



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

THIRTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION
1997

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 10 June 1997

Legislative Assembly

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THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland) took the Chair at 2.00 pm, and read prayers.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Resignation

THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland): I have received the following letter from the member for Hillarys -

Dear Mr Speaker

I wish to tender my resignation as Chairman of Committees due to other responsibilities that have been placed upon me.

I should like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks for your guidance over the last four years and I would like you to know that it has been a pleasure working with you.

Yours sincerely

Rob Johnson JP MLA
Member for Hillarys

Appointment

On motion by Mr Court (Premier), resolved -

That the member for Geraldton be appointed Chairman of Committees.

PETITION - TRANSPORT

Concessional Fares

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [2.04 pm]: I present the following petition -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned petitioners call on the State Government to reverse their increases in public transport fares, in particular the changes to concession fares and time constraints on transfers in that they will impact most severely on pensioners, the unemployed and other low income earners.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 1 043 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 49.]

Similar petitions were presented by Ms Warnock (17 signatures) and Mr Kobelke (15 signatures).

[See petitions Nos 50 and 53.]

PETITION - JOONDALUP CINEMA COMPLEX

MR BAKER (Joondalup) [2.06 pm]: I present the following petition -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, hereby respectfully request that the Government of Western Australia honours its long term commitment to support the construction of a cinema complex as part of the Lakeside Joondalup Shopping City development.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 227 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 51.]

PETITION - HOUSING

Maylands Claypits Development

DR EDWARDS (Maylands) [2.07 pm]: I present the following petition -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned people of Western Australia object to the proposed infill and development of the Maylands Claypits for further housing on the Maylands Peninsula.

Since European settlement, some eighty percent of freshwater wetlands have been destroyed on the Swan Coastal Plain.

The scarcity of wetlands along the Swan River and upon the Swan Coastal Plain has resulted in significant numbers of migratory and native birds making the Maylands Claypits their home. Add to this, the regional heritage value of the area and the need for conservation of the Maylands Claypits is clear.

We call on the Government to declare the Maylands Claypits area a regional park worthy of conservation, rehabilitation and an effective management plan.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 664 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 52.]

STATEMENT - PREMIER

Government Appointments

MR COURT (Nedlands - Premier) [2.10 pm]: I advise the House that, effective from today, the member for Hillarys has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet. Following the resolution of the House earlier today, the member for Geraldton has been appointed Chairman of Committees. I also advise that the member for Bunbury has been appointed Government Whip.

BILLS (3): ASSENT

Messages from the Deputy of the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills -

1. Western Australian Sports Centre Trust Amendment Bill.
2. Acts Amendment (Marine Reserves) Bill.
3. Sea-Carriage Documents Bill.

[Questions without notice taken.]

MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST - ROYAL COMMISSION INTO THE WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE SERVICE

THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland): Today I received within the prescribed time a letter from the member for Midland in the following terms -

Pursuant to Standing Order 82A, I propose that the following matter of public interest be submitted to the House for discussion today -

This House calls on the State Government to establish a royal commission, staffed by personnel other than serving or former Western Australian police to inquire into the operation of the Western Australia Police Service with particular reference to:

- (a) corruption and other serious misconduct within the service;

- (b) the activities of the service in dealing with any problems of corruption and other serious misconduct and internal investigations generally;
- (c) impartiality of the service and other agencies in investigating and pursuing prosecutions; and
- (d) any other matter appertaining to the aforesaid matters concerning possible criminal activity, neglect or violation of duty, the inquiry into which you shall deem to be in the public interest.

The matter appears to be in order. If sufficient members agree to this motion, I will allow it.

[At least five members rose in their places.]

The SPEAKER: The matter shall proceed on the usual basis, with half an hour allocated to members on my left, half an hour to members on my right, and five minutes in total to the Independent members should they seek the call.

MRS ROBERTS (Midland) [2.48 pm]: I move the motion. Confidence in our Police Service is at an all-time low - it is rock bottom. This claim has been made by numerous people in the past week or two. A royal commission is needed into the Western Australia Police Service because very great concerns are held about corruption, which hits at the whole culture, standard and openness of our Police Service. Our Police Service is being undermined while these allegations are not being investigated.

We also need a royal commission for all the honest police in our force who, like the rest of us, would like to see the dishonest and corrupt police who are guilty of misconduct taken completely out of the service. In that way, the confidence of officers and the public can be restored.

It is interesting to hear the Government say that this State does not need a royal commission. The New South Wales Government did not think a royal commission was needed, and many of the symptoms in Western Australia now are exactly the same as those in New South Wales before the royal commission was established. It is a frightening comparison. The New South Wales Parliament, like the Western Australian Parliament, had set up a parliamentary committee which expressed grave concerns about the police. Grave allegations were made by the public. The Independent Commission Against Corruption in New South Wales failed to expose widespread corruption, just as the Official Corruption Commission has failed to expose corruption in Western Australia. The Anti-Corruption Commission has little likelihood of exposing that corruption, just as ICAC was incapable of doing in New South Wales.

Another similarity is the accidental overhearing of conversations between drug police, and the Commissioner of Police and the Minister for Police denying that a widespread problem exists in the Police Service. Once the royal commission was established in New South Wales it was apparent that even long-serving officers in the internal affairs unit of the New South Wales Police Service were shocked at the revelations of widespread levels of corruption. If any group was in a position to understand how widespread corruption was in New South Wales, it should have been the internal affairs unit, yet it was shocked by the findings of the Wood royal commission. The situation in Western Australia is a replay of the situation in New South Wales. John Hatton said on radio last week that people had accidentally picked up a conversation about a deal being done between corrupt police and people involved in drugs, and the response from the Western Australian Commissioner of Police and the Minister for Police is exactly the same as the response by their counterparts in New South Wales. They said it would be a waste of money and that a royal commission would not find systemic corruption in the Police Service. Mr Hatton also said police officers are skilled in the collection, distortion, loss and presentation of evidence, and that the brotherhood holds tight.

He said that even the Criminal Justice Commission in Queensland had not been successful because that organisation did not specifically target police. It is an interesting comparison on two counts. First, it is not sufficient to have police investigating police, and that is why the motion calls for personnel other than serving or former Western Australian police officers to carry out the investigation. The second point he made is that the CJC had not been successful because it did not specifically target police. Again, the ACC does not specifically target police. It has a wider ranging brief, which means it should look at corruption involving politicians, government departments, chief executive officers, and senior officers in government departments. There is a dual concern: On the one hand, there is no organisation singularly inquiring into police matters and, on the other hand, if the ACC were so focused on the police, many matters which should be looked into might not be because it would not have the resources or capacity to do so. It might be convenient for the Government if the ACC did not look too closely into some of its tendering processes and other matters raised in this Parliament by the Opposition.

It was suggested by John Hatton when the royal commission was set up in New South Wales that the investigation should be conducted by persons other than serving or former police officers. It may be interesting for the House to

know that Justice Wood's first reaction to that suggestion was that it was not necessary. He started with the belief that police officers were in the best position to conduct such investigations. One month into the inquiry, Justice Wood rang John Hatton and said he was wrong and that it was absolutely essential that police not investigate other police. That is a key point of the motion today calling for the royal commission. Any royal commission must have widespread terms of reference and not include personnel who are current or former members of the Western Australia Police Service.

The Premier has suggested that a royal commission is not necessary to investigate these matters, and he wants to hand all matters to the ACC. The Premier has no record in dealing with corruption in this State. He was still expressing confidence in the Official Corruption Commission long after the WA Inc royal commission, the Commission on Government and the Director of Public Prosecutions were urging that it be abolished. Last week the Premier said that the royal commissions in the Eastern States had been unproductive. When questioned by journalists, he said he was referring to the royal commissions held in New South Wales and Queensland. That is a nonsense and can be compared with the comments by the chief investigator at the ACC, Graeme Charlwood, who disagreed and said the royal commission in New South Wales had been effective. The Police Service in New South Wales was shaken to the core by the findings of the royal commission. People were shocked to see videotapes of police officers taking bribes, and even the most hardened cynics were shocked. A total of 92 officers retired, resigned, or were dismissed. The Commissioner of Police, Tony Lauer, also retired. In Queensland the biggest scalp was that of Police Commissioner Sir Terry Lewis, who was gaoled for 14 years for taking bribes. He lost his knighthood and superannuation of \$1.4m. The inquiry, which exposed prostitution and gambling in Fortitude Valley, was originally set up for six weeks because Queensland did not believe widespread corruption existed. That initial six week inquiry ultimately took 18 months. Tony Fitzgerald found the force was riddled with misconduct, inefficiency and contempt for the processes of the justice system. A total of 139 officers were charged and gaoled. He also recommended that the internal affairs section and the complaints tribunal in Queensland be abolished.

The Court Government's response in Western Australia has been to beef up the ACC and to suggest it can do the job. I will point out some of the difficulties with the ACC. It operates with three part time commissioners, Justice John Wickham and Commander David Orr, who were also commissioners for the OCC, and Don Doig. Its chief inspector, Graeme Charlwood, and seven other investigators are all from the Police Service, despite the good reasons that current and former police officers should not perform this role. The ACC took 12 months to request the evidence from the Tomlinson inquiry. That was denied by the Minister for Police, yet last week Hon Derrick Tomlinson was quoted as saying he had not received that request. I have seen a copy of the letter sent to Hon Derrick Tomlinson, with a copy to the Leader of the House in the Legislative Council, in which the Minister for Police has now given his support for that evidence to be given to the ACC. This type of delay does not give the public any confidence that the ACC will get on with the job.

Mr Day: It has been asking for it since last September.

Mrs ROBERTS: Shall we hear a retraction from Hon Derrick Tomlinson? The Minister may also note that other members of the committee are not aware of any such request, and Hon Derrick Tomlinson was quoted in *The West Australian* last week as saying he had received no such request.

One of the other difficulties with the ACC is that it will not hold public hearings, such as those held in New South Wales and Queensland. Also, the ACC, like its predecessor the OCC, is a complaints oriented body. It may be worthwhile for the Government to have a closer look at the comments made by the Director of Public Prosecutions to the parliamentary select committee inquiring into the Western Australia Police Service. Page 81 quotes the Director of Public Prosecutions as saying that -

The Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations and the Official Corruption Commission are not the appropriate bodies to monitor the Police Force. The Parliamentary Commissioner has a wide jurisdiction over the whole of the Public Service. The Police Force needs a specialised review mechanism. It is the civilian force and the civil government must therefore install accountability systems in respect of the exercise of civil power. A further difficulty in relation to both the Parliamentary Commissioner and the Official Corruption Commission is that they are complaint based. Their jurisdiction is triggered when some person complains. The lesson of the probe is that this response is inadequate.

The ACC operates in exactly the same way.

Another important matter we must consider is the resourcing and funding of the ACC. The ACC was set up with funding of only \$1.5m. The ACC has fairly lavish fifty-first floor offices, and it is clear that that \$1.5m would be spent easily on that office accommodation, on the salaries of its employees, and on other costs, perhaps for vehicles and for conducting some investigations, and that it would never be enough funding. The Government apparently topped up that funding last year by \$500 000, which the ACC allegedly spent on fitting out its offices.

Mr Court: Should we have given it \$20m and asked it to see whether it could spend it? Is that how you would run its budget?

Mr Brown: That is a really intelligent interjection! Just keep interjecting intelligently like that!

Mr Court: We have told the Anti-Corruption Commission that it can have whatever resources it requires. It has put forward what it requires, and that is what we have given it. You do not understand that process.

Mrs ROBERTS: The Premier is soft on corruption. The ACC does not have the powers of a standing royal commission. If the ACC wanted to go down a particular path of inquiry, it would have to go back to the Executive Government for the funding. If it determined to investigate a Minister, a department or a chief executive officer -

Mr Court: We have told it that it can have whatever resources it requires, and it has said publicly a number of times in recent weeks that it has no difficulty with the availability of resources. Why raise it as an issue if it is not an issue?

Mrs ROBERTS: The Premier's argument conveniently ignores the fact that his Government will be privy to the matters that the ACC wants to investigate, because when it approaches the Government for funding, the Premier will expect the ACC to outline what it will investigate and what it will do with the money. The Premier will want to know whether it is investigating a Minister, a government department or a chief executive officer.

Mr Court: Under the Act I am not allowed to ask it that. Get it straight, please. Get an understanding of the legislation.

Mrs ROBERTS: Is the Premier saying that he will give it a blank cheque if it asks for funding for an investigation which it believes will cost \$10m?

Mr Court: Yes I am, because I trust them. They are independent people who were appointed on the recommendation of the Chief Justice, the Solicitor General and the head of the District Court.

Mrs ROBERTS: New South Wales trusted the Independent Commission Against Corruption, which was set up in the same way to do the same job, and it was totally ineffective. It failed to indicate widespread corruption in New South Wales.

Mr Court: I am glad you said that, because we told you for years that ICAC was ineffective, but you said we should set up an ICAC model. Get your story straight.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I have allowed some interjections, but I cannot allow people to interject across the Chamber and above the member who is trying to make a speech.

Mrs ROBERTS: The Premier seems unduly sensitive about this issue. He knows as well as I do that I have never raised any matters concerning ICAC in this House, nor have I raised them publicly, before this week. The Premier's claims cannot be attributed to me.

Public confidence is further undermined by the fact that one in four members of our drug squad is currently under some form of investigation. The officer behind the leaked tape called it a joke. That provides an interesting point of comparison, because - surprise, surprise - many of the police officers in Queensland said they were only joking too. The fact that the officer apologised and said it was a joke does not cut any ice with me; it only sounds more alarm bells as to why we need to investigate these kinds of allegations.

Mr Day: You implied on radio this morning that as a result of that statement by that officer, the investigators were going soft on the investigation. That is not the case at all. We agree that they should be investigated, and we have never said otherwise.

Mrs ROBERTS: Perhaps the Minister should clean his ears, because I did not say that or anything like that.

Mr Day: You implied it.

Mrs ROBERTS: I did not say that or anything like that. If the Minister has some other evidence, he should bring it in here.

The Tomlinson inquiry suggested there was high level corruption in the drug squad. An interesting example of the public complaints about the drug squad was given on radio yesterday when ABC police reporter Graham Powell interviewed a woman who said that her son had been about to open a safe in the backyard and she had called the police because her son had a \$400 a day heroin habit and she was concerned. However, she said that when the police arrived and the safe was opened, they took with them a gold bar, cash and other things that were in the safe, but those

goods were not receipted and her son was not charged with possession of those goods. That is an example of the many instances that are being related to the media and to members on this side of the House, and I suspect also to members on the other side of the House.

The difficulty with these types of allegations is that not many people will go back to the police and say that they had twice as much money, or twice as many drugs, in their possession than the amount for which they were charged, because they know that such a complaint against the police would only increase the charges that were laid. We need a royal commission so that people can have confidence that these matters will be dealt with. Graham Powell said that the woman gave him a list of five mobile phone numbers of drug dealers with whom he could supposedly set up drugs deals. Claims are made to me every week that drugs are available in Northbridge, the city and Fremantle, and in schools and railway stations, yet the police are seemingly powerless to do anything about it.

Mr Day: Have you ever heard of Crime Stoppers?

Mrs ROBERTS: That is a pathetic response! I wonder what Crime Stoppers would do with that information. It would probably hand it onto the drug squad, or the internal investigations unit, which is under a cloud. What a nonsense! This State has a growing drug problem, but the police seemingly cannot deal with it effectively. We are seeing budget cuts being made to Customs, the National Crime Authority and Federal Police. We are losing the war against drugs and corruption in this State.

A royal commission in this State is urgently needed. The symptoms are the same as they were in New South Wales. We have the select committee report, the allegations about the drug squad and the internal affairs unit, and grave allegations from the public. Public confidence in our Police Service, and in particular our drug squad, is totally undermined. The Anti-Corruption Commission does not have the capacity to clear the air. Nothing will satisfy other than a wide ranging royal commission into police corruption which does not use current or former Western Australia police officers. The Government can try to tough it out but the public are demanding a royal commission. Confidence in our Police Service and good police officers will not be restored until the Government has properly and openly cleared the air with a royal commission into the Police Service in this State.

MR COURT (Nedlands - Premier) [3.12 pm]: Some very serious allegations have been made about certain police officers in the drug squad. Those allegations have seriously undermined confidence in the Western Australia Police Service. It is critical that the allegations are investigated very quickly and thoroughly. At stake is the reputation of the Western Australia Police Service.

Over the past three years the Commissioner of Police and his team have put a huge commitment into bringing about some major changes inside the Western Australia Police Service. It has involved some quite major structural reforms and cultural change. The commissioner has mentioned to us on many occasions that he will not be satisfied until he has completed a five year term and he sees our State with the finest Police Service in the nation. Over the past three years the taxpayers of Western Australia have made a very large financial investment for improving the Police Service, that had been run down. Allegations of this nature seriously undermine a Police Service. That is why very urgent action must be taken to investigate these matters.

The shadow spokesperson on police matters said that we are opposed to a royal commission. She must report our position correctly; that is, this Parliament has put in place the Anti-Corruption Commission, which has powers and processes that it goes through. If the commission goes through those processes and recommends to the Government that there should be a royal commission into this or any other matter, it would be a pretty brave Government that did not accept the recommendation. The Opposition must not say that we do not support a royal commission. We have always kept all of our options open in relation to a royal commission.

I want to outline the processes which all members of this Parliament supported. The ACC has powers to investigate allegations of corruption and serious improper conduct. It also has the power to appoint a special investigator who would have the same powers as a royal commission, which are coercive powers to investigate matters put before it. If the ACC is not happy with those recommendations, it can recommend the appointment of a royal commission. The Opposition spokesperson kept talking about the Wood report and its recommendations. The Opposition agreed to set up the ACC. Why would it want to try to pull it to bits when it has not been put to the test?

Mrs Roberts: We said last year that we wanted a royal commission.

Mr COURT: The member should get some of her facts straight. The front page of *The West Australian* of 5 June reads -

And a number of the commission's investigators worked in the WA police force previously, which again undermines the whole independence of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Mrs Roberts: It is at least one.

Mr COURT: No. "A number of the commission's investigators" is not at least one; "a number" is more than that. The member wanted to create the false impression that Western Australian police were making up the investigation team of the ACC.

Mrs Roberts: There is one; that is all it takes.

Mr COURT: The member said "and a number of the commission's investigators" - plural - "worked in the WA Police Force previously".

Mrs Roberts: What a nonsense.

Mr COURT: It is not a nonsense; we are dealing with facts.

Several members interjected.

Mr COURT: The member does not mind telling untruths, and then when we put the facts -

Mrs Roberts: Nothing I have said today is untrue.

Mr COURT: I did not say today. It was on the front page of *The West Australian* a few days ago.

Mrs Roberts: I said that there was at least one officer.

Mr COURT: Was the member incorrectly reported? It says "and a number".

Mrs Roberts: You check it with the journalist.

Mr COURT: The member has not corrected it. The new investigators come from various backgrounds, including the Australian Federal Police, the Independent Commission against Corruption in New South Wales, the Australian Securities Commission, and the state Ombudsman's office. One officer is a former serving member of the Western Australia Police Service, who also worked for the Wood royal commission and in the private sector.

Ms MacTiernan: Where were they before they went to the commission?

Mr COURT: Prior to joining the ACC the former Western Australia police officer worked for the Rothwells task force and the WA Inc royal commission; he went to London for 15 months tracing assets; he served on secondment to the Wood royal commission; and he worked for the New South Wales big six firm in its fraud unit in the forensic accounting division investigating public and private sector matters. The officer has never worked in the drug squad.

Mr Marlborough: What does that tell you?

Mr COURT: It tells me the member should stick with a few facts.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COURT: I have limited time.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much interjection. The Premier has taken some interjections, and they will nearly always be allowed. We cannot have barrage after barrage of interjections.

Mr COURT: The Commissioner of Police has been an agent of quite major change inside the Western Australia Police Service. He has been a very strong supporter of independent investigations of various complaints. We cannot say that about what took place previously when members opposite were in government. Our Commissioner of Police is quite willing to have and wants independent investigations.

Mrs Roberts interjected.

Mr COURT: The member can whinge and whine and try to knock him and the ACC, but if constructive actions are being taken, they should be recognised. The Commissioner of Police has never been afraid of bringing in outsiders. I can remember when the two Victorians were brought in to work on the Argyle case. Members opposite criticised, but in a case that was going nowhere a number of successful prosecutions occurred in a relatively short time.

Mr Marlborough interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Peel.

Mr COURT: The commissioner has never been afraid of bringing in outside help. I commented on the recommendations of the Wood royal commission. In question time I read out what the commission said in relation to establishing an effective body, which is the equivalent of the police integrity commission that was set up. It has the same powers as the ACC. The legislation states that its key function is -

- (g) to assemble evidence obtained in the course of its functions and -
 - (i) to furnish to an independent agency or an appropriate authority, evidence which may be admissible in the prosecution of a person for a criminal offence against a written law or which may otherwise be relevant to the functions of the agency or authority; and
 - (ii) furnish to the Attorney General or a suitable authority of another State, a Territory, the Commonwealth or another country, evidence which may be admissible in the prosecution of a person for a criminal offence against a law of the jurisdiction concerned or which may otherwise be relevant to that jurisdiction;

It is important that the ACC be able to gather admissible evidence so that it can achieve successful prosecutions. I find it interesting that the first time this body is put to the test members opposite criticise the commissioner, his team and the ACC. They cannot get in there quickly enough.

Mrs Roberts interjected.

Mr COURT: The member said that the evidence collected by the Tomlinson committee had not been requested.

Mrs Roberts: I was going on what Hon Derrick Tomlinson told *The West Australian* last week. That is what he said and he was the Chair of the Committee.

Mr COURT: I refer the member to the proceedings of the Legislative Council in September last year when these matters were raised and to a press release issued by the ACC in which it outlined the processes it went through in asking the Legislative Council for that information. The member has come into this Parliament and said that the ACC did not bother to ask for that information, when it did on a number of occasions. The Legislative Council must make a decision as to whether -

Mrs Roberts: Give us the evidence.

Mr COURT: I will provide the member with a copy of the *Hansard*.

Dr Gallop: This is all irrelevant. You are skating on thin ice and are about to fall in.

Mr COURT: Members opposite cannot state in this House that the ACC has not asked for that evidence when it has. If the Legislative Council has not provided it, that is its decision.

Members opposite have said that a number of ACC investigators were in the Western Australia Police Service, and that is wrong. They also said that the ACC has not bothered to ask for the evidence from the Tomlinson committee, and again they are wrong. They went on to say that the commission does not have adequate funding. A press statement from the ACC states -

"On the resources issue, the State Government has guaranteed that if the Commission finds it necessary to appoint a Special Investigator, the funding will be made available over and above the \$2,016,000 which has already been approved." . . .

"We are continually assessing the Commission's work load and the required staffing.

The Government has given a commitment that whatever funds are required will be made available."

The member has raised these points, and I have said she is wrong.

This Government is not against the establishment of a royal commission if that is the appropriate action to take. If members support the establishment of an independent ACC with very wide coercive powers and it then investigates allegations, surely it is proper for that body to do its investigations. The Police Commissioner is only too willing for it to carry out its independent investigation.

Several members interjected.

Mr COURT: He has always been willing to have independent investigations. If the ACC is not happy with its investigations, it can recommend the establishment of a royal commission. If the ACC makes that recommendation, the Government will accept it.

Members opposite cannot say that the Government is opposed to a royal commission. On the other hand, it is proper and appropriate that the ACC, to which this Parliament has given extensive powers, be allowed to carry out its responsibilities.

MR DAY (Darling Range - Minister for Police) [3.27 pm]: This motion is based on the argument that these very serious allegations can be investigated only by a royal commission. Clearly that is not true. As the Premier and I indicated during question time, this Government has set up the Anti-Corruption Commission and given it extensive powers, including the ability to investigate matters thoroughly, to appoint a special investigator with the powers of a royal commissioner and to recommend to the Government that a royal commission be established.

The member for Midland has suggested that the ACC is relying on former officers of the Western Australia Police Service to carry out its investigations -

Several members interjected.

Mr DAY: That is the impression the member for Midland has created for the past week. However, as the Premier said, only one of the eight investigative officers at the ACC has ever worked for the WA Police Service. Since he left the service he has had extensive experience elsewhere, including with the Wood royal commission in New South Wales and the WA Inc royal commission. The other officers have come from bodies such as the New South Wales Independent Commission Against Corruption, the Australian Securities Commission and the Australian Federal Police.

Mrs Roberts: Do they have a police background?

Mr DAY: No-one has ever suggested that they cannot have a police background. Many police officers are very good investigators and are ethical and honest.

It has been suggested that the investigators should not have come from the Police Service they are investigating, and the Government generally supports that. The community has a right to expect its Police Service to be free from corruption and the police officers it employs should act in the best interests of the community.

As the Premier said, serious allegations have been made. I will not comment on the accuracy or otherwise of those allegations; that is a matter for the appropriate investigators to determine. However, I agree that they should be thoroughly investigated. If the evidence shows that people have been involved in corrupt behaviour - police officers or anyone else - they should answer for that behaviour in a court of law. The best way of ascertaining whether that evidence exists is for it to be investigated by a body such as the ACC, which has extensive powers to do so.

It is important to resolve the concerns that have been raised. That should be done for the sake of the community as a whole and for the sake of justice being done and being seen to be done. It is also important that they be investigated to ensure public confidence in the Police Service. There is no doubt that the current situation has resulted in a reduction in public confidence in the Police Service, and the sooner this is cleared up the better. I make that comment recognising that the overwhelming majority of police officers in this State are doing the right thing and are working in the community's interests. These matters must be investigated thoroughly for the sake of all decent police officers, who I know want the issue cleared up as much as anyone else in the State.

The Government is determined that these matters will be properly investigated. It is not a question of whether they will be investigated but of how. As the Premier said, the ACC was established with powers such as those in section 40, which give it the ability to appoint a special investigator of its own volition with all the powers of a royal commissioner. A former Independent member of the New South Wales Parliament, John Hatton, has also stated that this process will fail because most of the investigators have come from the WA Police Service. As I said, that is clearly not the case.

As far as the calls for a royal commission and the motion moved by the Opposition today are concerned, we should consider the final report of the Legislative Council's Select Committee on the Western Australia Police Service. In its introduction it made this observation -

Since this Select Committee was appointed in 1993, the WAPS has undergone comprehensive internal review, first through the *Scoping Review of the Police Department of Western Australia* with consultants Arthur Andersen & Co, and from September 1994 through the ongoing Delta Program to overhaul the organisational structure and management of the WAPS. The changes recommended by those processes are now being implemented and may be wide-ranging in their effect. Their goals will not be met quickly. An agency so large and firmly set in its ways, like an ocean liner, changes direction slowly and cautiously.

Dr Gallop: What did the Legislative Council say about the Delta program?

Mr DAY: I have just made a comment about that.

Dr Gallop: You have not. Can I read it to you? You have not read the report, have you?

Mr DAY: Yes, I have read it, and I am reading out some of its contents now.

Dr Gallop: Let me read out what it says.

Mr DAY: I have just made a comment. It makes an observation that the Delta program is making substantial changes in the WA Police Service.

Dr Gallop: I don't think you have read the report.

Mr DAY: What am I reading from then?

Dr Gallop: I don't think you have read the relevant sections. The committee had reservations about the Delta program. It says that devolution may serve only to disperse centrally located hot spots for criminal misconduct and corruption. You haven't read the report.

Mr DAY: I have read the report. I will come to the conclusions of the Tomlinson committee report in a moment. The introduction continues -

That is not necessarily a bad thing. Royal Commissions or judicial inquiries generally shake public confidence, rock police morale and make tough recommendations. Experience elsewhere has shown their effect proves to be short-lived. Recommendations made by Royal Commissions are only partially implemented. The police force makes cosmetic changes, but avoids the organisational changes necessary to get to the root of the problem. Public attention is then diverted by the media to other matters and the "them and us" psyche continues its destructive course.

In this State we need a permanent body to investigate the sorts of allegations being made, not an ad hoc body, as a royal commission would be.

Dr Gallop: Exactly the opposite!

Mr DAY: By definition, a royal commission has a fixed term.

Dr Gallop: It has a special purpose, and that is exactly what this committee report recommends.

Mr DAY: We have established in this State a powerful investigative body with coercive powers to inquire into these matters on a standing basis, not an ad hoc basis. At any point in the future people who have concerns about any matter of corruption, whether it relates to police officers or any other public officer in the State, can take those concerns to the Anti-Corruption Commission. That is exactly what it has been established for.

Let us look at what the former chairman of the Select Committee on the Western Australia Police Service, Hon Derrick Tomlinson, has said more recently.

Mr Kobelke: Do you actually believe what you are saying?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we can have a little order?

Mr DAY: The member should not worry about what I am saying. Let us just look at what a few others are saying, including Hon Derrick Tomlinson. On ABC Radio last week Peter Kennedy asked him this question -

Well the case then for some form of an independent inquiry, from the way you've said it, would seem overwhelming.

The response from Hon Derrick Tomlinson states -

At the time we recommended that certain action be taken; that action has been taken. Twelve months down the track . . . we now have two newspaper reports . . . of apparent criminal misconduct by police officers. Let the structures in place deal with that; if they cannot, then it is necessary to have a royal commission but not until then.

Let us look, very briefly, at what an independent observer from another State in Australia has to say about the Police Service in Western Australia as it is today. These comments come from Professor Timothy Rohl, Director of the Australian Institute of Police Management, Director of the Australian Graduate School of Police Management at Charles Sturt University, and Deputy Chairman of the National Police Education Standards Council. In a letter dated 9 June 1997, to the Premier, he states -

Dr Gallop: Can I ask a question? Do they do contract work for the Police Department of Western Australia, just for interest's sake?

Mr DAY: Whether these organisations do contract work -

Dr Gallop: It is an interesting question, isn't it?

Mr DAY: I do not know whether those organisations do work, or do not -

Dr Gallop: Check it before you come in here parading so-called independence.

Mr DAY: Irrespective of whether they do, that does not suggest Professor Rohl does not have an independent point of view. In the letter to the Premier he states -

For many members of the public, calls for a royal commission from various people who seem well-informed, must make some sense or at least create some doubt in their minds as to whether or not there should be one. I understand their concerns and would be the first to support this view if I believed that the citizens of Western Australia would benefit from a Royal Commission into their police service at this time.

But I do not for the following reasons:

- . There is a mistaken and somewhat naive assumption, that Royal Commissions automatically 'fix' problems in police organisations. The evidence does not support this belief.

Later in the letter it states -

The public is often left with a considerable sense of disappointment after Royal Commissions. They expect a raft of prosecutions which rarely occur.

As the Premier commented, extensive changes have occurred to the Police Service under the direction of Commissioner Bob Falconer to make it a much more accountable, responsive and flexible organisation which can respond to local problems on a local basis. That is being done. On that subject Professor Rohl states -

The recommendations of Royal Commissions inevitably lead to a reform of structures, processes and practices. The Delta Program has already gone further than this - the whole of the Western Australia Police Service -

Mr Marlborough interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Marlborough: You daren't; you haven't got the guts.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! When I ask for order, I do so for a purpose - to allow the member who is talking to give a reply in the remaining six minutes available to him. I do not object to a question or an interjection being put to the Minister; however, when it is put and ignored, I will not tolerate an interjector continuing to scream across the Chamber.

Mr DAY: The letter continues -

The Delta Program has already gone further than this - the whole of the Western Australia Police Service is currently undergoing a profound organisational and cultural transformation. Core business has been clarified, emphasis has been placed on service and meeting the needs of all stake holders, there has been a major shift from a rules driven organisation to one that is knowledge and values driven with personal and organisational accountability at the fore.

This Government is dealing with these very serious allegations in an effective manner. The Government wants these matters cleared up as soon as possible as much as everybody else in the community does. The actions the Government has taken are entirely appropriate.

Amendment to Motion

Mr DAY : I move -

That all words after "this House" be deleted with a view to substituting the following -

- (1) Notes the public concern about allegations involving some members of the Western Australia Police Service.

- (2) Acknowledges that under the Anti-Corruption Commission Act 1988 the Anti-Corruption Commission has powers to investigate allegations of corruption and serious improper conduct.
- (3) Notes that the ACC has the power to appoint a special investigator, who would have the same powers as a royal commission, or to recommend that a royal commission should be established.
- (4) Expects that the ACC will deal with this matter on an urgent basis and awaits information as to the ACC's progress.
- (5) Notes the request by the ACC to the Legislative Council for the release of evidence presented to the former Select Committee on the Western Australia Police Service, subject to appropriate safeguards to ensure confidentiality.
- (6) Acknowledges that significant and beneficial changes to the structure and management of the Western Australia Police Service have occurred through the Delta Program and the management of Police Commissioner Falconer.
- (7) Expresses its appreciation to all officers of the Western Australia Police Service who are acting in the public interest to further good relations between the Police Service and the community.

MR PRINCE (Albany - Minister for Health) [3.37 pm]: In the few minutes remaining, I will make a couple of points. The Wood royal commission has been a major exercise in dealing with matters associated with the police, particularly in New South Wales, and has established a new benchmark. I agree with that. It has come down with two major outcomes as well as a stack of recommendations. The first is that there should be an independent investigatory body with coercive powers to deal with police in the future; and, second, there should be a change of style, standard, structure and systems in the New South Wales Police Service.

In this State the structural change is happening now as a result of the actions taken by this Government in 1993, 1994 and 1995, with the establishment of the Delta program, the appointment of Commissioner Falconer and the huge reforms being made within the Police Force, now the Police Service. Those things take a great deal of time to come into effect, but the result is a significant change in structure, culture and style; in other words, all the things that Justice Wood spoke about. That is happening as we speak; however, it takes time. The second outcome was the establishment of an independent investigatory body. I remind the House that this side of politics, when in opposition in 1988, introduced the Official Corruption Commission Bill. In 1988 Hon Andrew Mensaros said in his second reading speech that the then Government's - the Labor Party - only response to the perception of corruption was to deny its existence. However, to give the Premier of the day his due, Mr Dowding agreed with the Bill and it was passed. The Official Corruption Commission did some valuable work. When we came to power we beefed it up and changed it in many respects. The Anti-Corruption Commission has the coercive powers of a royal commission and it should be directed - as it is now - to get on with the job.

Mr Marlborough: It is not the appropriate body.

MR PRINCE: It is the appropriate agency to examine the current problems. It is independent and it has coercive powers. It should investigate the issues and report on them. If the commission says there should be a royal commission, that recommendation should be taken seriously.

The Government's amendment to the motion does not reject calls for a royal commission. However, it says that we have a body in existence that has a track record. That body has powers which it never had before. It has the ability to appoint special investigators, and it is doing so. It has the ability to call for evidence. It has the coercive powers of a royal commission, and it should use them. If after the commission has exhausted what it can do and it recommends a royal commission, so be it. However, it should be permitted and encouraged to do its work in as short a time frame as possible before any more calls for a royal commission from the Opposition.

DR CONSTABLE (Churchlands) [3.41 pm]: I am disappointed that this amendment will water down the original motion. I support a royal commission into the Western Australia Police Service for a number of reasons. In general royal commissions do two things: They are designed, firstly, to uncover any wrongdoing; and, secondly, to restore community confidence in the subject under investigation. On both these counts we need a royal commission into the WA Police Service. We must know once and for all of any wrongdoing and this information should be revealed publicly and not in secret as would happen with the ACC.

We must know whether there has been wrongdoing in our Police Force and whether there is any truth in the allegations of corruption that have been revealed publicly in the media recently and also in the report of the Select Committee on the Western Australia Police Service of the Legislative Council. That select committee was set up in November 1993 and its last report was tabled in June 1996. The committee collected evidence for two and a half

years. Since June 1996 there has been continuing controversy about these matters. We have seen regular reports not just in the past few months but in the past several years that raise serious questions about members of the Western Australia Police Service. Two and a half years after that select committee reported we still do not see any resolution in sight. A recommendation contained in the final report of the Select Committee on the Western Australia Police Service states -

The Committee recommends the establishment of a continuing Parliamentary Standing Committee to oversight the Police Service, the formation of an independent Police Anti-Corruption Commission -

We have not got that -

- and changes to the role of the Ombudsman.

