

# Legislative Council

Thursday, the 10th August, 1978

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

## "HANSARD"

### *Delay in Production*

**THE PRESIDENT:** I have received a letter from the Government Printer which I will read for the information of members. It is as follows—

Dear Mr President,

Due to industrial problems production of the weekly Hansard will be one day late for the time being. I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

In regard to this week's Hansard, a fault in a new computer programme has caused temporary production delays. Steps are being taken to ensure this fault will not reoccur.

Yours faithfully,

## QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

### **SECURITIES INDUSTRY ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Attorney General), and read a first time.

### **NORTHERN DEVELOPMENTS PTY. LIMITED AGREEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Attorney General), read a first time.

#### *Second Reading*

**THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF** (Metropolitan—Attorney General) [2.59 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time. Under the provisions of the Northern Developments Pty. Limited agreement as ratified by Act No. 41 of 1969 and subsequently amended by Act No. 97 of 1969, Northern Developments Pty. Limited is developing land by means of irrigation on the Fitzroy River at Camballin for the purpose of cultivating rice, grain sorghum and other approved crops and for the associated depasturing of stock.

The company, under the terms of the agreement, has the right to progressively select up to a maximum of 50 000 acres of irrigable land in parcels, the first of which, containing 4 820 acres, 3 roods, was granted to the company in the form of a licence on the 20th June, 1969. Successive parcels of 10 000 acres can be applied for and granted to the company once the immediately preceding parcel has been developed and planted with rice, grain sorghum or other approved crop.

Development, instead of being confined within the boundaries of the first parcel, has extended outside onto other land the subject of the agreement and accordingly it has become necessary to redefine the boundaries of the first parcel to comprise the land so developed which contains 4 693 acres, 1 rood, 31 perches now surveyed as Fitzroy Location 39 as shown on Lands and Surveys Department original plan 13560.

In addition, and when the original agreement was amended in 1969 to increase the area of parcels from 5 000 to 10 000 acres, no provision was made to adjust the price per acre for land in parcels to be granted subsequent to the first parcel. In order to correct this anomaly and so as to ensure that the State does not suffer a loss, the opportunity has been taken to amend the price structure.

While dealing with the necessary amendments to give effect to these changes, the opportunity has also been taken, firstly, to provide a new definition of the term "parcel" which will give a better measure of control over the area of land comprised therein; and, secondly, to provide the Minister with discretion to vary the boundary fencing requirements applicable to each parcel.

I will now refer to the amendments of the relative clauses of the principal agreement in more detail.

In clause 1, subclause (2) the existing definition of "parcel" is deleted and substituted by one giving more control over the area of land contained therein. In future the area of land comprising a parcel must be approved by the Minister rather than the company.

Clause 7, subclause (2) (a) has been amended to give the Minister discretion to vary the boundary fencing requirements applicable to each parcel of land so as to permit the removal and resiting of temporary fencing where deemed necessary, with progressive development of each "parcel" of land.

When the original agreement was varied in 1969 to increase the area of parcels of land from 5 000 to 10 000 acres, no provision was made to adjust the price per acre for land in parcels to be

granted subsequent to the first parcel. Subclause (1) of clause 18 has therefore been amended by deleting paragraph (ii) and substituting for it a new paragraph which provides a new pricing structure for land in the second parcel. An additional paragraph has been added to this clause which details the price per acre applicable to remaining parcels which may be granted.

A new clause has been added to provide firstly for a change in boundaries of the first parcel of land to be granted to the company, which land is therein defined and, secondly for the granting to the company of the land contained in the amended parcel.

Members will observe that metric conversions have not been quoted and in this respect a decision was taken by Parliamentary Counsel in conjunction with the Public Service Board that no amendments would be made to ratified agreements to cover metric conversions. The parties to such agreements may of course make the conversions and agree to the changes between them.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. T. Leeson.

## **PARKS AND RESERVES ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Attorney General), read a first time.

### *Second Reading*

**THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF** (Metropolitan—Attorney General) [3.05 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The provisions of the Parks and Reserves Act, 1895-1972 apply to the activities of instrumentalities such as the Kings Park Board and Rottnest Island Board, which are appointed in accordance with section 3 of the Act. Other reserves are controlled by local authorities under the Local Government Act just as if they were boards under the Parks and Reserves Act.

It is interesting to note some of the remarks made by the then Premier, the Hon. Sir John Forrest, when introducing the Parks and Reserves Bill in 1895, and I quote from *Hansard*—

This small Bill will be found very useful. I do not mean to say it will supply all that may be necessary in the future, but it will certainly be useful by giving the Government power to appoint boards for controlling parks and reserves by regulating the traffic in them and controlling the conduct of persons using them.

This is a power which the Government should have; and especially now that we are improving the park on Mt. Eliza, some provision of this sort is absolutely necessary in order that there may be a board of management for regulating the traffic and for exerting some control over the persons using the park.

I am sure we all gratefully acknowledge those remarks.

In 1976 the Kings Park Board approached the Minister for Lands requesting statutory control to combat the problems of vandalism, speeding and parking offences, uncontrolled dogs, littering, and incendiarism of bushlands.

Unfortunately, these problems are not unique to Kings Park, and a subsequent meeting was convened between the Kings Park Board, Rottnest Island Board, Country Shire Councils' Association, and the Local Government Association to discuss the various issues involved. It was unanimously agreed by all parties that the existing powers and penalties were inadequate to deal with most cases.

Experience has shown that enforcement of the by-laws was both costly and difficult and frequently resulted in staff being threatened with violence. The employment of private security surveillance or alternatively closure of Kings Park for certain hours presented practical difficulties and is, of course, expensive. The board however now employs two uniformed rangers for by-law enforcement and on the spot education of offenders in an endeavour to reduce the number of violations, such as damage to plumbing, lighting of fires, the breaking of glass in pools, etc. The reparation costs of this damage and the time involved weigh heavily on the board.

Over the last Easter holidays, at least 10 road signs were damaged or removed, some costing up to \$100 each. The annual bill for vandalism in the park is now in the vicinity of \$40 000.

The board's efforts, however, are hindered by the inadequacies of the Act and the proposals now before the House would give boards better control, not by creating new offences, but by facilitating the enforcement of by-laws.

One aspect of the Bill concerns liability of parents for acts committed by their children. Other provisions seek to set out the power of "authorised persons" and to increase the maximum penalty a board may impose. This, of course, would raise the penalties to a figure in keeping with today's monetary values.

The Bill also provides for matters relating to the ownership and control of animals and the imposition of penalties by way of infringement notices.

A further proposal is to amend section 5(3) of the principal Act which defines the boundaries of Kings Park as those gazetted on the 27th November, 1942.

A new gazetted description was published on 14th October, 1977, and in view of the proposed amendments in this Bill aimed at strengthening powers of prosecution, it is important that steps be taken to amend section 5(3) of the Act accordingly.

Parks and reserves boards face many and varied difficulties in administering the areas under their control and the amendments, if passed, would go a long way towards assisting them in combating a very real social problem.

Another amendment proposed in the Bill is to validate the existence of the present restaurant in the park and permit its continued operation.

The restaurant is situated on Perth lots 772, 786 and 801, which are vested in the Kings Park Board with power to lease "for the purpose of a tea room site" for a period up to 21 years.

These lots are all within the boundaries of "A"-class Reserve 1720 known as "Kings Park".

Instead of a tea room, a restaurant has been in operation for many years. An attempt in 1964 to legislate for "a restaurant" was disallowed by Parliament. However, it is believed that public opinion would favour the continued operation of a restaurant and the Kings Park Board has requested appropriate amendment.

It is believed that all the amendments proposed in this Bill will be of benefit to the public visiting and enjoying the surrounds of the park, and I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. T. Leeson.

## **BILLS (2): THIRD READING**

1. Construction Safety Act Amendment Bill.
2. Art Gallery Act Amendment Bill.

Bills read a third time, on motions by the Hon. D. J. Wordsworth (Minister for Transport), and passed.

## **LAND DRAINAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 8th August.

**THE HON. D. W. COOLEY** (North-East Metropolitan) [3.10 p.m.]: The Opposition has looked at this Bill and we have decided to support it, because we are encouraged to learn that at last the Government is taking steps to maintain water supplies in our State. In his second reading speech, the Minister said action is being taken to maintain the water table in preparation for the long, dry summer ahead.

It is a great pity that the Government did not take cognisance of the fact that a water shortage was looming in Western Australia at an earlier time, because in the summer of 1977 we all knew the water in the dams was receding. We knew we had a serious drought situation; but nothing was done during that summer to restrict water supplies. Of course, everybody knows 1977 was an election year. To introduce water restrictions would have been an unpopular act; therefore, the Government avoided doing that at that time.

However, had a courageous Government been elected, water restrictions would have been imposed earlier in that year, having regard to the fact that water is such a valuable asset in this State. Instead, the Government waited until July of 1977, after the elections had been held and were well and truly behind us, to impose water restrictions.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: You do not really think that is the position, do you?

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: The restrictions were so severe that they were quite untenable to the public. Had action been taken earlier, we on this side of the House doubt whether the restrictions imposed in July, 1977, would have been as severe as they were.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: The public responded very well last year.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: The public responded very well, as it always does. As the member for the West Province well knows, the public is largely made up of people whom we, on this side of the House, represent.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: Loud laughs from this side!

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: The people found this type of restriction quite untenable.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: They did not respond very well in respect of your election call.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: We appreciate this Bill is endeavouring to conserve underground water supplies. We have had good rains this year but we should be aware that a serious water shortage could exist next summer.

