

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 20th September, 1962

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The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1. *This question was postponed.*

MANJIMUP SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL Additions

2. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Education:
 - (1) What additions are contemplated to Manjimup Senior High School in the present financial year?
 - (2) When will tenders be called?
 - (3) When will the work be finished?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) 2 classrooms.
1 art room.
1 typing room.
1 technical drawing room.
Office for clerical assistance.
Enclosure to canteen.
Change rooms.
4 tennis courts.

(2) and (3) Not known at present.

ABATTOIRS IN COUNTRY AREAS Government Policy on Establishment

3. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Agriculture:
 - (1) What is the Government's policy towards the establishment of abattoirs in country areas?

- (2) Under what conditions would the Government be prepared to establish an abattoir in Manjimup?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) and (2) The Government has no intention of establishing abattoirs in country areas, but has no objection to such action being taken by local authorities or by private enterprise.

WATER SUPPLY AT SHARK BAY

Ratepayers and Revenue

Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) How many people in Shark Bay pay water rates?
 (2) What amount was collected in water rates for the years 1958-59, 1959-60, 1960-61?
 (3) What will the amount be for 1962-63?

Consumption and Salt Content

- (4) Has an estimate been made of the total water consumption per year?
 (5) What is the salt content of the water?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) There are 76 rated water supply assessments in Shark Bay and a further nine of which charges are raised in lieu of rates, involving 46 private persons together with various State Government Departments and the shire council.
 (2) The amounts collected for rates and charges in lieu of rates in the following years were—

	£
1958-59	592
1959-60	459
1960-61	375

- (3) The estimated collections of rates and charges in lieu of rates for 1962-63 is £700.
 (4) The estimated total consumption of water per year is 11,700,000 gallons.
 (5) The common salt content of the water is 231 grains per gallon.

DEEP-WATER PORTS

Establishment at Broome and Derby

5. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Premier:

- (1) Is he yet in a position to give a concrete decision on the establishment of a port in deep-water at Broome?
 (2) Has the Government any plan for the development of a deep-water port at Derby?
 (3) If so, are those plans designed to ensure that adequate modern facilities will be provided for the handling of all kinds of cargo including chilled meats?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) No; but the matter is under active consideration.
 (2) No. The present proposal in respect of Derby is to reconstruct the port facilities so as to make Derby a more efficient port for the type of ships that at present use the port.
 (3) The new port facilities at Derby will be much more efficient than the existing ones and provision will be made for the proper handling of all kinds of cargo that are expected to be offered for shipment.

GREAT EASTERN HIGHWAY

"Floodway" Signs

6. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Works:

What is the significance of signs which have appeared in some places along the Great Eastern Highway with the word "floodway"?

Mr. WILD replied:

"Floodway" is a standard sign laid down in the Road Signs Code. It is used to give warning of depressions in the road which carry shallow water for short periods and create a hazard.

7. *This question was postponed.*

CONTAINERISED GOODS

Tonnage Railed to Great Southern Areas

8. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) What tonnages of domestic traffic were railed from the Port of Fremantle in containerised form to Great Southern areas for the years 1959-60, 1960-61, 1961-62?
 (2) What tonnages of domestic traffic were railed from the Eastern States to the Great Southern area in containerised form for the years 1959-60, 1960-61, and 1961-62?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Nil.
 (2) Nil. However, traffic in containerised form is being consigned by rail from the Eastern States to the metropolitan area. On occasions these consignments contain goods for the Albany area and these goods are subsequently incorporated in bulk rail wagon consignments despatched by private transport agents.
 9. *This question was postponed for one week.*

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS*Comparison of City and Country Areas*

10. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many minor traffic accidents occurred in the age groups 0 to 16, 17 to 25, 26 to 45, 46 to 60, and 61 to 110 for the years 1959, 1960, 1961, and to date 1962—
 - (a) in the city area;
 - (b) in the country areas, quoting names of country towns where accidents were recorded?
- (2) How many major traffic accidents occurred in the above age groups, for the same years, in the same areas?
- (3) What percentage of city-issued license holders were involved in country accidents in the years referred to in No. (1)?
- (4) What percentage of country-issued license holders were involved in city accidents in the years referred to in No. (1)?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) to (4) Statistics are not kept which would supply an answer to these questions.

SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENTS*Admission Charges*

11. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Under what authority are cinemas permitted to make charges for admittance to film screenings on Sundays?
- (2) Are theatre plays, concerts, etc., granted permission on the same or a similar basis?
- (3) If not, why is commercial entertainment derived from imported films granted preference over local actors and artists generally?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Under section 76 (h) of the Police Act Amendment Act.
- (2) No, unless the proceeds are for charity or social welfare purposes.
- (3) Film screenings on Sundays for which permits have been issued for a collection or charge, have been a feature of Sunday entertainment for decades, and in this period permits have not been issued for other commercial entertainment referred to by the honourable member unless, as I have already mentioned, the proceeds are for charity or for social welfare purposes. This policy has been subscribed to by successive Governments for many years.

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD*Commission Paid to Agents*

12. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) What rates of commission are payable to T.A.B. commission agents?
- (2) Does this rate vary as the holdings increase?
- (3) If so, what is the scale of variation?
- (4) What was the total amount paid in commission by the T.A.B. to agents in June, July, and August this year?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) (a) Agents operating the manual system receive commission on weekly turnover—

Up to £1,000,	5 per centum.
£1,001 to £1,500,	4 per centum.
£1,501 to £2,000,	3 per centum.
Over £2,000,	2½ per centum.
- (b) Agents operating the mechanised system receive commission on weekly turnover—

Up to £1,000,	4½ per centum.
£1,001 to £2,000,	3½ per centum.
Over £2,000,	3 per centum.
- (c) Managers of cash agencies who have become agents receive commission as in (b) above, subject to downward adjustments on standard turnover of—

£1,000 per week	— adjustment nil.
£1,400 per week	— adjustment £1 5s.
£2,000 per week	— adjustment £7 10s.
£3,000 per week	— adjustment £15.
£4,000 per week	— adjustment £25.
£5,000 per week	— adjustment £37 10s.
£6,000 per week	— adjustment £50.

All rates in (b) and (c) are subject to deductions for hire of machines and time recorders (average £3 10s. per week) and maintenance charges of approximately £1 per week.

- (2) Yes.
- (3) Answered in No. (1) (a), (b) and (c) above.
- (4) June—£9,916 (5 weeks).
 July—£7,162 (4 weeks).
 August—£13,473 (4 weeks).

ESPERANCE RECREATION RESERVE*Cancellation*

13. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) For what reason was recreation reserve No. 24164 Esperance Lot 305 cancelled as per *Government Gazette* of the 9th February, 1962?
- (2) Who or what authority requested this action?
- (3) Was the reserve previously vested in the Esperance Shire Council?
- (4) For what purpose is the land to be used now?
- (5) Who now controls this area?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Reserve No. 24164—Esperance Lot 305—was cancelled in order that the subject land may be included in an Esperance foreshore reserve.
- (2) The Esperance Road Board, in 1960.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The land will become part of the proposed foreshore reserve.
- (5) The Crown.

WAR SERVICE LAND SETTLEMENT*Deputation to Minister for Agriculture from the R.S.L.*

14. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) On what date did he receive a deputation from the R.S.L. on the matter of land settlement?
- (2) Has he given a reply to the R.S.L.?
- (3) If so, what was the reply?
- (4) If not, when will this be available?

Mr. NALDER replied:

In this question the honourable member has asked whether the R.S.L. has met me on the matter of land settlement; and I take it he meant war service land settlement. If that is the case, the answers are as follows:—

- (1) The deputation was received from the R.S.L. on the 20th August, 1962.
- (2) No.
- (3) Answered by No. (2).
- (4) When the views expressed by the deputation have been thoroughly investigated any replies necessary will be forwarded.

Change of Lease

15. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) On what date was the form of lease used under the war service land settlement scheme changed?

- (2) Did the former lease provide for a type of appeal against valuation?
- (3) If so, in what manner?
- (4) Does the present lease provide for a similar appeal?
- (5) Will he make available a copy of each type of lease?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) The lease was changed to conform with Commonwealth conditions dated the 30th July, 1953, and the State Act No. 29 of 1954 (Assented to on the 5th November, 1954).
- (2) Yes.
- (3) By arbitration.
- (4) No.
- (5) Yes.

BRAN SHORTAGE*Reason and Remedy*

16. Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is he aware that there is an insufficient supply of bran in the State to meet the needs of the dairying districts?
- (2) What is the reason for the present acute shortage?
- (3) As it is expected that there will be an increased demand for mill offal during the coming summer because of strict rationing of irrigation water in some districts, will the Government take whatever steps are possible to encourage a greater output of bran?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) There have been some shortages of mill offals (bran and pollard) over the last two or three months. At the present time there is adequate bran but pollard is in short supply.
- (2) These shortages have been due to a fall in export flour orders, firstly because of competition from other countries exporting flour and secondly because some countries which previously imported flour have established their own flour mills.
- (3) As bran is a by-product of flour milling, supplies are governed by the demand for flour which in turn is largely dependent on overseas orders.

There will be adequate supplies of wheat, barley, and oats which can be supplemented with meat-meal, whalemeal and other protein concentrates to supply any demands for stock fodder in the dairying district.

A number of farmers use such mixtures—which are equally productive.

RABBIT POISONING

Use of "1080" Vacuum Impregnated Oats

17. Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Does the Agriculture Protection Board propose to use "1080" vacuum impregnated oats for the coming rabbit poisoning season?
- (2) Is it intended to introduce the one-shot baiting method in lieu of the costly free-feed method now being used?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Yes, to the extent of supplies available which are to be manufactured by a commercial firm now preparing the necessary process.
- (2) The one-shot baiting method as applied this year must still be regarded as a large-scale trial and will be extended as further supplies of treated oats become available.

18. *This question was postponed.*

MINERAL CLAIMS Nos. 292 AND 90

Outcome of Warden's Dismissal of Objection, etc.

19. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Did not the warden dismiss the objection by Hancock Prospecting Pty. Ltd. to the granting of mineral claim 292 on the ground that the limits of the boundaries of mineral claim 90, on which portion of mineral claim 292 was alleged to encroach, could not be defined?
- (2) As a result of a direction given by him, have the boundaries of mineral claim 90 now been defined?
- (3) Is the area of land which has been surveyed as mineral claim 90 the same in area as the area of ground which a representative of Hancock Prospecting Pty. Ltd. on the 29th July last indicated to the Chief Draftsman of the Mines Department and a surveyor engaged by that department as being the ground covered by mineral claim 90?
- (4) If the ground indicated was not the same in area, what was its area?
- (5) What distance from the ground pointed out as mineral claim 90 was the ground actually surveyed as mineral claim 90?

(6) Does the area of land surveyed as mineral claim 90 overlap the ground already granted to the holder of prospecting area 284?

(7) Did the Chief Draftsman of the Mines Department obtain evidence strongly suggesting that an attempt had been made by someone to indicate the boundaries of claim 90 by dropping corner posts from an aeroplane?

(8) What evidence is there that mineral claim 90 had been lawfully pegged?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) to (8) The Minister for Mines has not yet made any determination under mining regulation 55 (7) in regard to application for mineral claim 292. The determination which has to be made is at least partly judicial. The Minister declines to answer these questions at the present time, as his determinations may be prejudiced by his doing so.