It is now 10 months since the ACC was set up and we have heard a lot of talk but seen very little action with regard to the Police Service. In part 1 of its report the select committee raised another important matter to which only a royal commission will provide the answer. The report states -

Morale within the WAPS is low. This seems to have been the situation for at least the past eight or nine years. Too many police officers, particularly at middle management ranks of sergeant and above, hold to the Police Department in very low regard. Within this context, it is easy to understand recurring accusations of misconduct, abuse of powers, and contravention of acceptable standards of conduct. A police service which holds itself in low esteem, believes it does not have public support, and regards politicians, lawyers and the judiciary as the enemy rather than allies, is prone to self-immolation.

We need a royal commission for another reason: If morale is so low in the Police Service, only a public inquiry with the powers of a royal commission will do anything to improve that. A royal commission would do three things: It would be held in public and would be open to public scrutiny, which would allow the public's current low regard of the Police Service to be investigated and to be improved. It is the best mechanism in our system to reveal police corruption, if it does exist, and it would restore the Police Service's confidence in itself.

The reason given by the Police Minister during question time relating to the cost of a royal commission is extraordinary, given it was his colleagues in 1991 and before who fought so hard for the royal commission into WA Inc. We spent \$30m on that royal commission.

Mr Day: I did not say that was a reason not to have one.

Dr CONSTABLE: The Minister talked about the cost, and the way he expressed it was extraordinary. We need a royal commission for the reasons I have given, and the Minister is grasping at straws to say that cost is a reason not to have one. The select committee also stated that police corruption is more dangerous to the wellbeing of society than any other public sector corruption.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [3.47 pm]: We are currently in the second act of a three act play called "Police Royal Commissions". This play has been seen by most people in Australia. It has been seen already in Queensland and New South Wales. Western Australia is now seeing the second act.

The first act of this play, "Police Royal Commissions", goes along these lines: Problems emerge within the Police Force; they bubble up through the media; and the Government of the day responds by changing the management. The Government brings in a new commissioner and says that the new commissioner will change the culture of the organisation and take away all the corruption that exists within the service. That first act has inevitably led to a second act, because no matter how hard commissioners of police try, or how good their intentions are, they are never in a position on their own to resolve these problems. Then we get the second act of the three act play, which is to refer the allegations to some form of standing inquiry that exists in the particular State. Various inquiries occurred in Queensland - although fewer than in New South Wales; however, in New South Wales the issues were finally referred to the Independent Commission Against corruption. Again, because the structure and organisation of ICAC was focused to deal with particular sorts of complaints it could not deal effectively with the issues in the Police Service, and inevitably the royal commission was called. The third act of the play is the calling of a royal commission.

At the moment the Premier is trying a holding operation through the use of the Anti-Corruption Commission. The Premier has totally misrepresented the position of the Opposition on this matter. As indicated during debate at the time, our position is that we need a special purpose anti police corruption commission just as the Legislative Council select committee and other major inquiries have recommended.

The three reasons for a royal commission in the Western Australia Police Service are, first, that confidence in the Police Service is being eroded in a serious way. That fact has been acknowledged by the Government. Confidence

is being eroded in a serious way, and in the battle against drugs in the community that is a major concern. What confidence can anyone in the community have in the battle when so many people involved in the drug squad are subject to examination? Another major issue is that the effectiveness of our Police Service is being undermined. The Police Service requires the support of the community to do its job, but currently it does not have that support.

Secondly, serious allegations have been made about a range of functions performed by the police. One need look only at the report of the Legislative Council select committee to see the range of activities by the police that are being subject to severe questioning. One need look only at the issues surfacing today relating to the drug squad to know that we have a major problem. The call last week by the former Deputy Commissioner of Police, Les Ayton, for a royal commission into the Police Service should have been the final convincing piece of evidence for the need for such an inquiry. Additionally, the public is providing evidence to substantiate the view that we need a royal commission into the police. Daily we hear serious allegations which add to the lack of confidence that exists in the community.

The third argument for a royal commission is that the evidence from other jurisdictions is that only through a wide ranging, special purpose royal commission can the facts about the issues be properly exposed and steps taken to ensure that we have a clean Police Service. That is the step that the Government will not take today. The Government has acknowledged the current lack of confidence in the force, and that serious allegations are being made. However, it will not take that final step to set up a wide ranging royal commission which can seek the facts and expose the alleged corruption.

The argument put by the Opposition in relation to the Anti-Corruption Commission is not to criticise it for the functions it will carry out to tackle corruption in Western Australia, but to point out that its structure and nature are not well suited to the problems that are surfacing in the Police Service in this State today. That is why we supported the Legislative Council select committee report. That is why we on this side of the House now say that a need exists for a royal commission.

It is a tragedy that we will repeat the historical experience of New South Wales and Queensland. It is a tragedy that when the allegations first arose a royal commission was not established, because between then and now it is likely that the corruption has continued within the force. Because of that, the lack of confidence in the Police Service in this State has grown significantly. The lack of action by the Government to set up a royal commission is only a holding operation, and it will not work. It will not stop the allegations; it will not solve the problems that exist and, most importantly, it will only delay the inevitable; that is, the setting up of a comprehensive royal commission, staffed by people from outside Western Australia, to give authority and strength to a reforming Commissioner of Police rather than distract him from any reform agenda he may have.

That is the experience in New South Wales. The new Commissioner of Police in New South Wales, Peter Ryan, is in a magnificent position to reform the Police Service in that State because behind him is the Wood royal commission. We want to give our Commissioner of Police a royal commission that will make it clear that any reform agenda can be carried out with that authority behind him.

I conclude by referring to public support for our position. When the issue first surfaced public opinion polls indicated that more than two-thirds of the public wanted a royal commission. Evidence today indicates massive public support for a royal commission, and perhaps the Premier can advise the House in the next few days what his pollsters tell him about public concern about the Police Service. Is it not true that his pollsters are asking the community what they think of the state of the Police Service and whether a royal commission is needed?

Amendment (words to be deleted) put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (28)

Mr Ainsworth
Mr Baker
Mr Barron-Sullivan
Mr Board
Mr Bradshaw
Mr Court
Mr Cowan
Mr Day
Mrs Edwardes
Dr Hames

Mrs Hodson-Thomas
Mr House
Mr Johnson
Mr Kierath
Mr MacLean
Mr Marshall
Mr Masters
Mr McNee
Mr Minson

Mr Nicholls
Mr Omodei
Mrs Parker
Mr Prince
Mr Shave
Mr Tubby
Dr Turnbull
Mr Wiese
Mr Osborne (*Teller*)

Noes (19)

Mr Bridge
Mr Brown
Mr Carpenter
Dr Constable
Dr Edwards
Dr Gallop
Mr Graham

Mr Grill
Mr Kobelke
Ms MacTiernan
Mr McGinty
Ms McHale
Mr Pental
Mr Riebeling

Mr Ripper
Mrs Roberts
Mr Thomas
Ms Warnock
Mr Cunningham (*Teller*)

Pairs

Mr Barnett
Mr Trenorden
Mrs van de Klashorst

Ms Anwyl
Mr McGowan
Mr Marlborough

Amendment thus passed.

Amendment (words to be substituted) put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (28)

Mr Ainsworth
Mr Baker
Mr Barron-Sullivan
Mr Board
Mr Bradshaw
Mr Court
Mr Cowan
Mr Day
Mrs Edwardes
Dr Hames

Mrs Hodson-Thomas
Mr House
Mr Johnson
Mr Kierath
Mr MacLean
Mr Marshall
Mr Masters
Mr McNee
Mr Minson

Mr Nicholls
Mr Omodei
Mrs Parker
Mr Prince
Mr Shave
Mr Tubby
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Mr Wiese
Mr Osborne (*Teller*)

Noes (19)

Mr Bridge
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Mr Kobelke
Ms MacTiernan
Mr McGinty
Ms McHale
Mr Pental
Mr Riebeling

Mr Ripper
Mrs Roberts
Mr Thomas
Ms Warnock
Mr Cunningham (*Teller*)

Pairs

Mr Barnett
Mr Trenorden
Mrs van de Klashorst

Ms Anwyl
Mr McGowan
Mr Marlborough

Amendment thus passed.

Motion, as Amended

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (28)

Mr Ainsworth
Mr Baker
Mr Barron-Sullivan
Mr Board
Mr Bradshaw
Mr Court
Mr Cowan
Mr Day
Mrs Edwardes
Dr Hames

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Mr Nicholls
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Mr Wiese
Mr Osborne (*Teller*)

Noes (19)

Mr Bridge
Mr Brown
Mr Carpenter
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Mr Graham

Mr Grill
Mr Kobelke
Ms MacTiernan
Mr McGinty
Ms McHale
Mr Pental
Mr Riebeling

Mr Ripper
Mrs Roberts
Mr Thomas
Ms Warnock
Mr Cunningham (*Teller*)

Pairs

Mr Barnett
Mr Trenorden
Mrs van de Klashorst

Ms Anwyl
Mr McGowan
Mr Marlborough

Question (motion, as amended) thus passed.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED FUND) BILL (No 1)**APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED FUND) BILL (No 2)***Estimates Committees A and B Reports Presentation and Adoption*

MR JOHNSON (Hillarys) [4.07 pm]: On behalf of the Chairman of Committees I present the reports and minutes of Estimates Committees A and B and move -

That the report of Estimates Committee A be adopted.

MR RIPPER (Belmont - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.08 pm]: I congratulate you, Mr Deputy Speaker, on being elected to the position of Deputy Speaker. The Opposition will work with you for the fair running of this House.

The difficulty for the Opposition in proceeding immediately to this debate is the traditional reluctance of agencies to supply the supplementary information requested by the dates specified. I have just now received the supplementary information from the Education Department following the relevant session for that department. My colleague the member for Midland has also only just been handed the supplementary information provided by the Police Service. Supplementary information from the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet and the State Revenue Department is still outstanding. The Premier might note that his is the only agency with supplementary information outstanding as all of his colleagues have delivered.

Mr Court: The member is correct, and I apologise for that. The information was given to me on Friday, but I have been crook for three days. I have just sent out a note for the information to be brought in to me.

Mr RIPPER: I appreciate the Premier's explanation. Nevertheless, I received supplementary information from the Education Department which enables me make a number of comments on that portfolio.

Under my questioning in the Estimates Committee, the Minister for Education confirmed that the Education budget will be under pressure in 1997-98. He said that supplementary funding might be needed subject to the outcome of the enterprise bargaining agreement with the department's employees. Undoubtedly, those negotiations will put that budget under pressure. Already this budget must cope with the full year effect of the salary increase awarded to teachers and administrators which applied from 1 January of this year. In other words, it applied for only half the preceding financial year and will apply to the full forthcoming financial year. Those wage increases were 7.5 per cent for teachers and 8 per cent for administrators.

The full year effect of that 7.5 per cent increase for teachers which applied on 1 January 1997 will be around 3.75 per cent for each full time equivalent for the financial year 1997-98, yet the Education budget has an increase of only 4.73 per cent per FTE in the salaries and wages component. Some of that 4.73 per cent increase per FTE is illusory as a number of low paid employees will leave the department's payroll as a result of the contracting out of school cleaning services. Therefore, very little will be left in the budget for increases in teachers' salaries, yet the enterprise bargaining agreement under which teachers are working expires later this year, and a new agreement is scheduled to take effect from 1 January next year. Negotiations for that agreement are supposed to begin on 1 July. State School Teachers Union representatives have said that they will put to their consultative organs within that union a proposal for a 15 per cent teachers' wage increase, yet very little is available in the budget to meet any union claim.

The Minister said in the Estimates Committee that he set aside a notional 2 per cent for that purpose, and that he might need to look for supplementary funding. I cannot find the notional 2 per cent in the budget. It seems that there is a little over a 4 per cent increase, yet $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent is required to meet the full year effect of salary increases already awarded. That 2 per cent is not found in an analysis of the salaries and wages component of the budget. In any event, the 2 per cent is way below the publicly expressed wage increase expectation of the SSTU.

Undoubtedly, this pressure on the budget is the reason for the Minister's announcement of the restructure of the head and district offices in the Education Department and the new local area planning policy. It is regrettable that although the Minister clearly knew what was in the pipeline, he refused to discuss in the Estimates Committee any detail of these two initiatives. That is not appropriate as Parliament should have been given the opportunity to scrutinise these two major initiatives which will be implemented under this budget.

Local area planning is the latest euphemism for school closure, amalgamation and rationalisation. The Government has promoted the line that local area planning will give parents control over the delivery of education services in communities. That is not correct at all. Firstly, the Education Department will determine the groups of school which will be subject to this planning process; and secondly, the options for each of those groups of school will be developed by the director of schools at a district level and by the principals of schools. In other words, the Education Department will decide which schools will be grouped together and the options which should be presented regarding the future of each of those groups. Only after the Education Department has done all its work will school communities be consulted.

Parents will be placed in the very difficult position of choosing between the possibility of education improvements for their children and associated school closure or amalgamation, or to have no improvement and no change. I am very concerned that parents will feel that the only way to obtain the modern facilities for their schools to which they feel that their children are entitled, is to agree to the options prepared by the Education Department for amalgamation, rationalisation and closure. It is not the case that parents will have control of the delivery of education services in their communities. As a result of this process, we will lose the idea of community by which schools provide a comprehensive service. Instead, we will have groupings of schools and communities. We will have planning for education services on the basis of the group of communities rather than on the sole community, as occurred in the past. We will see the loss of comprehensive high schools, particularly in the metropolitan area, providing the full range of education services to a particular community.

All members know how important schools are for developing a sense of community. Many of our community networks are based on parents getting together, first when children attend a playgroup, then at pre-school, then at primary school and finally at high school. If schools are divorced from the community which they serve, we will see a diminution of the sense of community. Schools are very important in developing those community networks.

As well as that local area planning, which has been misrepresented to the community, the Government is embarking on a proposed restructure of head and district offices. I believe 170 positions will be lost in the Education Department head office. The Government argues that it is good to put these resources out into the schools, but schools will not receive all resources lost from head office, and an overall diminution of resources will occur. Those 170 people are not currently sitting in head office doing nothing as they are working on very important matters. Those positions will be lost and so will the work they do.

Part of the supplementary information I have just received indicates that the equivalent of 82 full time staff work in the Education Department on curriculum matters, and the total budget for those staff is \$10.28m. I would like an assurance that we will not lose any of those 82 full time staff equivalents working on curriculum matters. I am very concerned that one of the outcomes of the head office and district office restructure is that less work will be done in the department on curriculum development. We have just passed through the House the Curriculum Council Bill, giving, in a certain sense, a mandate for the council - which has an inadequate budget of \$6m - to deal with curriculum matters. The head office restructure, pressure on the budget and the mandate for curriculum development passing from the department to a new body will result in less work being carried out on curriculum development inside the Education Department.

I turn now to the extraordinary level of support that is being provided to two organisations which threaten to become rival industrial organisations to the State School Teachers Union of Western Australia. The negotiations between the Government and the State School Teachers Union are likely to be difficult. The first reason for the difficulty is that the union is seeking a 15 per cent pay increase, and the Government has not put aside, as far as I can see, even 2 per cent in the Budget for teachers' salary increases. The second reason is that the union is a strong opponent of the Government's third wave industrial relations legislation, and the negotiations will take place in an industrial atmosphere already inflamed by the Minister for Labour Relations and by the Government's determination to ram through that third wave of industrial changes.

The third reason is that the union believes, I think correctly, the Government is using taxpayers' money to promote rival organisations that may be more cooperative. The supplementary information indicates that for the 1997 school year, the Education Department will contribute to the Western Australian Primary Principals Association in excess of \$100 000, comprising \$34 000 for conference support, \$1 000 for travel support to attend international conferences, and \$76 000 to release its president from school responsibilities; and the Western Australian Secondary Principals Association will receive in excess of \$137 000, comprising \$8 000 for conference support, \$2 000 for travel support to attend international conferences, \$76 000 to release its president from school responsibilities, \$32 000 for secretarial support, and \$9 000 for contingencies. Each association will also receive \$10 000 to pursue work in the area of Aboriginal education.

A considerable amount of taxpayers' money will be given to those two associations. I do not know of any other professional or industrial organisation in this State that receives that level of taxpayer support to enable it to pursue its professional and industrial aspirations. The Government is clearly embarking upon a divide and rule strategy. It is seeking to weaken the influence of the State School Teachers Union by separating school administrators from classroom teachers and thereby dividing the teaching profession, and it has committed an extraordinary amount of taxpayers' funds to promoting the interests of one group of people above the interests of another group of people. That is another reason that the negotiations with the State School Teachers Union are likely to be more difficult than they need otherwise be.

That is not the only example of the Government's divide and rule strategy. The Government is also seeking to use the workplace agreements legislation to separate administrators from the remainder of the teaching profession. In the next few days, this House will debate the Government's proposed amendments to the payroll tax legislation to ensure that salary packaging arrangements do not erode the payroll tax base. The Government is concerned about the payroll tax base. However, it is not so concerned about the income tax base, because it is quite happy to promote salary packaging arrangements in the Health and Education Departments which will erode the income tax base and will divide school administrators from the remainder of the teaching profession by giving them better conditions of employment.

The supplementary information states that approximately 2 300 school administrators have elected to join the workplace agreement and that the Education Department has obtained the services of the McMillan Shakespeare Group to facilitate the salary packaging process. The costs that will be paid by the employer under the salary packaging arrangement include membership fees and subscriptions to professional associations; home office expenses; financial counselling fees; disability income protection insurance; self-education expenses; child care fees; work-related travel expenses; mobile phones; contributions to a private superannuation fund; employee contributions to the GoldState superannuation scheme; and the lease of a motor vehicle.

If those benefits were paid directly to the employee as part of the employee's salary, they would be subject to income tax, but because they will be paid directly by the employer, the Commonwealth Government will be defrauded of the income tax to which it would otherwise be entitled. A public sector agency does not pay payroll tax, but once the Parliament has passed the proposed amendments to the payroll tax legislation, a private sector body that is involved in such an arrangement will find that it cannot avoid payroll tax, although its employees will avoid having to pay income tax. Therefore, the State Government will not be defrauded of payroll tax.

The Opposition is strongly opposed to these salary packaging arrangements inside the public sector because they legitimise the avoidance of tax which should legitimately be paid to the Commonwealth. We believe that just as the State Government is moving to ensure that its payroll tax base is not eroded by these salary packaging arrangements, the Commonwealth Government will also ensure that its income tax base is not eroded. Therefore, it will be only a matter of time before these schemes boomerang upon the State Government and those state government employees who have been inveigled into taking advantage of them, and there will be a cost. When school administrators find out that they will have to pay income tax on these benefits, they will seek compensation from the State Government, or perhaps the State Government will have to repay the tax to the Commonwealth, and the Budget will have to be increased commensurately.

MR JOHNSON (Hillarys) [4.29 pm]: As the outgoing Chairman of Committees, I congratulate you, Mr Deputy Speaker (Mr Bloffwitch), on your appointment. I also thank the Deputy Chairmen of Committees, the members for Joondalup, Roe, Bunbury, Thornlie and Ningaloo. The member for Roe and I are old hands at chairing Estimates Committees, but this was the first Estimates Committee for the members for Thornlie, Bunbury, Joondalup and Ningaloo, and I congratulate them for the sterling job that they did. Estimates Committees can create difficulties, especially when two run consecutively. The disadvantage this year was that the Estimates Committees were set down for a week which was originally designated as a non-sitting week. Some members had made plans to be elsewhere. On the first day we were two deputy chairmen of the committees short out of six, therefore the load had to be carried by four of us. We did it by working two hours on and two hours off. Many members do not appreciate the workings

of a committee from a chairperson's point of view until they are in the Chair and trying to keep questions and answers coming in an orderly fashion, without too much of a heated debate. There is a little skill to it. I was particularly impressed with our new members. The member for Thornlie did an excellent job. Until now I have not had the opportunity to welcome the new members into this Chamber. As one of the members of the largest ethnic group in Perth, I am delighted to be joined by a few more of my ethnic group in the Chamber. I refer of course to the member for Thornlie, the member for Mitchell and the delightful member for Southern River. I think she referred to herself as a little chicken in her maiden speech. Most members would agree that the Estimates Committees were run very well indeed; they were certainly on time and very few did not sit the full length of time allocated to them.

Mr Ripper: This is why you have been promoted, is it?

Mr JOHNSON: We cannot keep a good man down. I am delighted with my new position and look forward to a new challenge. I worked as Deputy Chairman of Committees for four years and as Chairman for the past four months. It is nice to have a change, although I enjoyed all the time I spent as Deputy Chairman of Committees and as Deputy Speaker. I am sure my colleagues who are still Deputy Chairmen of Committees will enjoy the rest of the time they spend in the Chair. It will certainly be a learning curve for them. They have a way of learning the standing orders and the proceedings of the House which is probably far better than that for any other member who comes into the Chamber. To be thrown in at the deep end with the Estimates Committees is a good thing because members must get down to the nitty-gritty of committee work; the Estimates Committees are very different from the Committee stage of Bills. I thank all the deputy chairmen of the committees for the very competent and fantastic job which they did. I am sure that they will continue to do that when we have our next round of committees.

MR KOBELKE (Nollamara) [4.34 pm]: Mr Deputy Speaker, I offer my congratulations to you on your election to your office and wish you well with the duties which you will undertake. We know from your record as the Government Whip that you are able to count; therefore, when an absolute majority is required, we can rely upon you to get it right!

I want to comment briefly on three areas relating to the functioning of the Estimates Committees: The facilities available in this Parliament for such committees and the presentation of papers, on which I will make a number of detailed comments; the timetable and some of its shortcomings for particular portfolios; and, the short time available for the return of supplementary questions.

We are well aware of the many major shortcomings of this building in functioning as a modern Parliament. That became evident in small ways through the use of this Chamber for Estimates Committee A and the select committee room for committee B. The size of this Chamber should be considered. When we move into the smaller committee room and are able to speak across the table, the tenor of the whole conduct of the committee changes. We see people at closer range and are able to deal with them person to person. Quite often in this Chamber its extra distance, remoteness and size mean that the committees tend to be far more formal and perhaps a little more adversarial. Ministers do not seem to be as willing to answer openly and frankly and enter into the sort of discussion which we hope will ensure that the Estimates Committees work as well as they can. A whole range of shortcomings relate to this Chamber and the Parliament. When officers attend in support of a Minister the facilities available to them are very limited; they must hang around in the corridor or sit at the back of the Chamber. When we move to Estimates Committee B - it is not the subject of the debate but this is my only chance to make a comment - clearly there is a total lack of facilities in the room. One hopes that the Government will address the limitations of the Parliament and the provision of facilities for the functioning of not only Estimates Committees but also the whole the Parliament, and that it will also look at ensuring that we have committee rooms which can better serve the functioning of the Estimates Committees.

Mr Johnson: I agree that we desperately need to design a select committee room that can be used as an Estimates Committee room. It could be upstairs where we could have some renovation, along the lines of the committee room of the other place. We do not have that facility at the moment and we desperately need something along those lines.

Mr KOBELKE: I accept the contribution from the member.

Although attempts have been made to improve the presentation of the budget papers, there has been a lot more hype than real achievement in ensuring that people can understand what is happening in the Budget. One of the key comparisons, which all members make, is to look at an allocation for the coming financial year and compare it with that for the previous financial year. Quite often, however, that is totally meaningless because the structure of the department or programs has changed and it is simply not possible to make a line to line comparison in an area of particular interest. Although the Government has said that the whole arrangement of the Budget and accounting process has been updated so that it is more transparent and so that members understand what is happening, and I accept there have been clear efforts in that direction, when we look at how we function in the Estimates Committees, we see that it is simply not true. The documentation to allow members to make that comparison has not been

markedly improved. The Minister for Youth is present, so I will use him as an example. He said that we had a major increase in the funding to youth. However, it became clear in the committee that because the funding was previously under the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet, the shift of funds meant that one could not make a comparison. The funding was quite comparable to that of last year, but the difficulty was caused by the change of programs. The Minister may be correct in claiming that there is increased provision for expenditure on youth, but that is only because other programs have been phased out. We must match program with program. Governments will always be seeking to introduce new programs and, therefore, phase out old ones, and quite rightly so.

Mr Board: The allocation for youth and programs for younger people has been doubled. The drug task force was taken out because it was not specifically for youth. It was shown separately.

Mr KOBELKE: It comes down to definition. I accept the contribution made by the Minister. If we are to have a rational debate on the Budget, we must be able to compare like with like and the preceding year with the coming year, so that we can see where the Government is putting money into new programs and be able to ask the Minister to explain the background, motivation and objectives of new programs and assess whether the funding is likely to achieve those goals. If we cannot look to the preceding year and see what changes have been made to programs for which money has been allocated, the debate will not go far and we will not fulfil our role to scrutinise the Budget or the Government's priorities for expenditure.

Another matter about which I failed to get a clear explanation was the shift of moneys from miscellaneous services to portfolios. One example with which I am familiar and which I will refer to briefly is the right-to-buy scheme which was under Homeswest. Because of the spreading of the miscellaneous services division across the Budget, that scheme appeared under the Family and Children's Services portfolio. I am not clear why the Government did that. However, by doing that, a program which was administered by one arm of government - in this case Homeswest - now appears under a totally different agency which has no working knowledge of the program but which is, under the Financial Administration and Audit Act, responsible for the administration of that program. The Budget contains a range of such examples. When I asked what was happening about accountability for that program, I was told a Treasury letter covers it. However, that letter says that that department will now take responsibility in its budget for that money. It did not address my fundamental concern; that is, if heads of departments are to be accountable for an expenditure of money, they cannot just sign off on expenditure by a totally different agency. The Department of Family and Children's Services has little or nothing to do with Homeswest. Other areas of miscellaneous services have been spread out to agencies and I am yet to get a satisfactory answer on whether proper and accountable procedures are being followed and, if so, how. That is a reason for some concern. I am not suggesting that the Government is not restructuring the Budget for good purposes; I am willing to accept it is although it has not explained it well. However, proper accountability must be assured.

When members were considering each vote during the Estimates Committees, we used the numbering which appears early in the Program Statements. Page 36 of volume 1 contains a summary of each area of expenditure under a division number and an item number and it provides the page and volume number. However, the committee was going through the fine detail of the Budget. Therefore, we were reading the program descriptions and dollar amounts for the various items. We were not flicking back to page 36 to see what division we were on. The committee ran into problems when it was dealing with the vote for the Parliament because, although it was progressing in a positive and workmanlike way and everyone was cooperating in trying to obtain answers from the Speaker on the Parliament's expenditure, we did not look back to see which item we were on, and the chairman of the committee put the question. We all believed we were dealing with the Legislative Council; however, the chairman put the question for the whole division. Therefore, we did not get a chance to ask questions on the printing and the Parliamentary Library votes. I had advised the Speaker that I wanted to ask questions relating to one area of the Parliament's expenditure and although he had done his homework, we could not get those answers. I am thankful that the Speaker answered my question in part outside the Chamber. However, that is not the purpose of the Estimates Committee. The purpose of the Estimates Committee is for questions and answers to go on the record so that all members will be aware of issues that concern them. That division was of importance to members because it related to how the Parliament functions and the availability of information technology to members of Parliament. However, those questions were not answered because there was a misunderstanding about the vote that was being debated. Will the Treasurer ask the Treasury Department, when preparing the budget documents, to provide a heading at the beginning of each portfolio containing the item number? That would help the workings of the committee. It is a minor point.

Mr Court: That is a good suggestion.

Mr KOBELKE: Another concern about the management of the Estimates Committees was the timetable laid down for scrutinising Ministers' portfolios. I did not find that a problem and therefore am not taking issue with it. However, the Ministers' portfolios are not set out in the documents in alphabetical order in this year's Budget whereas in each of the other eight years I have been in this place, they were grouped by portfolio. It would help, when setting

out the timetable for the Estimates, if the page numbers or the division numbers were cross-referenced. In that way it would be easy to see which divisions the committee was debating. I will give an example to illustrate our concerns. The chairperson normally announces the division with which the committee is about to deal. However, no-one will know to which division the chairperson is referring unless that member has read that division previously and knows what the chairperson is referring to. The division numbers being placed alongside the portfolios would help in a small way to improve the functioning of the committee. I put those suggestions to the Treasurer and the Leader of the House in the hope that they will be considered in planning for the Estimates Committees next year. I realise there are bigger issues to be considered in reforming or changing the work of the committees. However, I hope the minor ones will be also taken on board when those changes are considered.

The last point I wish to comment on is the timetable for the Estimates Committees, the reports of the committees, and the third reading debate. The questions that were asked in the Estimates Committee sometimes led to Ministers agreeing to provide supplementary answers. I received my supplementary answers only yesterday when I came into the Parliament. I tried to read as many of them as I could in the time between the Labor Party meeting finishing and Parliament resuming at 2.00 pm. I also had to try to go back through the *Hansard* of the hearings to see whether the questions that I asked had been answered. I do not think that is adequate time to give to the matters raised in the Estimates Committees. Why the hurry? The second reading debate finished some weeks ago. I do not understand why the Government's program does not provide more time for members to get answers and read and consider those answers before the House moves to this debate. The Government's priority to ram the labour relations legislation through the Parliament before 22 May may have thrown it totally out of kilter. Other than that I can see no reason for our giving so little time to consider these matters.

I thank the Minister for Employment and Training for her cooperation. I think she found the process quite difficult, as did other Ministers. The answers I received to some of the questions I asked of the Minister were provided in a form which I do not think is adequate. When I spoke to the Minister earlier today she was not aware that the answers had been passed on to me. I expect what happened is that to meet the deadline the Minister's officers rushed the department's answers to my questions. I thank them for trying so hard. I also thank the Minister who has bent over backwards to provide me with full and correct answers. The time line was too short. It created a problem not only for members when considering whether to take their concerns further in this debate, but also for Ministers in meeting the deadline.

I have concentrated on some of the proceedings that did not work as well as they should. The Estimates Committee, which is a very important part of this Parliament's function, operates at 60 or 70 per cent of its capacity. Consideration should be given to improving the operation of the Estimates Committee so that the accountability of the Government of the day and the scrutiny of its Budget is brought to a higher level. This will give the community a better understanding of expenditure made through the state budget.

MR RIEBELING (Burrup) [4.51 pm]: I have a couple of concerns about the way the Estimates Committees were handled this year. I am concerned at the way the Ministry of Justice portfolio was debated. Members will recall that the Ministry of Justice portfolio was divided into 10 parts, with nine parts being dealt with by Estimates Committee A over two hours and one part by Estimates Committee B over four hours. It was quite correct to allocate four hours to the part which was allocated the greater time. However, insufficient time was allocated to the nine parts which were dealt with in the two hour period.

The split up created another problem. During the debate in Estimates Committee A members were told they could not ask questions on the capital works program and the like because Estimates Committee B would deal with those questions. When they got to Estimates Committee B the chairperson said members could not ask those questions because they should have been asked in Estimates Committee A. In essence there was an overlap and members could not ask those questions in either committee. If members had been able to ask questions in both committees it would have been better. It created some concern.

I refer also to the provision of supplementary information. I was given an assurance during the debate on the Police portfolio that the answers to my questions would be provided by way of supplementary information. I received the supplementary information about 15 minutes ago. The provision of that information was somewhat tardy, especially as the House is now debating the issue. I would like to spend more time discussing some of the supplementary information provided by the Police Department.

The new structure of the budget papers are an improvement on the old system. However, it was difficult to compare the full time equivalent figures and the like in this year's Budget with the previous Budgets to ascertain in what direction various departments are heading. The members of the committee were not the only people to encounter problems with this aspect. The advisers, especially from the Fisheries Department, also had a problem and, as a result, the answer to one of the questions about FTE levels was to be provided as supplementary information. The answer from the department is that it is a new system that is very complex and it will take time to sort out what are

the real FTE levels. There is a teething problem with the system and I hope by next year the departments will provide information that is an accurate assessment and not a guesstimate.

DR EDWARDS (Maylands) [4.56 pm]: I participated in three different sections of Estimates Committee A and I will comment on the outcome of each section. In the case of the Health portfolio there must have been 17 advisers who came to assist the Minister. Although I appreciated the fact they attended and that approximately five hours had been set aside for debate on that portfolio, it was a waste of time for some of those officers. Only about six of the advisers made a contribution to the debate. The Opposition members told the Minister during the lunch suspension to send some of them back to the department and they promised not to ask questions which would impinge on the expertise of the officers who returned to their office. Ministers should consider that aspect. Members are happy to be provided with answers by supplementary information. I did not count the number of advisers who came to assist the Minister for Health, but at least seven of them who sat near where the Premier sits were named and the remaining officers filled three rows on the back benches. Most of the officers said nothing and the questions were answered easily by the principal advisers.

I disagree with the member for Burrup about the presentation of the budget papers. With the move towards output based management, it was impossible to compare this year's Health budget with previous budgets. The comments made and the information provided were so general and superficial that it gave the Opposition very little idea of what is happening.

I asked a number of questions about what will happen with prevention. I was not happy with the answer I was given and after thinking about it I am still not happy with it. Basically the Health budget is divided into 10 medically oriented output areas. Each area is looked at in three ways - prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. I asked about the allocation of funds for prevention and was told that some of the focus in tertiary hospitals is on prevention. That is ridiculous. I worked in neurosurgery and it is too late to tell a person that he should have worn a seat belt or helmet when he is unconscious. In years to come the figures in the budget will be compiled in such a way to show that a lot of money is spent on prevention. In some hospitals it is and the best example is King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women where the task of a nursing sister is to talk to patients about contraception. I guess that is prevention in terms of the birth rate. Certainly, it is useful information for women who have had a baby. I am concerned that in the tertiary institutions where there is not a traditional prevention role the figures will be compiled to show that a lot of money is spent on prevention when it is actually being spent on people who are extremely sick and for whom prevention is no longer a meaningful word.

Another issue that arose in the Health division was raised by the member for Thornlie. She pointed out that under digestive and endocrine - a group of diseases that is now considered as its own output area - an increased number of services are being performed with a decreasing amount of money. Members were given the strident explanation that this was because those services are to become more effective; but that does not ring true. Hospitals have been saying for a number of years now that they have reached their maximum effectiveness, that they have made all the cuts they can make and that they are lean organisations. There is a credibility gap in that answer.

I was also concerned that the member for Avon's comments were not adequately followed up. The member for Avon raised pertinent concerns about the budget overrun of Northam Hospital. Members were told that Northam Hospital has overrun its budget by a significant amount because it has a new hospital, a new surgeon and a new nursing sister. What the hospital has done is positive; it means that many people in the Avon area are not coming to Perth for treatment, but are being treated locally. The attitude of the Minister for Health and some senior advisers was that Northam Hospital should be penalised because it had been naughty for allowing its budget to run over. The member for Avon, however, pointed out that if the hospital had been given \$400 000, which the hospital believed it was due because of redundancy payments and because of the costs associated with moving from the old hospital to the new hospital, it would have been in better control of its budget and that its overflow would have been less than it was.

The Estimates Committee explored public health cuts. Many of the statements made in the budget papers are full of discrepancies. For example, members were told that savings would never be made in breast cancer screening because funding depended on the number of people going through the program - the more people who go through the program, the more commonwealth money it receives. That makes sense. If a hospital gets paid for the number of people it puts through, it will want to put through as many people as it can.

However, when the supplementary information arrived - I commend the Minister on his timeliness in supplying supplementary information, which arrived within a week - it was clear that the Health Department is not taking up \$88 000 of commonwealth funds, which means that overall nearly \$190 000 will be lost, because the State matches dollar for dollar the money spent on public health. The statements principally made by the advisers, but backed up by the Minister, that there would be no cuts in those areas do not ring true when one reads the supplementary information.

