved in making private property assessments?

Mr HODGE replied:

The department has carried out assessments on individual properties when the owners have offered to sell to or exchange the properties with the Government. Otherwise, owners wishing to have timber assessed are referred to private consultants or sawmillers.

ENVIRONMENT: "GREENIES"

Disruption: Contingency Plans

713. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) Has his attention been drawn to the report in the *Sunday Times*, 12 April 1987, "Assault on W.A. planned by Greenies"?
- (2) Does the Government have any contingency plans that will avert demonstrations of the nature that caused concern during the Franklin Dam dispute?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

AIDS: Government Action

714. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) In the light of the advice that an Aboriginal woman in the Northern Territory has been assessed with AIDS antibody positive, what action is he proposing to counter any AIDS threat to Aboriginal people, particularly those in isolated and remote areas?
- (2) Because of traditional Aboriginal ceremonies and lifestyle, are the Aboriginal people regarded as being a high risk group?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

- (1) We have already developed substantial programmes aimed at countering the threat posed by AIDS to Aboriginal communities. In the coming months I will be announcing further initiatives in this area.
- (2) A combination of various factors, including environmental circumstances, places Aboriginal communities at very significant risk.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Pastoral Leases: Excisions

715. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Can he advise the number of excisions for Aboriginal people of pastoral leases currently under review by his department?
- (2) How many excisions have been—

- (a) accepted in principle;
- (b) under review;
- (c) rejected?
- (3) Would he table maps showing the areas concerned and the pastoral leases involved?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) 27.
- (2) (a) 9;
- (b) 18;
- (c) nil.
- (3) The preparation of a special set of plans to illustrate each of these applications would be both time-consuming and costly. The member may inspect the master plans by contacting the Executive Director of the Department of Lands Administration.

PASTORAL INDUSTRY

South Australian Legislation: Discussions

716. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Is his department aware of proposals in South Australia to rewrite the Pastoral Act?
- (2) Have officers of the Pastoral Board, Department of Agriculture, or Department of Conservation and Land Management had any contact with South Australia counterparts, and with what result?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) The Department of Lands Administration is aware of past endeavours by the South Australian Government to amend the Pastoral Act.
- (2) Pastoral Board officers are not aware of any current proposals, nor has any recent contact been made by them in this respect.

ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS LEGISLATION

Federal Government Actions

717. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Premier:

- (1) What is the response of the State Government to the decision of the Federal Government to introduce Aboriginal land rights legislation for Victoria?

- (2) What assurances can he give that the Federal Government will not extend its proposals to include Western Australia?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

This question has been addressed incorrectly to the Premier. It has been directed to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and he will reply in writing.

PASTORAL LEASES

Tenure Improvement: Legislation

718. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Lands:
- When does the Government intend to introduce legislation to improve tenure for pastoral leases?

Mr WILSON replied:

During the current session.

PASTORAL BOARD

Chairman: Conditions of Employment

719. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Lands:

What salary, allowances, emoluments of office including travel, telephone, etc., are—

(a) available;

(b) paid,

to the Chairman of the Pastoral Board?

Mr WILSON replied:

The Chairman of the Pastoral Board is entitled to a fee of \$30 per hour, limited to 7.5 hours per week. A standard sitting fee payable to all private Board members, as well as a standard travelling allowance, is paid where appropriate.

PASTORAL LEASE

Mt Barnett: Purchase

720. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Premier:

- (1) Further to question 483 of 1987, has the Government any interest in purchasing Mt Barnett Station in the Kimberley?
- (2) Did any officer of Government or agency attend the auction of the property?
- (3) Did any officer, State or Federal, lodge any bids for the station; and if so, would he detail?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

This question has been addressed incorrectly to the Premier. It has been directed to the Minister for Lands, and he will reply in writing.

FORESTS

Sandalwood Export Committee: Meeting

726. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) Who organised the meeting in Kalgoorlie on 9 March between the Sandalwood export committee and contractors?
- (2) What role did the Department of Conservation and Land Management play?
- (3) How many Conservation and Land Management officers attended the meeting?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) An informal meeting was held at the request of the contractors.
- (2) The acting regional manager and his staff attended the meeting to answer questions relating to harvesting and licence control generally.
- (3) Five.

FORESTS

Sandalwood: Royalties

727. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) What is the value of royalty received from sandalwood each year—
 - (a) 1985;
 - (b) 1986;
 - (c) 1987?
- (2) What is the value of—
 - (a) local sales;
 - (b) export sales,
 of sandalwood in each year as per (1) above?
- (3) How much sandalwood was produced in each year?
- (4) How many sandalwood pullers are licensed or have approval to operate in the State in each of the years as above?

(5) Who licenses or approves sandalwood pullers?

(6) Does the State Government have any involvement in the—

- (a) marketing of sandalwood;
- (b) the sale of sandalwood, and if so, would he detail?