DESALINATION PLANT AT ROTTNEST

Name of Manufacturer and Details of Process

20. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What is the name of the firm which has manufactured the plant for the desalination project at Rottneest?
- (2) What is the principle of the process?
- (3) Is this process considered to be superior to the Zarchin patent which is being used in Israel as a result of the co-operation of the Ministry of Development and the Fairbanks-Whitney Corporation of New York?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) "M.E.C.O."—Mechanical Equipment Company of U.S.A.. The local agents in Perth are Mauri Bros. and Thomson (W.A.) Pty. Ltd.
- (2) The principle used is that of vapour compression, which is thermally very efficient. The plant being purchased is of the non-scaling type operating at lower temperatures than normally.
- (3) Open tenders were called throughout the world for any type of plant and no offer was received for the Zarchin process. As no competitive quote was received for the Zarchin process it is not possible to assess efficiencies.

BUSHFIRES**Regrowth and Precautions in Burnt-out Areas**

21. Mr. RUNCIMAN asked the Minister for Forests:

- (1) Is he aware of the rapid regrowth in the recently burnt-out area of Dwellingup, Holyoake, and Monger Brook?
- (2) Are necessary fire precautions being taken in this area, such as controlled burning and fire-breaks?

Fire Hazards in State Forests

- (3) Is the Forests Department eliminating fire hazards to those properties which are surrounded by or adjacent to State Forests?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Forests Department has always taken every action within its power to keep fire danger to a minimum in the vicinity of private property. It is also incumbent on the individual landholder to take similar action on his own property. Satisfactory co-operation between the department and farmers in this area is being maintained.

SEWAGE EFFLUENT**Use on Country Ovals**

22. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Has a decision been reached enabling local governing authorities to use surplus sewerage water for the purpose of establishing local ovals?
- (2) If not, will he indicate when a decision is likely?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) and (2) The Commissioner of Public Health has very recently advised that subject to the implementation of adequate precautionary measures stipulated by him, approval will be given to the use of sewage effluent for watering ovals in country districts.

HOLDEN SEDAN CAR**Annual License Fee**

23. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Police:

What was the annual license fee payable on a Holden sedan car as at the 30th June in each of the following years:—1959, 1960, 1961, 1962?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

Annual license fees for Holden sedan car, ordinary transmission:

		Annual License Fee.		
Year.		£	s.	d.
1959	....	8	12	0
1960	....	11	0	0
1961	....	11	0	0
1962	....	11	0	0

S.I.G.O. Insurance Policy and No-claim Discount

24. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Labour:

- (1) What was the amount charged by the State Government Insurance Office for a comprehensive motor vehicle policy (yearly) on a Holden sedan car as at the 30th June in each of the following years:—1959, 1960, 1961, 1962?
- (2) What was the percentage allowed in each of the years mentioned for "No claim discount" in connection with renewals of policy?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) The premiums charged differ due to various factors but not due to the make of vehicle.

Taking an insured value of £800 for a car privately owned not under hire purchase, the gross premiums for the various years were:—

	30/6/59	30/6/60	30/6/61	30/6/62
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Metropolitan area	19 5 0	19 5 0	21 3 6	22 9 6
Country	16 15 0	16 15 0	20 2 0	20 15 4
Country (north of 20° latitude)	25 13 0	25 13 0	28 4 6	29 19 6

- (2) The no claim bonus rates applying for the years are listed below.

	After 1 year %	After 2 years %	After 3 years %	After 4 years %	After 5 years %
30/6/59	25	33½	40	50	60
30/6/60	25	33½	40	50	60
30/6/61	25	33½	40	50	60
30/6/62	25	33½	40	50	50

Motor Vehicle (Third Party) Insurance Fee

25. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

What was the annual insurance fee payable for a Holden sedan car under the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act as at the 30th June in each of the following years:—1959, 1960, 1961, 1962 (Class 1a)?

Mr. NALDER replied:

1959—£3 10s.
1960—£4 6s.
1961—£4 6s.
1962—£4 6s.

DIRTY WATER

Cause and Remedy

26. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is he aware that the M.W.S.S. & D. Department constantly blames the internal condition of service pipes for the supply of dirty water and lack of pressure in supply?
- (2) Is he aware that the internal condition of pipes in the eastern suburbs is due to excess sedimentation in a large number of cases and not due to corrosion of the service pipes?
- (3) Would he provide settlement facilities in the eastern suburbs to obviate this excess sedimentation in service pipes of homes relatively recently constructed?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes—in the majority of cases.
- (2) Approximately 70 services have recently been examined after complaints had been received and in over 90 per cent. of these the internal service pipes were in bad condition.

Reports of these investigations are available for the honourable member to see on application to the chief engineer for metropolitan water supply.

- (3) There is no necessity to provide such facilities.

27. *This question was postponed.*

WASHED-UP WHALES

Identity and Cause of Stranding

28. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) Has it been established that the identity of whales washed up at Doubtful Island are of the sperm whale species?
- (2) Were on-the-spot investigations carried out; and if so, by whom?
- (3) Did the investigations reveal the cause of the unusual happening, or are investigations still proceeding?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes, by Inspector Carmichael of the State Fisheries Department.
- (3) It was not possible to ascertain the cause of the mortality of the sperm whales. In previous years whales have been stranded on various beaches, but scientists have not been able to account for these occurrences.

BUSHFIRE FILM

Screening in Western Australia

29. Mr. RUNCIMAN asked the Minister for Forests:

- (1) Is he aware of a bushfire shock film which is being shown in Victoria and is produced by the Council of Fire and Accident Underwriters?
- (2) As this film is being shown in order to give the public a knowledge and appreciation of the disastrous results of bushfires, could this matter be brought to the attention of the Bush Fires Board with a view to the film being shown in W.A.?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Council of Fire and Accident Underwriters has presented one copy of the film to the W.A. Fire Brigades Board and two copies to the Bush Fires Board, which will be shown as opportunity occurs.

HOUSING: SMALL HOMES PLAN

Applications Received, and Loans Granted

30. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many applications for assistance were received in connection with the £325,000 "First hundred small homes plan" announced in July, 1961?
- (2) How many applicants were successful in obtaining loans?
- (3) What were the maximum, minimum, and total loans granted?
- (4) Will he indicate the total cost to the Government and R. & I. Bank under this scheme?
- (5) Were the successful applicants selected from the more settled metropolitan area; and if so, what was the reason?
- (6) Will he advise the number of applicants received from country areas and the resultant particulars of the number of successful applicants and respective towns?
- (7) Is a further similar loan anticipated in the near future?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) The R. & I. Bank ceased taking applications when the number reached 135.
- (2) and (3) 103 approvals given for £318,000. Applications withdrawn and adjustments requested eventually reduced the number of loans to 100, ranging from £1,700 to £3,500 and totalling £303,000.
- (4) Government £75,000, R. & I. Bank £228,000.

- (5) and (6) Metropolitan loans numbered 91 and country loans 9. No country applications received at head office were declined. Approvals went to—

Bunbury—1.
 Esperance—1.
 Geraldton—1.
 Mandurah—1.
 Merredin—1.
 Moora—1.
 Narrogin—1.
 Northam—1.
 Safety Bay—1.

In the second and third 100 small homes plans, the country approvals averaged 26 per cent. of the total.

- (7) Further small homes plans will depend upon the growth of the R. & I. Savings Bank.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Bunbury-Muja and Collie-Muja Extensions

31. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Is a power line proposed to link Bunbury with Muja?
- (2) Will Collie be connected direct with Muja?
- (3) Will he indicate the anticipated commencement and completion dates for questions Nos. (1) and (2)?

S.E.C. High Tension Programme

- (4) What is the S.E.C. programme for high tension transmission expansion for each year commencing 1962 until, and including, 1967?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) On the Bunbury to Muja line the clearing is complete and construction is commencing shortly. Anticipated completion of construction is 1963.

Preliminary work has already commenced on the line from Collie to Muja.

The anticipated completion of construction is 1963.

- (4) The major lines to be constructed are:—

Bunbury to Muja—1962 to 1963.
 Cannington to Muja—1963 to 1964.

The construction of other transmission lines is proceeding continuously when and where the demand on the system warrants.

APPLECROSS AND BENTLEY HIGH SCHOOLS

Students from Manning-Koonawarra Area

32. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will he advise the number of students who will be attending the Applecross High School in 1963 for their Leaving Certificate who reside in the Manning-Koonawarra area?
- (2) Of these, will he indicate the number who have brothers or sisters who will be attending the Bentley High School in 1963 from the 79 leaving Manning State School and the 55 leaving the Koonawarra School at the end of the present term?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) 8.
- (2) 1.

STATE SHIPPING SERVICE

Consideration of Report by Captain Williams

33. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Premier:

- (1) Did he read *The West Australian* newspaper of the 19th September, 1962, subleader with the heading "Ministers Come First"?
- (2) If so, does he agree that four months is more than sufficient time for Cabinet to study Captain Williams's report?
- (3) If not, will he read this subleader and reply to this question at a later date?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. It should be realised that Captain Williams's report was not a report in the ordinary way, as, for instance, when a Royal Commission is appointed.

Captain Williams was making the report as an acknowledged expert to inform both the Government and the Grants Commission.

As previously advised, it is the Government's intention to release this report in due course.

- (3) Answered by No. (1).

NATIVE RESERVES AT ALBANY

Amenities at New Reserve

34. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) Has the Native Welfare Department taken over an area of land at Albany for a new reserve?

- (2) If so, what amenities are available for natives using the reserve, by way of sanitary arrangements, laundry facilities and housing?

Use and Inspection of Old Reserve

- (3) Is the old reserve situated at Albany Highway, Albany, still being used; and if so, why?
- (4) Is an inspection made periodically of the native reserve, Albany; and if so, by whom is inspection made?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Water has been connected to the new reserve. Three type 3 houses and standard facilities have been provided for in this year's Estimates.
- (3) Yes. It is necessary to continue to use the old reserve until the facilities on the new reserve are ready for use.
- (4) Yes, Mr. Johnson, Assistant District Welfare Officer, makes regular inspections and Mr. Webster, District Welfare Officer, inspects the reserve occasionally.

KOONGAMIA TOWNSITE

Deep Sewerage and Septic Tank System

35. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Health Department satisfied with the drainage, seepage and septic tank system at Koon-gamia townsite?
- (2) Is any action being taken to arrange deep sewerage?
- (3) Is the septic tank system satisfactory in a clay area?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes, although difficulties are experienced in the disposal of effluent from time to time.
- (2) This question should be directed to the Minister for Water Supplies.
- (3) Yes.

KALAMUNDA HIGH SCHOOL

Additional Accommodation for 1963

36. Mr. DUNN asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware—
- (a) that there will be an intake of over 200 new students at the Kalamunda High School at the commencement of the school year in 1963;
- (b) that this will require five new classrooms and additional home science and trade centres?

- (2) In view of the fact that tenders have not yet been called, and that the members of the building trade will take their annual leave after Christmas, can he give an assurance that the additions will be ready for the commencement of school in February, 1963?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (2) Tenders will be invited in approximately two weeks and every endeavour is being made to have the northern wing, which will comprise the classroom section, completed for the reopening of schools in February.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

STATE HOUSING COMMISSION

Policy on Arrears of Rental

1. Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Minister for Health): Yesterday the member for Bayswater asked the Minister for Industrial Development a question without notice relating to policy in respect of tenancies in arrears of rent. The Minister for Industrial Development said he would seek the views of the Minister for Housing and would obtain an answer. I now have that answer, which is as follows:—

The policy in respect of tenancies in arrears of rental has not changed and is, as previously stated in answer to question 27 of Wednesday, the 19th September, 1962.