I also raised my grave concerns about the Alcohol and Drug Authority. I am disappointed that out of 17 advisers, nobody from the Health Department had any knowledge about the Alcohol and Drug Authority. In fact, the questions I had about that authority were left to the Minister for Health to answer. His answer to my questions was that despite all the alcohol and drug problems in our community, and highlighted in the ADA's annual report, nobody who came along to that Estimates Committee knew what was happening with the Alcohol and Drug Authority committee. We received - I hesitate to say - gratuitous statements about what would happen with the methadone program, but all of that information has been made public a number of times. We all know that; it is nothing new. The best I could get from the Minister was that he intended to keep discussing it with the Minister now responsible for the drug task force report, the Minister for Family and Children's Services, and that further down the track we would find out about this.

That is not good enough. At least one young person dies every week from heroin overdose. Good, cheap and effective programs are run through the Drug and Alcohol Authority, particularly the methadone program, and the means are available to address the problem, but those things are not being undertaken.

The Minister made it clear he did not know what would happen with the Alcohol and Drug Authority. He gave some reassurances that the methadone program would continue, and, from what he said, it is likely that residential treatment will continue. But at the moment those places are hard to get into and there are incredibly long waiting lists. I shall follow up the matter because this is an extremely important issue. I am bitterly disappointed that we could not get any answers, particularly when the Minister went to so much trouble to bring all those people from the department.

One area in which positive answers were provided was mental health. It was refreshing to hear Professor Lipton tell us what he has planned for that area. I am sure all members support what is being proposed and look forward to seeing those plans eventuate.

I also attended the Aboriginal Affairs division of Estimates Committee A. The member for Peel asked about the Aboriginal Justice Councils, which are mentioned a number of times in the budget statements. The chief executive officer said that the Aboriginal Justice Council Committee had not met all year and that, in fact, the position of chairman had lapsed and it seemed likely that the other positions would lapse also.

The member for Peel also asked questions about the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. The Minister answered disappointingly that the Attorney General, not he, was responsible for that. That statement was, in fact, contradicted by the CEO. The CEO pointed out that the Aboriginal Justice Councils were authorised by Cabinet to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. Therefore, it is disgraceful the council has been allowed to lapse. What does it say about the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody if the main body charged with overseeing what was happening has been allowed to lapse? It seems there is another problem because the Minister said that a new position had been advertised in the wrong manner, and that further action was being undertaken and that it would be some time before that was sorted out. I urge the Minister to resolve that as quickly as possible.

The CEO made many glowing statements about the Aboriginal Justice Councils. He went on to say that this State had a fine record of implementing the recommendations of the royal commission report; yet he was really saying that this body had been allowed to lapse and that the proper monitoring and implementation was probably not occurring.

My final comments concern Planning, another division of Estimates Committee A. The problem with that division was that it followed the Labour Relations division, and, obviously, Labour Relations took up a lot of the time of the committee. Only a short time was allowed to go over the issues of the Planning division before members were happy to stop to allow the Heritage division to follow. It is important that at least 20 minutes was given to Heritage. However, in future time should be managed better if that same group of portfolios is to be handled together.

I was also amused with the questions the Minister would not answer. The first lot of questions had to do with regional parks. It became clear on Sunday why he would not answer them - he did not want to pre-empt Sunday's big announcement about regional parks. I congratulate the Minister on his announcement. Thankfully, none of us have held our breaths for that announcement because it has taken 20 years to come to fruition. But, I was disappointed that he could not tell us more in the Estimates Committees.

Estimates Committees are valuable because they allow members of Parliament, and members of the Opposition in particular, to find out exactly what is going on and to access useful information. But it is frustrating when the Minister clams up.

The Minister treated the Perth bush plan in the same manner. I gather he will be making an announcement on that in due course also. It is disappointing not to know what is happening. We know what happened up until the last election, because all of those things were made public during the election campaign, but the budget estimates are the

next best chance for us to tease out exactly what is happening and to work out what stage these promises have reached. I look forward in anticipation to any announcements about the Perth bush plan.

My final comments relate to the heading in previous Budgets for major planned achievements for the coming financial year. Major planned achievements are no longer listed in the new presentation of the Budget. That is a pity because the Opposition does not know what the Government intends to do with the money in the Budget for the next financial year. At least in other years when major planned achievements were outlined, we would know what the priorities were and where the money was going. This year the Opposition asked whether those achievements could be tabled. However, no Minister who promised at the committee sessions I attended to provide that information as supplementary information has done so. I ask the Treasurer to consider that matter when the Budget is presented in future to see whether it is possible for departments to provide a summary of future planned achievements. Undoubtedly they have those lists, because all departments know what they will spend their money on and all departments have their own priorities. That type of information must be in the public arena.

Question put and passed.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Ainsworth): The question now is that the report of Estimates Committee B be adopted.

MR RIEBELING (Burrup) [5.11 pm]: I will continue my remarks from debate on the adoption of the report of Estimates Committee A because I was involved in debate in both committees on the allocation to Justice. The concept of supplementary information, which has been around for at least as long as I have been in this place - at least five years - is good. This year one of the areas in which I and the Prison Officers Union were particularly interested was the number of hours lost at Casuarina Prison. I have only just received an answer. Somehow - I do not know how it occurred - the question I asked was incorrectly recorded, which means I will have to put my question on notice. It is a little disappointing that after waiting a period for the question to be answered, I have received an answer to another question in which I was not interested. I do not understand how that happened because Hansard is always accurate. In this instance the information I was given is of no use and defeats the purpose of asking the question.

Estimates Committee B experienced a problem with the allocation of time. As members stated in debate on the report of Estimates Committee A, members of committee B had insufficient time to debate a number of important issues. It struck me that a number of people came to Parliament to answer questions from members, and many advisers on small divisions sat around for hours waiting for their division to come up. It is an insult to those people to be told after waiting for hours that there is 10 minutes to deal with their division or that there is not enough time for members to speak to them. Consideration should be given to allocating an extra day or half a day to the committee debate to ensure sufficient time is available for questions that are important to members of Parliament to be put to the departments.

When dealing with my main interest in Estimates Committee B - namely, the prisons section of the Ministry of Justice - there were numerous questions opposition members did not have time to ask, even in the four hours that were allocated to that division. That is not because opposition members were trying to waste the time of the committee, but because there is a large interest in the prisons system. During debate in the Estimates Committee a Parliamentary Secretary representing a Minister was more persuaded by the advisers on the type of answer that should be given than a Minister would have been. In one instance when I asked whether a new prison was justified for Western Australia the member who was representing the Minister refused to say that a prison was justified in the next two years; however, the Minister responsible for the portfolio had confirmed in an answer to a question on notice some months before that it was justified. The answer was not that important; it was just an answer I needed to receive to flow onto other questions. That situation unnecessarily tied up the committee's work for 10 or 15 minutes. If the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister and the advisers had not tried to evade the question or to look for more in the question than it contained, the committee would probably have got through more of the vital issues.

The Estimates Committee is an ideal opportunity to find out what the Government plans to do. That can be gauged by the resources the Government has allocated to each division and the emphasis it puts on divisions. It is an opportunity that comes along only once a year and only a week is allocated to that process. A week is not sufficient to allow members to examine all the aspects of a Budget of around \$7b.

A large area that members do not have the opportunity to consider is contracting. In that area we are told almost nothing by the Government - only that a broad amount has been allocated towards contracts. That is about all the information we ever receive. The member for Bassendean asked to be provided as supplementary information the amounts that were allocated for contracts. We ended up getting broad information about who the operator was and how many funds were allocated, but nothing about the reasons for the contract, what targets were expected from that allocation of money, and how efficient those operators were. As the Government heads down the path of more privatisation, those types of questions should be able to be addressed in the Estimates Committees. One of my fears

and that of the Prison Officers Union is that the next prison may be privately operated. I want to be assured that I will be able to ask questions in this place about how it operates, how efficient it is, and how efficiently the operators of the prison are looking after people who are incarcerated in this State.

Some of the replies to questions on notice have created more questions. The purpose of asking questions in this place is to get to the bottom of how the Government is operating. It is of concern to me and to those in the prison system that the Ministry of Justice cannot provide the ratio of prisoners to prison officers. When asked a simple question like that, departmental officers could not tell me how the ratio worked and how they determined proper staffing levels and the like. That sort of question demonstrates an amazing deficiency in the way the department operates. It is also interesting that one of the supplementary answers was that 407 people have been incarcerated in the last financial year due to non-payment of fines. Members on this side of the House were advised that when the computer based enforcement system took over incarceration would occur on rare occasions, yet it has affected 407 people in the last financial year. That is a much higher figure than I anticipated. It also appears that in the new super justice department there is a strong division between information flowing from the various branches of that department. That is highlighted by the inability of the offender management branch of the department to provide a breakdown of certain groups being imprisoned in Western Australia. The Opposition asked how many people who have had their driver's licences suspended under the fines enforcement procedure were in prison. The only information the offender management people could provide was that a number of people were charged with and imprisoned for driving under suspension, but that had no connection with the specific question asked. That is disappointing when opposition members were reassured the system would be monitored from the beginning. Clearly, the guarantees given at that time have not been honoured.

However, the process of the Estimates Committee system is a useful one which should be enhanced by greater access to information. I am sure the Auditor General and members of Parliament hope that in future the Government will give consideration to providing accurate figures about contracts and their impact on various government agencies, on which this Parliament should keep an eye to make sure they are running efficiently. It is beyond me to know how this Parliament can possibly say that the government departments responsible to it are operating efficiently when information is not provided to members about expenditure on contractors. I am sure it is also beyond the Auditor General, because he has indicated that on a number of occasions. The Government must address that area, especially as it appears the Government intends to continue on the path of privatisation and to use contractors even more extensively than at present. I recollect that more than \$1b of government funds in any one financial year is now being directed towards contract work. If members in this place do not appreciate the importance of scrutinising that expenditure, I ask them to consider the history of Western Australia in the past 15 years to recognise how important accountability is. I urge them to give consideration to changing the system so that at least in the Estimates Committees the impact of those contracts can be considered.

MS MacTIERNAN (Armadale) [5.24 pm]: I raise a number of concerns that have been touched upon today by my colleagues, and add some specific concerns. I believe the estimates process has the potential to be one of the most important things we do in Parliament; however, unfortunately the way in which it is operating it is certainly not reaching its full potential and this Parliament is not delivering to the public of Western Australia the degree of accountability and scrutiny it should be delivering through this process. The debate we are having today is a clear illustration of the great failings of this system. Members now have an opportunity to raise their concerns about the estimates process before the matter is voted upon but, it is very much a pro forma debate. There are no Ministers in the Chamber to listen to the criticisms being made about the way in which the estimates are handled in the portfolio areas for which they are responsible, and one can anticipate there will be no response.

Mr Court: To the contrary, we have been taking down all the suggestions put forward, and a number have been made about changes to the format and documentation. I have been tick tacking with it as members have spoken.

Ms MacTIERNAN: There will be extensive comments, and already today in the preceding hour extensive comment has been made on matters relating to a wide range of portfolio areas. I do not think the Treasurer will be in a position to address those concerns in the time frame available. By way of analogy, I draw on the process in the Legislative Council where there is more scrutiny of the material provided in supplementary information.

Mr Court: You are saying that because you came from there.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Just as the Treasurer tells us how much he learnt from the days of peeling potatoes in his fast food outlet, I like to think that in the four years I spent in the Legislative Council I learnt a few things.

Mr Shave: You are the first one who has.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I assume the Minister is speaking from his experience with the member for Wanneroo. Some things are done better in the Legislative Council, and one relates to the Estimates Committee. The Estimates

Committee in the Legislative Council meets as a committee to examine the supplementary information provided, and to determine whether it is an adequate response to the questions raised and whether all the questions have been answered. If a similar process applied in this House, we would not find ourselves in this situation today. Many members have complained about delays in providing the information. I had a major input in Estimates Committee B on the Transport portfolio. I obtained the supplementary information only this afternoon at 12.30 when I requested it from the Clerk of the House because it had not arrived, yet we were supposed to have analysed that material and to be ready to debate the issue by this time. It is clearly insufficient time to scrutinise the answers given, and to compare and contrast the answers with the information requested during those estimates hearings. Timing is a very important factor, and as long as we persist with today's processes there will be little incentive for Ministers or the departments to lift their game, because this will go through as a matter of course. If there were a system whereby the committee met and this matter would not proceed until the committee was confident that all the information sought had been provided, there would be much greater compliance by the Ministers and their departments.

I now move to some concerns about specifics, particularly in the Transport portfolio. I am sure many other areas warrant attention during this process but, given the brevity of time in which to prepare, that is not possible. I am particularly concerned about the Parliament's capacity, through the estimates process, to scrutinise the soundness of management in the urban passenger transport area.

The Opposition's first problem has been getting any adequate information and, when it does get information, it causes some concern. I will spend some time discussing a couple of these areas and refer to some of the material in the budget papers and as illuminated by the supplementary information.

The Department of Transport budget shows an increase of 8 per cent in expenditure on bus services. This is something of a surprise given that 50 per cent of the bus services have been privatised. We were promised a much more efficient and cheaper service. Notwithstanding the substantial privatisation, we see an increase of 8 per cent in expenditure in that area. It is not as though more people are using the buses; in fact, the supplementary information shows an alarming decline in the number of people using the system - 5 per cent over the past year, a decline of 2.4m passenger trips.

Particularly amusing is the Government's explanation for what is clearly an embarrassment. First, it had to concede that there had been a decline. It was very careful to say that it did not know the cause, but it certainly had nothing to do with privatisation. Departmental officers said that it was probably the result of a one-day strike by MetroBus drivers during 1996, when they did not collect fares. That is nonsense. If every driver had participated in the bans, a maximum of 125 000 passengers would not have been recorded as using buses that day. We can put that explanation to one side. Notwithstanding the steadily increasing cost of the bus service, there has been a decrease in patronage of about 5 per cent. The service is catering for fewer people but costing a lot more.

It might well be that there has been no decline in bus patronage. We must look at the absurd way in which the Government has handled privatisation. It has said to each company that has taken over a segment of the service that the department cannot work out any way to determine how much they should be collecting in fares and how many passengers they should carry. It has decided that in the first year of operation the private contractors can set the benchmarks themselves. The Government will accept the number of passengers they carry and the fares they collect as the benchmark for the first year and bonuses will be paid on improved performance. One does not have to be Albert Einstein to understand that that provides an enormous incentive for these companies to operate as dead ducks during the first year. It is far more likely that this decline has resulted from a very understandable and economically wise decision on the part of the private bus operators to play dead. It is difficult on the basis of the figures provided to date to make a determination about that because for this period only one private company has been operating. However, in the circumstances in which that operator was delivering a service the figures almost exactly equate with the decline in the number of passenger trips recorded.

These figures give cause for alarm on two points: First, either something is going profoundly wrong with the management of our passenger service and there is a 5 per cent decline in the number of people using the bus services - we have all agreed that it is very important to get people out of private transport and into public transport - or, second, we have set up an absurd benchmarking system that allows the operators to record passenger trips in order to enhance their position in subsequent years. Either way, we have a real problem in the delivery of bus services, and that has been highlighted by the information provided in the Estimates Committee. It is a tragedy that we do not have more time to investigate those areas in more depth.

Mr Shave: I thought you got information from Eric Charlton.

Ms MacTIERNAN: The Minister for Transport is not very forthcoming, as the Minister probably knows, and certainly not with accurate information.

I tried unsuccessfully to extract information during the Estimates Committee about the provision in the Budget for increased wages. It appears from questioning of Department of Transport bureaucrats that they have made no provision for an increase in the wages paid to drivers working for private operators. Private operators had a real commercial advantage because MetroBus employees were employed under a public transport union award, but they could avoid that award because it applied only to public transport workers. They were able to go to a disused Transport Workers' Union award that had not been kept up to date because virtually no-one was employed under it. They transferred all their drivers to that award, which paid \$10.50 an hour as opposed to \$16 an hour.

Privatisation in this State is great if one is an entrepreneur because one does not have to be entrepreneurial at all; there is no risk. Although the operator might have won the contract because of this award advantage, if the wheels fall off the wagon - as is now happening - the State picks up the tab. An application has been lodged in relation to the TWU award and there will be a substantial increase in the award payment. The Opposition has no qualms about it; it is very appropriate. However, it is clear from scrutiny of departmental bureaucrats that they have made no provision for that increase, which will have a massive flow on effect for the 50 per cent of MetroBus operations that are now in private hands. That is another example of the complete inadequacy of the Budget on which we are about to vote.

I refer to the bus maintenance, yet another issue to which we gave some scrutiny in the budget process. It is another part of the whole genre of no risk entrepreneurialism that is the hallmark of the privatisation in which this Government is engaging; that is, the capital items remain in public ownership and can be flogged as much as the operators like. They do not have to be too concerned about it because when the buses clap out, they will simply be replaced by the Government that, once again, will pick up the tab for the supposed private entrepreneurs.

In the Estimates Committee a series of questions was asked about the failure rate for the annual inspection in March this year of the buses operated by the private companies. These figures have been subject to some public attention and we found an admission that of the 191 buses operated by PATH Transit Pty Ltd 190 failed to meet the inspection test. There was a discussion about this. The member for Joondalup asked whether we could find out how many of those 190 buses had failed the test for minor reasons and the number that had failed for major reasons. He was told those figures would be provided by supplementary information. That question simply has not been answered.

I asked whether we could have similar information about the number of buses that had been operated by Swan Transit Pty Ltd and Southern Coast Transit. I received the most amazing answer. First of all, I was told that all 400 buses used by the private operators had been inspected. Then in the second paragraph of the answer I was told no results could be given on how many buses had failed because at this time the process of inspection was not finished and there was no complete report on the outcome. It is just utter nonsense. In the first paragraph there is an admission that the inspection of all the buses has been completed - as a matter of fact, we know that has occurred - and in the second paragraph an answer is not given because supposedly the inspection has not been completed. Those paragraphs are contradictory.

As I say, we know as a matter of fact from our sources that although the inspections of the buses operated by MetroBus have not been completed, our questions clearly and directly related to the buses operated by the private companies. The first part of the answer states quite clearly that all of the buses have been examined. I want to know why we were denied the information about those buses and why the question asked by the member for Joondalup about how many of these failures were major and how many were minor, cannot be answered.

I am about to run out of time so is it possible, Mr Acting Speaker, to seek an extension of time because I want to raise one other issue?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Ainsworth): I do not believe the ability to seek an extension of time is available to the member in this particular debate, unfortunately.

MS McHALE (Thornlie) [5.46 pm]: I would dearly love to give some of the time during which I am entitled to speak on this debate to my colleague; obviously I cannot. As one of the recently appointed Deputy Chairmen I will make some comments on the Estimates Committee process, as a result of my observations of it from both within the Chair and as a member of the various Estimates Committees. At the outset, I see the Estimates Committee process as being very valuable. It can be abused or otherwise, depending on one's perception of the whole process.

I, for one, see it as a process which has enormous potential for delivering a number of outcomes. The first is the detailed scrutiny under which members of both sides, particularly the Opposition, can put the budget process as well as the management by Ministers of their relevant portfolios. In terms of ensuring accountability, I therefore see the Estimates Committees as being an integral part of the whole parliamentary agenda. My perspective is that this process is important and we should use it very intelligently and carefully.

An additional point to the issue of scrutiny is the presence of public servants. We are opening up the process so that we are scrutinised by those who are present at the committee hearings, and to some extent we can also scrutinise the public servants. There is an opportunity for members to ask many questions. One of the failings of the Estimates Committees is that the members get bogged down in asking long questions and the answers are far too long. One must be vigilant at all times as to the length of the questions and, more importantly, the length of the answers. In that way the process of accountability and scrutiny can always be applied to the full.

What makes this a valuable process? Apart from its being a process by which we can scrutinise the Public Service and ensure accountability, in my view a number of factors contribute to it failing or succeeding. One is the preparation by members on both sides prior to the meetings of the Estimates Committees. Although individual members sit in the meetings for two hours, we are doing the job only half-heartedly if we come to the Estimates Committees unprepared, not having familiarised ourselves sufficiently with the nature of the Budget; that is, not only the words on the paper, but also the meaning underlying those words. Preparation is critically important.

Another critical point is the quality of our information, both written and verbal, to enable us to make sense of the budgetary process. To some extent, the jury is still out on the written information. This was the first year the budget papers were in their present form. At a briefing, Treasury advised that once we are over the hurdle of the format of the budget papers this year, it will be easier in future years to compare the figures from one year to the next. I hope that is the case. It has been difficult to compare the figures for this year - I do not know whether there is any value in doing this - with those of last year.

There is another difficulty with the budget papers which we on this side of the House will keep an eye on. This difficulty contains two elements: One is that increasingly we see one line appropriations with insufficient detail to make comparisons with what is happening in a specific area. Secondly, for example, in my shadow portfolio of the Arts, because the budget papers were formulated for the Department of Culture and the Arts, it was very difficult to make sense of last year's figures showing five independent agencies and four programs for this year. That may well be a one-off factor, given that this department has just been proposed; however, it made it very difficult to do an in-depth analysis of that portfolio.

Another factor in ensuring that the process works is the willingness of Ministers to answer questions and to accept the process. Perhaps it is a gratuitous observation; however, some Ministers took the process more seriously than others and engaged in dialogue, whereas others wanted to get through the process as quickly as possible with the least scrutiny. That is unfortunate, and I am sure the Government will comment on that. If the Estimates Committee process is to work, all parties must enter into it knowing that there will be some challenging dialogue and the Government is accountable ultimately to the community.

It was interesting that in a number of committees Ministers were reluctant to commit themselves to providing supplementary information. A Minister may or may not provide that information. At the outset of the process Ministers are told that they have that choice; so it was not good enough for Ministers - it occurred in rare cases, but it did occur - to say that they would try to provide that information. That leaves members in no man's land. It was not a helpful approach. Perhaps the Ministers were trying to be helpful, although I doubt it. The Ministers either give that commitment to deliver or they say, "No, put it on notice." Ministers should not leave the process half complete.

A number of portfolios were not allocated sufficient time. That could be a problem of time management within that division, and I accept that members were able to allocate their time. However, when Ministers had five or six different portfolios, some of the smaller portfolios ended up with five or 10 minutes' allocation. That is unfortunate. Although the smaller portfolios may not stack up in expenditure, they are still critical areas to the community. Either the time allocated should be better managed or the amount of time allocated must be reassessed. For example, scant attention was given to the Heritage portfolio. The whole division may have been allocated four hours but there was insufficient time for individual portfolios within that division. The other areas that I ask the Government to look at are Family and Children's Services, Youth, Seniors and Women's Interests. A considerable amount of time was spent on Family and Children's Services. That is understandable because that is a significant social issue, and many questions were asked. However, it left inadequate time for scrutiny of those other portfolios. The Government must consider the question of time.

Dr Hames: We tend to leave it up to the Opposition. It is the Opposition's responsibility to ask questions and it should work out its priorities and allocate the time accordingly.

Ms McHALE: I respect that and I did say that members wanted to spend more time on industrial relations and workplace agreements, which left inadequate time for Heritage. That was an example of time management. In the division that dealt with Family and Children's Services there was not adequate time to cover all those other elements

of the division. I accept that in some instances the committee makes that decision; however, in other instances insufficient time was available.

Dr Hames: Does the Opposition want the Government to allocate the time by splitting up the portfolios or would it prefer to allocate its own time?

Ms McHALE: In general the Opposition wants to allocate the time. My point with the area of Family and Children's Services, Youth, Seniors and Women's Interests is that inadequate time was allocated for the whole division.

Ms MacTiernan: Generally, inadequate time is being allocated, so one cannot get through all one's questions.

Ms McHALE: I am making some observations about debate in the recent Estimates Committees.

Dr Hames: The difference is that the member for Thornlie is making constructive comments.

Ms McHALE: I am following on from the previous constructive comments of my colleague the member for Armadale.

It was interesting to watch the role of advisers. A number of comments were made that in some committees there were too many advisers. That begs the question about the appropriate use of resources. I want to explore the fact that in a number of committees the Ministers were far too ready either to defer to the advisers or to let the advisers take the running without their say so. As Deputy Chair I was quite vigilant in ensuring that the Minister dealt with the answers or deferred to the advisers. A number of advisers were a bit cautious in what they had to say or unsure of what they could say. From an opposition point of view it makes us suspicious if they are looking a bit nervous or unsure about what they are saying. It also makes them more nervous if we start questioning them in detail.

Greater attention must be paid to ensure that the Minister is accountable for his or her division or area, and that it is clear to the CEO or to the advisers that it is not up to them to answer questions, to defend the Minister - unless of course the Minister needs to be defended, and that is a different issue - or to extol the virtues of their departments. In a number of instances advisers were too excessive about how wonderful their departments were and what they were doing and did not give a forthright answer to the question. Perhaps that is a matter of the skill of the Chair; however, some guidance must be given to the advisers or the CEO.

The facilities in Estimates Committee B were inadequate for a number of reasons. It is a bit of a double-edged sword. Given the physical layout of the room there tended to be a greater informality in the proceedings compared with Committee A. I took the view that the fact we were upstairs was irrelevant. We were still in Committee and were subject to the standing orders and the processes and procedures of this Chamber. In the changes to Parliament House I would like to see better facilities for committees, whether it be a proper select committee room or a committee room. The facilities were not conducive to effective delivery. The noise made it difficult for Hansard to hear. On a number of occasions it was uncomfortable for the Hansard reporters. Again the assumption was that somehow we were in other than the Committee stage and not within the parliamentary procedures. The facilities of Committee B were not conducive to the nature of the work that we were dealing with.

The process is one I would like to see continue. It has enormous value in giving all people a better understanding of the Budget and an opportunity to scrutinise that Budget and to pick up on issues which may be of community concern. The success of the process is dependent on a number of variables, not the least of which is the commitment given by everybody to ensure that the process is well followed. It would also be helpful if the Estimates Committee could be part of the planned parliamentary timetable, so that members do not have to curtail their overseas visits or whatever.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 pm

MR BROWN (Bassendean) [7.30 pm]: I wish to dwell on some of the matters raised under the Small Business Development Corporation during the Estimates Committee B debate. One such matter was the role that the corporation intended to play when considering the degree to which small business is affected and will be affected by the Hilmer reforms. Since taking on the role of shadow spokesperson for small business I have had a number of discussions with small business operators and organisations that represent small business. Concerns have been raised with me about the implications of the Hilmer reforms for various sectors of the industry. There is a growing concern among some industries that those reforms will significantly affect the viability of a number of small business operators. For instance, most members of this House will have received correspondence regarding the concerns raised by the Pharmacy Guild that under the Hilmer changes the current regulations for the operation of pharmacies and the two-pharmacy rule would disappear.

Major concerns were raised by the pharmacies about what that would mean to the viability of many of those businesses in the event of that part of the Hilmer competition policy being pressed. Equally, of course, newsagents are concerned. During the Estimates Committee debate when I raised various matters with the officers of the Small Business Development Corporation, Mr Robertson indicated that the general rule when considering the price of a newsagency was that goodwill would be about three times the net profit for a year. I said that under the Hilmer competition rules a great uncertainty existed for newsagencies, and that if the rules relating to the operation of newsagencies disappeared and large chains were able to take over part of the business, the value of newsagencies could quickly disappear. Mr Robertson indicated that if he were counselling a prospective purchaser of a newsagency in the current environment, he would not recommend that a person pay the normal rate of three times the profit. Therefore, even though these competition changes are not being pressed hard, they are already having an impact on the market, because if someone wished to opt out of one business into another and the current business was affected or likely to be affected by the changes, the value of the business would potentially be reduced.

I raise that matter in the context of the work this year of the Small Business Development Corporation, because one issue addressed in the corporation's annual report, and spoken about by officers during debate, is not only the promotion of new business but also the sustainment of an existing business. One view is that the number of new businesses is not the only factor to be taken into account. Rather, one should consider the number of businesses going out of business, whether voluntarily or through bankruptcy or as a result of the extreme competition in the market -

Mr Cowan: The corporation is looking at both.

Mr BROWN: I agree. That is the appropriate role for the corporation. However, in addressing the regulations, I was keen to discover the expenditure the Small Business Development Corporation would apply when making any recommendation to the Government. I can see that matter having a significant impact not only on the business owners but also on the employees and the community, because although centralising through larger shops will result in larger businesses, it will also mean the businesses will be further apart and, therefore, convenience to the community will begin to disappear. We have already seen that in the banking industry. I do not say that this is caught up with Hilmer but already convenience banking is moving to a far less convenient system - unless one is at the top end of the market and receives higher customer services. For ordinary customers these days the level of service in the banking industry is declining.

During the Estimates Committee debate I did not receive any clear message about what is envisaged in this area. During debate this evening I hope that the matter will be picked up, because it is one of growing concern in the small business sector.

Another matter I raised related to the question of big business versus small business. I am aware of the recent report of the Senate on this issue. However, from talking to a number of people in different industry groups, it appears that the change in the sophistication of technology, particularly communication technology, has resulted in a changing ethos by some larger businesses.

Some years ago it was prudent to contract out work, franchise business or have many ancillary services at arm's length operating independently. However, today as a result of various sophisticated technology, it is much easier for central offices to control branches. Armies of clerks and accountants are no longer needed to check how branches are operating. It is much easier for head office to outwardly control what is happening among hundreds of branch operations.

In some industries with which I have had contact, so-called independent businesses are being told by larger corporations from where they derive their work, with which business they have a relationship, which computer systems they are required to install, with which larger businesses they must be on line, which parts they must buy and with which operations they must comply and so on. The so-called independent businesses are becoming less independent and the managers and owners of those businesses are becoming less owners and more managers or distant managers for the larger corporations.

That process is something of a threat to the Western Australian economy, particularly to a number of small business operators. Discussions I have had with some of the operators indicate they have been told by people at the larger end of town that they have a choice; that is, to comply with whatever request is made or they will not get the work. Many do not have a choice. I raise that in relation to whether the Small Business Development Corporation proposed to make any investigation. I was told that the SBDC did not propose to undertake research on that matter. I urge the Deputy Premier to take up that matter and see if the SBDC can do some work on it.

Question put and passed.

[See papers Nos 445A and 445B.]

STATEMENT - SPEAKER

Seating Changes

THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland): I have approved rearranged seating to accommodate the shifts in position that the Government announced this afternoon.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED FUND) BILL (No 1)

Third Reading

MR COURT (Nedlands - Treasurer) [7.44 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a third time.

Members opposite can speak on either Bill.

Mr Ripper: We should speak on Bill No 1.

The SPEAKER: It is not a cognate debate on the third reading; there is a third reading for appropriation Bill No 1 and a third reading for appropriation Bill No 2.

Point of Order

Mr COWAN : The Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No 1) is about recurrent expenditure and the other is about capital expenditure. It might be in order for members of the House who wish to speak on the third reading to confine their remarks. I am sure, Mr Speaker, that that will be pointed out by you if necessary. Nonetheless, I recommend that in speaking to these Bills members remember that Bill No 1 is about current expenditure and Bill No 2 is about capital programs.

Debate Resumed

MR BROWN (Bassendean) [7.45 pm]: I am indebted to you, Mr Speaker, for clarifying the matter. Sometimes we operate on all six cylinders and sometimes on fewer. Today I am operating on considerably fewer, hardly one.

Mr Cowan: We have not noticed any change.

Mr BROWN: Thank you Mr Deputy Premier.

It is equally appropriate to deal with what has emanated from the Estimates Committees in the third reading as it is in the general debate on these Bills.

For some time in this House I have endeavoured to obtain fairly accurate information on the State's liabilities, both past and future, in relation to the contracts the State has entered into on behalf of the people of Western Australia. To that end I have asked a number of questions on notice, all of which seem to be replied to in exactly the same language by all the different Ministers. It is a language that tells me nothing and gives no information. I have put two or three separate questions to all Ministers.

Not to put too fine a point on it, discussion has obviously taken place between the Ministers and their advisers and exactly the same non-answers were received to each question. There is one certain thing about politics: If we want to be in this business persistence is essential. As I continue to receive non-answers to those questions I will continue to put more and more questions on notice to extract some information.

It concerns me that when we are talking about the Budget for the forthcoming year, members of this House are unable to learn the details of financial commitments entered into on behalf of the State of Western Australia. If we were sitting here as directors of a company board of management and discussing its budget no-one would accept they could not get an answer about what contracts had been entered into and what were the company's liabilities.

It is a disgrace that the information is continually hidden and disclosed to neither this Parliament nor the people of Western Australia. Not only is the secrecy a disgrace, but also neither this Parliament nor the people of Western Australia are able to make proper judgments about whether the financial obligations incurred by the State are appropriate or whether moneys are being spent by the Government wisely and prudently.

During the Estimates Committees I requested, through the acting Minister, a copy of the feasibility studies and standard contracts used by the Tourism Commission, particularly the studies that determine whether a proposal looked like a reasonable proposition. Two documents were provided to me by way of supplementary information. One outlines the nature of the contract into which the Tourism Commission may enter with a person promoting an

event seeking state government finance. That is a quite detailed but standard contract, and one understands its purposes.

The second detailed document is headed "A Standard Event Feasibility Form" and runs to many pages and lists matters such as the background to the event; its description; the event objective; the proposer of the event; the date and venue of the event; comparable events within Western Australia and worldwide; and conflicting events. It then deals with a variety of issues concerning assessment. The event feasibility summary lists event objectives and benefits compared to other criteria. That heading looks at nine issues, including economic impact, media impact, event frequency, private and government funding, tourism activity and development potential. It then provides for a funding outline and event management structure, and requires a statement on the role of EventsCorp. It looks at performance measures and research reports and requires information on proposed methods of research and funding available for research. It is quite a detailed document.

In each respect, the proponent, as I understand it, is required to provide a level of information. I raise this matter because the document provided to me by the EventsCorp arm of the Tourism Commission through the Minister sets out the feasibility studies required, yet when the Opposition applied under the Freedom of Information Act to determine whether a feasibility study was carried out on an event for which money was provided, it found the level of documentation and information provided did not equate to the information required in the standard form. I instance here particularly the almost half a million dollars made available to the Global Dance Foundation. I have concerns about contracting - not that a contract per se applied in that case - when information is not made available to Parliament for its scrutiny. We found in this example that the standard forms and tests which should have been applied were not used. They should be applied so that, outwardly at least, a great deal of care is taken to ensure that a prudent decision is made. We found that the documentation actually used did not compare in any way with the pro forma arrangements. Therefore, a difference is evident between the purported process and reality.

This Parliament is denied information both about the contracts and the feasibility studies conducted, which raises very serious concerns about the exposure of the State in relation to the myriad contracts into which the Government has entered. I certainly hope that in future we can obtain the information required by members of this Parliament when considering such matters.

Mr Board: Yes, you will.

Mr BROWN: The Minister says we will, but that will be a first - we will wait and see.

I now turn to the point raised by the Deputy Premier regarding capital expenditure on the Jervoise Bay project. I will not go through the entire detailed submission from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in support of funds being made available for the infrastructure development at Jervoise Bay. Part of the executive summary of the submission made by CCI is worth repeating in this debate. It states that the current high level of activity in the resources sector in the Western Australian economy offers excellent opportunities for local industry to participate in a wide range of major manufacturing, construction and service opportunities; however, over the past few years there has been growing concern within some industry sectors that local content levels are now in a downward trend. It states further that unless appropriate action is taken, WA projects will on average achieve local content levels much lower than would have been expected just a few years ago. For projects presently under way or committed, such a decline will equate to a loss of hundred of millions of dollars to the Australian economy.

The submission then details the changes to large scale model fabrication technology and the different processes now being used and why it is necessary for us to provide infrastructure to ensure Western Australian companies and Western Australians have the opportunity to be employed in the provision of this equipment to both the petroleum and mining industries.