(7) Are there any controls on the amount or where sandalwood can be taken, and would he provide details?

(8) How extensive is the market opportunity for sale of sandalwood?

(9) What action has been taken, if any, to ensure that sandalwood is not being over exploited, and would he detail?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) (a) 1985—\$86 953;
- (b) 1986—\$108 946;
- (c) 1987—not yet available.
- (2) (a) 1985—Nil;
- 1986—nil;
- 1987—not yet available;
- (b) details of the values of export sales are confidential to the company involved.
- (3) 1985—1 723 tonnes;
- 1986—1 873 tonnes;
- 1987—not yet available.
- (4) 1985—26;
- 1986—24;
- 1987—19 to date.
- (5) The Department of Conservation and Land Management.
- (6) (a) Yes;
- (b) yes—the sandalwood export committee, which is responsible to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management, recommends policy and export prices.
- (7) Yes. Quotas and the area of operation for each puller are fixed annually.
- (8) There is a strong demand for sandalwood in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore.
- (9) An inventory has been carried out to provide a basis for extraction planning.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

Margaret River: Capital Works

728. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Education:

What works are programmed for the Margaret River High School?

Mr PEARCE replied:

Margaret River High School is to be considered for inclusion in a future capital works programme.

Specific areas under consideration are—

- (a) New library;
- (b) update to the administration block, home economics room, science staff room, storage, and other minor works.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

Busselton: Capital Works

729. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Have tenders been called for capital works at the Busselton High School?
- (2) Who was the successful tenderer, and at what price?
- (3) What is the extent of works to be undertaken, and when are they expected to be completed?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Devaugh Pty Ltd; \$1 139 159.
- (3) (a) Three new home economics rooms;
- (b) three new manual arts rooms;
- (c) art-craft centre—by conversion and addition;
- (d) business education and computing centre—by conversion;
- (e) physical education staff room;
- (f) additional staff toilets;
- (g) new gardeners' store.

Works should be completed by January 1988.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL BILL 1986

Assent

730. Mr CRANE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

In view of concern expressed in parts of the State at the need to proceed with the biological control of Patersons Curse, why has the Biological Control Bill not been given the Governor's Assent, and when can we expect this procedure to be enacted?

Mr GRILL replied:

The Biological Control Act received the Governor's assent on 12 December 1986, as was announced in the *Government Gazette* on 24 December 1986.

HEALTH

WA AIDS Council: Pamphlets

731. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Are charges going to be laid against the people responsible for the Western Australian AIDS Council's latest pamphlets, the contents of which appear to violate sections 7(c) and (d) of the Criminal Code when related to section 187 of that Code?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

This question has been incorrectly addressed to the Attorney General. It has been referred to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, and he will advise the member in writing.

HOUSING

Residential Tenancy Legislation: Details

734. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Housing:

Is it a fact that Mr Ed Russle, on behalf of the Minister for Housing, gave detailed information about the Government's proposed residential tenancy Bill to a meeting of the south west metropolitan social development council on 1 April 1987?

Mr WILSON replied:

No. He attended on behalf of the Minister for Consumer Affairs.

MR RAMON HRYNKIW

Employment: Minister for Labour, Productivity and Employment

735. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Labour, Productivity and Employment:

In what capacity and during what time has Mr Ramon Hryniw, former President of the Australian Workers' Union, Kambalda branch, worked for him?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

I am not aware of Mr Ramon Hryniw.

WATER AUTHORITY

Tenders: Local Preference

736. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Does the Water Authority of Western Australia have a policy of giving preference to local contractors when allocating country jobs for which tenders have been called?
- (2) If so, would he please describe his policy or table the relevant definition of this preference policy?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes. The authority applies a regional preference to qualifying local country contractors when considering tenders.
- (2) The policy is in accordance with the State Government's regional tender preference, as outlined by the Department of Industrial Development.

EDUCATION: MUSIC PROGRAMMES

Instruments: Availability

738. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What changes have been made recently with respect to the availability of musical instruments to children participating in school music programmes?
- (2) When were these changes implemented?
- (3) Why were the changes implemented?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) A charge of \$45 per year is now made for the hire of any instrument, however costly. The \$15 per year fee for repair and maintenance of the instrument remains the same.
- (2) The beginning of the 1987 school year.
- (3) There are no Australian instrument manufacturers. As our buying is from overseas, due to the weakened Australian dollar there have been huge increases in the price of instruments over the last few years.