We agree with the proposition contained in the Bill that rates should be adjusted by regulation. It would be somewhat cumbersome if they had to be adjusted by Parliament on every occasion.

The increase of 50c per acre to \$10 per hectare seems to me to be rather severe; but it has been pointed out that they are maximum rates and, of course, the full amounts may not be applied.

The Bill proposes also to increase the amount of exempted works from \$1 000 to \$10 000. This appears to be reasonable, because, from the information I was able to obtain, land drainage was used initially only to run off waste water. However, in this day and age the Government and the authorities use land drainage to supplement underground supplies.

We support the proposition in the Bill which allows local authorities to collect drainage rates and to enforce payment of the rates. Drainage rates are collected from people who benefit from underground water supplies which have been developed as a consequence of action taken by the appropriate authority.

We support the Bill and hope it will contribute, in some manner, to a better water supply, not only in the coming year, but also in the years ahead. It is obvious considerable restrictions will need to be applied for some time to come.

**THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF** (Metropolitan—Attorney General) [3.15 p.m.]: I thank the honourable member for his indication of the Opposition's support of the Bill and his appreciation that the Government is doing what it can to conserve water supplies.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee, etc.*

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

#### **WATER BOARDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

##### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 8th August.

**THE HON. D. W. COOLEY** (North-East Metropolitan) [3.19 p.m.]: Members on this side of the House support this measure. The Bill was brought down principally to validate—if that is

the correct word—certain actions which had been taken by members of the Busselton Water Board. Apparently one or two members of the board were disqualified from holding office, as a result of an innocent business transaction in which they, as businessmen in the district, were involved. It is reported that board needed some medical supplies for the water supply department. The board purchased the supplies from a chemist shop the proprietor of which was a board member. As a result of this the Act was contravened.

This seems to be a reasonable amendment to the Act. It was proposed in another place that the Bill should be amended with respect to the value of the goods to be purchased, in that they should not exceed the sum of \$500. I notice from the notice paper that the Minister in this place will move to amend the Bill to conform with that proposal.

The only other comment I would like to make is that when amending Acts such as the one now under discussion we should be looking at the proposition of bringing all water supply authorities in this State under one single authority. It seems to be cumbersome to have various small water boards all over the State. We believe there should be one controlling authority. That principle would be in line with the Labor Party policy.

**The Hon. Neil McNeill:** I do not believe that would be the most efficient method of controlling water supplies.

**The Hon. D. W. COOLEY:** It seems to work all right in relation to electricity supplies.

**The Hon. Neil McNeill:** But electricity supplies are not generated locally.

**The Hon. D. W. COOLEY:** They used to be at one time. I can recall power stations all over the country. However, under the grid system we now have one authority. If it works in respect of one service, it should work in respect of the others. There might be some complications but it does not seem that it would be unsuccessful with regard to water supplies. However, that proposal is not contained in the Bill.

The Bill does contain other minor amendments which are not very significant. In the main, we support the Bill.

**THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF** (Metropolitan—Attorney General) [3.23 p.m.]: I thank the Hon. Don Cooley for his indication that the Opposition supports the Bill. I am glad that is so.

On the question raised by him of a single controlling authority, the Minister in another place did indicate that some work had been done towards this end. Six or seven months' work had been done apparently in relation to representations that had been made with this object in view. However, that does not necessarily mean one authority will be established because, as Mr Neil McNeill mentioned, there are practical difficulties. It is not necessarily right that because it works out in practice with regard to one service, it will work for another service. Whether or not a single authority would provide a more economical and a better service is an aspect being examined by the Public Works Department. However, an attempt is being made to establish some close liaison between the various water supply services.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee*

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (the Hon. T. Knight) in the Chair; the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Attorney General) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 put and passed.

Clause 3: Section 10A added—

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: The amendments standing in my name relate to one matter, which is that members of a water board should be permitted, provided they act in good faith, to supply goods and services, or to provide works for the board or through a subcontractor, to a value of \$500. Board members will be restricted under the exemption to services under the value of \$500. I move an amendment—

Page 2—Insert after the section designation "10A." the subsection designation "(1)".

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: In respect of the \$500, the Attorney General did not mention there is provision that the transaction should not exceed the prescribed amount during any one financial year.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: The honourable member is quite right; the restriction is applied to any one financial year.

Amendment put and passed.

The clause was further amended, on motions by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf, as follows—

Page 2, line 18—Add after the word "Board" the passage "so long as the value of goods so sold by him, services so supplied by him, or work so done by him, during any one financial year of the Board does not exceed the prescribed amount".

Page 2, after line 18—Add a subsection to stand as subsection (2) of the proposed section 10A as follows—

(2) In subsection (1) of this section "prescribed amount" means five hundred dollars or such greater amount as is, in any particular case, determined in writing by the Minister.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 4 to 9 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Bill reported with amendments.

### ARCHITECTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

#### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 8th August.

THE HON. D. W. COOLEY (North-East Metropolitan) [3.31 p.m.]: Again we support this Bill in principle. It appears from the second reading speech of the Attorney General that the amendments contained in the Bill were forwarded to the Government by the Architects Board of Western Australia and adopted by the Government. I am not aware that the Architects and Draughtsmen, Union of Workers—whose members work in this industry—was consulted in regard to the amendments. I took it upon myself to forward a copy of the Bill to this organisation as it is affiliated with the Trades and Labor Council, and it was indicated to me that its members had no objection to the amendments.

Very briefly, the Bill seeks to permit architects to form corporate bodies. It was said in another place that this is another form of tax dodging, but I will not comment on that point. Perhaps it is and perhaps it is not, but I suppose the provisions of the Bill are quite legal.

The Bill seeks to extend the qualifications necessary for an architect to be registered, and it provides an avenue for appeals against the decisions of the board. Also, it will remove from the Act the annual rate of subscription to the board which is currently \$20. Despite the fact that there are other restrictions in regard to the period of time—now to be increased to six years—to be served before a person can become a registered architect, I do not think people involved in the construction of small buildings need to be concerned, because the Bill does not prevent draftsmen who are not registered as architects—including builders whether registered or not—to design and supervise the erection of buildings. Those are the principal matters contained in the Bill, and the Opposition supports them.

**THE HON. T. KNIGHT** (South) [3.34 p.m.]: I support the Bill, but I wish to refer to some matters in regard to architects of which I have been aware for some time. In the second paragraph of his second reading speech the Attorney General said—

—for the Architects Board to maintain responsibility for the registration and conduct of members of the profession.

Further on the Attorney General said—

In respect of the practice of architecture in corporations, the Bill provides that the principal executive officer must be a practising architect. In addition, no less than three-fifths of the directors, who between them must hold no less than three-fifths of the total voting rights—

I have always considered that the Royal Australian Institute of Architects operates as a closed shop and the Bill seems to carry that situation further, making it harder for persons to become registered.

Today I asked the Attorney General a question without notice to obtain some information on this subject. Part (3) reads—

How many designers, draftsmen, are operating in Western Australia?

And part (5) of my question reads—

Does the institute intend to allow in the future designers with high standards and experience to apply for registration?

So, we have the designers and draftsmen on the one side and the Royal Australian Institute of Architects on the other. I know some designers and draftsmen who do fantastic work in the presentation of plans and specifications but, as the situation now is, designers and draftsmen cannot prepare plans and specifications for Government and semi-Government works. I believe in the free enterprise system where everyone has the right to work, and I do not believe a closed shop situation should apply. I do not agree that everyone should be permitted to enter the industry, but people practising as draftsmen at the present time should have the opportunity to tender for and undertake Government works.

Over the years the closed shop situation has made it very hard for people to obtain registration. In fact, after passing the necessary examinations, a person must work for a further six years in the profession before seeking registration. Although he may have obtained a university degree in his early 20s, a young man could be 30 years of age before he can practise in his own right. I do not think that is good. Many of these

young people have new ideas and they should have the right to submit those ideas in respect of Government and local government works.

I support the Bill on the corporate side, but I wished to make those points.

**THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF** (Metropolitan—Attorney General) [3.37 p.m.]: I thank Mr Cooley and Mr Knight for their support of the Bill. In reply to the query raised by Mr Cooley that is it a tax-dodging exercise, I very much doubt that that is the sole reason for the proposal to establish corporations. I venture to suggest one reason that architects want corporate status is to give them an avenue to provide superannuation for themselves, and this is something that people who employ themselves do not otherwise have because they cannot establish a superannuation fund in their own particular organisation. I believe this is a way they can obtain superannuation when they are employed by a company, in the same way that other employees of a company can acquire superannuation.

I have noted Mr Knight's comments, but as he said these points are really outside the direct scope of the Bill. I would like to point out two other facts which may or may not have been thought of. It is not all beer and skittles when one wishes to join a corporate body. Once a body is incorporated, it is thereafter under the Companies Act. The directors of the corporation are liable to account, and so are the principal officers. Under the Companies Act the directors are liable to prosecution if they do not comply with the various requirements and regulations of the Act. In addition, a corporation becomes liable under the Trade Practices Act whereas an architect would not normally be expected to be liable under that Act.