Mr Cowan: I would be delighted if you could outline an alternative provider of capital.

Mr BROWN: In many instances Governments around the world have decided to be leaders in certain industries. That decision means not necessarily getting behind particular manufacturers or companies, but the provision of either infrastructure or incentives to ensure that considerable attraction is provided for companies to invest in those regions or States. As I had not looked at this area for some years, I spent time talking to a number of people over the past few months - I would have preferred to speak to more people, but I had comment from some highly respected people in the industry. It was put to me bluntly by one such person regarding infrastructure development, "If you do not have the infrastructure, you're not even in the game, mate." He stated the other pieces of the jigsaw were no good without the necessary infrastructure; if one does not have the Monopoly board, one is not even playing the game.

The Deputy Premier knows better than I do about these issues as he has been handling them for a long time. Many Governments around the world, such as those of Malaysia, Singapore, other Asian countries and Europe, state that

the national or state interest resides in certain businesses; and is not by supporting one company or the other but by ensuring that the appropriate infrastructure is in place.

Mr Court: What should we put there?

Mr BROWN: There should be a commitment to provide the level of infrastructure that is required to make that a world class facility. Do not ask me the technical details.

Mr Court: For servicing the offshore oil and gas industries?

Mr BROWN: Yes, and the mining industry. The State should state clearly that it wants to be in that business because it will provide potentially thousands of jobs both onsite and offsite. It is not a question of throwing money at it but of using the money prudently and wisely, and doing the studies and all those other things. If the funding can be provided by the private sector, well and good, but if it cannot, the State should provide it.

[The member's time expired.]

MR GRILL (Eyre) [8.01 pm]: During the Estimates Committee I referred to the Government's effective decriminalisation of substance abuse. The Government took that step some months ago, I think in response to the recommendation of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. I indicated at the time, although I must say fairly briefly, that that was a backward step because it would place many young people in jeopardy and visit trauma upon a number of communities in Western Australia, many of them Aboriginal communities which were a long way from the Police Force.

This Government has been somewhat tardy in implementing some of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, but in respect of this matter, it has gone in the wrong direction. This step will not be beneficial to the Aboriginal community in general in the longer term or even in the medium term. Over a number of months I have received representations from Aboriginal communities, all of which were in my electorate prior to the last election, but only some of which are now in my electorate, about the effective decriminalisation of substance abuse. I received the strongest representations from communities which are now outside the boundaries of my electorate and in the central desert. Those communities are a long way from an effective Police Force when someone is running amuck, although the Police Force does visit them on a circuit basis about once a month or a fortnight.

Substance abuse takes many forms these days, but the major form of abuse in the central desert is what is colloquially called petrol sniffing. Many efforts have been made to reduce the incidence of petrol sniffing in the central desert. A task force which included people from one of the universities went to the central desert and claimed within a short time that it had solved the problem. As a Minister I was criticised both publicly and privately by that task force because I said that I believed the problem was continuing, and I was told that I was out of touch. It is manifestly untrue that it has solved the problem of petrol sniffing.

Members who have seen people who are in the throes of petrol sniffing or under the influence of petrol will appreciate just how dangerously those people are living. They are also extremely promiscuous. I am reliably told by health workers in the central desert that petrol sniffing makes young people highly promiscuous and that the incidence of venereal disease among these people is very high and represents a considerable risk to their community.

It might be said that people who are under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other substances are more of a risk to themselves than to anyone else and need not be arrested. The truth is a long way from that. People who are intoxicated may represent no substantial threat to the community in an environment where the police can be called quickly in the event that they get out of hand, but these young men in the central desert are a long way from the police and are often very strong and become so violent when intoxicated that they are a threat to their community. I have witnessed an incident where a young man threatened part of the community with firstly a wrench and then a spanner and was ultimately disarmed not by other young men or elders within the community but by his mother, who was able to talk to him and take the instruments from him.

These communities need respite from people who are under the influence of substances, and the victims of substance abuse need to be placed in a situation where they can dry up, undergo some medical treatment and make some attempt at rehabilitation. The Ngaanyatjarra communities in the central desert set up their own drying out facility, I suppose with some government help, to which young men and women who had been apprehended by the police could be taken and given some counselling and rehabilitation. However, that facility is no longer effectively operational, and that is a big setback for those communities. That is the reason that they have continued to agitate for the reintroduction of a prison sentence, or at least for the ability to apprehend these people.

Mr Trenorden: What they want is not a prison sentence but the ability to apprehend them.

Mr GRILL: Yes, and send them off for counselling and rehabilitation. They also want to give the community some respite, because when these people are running around the community in an intoxicated state, they are a threat regardless of whether they commit an offence. It is all very well to say that violent offenders can be arrested but to have a group of people or even one young person in an intoxicated state threatening violence is a terrifying experience for people in the community. The central desert communities have a very good case. However, the problem is not confined to the central desert communities; it is found in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. I am told anecdotally that here in Perth there are problems with substance abuse. It may have been pretty well confined to those remote communities in the past, but that is no longer so. Quite often the problems of the lawlessness of young people from the Aboriginal community in Kalgoorlie-Boulder is as a result of substance abuse. I have spoken to people who run hardware stores and the like. They feel that stronger laws should be enacted to prohibit the purchase of those substances by those young people.

Mrs Parker: Is there an agreement between hardware store retailers and owners in Kalgoorlie-Boulder that some of those substances should be on high shelves out of the way, for example?

Mr GRILL: Many of those people are sensitive to the problem and as vigilant as they can be, but they want some backing from the community in the form of laws. They feel they have been deserted, and I agree.

Mrs Parker: The problem is the wide variety of substances to which children have access and can sniff.

Mr GRILL: That is true. Until recently the policy was to take those young people into custody. That ability is no longer there; we rely on fines and things of that nature.

On a slightly wider front -

The SPEAKER: I am sure the member for Eyre will mention the Budget somewhere during his third reading speech.

Mr GRILL: This matter came up during the Estimates Committee on the Budget. The Commissioner of Police largely concurred with what I said on this matter. He indicated that he would like to have the resources and the laws to be able to deal more effectively with this problem. It is not until one confronts this problem and sees its manifestation that one realises how serious it is.

Mrs Parker: We certainly acknowledge it. I am in the process of looking at a response being put in place.

Mr Court: This is not confined to the goldfields but is a growing problem in the metropolitan area.

Mr GRILL: I understand that to be right. I like to talk about things I can verify from my own knowledge. The matters I have mentioned I can verify from my own knowledge. Commissioner Falconer and the Minister for Police made good responses, but a few days later we had a much more remote, politically correct response from the Attorney General; in fact, he said that he would not amend the law.

Mr Court: You lawyers are all the same!

Mr GRILL: Does the Premier mean that we are the butt of everyone's jokes! It is all very well for the Attorney General and I suppose for *The West Australian* to adopt a sanctimonious view about this problem and to point to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, but they are a long way away from the real problem. Not so very long ago, the criminology section of the University of Western Australia conducted a study into domestic violence. If we thought of domestic violence among Aboriginal people being 50 per cent higher than the average, we would be concerned. The finding of the researchers was that domestic violence was 50 times higher than in the Caucasian or European population. That is a staggering figure. What did the researchers earn from the results of that study? They were immediately attacked by the politically correct element in the community who wanted to pillory them for coming forward with objective results. I know that a huge amount of that domestic violence in Kalgoorlie is the result of abuse of alcohol, substances and drugs. Unless we start tackling that problem, we will go nowhere. Fines are absolutely no deterrent to people in this situation. They do not pay them; they ignore them. A bailiff indicated recently that he had 200 default warrants for one community close to Kalgoorlie and no effective means of serving them or giving effect to them. We may take their licences away, but most do not worry about drivers' licences. Very few have assets which can be seized and sold in the way one might seize and sell assets that belong to us. At the end of the day there must be a deterrent. The deterrent the Aboriginal people who are close to the problem really want is the ability to have those young people and not so young people arrested and put in a safe place where they will not harm the rest of the community.

MR RIPPER (Belmont - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [8.16 pm]: I will comment on some educational issues which I hope are subject to recurrent funding in the Budget. The first is the fire at Churchlands Senior High School. I understand that the cost of rebuilding most of that school following the fire will be at least \$3m. I am not sure from the way in which the Minister has explained it whether the \$1.5m upgrade that was in the pipeline is additional to

that figure. I have also seen an estimate in the Press that the total cost of repairing the damage will be \$5m. Whatever the figure, a substantial sum of money is required to restore that school following the disastrous fire. It raises questions of the level of investment in preventive measures and their effectiveness. During question time recently I asked the Minister for Education some questions about the performance of the electronic surveillance system at the school on the night of the fire. He refused to comment on the grounds that the arson squad was still investigating the fire. I do not think he can refuse to comment any longer. The arson squad has stated publicly that it believes the fire was the result of arson. That very directly raises the question of what the electronic surveillance system showed on the night in question. Did it detect intruders? Did it detect smoke or fire? If the system did not, why not? What will the Government do to have that system and many others of a similar nature improved, if it was not able to do the job that night? Of course, there is at least one other possibility; that is, that the electronic surveillance system signalled the presence of intruders or fire but the response time of those charged with attending the school when the electronic surveillance system went off was so lengthy that by the time they arrived the fire had well and truly taken hold.

I have no way of verifying the information that I will give to the House now. That is one of the problems with people telling the Opposition things. We must advance them to ascertain the Government's response. I have been told that only five patrol cars patrolling the metropolitan area are available to respond to electronic alarms at government schools. If the car patrolling the northern suburbs was way up at Joondalup at the time the electronic surveillance system signalled an intruder at Churchlands Senior High School, perhaps the response time would have been very lengthy and the intruder would have had time to set a fire and the fire would have had time to take serious hold before anybody got there to do anything about it. We need an answer to that question also. How many people are allocated to respond to electronic alarms at schools? What is the response time when an event occurs such as that which occurred at Churchlands? Perhaps this function is contracted out. Which company has the contract if it is contracted out? How is the performance of that company monitored and is it performing according to its contract?

The other issue that occurred to me is the presence of smoke detectors. I understand that smoke detectors are required to be installed in new residential buildings. However, I do not believe that smoke detectors are required in school buildings. A relatively small investment in smoke detectors might help prevent a catastrophic loss such as that experienced at Churchlands Senior High School. There has been a fire at a primary school in Marmion since that fire at Churchlands. There will be school fires in most years; it is a well-known hazard in the education system. I do not think enough attention has been paid by anyone to the performance of the surveillance systems, both electronic and human, at Churchlands. I intend to question the Minister further on this and I hope that he will make a statement to the House about that matter.

The second educational issue to which I will refer is local area planning. As I said in my comments on the Estimates Committee report, I regard local area planning as the latest bureaucratic euphemism for school closure, amalgamation and rationalisation.

Mr Board: There is a current debate about the fencing of schools. There is substantial evidence to show that if we cyclone fenced all our schools there would be less vandalism. As you will know, whether it be by fire or something else, one of the largest costs to schools is caused by vandalism. Of course, the question is what a school will look like - the aesthetics of a school once it is surrounded by a fence. The argument will be cost of maintenance versus the fence. I would be interested to know whether you think schools should be fenced to stop intruders getting onto those premises out of hours.

Mr RIPPER: The Government has asked the Opposition a question! On balance I do not think I would favour fencing schools because of the appearance of the school and the signal it would send that a school is cut off from the community and the community is not supposed to use it. Already we have trouble making efficient economic use of our school buildings. There is resistance from schools and the community to the community using the buildings. Sometimes people are deterred from attending meetings in schools because they do not know their way around the school. Those sorts of things would be exacerbated by fencing. I hope there are more acceptable ways of protecting schools than by sticking a fairly ugly fence around them. I would be interested in the economics of it because the fencing would be fairly costly. I would also be interested in knowing what practical financial advice the Government is getting on this issue. If at all possible, I think we should avoid sticking big fences around schools.

I come back to the question of local area planning which, as I said, I regard as the latest bureaucratic euphemism for school closure. I asked the Minister for Education at question time whether the Government had a list of the schools that would be targeted under this local area planning policy. The Minister denied that the Government had a list. In his press release on local area planning he also denied there was any list of intended school closures by the Government. I regard that answer as disingenuous. The Education Department would have given some thought to the implications of this new policy before it was introduced. I cannot believe that in putting the policy to the Minister, the Education Department would not have given him some analysis of the likely number of schools to be

affected, the likely category of schools to be affected, and the likely location of schools to be affected. I cannot believe that when the matter went to Cabinet, Cabinet was not given some idea of the numbers, categories and locations of schools to be affected. I am sure that Cabinet Ministers would have asked whether schools in their electorates would be affected. National Party Cabinet Ministers would have wanted to know whether country schools would be affected. Equally, when the matter went to the party room, I am sure, if members opposite were doing their jobs, they would have asked about the likely impact on schools in their electorates. That is what I think would have happened. If none of those things happened, the Education Department was not doing its job properly, the Minister was not acting responsibly by endorsing a policy without supporting analysis, Cabinet was not doing its job of properly scrutinising government proposals for their impact on the community, and members of the coalition parties were not looking after their electorates. I am prepared to believe each of those things occur on occasions; however, I find it hard to believe that none of those things occurred. It is my belief that the Education Department would have supporting documentation for the local area planning policy and that analysis would exist in the Education Department which shows the numbers, categories and locations of schools likely to be affected under local area planning. I believe the analysis would also show the likely savings to the Government in the medium term from adopting that policy. There may not be a list within the Education Department headed in bold "List of schools to be closed: Confidential". However, other documents will constitute a de facto list. The Minister should admit that is the case and advise the public now rather than have parents find out bit by bit as local area planning unfolds as a policy.

One other area to which I will refer is the truancy issue. The TVW Telethon Institute of Child Health Research survey published earlier this year shows there are 1 950 unexplained absences each day from our government school system. It also shows that 11 per cent of teenagers say that they are truants and just over 14 per cent of secondary students have more than five days of unexplained absences a year. Therefore, there are some significant problems with truancy in our system.

The figures from the report of the survey conducted by the TVW Telethon Institute for Child Health Research do not cover the experience at remote community schools, where the truancy figures would be much higher. It cannot be argued that these figures are artificially high because of the experience of Aboriginal students and remote community schools. In fact if those figures were included, the truancy ratings would be higher.

It was interesting that a further problem beyond truancy was revealed to the Estimates Committee; that is, children who are not registered for home tuition and are not in the school system. The Minister for Education indicated there may be 1 000 of these children. We can add to the 1 950 children who are not at school on any one day, and whose absence is not explained, another 1 000 who are not known to the school system and are not registered for home tuition. They are not attending school and the school system does not know who or where they are. The Minister described the problem as a sleeper. It has the potential to be a serious problem. We should be making a concerted attack on truancy. Obviously, it is an important factor in relation to not only the poor performance of some students, but also juvenile justice problems. Many police officers say a high rate of truancy correlates with a high rate of daytime burglaries.

MS MacTIERNAN (Armadale) [8.32 pm]: Earlier today I set out my concerns about the Estimates Committee process and the inadequacies of the Budget in the delivery of passenger transport services. I focused particularly on the provision of bus services. I will now raise some of my concerns about the inadequacy of the Budget process in the provision of passenger rail services.

I have spoken on some aspects of this topic before, but I will highlight for members who were not present previously some of the background to this issue. In the Department of Transport budget \$112m, a substantial lump of money, is set aside for the purchase of passenger rail services from Westrail. I had many questions prepared to ask Westrail about the provision of the passenger rail service, the wisdom of various contracts it has entered into and its expenditure generally. I contacted the adviser to the Minister for Transport prior to the Budget being debated so we could organise a time for the chief executive officer to be present. Like the member for Maylands I am concerned at the waste of time by professional and senior management staff in the Budget process. I was seeking to ensure that the Commissioner for Railways and other senior personnel were not in this place for the entire Budget process. It was agreed that Westrail officers would present themselves at the last hour of the Estimates Committee. However, shortly before we debated the Department of Transport estimates I was advised by the Minister's adviser that Westrail officers would not be present at the Department of Transport estimates, but would turn up for the Treasury estimates. The only items in the Treasury estimates which were relevant to Westrail were community service obligations and various capital assets. They were not the issues that related to the key amount of \$112m for the provision of passenger rail services. The committee was unable to examine the department in relation to this expenditure.

In a previous debate I raised with the Treasurer my concerns about the inappropriate removal of Westrail from the Budget process under its own head, given that it is not a corporatised entity - it does not have a board - and it does

not operate under any formal contract with the Department of Transport. It is purely a Government owned service provider which now appears to be immune from any scrutiny. The Opposition could raise a vast number of matters about the wisdom of the contracts that Westrail has entered into. A case in point is the contracts it has entered into with Chubb Security Australia Pty Ltd for the provision of security services. Looking at this as an economic matter, it has a contract that basically gives Chubb no incentive to retain its trained staff. What I said about the privatisation of the buses applies in this instance - this is a no risk privatisation. If Chubb is not prepared to pay a sufficient wage to its staff or is not capable of operating in an environment where it keeps its trained staff, it is of absolutely no concern to Chubb because under the terms of its contract the Government simply picks up the tab and pays the \$10 000, or whatever amount it is, to train each new security guard. That is an absolute absurdity and a waste of time purely from an economic point of view, let alone when one analyses the inefficiency of an operation with three different streams of security guards trying to provide an integrated service.

Further, I wanted to ask questions about the cost of track maintenance. Contracts have been let on a cost plus basis and they are supervised by people who, although notionally Westrail employees, are paid by the contractors. The internal processes of Westrail cannot be scrutinised by this Parliament because, firstly, the Government has improperly taken Westrail out of the Budget process even though it is not corporatised and has no formal contractual arrangement with the service orderer and, secondly, even though Westrail appears in the Budget process via the Transport budget, Westrail officers were allowed to refuse to appear. Therefore, they were not subjected to the questions the Opposition wanted to ask. The Opposition was misled into believing Westrail officers would be available to answer general questions in the Treasury estimates.

Mr Court: I understand what you are saying and I have empathy with the points you are putting. I don't know what occurred in the Transport division during the Estimates Committees or the specific items that would or could make it possible, but I will raise the matter with Treasury to see if we can make sure there is a format whereby that questioning can take place.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I thank the Treasurer. It is extraordinary that when \$112m is spent to provide a core service of government it is not subject to the budgetary process. I appreciate the Treasurer's offer to give the Opposition another opportunity to scrutinise the department about that. I was concerned not only that it happened but also with the way it happened. The Opposition was denied the opportunity to ask those questions during the Transport division in the Estimates Committees because the officials did not appear and when the Treasury division was discussed we were told we could not ask questions on anything other than community service obligations and capital sales, which is not the guts of the issue in any event.

Another less major matter I raised during the Estimates Committees was the westward extension of Reid Highway, from Erindale Road to Marmion Avenue, which has been a circus for a decade or more. I am puzzled about why it is so difficult to get any firm explanation about it.

Mr Court: Where was it?

Ms MacTIERNAN: From Erindale Road to Marmion Avenue. What is so funny?

Mr Court: There is a local political issue there.

Ms MacTIERNAN: It is certainly a local political issue, but it is one that requires some straight answers. I asked at that time whether the forward estimates contained any provision for the westward extension of the Reid Highway and how far forward those forward estimates were projected to give us some idea how long one could expect to have to wait before the westward expansion occurred. The supplementary answer to that was entirely unsatisfactory, not because it was not the answer I wanted but because it failed to answer the question at all. The reply was that the planning and investigation activities for the remaining stages of Reid Highway between Marmion Avenue and Erindale Road are complete and that the design and documentation work is about 75 per cent complete. There was no mention of the forward estimates. It then continued to say that if additional funds became available this section would be funded. That is not an answer to the question of whether any provision is made within the forward estimates for completion of this road or, indeed, the period over which the forward estimates are projected. It is a non-answer and makes a mockery of the whole process of accountability. If the Government is determined that it will not fund the extension of this road within any particular period it should say so. My argument is not with whether or not it is prepared to extend the highway, but with its absolute inability to make any statement about the current situation. People should at least know what is being proposed so they can either accept it or take action against it.

A mechanism should exist where Ministers and departments are called to task for answering questions in a manner which is clearly designed to avoid answering questions at all. That is not accountability and it does not enable this Parliament to properly scrutinise the actions of government. I am interested to see if the Treasurer has any comments on the appropriateness of such evasive non-answering of questions.

MR RIEBELING (Burrup) [8.45 pm]: During the Justice division of the Estimates Committee I had hoped to get answers from the Ministry of Justice about what sort of planning and what estimations it had made of prison populations and how it came to those figures. I was disappointed to find that there appears to be no planning on projected figures for the state prison population and that it will be some 18 months before the impact of legislation such as the sentencing Bill and the three strikes legislation on the prison population is considered.

I have found that all three prison systems - adult, female and juvenile - are exceeding their current capacities. In fact, the adult male offender program is more than 200 prisoners in excess of its built capacity.

When I and the member for Morley raised those matters during the committee the answer was that the prisons double bunk and that some prisoners prefer double bunking. I also asked whether the overcrowding is so uniform that only a certain number of prison cells need double bunking and whether double bunking is permanent. To my surprise and disappointment, that is not the case.

I was told that various prisons have overcrowding problems at different times and overcrowding is eased by internal movements within the prison system. I was also told that some prisoners prefer to sleep on the ground. It surprises me that prisoners prefer to sleep on concrete rather than mattresses and beds! I asked what would be the situation if those people who showed a preference for sleeping on concrete asked for a bed and there was none, because only a certain amount of double bunking is allowed in certain prisons. That question was not answered, other than the reply that it does not happen and people who do not sleep in beds actually choose not to do so.

In April this year in answer to a question on notice from me, the Minister said that a new prison would be required in the next two years. Armed with that information, I looked in the budget for a substantial allocation of money to build a new prison. I am advised by departmental officials that there is money in this budget for a new prison. In my untrained view, a new prison would cost between \$70m and \$100m. In this Budget \$500 000 is allocated to that project. It will either be a house-style prison or the world's smallest prison. I am told that \$500 000 is for planning and the employment of an expert consultant to advise the Government on what type of prison should be built and where it should be located. The allocation of only \$500 000 indicates that at least in the upcoming financial year no work will be done on the ground to build a prison. My recollection is that the construction of the last prison in the State took a considerable period, far beyond the 12 months the Minister estimated would be required to build a new prison. If those matters are added together, they cause great concern about what direction the Ministry is taking in the prison system. I suggest there is a move afoot to consider privatisation and the next prison that is constructed will be built and run by the private sector. If that were not the case, a substantial amount would be allocated in this Budget to the construction of a new prison system. That has not occurred.

The plight of prisoners in this State seems to be of little concern. I suggest to the Government that a prison system which is continuously overcrowded is one that will create greater problems for the people who manage that system. My understanding of the staffing numbers is that the State has the lowest ratio of prison officers to prisoners in Australia. That is why the State has the lowest daily cost in the adult offender program in Australia. That has not been achieved by good planning, but by overcrowding. That type of management cannot be sustained for a long period without great problems occurring in the prison system. Within a short period the Government should bite the bullet and commit to a new prison and to a standard ratio of prison officers to prisoners so the proper management of corrective services can occur.

The Ministry of Justice believes nearly 1 000 juveniles will enter the prison system in the coming year. Last year 2 552 juvenile offenders were in custody and next year 3 497 juveniles will be in custody. Those figures provided by the ministry are contrary to the wording of the budget documents, which indicate the number of juveniles going into the juvenile justice system is declining and that violent crime by juveniles is decreasing. The only place I have read that in the past couple of years has been in the Government's budget documents. All other documents I have seen on violent crime in Western Australia indicate it is increasing, not decreasing. I hope the statements in the budget documents are correct. I doubt they are; however, only time will tell. If an increase occurs in the population of juvenile detention centres in the next 12 months, we can safely say the rhetoric of the ministry is incorrect.

I turn to the courts. One pleasing matter in the supplementary information is that by 1998 work on the new Busselton court complex will commence. I have raised that matter in this place on a couple of occasions. The conditions people in the Busselton court endure are archaic and something must be done about them. My understanding is that some time this year the Hedland court complex will be completed, which the member for Pilbara will no doubt tell the House should have been built 10 years ago.

Mr Graham: I am sure the Government will invite me to open it.

Mr RIEBELING: I am positive it will. A number of issues must be addressed in relation to courts. A trend has developed over a number of years aimed at easing the pressures in the Supreme Court and District Court whereby

the jurisdictions must be changed so the lower courts get more complex matters and the superior courts are freed up. No doubt that will cost a great deal. That is a double-barrelled exercise at the moment in the Court of Petty Sessions and local court jurisdictions: Not only are the more complex matters pouring in from what used to be the District Court jurisdiction, but we are witnessing at the other end of the scale the removal of simple matters from the court system into the computer-based enforcement-style courts, which are growing at a massive rate. The days of summons lists are over and those matters do not get to court unless there is a defence to them. The court figures remain relatively stagnant; however, the complexity of the matters being dealt with in the Court of Petty Sessions and the Children's Court is increasing each year. With that complexity goes a lot more court time to determine those matters.

In this Budget we witness a decline in the allocation of staff to the courts program, which will reduce the capacity of the courts to cope with the volume of work they are expected to deal with to achieve the removal of disputed matters from court lists. I do not know what the waiting time is for a defended committal hearing in the Court of Petty sessions at the moment, but the last time I looked it was 18 months between the time of charging and having a committal heard. That delay is not conducive to achieving justice - and basically this part of the Budget is about creating justice.

The continuing trend in the courts is for matters to become more complex. There is no good argument that they should become more complex. The argument arises when courts are not given adequate resources to deal with matters.

The achievements for last year in the Budget indicate the Government started a pilot program to provide child minding services to clients in both Rockingham and Albany, which I understand the Minister said has been a great success. Does the Minister for Health know whether that service has been a success in Albany?

Mr Prince: It is a contract with the local occasional care child care centre and it works quite well.

Mr RIEBELING: Has it been a success?

Mr Prince: Yes. I spoke to the stipendiary magistrate, who said it is six weeks from charge to trial.

Mr RIEBELING: In most country areas that is the case and it is of no great moment. The long delays are in the metropolitan courts and that is where the bulk of the resources are gobbled up in the Ministry of Justice. The overcrowding in prisons that occurs in the metropolitan area probably does not occur as much in country areas either.

Mr Prince: The other maximum security prison is Casuarina, and Albany is also maximum security.

Mr RIEBELING: When Albany is filled with prisoners, it is usually because they have been transferred to Albany and not because they emanate from the Albany courts. Bunbury is the same. Its overcrowding is caused by the programs run within that system.

Mr Prince: That is right.

MR GRAHAM (Pilbara) [9.01 pm]: I want to pass my personal congratulations to Commander John Standing, the police commander for the northern region, who in the Queen's birthday honours was awarded the Australian Police Medal in recognition of his 29 years' service to the Police Force. Since John Standing has been in the north west he has been an outstanding operator and I have a great deal of time and respect for him. He has been an easy man to approach and to work with, and he has some knotty problems in the north west. The Halls Creek area in my electorate comes under his control, and in a number of those difficult areas he has managed to find the right police to do the right job at the right time. He is a worthy recipient of the award.

Mr Court: I fully support what you are saying. I also say about the scheme whereby the decision making is now taking place closer to where the action is, that the north is a classic example where he has been able to call the shots directly and replace officers in areas where they have had problems and have not been suited to a particular place. It is a good example of the devolution of power from head office to those regional areas.

Mr GRAHAM: I agree.

Mr Cowan: I looked for your name and did not find it.

Mr GRAHAM: Did the Deputy Premier nominate me?

Mr Cowan: No.

Mr GRAHAM: That is where it all goes wrong.

Mr Board: It is a good point because we must do more about nominating people for these awards in regional areas.

Mr GRAHAM: The Minister can nominate me.

Mr Court: I will put you up for a knighthood.

Mr GRAHAM: I could resist the dubbing by the Governor. I now turn to the Budget. In the second reading debate I compared various government reports over the past four years that were addressed to the economy with what the Treasurer said about the economy in the second reading speech. A couple of things emerged. First, the economy in Western Australia is performing to the middle of the range of expectations five years ago. It is not performing as brilliantly as it was or as poorly as the doom and gloom predictors would have us believe. In that context therefore it is interesting that this Government is the biggest taxing Government in the history of Western Australia. No other Government has had more money coming into its coffers than has this Government in its current Budget. That is interesting, bearing in mind the effect in the bush.

With a Government loaded with money and in coalition with a country based party, one would expect a significant improvement in the standard of government services in the bush. We all know that is not the case. All the major country newspapers have recently started campaigns against the Government about the reduction of spending in key areas. I exclude Merredin from that, and members can draw their own conclusions about why major cuts have not been made in Merredin. It could be the weather and I am sure it has nothing to do with the Deputy Premier. I say that with my tongue firmly placed in my cheek.

The Pilbara region has suffered significantly under this Government, although it has not been all bad news. I do not want to go over the top, but significant cuts have been made in the health area and to the patient assisted travel scheme. The Budget contained no provision for a new hospital anywhere in the north west for the next three years. That means the Liberal Party candidate who ran against me in the recent election, with the support and assistance of the Government on the platform of a new hospital in Port Hedland, was talking out of his various parts, as he sometimes does.

There is provision for a new school in the town, and I am happy with that. In the second reading debate I raised the question of school ovals. I said that none of the Port Hedland or South Hedland schools in the public school system had ovals on which the kids could play football or carry out the normal sporting activities one associates with schools anywhere in this State. Immediately after that speech, I sent a copy of it to the Minister for Education enclosing some photographs to give him some idea of the situation in Hedland.

I am not suggesting for one moment that the Minister always deals with these things, but he is head of the department and can make things happen. He cannot be everywhere and I accept that. The photographs I sent the Minister show the Hedland Senior High School oval with two gentlemen standing in the hockey goals. They are waist deep in weeds. In between those weeds are khaki burrs. The oval is unfit for use for any recreational purpose at all. The teachers tell me the number of snakes coming from that oval into the school is extraordinary.

I do not know where to go with this issue and I will detail some of the things I and various Ministers have done. It goes back eight or nine years. It cost the previous Labor Government approximately \$2.5m to reticulate all the school ovals in Hedland, following approaches I made to the then Minister for Education, that the kids could play sport. It was not an unreasonable request. I estimate that between \$3.5m and \$4m has been spent over the past four years on the ovals. At the end of the day that money is not working. I wrote to the Minister as follows -

Dear Minister,

Recently I visited the Hedland Senior High School and observed first hand the disgraceful condition of the school oval. This oval is clearly the worst of a bad lot currently in the Hedland area.

I explained the photos which I attached for his information. I told him I had intended to raise the matter in a grievance debate in Parliament, but could not because time did not permit so I had raised the matter in the budget debate. I sent the Minister a copy of my speech and said something should be done. My letter continued -

I would expect that whatever action you take would ensure that there is some form of ongoing maintenance to be carried out. Previous experience shows that there will also need to be some person or organisation who can be held both accountable and responsible for the ongoing condition of the ovals.

While I am not critical of the amount of money spent over the years on the ovals, I am extremely critical of the coordination and control exercised by the Department in Perth.

I am not in the business of overly protecting Ministers, but this Minister is not the target. The reply to my letter was prepared for him by bureaucrats and it states -

Dear Larry

Thank you for your letter dated 14 May 1997 regarding the condition of the oval at Hedland Senior High School.

The poor condition of the oval is acknowledged. There have been a range of problems associated with establishment and maintenance of ovals in the district and especially the oval at the Hedland Senior High School. Unfortunately, problems experienced in relation to the supply and quality of effluent water and more recently the mowing of the oval at Hedland Senior High School, have been outside the control of the Education Department.

They have not been outside the control of the department; it is the only body that has control of it. The department has a gardening section and staff of that section spend an extraordinary amount of time in winter on plane trips to assess the problem at Hedland Senior High School. I meet them regularly at airports and they tell me the problem is in hand. It is not in hand. It is directly under the control of the Education Department, but it is unable or unwilling to fix it. The same people were arguing it when the Labor Party was in Government. I can bury this House in letters like this from the gardening section of the department.

The letter refers to the supply and quality of effluent water. There was and is a problem. The Education Department negotiated with the Water Authority and the town council for fresh water to be supplied, but no budget allocation was made to the schools. They were told, "Here is the tap and water, water the ovals, but there is no money to pay for it." That is absolutely absurd and it is clearly under the control of the Education Department.

The Minister's letter goes on to state that there is a difficulty because of khaki burr infestation. I told him that and I do not need to be told that I am right; I want to know the solution to the problem. Every organisation in the north west that has broadacre grasslands has found a solution to burr infestations except the Education Department. The Minister's letter continues -

... the Education Department is currently negotiating with the Town of Port Hedland for the Town to take over full management of all school ovals in the district. It is expected that negotiations should be completed by the end of 1997.

I said during my second reading contribution that this happens every year. New people come in and we have a year's negotiations, they arrive at a solution, school breaks up for the year and they come back the next year and say the ovals are a mess. So, we start negotiating again. This all started in 1989 because the Town of Port Hedland did not mow the ovals. Now, eight years later, we will give it back to the people who caused the problem in the first place. It is an extraordinary result. The Minister states -

In the interim, resources will be allocated to improve the ovals and further train the gardeners ...

I will be writing to the Minister again to find out what resources will be allocated to improve the ovals.

If that is what he intends to do, why can it not be done on an ongoing basis? I have great difficulty coming to grips with it. Training the gardeners is not the problem; the gardeners' hours have been so restricted that it does not matter how well they are trained. I spent some time explaining that in my second reading speech. I hope that when the Minister receives my next letter he will do what I asked him to do; that is, give this urgent and personal attention and get the gardening section to deal with the problem.

I also warn the Deputy Premier about appointments to the Pilbara Development Commission. We have been extraordinarily lucky in the Pilbara in that we have achieved bipartisan support for all appointments to the commission. However, in the last series of elections, three candidates were chosen for the board from the varying political parties, but none from the Australian Labor Party. I accept that that happens. I have seen the list of candidates for the current round and I will not breach any confidentiality, but I hope the Deputy Premier does not fall for the trap of appointing failed candidates and party hacks to the board.

MS WARNOCK (Perth) [9.16 pm]: I will address three issues of concern to my electorate. One hates to use the common phrase "I told you so", but I am obliged to in relation to the city northern bypass. In my fifth year in this Parliament I expected not to be speaking again about the city northern bypass.

Mr Court: When it is opened you will be taking the credit for it.

Ms WARNOCK: No, I will be taking another road.

Mr Court: You will be taking one of the highways to Northbridge.

Ms WARNOCK: I will be sitting in a cafe in Leederville enjoying a cappuccino.

Mr Court: You will be sitting in a cafe in the redevelopment.

Ms WARNOCK: I will take the Premier's word for it, but I am still prepared to say, "I told you so."

An unfortunate \$17m cost blowout reported during the recent Estimates Committees means that I must return, however briefly, to this subject. My federal colleague Stephen Smith and I have been very vocal on this subject since September 1993 when a previous Minister for Planning announced this project. We were very quick to say that although this project was announced at the time as a \$335m tunnel bypass - goodness knows at that cost it was expensive enough - it would cost nearer to \$400m. The \$17m blowout reported recently is yet another chapter in this very costly road movie.

I understand the Government believes it can recoup some costs by selling surplus land. I hope that is the case because it has been my view all along that the Government could have solved the whole problem of urban renewal by selling some of the land and not going ahead with the bypass. I have told that story many times. That is still my belief, and I reiterate it for the number of constituents who contact my office every week.

I send out questionnaires to new constituents requesting information so I can be sure that I am doing the right work on their behalf. It is remarkable that so long after the project commenced I still receive phone calls and letters from constituents saying that they would rather the money had been spent on health facilities, the local school or whatever. As I said, that is my belief. Because of these constant reiterations of concern about the tunnel, I believe it is incumbent upon me to mention once again that this project is unnecessary, far too expensive and a wrong priority.