EDUCATION

Music Branch: Restructuring

739. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What changes are being made to the music branch within the Education Department as a consequence of the Government's "decentralisation" programme?
- (2) What impact are those changes likely to have on programmes being conducted in primary schools?
- (3) What impact are those changes likely to have on programmes being conducted in high schools?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) The functions of the music branch will be undertaken within the three curriculum directorate branches of the schools division.
- (2) and (3) The changes will lead to a more effective use of the resources that are committed to maintaining the highest quality music education programmes in primary schools and high schools.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Apprentices: Tailors

741. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Labour, Productivity and Employment:

- (1) Are there any apprenticeship training courses for tailors in Western Australia?
- (2) If not, given that assistance is provided to employers who have apprentices attending an approved technical college course one day a week, is it possible for some assistance to be

given to approved employers who wish to employ young people to undertake training as a tailor?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.

EDUCATION: TEACHERS

Private Vehicles: Payments

742. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the current rate of payment for the use of private vehicles by teachers on school business?
- (2) Is it a fact that teachers at Albany have withdrawn their consent for the use of their private vehicles because of a dispute involving the payment of motor vehicle allowances?
- (3) If yes to (2), has this had any effect on the provision of specialist teachers and guidance officers in country areas?
- (4) Is the department currently paying motor vehicle allowances promptly?
- (5) What criteria are used to determine whether teachers' motor vehicle expenses are paid according to schedule 1 or schedule 2 of the Public Service motor vehicle allowances award?
- (6) Is this currently a matter of dispute between the State School Teachers Union and the department?
- (7) If yes to (6), what steps has he taken to resolve the dispute?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) The current rates of payment for the use of private vehicles by teachers on school business are 29.3c, 26.2c, or 21.9c per kilometre, depending upon the engine capacity of the vehicle.
- (2) Only the five guidance officers in Albany are demanding payment rates of 59.5c, 53.6c, or 43.4c per kilometre before they will consent to use their private vehicles. Specialist teachers in Albany have not withdrawn their consent.
- (3) There is a severe restriction on the provision of guidance services to primary schools in the Albany district. The guidance officers are even refusing to visit the five large primary

schools located within the town boundary. Services provided by specialist teachers have not been disrupted.

- (4) The department always pays motor vehicle allowance claims promptly.
- (5) The Public Service motor vehicle allowances consolidated award 1986, No. 13 of 1976, is used to determine which payment schedule will be used. All officers who are required to supply and maintain a motor vehicle as a term of their employment are paid under schedule 1. The award defines "term of employment" as meaning—

a requirement made known to the officer at the time of applying for the position by way of publication in the advertisement for the position or oral communication at interview by an interviewing officer either in writing or orally.

Guidance officers are not required to supply a vehicle as a term of their employment. Therefore they are not paid under schedule 1.

- (6) The matter is the subject of a compulsory conference between the State School Teachers Union and the Education Department before the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission.
- (7) I will be a party to the conference before the Industrial Relations Commission in order to negotiate a settlement. However, in the meantime I have instructed the manager of the industrial relations branch to visit Albany to discuss the whole matter with the five guidance officers. He is in Albany today. I am confident that the dispute will be resolved.

EDUCATION: SPECIAL SCHOOL

Iris Litis School: Motor Vehicle Allowance

746. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is there a dispute between the department and Mrs Brenda Pocock of the Iris Litis School in Kellerberrin relating to the payment of a motor vehicle allowance?
- (2) What steps have been taken to resolve the dispute?

- (3) On what basis has the department not paid the motor vehicle allowance claim to Mrs Pocock?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) to (3) Staff in head office are unaware of any dispute. However, an investigation is being undertaken, and the member will be advised in writing of the result.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Terminating Building Societies: Low Interest Loans

747. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many low interest loans made available via terminating building societies have been made available in each of the last five years in the Gascoyne, Pilbara, and Kimberley areas?
- (2) How have the conditions for these loans changed over this period?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) This information is not immediately available, but attempts will be made to obtain it from the Federation of Building Societies, if it is still available, at the earliest convenience.
- (2) The conditions have changed as follows—

	1982	1987
Income eligibility	\$320 per wk	\$492.60 per wk
Maximum value house and land		
Gascoyne	\$48 000	\$65 000
Pilbara	\$64 000	\$80 000
Kimberleys	\$67 000	\$80 000
Maximum advance to valuation	90 per cent	95 per cent

PORT AUTHORITIES

Privatisation

749. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Was he correctly reported in *The West Australian* of 9 April in an article entitled "Ports to Operate on Private Lines", in which it was stated that "Western Australian Port Authorities will be given more scope to operate on private enterprise lines and that these new procedures will improve re-

source management, encourage entrepreneurship and help regional development"?

- (2) When is it intended that this privatisation policy will be implemented?
- (3) Will Western Australian ports, including Fremantle, be free to negotiate an end to the restrictive work practices which currently exist at these ports under the new policy?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No port authority "privatisation" policy is being implemented. However, it is proposed that existing port authority legislation will be amended in a manner which will encourage the adoption of a more commercial financial orientation. It is proposed that, following the successful passage of the amendments, the initiatives will be phased in early next year.
- (3) The negotiation of work practices is not a specific part of the proposed new financial administration policy. However, Western Australia port authorities are free and encouraged to negotiate an end to restrictive work practices that currently exist.