The corporation, of which that architect is a member, clearly is liable under the Trade Practices Act because that Act, by and large, applies to corporations. These are aspects which perhaps should not be overlooked, because some obligations are being undertaken in these respects. I do not know how carefully the architects of the legislation have worked this out, but these considerations must be borne in mind. I thank members for their support of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee, etc.*

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

*Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.02 p.m.*

## ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 8th August.

**THE HON. R. T. LEESON** (South-East) [4.02 p.m.]: We support this Bill. It is a machinery Bill and there is nothing unreasonable about it. I was interested to learn that 28 000 children in organised parties visited the Zoological Gardens in the last 12 months. I suppose if we took into consideration the number of private visitors that number would be increased considerably.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

### *In Committee, etc.*

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

### *Third Reading*

Bill read a third time, on motion by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Attorney General), and passed.

## SUITORS' FUND ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 8th August.

**THE HON. D. W. COOLEY** (North-East Metropolitan) [4.05 p.m.]: I rise for the fifth time in a conciliatory mood on a Bill submitted to this House. The Opposition supports the Bill, because we feel it is a very humane measure designed to assist children and handicapped people who may be litigants before a court.

According to the Minister's second reading speech, under the existing provisions such a person who is handicapped, or who is a child, could be unwittingly penalised when an order for settlement is refused by a court. In these circumstances if the matter subsequently goes to appeal and the amount awarded is less than that offered in the settlement, costs can be awarded against the disabled person.

The Bill enables a disabled person to make application for an indemnity certificate and on receiving that certificate he may be paid from the Suitors' Fund to help meet the costs. I believe the maximum figure involved is \$5 000.

In his second reading speech the Minister said that making application would be sufficient to obtain the amount, but from a reading of the Bill it would appear that the submission of an application does not guarantee payment. The

application would have to go before the court for approval before costs were met. It is a Bill designed to help underprivileged people, and we support it.

**THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF** (Metropolitan—Attorney General) [4.07 p.m.]: I thank Mr Cooley for his indication of support for the Bill. It is a fact that people are sometimes penalised unwittingly in the manner to which the honourable member referred by trying to get more from an out of court settlement than a court ultimately awards.

At the present time, if a court awards a lesser amount then it may be that costs will go against the next friend. As the honourable member recognised, this can be quite inequitable and the making of an application does not mean that it will be approved. The court would have to make sure it was a proper application. Neither would it mean that the person would get all the costs he asked for, as the court would fix the costs or have them taxed. I thank the Opposition for its support of the measure.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

### *In Committee, etc.*

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

### *Third Reading*

Bill read a third time, on motion by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Attorney General), and passed.

## HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 8th August.

**THE HON. LYLA ELLIOTT** (North-East Metropolitan) [4.11 p.m.]: There are five main principles contained in this Bill which introduces important amendments to the Health Act. The first changes are contained in clauses 4 to 29. Amendments in these clauses relate to penalties in respect of the sale and handling of food and drugs which are contained in part VIII of the Act. The Minister said the amendments would introduce a standard scale of penalties recommended by the Food Standards Advisory Committee. Most of the clauses from 4 to 29 deal with amending existing penalties. Clause 29 provides new penalties and amends section 247 of the Act.

We do not think the new penalties are unreasonable in today's money terms, nor do we think it is unreasonable that there should be a standard scale of penalties for the types of offences listed under the Act. Therefore, we support amendments to this section of the Act. We believe it is rather timely, in view of the problems coming to light lately in respect of different foods. We have all been reading about the problems with salmon, oysters, and mussels. I think most members would have received recently a journal entitled, *The Western Australian Health Surveyor*, which is published by the Australian Institute of Health Surveyors. I have found the journal both interesting and informative.

On the one hand I have found it rather comforting to read in some articles that we have health surveyors continually monitoring the situation and thoroughly investigating various areas for possible sources of contamination. On the other hand, I was rather disturbed at some information in other articles revealed by the actions taken by health surveyors in local authorities following recent increases of salmonella cases in this State.

One article indicates that investigations revealed some food handlers were found to be positive salmonella carriers. In addition, we were told that after investigating the vans of itinerant food sellers a vendor was shown to be a salmonella carrier, and other vans were in a poor state. On this topic of food vans, it has often worried me when I have seen some of the people delivering bread from door to door.

I have seen stacks of loaves of bread, without any wrappings on them, placed behind the driver on the shelf of the cabin. I have also seen a person place a basket of bread on the road. This is very unhygienic and I agree with the author of one of the articles who said that the food handlers, as well as the public, ought to be educated in regard to hygiene requirements.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: It was much more unhygienic in the days of the horses and carts.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: I agree, but dogs still roam the streets and this makes it very unhygienic for baskets of bread to be placed on the road.

However, as the writer of the article indicates, the people must be educated in the handling of food. There is another article in the same journal which tells us that in a nine-month period in 1977 a total of 213 salmonella isolations were made, comprising 32 stereotypes. These isolations reflected investigations in monitoring associated with salmonella chester outbreaks as well as interstate problems involving contaminated infant formula.

During the salmonella chester outbreak a total of 214 samples of raw meat for human consumption were examined, comprising beef 129, mutton 20, pork 22, poultry 20, and buffalo 23. Salmonella was isolated in eight or 6.2 per cent of the beef samples, 13.6 per cent of the pork samples, and 35 per cent of the poultry meat and carcass samples.

In the same article, under the heading of "Shellfish" is the following—

Monthly monitoring of local mussels collected from coastal waters adjacent to abattoir, meat processing, tannery and sewerage effluents, revealed Salmonella contamination in 30 (39%) of 78 samples examined.

That is very disturbing and it reveals that the Public Health Department should be a little more vigilant in these matters.

The other point I wish to make is that although we are very keen to penalise by fining or even gaoling the food handlers in the retail shops, I would like to know what we are doing about some of the big companies. For example, members will recall that in this Chamber last year I referred to Nestles which was aware of the contamination in its Tongala factory, that was producing an infant milk formula, about 12 months before anything was done about it.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: Was that proved or was it an assumption?

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: I believe it was established by the Health Department in Victoria. Also the abattoirs, and other companies in Cockburn Sound, are polluting the sealife there, but what are we doing about the source of contamination? It is all very well to penalise the food handlers by providing six months' imprisonment for certain offences, but what are we doing about the big firms like Nestles and the firms in Cockburn Sound which are polluting the shellfish there?

Clause 30 provides for a new part VIIIB with the heading, "Health Laboratory Services". This part will give statutory recognition to the Health Laboratory Service of the Public Health Department. This service has been in existence since 1911 and now employs 300 people. It is reasonable that it should receive statutory recognition.

The Minister referred to a committee to advise on the rationalisation of the services. That is fair and reasonable, but we would not like to see only a committee to advise on the rationalisation of service, but rather the establishment of a State hospitals and health services commission to advise on all hospital and health services throughout the State. In this way there will be more rationalisation of the services with the elimination of waste



and duplication. Furthermore, inadequacies in health and medical services will be remedied. Such a committee is part of the ALP's policy.

Clause 31 repeals all those sections under part XII regarding the responsibility of local authorities to provide and maintain hospitals for infectious disease cases. The Minister has already explained this provision and we accept it as being fair.

However, when reading section 323B I realised that it provides that the sections, which we are now repealing, remained in force only till 1965. I wonder why it took us, 13 years to repeal them. This instance provides some evidence of the need for a legislative review committee to keep our Acts up to date.

Clause 32 gives statutory power to local authorities to assist in the provision of community health centres, and to me the clause makes a lot of sense. The three arms of government should co-operate in the provision of primary health care, and local authorities are very important because they are close to the people and should be aware of the local needs. Therefore, they are able to take the initiative in the establishment of community health centres.

I only hope that Government departments will show a little more co-operation in matters of this kind than was the case recently in Lockridge. After a great deal of investigation and planning, an allocation of funds was made for the establishment of a new community health centre. The funds were made available for the 1977-78 financial year. However, because of a lack of co-operation by one Government department there is every possibility that Lockridge will be deprived of its community health centre.

The situation is that the Swan Shire Council, in conjunction with the Public Health Department planned the new health centre. Between them the Federal and State Governments allocated \$150 000 for the commencement of the centre which was to be an ongoing thing. The Swan Shire approached the Town Planning Board early this year with a proposal that it be permitted to subdivide four separate areas of the piece of land involved which was set aside as a recreation reserve. Part of this was to be allocated to the community health centre.

The Town Planning Board gave the Swan Shire Council approval for this and, on the 17th April, requested the Under-Secretary for Lands to arrange for the amendment of the classification of the reserve from "recreation" to "recreation and public facilities" and that it be vested in the Shire of Swan and the Public Health Department.

At the same time the board pointed out that there was a 10 per cent excess of land in this recreation reserve and, in its opinion, it was in order for the land to be reclassified and vested in the shire and the Public Health Department so that the community facilities could be provided. That was on the 17th April. On the 18th April the shire wrote to the under-secretary pointing out the urgency of the matter and asking him to expedite it.

However, the whole thing was fiddled around with until it was too late. The matter got as far as the Lands Department only. Instead of doing what the Town Planning Board had asked the under-secretary to do and have the land reclassified and vested so that the development could proceed and advantage could be taken of the allocation of funds for the health centre, the matter was left until it was too late. It was referred to the Crown Law Department which expressed an opinion that said, in effect, if the land were reclassified and vested the facilities could be established there. However, the situation was allowed to lapse until it was too late and the financial year had expired.

In view of some of the recent announcements of the Federal Government and of Sir Charles Court we fear we will not get that \$150 000 again. However, I hope that, in view of the unfortunate situation which developed, Lockridge will not be robbed of its community health centre and the Government will see its way clear to make the money available as soon as the arrangements in respect of the land can be completed. I mentioned that instance, because it is unfortunate when Government departments do not co-operate in matters of this kind.