It is damaging to the environment. It is destructive of inner city heritage and it is unnecessarily disruptive of people's lives. I ask all members in this Parliament to imagine what it would be like to have people from Main Roads WA bowl up to their door one sunny day and simply say that they must move out of their nice suburban house within six months because they intend to knock it over and put a road through the property; jolly bad luck, but that is the way things are. I am willing to bet that not many members in this House would be happy about that. That is certainly how many of my constituents have felt in the past two years.

Because his name has been in the news recently, I specifically mention car spare parts dealer, George Wood who lives in Edward Street, Perth, who frankly feels pretty hard done by by this project. Mr Wood has been living and working in this area and has rented his Perth house for about 17 years. I have been a client of his from time to time. I used to own an ancient bright orange Volkswagon which I took to him to service. Heaven knows, he probably found spare parts for it. It was 20 years old. He has been on this property conducting his small business - this Government has been very vocal about how much concern it has for small business - in a rented property for about 17 years and living on the property as well. He has been obliged to part company with some of the land on which he has been operating. He has been asked to accept that this land is to be used for the bypass. People who watch television and read their newspapers will know that he has been conducting a long running argument with Main Roads, assisted by my office that has written letters on his behalf.

He has been told that as of this week he has a choice of enduring the trucks thundering past his house and business daily, from very early in the morning until late at night, or going somewhere else. People who have had a small business located in the same place for any length of time will know how expensive it is to move out and find a new place. They would have to struggle to get a place that is as convenient as East Perth. Mr Wood has had this business in this location for a long time. Of course he has accumulated clients and goodwill and so on. He must give away all of this or endure pretty unimaginable conditions should he decide to stay where he is. As Mr Wood has pointed out, it will cost him a lot to move elsewhere and set up a new business, certainly more than the \$5 000 he has been offered by Main Roads WA. He wants \$25 000 for the property. As I understand it, following a discussion at some stage he believed Main Roads had offered him that amount of money. That seems to have evaporated into thin air and it has now turned itself into \$5 000. Suddenly Main Roads seems to be concerned about the cost of this giant project and Mr Wood has been told that it simply cannot manage to pay him \$25 000.

It is a bizarre epilogue to this rather long running saga of the tunnel. It is one that has echoes in the accounts told by numerous other constituents. On one hand a hotel proprietor got \$7m of taxpayers' money to part with the Aberdeen Hotel. On the other hand others have had their lives shattered and upended, having to fight over what seems in this context like fairly small change in this already incredibly expensive project. So much for a serious commitment to small business!

My office has been working very hard to try to assist Mr Wood. I say this to the Government: Having elected to embark on this costly project, it should certainly be prepared to make a decent settlement with each of the people whose lives have been appallingly disrupted for this new road.

In the short time I have left, I will discuss another couple of issues of concern to me. I have already spoken in this House about noise; how it is measured; and how it can be controlled. It is of particular concern to me because a new

group of people are living in the inner city who must deal with levels of noise with which they simply did not have to deal when they lived in outer suburbs. On this occasion the noise that concerns me is from the freeway in the area of Mt Hawthorn. I refer particularly to the residents who live in close proximity to the Mitchell Freeway between Britannia and Scarborough Beach Roads. Those residents have been approaching my office for some time, and indeed the office of my predecessor, with their concerns about how the excessive noise from the freeway has a detrimental effect on their lives.

As a result of this I asked a series of questions of the Minister for Transport. Today I have received answers to those questions from the Minister about this matter. These answers are too complex to detail here; however, we were looking for a better measure for noise levels; a better way of going about measuring the stress levels that flow from excessive noise levels from the freeway; and a better means of preventing that. The Minister has detailed in these answers the fact that he believes traffic volumes along this section of the freeway will increase and, therefore, increased noise levels will be experienced by residents in this area.

In this series of questions and answers various ways of measuring noise are discussed, especially those that exist in other countries. Main Roads WA will consult the Department of Environmental Protection before establishing any new standards, as was done when the current standards for measuring noise were put in place. I am told that Main Roads currently is investigating worldwide standards for noise. The current standards were adequate when they were set, according to Main Roads, although my constituents have been complaining for some time about the noise from this freeway.

The purpose of the current investigation by Main Roads is to determine whether they are still adequate. I must say to the Minister that they certainly are not adequate, nor are the methods that are used for freeways to try to make the situation livable for those who reside nearby. Obviously there are expensive undertakings that people can do for themselves; for example, they can double glaze their houses, put up high walls around the house, or hope there is a large block of flats or an office building between them and the freeway. That would certainly make a difference. However, for this group of people in that part of Mt Hawthorn, the noise from the freeway is pretty unbearable and they are likely to approach my office again when I send them these questions. They give an interesting discussion on how to measure noise, but do not suggest any way in which Main Roads can counter the problems these residents experience with noise. I will certainly be taking this information back to those people shortly.

I asked another series of questions about one other matter of concern to me. I was a member of the Select Committee on Road Safety, as were you, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Ainsworth). I continue to have a very strong interest in road safety and, in particular, in how on earth we can do something about the shocking levels of accidents on our roads. One concern relates to bicycle safety. To that end I asked a series of questions about dual use bike paths in the Perth metropolitan area. The Minister for Transport has told me that there is no accurate measure of the number and length of dual use paths in Perth at this stage. It is a question of shared responsibility between local government and Main Roads, for example. This lack of coordination between the various departments and agencies responsible for these things has been identified as a deficiency.

BikeWest, the agency of government that deals with bike riding, is working with relevant agencies to compile a picture of the total provision of dual use paths within the State. I hope that will be forthcoming very soon. Increasingly people are taking to riding bikes for environmental reasons and reasons of health, and I applaud that; however, we want to be sure that they can ride bikes safely within the metropolitan area and not become victims of a mishap on the freeways. I hope we will have an up-to-date map of dual use paths in the near future. I also hope every measure that is necessary will be taken to make those paths and the roads, safe for people who are increasingly taking to riding bikes.

Other people have had plenty to say about the lack of funding for bike paths. I am pleased to note that at the end of last year the Premier committed the Government to spending \$25m to complete stage 1 of the Perth bicycle network. I hope that we will see this funding very soon and that the many people who are contacting my office about matters like bike ways will be satisfied to learn that not only will the number of bike ways in the metropolitan area be increased, but also improvements are being made in the area of safety.

MR CARPENTER (Willagee) [9.30 pm]: I will make a few comments on what was a miserable, mean spirited Budget, and particularly in relation to my shadow portfolio area of Disability Services.

I missed the opportunity, because of time constraints, to reflect upon the value of the Estimates Committee hearings. I enjoyed the Estimates Committees; they play a useful role. During the time that I covered politics as a journalist I never bothered to sit through the estimates hearings, and I do not know why. Now that I have sat through them I can understand their value and probably would encourage their development a bit further.

On one or two occasions during the Estimates Committee hearings I wondered why it was not possible to hold joint Estimates Committee hearings between this and the other House. The member for Cockburn tried to explain the reason to me; however, I could not take it in. On occasions it was unfortunate that members had to address a person representing the Minister when the Minister was only a few metres away in another House or involved in some other activity. I wonder whether there is an insurmountable obstacle to joint committee hearings. If such an obstacle exists I wonder whether it would be possible for the Minister to be present in the committee hearings for whatever House happens to be holding those hearings.

Mr Osborne: The solution is for all Ministers to be in this House.

Mr CARPENTER: That suggestion has been put by the Royal Commission into Commercial Activities of Government and Other Matters and other people who have studied the construction of our system of government. That would probably open up an avenue for the member for Bunbury to get into the Cabinet. However, that is beside the point. I congratulate the member for Bunbury on his elevation to the dizzy heights that he has attained.

If we had a system where all Minister were available to be quizzed during the Estimate Committee hearings it would make more sense and would be more valuable. I know that some members do not think that the Estimates Committees serve all that useful a function. However, I believe they do, and they probably could serve a better function. Time was a problem. For example, on the night that the member for Dawesville represented the Minister for Sport and Recreation we did not start the committee hearings until after nine o'clock. It was a late session and it went for only an hour. I felt sorry for the advisers from the department, and for Graham Moss from the Challenge Stadium who had to sit through a long day and wait to get on late in the night for only a brief encounter with the committee. Plenty of opportunities were denied the committee by the lack of time. We could have pursued questions, but never had the chance, because the hour was up before we got going.

Mr Trenorden: Members can ask questions of Ministers in this House and the other place at any time. It is a pity the Estimates Committees do not allow members more opportunity to question the bureaucrats. That is where the answers lie. If it is a tricky question the Minister will give the political answer.

Mr CARPENTER: I will not disagree with that. The essential point I am making is that the Estimates Committee process performs a valuable function and we could enhance it with a bit of moderate reform. I do not know what members on the other side of the House think about that; however, if we could work in those reforms that would be useful.

Mr Trenorden: We were on that side once.

Mr CARPENTER: I acknowledge that the Estimates Committee hearings work for the benefit of the Opposition. However, as the member for Avon says, everybody ends up in opposition sooner or later. We are talking about what is better for the Parliament and the general scrutiny of government.

I will go on to a couple of issues that arose from the Estimates Committee hearings. The first issue relates to the taxi user subsidy scheme. That came up in the Transport division, but is also relevant to my shadow portfolio area of Disability Services. Members will appreciate that quite a few of the people who suffer from disabilities require taxi user subsidies. When the Budget was released the Minister for Transport put out a press release stating that the taxi user subsidy scheme would be expanded to give access to another 4 000 people, taking the number of people who could access the scheme from around 20 000 to 24 000. Various other modifications were announced at the same time, which were improvements to what was an already good system. The budget papers indicated that the estimated actuals for 1996-97 for the taxi user subsidy scheme were \$3.4m, whereas the estimated expenditure for 1997-98 was \$2.9m. It appeared that rather than expanding the scheme, half a million dollars had been taken out of it. I directed a question on this to the Transperth representative, Greg Martin. He acknowledged that my observation was superficially correct. However, he also said that the allocation last year was only \$2.9m and the estimated actual was \$3.4m, so more money was spent than was notionally allocated. He said that the expanded scheme announced by the Minister - the figures are in the *Hansard* - would cost about \$6m.

I wondered why a Minister would announce a scheme that would cost \$6m to enact when less than 50 per cent of that was allocated to the scheme in the Budget. The answer was that the scheme would be put into place and the department would simply have to find the savings from elsewhere. That is an unsatisfactory way of presenting figures in the Budget. The estimates in the Budget must be more than just a rough guide - certainly more than a 50 per cent guide. They must give an accurate indication of the amount of money that is being spent on a program. To make an announcement, knowing full well that it will cost \$6m and allocating only half of that in the Budget, is most unsatisfactory. It amounts to an insult to the people who would hope to take advantage of the expanded scheme, and there are many of them. The scheme is very popular among people who are unable to use public transport. I raise that as an example of the value of having Estimates Committee hearings, because members can go through the Budget

line by line and try to ascertain what money is being allocated where, and occasionally one finds that only a small percentage of the money required is being allocated. I hope that sort of inaccuracy or inequity is not reflected more widely through the budget papers.

Mr Riebeling: The Government did the same with the pay increases to prison officers.

Mr CARPENTER: I thank the member for Burrup. The Government must do better. I know that it is a massive and complicated process, and that to supply totally accurate information might be easier said than done, but for it to be so wildly inaccurate and hopelessly misleading is not acceptable.

Another matter I would like to mention is a program that is available to people with disabilities, which subsequent to the Estimate Committee hearings I discovered has been defunded. I refer to the Sexuality Education Counselling and Consultancy Agency. From memory, until recently the agency received funding of about \$120 000. People involved in the scheme have been notified that funding will not proceed beyond the beginning of the 1997-98 financial year and that creates some degree of distress for the people using the scheme and for those providing it. SECCA provides a direct counselling service for people with disabilities, and their families, friends, carers and partners.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Ainsworth): Order! The level of background noise is rising a little too high for the comfort of Hansard or for anyone trying to listen to the member for Willagee.

Mr CARPENTER: SECCA's aim is to evaluate needs and lobby for funding to provide or assist other agencies to provide sexuality education counselling and consultancy to people with a disability, and their families and carers. This is a very serious matter for the people affected. To simply axe the funding is very shortsighted and most unfortunate. I am not alone in that belief. I am in receipt of a number of letters from people expressing their concerns to the chief executive officer of the Disabilities Services Commission, Hayden Lowe, and the Minister. The writers include Mr Ian Pitman, the chief executive officer of Family Planning Western Australia; Sally Rowell of the Western Australian AIDS Council; Alexel Porter of Rocky Bay Employment Services, and many agencies supporting SECCA's services. I will not go through the entire list, but the letters are numerous.

I urge the Government to reconsider its position on SECCA, because from my now not so limited experience in the disabilities area I know it is a valued and valuable program; and its removal is already creating big problems for people in the disabilities area, by the nature of the worry that has descended upon them.

I turn now to contracting out. Other speakers have referred to this matter in the context of the Estimates Committee debates and the Budget, and the general difficulty of securing enough information about government contracts. This matter arose during committee hearings on Disabilities Services when the Pyrton institution was mentioned because 70 people were being moved to other accommodation provided by private sector contractors. It is virtually impossible to obtain information about the company that was awarded the contract, the nature of the process through which the contract was delivered, or the level of care to be given to the people who will be placed in the accommodation offered by the private contractor. It was through a fishing exercise during the committee debates that we discovered the original contractor had either withdrawn his contract for the accommodation of 70 people from Pyrton or that the tender had been terminated. When we are dealing with government money being allocated for the provision of care for people who are severely disabled - such as those at Pyrton - the people involved have an acute responsibility to provide as much information as possible for the public record. The arena in which to provide that information is the Parliament of Western Australia. That is a microcosm of the wider process that is taking place where a range of previously government provided services are being taken over by private enterprise in the contracting out process. Yet, we have hardly any information which attaches itself to the process which we can scrutinise in Parliament. We can take the optimistic view that most of the process will work out for the better and that the people involved have the best of intentions and will provide economic savings to the State. However, it is the duty of the politicians elected to Parliament to scrutinise the expenditure of government money to ensure that the provision of services funded by the Government is in the best interests of the people of this State. We have a difficulty in that regard.

MR THOMAS (Cockburn) [9.46 pm]: I wish to elaborate on a theme related to one to which my colleague, the member for Willagee, and other members have referred. A number of areas of government are escaping the scrutiny of the Estimates Committee process. I am very interested in the area of the Budget which is not part of the consolidated fund, and therefore does not form part of the appropriation Bill. The Budget process is twofold: It is the passage of an appropriation Bill, and it is also the main vehicle by which the Legislature subjects the Executive to financial scrutiny. Sadly, because a number of areas are off-budget - that is, not funded by the appropriation Bill - they escape the attention of the Estimates Committee process. As a result, a growing area of the public sector is becoming less subject to the scrutiny of the Legislature than it should be. These are the areas that have recently been

contracted out, which were referred to by the member for Willagee and other speakers. Other items are simply off-budget because they are not part of consolidated revenue.

Traditionally, the State Energy Commission was in that situation before the creation of AlintaGas and Western Power, and with the tendency towards corporatisation of government functions it is becoming widespread. Since becoming a shadow Minister I have had responsibility for the Water Authority and now the two energy utilities, Western Power and AlintaGas. For almost five years I have been frustrated by the fact that the Estimates Committee process is the one time we can subject the Government to scrutiny and ask questions about its intentions in various areas. It is very frustrating when one has responsibility in those areas to find that they escape our scrutiny. No doubt it is a delight to the Minister that they escape the scrutiny of the Parliament at that time.

This is not the first time I have raised this issue. In 1994 the Minister for Energy said that he agreed with me. At that stage I was arguing for a utilities committee to perform a similar function to that of the Estimates Committees. The Minister said that he agreed with me and that he had argued passionately for such a committee some years ago. He was referring to his time in opposition, but now that he is in government he is quite happy for those areas to escape scrutiny. Does the Government believe there is an adequate level of scrutiny of budget departments? When we try to use other vehicles of the Parliament to subject these bodies to scrutiny we are told they are commercially confidential. This excuse is frequently used to conceal information on contracting out and very often arrangements entered into by utilities, whether for the purchase of goods or services, in their capacity as marketers of goods and services or as government trading enterprises, as they are otherwise known.

In 1987 or 1988 the then Government commissioned Sir Francis Burt, retired Chief Justice, prior to his becoming Governor, to write a report on accountability. In his report he considered the notion of commercial confidentiality as it applied to Governments and the extent to which Governments should be able to cite commercial confidentiality to evade scrutiny by the Legislature. Sir Francis said that Governments should not be able to enter into such agreements. Indeed he quoted a report written and tabled in this Parliament by a Minister in that Labor Government which contained a confidentiality clause. Even the confidentiality clause could not be quoted, nor could its existence be revealed. It was so absurd it is difficult to think that anyone could write such a document. However, that document, the North West Shelf gas sales agreement, still binds this Government.

Some years later the second report of the Royal Commission into Commercial Activities of Government and Other Matters considered the question of commercial confidentiality. It also recommended that Governments should not be able to use commercial confidentiality in these circumstances. When it said that, members opposite who were in Parliament at the time - although they were not sitting there at the time - cheered and said that standards of accountability should be applied and the Government should not be able to cite commercial confidentiality to avoid them.

However, the Government changed and all of a sudden members who were previously on this side saw the matter differently when they sat on the other side. The Minister for Energy - I am sorry he is not here for this debate - has quoted commercial confidentiality as a reason for not answering questions. Some of the reasons for refusing to answer questions are absurd. He will not tell us what price Western Power has contracted to pay for electricity from the Ord hydro scheme. He will not tell us what price Western Power will pay for electricity from the BP Oil Mission project at Kwinana.

It is even more absurd when we cannot find out how much AlintaGas is paying to sponsor the Fremantle Dockers. We can find out how much is being paid if a consolidated fund department chooses to sponsor a football team. Sponsorship might not be a good idea, but that is an issue on which the two sides of the House may differ. Nonetheless, this Parliament is entitled to know the amount of sponsorship. No; we are told it is commercially confidential and we are not allowed to know.

I am not talking about idle curiosity. I am talking about the Parliament discharging its responsibilities to ensure the public sector is managed properly. The Ord hydro project agreement in the east Kimberley apparently contains a clause which provides that when the machinery breaks down and the Ord hydro scheme is unable to deliver power to the Western Power grid and the diesel engines must be used to operate power in that area, Western Power must be compensated by the proponents to cover the cost and inconvenience. That is fairly reasonable and as supervisors of the public sector members of Parliament should be entitled to know what are those arrangements, how much is to be paid and whether a fair and proper deal has been undertaken. After some power breakdowns had occurred in Kununurra I was told we were not allowed to know how much that company had paid Western Power in compensation. That is something we should be able to find out. I have asked in here at what time was the power not on. I am not even allowed to know that because it "is part of a commercially confidential arrangement between the proponents of that project and Western Power". That is absurd.

This is a Parliament to whom the Executive is answerable. The primary means by which we ensure the public sector is being run on a sound financial basis is the Estimates Committee process. If that process does not comply directly with what is suitable for off-budget utilities, government trading enterprises and the like, some other means must be devised.

I put forward a proposal some years ago for a utilities committee, which the Minister for Energy dismissed in a cavalier manner saying it had been an idea he once found attractive but now he was in government it was not so attractive and he would think about something else. However, nothing has happened despite my asking him on three or four occasions over the intervening four or five years.

Some of the government utilities put submissions to the Commission on Government in their own right. The Chairman of Western Power, for example, said it should be incorporated under Companies Law and not be accountable to Parliament. I put forward a different proposition saying we had the right on behalf of the shareholders and owners of those operations to scrutinise the way they operate. The Commission on Government said essentially that most of the proposition I put to it was correct. It also said Western Power's proposition seeking to evade the scrutiny of the Parliament was wrong. The Commission on Government said that generally speaking there should not be commercially confidential arrangements in contracts the Government enters into other than to protect intellectual property. It said that privacy for the sake of privacy is something to which people who deal with Governments should not be entitled.

The Commission on Government said that in the event that commercial confidentiality is provided for in a contract, as it will be under some circumstances such as protecting intellectual property, those provisions should go to a parliamentary committee which should consist of not only government members but also opposition members. It should decide whether that information should be kept confidential or come into the public arena. Neither the Government nor the person under contract would make that decision; it would be the Parliament. Anyone who entered into a contract with government would have to do so knowing that the Parliament could ultimately make that decision, not the contractors or the Government, each of whom might have some reason for keeping the terms of a contract confidential.

When I put forward proposals like this, Ministers, particularly the Minister for Energy, who sadly is not here this evening, react as though it is earth shattering and the very nature of our society will fall apart if we were to prevail and these areas were subject to the same scrutiny as the consolidated fund departments. Of course, he is absolutely wrong. I have made the point since becoming shadow Minister for Energy of reading a fair amount of material on energy utilities in the United States and how they operate. Invariably, US energy utilities are either privately owned, as in the overwhelming majority of cases, or owned municipally by town councils or lower levels of government. They are never owned by state or national Governments, certainly not in cases of which I am aware. The privately owned utilities, which constitute 80 per cent or 90 per cent of such utilities, are subject to greater degrees of accountability than the publicly owned utilities in Australia. The culture of secrecy in government and business in this country is not universally shared. Where such a culture does not prevail, such as in the United States, any member of the public can find out more about energy utilities than we can discover about the one we are appointed to oversee as members of Parliament. Where that code of secrecy does not apply, one finds that the sky has not fallen in. The utilities operate well in a competitive energy market and energy is provided to the public in a reliable manner at a reasonable price.

As I said in other debates, we must review our accountability provisions so that Estimates Committees, or some similar mechanism, can apply to off-budget departments. This would implement one of the important recommendations of the Commission on Government which the Government has thus far ignored.

DR EDWARDS (Maylands) [10.02 pm]: I will refer in this debate to a few matters uncovered in the Estimates Committee and amplified by the supplementary information received. I turn first to the Department of Conservation and Land Management. I was somewhat disappointed that the Chief Executive Officer of CALM did not attend the Estimates Committee this year as usually this is a fiery session; he used to bring props of photographs, graphs and displays. It was disappointing that he was away at a conference, although the session was constructive.

However, I was left with the major question of what assets CALM plans to sell off. The budget papers indicate that CALM will raise \$6m through asset sales. We asked for supplementary information in that regard, but the information provided is very shallow. Basically, it says that assets have been reviewed and will continue to be reviewed, some freehold land will be sold and CALM is looking at off-loading its interest in blue gum plantations. It is not clear which land is to be sold, and what proportion of the amount to be raised is through land sales and through selling the blue gum plantations. I must ask further questions to unearth that detail.

Of concern also is that CALM will go further into debt presumably to fund its farm forestry arrangements. In previous years CALM brought in huge graphs to make a big explanation about how it was to rid itself of debts

completely by the magical year of 2000 or 2003. This year we were told in the other place that the organisation is diverting some of the money earmarked to pay off debt, and it is now looking to eliminate debt by 2010 or 2015. It is a surprising turn of the ship given what was said previously about debt reduction. We will be watching with interest to see to where the money is redirected from the debt reduction program.

Another issue which arose in the committee was that a number of agencies had audit qualifications in their annual reports. That is a serious issue. The first example was the Kings Park Board, although it had a very good explanation for the qualified audit opinion. Nevertheless, it says something about planning. I understand that Kings Park switched from a manual system to a complex computerised system, which was not up and running in time for the last financial year. However, officers said that the problem would be solved this year. When departments are making such changes, they need to keep in mind the timing aspect in meeting audit requirements.

Also, the Water and Rivers Commission had an audit qualification, but it had a plausible excuse: It was a new department combining three departments and had only half a financial year to pull everything into shape. I found the Water and Rivers Commission session valuable and the information received to be very useful.

An issue of concern is the ground water contamination discovered near pesticide operators. It was useful to get information on my concerns. It appears that four sites have been looked at which are near pesticide operators and have a level of ground water contamination, presumably as a result of pesticide operations nearby. As the Minister for Water Resources is aware, we have a serious problem in Dianella which may or may not relate to a former pesticide operation. In 1993 a level of contamination was discovered. This was remediated. From the information given to me, the responsibility for the clean up was given to the private operator, who took that responsibility and cleared it up. However, a question has arisen about whether new contamination is linked to the old episode, and the extent of the operator's liability.

Dr Hames: He did not pay for the area to be cleaned up; he made a contribution to its assessment and monitoring.

Dr EDWARDS: This time?

Dr Hames: Last time. They might have cleaned up the site, but I do not think there was any way to clean up the underground contamination. It looked like it was dissipating and it freshened up again.

Dr EDWARDS: I was told that a small area was remediated; namely, it was pumped out and they thought it was very confined. However, it was not as confined as they thought and the latest discovery is presumably linked to the first problem. I realise the difficulty of proving cause and effect. I have asked question of various Ministers over time about pesticide operators, the majority of which were directed to the Minister for Health as the regulations come under his control.

I am concerned that despite a number of years of regulating pesticides more closely, the Water and Rivers Commission looked at these four problem sites and the supplementary information indicates one site needs further work. The Opposition will continue to look at this issue. I hope it can be more adequately addressed when contaminated sites legislation is enacted.

I comment now on the ongoing relationship between the Department of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Protection Authority. As I have said previously in this place, during this year and at the end of last year, continuing strident and critical comments were made by the Chairman of the EPA about the entire system. At one stage he commented that the EPA had no funds, no power and no independence. They are very serious statements for a man in his position to make; therefore, I was not particularly surprised when I saw in *The West Australian* on Saturday that he intends to resign. I hope that people will not write off the problems at these organisations as merely a personality clash. Discussions with the chairman indicate that problems run deeper than that; it is a structural problem in the way the bodies are organised. I hope these matters will be tackled in a constructive and thoughtful manner and we will move on to have a strong, independent and very environmentally minded EPA.

I am concerned that the EPA advisory committee has not met since December last year. The last two EPA annual reports and the EPA members with whom I have had meetings talk about the valuable role of this advisory committee. If it has not met since December last year, the EPA has missed out on the six months of consultation that that committee could have provided. The committee comprises 13 or 14 people who have a wide range of experience. I know that in the past the EPA has used that committee as a sounding board when it has tackled particularly difficult issues. I urge the EPA, because it is responsible for this committee, to set it up again soon and to use it in the consultative manner for which it was designed.

There is no doubt that much work remains to be done with regard to the environment. I will mention a number of reports that were listed in a media release recently and printed in *The West Australian*. The nature conservation

strategy was put out as a draft by the former Labor Government in 1992, but despite many calls we have yet to see any action on that report. In a similar vein, two years ago there were discussion papers about the ecotourism strategy, but again that has not been released. The Cape Range karst report, which was leaked to the media at the end of last year, has also not been released fully. In 1992 the Labor Government put out a draft wildlife conservation Bill and, like the nature conservation strategy, that has not been progressed either. Obviously, the care of wildlife has altered. The Wildlife Conservation Act is over 40 years old, and the focus has now shifted to looking at habitats. Therefore, we need a new Act that will pick up today's issues and take us forward.

Mrs Edwardes: I indicated during the debate on the marine reserves legislation that that is the next piece of legislation on our agenda, and I expect to introduce it by the end of next year. It will take a long time because of the changes that have occurred, and the old Bill that was circulated is now no longer appropriate and needs to be updated.

Dr EDWARDS: One of the issues raised in the Planning division of the Estimates Committees was the relocation of the Claremont speedway. There is no doubt - I know you know it, Madam Acting Speaker (Ms McHale) - that there is quite a lot of angst in various suburbs around Perth because people think that they are about to get the speedway on some vacant piece of land. The Minister was not particularly helpful when we asked him about this; all he could say was that plans were under consideration. I was disappointed that he would not give any commitment to speak to local members while those plans were being drawn up. It is important to have consultation, because if local members and the community are not consulted, it is likely that the same problems will occur with local residents that occurred in Claremont. I hope the Minister will rethink his strategy and talk to the people who will be affected before he makes his announcement.

One issue in my electorate that has not been addressed adequately in the Budget is the need for traffic lights at the corner of Guildford Road and Caledonian Avenue in Maylands. For as long as I have been in the Parliament, I have been lobbying to get traffic lights at that busy intersection. Caledonian Avenue is one of the few streets in my electorate which allows people to cross the railway line easily, so it is very busy. Trucks and heavy vehicles also use that street rather than Eighth Avenue, Maylands, which has had slow points installed to encourage people to shop in and visit that area and to use it for recreation. In addition, Caledonian Avenue enters Guildford Road very near to the Coles supermarket in Maylands, which, as members can imagine, has a lot of patronage from people who walk or drive there. A number of accidents have occurred at this site; in particular, pedestrians have been hit by cars, and one man has been killed.

The Government has promised that lights will be installed, and when I wrote to the Minister last year it seemed that we would get them very soon. However, I understand from recent correspondence that those traffic lights are not in this year's Budget, despite a video survey that was undertaken last year. I urge the Minister for Transport, if there is any spare money, to keep that site in mind. Guildford Road is getting increasingly busy, and that site really needs those traffic lights.

Probably the most useful part of the Budget was the Estimates Committees, but the most difficult part of dealing with the Estimates Committee was the fact that much of the information was superficial. I hope that in future Treasury can provide us with more information in greater detail that truly tells us where funds will be expended.

MR KOBELKE (Nollamara) [10.15 pm]: I will make some comments about the Building and Construction Industry Task Force. That task force is funded from three different areas of the Budget; therefore, it is appropriate at this stage to draw together those various elements to get a fuller picture of what that task force is about. The task force was set up by the Minister for Labour Relations when he was also the Minister for Works. That explains in part the Minister's ongoing interest in this matter, which appears in the Budget predominantly under the Works portfolio.

The stated aim of the task force can be condensed quite accurately to removing rorts or improper or corrupt practices in the building and construction industry. While a fuller statement is provided in the documents that have been put out by the Minister for Labour Relations, that is at the hub of his stated aims for the Building and Construction Industry Task Force. However, it has become fairly clear that the real agenda of the task force is to try to crush the building and construction unions. I will say more later about what is happening in that area, or what the Minister for Labour Relations is attempting to have happen in that area. The member for Riverton is no longer the Minister for Works, but he still takes a keen interest in the functioning of that task force.

Under the budget of the Department of Contract and Management Services, we find that five FTEs and an expenditure of \$614 000 have been allocated to the Building and Construction Industry Task Force. That was confirmed by the chief executive officer in the Estimates Committees. However, that creates a bit of a problem for the Minister, because the Minister has said in answer to questions in this place that three people are on the task force. It is clear that there are not just three people. The Minister is being a bit cute with the truth, because he is alluding to the fact that there are three investigators.

In fact, there are not even just five people on the task force. According to the information given to the Estimates Committee in the other place, there is also one person who is on secondment from the Department of Productivity and Labour Relations and whose salary is being paid for in large part by that department. We find now that closer to six FTEs are on the Building and Construction Industry Task Force. In the Estimates Committee information was released of police involvement. People in the building industry have known about it for some time. I asked a question of the Minister for Labour Relations, who responded with a supplementary answer. This relates to the person who was employed by the Department of Productivity and Labour Relations. It states -

The Minister advised that the costs were not met by DOPLAR, however DOPLAR pays the officers salary and recoups a portion from Contract and Management Services.

That clearly states that the salary was being paid by DOPLAR. It was also indicated that police officers were involved and their costs were met out of the Police budget. I was not on that part of the Estimates Committee which dealt with the Police portfolio and so I could not get an answer, but again in reply to a supplementary question we were informed that officers from the Police Force had been located in Dumas House but they did not come under the control of the Department of Contract and Management Services. The answer to the supplementary question refers to "officers". We see then that we have five FTEs from the Department of Contract and Management Services, one from DOPLAR and at least two from the Police Force. It appears that at least for part of the year eight or more FTEs have been working for this task force, which of course is about trying to get at the unions in the building industry.

The member for Riverton claims that he does not control the task force because most of the FTEs come under the Department of Contract and Management Services, but we know from the answers the Minister has given to questions on notice that the task force reports to him on a regular basis. I think in answer to how often it reported to him he said "frequently". However, we find that the Minister for Works, who could have a greater responsibility, does not have the same degree of interaction with the task force. The Minister for Labour Relations has issued press releases on the working of the task force. I am not aware that the Minister who currently holds the portfolio for Works has released press releases on the task force.

Mr Board: No.

Mr KOBELKE: During question time the Minister for Labour Relations has "dorothy dixers" asking him about the task force, so he is clearly making the running on the issue. He says that it is not under his control but he is exercising leadership and giving the drive to this task force. The Premier might like to consider what his Minister for Labour Relations is doing about improper conduct or corruption in the building industry. I am not saying that there is no need to look at it. We have seen Mr Quinn in Victoria being found guilty after a long and prominent trial. The former head of Myers was convicted of rorts over building contracts for his home. Similarly in court here recently a manager of a construction company seemed to be hiving off work for his own home to budgets for other work and he was convicted of charges relating to that.

When the Premier looks at the Minister for Labour Relations he finds he is a real crusader. He wants to do something about the building industry. I have a real disagreement with the Minister because I do not believe his real target is corruption and rorts but simply to stymie the unions. We cannot deny that he is a real zealot when it comes to taking action in the building and construction industry. Do we see the Premier displaying similar zeal for rooting out corruption in the Police Force? Clearly not. The Minister for Labour Relations is making the Premier out to be a real wimp. He is really getting stuck into the unions. He has had eight or more FTEs out there trying to track down rorts and corruption in the building and construction industry. The Premier has only twice that number for the Anti-Corruption Commission to cover the whole of government, government contracting and all of the Police Force. The Premier thinks that 17 FTEs is enough to do the whole of that but his Minister for Labour Relations has eight or more FTEs simply getting stuck into building unions. He wants to do something. I do not agree with what he is trying to do but clearly the Premier will have to lift his game if he wants to do something serious about corruption. The Minister for Labour Relations has left him for dead. He has put a far greater amount of resources into attacking the unions in the building industry. They are proactive in trying to drum up charges and to set people up. How can the ACC do the same? It simply takes up and investigates matters which have been reported. It has not been given the resources or the directive to get out and proactively tackle corruption in the Police Force or any other arm of the public sector. It has limited resources to try to take up complaints of corruption. As I have indicated, with 17 FTEs to cover the whole of the public sector and the Police Force, it has only twice the number the Minister for Labour Relations is putting into trying to stitch up a limited number of unionists. He wants to get them. It is a pity that we do not have a Premier who wants to get at the people who are corrupting the Police Force. We have a Premier who is soft on corruption. He is quite happy to have an ACC with only 17 FTEs, roughly twice the budget that his Minister for Labour Relations would put into tackling unions in the building industry.

As I have said, there are problems in the building and construction industry. What is the level of corruption and rorts in the building industry? Do we have newspaper headlines day after day pointing out that major corruption exists

in the building industry? Do we have tape recordings on television of people such as building managers or unionists talking about the rorts, so that we should be getting in there and doing something about it? Have we senior building managers or police telling us that they are aware of corruption in the building industry? I do not hear any such comments, but when we turn to the police we find we have major problems, not only because countless cases are being recounted day after day where people are alleging corruption but also because of what it does for public confidence in the Police Force. Even if we could assume most of the allegations of corruption in the Police Force were baseless or, even worse, were being set up by people involved with the criminal elements and trying to make the Police Force less effective, they would be succeeding because the people of Western Australia are losing confidence in the Police Force. What do we see from the Premier? Do we have a Premier with the zeal of the Minister for Labour Relations to get something done? Clearly not. The resources are totally inadequate. We can see from the budget papers that at least eight officers are in the task force set up by the Minister for Labour Relations to tackle issues in the building industry. The ACC has a staff of 17 FTEs, and yet it has to look at the whole of Government, the whole of contracting out and many issues relating to corruption in the Police Force. The function of the ACC, although it has its own legislation and powers under that legislation, if one reads the legislation, basically is to react when investigating complaints. It has not been given a charter similar to that given by the Minister for Labour Relations to the building and construction industry task force. That organisation is setting up people with charges - it is trying to fix them up! We saw from the Wood royal commission in New South Wales that that proactive approach is the way one should go about tackling corruption in the Police Force. However, that charter has not been given to the Anti-Corruption Commission. Although I have many differences with the Minister for Labour Relations, I have to accept that if his approach were adopted by the Premier, he would be doing something about corruption and not just window dressing to try to take the heat off. That is all he ever does. He sets up media events to get out from under the heat. He has not shown in his time as Premier that he is serious about doing anything about corruption in the Police Force.