A tenant in arrears of three weeks rental could receive a notice to quit. Such action would be taken only after a review of the family income, capacity to pay, previous history, and previous approaches had failed to satisfactorily reduce the arrears.

A tenant receiving a notice to quit still has the opportunity to clear the debt, make satisfactory arrangements for its reduction, or appeal for compassionate consideration, should extenuating circumstances have existed without the commission's knowledge.

POLICE STATION AT ALBANY

Erection of New Building

2. Mr. HALL: On Thursday, the 13th September, 1962, I asked the Minister for Works the following questions:—
- (1) When is it anticipated work will begin on the building of the new police station at Albany?
- (2) What is the approximate cost of the proposed building?

The Minister replied:

- (1) and (2). This work was not included in the building programme submitted by the Police Department for 1962-63.

On the 1st November, 1961, I asked the Minister for Works the following question:—

Does item 23, page 6, of the details of the General Loan Fund Estimates—New Police Buildings at Albany—refer to a new holding gaol and prison or a new police station?

The Minister replied:

A new police station.

My question now is—

Why has a building not been erected?

Mr. Hawke: Hear, hear!

Mr. WILD (Minister for Works): I suggest the honourable member refer his question to the Minister for Police who controls the Police Vote.

MINERAL CLAIMS Nos. 292 AND 90

Outcome of Warden's Dismissal of Objection, etc.

3. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

With reference to question No. 19 on today's notice paper, is it contended by the Minister, in declining to answer these questions, that any of them is improper; and, if so, wherein lies the impropriety?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition will kindly place his question on the notice paper I will ask the Minister for Mines to reply to it. I was replying to question No. 19 on behalf of the Minister for Mines.

LAND ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—Minister for Lands) [2.42 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill embodies two separate amendments to the Land Act. Firstly it proposes to amend section 47 of the Act by providing that where it is necessary to make the farm size larger than 5,000 acres, to establish an economic unit, the maximum area may be increased by the Governor to a maximum of 10,000 acres.

A committee was appointed by the Government to investigate and report on the Midlands, and the committee comprised R. & I. Bank Commissioner J. P. Gabbedy (Chairman), Deputy Surveyor-General T. Cleave, and Deputy Director of Agriculture F. L. Shier. Opinion has been expressed that the Crown lands south of Mingenew contained within the project area, the subject of the committee's first report, are of a broken nature; and it is considered that, because of the broken nature of the known cultivable soil types, an area in excess of 5,000 acres, to ensure there being available to each of the successful applicants a reasonable proportion of cultivable country, should be made available for selection as a single farm unit.

Section 47 of the Land Act provides that no person shall be competent to acquire an area of land exceeding 5,000 acres of grazing land or its equivalent on the basis of five acres of grazing land being the equal of two acres of cultivable land. The time is fast approaching when vacant Crown land in Western Australia available for alienation for agricultural development will be mainly light land where it may be necessary to provide areas in excess of 5,000 acres to meet the requirements of an economic farm unit. Improvement in agricultural practice; the introduction of trace elements; and other scientific knowledge, has so lessened the difference between cultivable and non-cultivable land as to make it well-nigh impossible to differentiate between the two.

The amendment, if passed, would enable a farm-sized unit, having regard to land use, suitability, soil classification, rainfall, and locality, to be determined up to a maximum of 5,000 acres; and with the approval of the Governor, to 10,000 acres.

The second proposal contained in this Bill provides for the insertion in the Land Act of clauses to facilitate the alienation of certain lands previously dealt with under the now repealed Closed Roads Alienation Act. Prior to the passing of the Closed Roads Alienation Act, on the 18th October, 1932, the alienation of Crown land in closed roads was effected by the issuance of separate Crown grants under the provisions of section 57 of the Land Act, 1898, necessitating the numbering of the various areas as separate locations, thus creating a difficulty in showing the position on small-scale plans. The Act provided for the land in any closed road to be vested in the holders for the time being of the adjoining land, and to become part of and be included in the adjoining location or lot, and to become subject to the same encumbrances as the adjoining land.

When the Local Government Act, 1960, came into operation on the 1st July, 1961, it repealed the Closed Roads Alienation Act, 1932, which had worked without

amendment, smoothly and effectively, for over 28 years. The repeal has resulted in a return to the unsatisfactory position which applied before 1932 of having to issue separate Crown grants for any closed roads. When the original draft of the Local Government Bill was being discussed by representatives of various departments it was thought that the repealed Act could be covered by subsequent regulations under the Local Government Act. However, discussions which have since ensued with the Commissioner of Titles indicate that provisions could not be made in regulations for which no legal basis has been established in the main Act.

Under the provisions of section 294 of the Local Government Act, 1960, the land in any closed road is vested in the Crown, but no provision was made for its removal from the operation of the Transfer of Land Act, 1893, a matter which is now the subject of a suggested amendment. By virtue of the revestment, the land would become Crown land for disposal under the provisions of the Land Act, 1933, and it is suggested that an amendment of the Act is essential to reinstate the major portion of the repealed Closed Roads Alienation Act, 1932.

It is important to emphasise that all the difficulties that existed in regard to the alienation of land in closed roads before the passing of the Closed Roads Alienation Act, 1932, are now again being experienced pending the proposed new legislation as it is not desirable that separate Crown grants be issued for narrow strips of land which could, more advantageously, be included in and become portion of the adjacent lots or locations and become subject to the same encumbrances as the adjoining land.

Many of the cases in abeyance refer to land comprising portions of the old rabbit proof fence reserves where portions of the fence have been sold *in situ* to the holders of the adjoining land together with the land in portions of the reserve and the intervening portions of closed roads between the fence and the adjoining holders' properties. It is desired, therefore, to provide in the Bill a subsection to cover the alienation of the land in the rabbit proof fence reserves so that it can be dealt with in the same manner and simultaneously with the land in the adjacent closed road. Circumstances sometimes occur where it would be considered desirable to include in the proposed alienation of a road and/or rabbit proof fence reserve, another contiguous area of Crown land, to square up a boundary, and it is desired that suitable provision be made in the Bill for this purpose.

Attention is drawn to certain provisions in the Railways Discontinuance Act, No. 76 of 1960, concerning the disposal of the land in certain railway reserves and which embodies certain sections—namely, 14, 15,

16, and 17—which are similar to certain sections in the Closed Roads Alienation Act, 1932, but Act No. 76 of 1960 only refers to the railways specified therein.

It is considered desirable to provide in the Bill subsections which would authorise similar action in regard to discontinued railways or portions of railway reserves which have become redundant through deviation of a railway.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Kelly.

EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. LEWIS (Moore—Minister for Education) [2.52 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill may be divided into three parts. It provides, firstly, for an extension of the school-leaving age; secondly, for some amendments to the truancy provisions; and, thirdly, it clarifies and extends certain rights and privileges to teachers and trainee teachers.

Ever since compulsory education was introduced into Western Australia children have been obliged to commence schooling at not later than six years of age, and to continue at least until 14 years of age, thus giving a minimum of eight years' schooling. However, in recent years it has been permissible for a child to commence school at any time of the year during which it turns six, but not later than its sixth birthday, and in practice many have continued after turning 14 years of age.

In 1943 The Hon. W. H. Kitson, the then Minister for Education, sponsored a Bill which was duly passed, authorising the Minister to raise the permissible leaving age to 15 years by proclamation; but, for various reasons at different times over the past 19 years, it has not been possible for any Minister to proclaim this amendment. During the war and the immediate post-war period the shortage of teachers prevented the raising of the leaving age. Later, when it seemed that sufficient teachers were available, the shortage of classroom accommodation, brought about by the very rapid expansion in education, prevented successive Ministers from proclaiming the amendment.

In 1957 the member for Mt. Hawthorn, the Minister for Education of the day, was successful in having the Act amended to enable the age to be raised by stages to 15 years; but again, even to raise the age by as little as four or six months has not been found possible owing to accommodation shortages and the more urgent need to reduce the size of the larger classes.

This Bill is an attempt at a compromise between the existing position and that envisaged in the 1943 legislation. The Bill

aims to extend the school-leaving age to the end of the year in which the child turns 14. This means that children who turn 14 years of age during the school year may not immediately leave school, but must continue in attendance until the end of that school year.

For those who would have left school as soon as they turned 14 years of age it means a continuation at school for periods varying from a few days to just over ten months, depending on the month of the year in which their birthday occurs. This proposal will result in retaining some pupils longer at school without necessitating the employment of more teachers, the provision of more accommodation or increasing the size of classes.

Classes are formed at the beginning of the school year; but, under present arrangements, those which contain children who turn 14 during the year may be gradually reduced in size by some children leaving on attaining their 14th birthday, so that by the end of the year some classes are considerably below strength, but the remainder still occupy a classroom and require the services of a teacher. Under the proposed amendment the class will virtually remain at full strength for the whole year.

The total cost to the Government would be a relatively small increase in expenditure on such items as school supplies—for example, stationery—and bus fares. The scheme will ensure a minimum period of nine years of schooling for almost every child as practically all children now commence their schooling at the beginning of the year in which they turn six years of age. Under the present policy of chronological promotion every child, except for a few very special cases, would spend seven years in a primary school and two years in a secondary school.

The demands of modern society are so great that it is imperative to send children from school prepared to take their place in this society. The two years of compulsory secondary education envisaged by this amendment is still a very short period in which to complete a student's basic training for life, but it is better than one year and a few months, which is all that some students receive at present.

Schools will be able to plan a two-year course which will be completed by the majority of students. As school programmes are usually prepared in yearly levels, students who leave during the year have only partly completed the course they have begun. In consequence, students do not get the maximum benefit from the uncompleted year, which might thus be considered as wasteful of Government finance.

It is natural to assume that students will be more seriously motivated towards their work. At present a boy who knows he

will be leaving school in, say, April or May will not work seriously for the two or three months until he turns 14. However, he will be more likely to tackle his studies earnestly if he knows he has to stay at school for the full year. He will, in consequence, be better qualified at the end of that time.

To meet cases where it is necessary for a child to leave school in order to support its parents, or for some other special purpose, provision is made for the director-general to permit a child of 14 years of age to leave school if he is assured of suitable employment. This discretion will be exercised generously during the first year or so of the new arrangement.

This power would only be used if a position was available to the child and it was in his best interests to leave school and take the position. All other State Acts provide sections exempting children from school for stated reasons and at the discretion of the Minister or the director.

The other States of the Commonwealth have recognised the need for an extension of the school-leaving age. In Tasmania a child may not leave school until he has attained the age of 16 years; in New South Wales the age is 15; and in Victoria, Queensland, and South Australia it is 14. The latter three States have legislative provision for increasing the school-leaving age; but, like ourselves, have not yet been able to implement that legislation.

Opportunity is also being taken by this Bill to correct some minor matters in the Education Act. In the matter of truancy some problems have arisen in implementing the existing legislation. At present the Act requires welfare officers to return truants to their parents. Often it is found there is no parent at home to receive the child. Either the mother is out—for example, visiting or shopping—or both parents are working. In such cases the welfare officer must take the child to a parent's place of employment and this is not always a pleasant experience for those concerned.

The amendment will permit the welfare officer to return the child to school if no parent is at home, thus putting an immediate end to his truancy. Furthermore, where a child is convicted of truancy the Act provides that the court may release him on probation and subject him to the supervision of the Child Welfare Department. Truancy is of direct concern to welfare officers of the Education Department, and offenders are under the constant supervision of these officers. It seems logical, therefore, that truants should be placed on probation to those officers who actually supervise their attendance at school, rather than to the Child Welfare Department which accepts a somewhat nominal charge and leaves it to the Education Department welfare officers to police.