TRANSPORT: FERRY

"Perth": Lease Agreement

750. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has a lease agreement been entered into for the ferry MV *Perth*?
- (2) If yes, will he provide details?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) Terms of a lease agreement have been agreed with a private operator, and it is expected to take effect in approximately six weeks' time.
- (2) Details will be provided after the lease takes effect.

MINERAL SANDS

Road Cartage: Opposition

751. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware of opposition from the Moora and Dandaragan Shires to the carting of mineral sands from the Jurien area by road to the railhead at Moora?
- (2) Is he also aware that these shires have received numerous complaints from ratepayers regarding the hazards associated with this transport task and the fact that there has been a deleterious effect on the roads used for this purpose?
- (3) Did Westrail win the tender for this cartage in open competition or was the traffic directed to rail under the State's transport policy?
- (4) In view of the opposition from the shire councils mentioned, will he give consideration to allowing this material to be transported to Bunbury by road?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) Yes. I have received a report from the Main Roads Department regarding the damage to the roads in both shires. I subsequently met with the shires concerned and have approved additional road funds. The Moora Shire has accepted this offer, and I am currently awaiting a response from the Dandaragan Shire.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) An approach to the Department of Transport by Cable Sands WA Pty Ltd for road transport between Jurien and Capel was referred to Westrail in line with Government policy. Negotiations between these two parties were successfully undertaken, and no further request for road transport was received from Cable Sands WA Pty Ltd.
- (4) Due to the quantity of mineral sand to be transported, it is obviously a task more suited to rail transport. The movement by rail is consistent with the Government's policy on bulk traffics. The transport of bulk products will be addressed next year when a review of the transport policy relating to regulated rail traffics is undertaken.

MINERAL

Coal Industry Council: Establishment

752. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Has the State Government proceeded with its plan to establish a Western Australian Coal Industry Council?
- (2) If so, who are the members of the Coal Industry Council, and what interests do they represent?
- (3) What are the aims of the council?
- (4) What is the anticipated cost of operating the council?
- (5) How often is it intended that the council will meet?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) The State Government has proceeded with its plan to establish a Western Australian Coal Industry Council. Following Cabinet approval on 6 March 1987, the first full session of the council was convened in Collie on 10 March 1987.

- (2) The membership of the Coal Industry Council is made up as follows—

Chairman—Minister for Minerals and Energy.

Three representatives from each of the following—

Collic Miners' Industrial Union of Workers;
Australasian Society of Engineers;
Moulders and Foundry Workers' Industrial Union of Workers;
Collieries Staff Association;
Collic Deputies Union;
Griffin Coal Mining Co Ltd;
Western Collieries Limited.

One representative from each of—

Department of Mines;
Department of Resources Development;
State Energy Commission.

- (3) The aims of the Coal Industry Council are—

- (a) to provide a forum where Government, unions, and producers can, by discussion, gain a shared understanding of the problems and opportunities facing the industry;

- (b) to develop an understanding of the need for change in the industry;
 - (c) to assist the parties to achieve improved efficiency, lower production costs, and improved competitiveness with other fuel;
 - (d) to ensure the continuing development of the Collie coalfields as an essential element of energy development in Western Australia.
- (4) An annual budget of up to \$190 000 has been provided for the council for the 1987-88 financial year
- (5) It is intended that the council shall initially meet every two months, followed thereafter by meetings every three to four months.

PASTORAL LEASES

Reappraisal: Tabling

753. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Is it a requirement that particulars relating to the reappraisal of pastoral leases be tabled in both Houses of Parliament?
- (2) If yes, was the reappraisal of pastoral leases dated 1 July 1984 tabled in the Parliament, and if so, when?
- (3) Have all pastoralists been advised of the implementation of the new rentals which date from 1 January 1987?
- (4) Do pastoralists have the right to appeal against the reappraisal and the resultant rental?
- (5) If yes to (4), up to what date will appeals be received?
- (6) What is the appeal procedure?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes; 6 November 1985.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) 30 April 1987.
- (6) Appeals are lodged through the office of the Minister for Lands, and the Pastoral Board is directed to hear the appeals in accordance with section 100 of the Land Act 1933.

STOCK

Transport: Volumetric Loading

754. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware that in a recent report to the Federal Minister for Primary Industry the Australian Meat and Livestock Industry Policy Council has recommended "that uniform and reciprocal regulations be introduced in all states to permit volumetric loading of livestock transports, with the current Queensland dimension limits and safety requirements to apply"?
- (2) What is his response to this recommendation?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The review of road vehicle limits study, considered by the Australian Transport Advisory Council meeting in December 1986, recommended that the practice of volumetric loading be discouraged.