MR CUNNINGHAM (Girrawheen) [10.32 pm]: I will refer again to one of the finest schools in my electorate, Girrawheen Senior High School. When Girrawheen Senior High School was built 23 years ago, the faculty blocks were placed on different levels. It is a most unusual site to look at. No landscaping whatsoever was done. The plan included no retaining walls or access ways, and it gave no consideration to drainage. Some quadrangles are now higher than the surrounding paths. This causes excessive flooding and silting of the paths at frequent intervals during winter. This erosion is so severe that ground cover will not grow on some areas, which then become quagmires in winter and dust bowls in summer.

Great inconvenience has been caused to staff and students because a number of the school buildings are not linked by covered walkways. Students' access to several class areas is gained by external unprotected and open staircases. This creates a very unsatisfactory and sometimes extremely dangerous situation, especially during inclement weather. During 1996, students, teachers, parents and community volunteers participated on no fewer than nine separate occasions working two full days over weekends in working bees. This transformed a section of the school grounds. However, this very hardworking school community's effort only scratched the surface of the work that must be done to overcome the site deficiencies and years of inadequate funding by Governments of both colours.

There was no separation of student vehicular traffic in the original school plan. Visitors' cars and staff cars use the same entrance as students. This potentially dangerous situation should receive urgent attention by this Government. It must do something urgently about the vehicle and pedestrian access to the school site. In addition, the road verge where parents pick up and drop off students has been neglected for many years. It is a dust bowl in summer and a quagmire in winter. This is a matter of absolute shame to both the Education Department and the Council of the City of Wanneroo. Both must take the blame for the situation. Urgent action is necessary to rectify a situation that is both unsightly and dangerous.

The basketball and tennis courts are used extensively. The surfaces are rough and deteriorating to a level at which they will not be able to be used, thus depriving the community of these facilities. The upgrading of these important school facilities should be given immediate attention by this Government. A feature of the school site is the extensive use of native plants. Some of the mature eucalypts are dropping branches onto the quadrangles. Some should be removed and many should be lopped. No-one has been near the school for many years to do that type of work. They are causing extremely serious problems. Whenever it rains, the paths which nearly a thousand students and teachers have to use daily are flooded and the eucalyptus trees, which are constantly shedding leaves and small branches, are creating drainage problems. The maintenance of gutters and drains has been a constant expense and will remain so until an intelligent culling of vegetation at the school occurs. These problems will be easily rectified if the school is given funding by this Government for tree lopping and ground improvements.

When the school was built a few covered walkways were provided. However, in wet weather, the biological science building, the English building and the arts building are totally isolated from the rest of the school. Covered walkways

should be provided to all areas. Schools of the same age as Girrawheen Senior High School have covered stairways but Girrawheen does not. Every request made over the years for covered walkways has been totally ignored.

Student enrolments at Girrawheen Senior High School have been steadily increasing. The community is very proud of its high school and rightly so. It has been given strong support by the principal, Mr Barrie Wells, to whom I have referred in this House on many occasions. Mr Wells has shown true leadership. He has an outstanding reputation in the teaching profession.

This school has developed a reputation for outstanding theatre and dance performances and, with very limited facilities, students have reached very high standards in the performing arts. There is a great need for a performing arts facility at the school so that the students of the Girrawheen, Marangaroo and Koondoola communities can properly develop their creative and expressive talents. It is envisaged that such a performing arts centre could be built on the school site and it would have a joint school and community use. A suitably designed facility linked to the existing school recreation facilities would be a valuable community asset that would go part of the way to overcoming the lack of support infrastructure for youth in the Girrawheen, Koondoola and Marangaroo areas.

Another curriculum area in which Girrawheen has made significant advances is the post-compulsory vocational programs. These programs have been taken up by the students with enthusiasm to the extent that almost 70 per cent of the students in years 11 and 12 participate in them.

The hospitality and tourism course, which is one of the most successful of its kind in the metropolitan area, cannot take the number of students who wish to enrol because it operates from a converted temporary classroom. This course warrants the provision on the school site of an industry standard commercial kitchen.

The school site covers 10 hectares of land. It is impossible for the 1.2 gardeners allocated to the school to maintain the entire school site. Every summer complaints are received from the people whose homes abut the eastern boundary because the profusion of winter grass creates a serious fire hazard. Various strategies have been implemented, including employing a contractor to spray the area to control the growth of the grass. The section fronting Marangaroo Drive is equally untidy and at certain times of the year it becomes an absolute disgrace. It presents a very poor image, and wrongly so, for the Girrawheen Senior High School which is on a major road.

I have already mentioned the parents, teachers and students who have been involved in busy bees to clean up the site. They have had success in particular areas of the school. However, the simple fact is that the volume of work requires an increased allocation of gardeners or more funds to enable the school to employ contractors at certain times of the year to carry out essential weed control and garden maintenance tasks.

The classrooms and the buildings are in need of a general upgrade to bring them up to an appropriate standard. Classroom walls, doors and ceilings need painting; blackboards and notice boards need replacing; and external walls need cleaning.

A community aquatic facility constructed on the school site would provide an attractive extension to this school. It would be a valuable asset to a community that does not have sufficient recreational activities for its young people. The proactive pastoral care program is heavily dependent on excursions and camps. The school's capacity to continue to provide these activities has been diminished because of the high cost of commercial transport. The school has a wish list. It urgently needs a 35 seater bus.

This wish list of maintenance improvements is extensive. However, given the general condition of the 23 year old school it is not excessive. On behalf of the school community and the principal I invite the Premier and the Minister for Education to inspect the school on a wet winter's day.

MR McGOWAN (Rockingham) [10.45 pm]: My first comment on the Budget is of a general nature. If one considers the historical record of the former Federal Government one will find that its first Budget after the 1993 election sowed the seeds of its demise. A number of people have acknowledged that that Budget resulted in a downward trend for that Government in the opinion polls which led to its not being re-elected. This state Budget is the start of a similar slide for this State Government. This Government has lost its reservoir of goodwill in a number of sectors within the community, particularly from people with children and elderly people who use public transport, by its stupid move to change the public transport system to constrain the use of concession cards. Having drawn the analogy between the former Prime Minister and the Treasurer - one I am sure the Treasurer will enjoy - I will make a few comments about this State's Budget.

As I am the opposition member with responsibility for local government, I will address it first. Local government in Western Australia has been hit by a double whammy. This year the Commonwealth Government's Budget adjusted local government grants to bring them into line with inflation, which is a normal process. However, in allocating its expenditure on local government funding the Federal Government did not take into account the population growth

component. That component would normally take into account, in addition to inflation, the fact that more people live in a particular area. That must be a consideration in the amount of money allocated to a particular area. However, the Commonwealth has reduced the grant to local government by \$62.1m over the next four years.

This year local government in this State will receive a decrease in commonwealth funding of \$900 000 compared with last year. I understand the State Government is facing similar cuts from the Federal Government and members acknowledge the injustice of that. This State will receive \$420m over the next 10 years in national competition payments because of the reforms recommended in the Hilmer report and agreed to by the States and the Commonwealth. This year the State will receive \$41m to compensate it for what it is required to do to comply with agreed competition reforms. This payment will not be passed on to local government. The Queensland Government has agreed to pay a proportion of its national competition payments to local government to reimburse it for the costs it incurred in subjecting itself to the competition reforms.

It is hypocritical for the State Government not to treat local government in the same way it would like to be treated by the Commonwealth. By not providing local government with a proportion of competition payments the State Government is implying that local government is the poor cousin and should be kicked about and treated poorly because it is not worthy of decent treatment.

I have a letter from the Minister for Local Government which explains the State's reasons for not paying local government competition policy payments and it sets out various reasons why the State is hard done by. I agree that the State is hard done by, but that does not mean local government is not also suffering the cuts while the State is getting the top-up.

What particularly galls those in local government is that the Minister suggests that people in local government should have a chat with the Under Treasurer about the matter. The Minister should take up this cause with the Premier, not the Under Treasurer. Paid public servants should not decide where payments go; the Government should decide that. The State Government is shirking its responsibilities by putting the matter into the hands of the Under Treasurer.

I also raised in the Estimates Committees the cities of Wanneroo and Stirling, which have respectively the first and second largest populations of Western Australian local government authorities. They both employ an enormous number of employees - Wanneroo has at least 1 000, if not 2 000 employees - and they provide important services to at least a quarter of the population of Western Australia.

There has been a lot of debate about the optimum size of local government authorities. In Western Australia some local authorities, such as Wanneroo, have almost 300 000 residents while others have only 400 or 500. The optimum population of local government areas is difficult to ascertain, particularly when one considers that the City of Brisbane, which has more than 800 000 people, has full time local councillors who do the tasks voluntary councillors do here.

When deciding what to do with Stirling and Wanneroo the Government should follow the process it set out - that is, commission reports from the Local Government Advisory Board - and not prejudge the outcome. The Minister has made a lot of comments about the size of Stirling and Wanneroo and has suggested that they should be split up. Those two councils should be allowed to go through the process of consultation without the State Government providing commentary, direction or uncertainty.

The Government has decided to not hold a referendum on the fate of either local government authority, but has suggested that an indicative poll may be carried out. Although the Local Government Act does not strictly provide for a referendum to be held on such matters, it is within the spirit of the Act that the Government hold a referendum. It is true that the old local government legislation contained the requirement for a referendum to be held, but the provisions of schedule 2 of the new Act, although complex, do not contain that requirement. However, the Government should try to do something to find out what are the views of the people. The splitting up of their local government authorities affects them and others across the State. For example, that same angst is being felt in Albany because the same issues are arising. Holding a referendum on such issues would be good policy for the Government and would give people their say.

Another matter raised in the Estimates Committee was the waste levy, which has now been announced. The Opposition accepts that there are major problems with waste management in Western Australia and the whole of Australia. The Opposition believes that the waste levy should be dedicated to only waste management and recycling.

I have two concerns about the Government's proposed waste levy. Firstly, the Government has stated that the waste levy will be imposed on only local government authorities in the metropolitan area, including the areas bounded by of Wanneroo, Rockingham, Swan, Mundaring, Kalamunda and Serpentine-Jarrahdale, because, as the Government correctly pointed out, some areas in regional Australia have no capacity to collect a waste levy or have no recycling or waste management strategies. However, Mandurah, Bunbury and Geraldton should all be subject to the same

requirements as areas such as Serpentine-Jarrahdale because it can be argued that Serpentine-Jarrahdale is just as regional as Geraldton. I consider areas such as Kalamunda and Serpentine-Jarrahdale to be country. The same distinction can be made between Rockingham and Mandurah. The waste levy should be imposed in other areas apart from the metropolitan area, areas that should rightfully be considered urbanised to the same extent as some areas of the city.

There is also no guarantee in all the literature put out by the Minister for the Environment that the current expenditure on recycling by the Office of Waste Management will not be reduced and directed elsewhere. The Government should guarantee that it will not reduce that expenditure, because the addition of any expenditure from local government into this area should be matched by the State Government with what it has at the present time. That is the only way this levy will be considered just. The literature released has no guarantees that local government will be assisted with the costs of collecting.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [11.00 pm]: The budget debate over the past few weeks in Parliament has been instructive. The original claim made by the Opposition when the Budget came down about the so-called social dividend that would come to the people of Western Australia on the re-election of the coalition has been proved to be correct; that is, with population growth and expansion in Western Australia, there will be difficulties in those two major areas. The Opposition has shown through the course of questions and discussion in the Estimates Committee and in this debate that deep problems remain in the health system. As the financial year comes to an end, many hospitals throughout the State do not have the resources available to pay all their bills. This is the cause of some concern. This will be the third year in a row that public hospitals are in this position. There is no doubt that if the Government continues to try to patch up through short term political operations, this major item of government expenditure - our public hospital system - will become progressively worse each year. We have shown during the course of the debate that in the other major area of expenditure, education, the claim we made before the election that the Government intended to implement a major rationalisation of the education system has been proved correct. I sat in this Parliament listening to the Minister for Education evade questions, but the truth is now out. There is no question that part of the Government's budget strategy is to rationalise Education Department assets through the amalgamation and closure of schools. From the Opposition's point of view the budget debate has focused the attention of the public on those two major items of expenditure - health and education - and confirmed the view of the Opposition that no social dividend has been provided by the Government since the election.

The second issue the Opposition raised in the budget debate concerned the broken promises of the Government. The major broken promise was the gold royalty. We have not heard a lot about the gold royalty in recent days. I place on notice to the Treasurer that the time is coming close when he must indicate to the people of Western Australia, particularly to gold producers in Western Australia, how the royalty will be imposed. At a public meeting in Kalgoorlie that I attended the Minister for Mines, Hon Norman Moore, indicated that a profit-based system was being considered alongside the output-based system and that no decision had been made in government. I indicate to the Treasurer that the time has come for clear statements to be made about how the royalty will be imposed and whether a profit element will be introduced in that royalty. Unanswered questions follow from the budget debate.

The third main area on which the Opposition focused, as well as the social dividend and the broken promises, was the regressive nature of this state Budget. It is our view that this state Budget, along with the Howard federal Budget, has focused its attack on low income families as opposed to those with a greater ability to pay. This has driven many low income people in Western Australia, particularly pensioners, over the poverty line. There is little doubt that the direction both the Federal and State Governments have set in their tax strategy is causing enormous hardship to low income Australians.

The Opposition was particularly keen to focus on public transport fares, which is a metropolitan issue. We have presented petitions to the Parliament indicating the huge degree of opposition in the community to increases in public transport fares and changes to the concessional system that, without question, will impact severely on pensioners, the elderly and other social security recipients. The pressure went on from the Opposition and from pensioner groups and others in the community. All we got in response from the Government were comments such as it was important for pensioners to readjust their income so they could meet the higher increases. They were the words of wisdom of the Minister for Finance, Hon Max Evans.

We also had the insulting comments of the Minister for Local Government that these changes were necessary because low income Western Australians were "rorting the system". He could produce no evidence of that. The only response the Government made to the outcry against the public transport increases was to announce that it would restore the concessions for bus and train trips before 7.00 am. This totally impractical proposal means that students wishing to avoid the fare increases will need to wait at bus stops or train stations while it is still dark and arrive at school well before the teachers. Likewise, pensioners attending medical appointments could be forced to wait for hours if they cannot afford to pay the full fares.

There is no doubt the failure of the Government to give a coherent explanation of its performance on the social dividend, its continuing failure to justify the gold royalty and to give details of the gold royalty, despite its promises before the election, and its deliberate policy of shifting the burden of taxation onto low income Western Australians, has created a large impression on the people of Western Australia. Their attitude towards the Government of Western Australia has significantly changed since the election.

The final issue the Opposition raised consistently in our discussions of the Budget was that of jobs. The main issue concerning Australians are the jobs they have, the jobs they do not have, and, on top of that, the security of the jobs they have. If there is one issue we must address in this Parliament, it is job security. The insecurity that exists in our labour market today is feeding frustration and anger in the community and is part of the reason extremists in the community have managed to gain a certain level of support, as indicated by the opinion polls. This Government has no philosophy for dealing with the jobs crisis in our State. Let me use one simple example: Recently I spoke to a prominent used car dealer whom I have known for some time. He works in my electorate. He is not a supporter of the Australian Labor Party, but has been a good advocate for his own industry. For that reason I have had a bit to do with him. I found it interesting that at a recent function he said that as a good conservative he had supported all the changes that had been made by the Government in industrial relations and the public sector because he thought they were important for our economy. However, he says he is changing his mind on those matters because he is not selling many motor cars any more because many people are in insecure jobs and on workplace agreements with only short term contracts and banks will not lend them money to purchase cars or houses - and they do not want to borrow money because they are uncertain about their future.

Mr Thomas interjected.

Dr GALLOP: Perhaps that is a point of view the Deputy Speaker has also. The Government's attack on working people is undermining consumption in our community, which is affecting the retail sector. We are only too happy to talk to small business about these matters. They are starting to listen to the Labor Party on these issues as they understand our approach to industrial relations and to the division of income in our community. Our policy will mean that people in the community will have wages to buy cars, refrigerators and houses to keep the economic wheels turning. Unquestionably, small businesses are starting to question the support they have given the Liberal Party over the years. We are confident that ALP policies will put security back into the workplace by giving people a sense of security in their jobs; they will allow banks to start to lend money and people will feel confident about spending money again. That is the way forward in this State and nation, but the Government has a complete blind spot on those issues.

A similar blind spot exists in relation to the public sector, in which we have seen 10 000 jobs cut since the 1993 election. The Government tells us it has allocated money in the Budget for agencies' restructures, but despite questions in the Parliament we have yet to receive details on which agencies are to be restructured and how many people will be impacted upon by those changes. We know that money is allocated for redundancy payments, and the time has come for the Premier to indicate to the Parliament which agencies are on his hit list for change, and the implication of those changes for those who work in the public sector in Western Australia. The undermining of public sector jobs is feeding the uncertainty in our community.

Public sector workers throughout our State do not know whether they will have their jobs tomorrow, and this insecurity impacts on regional economies and towns. Even if people have their jobs now, they are uncertain about whether they will have them tomorrow and this impacts upon their confidence. The question of consumer confidence is totally ignored by the Government in the development of its budget strategy.

We will take up the issue over the next 12 months in relation to this Budget and argue a simple proposition: The Labor Party's philosophy is for fairness in the distribution of taxation in our community; fairness in the workplace and the division of power between employers and employees; and fairness in ensuring a proper public sector delivers a social wage alongside the wage people earn in their work. This philosophy is the way forward for the State of Western Australia to achieve a balanced economy and to enable small business to prosper. The Government's Budget will see a major change in the attitude of the people of Western Australia towards the coalition. They see clearly its priorities and that their future under this Government is one of uncertainty and insecurity. People will begin to turn to the Australian Labor Party, which traditionally answers those questions on the basis of the needs of all Western Australians, not just a few of them.

MS McHALE (Thornlie) [11.14 pm]: During my contribution to the second reading debate I provided an analysis of the Budget, which contains nothing positive for my electorate; in fact, it contains only the pain of increased levies and cuts in various services. The Estimates Committee process did nothing to change my opinion in that regard. A small insight was provided into the Thornlie electorate which did not augur well for the future: The bad news came in answer to questions asked in the Estimates Committee to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport regarding Ranford Road. Members who have travelled south down Ranford Road towards South Street will be aware

that urgent work is needed as four lanes run into two lanes at the Ranford Road bridge, and significant congestion is experienced.

The Government made a commitment to increase the size of the Ranford Road bridge, but work has been delayed because of necessary rail work. The commitment was for the work to be conducted early this financial year - December by the earliest - but this appears to be an optimistic time frame. It is a most disappointing piece of information for the Thornlie and Southern River electorates.

In my contribution to the second reading debate I also questioned what the Budget would bring to the Arts portfolio and community. The Opposition has not yet indicated in strong terms its position on the proposal to develop the ministry of culture and the arts, but it has grave concerns about this proposal. It is a quite extraordinary situation. Notwithstanding the commitment that legislation will come before Parliament in the spring session to give effect to the ministry, the Minister for the Arts has in a de facto sense already established the ministry by appointing an acting CEO and advertising a new position.

On the very day of the Arts portfolio session of the Estimates Committee, the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts dropped into the conversation, "For the member's information, the ministry was formed today, Tuesday, 20 May, and Dr Cox is acting director general from today." The Government said that the ministry was to be set up on 1 July, and some assumptions were made in the community that 1 July may be the establishment date, notwithstanding that the legislation has not passed through this place. However, we heard in the committee that the Minister established the ministry on 20 May in a most extraordinarily arrogant and deceitful move. We will explore this matter in some detail over the coming weeks.

A ministry of culture and the arts is not needed. In fact it will be contrary to the needs of the arts community in general to establish this mega ministry to the detriment of the individual elements of the arts community. No justification has been provided for that move. If the Minister justifies the move through talk about corporate services as the area to rationalise the ministry - this argument was heard in the Estimates Committee - that can be achieved by other means.

When the idea of a ministry was canvassed last year, it was rejected by the council of CEOs of the arts-related departments. Following developments in the Estimates Committee, over the past few weeks the arts community has looked further at the implications of a ministry of culture and the arts, and people are certainly not happy about this development. The Labor Party has great concerns about that proposal and members opposite should not for one minute think that the legislation will pass through this House or the upper House without argument. In our view it demonstrates a disregard for the community generally and for the arts community specifically.

I comment on another issue canvassed in the Estimates Committee on a very good recommendation from the Auditor General in his review of the Museum, Zoo and Art Gallery relating to indemnity and insurance for large scale exhibitions. I indicated to the Estimates Committee that the proposal to establish an indemnity scheme had come from that review, and it was considered a critical element in shoring up the strength of the potential to attract exhibitions to this State. As members know, the cost of exhibitions, particularly the insurance cost, is prohibitive. Therefore, it is disappointing that the Minister is not prepared at this stage to endorse that recommendation, notwithstanding the length of time that has elapsed between the report and today. We were told the recommendation is currently being considered, which suggests he has not yet ruled it out. However, given the lapse of time, I expected a stronger position to have been taken, and that would have enhanced the arts community.

The other issue I canvassed in the second reading debate was funding for the prevention of youth suicide. I have raised this subject on a number of occasions because I feel very strongly that to some extent this issue is still underground and it is not receiving the community acknowledgment it deserves. I respect the Minister for Youth for setting up the youth advisory council and I have previously acknowledged that in this House. This issue should be pursued more rigorously. It was interesting to read the article covering several pages in *The Weekend Australian* about the Victorian review of youth suicide, and the tragic story of a young man with no immediate symptoms of distress and depression who took the ultimate opting out strategy. I ask members to imagine a flying fox not far from here, a young man getting a piece of rope, tying it to the flying fox, putting his neck through it and pushing himself off. Other people are left to find his body. Again it involves a youth of 16 or 17 years of age. That is the sort of thing happening. We do not hear about these cases, and I understand the Press has a code of not reporting suicide. That is a debatable point, but it means the community is not made aware of the extent of suicide in Western Australia.

I asked a question in the Estimates Committee about the focus on gay and lesbian young people, and I have argued in the second reading debate about the link between homophobia, the alienation of our gay and lesbian community, and the propensity to suicide or self-harm. The rates among that community are much higher, notwithstanding the comments by the Australian Medical Association a couple of days ago which did not seem to acknowledge that connection. We do not have the answers, and it is important to the health of our community that we do something

about this social issue. Perhaps it is because I am the mother of a 12 year old that I am super conscious of the adolescent phase and the pressures on our children. I urge everyone to respect our youth in many forms, and to consider how we assist them with their self-worth, and the situations into which we are putting them with unemployment, education, and the social policies of the Government. We must consider the impact of those social policies on the vulnerability of our youth. We must suspend our own prejudices and beliefs, and look at where our young people are coming from. I do not think we are necessarily touching the issue. I do not pre-empt the youth advisory council, because I hope it will do some good, but the signs are that youth suicide is reaching a level of some concern. Parents do not know how to deal with it, and often the community is not made aware of the full extent of the problem.

In summary, my electorate does not win from the Budget. There was nothing in it for my electorate. I place on the record the Opposition's concerns about the move to develop a ministry for culture and the arts. Notwithstanding the legislation has not been before the Parliament, it is happening rather insidiously and the Opposition will have strong words to say about that. In terms of respecting the health of our community and our youth, I urge the Government to look hard at its social policies and their impact on the vulnerability and alienation of youth.

MRS ROBERTS (Midland) [11.27 pm]: It is an expectation in this place that supplementary information from the Estimates Committee will be provided to this House within one week of that committee. Given that the Police Department hearings were held on Wednesday, 21 May, that supplementary information should have been in this House on 28 May. In fact, it was given to me only today, the day on which we are dealing with the Estimates Committees in this House. I understand the Police and Education portfolios were two of the last to provide supplementary information. The only departments that provided their information later were the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet and the State Revenue Department. That is clearly not acceptable. Many others did not provide the information on time, and when these matters are not taken seriously and supplementary information is not provided in a timely fashion, this House is treated with contempt.

Also, I am not satisfied with some of the supplementary information provided under division 77 for the Police Service. I asked whether the \$18m expenditure for services and contracts included services and contracts with FBIS Pty Ltd. I requested further information on how much money had been paid to FBIS. The answer provided information to date for 1996-97. I want to know how much has been paid to FBIS in total, including 1995-96 and prior to that. It will not be necessary to go back in time very far because FBIS was not engaged by the Police Service before the early 1990s. I also asked for a breakdown of work contracted to FBIS and the item cost. I expected that information to be provided for 1995-96 and before that, assuming payments were made before that, rather than just the details for 1996-97.

A matter which is causing me increasing concern, particularly in my electorate of Midland, is that the police are no longer patrolling our train stations, and that our travelling public is being let down by Westrail's appointed security guards and the Police Service. Problems occur frequently at Midland Station. An elderly gentleman was bashed there only last week. I have been advised not to give details of that case because it will go before the courts and the matter is therefore sub judice. However, the people who manage the kiosk at Midland Station tell me that there are frequent problems. One of the worst times is early on Friday mornings. The first train from Midland Station on Friday mornings leaves at 5.30. That is not a time when one would expect problems.

Mr Omodei: Do you go for your morning run then?

Mrs ROBERTS: Perhaps I should go for a morning run then!

The kiosk operators advise me that when they arrive at about that time, up to 40 or 50 people are waiting for the station to be unlocked. It is suggested that many of those people have come from a nearby nightclub, and that they are drunk or acting in an aggressive or intimidating fashion for a variety of reasons and board that train. The security guards do not arrive until 5.15 am. I am told that people feel intimidated and threatened, and that some assaults have taken place, and that many people no longer feel safe catching that train.

I am advised also that the Westrail guards or security staff do not board the trains into the city but apparently travel from station to station by car. It would make sense for the Westrail security guards to travel on the trains, because if they do not feel confident and secure to catch a train, how can we expect the public to feel secure?

The kiosk operator also reported to me that a woman whom he had to lock into the kiosk with him because of her fears for her safety has now said that she will purchase a small car because she is sick and tired of taking her life into her hands. She needs to be at work at a certain time and she no longer feels safe using public transport.

It is interesting that some figures now show a decline in the use of public transport. That concerns me greatly, because what started to be implemented with the Joondalup line was a great railway system which our travelling public would feel confident to use at any time that it was operating. I am told that the *Echo*, a Midland newspaper,

was advised today that this problem was particular to Midland. How convenient, because only a couple of years ago I was told that Glendalough Station was the worst railway station for violence and problems. I have also read of various incidents at Armadale Station and other locations. I expect this problem is much more widespread than just Midland.

I have spoken in this Parliament on many occasions about safety and security on our trains. I wonder whether people will continue to use our trains if they are assaulted regularly and feel intimidated and threatened in this way, even in the early hours of the morning. The police are not doing their job if people cannot safely catch a train to work. Westrail is not providing appropriate security for people who travel by train. We are not doing the right thing by our society and our train service if people do not feel safe and secure to catch our trains.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED FUND) BILL (No 2)

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Court (Treasurer), and transmitted to the Council.

House adjourned at 11.36 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN - PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES

26. Dr CONSTABLE to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

What is the name of each committee, board, tribunal and other similar bodies within the Premier's portfolios?

Mr COURT replied:

Anzac Day Trust
Centenary of Federation Celebrations State Committee
Gold Corporation - Board of Directors
Government House Foundation Council
Government Property Advisory Committee
Information Policy Council
Joint House Committee
Parliamentary Reserve Board
Parliamentary Superannuation Board
Salaries and Allowances Tribunal
The Western Australian Treasury Corporation
Western Australian Government Holdings Ltd

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN - PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES

43. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

What is the name of each committee, board, tribunal and all other similar bodies within the Minister's portfolio?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

(1) The following statutory boards and committees operate under the Transport portfolio:

- (a) Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission.
- (b) Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust
- (c) Traffic Board of Western Australia
- (d) Railway Appeal Board
- (e) Taxi Industry Board.
- (f) The Eastern Goldfields Transport Board.
- (g) Railways Classification Board
- (h) The Board of Commissioners, Fremantle Port Authority
- (i) The Board of the Albany Port Authority
- (j) The Board of the Bunbury Port Authority
- (k) The Board of the Dampier Port Authority
- (l) The Board of the Esperance Port Authority
- (m) The Board of the Geraldton Port Authority
- (n) The Board of the Port Hedland Port Authority

GOVERNMENT PROPERTY - SALE

50. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

(1) In relation to all real estate (land and buildings) sold within the Minister's portfolios in the 1995-96 and 1996-97 financial years -

- (a) where was the real estate situated (giving the actual address of the land and building);
- (b) for what amount was the real estate sold;
- (c) when, if ever, was the most recent valuation of the real estate conducted; and
- (d) what was the value of the real estate according to the valuation?

(2) What real estate within the Minister's portfolio is currently for sale or in the process of being sold?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Department of Resources Development

(1)-(2) None.

Office of Energy

(1)-(2) None.

AlintaGas

- (1) (a) One property, which was located at Lot 1, Hines Road, O'Connor.
- (b) The O'Connor property was sold 30 October 1995 for \$770,000.
- (c)-(d) Valuations were received from:
- Valuer General's Office (December 1994) - \$655,000
Colliers Jardine (March 1995) \$850,000 to \$1,000,000.
- (2) AlintaGas real estate currently for sale or in the process of being sold is:
- One domestic property previously used for housing employees in Geraldton; and
A former depot site at 1 Stamford Way, Medina.

Western Power

Please refer to tabled paper No 452. All information available has been included. In respect to many of the properties the valuation information is archived in files in a storage facility at a site remote from Western Power's head office. It will take a week to retrieve this information. It is Western Power policy that all properties are valued prior to being placed on the market. All best endeavours are made to get a purchase price as near to valuation as possible. Properties that are currently for sale or in the process of being sold are:

- 2 Holman Street, Derby
- Units A, B and C, Lot 194 Collins Street, Jerramungup
- Lot 258 Doust Street, Jurien
- 9 Rodgers Way, Kalgoorlie
- 11 Pearman Street, Koorda
- Units A and B, Lot 1813 Lotus Court Kununurra
- Lot 120 Oliver Street Meekatharra
- Lot 70 Attwood Street, Mount Magnet
- Lots 2, 4, 6, 8 and 12 Bourke Street, North Perth

Education Department of Western Australia

- (1) (a-c)

Name of Site	Sale Price	Date of Valuation
25 Glen St, W Leederville	\$115,564	*
27 McCleery St, Beaconsfield	\$235,512	*
Reserve 28571 Poincare St, Balcatta (Pt)	\$139,000	*
Cleveland St, Dianella	\$2,350,000	Oct '95
Lot 164 Lisa Rd, Australind	\$225,000	*
Dorking Place, Morley (Pt)	\$4,500	Jul '95
Odin Rd, Innaloo	\$2,570,000	Feb '95
Acton Ave, Kewdale	\$1,120,000	*
Abernethy Rd, Cloverdale (Pt)	\$240,000	Feb '96
Unit 3/2 Chalmers St, East Fremantle	\$95,500	Jan '97
Loc. 4225 North Lake Rd, Winterfold (Pt)	\$1,440,000	Jun '95
Kent St, Busselton (Pt)	\$225,000	Mar '95
Lot 940 Beveridge St, Denmark	\$123,000	Aug '95
10 Beveridge St, Denmark	\$83,000	Aug '95
Woodrow Ave, Yokine (Pt)	\$520,000	Aug '96
*Information not available		

- (d) Valuations are provided by the Valuer General's Office on a basis of confidentiality. They cannot, therefore, be made public.
- (2) Warwick Primary School, and
Eden Hill Primary School (Pt).

Department of Education Services

Nil.

Secondary Education Authority

Nil.

Department of the Curriculum Council

Nil.

GOVERNMENT PROPERTY - SALE

57. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Police; Emergency Services:

- (1) In relation to all real estate (land and buildings) sold within the Minister's portfolios in the 1995-96 and 1996-97 financial years -
- (a) where was the real estate situated (giving the actual address of the land and building);
 - (b) for what amount was the real estate sold;
 - (c) when, if ever, was the most recent valuation of the real estate conducted; and
 - (d) what was the value of the real estate according to the valuation?
- (2) What real estate within the Minister's portfolios is currently for sale or in the process of being sold?

Mr DAY replied:

State Emergency Service

(1)-(2) Nil.

Police Service

(1)-(2) Nil.

Bush Fires Board

(1)-(2) Nil.

Fire and Rescue Service

(1) (a) Lot 116 Winton Road, Joondalup.

(b) \$94,612.00

The land was bought at a reduced cost to the FRS, under the agreement that if it was sold it would be returned at that cost plus interest and service costs.

(c) 1 July 1995.

(d) \$310,000.00.

Office/Factory
Lot 15 Corner Peel Road
& Adams Street
O'Connor

Sold at auction on 13 March
1997 for \$320,000, settlement
14 May 1997. Valuation prior
to auction \$287,000

House
Lot 314 Cnr Great Eastern
Highway and Ewart Street
Midland

Sold at auction on 12 March
1997 for \$355,000, settlement due
on 2 June 1997. Valuation prior
to auction \$275,000.

Training Academy
Lot 5 Great Eastern Highway
& part Lot 216 Kimberley Street
Belmont

Sold at auction on 30 April 1997
for \$2,105,000, settlement 30
May 1997. Valuation prior to
to auction \$2,000,000.

(2) Vacant Land
Lot 12 (No 1963) Albany
Highway, Maddington

Pending Council permission
for land to be rezoned and
subdivided

Lots 391 & 393 Ex Volunteer
Station
Cnr Baralda Court & Hebron
Street, Rockingham

City of Rockingham interested
in purchasing these lots for
youth activities. Meeting of a
full Council to be held 25 February 1997 when a decision will be
made.

Vacant Land
Reserve 40115 Cnr Dixon and
Arkwright Road
Rockingham

Pending Council permission
for land to be subdivided and
permission to extend
existing sewerage line.

House
Lot 13 Meares Avenue
Kwinana

Currently in evaluation phase of
Strategic Asset Management Disposal

Land
Lot 530 Cnr Paxton Way &
Bearsdey Street
Port Kennedy

Currently in evaluation phase of
Asset Management Disposal Program.

Vacant Land
Lot 44 Albany Highway
Maddington

Currently in evaluation phase of
Strategic Asset Management Disposal
Program.

GOVERNMENT PROPERTY - SALE

65. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

(1) In relation to all real estate (land and buildings) sold within the Minister's portfolio in the 1995-96 and 1996-97 financial years -

- (a) where was the real estate situated (giving the actual address of the land and building);
- (b) for what amount was the real estate sold;
- (c) when, if ever, was the most recent valuation of the real estate conducted; and
- (d) what was the value of the real estate according to the valuation?

(2) What real estate within the Minister's portfolio is currently for sale or in the process of being sold?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

Department of Transport

- (1)
- (a) Lot 197 Meares Drive, Point Samson
 - (b) \$316 000 on 10 January 1996
 - (c) 15 March 1995
 - (d) \$230 000

- (2)
- | Address | Location |
|---|----------------|
| Lot 1770 Corner Harbour and Gully Roads | Wyndham |
| Lot 1980 Forrest Street (Part Only) | East Fremantle |
| Licensing Centre, Bagot Road | Subiaco |
| 136-138 Stirling Highway | Nedlands |
| Lot 86/87 Stirling Highway | Nedlands |
| 1 Doonan Road | Nedlands |

Main Roads Western Australia

- (1)-(2) Provision of this information would require considerable research which would divert staff away from their normal duties and I am not prepared to allocate the State's resources to provide a response. If the member has a specific inquiry about a particular asset which has been sold, or is in the process of being sold, I will endeavour to provide a reply.