This amendment gives the education officers some legal backing for their supervision and relieves the Child Welfare Department officers of this responsibility. It has the support of the Child Welfare Department.

However, under existing legislation neither the court, the Education Department, nor the Child Welfare Department can take any action if a child breaks the terms of his probation. It is proposed, therefore, to give the director-general power to bring a child, or the person responsible for him, before the Children's Court if the terms of probation are not observed, and this provision gives the court the power to commit a child to the Child Welfare Department.

At the present time it is mandatory for the court to commit a child to an institution if he is proved to be a constant and habitual absentee from school. Both the Child Welfare Department and the Education Department agree that in some cases it would be better if the child could be suitably placed with a foster parent. The amendment gives the Child Welfare Department discretionary power to do this under section 10 of its Act. It is proposed to amend the Child Welfare Act to enable this discretionary power to be used when thought fit.

In 1960 an amending Act established the Government School Teachers' Tribunal. Some clarification of the tribunal's machinery has been requested by its chairman, principally in regard to its jurisdiction. In a few areas of the State district allowances are still paid to teachers, but at present the teachers' tribunal has no jurisdiction to hear appeals or make decisions concerning these allowances. The amendment will rectify this.

Regulation 134 of the regulations made under the Act gives the director-general power to appoint, transfer, reduce the grade, demote, suspend, or dismiss a teacher for misconduct, breach of the regulations, or gross inefficiency. However, the Act allows a teacher to appeal only if penalised for misconduct or breach of the regulations, but does not provide for an appeal in the case of conviction and punishment for gross inefficiency. The proposed amendment will grant this right.

The Act as it now stands permits teachers, or the Teachers' Union on behalf of teachers, to appeal to the teachers' tribunal in respect of any matter within its jurisdiction. However, the definition of "teacher" in the Act does not include Teachers' College students who are thus debarred from lodging appeals or applications with the tribunal, although the tribunal has jurisdiction under section 37AE, subsections (3) (b) and (3) (i), to deal with Teachers' College student allowances and dismissals. This power was given under the 1960 amendment but no machinery was then

provided to enable appeals to be lodged. This amendment will provide the necessary machinery.

I commend this Bill to the House. I have made a study of previous *Hansard* debates on amendments to the Education Act which sought to raise the school-leaving age. I have noticed that, generally, the raising of the age had been supported by members on both sides of the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. W. Hegney.

BILLS (2): MESSAGES

Appropriation

Messages from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the following Bills:—

1. Education Act Amendment Bill.
2. Land Act Amendment Bill.

LOAN ESTIMATES, 1962-63

Message: Appropriation

Message from the Governor received and read recommending that appropriations be made in accordance with the Estimates of Expenditure from the General Loan Fund for the year ending the 30th June, 1963.

In Committee

The House resolved into Committee to consider the Loan Estimates, the Chairman of Committees (Mr. I. W. Manning) in the Chair.

Vote: Railways, £4,551,000—

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Treasurer) [3.10 p.m.]: Before proceeding with the explanation of the loan funds and the Loan Estimates for this year I would like to say that it is rather unusual for us in this State to introduce the Loan Estimates prior to the general Estimates, although I understand that in South Australia this is the line that is usually followed.

I am introducing the Loan Estimates on this occasion because they are ready before the general Estimates. The Budget last year was introduced on the 22nd September; and it would appear, all things being well, that I will be able to introduce the Budget for this year this day week.

Funds available to Western Australia for capital works are dependent in the main on the degree of financial support which the Commonwealth is prepared to give to the States and on decisions of the Australian Loan Council with respect to the division of funds between the States. The extent to which the Commonwealth can influence the availability of funds was demonstrated last financial year.

Our loan programme for 1961-62 was based initially on the agreement of the Commonwealth Government in June 1961,

to support a total borrowing programme of £240,000,000. At a special meeting of the Loan Council in February last the Commonwealth agreed to increase the total programme to £247,500,000 provided that the additional sum of £7,500,000 was applied by the States to housing.

In addition, the Commonwealth allocated £10,000,000 to the States as a special grant to stimulate employment, and it also agreed to raise the borrowing programmes of the larger semi-governmental and local authority bodies by £7,500,000.

Another important decision taken at the February, 1962, meeting of the Loan Council was the lifting of the restriction on total borrowings by semi-governmental and local authorities in those cases where loan raisings did not exceed £100,000 in a financial year.

As far as Western Australia was concerned, the effect of these decisions in the governmental sector was to increase our allocation for Commonwealth-State housing projects from £3,000,000 to £3,706,000 and to provide £660,000 for employment-giving activities. In both cases it was the desire of the Commonwealth for the State to expend the additional funds as speedily as possible in order to increase employment to the maximum possible extent.

Needless to say, the Government co-operated to the fullest extent and immediately authorised additional housing and other works, details of which were announced at the time.

In the case of semi-governmental and local authorities the decisions made in February enabled the larger bodies to borrow £327,000 more in 1961-62 than would have otherwise been possible, and a further £338,000 was raised by the smaller bodies.

In this respect the larger bodies are those which borrow more than £100,000 per annum and the smaller bodies are those which borrow £100,000 or less during a year.

At the June, 1962, meeting of the Loan Council, the Commonwealth agreed to support a total borrowing programme of £250,000,000 for this current financial year which, in fact, is only £2,500,000 greater than the revised borrowing programme for last year.

However, despite strong representations from all Premiers, the Commonwealth was not prepared to go beyond £250,000,000. In explaining the Commonwealth's attitude the Federal Treasurer compared the expectations from the loan market in 1962-63 with the excellent results achieved last year when all but £4,000,000 was raised from borrowings in Australia and overseas.

Mr. Holt considered that the Commonwealth would need to contribute a much larger sum in support of the States' loan programmes in 1962-63, and in fact the Federal Budget introduced last month provides for £51,000,000 on this account.

Nevertheless, the Commonwealth took into consideration the continued high level of unemployment by making available a further sum for employment-giving activities of £12,500,000.

Western Australia's share of the total programme of £250,000,000 for this year is £23,522,000, of which £3,000,000 has been allocated for Commonwealth-State housing projects. In addition, we have been allotted £894,000 for employment-giving activities and the whole of this sum will be devoted to capital works.

The total allocation to the State in this current year is therefore £24,416,000 which is only £469,000 more than we received in 1961-62 although due regard has to be paid to the emergency nature of some of the assistance received last year.

Another factor which has also to be borne in mind is that Western Australia will receive substantial assistance this year from the Commonwealth for special projects. This embraces £4,300,000 for the railway standardisation works, £1,432,000 for northern development, £700,000 for beef roads in the north, and £300,000 towards the cost of constructing a new jetty at Derby. The payment of £700,000 for beef roads is in addition to the sum of £500,000 received from the Commonwealth last year for similar work.

The Commonwealth will also contribute £427,000 this year on a £ for £ basis with the State, towards the cost of new buildings being erected on the University site at Crawley.

As members know, repayments to the General Loan Fund of advances and loans made in previous years, are also available to finance the current year's works programme. These are expected to total £1,954,000 for 1962-63, which is slightly in excess of last year's total of £1,950,000.

Borrowings by State Authorities

Borrowings by State authorities will be heavier this year than in 1961-62. Amounts raised last year and proposed borrowings for 1962-63 are as follows:—

	1961-62 £	1962-63 £
State Electricity Commission	992,000	1,105,000
University	200,000	200,000
M.T.T.	180,000	150,000
Country High School Hostels Authority	200,000	200,000
Fremantle Harbour Trust	200,000	75,000
Metropolitan Regional Planning Authority	200,000	200,000
Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department	NIL	150,000
State Housing Commission	NIL	430,000
	<u>£1,972,000</u>	<u>£2,510,000</u>

I might say that in respect of the £150,000 to be borrowed by the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department, in case someone queries this point, this department has borrowing powers although not in the same way as if authorised by guarantees. But it actually has

the authority to borrow money, and money is being borrowed on this occasion from the State Government Insurance Office. Irrespective of whether the proposed Metropolitan Water Supply Board becomes law, we can still proceed under the existing legislation.

The additional raising in 1962-63 of £538,000 will relieve the demand on the General Loan Fund for moneys to finance certain works. In order to complete the picture as far as availability of funds is concerned, I should refer to the domestic resources of certain instrumentalities. These resources are in the main represented by cash accumulations on account of depreciation charged to operating expenses and are available for expenditure on capital works. The major concerns with these resources and the estimated availability of funds in 1962-63 are—

	£
Railways	763,000
State Electricity Commission	1,675,000
M.T.T.	232,000

which is a total of £2,670,000.

When all funds are taken into account the total capital works programme for 1962-63 of this financial year amounts to £38,709,000 which exceeds last year's comparable figure by £5,550,000. Of the increase, no less a sum than £4,815,000 is the result of a higher level of Commonwealth assistance for special developmental projects in Western Australia which highlights the importance to the State of this source of finance.

The Loan Estimates, of course, are only concerned with the allotment to departments of the sum of £20,522,000 allocated by the Loan Council to Western Australia for governmental works in this financial year as supplemented by loan repayments to be received during the year, and accordingly the total expenditure detailed in the Estimates now in the hands of members amounts to £22,476,000.

Nevertheless, it is necessary to refer to expenditure to be financed from domestic funds, semi-governmental borrowings, and the special Commonwealth grant for employment-giving activities in order to give a complete picture of the capital works programme in 1962-63; and as I deal with each department's activities I will indicate the additional funds available from these sources.

Railways and Tramways

In 1961-62 a total sum of £4,503,000 was expended on capital projects of the railways. The comparable programme of £5,563,000 in 1962-63 provides for a greatly increased volume of work including the construction of a new railway from Jarrahdale to Kwinana to serve the Alcoa Alumina Industry.

Funds available for the 1961-62 programme consisted of £3,475,000 from the General Loan Fund, £123,000 from the

Commonwealth grant for employment-giving activities, and £905,000 from the Rolling Stock Replacement Fund. The total of £5,563,000 required for the 1962-63 programme will be provided by £4,551,000 from the General Loan Fund, £249,000 from the Commonwealth grant for stimulation of employment, and £763,000 from the Railway Rolling Stock Replacement Fund.

The proportion of the 1962-63 programme which is devoted to special projects, including the Kewdale marshalling yards and new railways, is considerable. While special projects in 1961-62 required £496,000 or 11 per cent. of the total programme, it will be necessary to devote £2,341,000 to works of this nature in 1962-63. This sum is equivalent to 42 per cent. of the total railway capital works programme.

Funds expended in 1961-62 were classified under the following broad headings:—

	£
Additions and improvements to opened railways	2,496,000
Rolling stock construction	1,510,000
Kewdale marshalling yard and connecting railways	38,000
New river bridge at North Fremantle	352,000
Railway to Cockburn Cement Co. site	51,000
Construction of deviation at Kwinana for alumina works and survey of Kwinana-Jarrahdale railway	53,000

For 1962-63 funds of £5,563,000 have been allocated to works as follows:—

	£
Additions and Improvements to Opened Railways—	
Relaying, regrading and ballasting	423,000
Renewal of track components, rails, sleepers, bridges and culverts	724,000
Communications and signalling	91,000
Depot buildings, works and fuel oil storage facilities	114,000
Station and administration buildings	68,000
Water services, stockyards, weighbridges and cranes	70,000
Station yards and sidings	94,000
Machinery and plant at Midland workshops	38,000
Other machinery and plant, mechanical handling equipment, road motor vehicles	64,000
Other additions and improvements	64,000

Rolling stock—		
Locomotive stock	....	489,000
Coaching stock	....	115,000
Wagon stock	....	868,000
New Railways and Special Works—		
Kewdale marshalling yard and connecting railway	....	191,000
New river bridge at North Fremantle	....	610,000
Railway to Cockburn Cement Co. site	....	48,000
Kwinana deviation for Alumina Works and Kwinana - Jarrahdale railway	....	635,000
Duplication and regrading East Perth-Armadale section	....	50,000
Rail access to land-backed wharf at Bunbury	....	45,000
State contribution (3/20ths) to standard gauge construction costs	....	762,000

The proposed standard gauge railway, together with regional planning requirements in the metropolitan area, dictates extensive rearrangement of railway facilities. Towards meeting those requirements provision has been made for expenditure on projects such as the Kewdale marshalling yard, connecting railway to Midland and Cannington, and duplication and regrading of the East Perth-Rivervale section. Completion of these works will be necessary for the eventual introduction of dual gauge operation and will be in accordance with regional development.