ROAD

Newman-Port Hedland: Construction

755. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the result of his meeting with the Minister for The North West regarding concerns expressed by Pilbara people over the construction of the Newman-Port Hedland road as announced by the Minister for The North West recently?
- (2) What is the anticipated programme for 1986-87 for this road, and will this target be met?
- (3) What is the anticipated programme in future years?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) and (2) The programme for 1986-87 was the completion of the Munjina Side Gorge section to blocktop stage. This work is on target for completion by June. In addition, improvements are in progress between Newman and the southern end of the previously completed Munjina section, in order to provide a suitable link from Newman to the Wittenoom-Roy Hill Road following completion of the Munjina Side Gorge section.

- (3) Following completion of the Munjina Side Gorge section, there will be four sections to complete—Ophthalmia, Robinson, Fortescue and Chichester. The tender for the Ophthalmia section closes today. The contract should commence in June 1987, and is expected to be completed in September-October 1988.

The programme in future years is dependent on the availability of Federal funding for the project.

SMALL BUSINESSES

Rural: Discussions

757. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Small Business:

- (1) With whom is he having discussions as referred to in his answer to question 44 of 1987?
- (2) What is the substance of these discussions?
- (3) When are these discussions expected to result in some positive action to assist small business?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) I am currently involved in discussions with the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Budget Management.
- (2) I am aware of the problems facing rural small businesses, and accordingly discussions have focused on the most appropriate way in which the Government may assist them.
- (3) It would be improper to pre-empt the results of those discussions.

LAND

National Parks: Private Sector Operators

758. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) Is it correct that the Government would consider making available some facilities in national parks for private sector operations?
- (2) If so, what facilities would be considered?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A range of facilities would be considered—for example, caravan parks, boat tours, kiosks, etc.

FORESTS: SOFTWOOD

Plantings: Reductions

759. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

For what reason is it proposed in the recently released forestry and timber management plans to reduce softwood plantings from 3 000 hectares per year to 2 000 hectares per year?

Mr HODGE replied:

Calculations of the projected demand for sawn timber and the projected supply from native hardwood forests and existing pine plantations have shown that a plantation establishment rate of 2 000 ha per annum is sufficient to meet WA and overseas demand.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Operation

The SPEAKER: Before I ask for the first member to put a question I want to say two things in respect of question time and to make sure that all members hear me.

Firstly, in view of recent past question times, I would like Ministers, if possible, to direct their answers specifically to the questions which are directed to them and if at all possible make them as short and succinct as possible. Having asked the Ministers to do that, I ask all members, in particular members of the Opposition, not to use question time as an opportunity to encourage more strenuous interjections than are normal during the parliamentary session. In the past, what has happened is that the interjections have tended to make an already long answer much longer. I hope that if both sides could bear those two point in mind we will have much more successful question times.

PLANNING

Rezoning: Ball and Son Pty Ltd

66. Mr CLARKO, to the Minister for Planning:

Has an application been lodged with the State Planning Commission by Ball and Son Pty Ltd of North Fremantle seeking a rezoning of land

leased by that firm in what is now commonly referred to as the Anchorage development area in North Fremantle?

Mr PEARCE replied:

I have always been grateful for the respect in which the member for Karrinyup holds my intellectual capacities in that he thinks I would have in the smallness of my mind all the planning applications which are currently before the commission at any given time.

I can quite specifically answer the question. It will not be before the State Planning Commission. I am not sure of the circumstances, but the member for Karrinyup should know as well as I that planning applications are not made by individuals to the State Planning Commission. They are made to local government authorities, and the authorities approve or disapprove of zoning propositions. They are then forwarded to me for agreement or otherwise, and that determines whether the proposal can be advertised or whether the council's decision is confirmed.

I am not so well informed as to know the status of this particular application. I will certainly find out and, as the House will not be sitting for a couple of weeks, I will advise the member in writing.

GAMBLING

Social: Clubs

67. Mr READ, to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Has the Minister read the item in today's *Daily News* headed "Libs back social bets" in which the Leader of the Opposition has indicated that the Opposition will introduce a private member Bill to allow social gambling in Western Australia's sporting and ethnic clubs?

- (2) Does the Government have any plans to allow such social gambling?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) and (2) On this one and only occasion I am very pleased to be able to say to the Leader of the Opposition that I have saved him some work.

The Government's draft Bill is almost ready to be introduced into the Parliament. If it is not introduced at the end of this session, it will certainly be introduced in the next session. Among other things, the Bill will allow the legalising of soft gambling in coffee shops and ethnic clubs, to which he has referred in the article, as long as people play for pleasure and no percentage is taken by the house.

As well as that, the Government has already made a strong public commitment to this matter. If it had not been for the pressures under which the Parliamentary Counsel has been placed, the Bill would have been in the Parliament at the commencement of this session. However, it is almost completed and will be in the Parliament before the end of the year.

MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS

Random Breath Testing: Introduction

68. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) When did the Commissioner of Police advise him that the police favoured the introduction of random breath testing in Western Australia?
- (2) Has the Police Force changed its collective mind to favour random breath testing, contrary to its very longstanding favour of the present system as more productive and more effective?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

- (1) I cannot be specific about the timing of that advice. If the member wishes specific information, I suggest that he puts the question on notice and I will advise him accordingly.
- (2) I am not sure that the police have ever changed their minds in relation to this issue. The police have been concerned about the inefficient use of resources that would apply if a system of random breath testing, similar to that in the Eastern States, were to apply in Western Australia. It is not the Government's intention to allow that to happen, and nor would the police want it.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Government Charges: Effect

69. Mr THOMAS, to the Premier:

Would the Premier advise the House what contribution was made by State and local government charges to the increase in the CPI for Perth announced today?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

According to the figures released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Perth was the only State capital in which increases in State and local government charges made no contribution to the inflation rate during the March quarter.

As far as the State Government is concerned, it is very pleased that there has been no contribution by State and local government charges, but it is somewhat disappointed that the Leader of the Opposition has said publicly that the inflation rate is the result of increases in State and local government charges. He should either verify that fact or withdraw his claim.

MR TERRY BURKE

Government Appointment

70. Mr COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) Has the former member for Perth, Mr Terry Burke, been approached by the Government to accept a position with a Government department, authority, or corporation?
- (2) If yes, what is that position?
- (3) If no, is the Government considering appointing Mr Burke to a Government position this year?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) to (3) I do not know of any approach made by the Government to the previous member for Perth, except for those which have been outlined to the House.

As I have indicated previously, the ex-member for Perth is continuing to be responsible for the East Perth study and for the sister-State relationships which have been developed and are developing. In each of those responsibilities, he has not been paid. That has been indicated in answer to a question previously.

As part of his responsibilities, he will go to China and Japan with a party which will present koalas to Japan some time next month, and will attempt to progress the sister-State relationships with the Chinese which have previously been referred to. I do not know of any other offer that has been made to the ex-member for Perth.

EDUCATION

Agricultural: Superintendence

71. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) With respect to the Government's better schools programme and the decision to divide the State into districts, is the Minister aware that the proposed system does not provide for the coordination of agricultural education under one district superintendent?
- (2) Will the Minister give consideration to the creation of a separate division to cater for specialist agriculture schools?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) and (2) Obviously we will give consideration to any proposition put forward with regard to the better schools report. At the moment we are in the process of consulting very widely in order to determine a consensus of what is the best thing to do.

What is happening in that process is that a lot of people are trying to work their way back to the old system. Instead of having schools related to districts, they want to divide schools according to some functional approach—that is, to have all the agricultural schools coordinated in a directive sort of way, all the special schools coordinated in a directive sort of way, and all the music schools coordinated in the same way.

We cannot have two structures—a structure that is community-based according to a geographical district and a totally different structure along those lines. I have already set up an agricultural education advisory council which advises on the coordination of all these schools. I will ensure that

the essential parts of agriculture education are not fragmented by that approach. Final decisions have not been made, and I will make sure that the member's point of view implicit in his question is borne in mind when decisions are made.

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dalkeith: Athletics Carnival

72. Mrs HENDERSON, to the Minister for Education:

Has the Minister been able to ascertain what directions, if any, were given to the Dalkeith Primary School with respect to its athletics carnival by the superintendent of equal opportunity?

Mr PEARCE replied:

I am particularly grateful to the member for Gosnells for raising that question because an earlier question she asked led the former Leader of the Opposition, the member for Cottesloe, to allege by way of interjection in this House early this year that instructions had been given to the Dalkeith Primary School by the superintendent of equal opportunity to modify its programme for the athletics carnival. I had that allegation checked and found it was totally untrue. Both the superintendent of equal opportunity and the former principal of the Dalkeith Primary School indicated to my office that no directions of any kind were given to the Dalkeith Primary School to modify its athletics carnival or to do anything with respect to the athletics carnival.

I challenged the member for Cottesloe at the time to say what directions had been given; and members would have noticed his evasiveness on that occasion. The reason for that evasiveness is clear. The allegations he made in question time by way of interjection were completely untrue and the story that a direction had been given by the superintendent of equal opportunity was a fabrication. The member owes a very clear apology.

Several members interjected.

Mr PEARCE: I ask the member for Cottesloe to tell us what the direction was.

Mr Hassell: Don't you worry about that.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PEARCE: The member for Cottesloe owes those people an apology, and he is quite a disgrace.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for East Melbourne.

Mr Hassell: I will give you an answer when I have a chance to make a speech.