Westrail

- (1)-(2) Provision of this information would require considerable research which would divert staff away from their normal duties and I am not prepared to allocate the State's resources to provide a response. If the member has a specific enquiry about a particular asset which has been sold, or is in the process of being sold, I will endeavour to provide a reply.

Port Hedland Port Authority

- (1)
- (a) 1995/96
 - (i) 3 Kangaroo Place, South Hedland.
 - (ii) 8 Wangara Crescent, South Hedland.
 - (iii) 1 Pilkington Street, Port Hedland.

1996/97

(iv) 12 Gratwick Street, Port Hedland.

(b) 1995/96

(i) \$105 000.

(ii) \$100 000.

(iii) \$145 000.

1996/97

(iv) \$185 000.

(c) 1995/96

(i)-(iii)
Nil.

1996/97

(iv) 30 June 1996.

(d) 1995/96

(i)-(iii)
Nil.

1996/97

(iv) \$130 000.

(2) Nil.

GOVERNMENT PROPERTY - SALE

68. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

(1) In relation to all real estate (land and buildings) sold within the Minister's portfolio in the 1995-96 and 1996-97 financial years -

(a) where was the real estate situated (giving the actual address of the land and building);

(b) for what amount was the real estate sold;

(c) when, if ever, was the most recent valuation of the real estate conducted; and

(d) what was the value of the real estate according to the valuation?

(2) What real estate within the Minister's portfolio is currently for sale or in the process of being sold?

Mr BARNETT replied:

This question has already been asked. Please refer to parliamentary question 50.

GOVERNMENT VEHICLES - REGISTRATION 7QZ 724

Allocation

97. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

(1) Which Government agency is responsible for the use of Government vehicle registration number 7QZ 724?

(2) Is it assigned to a particular officer or is it part of a pool?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

(1) Ministry for Planning.

(2) Responsibility for assigning vehicles to officers rests with individual departments. This question should therefore be directed to the Ministry for Planning.

CIVIL RIGHTS - ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW

Attorney General

106. Ms WARNOCK to the Premier:

- (1) Does the Premier support the recent statement by the Attorney General that anti-discrimination law is a fundamental interference with civil rights?
- (2) If no to (1) above, will the Premier move to reprimand the Attorney General?
- (3) If yes to (1) above, will the Premier take action to repeal all anti-discrimination laws from Western Australian statutes, including those based on sex, race, age and disability?
- (4) If no to (3) above, why not?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(4) The comments made by the Attorney General point to a self-evident fact of law. All anti-discrimination laws operate to interfere with conduct that otherwise would be regarded as fundamental civil rights by prohibiting certain conduct and statements where they amount to discrimination against a person or a class of persons. It is, however, well accepted that discrimination on a number of grounds is not acceptable in our society and that the restrictions on conduct and statements in these areas is warranted even though it interferes with civil rights.

NORTHBRIDGE TUNNEL - GROUND WATER CONTAMINATION

168. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is ground water being drained to facilitate the construction of the Northbridge tunnel?
- (2) Have any tests been carried out to determine if the ground water is contaminated?
- (3) What tests have been carried out?
- (4) What do the tests reveal?
- (5) Is the ground water being pumped or drained into the Swan River?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) Only as required during the construction period.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Water quality monitoring consisting of the following three components has been carried out -
 - * Preliminary water quality assessments from existing bores, wells or open excavations;
 - * Baseline water quality from drawdown monitoring piezometers; and
 - * Operational water quality assessments.
 Water quality acceptance criteria are in accordance with advice from the Swan River Trust.
- (4) Tests have revealed that contaminated water is present in a localised area. This water is being treated.
- (5) Contaminated ground water is pumped into holding cells and cleaned. Clean ground water is drained into basins which serve the Swan River.

ROADS - ROAD SAFETY

Audits

214. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What proportion of proposed new roads and road upgrades in Perth are subject to a professional road safety audit to check for hazardous design flaws which may affect some classes of road users?
- (2) Are the results of such audits available to the public?

- (3) What are the sanctions against road authorities which fail to comply with recommendations of an official road safety audit?
- (4) What recourse does the community have against road safety audit teams which have failed to carry out the audit in an unbiased and professional way?
- (5) How are firms which undertake road safety audits monitored to ensure a consistent and honest approach is maintained in this vital task?
- (6) What proportion of the police traffic branch on-road contacts with road users (cautions and infringements) are with cyclists?
- (7) What proportion of cyclists riding on the road at night are breaking the law that requires lights?
- (8) When was the last survey of the proportion of unlit cyclists conducted, and when is it planned to conduct another?
- (9) What proportion of police traffic enforcement on-road contacts with cyclists are devoted to enforcing the "riding on the roads at night without lights" regulation and what proportion to enforcing the compulsory bicycle helmet legislation?
- (10) Has there been a recent review of the effectiveness, if any, of the compulsory helmet legislation in reducing the proportion of cyclists admitted to Western Australian hospitals with head injuries, in comparison to injuries not preventable by helmet wearing?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1) Main Roads is implementing road safety audits on 20 new projects per year and on 20 per cent of its existing road network per year.
- (2) Road Safety Audit reports on Main Roads projects are available to the public on application. Reports on Local Government projects could be requested through the relevant Council.
- (3) There are no formal sanctions. However, Road Safety Audits are commissioned to provide a review of the proposed project from a road safety perspective. The audit team provides a report of potential road safety problems and issues for the consideration of the responsible organisation. The responsible organisation then takes the issues raised into consideration and determines the action needed, if any.
- (4) Audit teams have an agreed standard approach and are performing work for a client which has responsibility for the project. If recourse or some other action were contemplated this would be a matter for an individual or group to act upon.
- (5) Main Roads has engaged an independent consultant to review the quality of audit reports and auditor performance. Western Australia is also participating in development of a National accreditation scheme.
- (6)-(9) These questions should be redirected to the Minister for Police.
- (10) All aspects of road safety are currently under review including the effectiveness of compulsory helmet legislation in Western Australia.

BICYCLE PATHS - DUAL USE

Construction

217. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many kilometres of dual-use bicycle path are there now in the Perth Metropolitan area?
- (2) How many kilometres of bike lanes (or sealed shoulder lanes suitable for cyclists) are there now in the Perth metropolitan area?
- (3) How many kilometres of dual-use paths and lanes for cyclists have been constructed by State and local authorities since January 1993?
- (4) What proportion of the existing dual-use paths are shown in the current Department of Land Administration StreetSmart street directory?

- (5) How can cyclists determine if they are legally entitled to ride on a path, that is, whether it is dual-use or not?
- (6) How can cyclists, injured in a crash with a motor vehicle crossing a path, prove to the courts that the path was, or was not, a formal dual-use path?
- (7) What proportion and how many kilometres of the 1993 coalition election promise to construct a network of cycleways has been completed so far?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(3) There is no accurate measure of the number and length of Dual Use Paths in Perth at this stage as the responsibility for implementation and gazettal of Dual Use Paths lies with varying agencies (Local Government and Main Roads WA). This lack of co-ordination has been identified as a deficiency and BikeWest is working with relevant agencies to compile a picture of the total provision of Dual Use Paths within the State. In particular, BikeWest is working closely with the Department of Land Administration to ensure that appropriate Dual Use Paths are correctly shown on the StreetSmart directory and are updated as appropriate each year. This project will also provide a database of existing Dual Use Paths' lengths and locations. In addition, BikeWest has written to all Local Government Authorities in the State seeking information on their gazetted Dual Use Paths for inclusion in the Dual Use Paths register.
- (4) The Department of Transport is currently working with the Department of Land Administration to comprehensively update dual use path information in the StreetSmart directory. It is unclear at this stage how many dual use paths are not shown in the directory as local authorities are largely responsible for maintaining the register of path construction. BikeWest is working with all local authorities to update information.
- (5) Cyclists can determine their entitlement to ride on a path by observing the signage and on-path markings. Dual use paths are required to be signed in accordance with the BikeWest Guidelines for the Design of Bicycle Facilities. The responsibility for the construction and maintenance essentially lies with local authorities. Along roads which are the responsibility of the Main Roads WA Department, the signage of dual use path facilities are largely that Department's responsibility.
- (6) A dual use path can normally be identified by the appropriate signs at the start and end of the path. A person injured on a path should confirm with the associated local authority the status of that path.
- (7) In 1993 the Coalition promised to require the Main Roads Department and BikeWest to design a network of cycleways for the Metropolitan Area and to develop a construction schedule that will see the project completed by the end of our second term in office.

On the 24 October 1996 the Premier committed the government to spend \$25 million to complete stage one of the Perth Bicycle Network. This funding will commence in the next financial year.

FUEL AND ENERGY - TRANSPORT

Sustainable Energy Policy

218. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Has the Western Australian Government made a submission to the Federal Government Task Force preparing a White Paper on Sustainable Energy Policy for Australia?
- (2) If so, will the submission be made available to the Parliament and to interested members of the public?
- (3) How many of the fuel conservation measures proposed in 1979 in the previous Court Government's "Transport Energy Policy, Western Australia" have been implemented?
- (4) Will the Government consider holding another "Energy Use in Transport" inquiry along the lines of the 1979 State Energy Commission of Western Australia inquiry?
- (5) How probable are the predicted scenarios of dwindling world oil production and repeated oil shocks early in the next decade?
- (6) What steps is the Western Australian Government taking to safeguard our mining and agricultural industries in the event of a short, or long-term interruption to normal transport oil supplies?

- (7) Will the Government release details of the contingency plans it has made to protect our economy if or when another oil crisis eventuates?
- (8) Will the Government consider following the recommendations of the 1979 Transport Energy Policy and transfer the fixed car ownership charges to a revenue-neutral car-usage charge, by abolishing the licence and third-party insurance charges, and recouping the revenue via an increase in the fuel franchise levy?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3)-(4) These questions should be directed to the Minister for Transport.
- (5) Unable to respond as the Government has not set itself up to be an authority in this area and is unable to predict the future.
- (6) This question should be directed to the Minister for Transport or the Minister for Emergency Services.
- (7) No.
- (8) This question should be directed to the Treasurer.

GOVERNMENT - LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Competition Policy Review - Pearling Industry

232. Dr EDWARDS to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Premier a schedule for consideration of those items of legislation that relate to the competition policy review and is that schedule maintained in the office of the Premier?
- (2) Has the pearling industry legislation been allocated a review date?
- (3) If so, when is it to be reviewed?
- (4) If not -
 - (a) will it be allocated a date and when; and
 - (b) why has no allocation of a review yet been made?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes, it was published in June 1996. The schedule is maintained by Treasury on an ongoing basis.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) 1999-2000 - delayed from the earlier date of 1996.
- (4) Not applicable.

MINISTERIAL OFFICES - MINISTER FOR MINES

Refurbishment

265. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Have any refurbishments or renovations been undertaken to the Minister's office since December 1993?
- (2) If so, what was the nature of the change/s?
- (3) What was the cost of the work undertaken?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Mines has provided the following response -

- (1) Yes, in the current Minister for Mines' office on level 10 of London House.
- (2) The offices were remodelled and refurbished.
- (3) There was no direct capital cost to government for the work undertaken as this was incorporated into the new lease agreement.

MINISTERIAL OFFICES - MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

Refurbishment

267. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Have any refurbishments or renovations been undertaken to the Minister's office since December 1993?
- (2) If so, what was the nature of the change/s?
- (3) What was the cost of the work undertaken?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)-(3)

The relocation and redesign of the Reception Area	\$56 152
The purchase of six conference chairs and a conference table	\$ 3 856
The purchase of a storage cabinet	\$ 2 781

In addition a leather lounge was purchased for around \$5 800.

MINISTERIAL OFFICES - MINISTER FOR TOURISM

Refurbishment

269. Mr RIPPER to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Have any refurbishments or renovations been undertaken to the Minister's office since December 1993?
- (2) If so, what was the nature of the change/s?
- (3) What was the cost of the work undertaken?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response -

- (1)-(3) See answer to question 265.

MINISTERIAL OFFICES - MINISTER FOR SPORT AND RECREATION

Refurbishment

271. Mr RIPPER to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Have any refurbishments or renovations been undertaken to the Minister's office since December 1993?
- (2) If so, what was the nature of the change/s?
- (3) What was the cost of the work undertaken?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

The Minister for Sport and Recreation has provided the following response -

- (1)-(3) See answer to question 265.

MINISTERIAL OFFICES - PREMIER

Staff

272. Mr RIPPER to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

- (1) What are the names of each staff person working in the Premier's office as at 1 December, 1996?
- (2) What are the names of each staff person working in the Premier's office as at 11 March 1997?
- (3) What are the names and levels of each staff member?
- (4) Which staff members are -

- (a) full time public servants;
 - (b) part time employees;
 - (c) term of government employees;
 - (d) other; and
 - (e) if other, what type of employment?
- (5) How many of these have a government motor vehicle allocated for their use?
- (6) How many of these have a mobile phone allocated for their use?
- (7) Which of these staff members have a government credit card allocated for their use?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) As at December 1996, the following staff were employed:

Mr I Fletcher
 Mr J Gilleece
 Mr C Cahill
 Mrs W Ireland
 Miss J Longton
 Mr R Reid
 Mrs E Rocchi
 Ms J Carroll
 Mrs R Young
 Ms L Coogan
 Mrs B Leber
 Ms A Courtman
 Ms N Gibson
 Ms M Wild
 Ms C Daff
 Ms R Myers
 Ms K Doddemead
 Ms M Rundle
 Mr F Williams
 + 1 consultant, Mr R Elliott

- (2)-(7) As at 11 March 1997, the following staff were employed:

Mr I Fletcher	Special 6	fixed term contract
Mr J Gilleece	Class 2	monthly contract
Mr C Cahill	Level 8	term of government contract
Mrs W Ireland	Level 8	term of government contract
Mr W Marmion	Level 8	permanent public servant
Ms B Hillman	A/Level 7	term of government contract
Mrs E Rocchi	A/Level 7	permanent public servant
Mr T Whittington	Level 7	term of government contract
Ms J Carroll	Level 6	term of government contract
Mrs R Young	Level 5	permanent public servant
Ms L Coogan	Level 3	term of government contract
Mrs B Leber	A/Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms A Courtman	Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms M Wild	Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms C Daff	A/Level 2	permanent public servant
Ms S Dennett	A/Level 2	permanent public servant
Ms M Rundle	Level 1	term of government contract
Mr F Williams	Ministerial Chauffeurs Agreement	
+ 1 consultant, Mr R Elliott		contract for service

Eight of the above have government motor vehicles allocated to them, 10 have mobile phones and the following staff have a government credit card for business purposes:

Mr I Fletcher, Mr J Gilleece, Mrs W Ireland, Mr C Cahill and Mrs R Young.

MINISTERIAL OFFICES - DEPUTY PREMIER

Staff

273. Mr RIPPER to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

- (1) What are the names of each staff person working in the Deputy Premier's office as at 1 December, 1996?

- (2) What are the names of each staff person working in the Deputy Premier's office as at 11 March 1997?
- (3) What are the names and levels of each staff member?
- (4) Which staff members are -
 - (a) full time public servants;
 - (b) part time employees;
 - (c) term of government employees;
 - (d) other; and
 - (e) if other, what type of employment?
- (5) How many of these have a government motor vehicle allocated for their use?
- (6) How many of these have a mobile phone allocated for their use?
- (7) Which of these staff members have a government credit card allocated for their use?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) As at 1 December 1996, the following staff were employed:

Dr R Field
 Mr G Wiltshire
 Mr B Calderbank
 Ms S Krupa
 Mr P Jackson
 Mrs G McQuillan
 Mrs J Shadbolt
 Ms C Bolt
 Mrs A Frodsham
 Ms L Mackin
 Mrs I MacAdams
 Ms C Dipetta
 Ms D Carter
 Ms J Bow
 Ms C Lyttleton
 Ms A Bulich
 Ms S Walker
 Ms S Simons

- (2)-(7) As at 11 March 1997, the following staff were employed:

Name	Level	
Dr R Field	Class 4	permanent public servant
Mr B Calderbank	Level 8	fixed term contract
Mr P Jackson	Level 8	term of government contract
Mr G Klem	Level 8	permanent public servant
Ms K Kent	A/Level 8	permanent public servant
Ms S Krupa	Level 7	fixed term contract
Mrs G McQuillan	Level 7	term of government contract
Mrs J Shadbolt	A/Level 7	permanent public servant
Mrs A Frodsham	A/Level 6	permanent public servant (maternity leave)
Ms C Bolt	A/Level 5	permanent public servant
Ms L Mackin	Level 5	term of government contract (on secondment out of the office)
Mrs I MacAdams	A/Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms D Carter	Level 3	term of government contract
Ms J Bow	Level 3	term of government contract
Ms M Gauci	Level 3	term of government contract
Ms C Lyttleton	A/Level 2	permanent public servant
Ms S Walker	A/Level 2	permanent public servant
Ms S Simons	A/Level 2	fixed term contract
Ms S Lead	A/Level 2	fixed term contract
+Mr E Rowley	Consultant on 12 month contract for service.	

Seven of the above have government motor vehicles allocated to them, 6 have mobile phones and the following staff have a government credit card for business purposes:

Dr R Field
 Mr B Calderbank
 Mr G Klem
 Ms K Kent
 Ms S Krupa

Mr P Jackson
 Mrs G McQuillan
 Mrs J Shadbolt
 Mrs A Frodsham
 Ms L Mackin

MINISTERIAL OFFICES - MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Staff

276. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Environment; Employment and Training:

- (1) What are the names of each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 December, 1996?
- (2) What are the names of each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 11 March 1997?
- (3) What are the names and levels of each staff member?
- (4) Which staff members are -
 - (a) full time public servants;
 - (b) part time employees;
 - (c) term of government employees;
 - (d) other; and
 - (e) if other, what type of employment?
- (5) How many of these have a government motor vehicle allocated for their use?
- (6) How many of these have a mobile phone allocated for their use?
- (7) Which of these staff members have a government credit card allocated for their use?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) As at 1 December 1996, the following staff were employed:

Mr B Bradley
 Ms G McGowan
 Ms D Fitzgerald
 Mr G Ellson
 Ms C Britnell
 Ms T Ryan
 Ms B Pelosi
 Ms S Sidery
 Ms D Whyte
 Ms B Cheung
 Ms V Lukan (pt)
 Mr G Paddick
 Ms D Russell-Coote
 Ms E Shannon
 Mr C Halligan

- (2)-(7) As at 11 March 1997, the following staff were employed:

Mr B Bradley	A/Level 9	permanent public servant
Ms G McGowan	A/Level 7	permanent public servant
Mr P Biggs	Level 7	permanent public servant
Mr G Paddick	Level 7	term of government contract
Mr I Harvey	Level 6	permanent public servant
Ms D Russell-Coote	Level 6	term of government contract
Ms S Sidery	A/Level 5	permanent public servant
Ms E Shannon	Level 4	term of government contract
Ms T Ryan	Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms B Pelosi	Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms C Britnell	A/Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms E Ardon	Level 2 (pt)	permanent public servant
Ms V Lukan	Level 2 (pt)	permanent public servant
Ms B Cheung	A/Level 2	permanent public servant
Ms D Whyte	A/Level 2	fixed term contract

Four of the above have government motor vehicles allocated to them, 5 have mobile phones and the following staff have a government credit card for business purposes:

Mr B Bradley, Mr P Biggs, Ms S Sidery and Ms C Britnell.

MINISTERIAL OFFICES - MINISTER FOR FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Staff

277. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Family and Children's Services; Seniors; Women's Interests:

- (1) What are the names of each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 December, 1996?
- (2) What are the names of each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 11 March 1997?
- (3) What are the names and levels of each staff member?
- (4) Which staff members are -
 - (a) full time public servants;
 - (b) part time employees;
 - (c) term of government employees;
 - (d) other; and
 - (e) if other, what type of employment?
- (5) How many of these have a government motor vehicle allocated for their use?
- (6) How many of these have a mobile phone allocated for their use?
- (7) Which of these staff members have a government credit card allocated for their use?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) Not applicable.
- (2)-(7) As at 11 March 1997, the following staff were employed:

Mr G Wiltshire	A/Level 8	permanent public servant
Mr M Cormann	Level 7	term of Minister contract
Ms K Hopkins	Level 6	term of government contract
Ms D Fitzgerald	Level 6	permanent public servant
Mr P Kennon	A/Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms F Duda	Level 3	term of Minister contract
Ms J Contessi	A/Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms D Jackson	Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms J Clark	Level 2	permanent public servant
Ms L Pearce	A/Level 2	permanent public servant

Four of the above have government motor vehicles allocated to them, 4 have mobile phones and the following officers have a government credit card for business purposes:

Mr G Wiltshire, Mr M Cormann, Ms K Hopkins and Ms D Fitzgerald

MINISTERIAL OFFICES - MINISTER FOR LANDS

Staff

279. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) What are the names of each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 December, 1996?
- (2) What are the names of each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 11 March 1997?
- (3) What are the names and levels of each staff member?
- (4) Which staff members are -
 - (a) full time public servants;
 - (b) part time employees;
 - (c) term of government employees;
 - (d) other; and

- (e) if other, what type of employment?
- (4) How many of these have a government motor vehicle allocated for their use?
- (5) How many of these have a mobile phone allocated for their use?
- (6) Which of these staff members have a government credit card allocated for their use?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) Not applicable.
- (2)-(7) As at 11 March 1997, the following staff were employed:

Mr J Thom	A/Level 9	permanent public servant
Mr S Proud	A/Level 7	permanent public servant
Mr J Buxton (pt)	Level 7	term of government contract
Ms A Gomez	Level 6	term of government contract
Ms M Miller	Level 6	fixed term contract
Ms P Waghorn	Level 4	term of government contract
Ms I Lipari	Level 3	fixed term contract
Mr M Woods	A/Level 2	fixed term contract
Ms N Baskerville	A/Level 2	permanent public servant
Ms K Crosbie	A/Level 2	fixed term contract

Three of the above have government motor vehicles allocated to them, 4 have mobile phones and Mr J Thom has a corporate credit card for business purposes.

MINISTERIAL OFFICES - MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Staff

280. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Housing, Aboriginal Affairs, Water Resources:
- (1) What are the names of each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 December, 1996?
- (2) What are the names of each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 11 March 1997?
- (3) What are the names and levels of each staff member?
- (4) Which staff members are -
- full time public servants;
 - part time employees;
 - term of government employees;
 - other; and
 - if other, what type of employment?
- (4) How many of these have a government motor vehicle allocated for their use?
- (5) How many of these have a mobile phone allocated for their use?
- (6) Which of these staff members have a government credit card allocated for their use?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Not applicable.
- (2)-(7) As at 11 March 1997, the following staff were employed:

Mr K Humfrey	Level 7	permanent public servant
Mr C Allier	Level 6	term of Minister contract
Ms C Lacey	Level 6	term of government contract
Ms V Miller	A/Level 4	permanent public servant
Mr G Cash	Level 4	permanent public servant
Mr S Fazey	Level 4	permanent public servant
Ms K Burton	A/Level 4	permanent public servant
Ms M Franse	Level 3	term of Minister contract
Ms M Hayes	Level 3	permanent public servant

Ms S Stewart	A/Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms N Hull	A/Level 2	permanent public servant

Four of the above have government motor vehicles allocated to them, 4 have mobile phones and Mr K Humfrey and Mr C Allier have corporate credit cards for business purposes.

MINISTERIAL OFFICES - MINISTER FOR FINANCE

Staff

283. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

- (1) What are the names of each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 December, 1996?
- (2) What are the names of each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 11 March 1997?
- (3) What are the names and levels of each staff member?
- (4) Which staff members are -
 - (a) full time public servants;
 - (b) part time employees;
 - (c) term of government employees;
 - (d) other; and
 - (e) if other, what type of employment?
- (4) How many of these have a government motor vehicle allocated for their use?
- (5) How many of these have a mobile phone allocated for their use?
- (6) Which of these staff members have a government credit card allocated for their use?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) As at 1 December 1996, the following staff were employed:

Mr W Shepherd	
Mr T Papafilis	
Mr H Ryan (shared with the Minister for Water Resources)	
Ms L Yagmich	
Mrs A Pover	
Mrs R Smith	
Mrs D Cacciola	
Ms C Leano	
Ms A Parry	

- (2)-(7) As at 11 March 1997, the following staff were employed

Mr W Shepherd	A/Level 7	permanent public servant
Mr T Papafilis	Level 6	term of government contract
Mr H Ryan	Level 6	term of government contract (shared with the Minister for Local Government)
Ms L Yagmich	A/Level 3	permanent public servant
Mrs A Pover	Level 3	term of government contract
Mrs R Smith	Level 2 (paid to L3)	permanent public servant
Mrs D Cacciola	A/Level 2	permanent public servant
Ms C Leano	A/Level 2	permanent public servant
Ms A Parry	Level 1	permanent public servant

Two of the above have government motor vehicles allocated to them, 1 has a mobile phone and Mrs R Smith has a government credit card for purchase of office supplies.

MINISTERIAL OFFICES - MINISTER FOR WORKS

Staff

284. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Works; Services; Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs; Youth:

- (1) What are the names of each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 December, 1996?
- (2) What are the names of each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 11 March 1997?
- (3) What are the names and levels of each staff member?

- (4) Which staff members are -
- (a) full time public servants;
 - (b) part time employees;
 - (c) term of government employees;
 - (d) other; and
 - (e) if other, what type of employment?
- (4) How many of these have a government motor vehicle allocated for their use?
- (5) How many of these have a mobile phone allocated for their use?
- (6) Which of these staff members have a government credit card allocated for their use?

Mr BOARD replied:

- (1) Not applicable.
- (2)-(7) As at 11 March 1997, the following staff were employed:

Mr P Rowe	Level 9	term of government contract
Mr T deBarro	Level 8	term of government contract
Ms L Bungey	Level 7	term of government contract
Mr P Harris	Level 6	term of government contract
Ms K Newman	Level 6	term of government contract
Ms J Kurowski	A/Level 3	fixed term contract
Ms R Myers	A/Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms L Davenport	A/Level 2	permanent public servant
Ms M deBoer	Level 1	fixed term contract

Five of the above have government motor vehicles allocated to them, 5 have mobile phones and Mr P Rowe and Ms K Newman have corporate credit cards for business purposes.

MINISTERIAL OFFICES - MINISTER FOR RACING AND GAMING

Staff

285. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:
- (1) What are the names of each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 December, 1996?
- (2) What are the names of each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 11 March 1997?
- (3) What are the names and levels of each staff member?
- (4) Which staff members are -
- (a) full time public servants;
 - (b) part time employees;
 - (c) term of government employees;
 - (d) other; and
 - (e) if other, what type of employment?
- (4) How many of these have a government motor vehicle allocated for their use?
- (5) How many of these have a mobile phone allocated for their use?
- (6) Which of these staff members have a government credit card allocated for their use?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following response -

See answer to question 283.

MINISTERIAL OFFICES - MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

Staff

287. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:
- (1) What are the names of each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 December, 1996?
- (2) What are the names of each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 11 March 1997?

- (3) What are the names and levels of each staff member?
- (4) Which staff members are -
- (a) full time public servants;
 - (b) part time employees;
 - (c) term of government employees;
 - (d) other; and
 - (e) if other, what type of employment?
- (4) How many of these have a government motor vehicle allocated for their use?
- (5) How many of these have a mobile phone allocated for their use?
- (6) Which of these staff members have a government credit card allocated for their use?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(6) I refer the member to my response to question 289 of 1997.

MINISTERIAL OFFICES - MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

Staff

288. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What are the names of each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 December, 1996?
- (2) What are the names of each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 11 March 1997?
- (3) What are the names and levels of each staff member?
- (4) Which staff members are -
- (a) full time public servants;
 - (b) part time employees;
 - (c) term of government employees;
 - (d) other; and
 - (e) if other, what type of employment?
- (4) How many of these have a government motor vehicle allocated for their use?
- (5) How many of these have a mobile phone allocated for their use?
- (6) Which of these staff members have a government credit card allocated for their use?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1) As at 1 December 1996, the following staff were employed:

Mr S Imms
Mr B Higgins
Mr G Harman
Mr G Trenberth
Ms S Squires
Ms M Gauci
Ms J Cobanov
Ms J Criddle
Ms S Medica
Ms C Rimmer
Ms K Bourke

- (2)-(7) As at 11 March 1997, the following staff were employed:

Mr S Imms	A/Level 8	permanent public servant
Mr B Higgins	Level 8	permanent public servant
Mr G Harman	A/Level 8	permanent public servant
Mr G Trenberth	Level 8	term of government contract
Ms J Cobanov	A/Level 5	permanent public servant
Ms J Criddle	Level 3	term of government contract
Ms G Brown	Level 3	term of government contract
Ms S Medica	Level 3	permanent public servant

Ms C Rimmer	Level 2	permanent public servant
Ms K Bourke	A/Level 2	permanent public servant

Four of the above have a government motor vehicle allocated to them. There is another vehicle previously allocated to the Media Secretary which is maintained by the office. 4 have mobile phones and Mr S Imms has a government credit card for business purposes.

TRANSPORT - DEPARTMENT

Licensing Fees - Method of Payment

324. Mr GRILL to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) I refer to the bureaucratic procedures adopted for receipt of monies in the Department of Transport for licencing fees and ask whether consideration is being given to allowing payment by credit card?
- (2) Are any other measures under consideration to bring the practices of the Transport Department into line with financial arrangements in the private sector?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(2) Payment by credit card will be introduced in the 1997-98 financial year. Electronic service delivery, such as payment by telephone and by direct debit, and the use of the Internet for the provision of information, will be introduced in the 1997-98 financial year. Additional incentives to assist the public by provision of additional services such as more Australia Post agencies are being addressed.

PARKS AND RESERVES - PEARLING INDUSTRY

Lease Conditions

330. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Does it require an Act of Parliament to change the lease conditions of a B class reserve?
- (2) Does it require an Act of Parliament to change the lease conditions of a recreational reserve?
- (3) Did Cossack Pearls Pty Ltd make formal application for a land based facility on the B class reserve, Dolphin Island?
- (4) If they did make application, was it tabled in Parliament?
- (5) Did Parliament approve the application?
- (6) If they did not make application, why didn't they?
- (7) Did Pilbara Pearls make formal application for a land based facility on the recreational reserve, West Lewis Island?
- (8) If they did make application, was it tabled in Parliament?
- (9) Did Parliament approve the application?
- (10) If it hasn't been approved by Parliament, who gave the Department of Conservation and Land Management the authority to issue Pilbara Pearls a licence to establish a land based facility on the recreational reserve, West Lewis?
- (11) When did Cossack Pearls Pty Ltd establish the land based facility on Dolphin Island?
- (12) Did they have approval to do so?
- (13) If yes, who gave them permission to do so?
- (14) When did CALM become aware that there had been a land based facility established on Dolphin Island?
- (15) Why were the prosecution proceedings against Cossack Pearls Pty Ltd, initiated by the Karratha CALM office, not carried out in relation to the establishment of the land based facility?
- (16) Who instructed CALM to drop legal proceedings against Cossack Pearls Pty Ltd in relation to the land based facility?

- (17) Who instructed CALM to issue Cossack Pearls Pty Ltd with a licence to allow the land based facility to remain?
- (18) Did the individual or group have proper authority to instruct CALM to issue a licence for the land based facility when it is located on a B class reserve?
- (19) Did the grant of a licence to Pilbara Pearls, for a land based facility on the recreational reserve, West Lewis Island, emanate because a precedent had been set by CALM issuing a licence to Cossack Pearls Pty Ltd for a land based facility on the B class reserve, Dolphin Island?
- (20) If that was the case, and it is found that Cossack Pearls Pty Ltd gained their licence illegally, will both licences be revoked?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(2) No.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not required.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) Yes.
- (8) No.
- (9) Not required.
- (10) The Department of Conservation and Land Management has the power to issue a licence under section 101 of the CALM Act with the approval of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and the Minister.
- (11) Prior to September 1993.
- (12) No.
- (13) Not applicable.
- (14) 2 September 1993.
- (15) Prosecution proceedings were not initiated because they were not considered on balance to be in the public interest.
- (16) See (15).
- (17) The then Minister (Hon Kevin Minson) approved the issuing of a licence to Cossack Pearls following a recommendation from CALM and approval by the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNCA).
- (18) Yes, see (10).
- (19) Yes.
- (20) The licences are legal.

STATE SETTLEMENT PLAN - STRATEGIES

Premier

373. Ms WARNOCK to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

- (1) What are the objectives of the Premier's departments' State settlement plan?
- (2) What -
 - (a) internal; and
 - (b) external,
 access strategies have been developed and implemented?

- (3) What -
- (a) financial; and
 - (b) human,
- resources have been allocated to implement the state settlement plan?
- (4) What consultation process has been undertaken by the Premier's department?
- (5) Who from the -
- (a) community;
 - (b) business sector; and
 - (c) academic sector,
- has been consulted?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) The objective of the State Settlement Plan is to improve the coordination and delivery of settlement services to migrants, provided by the three spheres of government and by non-government service providers.
- (2) A range of access strategies has been developed and implemented appropriate to the agency delivering the service. These include -
- (a) Internal Strategies: Collection of ethnicity data; cross-cultural training including interpreter and translator awareness; and consultative mechanisms.
 - (b) External Strategies: Language services policy; provision of information to the community; and use of ethnic media.
- (3) (a) Each government agency represented on the State Settlement Planning Committee has allocated an officer with responsibility for State Settlement Planning issues. The Office of Multicultural Interests coordinates the contribution of state government agencies to the committee which is a joint Commonwealth/State initiative.
- (b) Agencies allocate resources for services to migrants as part of their annual budget planning process based on identified agency priorities. The settlement plan assists in setting those priorities.
- (4) The ethnic community is represented on the State Settlement Planning Committee and wider agency specific consultations are undertaken by agency working parties to establish issues and evaluate the strategies developed to address those issues.
- (5) (a) Ethnic Communities Council
Migrant Resource Centres
Non-government service providers
Migrant clients
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Edith Cowan University
Research related agencies: Bureau of Immigration, Multicultural and Population Research
Australian Bureau of Statistics

STATE SETTLEMENT PLAN - STRATEGIES

Minister for Housing

381. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Housing, Aboriginal Affairs, Water Resources:

- (1) What are the objectives of the Minister's departments' state settlement plan?
- (2) What -
- (a) internal; and
 - (b) external,
- access strategies have been developed and implemented?
- (3) What -
- (a) financial; and

- (b) human,
resources have been allocated to implement the state settlement plan?
- (4) What consultation process has been undertaken by the Minister's department?
- (5) Who from the -
 - (a) community;
 - (b) business sector; and
 - (c) academic sector,
 has been consulted?

Dr HAMES replied:

Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) The Aboriginal Affairs Department does not operate a State Settlement Plan.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Water and Rivers Commission including the Swan River Trust:

- (1)-(5) The State Settlement Plan does not impinge on the operations of the Water and Rivers Commission including the Swan River Trust, which was established to manage water resources for Western Australia.

Office of Water Regulation:

- (1) The State Settlement Plan does not impact on any of the services or activities of the Office of Water Regulation.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Water Corporation:

- (1) The State Settlement Plan does not impact on any of the services or activities of the Water Corporation.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Government Employees' Housing Authority:

- (1)-(5) The State Settlement Plan is not expected to affect the Government Employees' Housing Authority which exists to provide accommodation to government employees in country areas.