Other major works to be financed from the railway allocation are the construction of the Kwinana-Jarrahdale railway for bauxite traffic, completion of the railway to the Cockburn Cement Co. site, the new river bridge at North Fremantle, and provision of rail access to the land-backed wharf at Bunbury.

The remaining funds will be applied to the provision of specialised rolling stock for haulage of bauxite on the Kwinana-Jarrahdale line and to the renewal and replacement of existing assets to ensure continuation of the progressive improvement which has been achieved over recent years.

Expenditure will also be incurred on renewal of sleepers, rails, bridges, and other items associated with the permanent way, replacement of building structures, and plant and machinery essential for the continued efficient operation of the railway.

Completion of regrading on the Goomalling-Merredin, Collie-Muja, and Collie-Cardiff sections this financial year will

produce substantial economies in operating. Relaying of the Great Southern Railway will also be completed during the year except for consolidation of some sections with metal ballast.

Provision has been made for improvement to coaches used for country passenger services and new wagons to replace over-age and decrepit stock. Funds have also been provided for the acquisition of new main line diesel electric locomotives for operation between Northam and Kalgoorlie. Associated with the introduction of these locomotives is the extension of crossing loops on the Eastern Goldfields Railway.

The programme of railway capital activities for the current year is sufficient only to meet the minimum requirements of the department. The progressive development of major railway projects in future years will require increased expenditure which will have to be found from within the limited capital resources of the State. While these projects will be difficult to finance, their ultimate contribution to the State will far outweigh the costs involved.

In 1961-62 final accounts totalling £7,000 were met on the removal of old tramway tracks and the consequent restoration of road surfaces. This work is now completed and accordingly there is no provision for expenditure in the current financial year.

State Electricity Commission

The amount expended on generation and distribution works from the General Loan Fund during the year ended June 1962, was £150,000. In addition, the Electricity Commission obtained £992,000 in new money from subscribed loans and arranged the conversion of loans totalling £1,832,000.

The major expenditure was on the continued extension and improvement of distribution systems in the metropolitan and country areas. The Bunbury Power Station was completed to its planned capacity of 120,000 kilowatts, and works were commenced on the Muja generating station site.

The anticipated expenditure for this year is £2,780,000. During the year the commission will not require any funds from the General Loan Fund; its borrowing will be confined to subscribed loans. Continued extension to the metropolitan electricity and gas distribution systems will require £1,190,000, and the increasing tempo of work at Muja generating station will absorb £410,000.

Increasing Commitments

Although no General Loan Fund moneys are provided for the State Electricity Commission this year, the increasing commitments on the construction of Muja generating station, which are expected to reach a peak in 1964-65 will require large amounts from the General

Loan Fund in future years. In 1964-65, for example, the estimated expenditure on capital works is £5,200,000; and, in addition, maturing loans amount to £2,340,000. This is considered to be far beyond the maximum amount which can be expected from the public loan market. In that year it is estimated that drawings from the General Loan Fund will probably exceed £2,400,000.

Public Works Department Estimate

Total capital works of the Engineering Division of the Public Works Department in 1961-62 amounted to £2,737,000 of which £164,000 was provided from the Commonwealth grant for employment-giving works and the balance from the General Loan Fund. In 1962-63 the total programme will be £3,040,000 and provision for this amount is made in the Loan Fund Estimates.

Esperance and Geraldton Harbours

The most noteworthy works to be undertaken this year are the continuation of work on Esperance and Geraldton Harbours. Both of these projects commenced during last year and the funds now provided will continue the work. At Geraldton last year an amount of £67,000 was expended mainly on dredging and rock blasting of the outer approaches.

If the Western Mining Corporation decides to export ore through the port of Geraldton, it will be necessary to lengthen the existing berths by 140 feet and provide a new berth 550 feet long, together with associated dredging. The decision of the company will rest on its ability to finalise a contract of sale with overseas interests. Whether or not iron ore is exported through the port, extension of the existing three berths by 140 lineal feet will be of great advantage. The provision of £361,000 in this year's programme for Geraldton Harbour will permit of the following work being undertaken:—

	£
Dredging to deepen the outer berths, entrance channel and inner harbour	165,000
Extension of existing berths by 140 lineal feet	157,000
Improvements to facilities at existing berths	27,000
Dredging for new land-backed berth	12,000

With the development of Esperance plains, the port at Esperance has proved inadequate and a decision has been taken to provide a new land-backed berth. A sum of £24,000 was expended last year on the rearrangement of rail facilities and further expenditure of £241,000 is provided for in the current year. The main items

to be met from this provision are the breakwater contract of £173,000 and reclamation dredging of £68,000.

Bunbury, Albany, and other Harbours

Other harbour work to be undertaken includes the continuation of development at Bunbury. Last year the sum of £310,000 was expended. This expenditure was mainly on maintenance renewals on the existing jetty structure, further developmental dredging, and extensions to the breakwater. Towards the end of the financial year a commencement was made on the construction of the new land-backed berth which will greatly improve the standard and working efficiency of the harbour.

The developmental dredging carried out has increased the area in which a depth of 30 feet of water is available and thus allowed freer use of the port by vessels of 28 feet draft. Sand movement into the harbour has been reduced by extensions to the breakwater and the existing groyne.

Provision of £396,000 is made for continuation of the work during 1962-63. The major expenditure incurred will be on the contract for the new land-backed berth for which £274,000 is provided. Reclamation associated with the new berth will require £85,000 and completion of the breakwater a further £33,000. It is anticipated that the new berth will be completed by December, 1963, and provision has been made in the railways programme for the construction of rail access to the berth. Minor expenditure is also intended at other ports in the southern areas of the State.

At Albany in 1961-62, £89,000 was spent on the removal of rock patches and construction of a transit shed. A provision of £6,000 for this year will finalise expenditure on these works.

In 1961-62, expenditure at Busselton amounted to £8,000 and provision has been made in the estimates for a further £5,000 for minor improvements to the existing jetty structure.

Works will be continued at the Fremantle fishing boat harbour. An amount of £145,000 is included in the programme for further dredging, extension of the breakwater, and the provision of some mooring facilities. When completed, this project will provide accommodation for the fishing fleet, which is increasing in size, and will also provide areas where facilities for repair and service of fishing boats may be established.

The sum of £21,000 is provided for South Fremantle foreshore groynes and beach nourishment work. This activity

involves the replacing of sand on the fore-shore which has been badly eroded by the action of the sea.

New jetty facilities at Rottnest Island will require a total of £40,000. This work will be financed with £20,000 included in the Estimates and a corresponding sum to be provided from the Main Roads funds.

Country Areas and Town Water Supply

During 1961-62, expenditure of £1,423,000 was incurred on the country areas and town water supply which was within £1,000 of the provision for the year. The work carried on for this supply falls naturally into two components. They are the comprehensive water supply scheme and the provision of water supplies for country towns.

Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme

Expenditure in 1961-62 on the comprehensive water supply scheme amounted to £548,000. With this expenditure, the modified scheme, to which the Commonwealth has been contributing, was completed and the State is now expanding the scheme to various needy towns from its own resources. The provision of £500,000 for this year will enable the work to be continued. In particular, the major items to be undertaken are the completion of the Kokardine-Dalwallinu and Katanning-Kojonup mains, and a commencement of the main from Narrogin to Wickiepin.

Country Towns Water Supplies and Sewerage

Work on the provision of water supplies for country towns absorbed £875,000 in 1961-62 and a further £745,000 is provided for work during 1962-63. This provision covers a number of country towns of which the largest projects are at Geraldton and Esperance. Amounts of £54,000 have been included for each of these towns.

Provision of £123,000 has been made for sewerage for country towns. During last year good progress was achieved with the Narrogin scheme and a commencement made on the sewerage of Bunbury. The provision for this year will permit these schemes to be continued and will allow some work to be undertaken at Albany.

Irrigation and Drainage

The expenditure of £341,000 on irrigation and drainage work in 1961-62 was mainly disbursed on the construction of Logue Brook Dam and the lining of the Collie main channel. At Logue Brook, the work was concentrated on placing the earth embankment and good progress was made. Unfortunately, it is not possible as

yet to store water to alleviate the anticipated shortage during the 1962-63 irrigation season, and it appears likely that settlers in the Harvey irrigation area will be on restricted water supplies this season.

The amount of £357,000 for this year provides for enlargements of the Collie main channel and the completion of the earth embankment at Logue Brook. Provided this work can be completed before the commencement of the 1963 winter season it will be possible to store water for release during the 1963-64 irrigation season.

An amount of £80,000 is included in the Estimates for the State's share of expenditure on the actual construction of the effluent disposal system for Laporte Titanium (Australia) Pty. Ltd. In accordance with the agreement, the State is liable for five-eighths of the cost and the company will meet the remaining three-eighths.

P.W.D. Architectural Division

Under the Architectural Division of the Public Works Department in 1961-62, an amount of £5,071,000 was expended from the General Loan Fund, and a further £172,000 from the Commonwealth Grants for employment-giving activities. The provision of £5,857,000 for architectural works this year will permit the heavy programme of works in progress to be continued and also provide for some new works.

School Buildings

In school buildings, 327 classrooms were completed throughout the State during the last financial year. Two new high schools, Embleton and Swanbourne, were opened during the year; and a new high school at Harvey has recently become operative.

Construction has recently commenced on three new metropolitan high schools at Hamilton Hill, Churchlands, and Ashfield; and it is expected that each of these buildings will be ready for occupation at the beginning of 1963. Extensive additions were completed at Bunbury, Eastern Goldfields, Mount Lawley, Bentley, Pinjarra, Kalamunda, and Bridgetown High Schools; and a new technical annexe to the Albany High School is in an advanced stage of construction. This building will provide improved manual training and domestic science facilities for the high school students and will also afford accommodation in Albany for the instruction of apprentices in the motor mechanics, carpentry, and joinery trades.

New primary schools have been erected at Bunbury, South Fremantle, Mount Helena, and Parkerville; and at present under construction are new schools at Rottnest, Yuna, Nannup, and Dalwallinu.

This financial year places an emphasis on building for technical education purposes with a commencement to be made on an institute of technology to replace the Perth Technical College. Forrest High School is to be extended and altered to serve apprentices in the food, electrical, refrigeration, and hairdressing trades; and a new technical school is to be formed at Bunbury.

Apart from the new high schools to be completed at Hamilton Hill, Churchlands, and Ashfield, extensive additions are to be carried out to high schools at Belmont, Kalamunda, Manjimup, Narrogin, Collie, Merredin, and Geraldton. New primary schools will be erected at Dunsborough, Wilson, Melville, Nollamara, Gingin, and Greenmount, whilst extensive additions are proposed to the Brockton and Morawa Junior High Schools.