The SPEAKER: Order! It is most unusual for the member for Cottesloe to act in that way, especially as I have gone out of my way over the last few days to try to get the people in this place to behave in a more seemly manner and to be a little more dignified. If certain people in this place choose from time to time to continue with their interjections because it suits them at that time, even though they know full well that I have asked for order, I shall be reluctantly forced to take action which I do not like taking.

I am sure that as the member for Cottesloe does not normally behave in this manner, he will not do it again. I do not want other members to look on that as behaviour acceptable to me, because it is not.

Point of Order

Mr HASSELL: On a point of order.

The SPEAKER: Before I call on the member's point of order I have another point to make. Over the last few days members in this place have risen to their feet on points of order which I think were frivolous, but I have taken every single one. I hope this point of order cannot be regarded as frivolous.

Mr HASSELL: I do not regard it as frivolous because you, Mr Speaker, have directed a dressing-down to me over an interjection. It is true that I did continue to interject after your call, and I apologise for that. However, it is also true that the Minister was directing his remarks to me, pointing at me, calling on me to take certain action, and demanding that I apolo-

gise. Under those circumstances it is perhaps not surprising that I transgressed your rules.

The SPEAKER: The member for Cottesloe may well not think that frivolous, and I think he is probably right; but it certainly was not a point of order. The member was taking an opportunity to make an explanation, and I object to that. We will leave it at that this time and go on to the question from the member for East Melville. However, I will not accept forever people stretching my tolerance to the limit. I will take action and instead of the normal practice of asking people three times, I will name the person straight out; and no-one in this place will be happy with that. Members are reaching that limit.

Questions without Notice Resumed

HOUSING SHORTAGE

Motion Rejection

73. Mr LEWIS, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Government's rejection of a motion to amend the Address-in-Reply in this Parliament on Tuesday last which called on the Government to recognise and take action on the crisis of the shortage and cost of rental housing in this State?
- (2) Is he also aware of figures released today by the Commonwealth statistician who reported that housing costs had pushed Perth's inflation rate to 10.3 per cent, the highest since 1981?
- (3) If he is aware, does he now accept that there is a rental housing crisis in Perth and, if so, what action will he now take to abate the deteriorating situation?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) to (3) The reasons the Government rejected that amendment were given on the night it was moved. Further to that, nobody of course should be in any doubt that the sort of problems which are facing tenants in the private rental market exist and contribute to cost rises. That is self-evident.

I can say that, unlike the Opposition, the Government has been seeking to take up with the Federal Government ways and means of addressing this

situation. We will continue to do that in a positive fashion and we would like the Opposition to begin making positive contributions and policies available to the community to work with the Government to address that problem.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Boundaries Commission

74. Mr SCHELL, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Is the Minister considering the establishment of a boundaries commission to review municipal boundaries?
- (2) If yes, what provision will there be for local input?
- (3) Is the Minister considering the removal of the poll provision for the changing of municipal boundaries?

Mr CARR replied:

- (1) and (2) A local government boundaries commission already exists, and it considers matters relating to the boundaries of municipalities referred to it by the Minister.
- (3) There are no immediate plans by the Government for the removal of these poll provisions. However, the Government is very concerned at the effect of the present situation relating to the 1975 Dadour amendment, as it is known, by which it is almost impossible for any reasonable boundary changes to be gained in any local governments anywhere in this State.

The Government is very keen to see a situation where a degree of flexibility can be introduced to enable reasonable boundary changes to occur. We are actively examining how such a system of flexibility could be introduced, but we have no firm proposals at this stage.

EXPORTS

Coal: India

75. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Has the Minister completed his negotiations with the Indian Government to sell coal to that country from the stockpile at Collic?

- (2) When does he expect coal exports to India to commence?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) and (2) A range of negotiations is being undertaken at the moment concerning coal exports from Western Australia, from the stockpile and also from the producers' own operations; and India is but one of the potential customers. The Government is managing the stockpile in a number of ways, including seeking export and domestic markets for coal.

I was able to announce recently the conclusion of successful negotiations between Australian Carbon Ltd and the SEC for the sale of a substantial volume of coal. Negotiations are taking place with other potential purchasers, domestic as well as export.

In addition, the Government's success in achieving the construction of the LPG plant will have a substantial impact on the coal stockpile. The Government's policy of reducing its energy inventory generally, including the stockpile, is proceeding well—somewhat better than one might have expected a year or so ago—on a whole range of fronts including the one to which the member referred.

TEACHERS UNION

Writs

76. Mr CLARKO, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Minister instructed his lawyers to serve writs on the State School Teachers Union and the president of that union, Mr Bateman?
- (2) If so, does the Minister realise that the application of the sub judice practices of this House as a result of these writs will result in the suppression of any debate on the controversial better schools programme which teachers are unhappy about?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) It is a civil action and no writs have yet been served.

Mr Court: There are not many people in the community without a writ served on them.