Clauses 33 and 34 seek to insert new sections which will establish a perinatal and infant mortality committee, and I have several comments on these clauses. We support the establishment of the committee, as it is very desirable. I was rather startled to read that the number of stillbirths and neonatal deaths average over 400 a year. I hope that as a result of the establishment of the committee and the research it will undertake, this figure will be reduced.

Regarding the composition of the permanent committee to be established, I would like to know why they are all to be doctors. Why are we to have six doctors instead of one of them being a senior nurse involved in obstetrics or midwifery? For example, the Matron of King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women would be able to make an excellent contribution to the committee.

Once again, it has been forgotten that a trained nurse is a valuable member of the health or medical team. She has a lot of knowledge and expertise to offer, particularly when it comes to the health of women and children. So, I ask the Government to reconsider the composition of this committee. I realise four provisional members are to be appointed to the committee, one of whom is to be a person trained in midwifery. But I do not think that is good enough; it is second best. I do not see why one of the members of the permanent committee cannot be a trained nurse who has been involved in obstetrics or midwifery.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: Does it say there cannot be such a member?

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: It specifically says they shall be medical practitioners in certain categories, and two of them are to be medical practitioners without any special expertise. When we are establishing bodies like this I think consideration should be given to the nursing profession.

I am also concerned about the provisions in subsections (5) and (6) of proposed new section 336A, which read—

(5) No information, record, report, statement, memorandum or particulars referred to in subsection (4) of this section shall—

(a) be admissible in any court or before any tribunal, board or person in any action, cause or inquiry of any kind whatsoever . . .

(6) No person, corporate body, association, or institution shall be liable in any action for damages or other relief by reason of the furnishing to the investigator, or to the Perinatal and Infant Mortality Committee, of any information, record, report, statement, memorandum or particulars referred to in subsection (4) of this section.

What will happen if strong evidence comes to light that there has been gross negligence on the part of some person which has caused the death of an infant? Is it to be hushed up? I realise that proposed new subsection (7) says, "Nothing in this section shall prejudice or otherwise affect any of the provisions of the Coroners Act", etc.; but how can anybody take legal action without medical evidence? And what avenues exist at the moment to investigate any suspected medical negligence? I believe that it is difficult, if not impossible, to arrive at the truth in these matters, and that the medical profession has been shielded for far too long against action for negligence

which can cost a person's life. It is time members of the medical profession were made answerable for any mistakes.

Earlier in the Bill, rather severe penalties for the handlers of food are provided. The penalties include six months' imprisonment.

The PRESIDENT: Order! There is far too much conversation in the Chamber and I am having difficulty hearing the honourable member.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: We were very keen earlier in the Bill to provide very severe penalties for food handlers who may be negligent in matters of cleanliness or hygiene. It is not necessary that they kill anyone; they can merely make someone rather sick with a few salmonella bacteria, and if it is considered serious enough they can be imprisoned for six months. Yet in proposed new section 336A we are bending over backwards to protect doctors and others in the health team. I would like to know what would be the attitude of the Minister if a doctor or someone else involved had, through gross negligence, been responsible for a death. We are ensuring that person is protected from any action.

Finally, clauses 35 and 36 deal with the anaesthetic mortality committee. This is another good move, and once again I am surprised to learn that 40 deaths annually are associated with anaesthesia.

Any comments I have to make in respect of the anaesthetic mortality committee would be similar to those related to the previous committee, because the provisions are similar in both cases. My comments regarding secrecy and the need for a trained nurse on the perinatal committee apply also to this committee. However, I am wondering why there are to be six permanent members and four provisional members on the perinatal committee but only five permanent members and seven provisional members on the anaesthetic mortality committee.

I repeat that in the main we support the principles of the Bill, but I hope that before replying the Minister will give consideration to some of the matters I have raised.

THE HON. R. J. L. WILLIAMS (Metropolitan) [4.36 p.m.]: One could only expect from the Hon. Lyla Elliott support of this Bill. She is very sensitive to the matters dealt with in it and has shown in her term in this House her sensitivity in these particular areas.

Perhaps I could take up Miss Elliott's point here. When we talk about health and health matters we must always bear in mind that the latest medical technology may supersede any Act in existence. For instance, prior to the work of Florey

and Fleming on penicillin, the mortality rate from infections of all kinds was extremely high. In point of fact, some of the rules and regulations in hospitals in those days went by the board when antibiotics came into being. So, it is no castigation of Governments since 1965 or 1905 to say they have been rather slow.

Members of the medical profession as such are the new gods of society. We must all recognise that. Everyone worships at their altar. We demand that our children be born healthier and that members of the medical profession maintain our good health and, what is more, prolong our biblical three score years and ten. So in society today the medical practitioner has become a demigod. He has even superseded the people with ecclesiastical leanings. The public demands it. I know the honourable member did not intend to castigate; she queried why a matter which began in 1965 should be allowed to drag on for another 13 years until 1978.

Yet what the honourable member said about some sections of the Act—food handling, salmonella infections, and the like—is very true. Possibly—I do not know the truth of this—salmonella infections in food are today one of the worst infections we have in society. I can remember an old adage to the effect that "you have to eat a peck of dirt before you die". I suppose that applied principally in the antibiotic area, whereby consuming that peck of dirt stimulated the antibodies in us to guard us from infection.

I sometimes wonder whether we have become a little too hygienic, and whether the next time one walks into a butcher's shop one will find the butcher wearing mask, gown, and rubber gloves, and inspecting meat under a microscope before it is passed over the counter.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Sporting large pieces of string!

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I am not being facetious. The danger of salmonella is with us. An eminent medical practitioner once told me he would never again go to Rottnest Island for a holiday under any circumstances. Nor would I, because I might be forced to drink water there.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: You do not know what you are missing.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I might be missing something but I will not get salmonella infection. That medical practitioner told me he always took a bottle of scotch with him to use for cleaning his teeth, because he did not trust the water at Rottnest. He regards the seagull as the greatest spreader of salmonella infection. It feeds on the rubbish tips of Perth, then sits on

the reservoirs of Rottnest and defecates, thus spreading salmonella infection. The quokkas seem to survive and young people do not seem to worry, but it worries me.

One commonly hears in Western Australia such expressions as "an unidentified disease", "an unidentified infection", and "he has the wog". The last expression means something else in Europe, but I will not go into that! By the same token, I think this Bill, in tightening up the handling and sale of food, particularly with reference to salmonella, is very good. The latest scare relates to the people who act illegally by going out in boats to procure mussels which are in profusion in a prohibited area and have a level of cadmium, which is unacceptable.

I observed the Hon. Lyla Elliott drinking a cup of tea in the corridor this afternoon. The tea was dispensed from an urn. The tea and coffee we drink in the dining room are dispensed from urns which have cadmium plating. Therefore, when drinking our tea and coffee in this place we are consuming a quantity of cadmium. Certain people are being castigated for purveying mussels and other shellfish containing a small amount of cadmium which have been caught illegally. I felt very sorry when I read in the Press that a person with initiative who had set up an establishment in Rockingham for bottling mussels was facing disaster because of sensationalism. The sensationalism was caused by statements that mussels harvested in a certain area could—not would—give rise to a health hazard.

Whenever we drink tea here we could be running a health hazard because of the cadmium plating inside the tea urn.

I think the Public Health Department, its inspectors, and its health surveyors—whose publication *West Australian Health Surveyor Quarterly* Miss Elliott quoted—do a magnificent job in a State of this size. One would expect that standard in a small municipality, but here they are spread over nearly one million square miles. Miss Elliott did not mention another article contained in that journal—although no doubt she has read it—which sounded a warning about a particular method of lessening the amount of water used in the cistern of the lavatory.

Some people insert a house brick or other device into the cistern to reduce the level of water. In that journal which we have read it is specifically stated, "Don't be fooled by the fact that you are saving water. You could be spreading infection throughout your own household." After urination the amount of water flushing from the cistern would be sufficient to clear the toilet; but when

it comes to the disposal of solid waste, although the water remaining might appear to be clean, it could be highly infected. In pointing that out, the health surveyors are doing people a great service.

We all wish to save water, but let the public be warned that if they put a brick or any other device into the cistern of a lavatory they may possibly lay themselves open to infection in the water that appears to be clean. Many people now use the blue liquid which gives a nice technicolour effect, but does nothing to kill infection.

The Opposition has agreed to support the food handling section of this Bill, and we in the Government would introduce it only because we felt it was necessary. However, I would impress upon the House that all these measures have had to take place slowly to ensure that we take the correct steps.

In the case of infectious diseases, many years ago if one had a disease such as diphtheria or scarlet fever, one was hastened to a hospital which was about 47 miles from any known point, surrounded by six barbed-wire fences, and almost had machine guns at the gate. That was, of course, because we knew so very little about infectious diseases and their causes. We also knew little about the administration of drugs and the nursing of patients.

Diphtheria and such diseases have been eliminated by care of infants at infant health centres. Infants receive inoculation and vaccination. I am sure the Hon. Win Piesse would support me when I say that, provided the correct procedure is carried out when nursing patients with infectious diseases, there is no reason that such patients should not be cared for in ordinary wards.

In the old days local authorities had to put aside special areas of land for infectious disease cases. That is no longer necessary with the advance of medical technology.