Hospitals

Expenditure on hospital works in 1961-62 amounted to £1,731,000. A number of major works were completed by this expenditure, including a new clinical building for the Perth Dental Hospital, the new hospital and nurses' quarters at Osborne Park, nursing quarters at Fremantle and at the Shenton Park annexe of the Royal Perth Hospital, additional facilities at Kalgoorlie, extensions to King Edward Memorial Hospital, and extensive additions to the Narrogin Hospital. In addition, smaller works were carried out at Kellerberrin, Boyup Brook, and Morawa.

During 1962-63 a commencement will be made on regional hospitals and nurses' quarters at Bunbury and Geraldton. These projects will be of multi-storey construction and will each provide 112 general and midwifery beds and accommodation for 57 nurses. The need for regional hospitals at these two centres has been of increasing urgency and the completion of these works will be a considerable improvement to the medical service at present available.

A new general hospital and nurses' quarters at a total cost of £300,000 are proposed at Armadale. When this hospital is opened it will release the existing premises for a maternity hospital.

A large number of projects in the metropolitan area will be commenced. A site in Bentley was recently acquired for a new hospital of 56 beds with quarters for 18 nurses. With the growth of the residential areas south of the river, a new hospital to serve the needs of that locality has become an urgent necessity.

A new outpatients' clinic for King Edward Memorial Hospital will be provided in Hensman Road at an estimated cost of £45,000; and the construction of a new paraplegic wing at Shenton Park will be

undertaken. This new wing will provide for 32 sub-acute and long-term paraplegic patients.

Police Stations and Quarters

Last year police stations and quarters were completed at a number of metropolitan and country centres, and in the majority of stations court facilities were included.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.8 p.m.

Perth Girls' High School

In 1962-63 the Perth Girls' High School will be converted for use by the Police Administrative Section and the Traffic Branch so as to relieve the overcrowding which exists in the present accommodation. A start will also be made this year with the construction of a new central police station and cell block on the Causeway site.

Parliament House Extensions

Miscellaneous works under construction at present include the continuation of the extensions to Parliament House—as you can hear, Mr. Chairman, they are going on now—a new office building at Merredin for the Public Works and Water Supply departments, and the rehabilitation centre at Karnet.

New Government Offices

Preliminary contracts for the new Government offices on the Observatory site will be let during the year and tenders for the main contract will be called towards the end of the financial year. Work will be limited to preparation of the site and earthworks.

North-West

In 1961-62, under the heading of Additions and Improvements to Jetties, Tramways and Rolling Stock, £200,000 was spent. The main items were major flood protection works at Carnarvon and improvements to goods yards at Carnarvon, Broome, Wyndham, and Point Samson. The provision of £96,000 for 1962-63 allows for further flood protection work at Carnarvon and mechanical equipment at all ports.

On northern water supplies last year expenditure amounted to £276,000. This expenditure included the major part of the new water supply for Broome, which is expected to be completed by the end of this month. Major improvements to the Wyndham Supply were commenced last year and the sum of £60,000 is provided to continue the work during 1962-63.

Irrigation works in the north-west required £610,000 in 1961-62 and the sum of £586,000 is provided for the current programme. During 1961-62 the barrage on the Fitzroy River at Liveringa was completed together with diversion structures

on Uralla Creek. Further progress was made on the Ord River diversion dam, both on the works financed from Commonwealth funds and also with State projects.

In the coming year the estimated expenditure of State funds on the Ord River scheme is £495,000. This amount is required for further farm development, water supply channels, drainage to new farms, housing, and development of the townsites. The first five farmers have been selected and will move into the area between now and April next with a view to growing a dry-season crop during 1963.

School works in the north-west undertaken last year included additions to the Derby Junior High School and new schools at Koolan Island, Carnarvon and Nullagine. In the current year it is proposed to extend Derby Junior High School again and provide new schools at Wittenoom and Kununurra. The provision for this year for school works is £58,000.

A fully air-conditioned hospital was completed at Port Hedland during last year and the current programme provides for substantial additions to the hospitals at Derby, Broome, and Wittenoom.

A new hostel to accommodate 50 native children was completed at Halls Creek during last year and a hostel at Roebourne is proposed for the current year. Funds provided in this section of the estimates for native welfare amount to £65,000.

State Shipping Service

The provision of £436,000 for the State Shipping Service is to meet the annual instalments on the "D"-class vessels and also the instalments of the purchase price due on m.v. *Kangaroo*. This vessel will be handed over to the State Shipping Service about the middle of November and will be put into service immediately.

Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department

The total expenditure on capital works by the Metropolitan Water Supply Department last year was £2,468,000. This sum was provided by £2,403,000 from the General Loan Fund and £65,000 from the Commonwealth Grant. In addition, salaries and incidental expenditure of £155,000 and applicable to loan works was charged to the General Loan Fund.

This year the department has total funds for capital purposes of £2,650,000 which will be provided by £2,250,000 from the General Loan Fund, £250,000 from the Commonwealth grant for employment-giving activities, and £150,000 by way of a loan which the department is obtaining from the State Government Insurance Office.

In addition, salaries and incidental expenditure amounting to £161,000 will be charged to the General Loan Fund.

The works programme of the department is best considered in three groups; and these are water supply, sewerage, and drainage works. I will explain the major activities of each of the groups in turn. Provision has been made in this year's works programme for £1,708,000 to be expended on water supply undertakings. The actual expenditure for last year was £1,693,000.

Expenditure on the Serpentine project will be £660,000. This allocation provides for continuation of the duplication of the trunk main from the pipe head dam to Perth. An additional seven miles of 54-inch diameter pipe will be laid, making a total of 15½ miles by the end of this financial year.

The completion of the large new service reservoir at Bold Park will require £95,000. This reservoir will be ready for operation this summer. A further £38,000 will be spent to commence construction of a northern outlet main of 36-inch diameter from the reservoir to Wembley Downs and Scarborough.

In order to improve the supply to the rapidly-growing suburb of Morley Park, a new 36-inch outlet main from Mt. Yokine reservoir will be commenced. It is proposed to expend an amount of £50,000 this financial year, and to extend the main progressively in future years.

The Balcatta No. 1 artesian bore was completed last year, and good supplies of water were obtained at depths from 1,570 feet to 2,400 feet. In order to complete the installation of the pumping station and the 21-inch rising main to the Mt. Yokine reservoir, and to commence sinking an additional bore in the Balcatta area, a sum of £75,000 will be expended.

The extension of feeder mains at Midland Junction, Morley, and East Cannington will require £65,000. Completion of water supply works for Mundijong and for Maida Vale will cost a total of £35,000. An amount of £40,000 will be spent on the construction of the elevator water tower at Melville. This will improve the supply to high-level areas.

The improvement of reticulation mains, including old mains in city streets, and reticulation in South Perth, Victoria Park, and Mosman Park, will require £34,000. Minor extensions and improvements, including the reticulation of new areas for the State Housing Commission, are to cost £200,000, and the annual provision for service connections, together with the purchase and fixing of meters, is £197,000.

The provision for sewerage works in this financial year is £765,000. An amount of £602,000 was spent on these works in 1961-1962.

Mr. Hawke: Can't the Minister for Works do something about the noise on the extensions?

Mr. BRAND: I think the Speaker should do something about it, although the action that might already have been taken has not been very effective up to this time!

This year it is proposed to commence the southern outfall scheme. These works will eventually provide sewerage facilities for all metropolitan areas south of the Swan River. Initially the scheme will provide for the diversion of Fremantle sewage to Woodmans Point, and will then be progressively extended through the residential suburbs of Melville, Attadale, Applecross, and Mount Pleasant, along the south bank of the river. Expenditure this year will be £365,000.

Reconditioning of main sewers will cost £40,000, and a total expenditure of £271,000 has been allowed for the extension of the reticulation system, including works in Rivervale, South Perth, Bassendean, Cottesloe, and Midland Junction. Completion of ancillary works for the Subiaco Treatment Works will require £20,000. A sum of £16,000 has been provided for minor sewerage extensions. A total of £177,000 has been included in the estimates for main drainage, compared with an expenditure of £173,000 last year. A sum of £100,000 is provided for the drainage of the areas surrounding Welshpool marshalling yards and industrial area, including relocation and extension of drains, and partial provision of compensating basins.

Mines Department

Expenditure on mining last year amounted to £117,000 and provision is made this year for an expenditure of £190,000. This sum will be provided by £115,000 from the General Loan Fund, and £75,000 from the Commonwealth grant. More attention will be given to the assessment of the water potentialities of the State, and provision has been made for the hydrological survey section to be expanded to carry out this important work. Iron ore drilling at Wilgie Mia, which is north-west of Cue, is in progress and is being continued. Financial provision is made for this work and any further mineral drilling found necessary during the year. Provision of £40,000 is made for further assistance to the Sons of Gwalia Ltd., which in recent years has been experiencing operating difficulties, and an amount of £36,000 is also included for assistance to the Ravensthorpe Copper Mines.

Minor improvements to State batteries are anticipated. A cyanide plant is to be installed in the battery at Meekatharra,

and electrical rewiring of some batteries will be carried out to comply with State Electricity Commission standards.

State Housing Commission

Last year the State Housing Commission carried out a programme of expenditure of £1,583,000, which was financed by an allocation from the General Loan Fund of £1,351,000, and the balance from principal repayments to the commission and the proceeds from land sales. The total expenditure of the commission in 1962-63 is expected to be £2,276,000, which will be financed from a number of sources. The General Loan Fund estimates provide an allocation of £961,000, and an additional £320,000 will be provided from the special Commonwealth grant. A loan of £430,000 has also been arranged from the Superannuation Board, and the balance of the programme will be provided by principal repayments to the commission, and funds held to the credit of the commission's account at the Treasury.

The commission completed 396 purchase homes during the year ended the 30th June, 1962, and a further 332 were in varying stages of construction. It is anticipated that some 650 homes will be occupied during this financial year, and there will also be another 300 homes under construction in June, 1963. The Government is continuing its policy of encouraging home ownership, and has allocated £200,000 by way of assistance under the State Housing Commission's second mortgage scheme. The cost of land acquisition and development, and loans to local authorities is estimated at £305,000. A special allocation of £60,000 has been provided for the housing of Government employees in rural towns, and £140,000 for housing of employees of Laporte Titanium Ltd. at Bunbury.

The migration mission which is at present overseas has had considerable success in arranging for key personnel to come to this State. Special arrangements have been made for housing these new arrivals, and a total of £500,000 is included in the Housing Commission's works programme for this purpose.

Agriculture

Expenditure last year on this activity amounted to £296,000, of which the largest items were "Ord River Regeneration," £55,000, and "Advances to Northern Developments (Ord River) Pty. Ltd.," of £57,000. The annual commitment for the Kimberley Research Station was £20,000, making a total of £132,000 for the development of the Kimberleys.

A total of £74,000 was spent on improvements to Muresk Agricultural College to permit of increased student numbers. The items included final payments on the new

lecture block and alterations to the kitchen-dining room. Other expenditure was made on the purchase of 2,000 acres of land, erection of two additional cottages for instructors, improvements to the college oval, and additional farm buildings, including a new shearing shed, new machinery shed, and poultry rearing shed.

Progress was made with minor works at South Perth, and with improvements to the staff cottages at research stations.