Mr PEARCE: I made sure that the writs were not served during the time the Parliament was sitting in the period leading up to the by-election. I notice that the Opposition did not even take the opportunity given by the parliamentary forum at any time this week to raise any question with regard to the better schools report. It was left to the member for Stirling, the National Party deputy leader.

Mr Brian Burke: Today is the last day before the by-election, and they have not even moved a matter of interest.

Mr PEARCE: The Opposition has not taken advantage of the opportunity of the by-election to move a matter of public importance, which is a system available to the Opposition this week. In my view the nature of the action for libel against the President of the Teachers Union and the Teachers Union itself is couched in such a way that it will not prevent discussion of any of the issues with regard to the better schools report. It is based on the fact that the advertising currently undertaken by the Teachers Union in support of Liberal candidates in the forthcoming by-election is so dishonest that one cannot allow that level of dishonesty in that climate without taking some kind of legal action.

ENVIRONMENT

Conservation Strategies: Documents

77. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Environment:

Mr Brian Burke: This is the second question addressed to the Minister since he became the Minister.

Mr BLAIKIE: Following reports that Mr Graham Chittleborough was involved in the preparation of a report on conservation land strategies and working papers that can be perused at the office of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, will

the Minister have both documents and papers laid on the table of the House? If not, why not?

Mr HODGE replied:

The Premier was right; this indeed is the second question without notice I have been asked by the Opposition since the election in 1986. If I recollect correctly, the first question was also asked by the member for Vasse. I meant to congratulate him, but I received such a shock on hearing the question that I forgot. I am very pleased indeed to answer the question.

Dr Graham Chittleborough was the chairman of a very broadly-based community committee established by my predecessor to draw up a State conservation strategy for Western Australia. This was done over a considerable period of time—12 or 18 months. When that task was completed I had a Press conference and publicly launched the State conservation strategy. I am sure copies of that strategy are in the Library of Parliament House. I would gladly send the member a complimentary copy if he does not have one. It is a public document and would be in most public libraries throughout the State. If the Library in Parliament House does not have a copy, I would be surprised.

The other paper which had some publicity was a background paper produced by the committee during its deliberations on the State conservation strategy. The background paper was not a consensus document. In fact the committee responsible for putting it together could not reach agreement on its contents and recommended to me that it should not be made public. I did not want to be accused of trying to hush up the document or keep it quiet, but I did not want to go against the wishes of the committee and it recommended that it should not be published. As a result I struck what I thought was a reasonable compromise and did not publish it, but I made sure it was available for public scrutiny and perusal in the library of the Environmental Protection Authority. The member for Vasse and any other member would be welcome to peruse it.

MOSMAN PARK TEAROOMS

Licensing Arrangements

78. Mr HASSELL, to the Premier:

Is he aware of the progress in negotiations for the finalisation of the lease and licensing arrangements for the Mosman Park tearooms?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

No.

ELECTRICAL WORK

New Residences: Inspections

79. Mr LEWIS, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

I refer to a new system of random inspection for electrical work on new residences as advised by the State Energy Commission on 27 March.

(1) Did officers of the State Energy Commission consult with building industry groups such as the Housing Industry Association and the Master Builders Association before introducing the new system?

(2) Does the Minister believe that random inspection of electrical installations by officers of the State Energy Commission will—

(a) improve the overall work standards in the electrical installation industry;

(b) improve the process of electrical connection to new homes;

(c) reduce delays in connection?

Mr PARKER replied:

(1) and (2) So far the SEC has not implemented any system of random inspection, because so far it has only made a recommendation to me concerning that, with which I have yet to deal. However, in terms of consultation, the fact of the matter is that this proposal has been around for a very long time and has been reviewed by a large group of people, including the Electrical Contractors Association and the Federation of Electrical Contractors. Other people were invited to make submissions during the review of Electricity Act regulations a year or two ago, and a review of the inspection branch of the SEC was conducted

by a group consisting of Mr Peter Sharkey, at that time a barrister, and Mr Ian Steele from Merz & McLellan and Partners, an engineering firm. They consulted extremely widely.

In most other parts of the country and the world, a system of random electrical inspection, which is basically a system of self-regulation, is undertaken. It places the onus back on the contractors to regulate themselves to the extent that the State Energy Commission performs more or less an audit function in electrical connections.

I have not finalised my views on the recommendation from the SEC, but with constant calls for smaller govern-

ment and less regulation of industry, this is one area which we have in Western Australia which does not exist in most other parts of the world, and it is worthy of consideration.

It is always interesting to see that in these areas, as soon as one starts talking about specific areas of deregulation a whole host of people, including the most unlikely ones, jump up and say we should not be deregulating. I have not finalised my view on the matter but I tend to the view that we can give that regulation back to the contractors and allow the SEC to perform an audit role. The more we can do that the better off we as a community will be.