I come now to the section of the Bill which deals with perinatal deaths. I suppose within people's lifetime there is nothing more distressing than to find that as partners, firstly, they cannot procreate or, secondly, if they can procreate, then prior to the full term of gestation for some unknown reason the foetus is stillborn or is removed surgically because it has died. We call it perinatal or prenatal death, and it causes great distress to the parents. In point of fact, I do not think it is drawing a long bow to say that many women have had to seek treatment at the Mental Health Services as a result of the intolerable strain placed upon them by continued miscarriages, because they cannot parturate and bring into the world a live child.

Miss Elliott queries—and rightly so—why a nurse should not be on the proposed committee, and why the evidence produced by the committee should not be published in order that a writ may possibly be issued for negligence. She says that the medical profession—and I am not quoting her verbatim—seems to be a body protected from complaints about its behaviour. I think there is good reason for this. In the highly technical field of research people tend to consider a piece of research and then utter a pronouncement about it. Having uttered that pronouncement, they have laid themselves open to other people to say, "Oh, yes, but don't you know my aunt Dolly and her family suffered from that sort of thing and, therefore, we should sue you."

The tragedy of the situation is that another group of people could look at the same piece of research and come to an entirely different conclusion. This is why the researcher must be protected. It is not a question of protecting the doctor. If a doctor in the opinion of his colleagues is negligent, then rest assured that due process of the law will be served upon him.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: How often does that happen?

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I could not honestly answer that question.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: It is the most impossible thing in the world to prove. When people have a strong idea that a relative has died as a result of negligence, they find it is a closed shop and they cannot get any information from the hospital, the medical team, or anyone else.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I will not disagree with that, because I am not in possession of the facts either to refute or to support that statement. What I am saying—and very definitely—is this: No doctor who is worthy of his salt and is a member of a research team would put his heart and mind into the job of research if the only thing to come out of the research were penal provisions for the world at large; nor would any other learned gentleman of any other profession do so.

What the perinatal investigation and research team is trying to do is to discover why infants in embryo are not delivered as normal, healthy children. If it is known that this or that is used, or a certain thing is done at a certain time in the term of the pregnancy, then I think the genuine researcher can say there is a possibility such and such will happen, and that the lady will carry a full-term child and will be delivered of it. I do not think any researcher—whether

in the medical field, in the historical field, or the philosophical field—would ever put his heart into the research if he knew the only thing that would come from it would be punitive measures.

No doctor has ever claimed to me that he knows it all. I do not think even a specialist would claim that; he would say that he has a fringe knowledge of the field in which he specialises. Neurosurgeons, who are the most modest of the profession, would say they know very little but that they are improving their knowledge every day as a result of research.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Are you suggesting that most of these stillbirths are the result of negligence of doctors? I cannot follow your argument.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I have never said it is negligence that causes stillbirths. It could be the ingestion of alcohol by the mother; it could be 1 001 other things. However, perinatal research sets out to investigate the cause.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: One would assume that negligence would be a very minor category. But if it showed up, one would hope something would be done about it.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: If it showed up, I am absolutely sure something would be done about it.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Then I would expect you to be supporting Miss Elliott.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I have said nothing that does not support Miss Elliott. I am saying that if negligence does appear, then I have sufficient faith in the professional body that administers doctors to believe it will take action against the practitioner concerned. I do not think there is a so-called cover-up. If I or any member of this House felt that, we would not go to doctors, and we would not make them the demigod that they become.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: There are two bodies, the AMA and the NHMRC.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I would hate to have to face an AMA committee on a question of negligence, because I know perfectly well that should evidence be proven then my living would be gone and my years of training would be gone. Oftentimes I have thought—and perhaps I will speak of it later—that some doctors should not be struck off the register but should be hanged. However, that is in a different sphere, and not in the area of perinatal death, which is so sensitive.

The final matter I would like to refer to is anaesthesia. I am not sure how many members would have experienced chloroform, but I am sure many of them would have. Certainly I am told that in the series about King Edward VII which recently was shown on television—and it was a magnificent series—viewers were shown the dripping of chloroform on a mask and the inhalation of that chloroform by a patient to produce anaesthesia. When the patient recovered from the effects of the anaesthesia there was always a nurse in attendance complete with vomit bowl to ensure that in the next eight hours all the discomfort of the chloroform departed from him. Personally, I think I would have preferred pre-anaesthetic days, when I believe the patient was given a bottle of some spirit to consume, and when he passed into insensibility the doctors commenced the operation. However, at least chloroform was a step forward.

Anaesthesia today is such a technical field that it is essential to have a body to administer it. It is not so very long ago in Perth that two competent doctors—I am not talking about any specific pair—used to trade jobs. One was a good kneecap man, for example, and when a patient had something wrong with his kneecap he would operate upon it, and his colleague would administer the anaesthetic. Having observed it at close quarters, I can inform the House that today the procedure is entirely different.

We now have anaesthetists who are specialists in the field. The anaesthetist will see the patient before the operation and ask him all sorts of questions such as whether his grandmother had asthma or whether his grandfather suffered from galloping this or that. I have seen an anaesthetist spend up to 2½ hours with a patient to determine the type of anaesthetic which should be used on that person. Today patients suffer little or no post-operative discomfort upon regaining consciousness from the effects of the anaesthesia.

Therefore, when a death occurs through anaesthesia it is a very serious matter. It is only right that qualified men—doctors practising in the particular field—with possibly one independent person to act as a chairman should be set up as a committee to look at these matters.

In these days with advanced medical expertise it might be the touch of a switch or the turn of a valve in the wrong direction that could bring about an anaesthetic death. Having taken that into account, I think that Mr Baxter, who has been Minister for Health, would remember the procedure that where an anaesthetic death does occur the facts have to be reported immediately

and the death has to be investigated immediately. The anaesthetist is suspended from duties until it is proved beyond all reasonable doubt, to the satisfaction of the investigating committee, that there was no contributory negligence.

I do not see that the inclusion of a nurse, a matron, or any other person on such a committee will help in any way, because the harshest judges of doctors are their own colleagues. They would be twice as harsh as others.

Where negligence is proved, the doctor in question is struck off the register. That means he cannot practise in any part of the world where medical registration is regarded as essential for practice. Thus, a doctor who is struck off the register loses his living.

I commend the Government for introducing the Bill to update the procedures, and for having taken sufficient time—even if it appears to be excessive—to make sure that the next step taken out in the field will be an accurate one.

I say that, because it affects each and everyone of us in this House and the people we know. We do not know when next we may need some form of health care. Each and every one of the measures in the Bill will serve to do one thing; that is, protect and improve the health of the population at large.

We in this House and members in another place are charged, in our oath of allegiance, to do the best we can for the people of this State. I think the Bill before us goes a long way to helping in that respect.

**THE HON. H. W. GAYFER** (Central) [5.04 p.m.]: I can do nothing else than support the measure. However, I wish to refer to a particular part of the Bill, because it points out graphically to members of this House the extra tax and the extra rates that people in the country have to pay for medical services.

I think that for the first time the Bill has brought before members the incidence of the high cost of medicine in the country. Medibank, the various hospital benefits funds, and other similar organisations, do not provide equalisation of medical health treatment.

To elaborate on that I draw the attention of members to clause 32 of the Bill which seeks to insert a new section, section 330B. This, in fact, gives local authorities the power—the Minister says, there is no compulsion—to undertake activities and provide funds to assist in the provision of health services.

In his second reading speech the Minister went on to say that a local authority would not be empowered to operate these services in its own right but, nevertheless, there were many practical ways in which it might assist. He also said—

The securing of land is an ideal area where many local authorities can readily give help and some may be prepared to offer a financial contribution. Developmental work such as roads, parking facilities, and maintenance are other likely forms of assistance. Already several local authorities have given such help, but there is doubt as to the extent of their powers.

The second point to be mentioned is the proposed power to provide premises from which private doctors and dentists may conduct a practice, and the provision of living accommodation for them.

The population drift in the country is such that admittedly in some country towns there is hardly a large enough population to support a doctor in the same manner of living as he would be supported in the more populous areas or in the metropolitan area.

Nevertheless, because of the need to provide a hospital in a town, and because the people there require medical attention, a doctor has to be enticed to practise in that town. Some years ago the first step to entice a doctor to practise in a country centre was to provide him with a house. Initially some of the houses provided to doctors were adequate but very ordinary houses. However, as time went on, the shires gradually had to vie with one another in the provision of houses. Soon these became not houses but mansions.

On top of that, in order to entice a doctor to set up a practice in a country area, some shires provided a motorcar to the doctor. Today some shires are still providing motorcars.

What I have said also applies to attracting dentists to practise in country centres, and similar living accommodation and surgeries are supplied to them. I do not know that any dentists have been provided with motorcars. I do know that in some country areas the shires have advertised for doctors, and have offered them free accommodation, a greatly reduced contribution towards the cost of premises, and very liberal repayment terms. Furthermore, they have offered a guarantee of income. They guarantee that the doctor's income will be \$40 000; but if the doctor can prove he has earned only \$16 000, then the shire makes up the balance.

I ask: Who is the shire? The shire comprises the people of the district. Who pays the extra money? The people of the district pay the extra money through their rates and taxes. So, the rates and taxes are increased. The people of the district pay for the house, the car, the income differential, the cost of roads and parking area for the hospital, and the cost of beautifying all this.

If people in the city only knew what the country people are providing for medical health services they would be most sympathetic to the country people and make annual contributions to them.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: How do the rates in your town compare with the rates for Dianella or other metropolitan suburbs?

The Hon. H. W. GAYFER: We have to hold down land prices to induce people to live there.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: Are they higher?

The Hon. H. W. GAYFER: I do not know.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: Then you have no argument.