This year the major items of expenditure will again be for the benefit of the Kimberleys, and consist of £50,000 for Ord River regeneration; £56,000 for advances to Northern Developments (Ord River) Pty. Ltd.; £60,000 for the first half of a cotton ginnery; and £25,000 for the annual programme of improvements to the Kimberley Research Station.

A sum of £45,000 has been provided for the Yilgarn emu fence, and £80,000 will be spent on the new hall-gymnasium and dormitory at the Muresk college, which are necessary to increase the capacity of the college to 100 students.

Forests

Loan expenditure by the Forests Department last year resulted in the establishment of 2,494 acres of pines. The total area under plantations is now 34,000 acres. The provision of £125,000 in the Estimates will enable this work to continue in the current year, when it is expected to establish a further 2,400 acres of pines.

Fisheries

An amount of £10,000 is included in the programme for the completion of the new seagoing motor vessel which was commenced in April this year. It will be completed and in commission early in October. The vessel will be engaged in the waters extending from Fremantle to Jurien Bay in connection with the supervision of crayfishing grounds and the conservation of the crayfishing industry.

Government Printing Office

The provision of £34,000 in the Estimates for the Government Printing Office is to meet the cost of a two-colour offset printing machine and proofing press. This equipment will enable the Government Printer to supply a rapidly-growing demand for cartographic printing by various departments.

Department of Industrial Development

During 1961-62, the sum of £140,000 was expended on the purchase of land for industrial purposes, and for assistance to establish and expand a number of industries. An amount of £106,000 is provided

for industrial development this year to assist and expand local industries, and for the acquisition of land. Purchases of land will be made in the Kwinana area for the disposal of waste from Alcoa, and other land which is required for industrial purposes generally will be acquired in the Bayswater-Bassendean area.

Fremantle Harbour Trust

Last year £700,000 was allotted to the Fremantle Harbour Trust for improvements to the harbour installations at Fremantle. Included in the programme was the second stage of the new passenger terminal, reconstruction work on North Quay, and railway maintenance facilities.

Provision is made in the Estimates for an allocation of £400,000 for Fremantle Harbour Trust works this year. In addition, the trust has raised loans totalling £375,000 for its new office building, and it is expected that the greater part of these funds will be expended on the building by the end of the current financial year. The contract price for the new building is £656,000, and in addition the trust is to provide certain steel work at a cost of £25,000.

Other works to be undertaken at the Fremantle Harbour will include North Quay reconstruction, railway and maintenance facilities, and the acquisition of general working assets.

Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust

During 1961-62 the trust undertook capital works totalling £681,000. Finance for this programme was provided from loans of £180,000 raised by the trust, an allocation of £300,000 from the General Loan Fund, and an amount of £201,000 from domestic sources. Works carried out included new administrative headquarters and traffic running depot which is nearing completion, the acquisition of the remaining private operators, and the purchase of new buses.

Funds available for capital works in 1962-63 will amount to £515,000 which will be provided by loan raisings of £150,000, and an allocation from the General Loan Fund of £133,000, and the balance will come from depreciation funds and cash in hand. The major item provided in the programme for this year is a sum of £390,000 for the purchase of new buses, and an additional £50,000 will be expended on rehabilitation of bus bodies. This programme is in accordance with the policy of the trust to eliminate all obsolete units as quickly as possible so as to reduce operating costs.

Midland Junction Abattoir Board

A programme for remodelling the abattoirs and saleyards at Midland Junction is in progress, and £150,000 was allocated to the board last year for this work. A provision of £90,000 is made in the Estimates for the current year to continue the improvements. Extensions to the sheep saleyards are currently being built which will obviate a repetition of the congestion which has taken place in recent years when peak sale accommodations of 60,000 and 66,000 sheep have been experienced.

Mr. Nalder: They will be opening next week.

Mr. BRAND: That is very good. Other works to be carried out within the programme are extensions to the sheep and lamb lairage accommodation, and extensions to the casings department and boning sections.

Rural and Industries Bank

A total of £350,000 was provided in 1961-62 as additional capital to the Rural and Industries Bank. This sum consisted of £200,000 as a part recoup of previous advances to Chamberlain Industries and £150,000 for home building schemes administered by the bank. The provision of £200,000 for 1962-63 represents a further recoup in connection with Chamberlain Industries account.

University of Western Australia

In 1961-62, an amount of £109,000 was provided from the General Loan Fund for new buildings at the University and a further £200,000 was raised from private borrowings in order to attract the contribution from the Commonwealth Government available under the States Grants (Universities) Act of 1960. In accordance with the terms of the Act, the Commonwealth will provide, over a period of three years, the sum of £1,200,000 towards the cost of specified projects on a pound for pound basis with the State. In addition, Commonwealth funds are being made available for furniture and fittings on a similar basis.

In 1961-62 the total funds provided were applied to the completion of the first stage of the new physics building, preliminary work on the second stage of the new chemistry building and a commencement with buildings for the Faculty of Arts, a new library, and preclinical buildings. Considerable progress was also made with the approved programme of alterations to existing buildings.

In 1962-63 the University works programme is to cost £854,000 of which £227,000 will be provided from the General Loan Fund, £200,000 will be raised from

private borrowings, and £427,000 will be contributed by the Commonwealth. It is anticipated that substantial progress will be made in the construction of the arts, chemistry, and library buildings. In addition, it is expected that the approved programme for alterations to existing buildings will be completed.

Western Australian Tourist Development Authority

An amount of £66,000 was supplied to the Tourist Development Authority in 1961-62 for the granting of subsidies to local authorities towards the development of tourist amenities. Provision is made in the Estimates for an allocation of £75,000 for this purpose in 1962-63.

Loans and Grants to Local Authorities and other Public Bodies

An allocation of £303,000 has been made for loans and grants to various charitable bodies and other organisations. This sum includes assistance to the Silver Chain Bush Nursing Association and for the rebuilding of the Alfred Carson Hospital, and to the Salvation Army for the construction of an alcoholics rehabilitation centre.

Provision has been made for the first part of a total grant of £50,000 to the King's Park Board for the establishment of a botanical garden. The garden is to be established under a five-year plan, the first stage of which provides for the installation of a reticulated water supply, the construction of glass-houses, propagating frames, pools, cascades, and pathways.

A further contribution of £20,000 to the Rottnest Island Board has been allowed for. This grant forms part of the total assistance of £95,000 which is being made available to the board over a period of five years.

Allowance has been made for further assistance towards the provision of facilities in country towns. In particular, a sum of £52,000 has been set aside for grants to local authorities towards the cost of converting country electricity undertakings from D.C. to A.C., and £28,000 has been provided to assist with the construction of swimming pools.

Provision has also been made for grants to the St. John Ambulance Association, infant welfare committees, the Slow Learning Children's Group, and the Police and Citizens Boys' Clubs.

In addition, funds are being made available to assist organisations with the construction of social centres for the aged, and with the purchase of furnishings and fittings for approved homes for the aged.

Loan Flotation Expenses and Discounts

A sum of £190,000 provided under this heading is to meet the State's share of expenses incurred in the flotation of public loans.

Rural and Industries Bank: Delegated Agencies

The allotment of £225,000 for the Rural and Industries Bank—Delegated Agencies; includes £80,000 to meet agreed reductions on the guaranteed bank overdrafts on account of the Albany Superphosphate Works, Great Western Consolidated, and Canterbury Court Pty. Ltd.

Advances under the Dairy Farms Improvement Scheme and for Esperance Plains Development are also provided from this item.

Funding of Revenue Deficits

A provision of £355,000 is made in the Estimates for the partial funding of the revenue deficit for 1960-61. In that year we had a published deficit of £1,205,000 towards which the Commonwealth is contributing £310,000, leaving the State with an amount of £895,000 to fund from loan moneys. Of this amount, £540,000 was provided from last year's allocation of loan funds, leaving £355,000 to be found in this current year.

This completes my survey of the capital works programme and I now submit the Estimates for the consideration of the Committee.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr. Hawke (Leader of the Opposition).

BILLS (5): RETURNED

1. Painters' Registration Act Amendment Bill.

Bill returned from the Council with an amendment.

2. Companies Act Amendment Bill.

Bill returned from the Council with an amendment.

3. Western Australian Marine Act Amendment Bill.

4. Pilots' Limitation of Liability Act Amendment Bill.

5. Pharmacy and Poisons Act Amendment Bill.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed, from the 18th September, on the following motion by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture):—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

MR. TOMS (Bayswater) [4.39 p.m.]: When the Minister explained the amendments contained in this Bill he did so very fully. I do not propose to speak on all the amendments touched on, but there are two or three worthy of comment. The others are machinery items and quite a number of them deal specifically with the north-west.

When the Municipal Corporations Act of 1906 and the Road Districts Act of 1919 were repealed during the 1960 session, it was envisaged that with an Act of the size of the Local Government Bill which amalgamated the two forms of local government, amendments would be required within a short space of time. The uniform Act was proclaimed, and came into operation on the 1st July, 1961, and during the 1961 session of Parliament a Bill was introduced to amend certain sections of the Act. I think there were about 30 amendments, many of them minor, such as the correcting of spelling errors.

Now in 1962, we again have a Bill before us with approximately the same number of amendments—but some of them more meaty, as one might say, than those in the 1961 Bill. There is one particular clause about which I would like the Minister to supply more detail because I believe it might have been overlooked.

I do not think this particular clause will affect the metropolitan local councils. I believe it has arisen because of what might happen in the north-west where pastoralists have large properties being run by managers. There is one particular property I have in mind, which is owned by a man of very good character. However, it would be possible for this particular gentleman—or another owner—to have two managers, and between them they could form three out of the five members on the local council. So there would be a distinct danger there, and I believe this first amendment is designed to remove that possibility and make it possible for only the manager, or the owner if he is living on the property, to qualify for membership.

Another amendment seeks to remove disqualification with regard to members of councils. It will enable a councillor to

enter into an arrangement with a local authority so that the local authority can perform work on the councillor's property. I have often wondered why there are so many restrictions on members of councils. I have had 18 years' experience on councils; and, in the main, councillors are beyond reproach. The majority of members aim to do a job for their district, and it is all honorary work. Yet in our Local Government Act there are many restrictions on a councillor that do not apply to the residents he represents.

One anomaly is that the local member of a shire council must have his rates paid within a certain time, whereas the ratepayers he represents need not pay until the deathknock. There are many of these minor restrictions; and they seem a little out of place to me, as a councillor, because I have found that the majority of councillors are men who are not in the job simply for the "perks". Anyone who knows anything about local government will know that there are no "perks". They are just not there. The glorious 3 per cents are often talked about, but they are hardly worth the trouble because of the abuse received.

Clause 23 strikes me as one under which an injustice can be perpetuated. It seeks to amend section 561, which deals with pensioners whose rates have been deferred, and upon whose properties caveats have been lodged. This amendment could impose a real burden on a pensioner couple, either of whom might be the registered owner of the property. If the registered owner died, the survivor would be liable for the rates if the estate was left to him or her. From my reading of the clause that could happen, although I assume that was not intended.

It is as well for me to read the provision in the Bill to which I am referring. It is as follows:—

A person is not entitled to be exempt under this section from liability for payment of rates and charges under this Act in respect of any land if—

- (a) he is in occupation of the land as owner of an estate for life in the land.

Under that provision, if the pensioner husband—the registered owner of the property—died and left the property to his wife as owner of the estate for life, she would then become liable for the rates. It could be argued that later on the children of that couple would be the beneficiaries, and they should pay the rates; but there are cases in which neither the widow nor her children are in a position to meet arrears of rates and future rates. In that event, charges could be laid against the widow for non-payment of rates. I ask

the Minister who is in charge of the Bill to reconsider this clause and, if necessary, to report progress before clause 23 is considered, so that the Minister in another place can examine the position.

Mr. J. Hegney: Would not the social services Act override this provision?

Mr. Nalder: I have had personal experience on the very point you have raised, and I shall give this House some detail when I reply.

Mr. TOMS: I would like an assurance that the surviving pensioner will not be placed in a difficult position in regard to rates, and will be in no worse a position than when the couple were alive. From a reading of clause 23 it appears that will not be the case. Doubtless many amendments to the Local Government Act will be made from time to time as the years pass, until there are as many amendments to the Act as there are sections in it.

The majority of the provisions in the Bill affect mainly the north-west and country districts, but the three clauses to which I have referred will operate as well in the metropolitan area. In the first case, what is covered will not likely, if ever, happen; but the other two definitely affect the metropolitan area. With my reservation in respect of clause 23, I have very much pleasure in supporting the second reading.

MR. BRADY (Swan) [4.50 p.m.]: When the original Bill passed through this House in 1960 I was not happy with some of the provisions contained therein; and today the same applies, because some of the provisions encourage local authority councillors to abuse their privileges. This was brought home to me when the Midland Junction Municipal Council struck rates for a period of eight months, but they were tantamount to rates for a 12 months' period.

This action led to a protest meeting which was attended by a large body of ratepayers. At the following local authority election several of the councillors were defeated and new ones took over, but the latter have not yet been able to exercise much influence on the rates in that municipal council. However, they have been an influence in keeping down the costs, which today are lower than they would be if the new councillors had not been elected.

Mr. Toms: The Minister would have to agree to those rates.

Mr. BRADY: He might have had to agree to them. If the present-day councillors had been in office 12 months ago, those rates would not have been struck.

I am sure they would have asked for certain maximum and minimum rates to be fixed.

Personally I have been affected by one case of an exorbitant increase in rates. About 30 years ago I bought a block of land close to the Carnamah railway station, and I have paid the rates ever since. They amounted to approximately £1 a year, in addition to the water rates. Last year I received a rate notice, as well as this year, in which I was advised that this block of land was valued at £20 on the unimproved capital value, and the rate was 10½d. in the pound. Twenty times 10½ would only amount to a little over £1, but to my great surprise that shire council struck a rate of £5, which was the minimum rate. It is approximately a 400 per cent. increase on the previous rates.

The Minister should inquire into this aspect to ensure that shire councils do not abuse their rights by imposing such high rate increases. I am fortunate in that I am in a better position to meet this last increase in the rates; but the chances are that I will give the block away to a charitable or like organisation, so that I will not have to pay the rates at all.

This sort of action by local authorities is not helpful at all to ratepayers. I can visualise the case of a member of the permanent way gang on the Midland railway line, who was a basic wage earner. He could receive a rate notice for £5—the minimum rate—on a block of land which previously was rated at £1.

I do not agree with the member for Bayswater who said he was quite happy with shire councillors tendering for work of the council. If a councillor desires to tender for such work he should resign and tender in a private capacity, because internally in a shire council the councillors have very great influence. For six years I was a councillor of the Midland Junction Municipal Council, and I often saw influence being exerted on people to secure a tender or a contract, whether or not they were councillors.

The practice of enabling councillors to tender for contracts or work is not in the best interests of the ratepayers or the local authorities. I do not support such a practice, although I do not say that the member for Bayswater is wrong. I am not saying that all councillors do not do the right thing by the ratepayers. I think the majority of them do the right thing, but the few who do the wrong thing are the ones who cause trouble.

Mr. J. Hegney: What about the recent incident in Albany?

Mr. BRADY: We are aware that these abuses have taken place, and it is our duty as members of Parliament to draw attention to them. I would not be happy to see councillors tendering for contracts or work, while they themselves have to sit at council meetings to decide on the successful tenderer.

Similarly, I am not happy with the provision in the Act which enables a local authority to appoint its own auditor. I do not think that is a very good feature, and we should not encourage that sort of administration in local government.

There is dissatisfaction in certain districts with the way the new Act is being administered. I have already illustrated the case where one shire council has imposed a 400 per cent. increase in its rates in a period of a little over two years. That has been done simply because the Act contains a provision which enables a local authority to fix a minimum rating.

In regard to owners of properties appointing proxies to act for them, as happens in the north-west where managers are appointed to manage properties, I am opposed to that practice.

I am also opposed to the provision in the Bill which compels the surviving widow of a pensioner couple to pay arrears of rates on a property which she holds during her lifetime. Very often a pensioner owning property decides to leave it to his children, but in the event of his death his wife is given occupation of the estate for life. It would be a great hardship on the widow if she had to meet the rates, especially after she had helped her husband to build up the asset.

It is unfair that she should have to meet arrears of rates as well as future rates simply because her husband took advantage, as a pensioner, of having the rates deferred. I would like to see an arrangement being arrived at under which widows, in the circumstances I have mentioned, would not be placed in such a position.

During the debate on the Mental Health Bill, I could have cited the case of a man who, some years ago, was committed to the mental institution at Claremont, as a result of which the Public Trustee had to handle his estate. The wife of that person, who had worked on the property all her married life and helped to build the asset, could not get anything from the estate because it was in her husband's name.

To some extent the same thing could apply in the case of rates. A widow could be forced to pay rates of £10 or £20. Today the rates in the metropolitan area are very high, and even the rates on properties on the outskirts of the city are as

high as £15 and £16 a year, in addition to which water rates of about £10 have to be met. Further, other charges and license fees have to be paid by house-holders. If a widow had to pay all these expenses out of her pension she would be placed in a very difficult position.

As a matter of fact, I had a ring from a widow this morning who said she could not pay the rent out of her meagre social service benefit and asked me if I could find employment for her. She said she would not mind if it were only part-time work as long as she had some other income out of which she could pay the rent. Therefore we can see what will happen if pensioners' wives are left in that position.

I hope something will be done by the Minister to protect this type of person, and it could be done by an amendment during the Committee stage.

MR. J. HEGNEY (Belmont) [5.1 p.m.]: I would like to say a few words on this Bill. It is unfortunate that it is only the member who secures the adjournment of a debate who receives a copy of the Minister's notes. The rest of us are dependent upon a précis which appears in the newspaper for an understanding of the purport of the various points raised by the Minister.

The matter about which I am concerned is that of pensioners who come under the Commonwealth Social Services Act. They are entitled, if they so desire, to claim a suspension of the payment of their rates and taxes whilst they are alive. Of course, that is a charge against the estate when such a person dies. This provision has existed for very many years and provides help and assistance to persons who have given a lifelong service to their country. However, clause 23 proposes to amend this provision as follows:—

(5) A person is not entitled to be exempt under this section from liability for payment of rates and charges under this Act in respect of any land if—

(a) he is in occupation of the land as owner of an estate for life in the land;

It appears that if a person is a pensioner and is in occupation of the land for life, it is questionable whether he can be exempt. The local authorities want to be able to exclude him from this exemption; and apparently under this provision they are empowered to do so, notwithstanding the fact that the Commonwealth law does provide that these rates shall be suspended and be a subsequent charge against the estate. In the ultimate the local authority will be recompensed from the estate. I

heard the Minister's remarks on this subject, but I would have to read them to understand their full meaning. Clause 23 continues—

(b) the land is occupied by the person and another person who is not entitled to claim such exemption and who is not a dependant of the first-mentioned person; or

(c) the land is partly owned by another person who is not entitled to so claim and who is not such a dependant.

It appears that this provision has been included in order that the local authorities might still receive payment for rates and taxes from those persons to whom I have already referred.

I have no doubt that some local authorities would be very harsh. I am not one of those who believe that the decisions of all local authorities throughout Western Australia are made in the best interests of all concerned. Oft-times decisions are tainted by vested interests and sometimes by other interests. I know from my own experience in the metropolitan area how some decisions are made. Notwithstanding the fact that the member for Bayswater was chairman of the Bayswater local authority and has been a member for years, such local authorities can use their powers to make ratepayers do things which they could not otherwise be made to do. When the Bill reaches the Committee stage I will have more to say on this particular matter.

I support the Bill, as most of the other provisions are quite reasonable, but we should have more information made available to us on this particular provision.

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [5.6 p.m.]: I would like to thank members who have contributed to the debate, and will make reference to some of the points raised.

The member for Bayswater referred briefly to the representation contained in the amendment referring to the north-west. I do not think there is any doubt that the provision is a very reasonable one, as it is designed, of course, to ensure that an owner of a property in the north does not have representation on a local authority merely by having two managers or two responsible people on the property as well as himself, although not necessarily residing on the property. It is quite understandable that the local authorities should decide that that amendment is necessary. I do not think anyone had any definite query about that point, but it was touched upon by the member for Bayswater.

The honourable member also referred to the restrictions on the activities of councillors with reference to any particular interests they might have. It is very wise that that provision should be made, and the member for Swan also referred to it. I can recall myself, as a representative of a local authority some years ago, hearing a discussion on the very selfsame subject. At the time the main theme of the discussion was fodder for the horses which were owned by the local authority and which were used, of course, for drawing drays.

Mr. Toms: That is going back a few years.

Mr. NALDER: In this particular instance, of course, one of the local authority representatives used to do quite a big business in chaff. I can quite readily see the reason for this proposal in the measure because it is quite possible for a person to be advantaged if he is actively engaged in a particular type of industry whereby he could perhaps do business with the local authority—as in the case of the person selling chaff. That is just an instance of which I have personal knowledge; but it could apply in many other fields, because interested people could gain some distinct advantage either by tendering or making some sale of products or other things to the local authority. Therefore I think it is wise for the provision to be included in the Act.

Mr. Toms: The provision is now in the Act which will allow members to trade with a council in normal business.

Mr. NALDER: Yes. However, I mention this point because it highlights the situation which could occur. I honestly agree with the member for Bayswater that this sort of thing does not happen very often; but it is wise that the provision should be there as a reminder to members on the local authority that it is not considered wise for a person in a responsible position to be actively engaged in business with that local authority.

The other matter touched upon by members who spoke during the debate was that in regard to pensioners. The member for Bayswater and others suggested that I should gain more information on this point, and I am quite prepared to do so.

It was not very long ago that representations were made to me by a widow who had property left to her. However, she was a pensioner and was not able to meet the rates and taxes levied against the property by the local authority. As a matter of fact, she had taken up residence in a home in the city; and although she had sublet the property to a completely

disinterested person, the income she was receiving by way of rental was nowhere near sufficient for her to be able to meet her obligations in regard to the rates and taxes, and also pay the amount she was required to pay to the institution in which she was living.

I approached the local authority, and it was quite agreeable to waive payment of the rates while the lady was still alive, and then on her death the property would be passed to the next of kin or sold, whereupon the local authority would receive the rates.

Mr. Toms: I think all local authorities would do the same thing if it were written into the Act. There could be certain restrictions on their being permitted to do so.

Mr. NALDER: I understand by the amendment that although there are provisions, the point I made still prevails. However, we do not want to move over these matters that have been raised and then find perhaps during another session that we will have to come back to them. I think it is advisable to be quite sure that the amendments proposed cover all the points raised and all the points likely to be raised in the foreseeable future. As I said, I am quite prepared to report progress on this clause in Committee in order that I may obtain the information sought by the various speakers to this debate.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. I. W. Manning) in the Chair; Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 22 put and passed.

Clause 23: Section 561 amended—

Mr. TOMS: This is the clause in respect of which the Minister gave us an assurance that he would seek further information.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr. Toms.

House adjourned at 5.18 p.m.