The Hon. H. W. GAYFER: Does the honourable member have to provide in her rates the cost of roads to a doctor's premises, the cost of a doctor's car etc? The answer is, "No".

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: You cannot compare the level of rates.

The Hon. H. W. GAYFER: This does not enter into the argument one iota. The people in the country do not have buses to take them into the town, and they do not have street lights. So, the point raised by the honourable member is just not on. My argument is that country people living in the country towns have to provide extra money for medical services.

The Bill before us now makes it possible for the shire to legalise all that; we have no quarrel with the proposal, because we want the doctors and the dentists in the country.

The doctors practising in some country towns do not make a bad living. Certainly we would like to see them practising in country centres. It seems that a doctor practising in a country town can do no wrong, and he is regarded as a great person in the place. I agree that there is a need for their services, and we do not wish to see them leave as we would not like to have a replacement from Singapore or Malaysia.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: How would the local member of Parliament rate?

The Hon. H. W. GAYFER: Right down the bottom of the list, but not where the Attorney General lives. The place I live in is not Dalkeith.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: I suppose you get what you deserve!

The Hon. H. W. GAYFER: Precisely. In the country areas the vying for doctors by shires has reached such proportions that the cost to the people of the district, by way of provision of houses, etc., is becoming prohibitive. Nobody argues against having to pay; we need doctors, and we have to pay for their services.

I refer to a case in my own province concerning a doctor. We are rather frightened of the guaranteed income racket. In this regard I should point out that another shire—and this case has been publicised—had its fingers burnt. A doctor went to practise there; he did not have to work very hard, but he was guaranteed the extra income. It seems that this is easier than being a member of Parliament!

The shire in question decided it would not guarantee the doctor's income, but would be prepared to guarantee an overdraft at the bank to set him up with a house so that he could start a practice and earn an income; in other words, the shire guaranteed the loan so that it would create an enterprise in the district. It was a big town.

The people concerned were very keen to implement this proposal. By doing that they at least knew they were guaranteeing a loan, and they knew what they would be up for in shire accounting.

However, when the people in a country centre guarantee a doctor's income they cannot budget for the rates and taxes for the next year. By giving a guarantee for an overdraft they would know where they stood. In that case the people thought it was a good idea, and they tried it out. However, there is no provision in the Local Government Act to allow a shire to do this; yet it is a cheaper and much better way of obtaining the services of a doctor. It is better than the provision in the Health Act which gives shires permission to spend money, but not to guarantee the money, so that the doctor may become more responsible in earning his income and repaying the money. In this case the shire president got very worked up, because under the Local Government Act a shire is not allowed to guarantee money for the provision of a house. He therefore guaranteed it himself.

Then there was a problem of whether he had acted correctly and in line with the Local Government Act as far as his position in the council was concerned. Eventually he got out of the situation by ensuring it was a personal guarantee.

Under the terms of this Bill the municipality may provide and maintain land and buildings to provide practice or living accommodation required for the use of any medical practitioner or dentist

in practice on his own account. We are getting to the stage now where it will be open slather. One will be vying against the other, because no limits have been set.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: A limit surely is what the local population will put up with.

The Hon. H. W. GAYFER: Yes, it is; but when the local population has been without a doctor for two or three years it starts to worry about when a doctor will be available, and the pressures come on.

Certainly there is a limit; but the limit is not bad now. Once the house is built, if a doctor is not living in it the income guarantee goes up. This has happened. I am sure members of this House are aware of some classic examples where doctors have left certain areas and gone to other areas because the income guarantee was higher. It is getting to a farcical stage. In my opinion, this Bill makes such a situation more likely.

We, who live in the country, must condone that sort of thing. If we do not condone it, we will not get a doctor and treatment may not be carried out at the hospital. A parking area for a country hospital is not provided by the Government. A facility such as the bituminising or asphaltting of a parking area is usually provided by the local authority. Anyone who lives in the country knows it is the local authority which contributes to such facilities. The authority may try to get back a portion of the expenditure, but by and large it is a contribution to the betterment of the facilities of the town.

I admit there is nothing we can do about the situation, but I am concerned about it. The contributions to Medibank make doctors' lives happier. On top of our Medibank payments, hospital benefit payments, and taxes—both State and Commonwealth—to provide hospitals in metropolitan areas, we still have to contribute in order to provide hospitals in country areas. The people who live in the country pay further taxes for the purpose of obtaining medical facilities in their district. We pay for doctors' houses, surgeries, surgical equipment, and dentists' surgeries.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: You would never change your way of life to city life, would you?

The Hon. H. W. GAYFER: No; I would not change my way of life, but we hear frequently that the country people are getting more than city people. However, people who reside in metropolitan areas do not realise the cost of living in the country. I would not change my way of life. When the Hon. Don Cooley retires I am sure he will retire to the country, and he will experience

the same situation. When he retires to the country he will pay towards the provision of medical services by way of rates and taxes. This situation should not occur.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: I will put up with it.

The Hon. H. W. GAYFER: Yes; the honourable member will put up with it. I leave those thoughts with the House, because I think it is a point which has been missed for too long. Perhaps the Minister could make provision to cover the situation under the Local Government Act whereby a guarantee rather than a loan could be made for the purpose of setting up a doctor, building a house and surgery, equipping a surgery, buying a motorcar, and providing the town gardener to look after the garden. In the country, anything will be provided for a doctor.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. F. Cloughton.

### AGRICULTURE AND RELATED RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

#### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 8th August.

**THE HON. R. T. LEESON** (South-East) [5.20 p.m.]: We support the Bill. I have only a small number of pastoralists in my electorate and they perform a dedicated job as far as the control of vermin and the poisons covered under this Act are concerned. The electorate that adjoins mine, which is Lower North Province, has a large number of pastoralists. Probably half of the electorate comprises pastoralists. They have a big part to play in the extermination of vermin. I have spoken to many of those people and I know the dedicated role they play.

These people must travel long distances to attend meetings. One of the provisions of the Bill seeks to assist in the payment of expenses incurred by people employed in this work. I see no reason that such a provision should not be agreed to. There is a provision also for proxy delegates who are deputy members. This has not existed previously.

Watching the reports over the last couple of years it has been interesting to note that German-shepherd type dingoes have not been running around the country, as was mentioned in this House a year or two ago. That danger has not eventuated up to this stage. I do not believe there is much chance of it happening.

A provision in the Bill enables vermin to be taken in a poison-declared area although, of course, it may not be taken for human consumption. It was my understanding that rabbits and vermin were not allowed to be taken from a



poison-declared area previously. This provision possibly has something to do with the huge demand existing at the present time for pet foods. Whilst this vermin is not available for human consumption, a great deal of it will be made into pet food. I hope if somebody has a pet poodle it is not upset by this type of pet food. There is no explanation for this provision.

I support the Bill.

**THE HON. N. F. MOORE** (Lower North) [5.24 p.m.]: As the previous speaker has mentioned, most of the pastoral industry, in fact almost all of it, lies within the Lower North Province. As this Bill relates in several aspects to the pastoral industry, I should like to outline briefly my reasons for supporting it.

Two particular aspects of the Bill relate to the pastoral industry. The first is that it provides assistance in travelling costs for the purpose of attending APB zone and district committee meetings. My province is a huge one, but it is sparsely populated and there are large distances between towns. People travel long distances to attend meetings for any purpose, but when they are travelling, in order to assist in vermin control in the area, assistance should be given as far as travelling costs are concerned.

The second part of the Bill which is of particular interest is the fact that it defers an increase in the rating for pastoral areas for another two years. In the parent Act, the rate was to have risen from 3c in the dollar to 4½c in the dollar from the 1st July, 1978. This particular amendment defers that increase for at least another two years which is, of course, of great benefit to the pastoral industry. At the moment the industry is suffering from the problems of drought and the problems of rising costs, and it is in a fairly perilous financial situation.

The second part of the amendment was recommended by the Jennings Committee which is investigating the pastoral industry as a whole. They recommended this as a short-term measure to assist in the financial difficulties being faced by the pastoralists.

Whilst the two amendments I have just mentioned do go some way towards assisting with the problem of vermin control within the pastoral area, it is only the beginning. There is still a long way to go, because the problem of vermin in the pastoral industry is a critical one. Over the years, there has been a steady increase in the number of kangaroos, and particularly in the number of dingoes, in the pastoral district. There seems to be a movement of dingoes from the northern pastoral areas southward into districts

such as Yalgoo, Sandstone, and Wiluna, which originally did not have a dingo problem. The suggested reason is that the pastoral stations in the Pilbara have in many cases switched from sheep to cattle and consequently the dingoes have moved south into the sheep station area.

Probably the main reason, however, for the increase in dingoes has been the lack of skilled manpower on pastoral stations to combat the problem. In the past when pastoral stations were much more viable people were employed on a full-time basis to control wild dogs and dingoes. These people became very skilled at tracking and destroying these dogs. In recent times, in many cases, the husband and wife are running the station, and apart from all the other tasks involved they have to try to control the dingo problem. It seems to me this is the main reason that the problem has increased, and it certainly has increased. About this time last year a pastoralist in Wiluna mentioned to me that in the previous year he had lost 1 000 sheep as a result of the dingo problem. If we consider each sheep is worth between \$10 and \$20, the loss of 1 000 sheep certainly represents a large sum of money.

The Bill is of assistance to the pastoral areas. It assists in the ways I have mentioned. It is just a start and we have a long way to go before we solve the problem. Pastoralists have suggested many plans to solve it. Electrified fences and increasing the bounties on the scalps of dogs have been suggested. These suggestions are part of the possible solution, but we must find a permanent solution, otherwise the pastoral industry will no longer be viable and will cease to exist.

**THE HON. D. J. WORDSWORTH** (South—Minister for Transport) [5.28 p.m.]: The first speaker on this Bill was Mr Leeson who was concerned that we were now allowing people to take vermin in an area where poison had been laid. Previously that was not allowed, because there was a fear people would be poisoned as a result. I believe this goes back to the days when we used poisons such as strychnine. Nowadays, I do not know where one can buy a pair of rabbits, let alone pick them up from areas where poison has been laid. Certainly the poisons we now use do not lend themselves to being picked up in the merchandise. It should be pointed out that the reason for removing that section from the Act is that previously one had to stop killing vermin, because poison had been laid in a particular area. In that case supplementary killing of vermin could not proceed; therefore, for a successful vermin eradication campaign it was found that both methods of killing should be permitted to be carried on together.

Mr Moore pointed out that vermin is a major problem in his electorate. The pastoralists are facing a critical time. They have been through a period of drought and they are feeling the economic difficulties more than any other portion of primary industries. A great deal of this is due to the spread-out nature of the industry. Added to that is the problem that, as soon as difficult financial times strike the rural industry, the pastoralist has no collateral to take to the bank when he wishes to borrow money and say to the bank manager, "Can you lend me some money to see me through a poor season?"

Normally, a stock firm will lend only as much as will be covered by the wool cheque. Consequently, the pastoralists are the first to suffer from difficult times.

The Act was amended only three years ago, and I believe the amendments have proved to be very successful. I think the move to provide some travelling expenses, etc., will be greatly appreciated by those people living in the outer areas. I thank members for their support of the legislation.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee, etc.*

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

*House adjourned at 5.34 p.m.*

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### POLICE

#### *Long Service Leave and Retirement Age*

168. The Hon. D. K. DANS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Police and Traffic:

Will the Minister for Police introduce—

- (a) long service leave after seven years into the Police Department; and
- (b) optional retirement for policemen at the age of 55 years?

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf (for the Hon. G. C. MacKINNON) replied:

- (a) This matter is subject of a claim by the Western Australian Police Union currently before the Western Australian Industrial Commission.
- (b) This is a matter for consideration by the Government but further extensive research is required before a decision could be made regarding its introduction.

## EDUCATION

### *School Holidays*

169. The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Education:

With the proposed changes in school teachers' holidays, are the people employed in schools under the Public Service Act—

- (a) still entitled to the Wednesday Show holiday;
- (b) expected to return to their school on the Thursday and Friday before the beginning of the school year; and
- (c) entitled to the extra Thursday and Friday holiday at the end of the school year?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) and (c) Ancillary staff employed in schools are entitled to four weeks' annual leave each year which is usually taken during the Christmas vacation. These staff will not be affected by the change in the school year.

## TRAFFIC

### *Accidents: Cyclists*

170. The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Police and Traffic:

During the years 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978, how many cyclists have been—

- (a) injured; and
  - (b) killed;
- on Western Australian roads?

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf (for the Hon. G. C. MacKINNON) replied:

(a) and (b)—

		Killed.	Injured.
1973	....	7	199
1974	....	1	196
1975	....	7	204
1976	....	7	249
1977	....	10	268
1978 (to the 9th August)	....	3	not available

## MINING

*Taxation Exemption*

171. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Minister for Federal Affairs:

- (1) Does any Australian taxation exemption exist on income derived by bona fide prospectors, small mine owners or small syndicates, in the sale, transfer or assignments of rights to mine gold or other minerals or metals?
- (2) If so, will the Minister provide details?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) Yes, as contained in Commonwealth legislation.
- (2) Section 23(pa) of the Income Tax Assessment Act, 1936, as amended.

## EDUCATION

*Coogee School*

172. The Hon. R. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that—
  - (a) the playing field and basket ball court at the Coogee Primary School is being used by unauthorised persons on week-ends and after school hours;
  - (b) motor vehicles are being driven on the grassed areas resulting in damage to the oval;
  - (c) the police say they cannot act against these intruders until signs are erected around the grounds prohibiting such use; and
  - (d) staff and Parents and Citizens members of the school who protest to the intruders have received insulting replies?
- (2) What action does the Minister contemplate to overcome this nuisance and vandalism?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) No.
- (d) No.
- (2) The department is aware of the problem and is investigating with the Crown Law Department, the possibility of making comprehensive regulations covering public use of school land.

## TRAFFIC

*RTA: Police Union Representation*

173. The Hon. D. K. DANS, to the Leader of the House, representing the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Has the Minister received an approach from the Police Union—
  - (a) urging him to place the Commissioner of Police in full control of traffic patrol, with an Assistant Commissioner as the head of traffic patrol;
  - (b) to retain the Road Traffic Authority to control only vehicle licensing, Motor Drivers' Licences and testing, and RTA administration;
  - (c) to issue normal registration plates to all vehicles currently with RTA registration plates; and
  - (d) to remove all the present signs and insignias on RTA cars and replace them with the police sign?
- (2) If so, what action does the Minister propose to take on each of these matters?

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf (for the Hon. G. C. MacKINNON) replied:

- (1) (a) to (d) I am advised that these matters were discussed at the 21st Biennial Conference of the Western Australian Police Union of Workers held May 30-31, 1978, and it was resolved the union make overtures to the Minister. However, to date no such action has been taken by the union.
- (2) Any action to be taken will be a matter for consideration after approach by the union.

## ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

*Revenue Collected and Expenditure*

174. The Hon. F. E. McKENZIE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) For each of the financial years 1974/75, 1975/76 and 1976/77, how much money has been received from road maintenance charges?
- (2) How much expenditure, i.e. wages, administrative procedures, stationery, etc., has been involved in each of those years in collecting the road maintenance charges?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) Road Maintenance Charges collected in financial years:

1974-75—\$4 177 823;

1975-76—\$4 449 626;

1976-77—\$4 621 937.

- (2) Cost of collection of Road Maintenance Charges:

1974-75—\$495 494;

1975-76—\$536 488;

1976-77—\$585 850.

Although the costs referred to are debited to the cost of collecting road maintenance charges the administration of the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act provides inherent benefits to the other functions of the Transport Commission.

## EDUCATION

### *School Holidays*

175. The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Education:

Is the proposed abolition of the holiday for the Perth Royal Show and the institution of the Tuesday after Easter as a school holiday, designed to bring teachers' holidays into line with those of the State Public Service?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

No.

## CYCLEWAYS

### *Report and Government Funds*

176. The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT, to the Leader of the House, representing the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) What action has the Government taken on the recommendations on pages 4 and 5 of the Cycleways Advisory Committee report dated August, 1975?
- (2) What funds, if any, have been allocated by the Government for the establishment of cycleways in this State?

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf (for the Hon. G. C. MacKINNON) replied:

- (1) The Minister for Local Government has appointed an advisory committee to examine the whole question of bicycle use in the metropolitan area.
- (2) The question of funding the establishment of cycleways will be included in the recommendations of the committee.

## MINING

### *Hearing Conservation Programmes*

177. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Public Health Department still carrying out hearing conservation programmes in the mining industry?

- (2) If so—

(a) where;

(b) how many times has the programme been carried out since its commencement; and

(c) how many employees have been tested each year?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) (a) Kalgoorlie and District, and Collie;

(b) it is a continuous process moving from mine to mine in progression;

(c)

	Kalgoorlie, Collie.	
1964	....	121
1965	....	256
1966	....	1 104
1967	....	457
1968	....	67
1969	....	70
1970	....	195
1971	....	634
1972	....	406
1973	....	337
1974	....	519
1975	....	540
1976	....	327
1977	....	232

271

557

189

669

## POLICE

### *Patrols after Dark*

178. The Hon. D. K. DANS, to the Leader of the House, representing the Minister for Police and Traffic:

Will the Minister for Police ensure that policemen do not work alone after the hours of darkness?

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf (for the Hon. G. C. MacKINNON) replied:

Deployment of police is not the responsibility of the Minister. However, the Commissioner of Police advises that consideration is always given to the safety of officers in respect to duties allocated to them and wherever practicable they are not called upon to work alone after the hours of darkness.

## EDUCATION

*Albany School*

179. The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Education:

In view of the upgrading of Albany Primary School, is it intended to change the boundaries for the school intake and change it to a Class 1A school?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:  
No.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

*Canning Town Council: Dog Control*

180. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has the Minister given further consideration to the request by the Canning Town Council to have dogs in public places controlled by a leash?
- (2) If so, what action, if any, does the Minister propose to take on this request?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) and (2) The Council has been advised that further consideration will be given to recommending the confirmation of the Council's proposed By-law No. 3 if it can be shown that a general problem occasioned by dogs not restrained by a leash (but which are not wandering at large, as set down in section 28 (1) of the Dog Act), exists.

## TRANSPORT

*Southern Western Australia Transport Study: Submissions*

181. The Hon. F. E. MCKENZIE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Minister invited submissions from interested persons as to their opinion on the recommendations of the Southern Western Australia Transport Study report?
- (2) If so, how many written submissions have been received to date?
- (3) Until what date will he receive submissions?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) Yes. Submissions from all interested individuals and organisations were invited when the SWATS report was publicly released on 25th May, 1978.

(2) Eleven.

- (3) As the SWATS report actually consists of a Main Report, 2 Supplementary Volumes and 28 public Technical Papers, and only a small number of submissions have been received so far, I have not wished to set a final date for submissions at this stage. Naturally, the sooner submissions are received, the sooner the Government will be able to decide upon the action it wishes to take in relation to the SWATS recommendations.

## EDUCATION

*Spencer Park and Albany Schools*

182. The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Education:

In view of the fact that the Spencer Park Primary School at Albany has now between 720 and 750 students, and that the school is in an area of rapid housing expansion, is it proposed—

- (a) to build a new school to take the pressure off Spencer Park;
- (b) to bus students to the Albany Primary School; or
- (c) to continue to solve the problem by expanding Spencer Park with the use of demountable classrooms?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

Current enrolments at Spencer Park Primary School are 607 (Years 1 to 7) and 72 (Pre-Primary).

- (a) Flinders Park Primary School opened at the beginning of this school year to take pressure off Spencer Park Primary School.
- (b) No.
- (c) Current pupil numbers are comfortably housed even though two demountable classrooms are in use.

## HEALTH

*Drugs: Charges and Convictions*

183. The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Police and Traffic:

Will the Minister advise—

- (a) the total number of—
  - (i) males; and
  - (ii) females;
- charged with drug offences in

Western Australia over the past 12 months; and

- (b) what convictions were recorded?

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf (for the Hon. G. C. MacKINNON) replied:

- (a) (i) 671 males;  
(ii) 123 females.  
(b) No statistical records are kept by the police of convictions resulting from the offences.

## HEALTH

### *Noise: Complaints and Prosecutions*

184. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Health:

For each year since the Noise Abatement Act, 1972, and Regulations thereto, were proclaimed—

- (a) how many complaints have been received by—  
(i) the Public Health Department; and  
(ii) municipalities within the metropolitan area; and  
(b) how many prosecutions have been initiated, and with what result?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (a) (i) This information is being prepared and will be conveyed to the honourable member;  
(ii) this information is not available to the Department.  
(b) By local authorities—one successful and one result pending.

## CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### *Herdsmen Lake: Mining Exploration Permits*

185. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) What mining company currently holds exploration permits on Herdsmen Lake?  
(2) What portion of the lake is affected by the permits?  
(3) Is approval of the Department of Conservation and the Environment required before the mining company is permitted to carry out an exploration programme on the lake?  
(4) Will the Minister table a copy of the programme?

- (5) (a) If the answer to questions (3) and (4) is "No", what supervision is to be exercised by the Government over the company's activities on the lake; and  
(b) which Government agency will exercise this supervision?  
(6) What type of equipment does the company propose to use in its exploratory programme?

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf (for the Hon. G. C. MacKINNON) replied:

- (1) Mallina Holdings Ltd. and Biala Pty. Ltd. have applied for two mineral claims in Herdsmen Lake. To date these applications have not been heard in the Mining Wardens Court and therefore are yet to be approved.  
(2) The mineral claim applications cover the central section of the lake.  
(3) At the request of the Environmental Protection Authority the Company has submitted an exploration programme. After reviewing the document the EPA has recommended to the Under Secretary for Mines that the claims be approved subject to the following conditions:  
(i) Exploration be carried out in accordance with the exploration programme prepared by the Company and submitted to the EPA on 14th February, 1978.  
(ii) No developmental or productive mining being commenced without the holder/holders first supplying the Minister for Mines with an Environmental Review and Management Programme.  
(iii) No developmental or productive mining being commenced until the Environmental Review and Management Programme has been submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority and its recommendations considered by the Minister for Mines.  
(4) A copy of the programme tabled herewith. (*Paper No. 258*).  
(5) (a) and (b) Not applicable.  
(6) Initially exploration will be carried out on foot using a hand auger for sampling along the existing drainage canals and service roads located throughout the lake.

The second phase of testing will use coring equipment fitted to a four wheel drive vehicle and will drill only in areas where access can be gained by existing service roads or tracks.

### EDUCATION

#### *Flinders Park School*

186. The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Education:

Can the Minister explain why the oval at the Flinders Park Primary School at Albany was not grassed when the school was being built, and inform me when there will be areas of grass at the school for the children to play on?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

Ovals at primary schools are grassed as part of the landscaping contract. Landscaping is not implemented until the building and bore, pump and reticulation are completed.

The landscaping contractor arrived on site on the 8th August, 1978, to carry out grassing.

### RAILWAYS

#### *Administration and Management Services Bureau*

187. The Hon. F. E. MCKENZIE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When did Westrail introduce into its administration the Management Services Bureau?
- (2) What purpose does the bureau serve?
- (3) What has been the total number of staff employed in the bureau at the end of each financial year since it commenced operations?
- (4) What has been the cost of operating the bureau for each financial year in respect of—
  - (a) wages; and
  - (b) other operating expenditure?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) and (2) In 1973 the research skills which previously were scattered throughout Westrail were consolidated into one functional area known as the Management Services Bureau.

The bureau also took over the computer and computer personnel previously located in the accounts and audit branch:

The purpose of the bureau is to provide research and other specialised capabilities, including computing, necessary for the efficient operation and future planning and development of Westrail.

The bureau has given Westrail a new dimension in that it is now in a better position to accurately cost out the services that Westrail provides.

- (3) 1974, 44;  
1975, 41;  
1976, 44;  
1977, 52;  
1978, 55.

(4) (a) and (b)	Wages	Other
	\$	\$
1974	329 000	212 000
1975	406 000	262 000
1976	478 000	308 496
1977	597 458	281 118
1978	641 344	401 945

### HEALTH

#### *Family Planning Nurses*

188. The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the committee formed to consider the question of family planning nurses, following my Private Member's Bill on this question, yet concluded its deliberations?
- (2) If so, will the Minister advise—
  - (a) the recommendations of the committee; and
  - (b) whether legislation is to be introduced by the Government on this matter?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The report is still being considered and I am not yet in a position to indicate the recommendations of the committee or advise whether legislation will be introduced.

### MINING

#### *Metal Detectors*

189. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Mines:

As there are several metal detectors on the market in Western Australia, and as many people on the Goldfields and other

places are interested in the efficiency of their performances, but due to their high cost, hesitate to purchase, until the efficiency is known—

- (a) will the Minister for Mines have a test made on these detectors—
  - (i) technically; and
  - (ii) in the field;
 to evaluate their performance taking into account the various types of soil high in salt; and
- (b) will he make the result of those tests public for the guidance of the large number of people interested?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (a) No;
- (b) not applicable.

#### HEALTH

*Dental Therapy Centres: Morley and Infant Jesus Schools*

190. The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Health:

With reference to my letter to the Minister of the 2nd June, 1978, requesting that the School Dental Service be extended to cover children attending the Morley Primary School and Infant Jesus Primary School, and the Minister's reply of the 27th June, will the Minister advise—

- (a) whether these schools can expect to be included in the service in the near future;
- (b) if so, when; and
- (c) if not, why not?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (a) Yes;
- (b) in 1978-79 financial year if adequate funds become available;
- (c) not applicable.

#### WATER SUPPLIES

*Sand Deposits for Filtering*

191. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Are there any sand deposits adjacent to the metropolitan area of suitable quality for filtering water?
- (2) If so, where?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) Sand from some deposits in or adjacent to the metropolitan area is suitable for water filtration purposes after sieving and washing.
- (2) Sand deposits with a high proportion of the coarser material falling within the required size specifications are almost completely restricted to parts of the Jandakot area and the Swan River.

#### PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT

*Amending Legislation*

192. The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT, to the Leader of the House representing the Chief Secretary:

Further to my question No. 127 of the 2nd May, 1978, regarding the need for an amendment to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act to ban the setting of steel jawed traps in the metropolitan area, and my subsequent submission to the Minister—

- (a) has the Government reached a decision on this question yet; and
- (b) if so, what action is intended?

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf (for the Hon. G. C. MacKINNON) replied:

- (a) No;
- (b) the Minister advises that he can supply no further information in addition to that contained in his letter to the honourable member dated the 26th June, 1978.

#### POLICE

*Town of Cockburn: Law Enforcement*

193. The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT, to the Leader of the House, representing the Minister for Police and Traffic:

What action has been taken by the Government or is intended in respect to the submission dated the 12th August, 1977, from the Town of Cockburn requesting the establishment of an expert committee to investigate Law Enforcement?

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf (for the Hon. G. C. MacKINNON) replied:

It is not intended to establish such a committee, as this would duplicate research and recommendations already implemented by the Government in relation to the Western Australian Vandalism



Research Committee which was formed in 1969 as a result of an increase in the incidence of wilful damage.

A copy of letters dated the 12th and 28th October, 1977, to the Town Clerk, Town of Cockburn, will be forwarded to the honourable member for her information.

#### QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

##### ARCHITECTS

###### *Number Registered and Practising*

The Hon. T. KNIGHT, to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many new architects have been registered by the Royal Institute of Architects, WA Chapter, in the past 12 months?
- (2) How many applications have been received for registration in that time?

- (3) How many designers, draftsmen, are operating in Western Australia?
- (4) How many members of the RAIA are there in Western Australia practising?
- (5) Does the institute intend to allow in the future designers with high standards and experience to apply for registration?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

The Minister for Housing is indebted to the Hon. T. Knight for advising particulars of his question without notice. The answer is as follows—

- (1) Thirty-five architects have been registered by the Architects' Board of Western Australia since the 2nd August, 1977.
- (2) Thirty-six.
- (3) Not known.
- (4) Not known.
- (5) Not known.