Rural Housing Authority; Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing:

- (1)-(5) The State Settlement Plan is not expected to affect the Rural Housing Authority.

Homeswest:

- (1) To improve the coordination, access and delivery of housing and accommodation services to migrants.
- (2)
 - (a)
 - (i) Homeswest is collecting ethnicity data.
 - (ii) Cross cultural training for Homeswest staff.
 - (b)
 - (i) Six weekly interpreting services are provided in regional and branch offices in Spanish, languages of the former country of Yugoslavia, Vietnamese and Khmer.
 - (ii) Use of the telephone interpreter service.
 - (iii) The reverse side of Homeswest letterhead paper carries a message in 16 different languages.
 - (iv) Changes to the rental payment policy for migrants with Assurance of Support.
 - (v) Projects have been provided to meet the housing needs of various migrant groups.
- (3)
 - (a) Financial resources for Homeswest's services to migrants are part of the agency's budget and cover several program budgets. However, it is estimated that in 1995/96, Homeswest spent \$35,796 on usage of the telephone interpreter service.

- (b) Responsibility for State Settlement Plan issues forms part of the duties of three officers in Homeswest.
- (4) Homeswest carries out extensive community consultation with service providers and customer groups representing special needs groups, including migrants, in development of the State's Bilateral Strategic Plan.
Invitations to attend the consultation meetings are sent out to all relevant community organisations including groups representing the interests of migrants. The meetings are also advertised in *The West Australian* and the local community press.
- (5)
 - (a) See (4) above.
 - (b) The residential building sector is consulted in the development of the Bilateral Strategic Plan.
 - (c) Homeswest benefits from the consultation conducted with the academic sector by the Office of Multicultural Interests.

STATE SETTLEMENT PLAN - STRATEGIES

Minister for Transport

389. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What are the objectives of the Minister's department's state settlement plan?
- (2) What -
 - (a) internal; and
 - (b) external,
 access strategies have been developed and implemented?
- (3) What -
 - (a) financial; and
 - (b) human,
 resources have been allocated to implement the state settlement plan?
- (4) What consultation process has been undertaken by the Minister's department?
- (5) Who from the -
 - (a) community;
 - (b) business sector; and
 - (c) academic sector,
 has been consulted?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(5) Not relevant to the Transport portfolio.

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES - RESOURCES

397. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Has the Parliamentary Secretary been provided with stationery or other items to enable him to carry out the work of a Parliamentary Secretary?
- (2) Exactly what has been provided to the Parliamentary Secretary?
- (3) What is the cost of each item that has been provided?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Business cards, one desk, one chair and two cupboards.

- | | | |
|-----|----------------|----------|
| (3) | Furniture | \$841.50 |
| | Business cards | \$124.00 |

ECONOMY - ECONOMIC GROWTH

Interest Rates

406. Mr BROWN to the Treasurer:

- (1) Is the Treasurer aware the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry has called on the Reserve Bank not to increase interest rates once the pace of economic activity has picked up?
- (2) Has the State Government made similar representations to the Reserve Bank and/or Federal Government?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Has the State Government put a view to the Federal Government on the level of economic growth the Federal Government should be aiming for?
- (5) What level of economic growth does the State Government advocate?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) No. However, I am aware that the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry has indicated that the Reserve Bank should not increase interest rates until such time as inflationary pressures re-emerge.
- (2) No.
- (3) The Commonwealth Government is currently reviewing its forecasts for the May budget. Any representation would be made within the context of these forecasts upon their release. This is consistent with the objectives for the national economy which the State Government considers appropriate.
- (4) No. It is well understood that the Federal Government is seeking to maximise growth without creating inflationary pressures.
- (5) The most appropriate growth rate for an economy is the highest rate of growth it can sustain over the long term without creating inflationary pressures. Australia's long run non-inflationary growth is estimated to be around 3.5% per annum. Western Australia is estimated to have a higher long run non-inflationary growth rate of around 5.0% per annum. The higher growth rate in Western Australia primarily reflects the relative importance of the mining industry, which has a higher level of productivity than most other sectors of the economy.

GOVERNMENT PROPERTY - SALE

410. Mr BROWN to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

- (1) How many State Government assets of the value of \$200,000 or more have been sold by each of the departments or agencies under the Premier's control in each of the last four financial years?
- (2) What is the total value of the assets sold?
- (3) What have the monies realised from the asset sales been used for?

Mr COURT replied:

GOLD CORPORATION

- (1) One.
- (2) \$510,000
- (3) Proceeds were used to fund Gold Corporation's ongoing business activities.

GOVERNMENT PROPERTY OFFICE

- (1) Under the Asset Management Program the Government Property Office coordinated the sale of a total of 41 properties worth \$200,000 or more over the last four financial years as follows -

1995/96	3 properties
1994/95	7 properties
1993/94	14 properties
1992/93	17 properties

- (2) The total value of the assets sold is \$21,786,892.00
- (3) The proceeds were returned to the Consolidated Fund.

No State Government assets of the value of \$200,000 or more have been sold by any of the following agencies/departments in each of the last four financial years:

- Government House
- Office of State Administration
- Treasury
- Public Sector Management Office
- Policy Office
- Anti-Corruption Commission
- Office of the Auditor General
- Public Sector Standards Commission

GOVERNMENT PROPERTY - SALE

418. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing, Aboriginal Affairs, Water Resources:

- (1) How many State Government assets of the value of \$200 000 or more have been sold by each of the departments or agencies under the Minister's control in each of the last four financial years?
- (2) What is the total value of the assets sold?
- (3) What have the monies realised from the asset sales been used for?

Dr HAMES replied:

Government Employees' Housing Authority:

- (1) The Government Employees' Housing Authority did not sell any assets to the value of \$200,000 or more in each of the last four financial years.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Rural Housing Authority; Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing:

- (1) Neither the Rural Housing Authority nor the Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing Authority has sold assets of the value of \$200,000 or more.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not applicable.

Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) Two properties.
- (2) \$680,000.
- (3) The proceeds from the sale of the two properties will be used for purposes which will be determined by the Aboriginal Lands Trust.

Water and Rivers Commission including the Swan River Trust:

- (1) The Water and Rivers Commission including the Swan River Trust has sold no assets valued at \$200,000 or more since its inception on 1 January 1996.
- (2)-(3) Answered by (1).

Office of Water Regulation:

- (1) The Office of Water Regulation has not sold any State Government assets to the value of \$200,000 or more during any of the last four years.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Water Corporation:

- (1) Assets sold of the value of \$200,000 or more in each of the last four years are as follows -

.	1992/93 Nil		
.	1993/94 Nil		
.	1994/95 Nil		
.	1995/96 Two assets -	(i)	Land - Lot 4 Gunn Road, Albany
		(ii)	Land - Lot 4 & Part Lot 406 Kewdale

(2) Total value of the assets sold:

Description	Written down book value	Sale proceeds
Lot 4 Gunn Road, Albany	\$ 204,000	\$ 282,220
Lot 4 & Pt Lot 406, Kewdale	2,500,000	3,530,000
Total	\$2,704,000	\$3,812,220

(3) The monies realised from the asset sales were utilised by the Water Corporation as part of the funds available for capital works and ongoing operations.

Homeswest:

(1)-(3) The specific information requested by the member would require considerable resources by Homeswest. Following discussions with Homeswest I agree and therefore I am not prepared to commit resources for this purpose. If the member has a specific question about a particular property, I will provide it.

RAILWAYS - *PROSPECTOR* SERVICE

Review

435. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many reviews, or studies, have been undertaken into the *Prospector* railway service in the last three years?
- (2) Who undertook each of these reviews and when were they commenced?
- (3) What has been the result of these reviews?
- (4) In the 1993 Annual Report, Westrail stated that the *Prospector* rail cars have been re-engineered as part of a \$9 million refurbishment. How much of the \$9 million refurbishment has been spent and why has it not yet been fully completed?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1) Three.
- (2)-(3) The reviews/studies were undertaken as follows -
 - (i) Railtec International Consultancy, commenced June 1996. The review resulted in establishment of the remaining economic life of the railcars, practicability and budget costs of refurbishment, options available for servicing and overhaul, and advice on refurbishment verses replacement.
 - (ii) Market Equity Pty Ltd; commenced June 1996. The results of a survey by the company to evaluate customer satisfaction levels on the *Prospector* services have been incorporated into the study carried out by Ove Arup and Partners (see part (iii) of this answer).
 - (iii) Ove Arup and Partners; commenced January 1997. The company's report and recommendations are currently under consideration.
- (4) The section of Westrail's annual report referred to by the member states that the *Prospector* railcars had been re-engined. That work was carried out; however, the railcars will be replaced within five years and a full general overhaul originally planned for the rolling stock will not take place. Work is currently under way on modified overhauls and internal refurbishment of the *Prospector* railcars to ensure a quality service is maintained until a new train is acquired. As at 26 May 1997 \$6.20m has been spent (including the re-engining) and it is anticipated that a further \$1.41m will be expended to complete the work.

RAILWAYS - *PROSPECTOR* SERVICE*Comparison with AvonLink*

436. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

As stated in Westrail's Annual Report of 1996, the *Prospector* achieved only 42 per cent of "on time running" due to speed restrictions and mechanical problems, however the *AvonLink* achieved 95 per cent of "on time running". Given that the *AvonLink* and the *Prospector* use the same cars, how can the poor performance of the *Prospector* be attributed to mechanical problems?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

While the combined effects of mechanical problems and speed restrictions resulted in late running of both the *Prospector* and *AvonLink* services, the majority of delays were caused by speed restrictions between Merredin and Kalgoorlie. Accordingly, the *Prospector* services were more affected by speed restrictions than the *AvonLink* services.

RAILWAYS - *AVONLINK* SERVICE*Passengers - Number*

437. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

(1) What are the average numbers of passengers that have been using the *AvonLink* on -

- (a) weekdays;
- (b) Saturdays; and
- (c) Sundays?

(2) How many *AvonLink* services are provided on -

- (a) weekends;
- (b) Saturdays; and
- (c) Sundays?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1) (a) 29.65 passengers per service.
- (b) 26.08 passengers per service.
- (c) There are not any *AvonLink* services operating on Sundays.
- (2) (a) I presume the information sought by the member is for weekdays; accordingly, my answer is as follows -
Six *AvonLink* services and 17 combined *AvonLink-Prospector* services from Monday to Friday inclusive.
- (b) Three *AvonLink* services and two combined *AvonLink-Prospector* services.
- (c) There are no *AvonLink* services operating on Sundays.

RAILWAYS - WESTRAIL

Capital Debt

438. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How does the Minister explain the Westrail capital debt blowing out from \$523m in June 1992 to \$806m in June 1996?
- (2) What is the current level of Westrail's capital debt?
- (3) Are the costs of private sector maintenance programs included in the capital debt accounts?

- (4) How much of the \$138.363m interest and depreciation, listed in the 1995-96 annual accounts, is payment of interest?
- (5) How does the Government propose to reduce the burgeoning debt level of Westrail?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1) Westrail's capital debt for the financial year 1995/1996 was \$785m, a net increase of \$262m on the capital debt of \$523m for the financial year 1991/1992.

The main factor in the increase was the expenditure to finalise the \$440m Northern Suburbs Railway and railway electrification project. The \$262m increase was incurred as follows -

Net capital expenditure	\$407m (includes \$177.1m expenditure for northern suburbs railway and railway electrification projects.)
Short term voluntary severance payment loans	\$80m.
Sub-total	\$487m.
Less loan repayments and internally generated funds used for capital expenditure	\$225m.
Total	\$262m.

- (2) \$780.65m.
- (3) No. (In answering this question I have assumed the member is referring to maintenance works carried out for Westrail by private sector companies).
- (4) \$90.066m.
- (5) The principal action being taken by Westrail is a land rationalisation program aimed at reducing debt by \$100m over five years from the sale of surplus land and buildings.

ENVIRONMENT - COUNCILS AND PANELS

Membership

439. Mr MASTERS to the Minister for Primary Industry:

Would the Minister advise -

- (a) the process by which membership of the State LandCare Council is determined;
- (b) the current members of the SLCC;
- (c) the process and timing by which membership of the State Assessment Panel for the Natural Heritage Trust is determined; and
- (d) the current members of the State Assessment Panel?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (a) As prescribed in the Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945 Section 9.
- (b) Rex Edmondson, land user and Chairman
Don Cameron, land user
Garry English, Western Australian Farmers Federation
Bill Mitchell, Pastoralists and Graziers Association
Joan Cameron, Western Australian Municipal Association
Rachel Siewert, Conservation Council of Western Australia
Keiran McNamara, Department of Conservation and Land Management
Bruce Hamilton, Water and Rivers Commission
To be appointed, Deputy of Environmental Protection
John Duff, Deputy Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation - ex-officio

- (c) The process for appointment to the State Assessment Panel for the Natural Heritage Trust has yet to be finalised. I would expect to formally announce the composition of the panel in the next few weeks.
- (d) There are no current members. The State Assessment Panel for the Natural LandCare Program terminated in 1996.

TRANSPORT - BUS

Yanchep-Two Rocks - Upgrading

441. Mr MacLEAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

When will the bus service to Yanchep and Two Rocks be upgraded and what form will this upgrading take?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

If the population growth forecast for the Yanchep area in the next few years is realised, there will be a commensurate increase in the number of bus journeys supplied for the community. These trips are likely to take the form of additional bus services that operate between Two Rocks and Joondalup Interchange, where they connect with the train system.

SHARK BAY - OIL EXPLORATION LICENCE

Federal Government Veto

465. Dr EDWARDS to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware that the Federal Government can veto any decision or activity which is likely to damage or destroy the heritage value for which a World Heritage area is listed?
- (2) Given the fact that the Federal Government has this power of veto, when was the Government planning on informing the Federal Government of its granting of the exploration licence in the World Heritage area at Shark Bay?
- (3) Considering this veto power why was the Federal Government not consulted or at least informed prior to the granting of the exploration licence so that the relevant companies do not risk wasting their investment?
- (4) Will the Government compensate these companies if the Federal Government vetoes any approval for further exploration or drilling?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) The World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983 provides that the Commonwealth Minister must give written consent prior to exploration activities being undertaken.
- (2) The Federal Government will be informed at the time when petroleum exploration field activities are proposed.
- (3) An exploration permit does not entitle the holder to carry out an exploration program until that program has been approved following referral to Environmental Agencies. It is at this point that referral to the Commonwealth is triggered. The WA Ministers for the Environment and Mines are negotiating a Commonwealth/State agreement for the Shark Bay World Heritage area which will address referral and consultative issues. The Ministers aim to finalise the agreement by mid-1997.
- (4) As no approval has been given for exploration activities to be undertaken, the question of compensation does not arise.

RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT - WOOD PROCESSING

Report

484. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Resources Development:

Further to question on notice 2555 of 1996, answered in correspondence from the Minister dated 20 February 1997 -

- (a) who commissioned the independent report on wood processing;
- (b) who were its authors;
- (c) what were the terms of reference;

- (d) what is the title;
- (e) when was it completed;
- (f) what is meant by "CALM and DRD are assessing" the report;
- (g) what was the Department of Conservation and Land Management's and the Department of Resources Development's assessment of the report?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (a) DRD in consultation with CALM.
- (b) Beca Simons Australia Pty Ltd (Victoria), in conjunction with H.A. Simons Ltd and CPM Consultants (1992) Inc (British Columbia, Canada); McLennan Magasanik and Associates Pty Ltd (Victoria); and Forestry Technical Services Pty Ltd (ACT and WA).
- (c) The terms of reference - see paper No 450.
- (d) "Further Development of the Forest Products Industry in Western Australia".
- (e) Received by DRD on 28 January 1997.
- (f) DRD and CALM are considering issues raised in the report.
- (g) The departments have yet to finalise their consideration of relevant issues.

RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT - WOOD PROCESSING

Agreement

485. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Resources Development:

Further to question on notice No 2555 of 1996, answered in correspondence from the Minister dated 20 February 1997, what process has or will the Government put in place to decide whether or not to renew the agreement?

Mr BARNETT replied:

This matter is still under consideration.

DRIVERS' LICENCES - EXAMINERS

Qualifications

542. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many persons are accredited as motor vehicle driving licence examiners in Western Australia?
- (2) What are the qualifications required for appointment as an examiner?
- (3) Are examiners required to have ongoing training?
- (4) Are examiners required to be reassessed periodically?
- (5) Are examiners provided with competency standards to which to test for?
- (6) What training is provided to police officers in country areas who undertake motor vehicle licence examinations?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(6) There are 105 persons who are accredited to conduct driver licence testing. This figure does not include police officers who test driver licence applicants in some country areas. To become a qualified testing officer a person is required to hold the appropriate class of licence for the vehicles in which applicants will be tested. Training in road law knowledge and driving skills is then given by experienced examiners within Transport over a period of two weeks followed by supervised on the job training at a Licensing Centre. At this stage on-going training and assessment is not a requirement, however, this matter is under consideration as part of the overall review of functions of the Licensing Division. No formal training is provided by the Department of Transport for country Police Officers. With the advent of the Road Safety Council, a total review of all aspects of road safety and driver training are being examined. New initiatives on education and driver training are due to be implemented this year.

AIRPORTS - BUSSELTON

Funding

574. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the total cost of constructing the new Busselton airport?
- (2) What were the various sources of funding for this airport and what were the amounts contributed?
- (3) Was there a feasibility study undertaken before the airport was constructed?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) Why were there not any regular airline services organised before the airport was constructed?
- (6) Have there been any regular airline services organised?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1) Approximately \$5 million.
- (2)

State Government	\$3.5 million
Federal Government	\$970 000
Shire of Busselton	\$500 000
- (3) No.
- (4) The old Busselton airstrip is on private property and is to be subdivided. Accordingly, there was a clear need to develop a new airstrip for emergency services and local use. The State Government is confident that the new airport will provide new opportunities for tourism to the region and better access for business travel.
- (5) Formal discussions were held with the main airlines during the construction of the airport.
- (6) The State Government and the Shire of Busselton are currently negotiating with airlines regarding the provision of air services to Busselton.

GOVERNMENT VEHICLES - LEASING

Cost and Number

613. Mr BROWN to the Minister for the Environment; Employment and Training:

- (1) How many vehicles does each department and agency under the Minister's control lease?
- (2) What is the monthly amount each department and agency pays for leasing the vehicles?
- (3) What was the amount each department and agency paid for leasing the vehicles in February 1997?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

Kings Park Board:

- (1) 15
- (2) \$3535.90
- (3) \$3535.90

Perth Zoo:

- (1) 10
- (2) \$2688
- (3) \$2681.51

Department of Environmental Protection:

- (1) 48

(2) On average \$9000 per month.

(3) \$8855.09

Conservation and Land Management:

(1) 509

(2) Currently \$116,044.54

(3) \$101,195.45

Western Australian Department of Training (including autonomous colleges)

(1) 107

(2) \$25 232.28

(3) \$25 192.75

GOVERNMENT VEHICLES - LEASING

Cost and Number

625. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

(1) How many vehicles does each department and agency under the Minister's control lease?

(2) What is the monthly amount each department and agency pays for leasing the vehicles?

(3) What was the amount each department and agency paid for leasing the vehicles in February 1997?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

Department of Transport

(1) 145 as at 8 April 1997.

(2) Average of \$27 566 over past three months.

(3) \$26 483.

Main Roads Western Australia

(1) 519 (March).

(2) \$76 051 (March).

(3) \$70 548 (for 479 vehicles).

MetroBus

(1) One.

(2) Approximately \$130.00.

(3) \$127.89.

Eastern Goldfields Transport Board

(1) Nil.

(2)-(3) Not applicable.

Westrail

(1) 273 as at 8 April 1997.

(2) An average of \$45 073.

(3) \$46 878.93.

Fremantle Port Authority

(1) 47 vehicles.

(2) Normal monthly lease payment is \$7 960.

(3) February lease payment was \$7 715.

Albany Port Authority

(1)-(3) Not applicable.

Bunbury Port Authority

(1)-(3) Nil.

Dampier Port Authority

(1)-(3) Nil.

Esperance Port Authority

(1)-(3) Nil.

Geraldton Port Authority

(1)-(3) Nil.

Port Hedland Port Authority

(1)-(3) Nil

GLOBAL DANCE FOUNDATION - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPLICATION

Confidentiality

660. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

- (1) I refer to the Premier's comments in the House referring to the fact that I have a Freedom of Information request relating to Global Dance and ask how did he become aware of my FOI request?
- (2) Is the Premier aware of any comments by the Information Commissioner in her 1995-96 Annual Report as to ministerial interference in the FOI decision-making process and preserving the privacy of applicants?
- (3) Why was it necessary for the Premier to be made aware of my application?
- (4) Would it not have been sufficient for the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Premier and Cabinet, who signed the letter in response to my request, to have dealt with this matter without reference to the Premier?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) First, members of the Premier's Office were informed of the FOI application made in the first instance to the Minister for Tourism during the course of briefings in relation to matters being raised in Parliament. Secondly, the Western Australian Tourism Commission partially transferred the application to the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet. Finally, the WATC also consulted the Ministry regarding two documents signed by the Premier.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) See (1) above.
- (4) No.

LANDCORP - MINIM COVE

Development Plans - Review

763. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) In regard to the LandCorp and Octennial Holdings development at Minim Cove, Mosman Park, what permission did LandCorp seek, and what permission did LandCorp obtain, for the removal of trees on the public open space adjacent to and east of the Minim Cove site?
- (2) What permission did LandCorp seek, and what permission did LandCorp obtain, for the removal of rubbish from the Minim Cove development and its subsequent placement on the reserve adjacent to the east of the Minim Cove site?
- (3) What is the status of the Aboriginal shell middens east of the boundary of the Minim Cove site following the extensive earthworks in that area, and what advice has LandCorp been given by the Western Australian Museum?

- (4) Will the Minister review the current LandCorp Development plans for Minim Cove following statements by the Chairman of the Swan River Trust in the press that the plans are inconsistent with the preferred options of the Swan River Trust?
- (5) Will the Minister review the current LandCorp development plans for Minim Cove with a view to reinstating the Fremantle Regional Strategy?
- (6) Now significant earthworks have occurred, will the Minister give an estimation of the percentage of costs for the cleanup to be paid by Octennial Holdings?
- (7) Is LandCorp paying Octennial Holdings for its own soil taken from the containment cell?
- (8) If so, will this set a precedent by a Government statutory body?
- (9) Will the Minister table the contract between Emery and Associates and LandCorp?
- (10) If not, why not?
- (11) What is the role of Landvision in this project?
- (12) Will the Minister table the contract between Landvision and LandCorp?
- (13) If not, why not?
- (14) What money has been paid to Landvision to date?
- (15) What is the role of Landscan in this project?
- (16) What is the total payment to date to Landscan for works on this site?
- (17) Are there any other payments to be made?
- (18) Will the Minister table the contract between Landscan and LandCorp?
- (19) What contracts have Emery and Associates held with LandCorp previously?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1)-(2) Permission was obtained from the Town of Mosman Park.
- (3) The status of the Aboriginal shell middens is unchanged as works did not extend to that area.
- (4)-(5) The Ministry for Planning is the authority reviewing the subdivision plans for the Minim Cove development.
- (6) Seven per cent.
- (7) No.
- (8) Not applicable.
- (9)-(10) There is no current contract between Emery and Associates and LandCorp. Details of the contractual payments to Emery and Associates were given in answer to question 1264 on Thursday, 13 June 1996.
- (11) Landvision is the planning consultant.
- (12) Yes.
- (13) Not applicable.
- (14) \$896.10 as a consultant to LandCorp. Previously worked as a sub-consultant to Emery and Associates and their fees were included in payments to that group.
- (15) Landscan (now PlanE) is the landscape consultant.
- (16) \$5 632.65 as a consultant to LandCorp. Previously Landscan (PlanE) worked as a sub-consultant to Emery and Associates and their fees were included in payments to that group.
- (17)-(18) Yes.
- (19) Contracts previously held by Emery and Associates with LandCorp are:
Mosman Park - Planning and landscape design -\$114,460

North Fremantle - Planning design - \$12,000

ROADS - MITCHELL FREEWAY

Noise Monitoring

803. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the concerns of Mt Hawthorn residents living in close proximity to the Mitchell Freeway, between Britannia and Scarborough Beach Roads, that unreasonable noise from the Freeway is having a detrimental effect on the quality of their lives?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) Will traffic volume along this section of the Freeway increase over time thereby increasing noise levels experienced by the residents?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) What noise monitoring was undertaken in order to justify the construction of noise barriers north of Vincent Street on the Mitchell Freeway?
- (6) Does the Government have a policy regarding 'best practice' in terms of traffic noise guidelines when it comes to protecting residents from unreasonable traffic noise?
- (7) If not, why not?
- (8) Can the Minister confirm that new road proposals through residential areas are generally assessed using a design guideline of 63dB(A) L10(18hour) and existing road networks are generally assessed using a level of 68dB(A) L10(18hour) and that when noise exceeds these levels consideration may be given to examining practical means of noise reduction?
- (9) Is the Minister aware that in New South Wales noise control guidelines for traffic noise include an environmental goal for traffic noise relative to arterial roads of 63dB(A) L10(18hours) for both new and existing arterial roads and that where this level is exceeded the appropriate authority should take any steps possible to minimise the impact of traffic noise?
- (10) Do the environmental goals for road traffic noise in New South Wales offer a significantly lower noise level for residents seeking action on traffic noise abatement for existing road networks than in Western Australia?
- (11) If not, why not?
- (12) Should design guidelines for existing road networks in Western Australia be lowered to 63dB(A) L10(18hours) as a first step in attaining 'best practise' noise guidelines for the protection of residents from unreasonable traffic noise?
- (13) If not, why not?
- (14) Is Government policy consistent with the statement in the New South Wales Noise Control Guidelines for road traffic noise that the target of 63dB(A) L10(18hours) should always be sought but it should be considered as an interim value subject to further evaluation?
- (15) If not, why not?
- (16) Is the Minister aware that in New South Wales and Victoria consideration is currently being given to a new environmental goal for traffic noise of 55dB(A) Leq (8hours) measured between 10.00 pm and 6.00 am?
- (17) Will the Minister give consideration to the environmental goal for traffic noise of 55dB(A) Leq(8hours) measured between the hours of 10.00 pm and 6.00 am?
- (18) If not, why not?
- (19) Are peak traffic days in a given week generally Wednesday to Saturday?
- (20) If no to (19) above, what days are considered to be peak traffic days?
- (21) Should any monitoring of traffic noise be carried out over a full week in order to more accurately determine the level of noise exceeded for 10% of the period between 6.00 am and midnight?

- (22) If not, why not?
- (23) Is it correct that any monitoring of traffic noise which does not include those days recognised as peak traffic days will invariably give a lower dB(A) L10(18hours) reading than if peak traffic days were included?
- (24) If not, why not?
- (25) What are the results of the most recent monitoring of traffic noise from the Mitchell Freeway in Mt Hawthorn between Britannia and Scarborough Beach Roads?
- (26) On what dates and days was this monitoring undertaken?
- (28) From what location/s was this monitoring undertaken?
- (29) Was this monitoring undertaken from the residential location closest to the Freeway in Mt Hawthorn between Britannia and Scarborough Beach Roads?
- (30) If not, why not?
- (31) Can the Minister confirm that monitored noise levels on wet days would generally be expected to be higher than on dry days?
- (32) If so, can the Minister give the dates on which monitoring of traffic noise in Mt Hawthorn between Britannia and Scarborough Beach Roads was carried out in wet weather?
- (33) Is it correct that noise monitoring undertaken exclusively during dry or wet weather would be expected to give an unrepresentative dB(A) L10(18hours) measurement of the traffic noise encountered throughout the year?
- (34) If not, why not?
- (35) Is it correct that in order to properly assess the claims of unreasonable noise from traffic, on the Mitchell Freeway, monitoring should be undertaken throughout the year in all weather conditions to determine the average dB(A) L10 (18hour) measurements?
- (36) If not, why not?
- (37) Are existing guidelines for traffic noise inadequate in providing the necessary impetus for noise abatement action in response to the petitioned concerns of residents?
- (38) If not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Yes. However, noise levels are not predicted to exceed noise level standards.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) Noise was monitored at residences in Leederville, Mt Hawthorn and Glendalough prior to construction of the northbound carriageways on Mitchell Freeway.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) Not applicable.
- (8) Yes.
- (9) Recent advice to Main Roads Western Australia from the New South Wales Road Traffic Authority (NSWRTA) is that the standard the member quotes is not the standard it is working to.
- (10) Advice from the NSWRTA is that the standard to which the member refers is not quoted correctly. The 63dB(A) L10 (18 hour) standard applies to new roads and upgrades to existing roads. In this context it is the same as Main Roads' current standard. NSWRTA indicated it is now using a Leq standard in the same fashion and that it does not have a standard in force for remediation work on the existing network where

upgrading work is not being undertaken. The Leq standard currently being used by NSWRTA does not materially change noise levels for residents over the existing standards in Western Australia.

- (11) Not applicable.
- (12) No.
- (13) The first step is gathering sufficient information on which to base decisions regarding control of traffic noise. This step is currently being undertaken.
- (14) No. The standards are not interim, but subject to regular re-evaluation.
- (15) Not applicable.
- (16) Advice from NSWRTA is it already has a Leq (9 hours) standard of 55dB(A) in place, which does not materially change noise levels for residents over the existing standards in Western Australia.
- (17) The most appropriate method of assessing night time noise, including Leq (8 hours) is currently being investigated by Main Roads. Main Roads will consult with the Department of the Environment before establishing any new standards as was done when establishing the current standards.
- (18) Not applicable.
- (19) No.
- (20) Traffic flows are normally highest on Monday to Friday on inner sections of Mitchell Freeway.
- (21) No.
- (22) Freeway traffic flows are highest and very consistent on week days, indicating that the usual two-day monitoring is adequate in most circumstances. However, Main Roads reviews the weather conditions in order to ensure that they are representative of dry weather conditions and will extend the program where they are not.
- (23) Yes.
- (24) Not applicable.
- (25) Results of the most recent monitoring at two locations in this area are: 61 to 64 dB(A), and 65 to 68 dB(A), L10 (18 hour).
- (26) Four full days, from Tuesday, February 25 to Friday, February 28 1997.
- (27) Question 27 is not listed in the Parliamentary Question.
- (28) Residences in Sasse Avenue and Anzac Road, Mt Hawthorn.
- (29) No.
- (30) The residential location nearest the Freeway was built after the Freeway was constructed and was not considered to be representative of the majority of residences in this area.
- (31) Yes, but wet weather may cause traffic to travel at lower speeds which could compensate for extra noise generated by a wet road surface.
- (32) Wet weather monitoring was not carried out.
- (33) Yes. Noise monitoring exclusively during wet weather conditions would be extremely unrepresentative in a City with so many dry days. Noise standards are predicated on dry weather conditions, which is why the monitoring was undertaken at that time.
- (34) Not applicable.
- (35) No.
- (36) Normal procedure is to undertake noise measurement during neutral wind conditions or to encompass typical wind variations in dry weather. This would not normally require measurements throughout the year.
- (37) Main Roads is currently investigating worldwide standards for noise. The current standards were adequate at the time they were set. The purpose of the current investigation is to determine if they are still adequate.

(38) Not applicable.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - MEMBERSHIP

Statistics

820. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) What boards, committees or the like in each portfolio under the Minister's control provide a sitting fee, or other payment, to board or committee members?
- (2) What is the name of each board and/or committee?
- (3) What are the names of the members of each board and/or committee?
- (4) How much is each member of the board and/or committee paid for their services?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1)-(4) The information sought by the member will require considerable investigation and perusal of agency files. I am not prepared to allocate the resources that would be needed, but would be happy to look at any specific case that the member may wish to put forward.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - MEMBERSHIP

Statistics

823. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labour Relations; Planning; Heritage:

- (1) What boards, committees or the like in each portfolio under the Minister's control provide a sitting fee, or other payment, to board or committee members?
- (2) What is the name of each board and/or committee?
- (3) What are the names of the members of each board and/or committee?
- (4) How much is each member of the board and/or committee paid for their services?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1)-(4) I refer the member to questions on notice 449, 450 and 451 asked by Dr Constable.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - MEMBERSHIP

Statistics

824. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) What boards, committees or the like in each portfolio under the Minister's control provide a sitting fee, or other payment, to board or committee members?
- (2) What is the name of each board and/or committee?
- (3) What are the names of the members of each board and/or committee?
- (4) How much is each member of the board and/or committee paid for their services?

Mr SHAVE replied:

LandCorp

- (1)-(2) Western Australian Land Authority

(3)-(4)	William Patrick GRIFFITHS	\$45,500	per annum
	Robert Warren MICKLE	\$11,000	per annum
	Celia SEARLE	\$8,800	per annum
	Dr Ernest MANEA	\$8,800	per annum
	Stuart Llewellyn MORGAN	\$8,800	per annum
	Ross HUGHES	\$8,800	per annum
	Dr Des KELLY	Nil	

Department of Land Administration

- (1)-(2) Pastoral Board, Land Surveyors Licensing Board.

(3)-(4)	Pastoral Board		
	Member	Fees	
	Mr L M Kelly	\$40 per hour (limit of 14 hours per week)	
	Mr J A De Pledge	\$108 full day	\$ 73 half day
	Mr D Halleen	\$108 full day	\$ 73 half day
	Dr G A Robertson	Nil	
	Mr W Rose	Nil	
	Mr L K Polmear	\$108 full day	\$ 73 half day
	Mr J M Price	\$108 full day	\$ 73 half day
	Land Surveyors Licensing Board		
	Member	Fees	
	Mr H J Houghton	Nil	
	Mr B G Cribb	Nil	
	Mr J Cameron	Nil	
	Mr L Annison	Nil	
	Mr R J Bennetti	\$108 full day	\$ 73 half day
	Mr C N Shipp	\$108 full day	\$ 73 half day

Western Australian Electoral Commission

(1)-(4) There are no boards or committees established in the portfolio of Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs.

Ministry of Fair Trading

- (1)-(2) Builders Registration Board
 Building Disputes Committee
 Charitable Collections Advisory Committee
 Consumer Product Safety Committee
 Finance Brokers Supervisory Board
 Home Buyers Assistance Advisory Committee
 Land Valuers Licensing Board
 Motor Vehicle Dealers Licensing Board
 Painters' Registration Board
 Real Estate and Business Agents Board
 Retail Shops Advisory Committee
 Settlement Agents Supervisory Board

(3)-(4) See tabled paper No 453.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - MEMBERSHIP

Statistics

826. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Local Government; Disability Services:

- (1) What boards, committees or the like in each portfolio under the Minister's control provide a sitting fee, or other payment, to board or committee members?
- (2) What is the name of each board and/or committee?
- (3) What are the names of the members of each board and/or committee?
- (4) How much is each member of the board and/or committee paid for their services?

Mr OMODEI replied:

With respect to the Department of Local Government:

- (1) Local Government Grants Commission
 Local Government Advisory Board
 Keep Australia Beautiful Council
 Building Regulations Advisory Committee
 Control of Vehicles (Off Road Areas) Act Advisory Committee
 Fremantle Cemeteries Board
 Metropolitan Cemeteries Board
- (2) As above.
- (3)-(4) Local Government Grants Commission
 Humphrey Park \$38 475pa
 John Lynch Nil
 Roseanne Pimm \$10,600pa
 Linton Reynolds \$10,600pa
 William C Scott \$10,600pa

Local Government Advisory Board

Robert M Rowell	\$31,600pa
John Hardwick	\$ 4,800pa
Garry Hunt	Nil
Ian S Mickel	\$ 4,800pa
John Lynch	Nil

Keep Australia Beautiful Council

J McGeogh	\$ 5,100pa
M Gibbons	Nil
T Wright	Nil
P James	Nil
M Roddy	Nil
R Newell	Nil
R Meagher	Nil
G Bennett	Nil
G Taylor	Nil
R Knapp	Nil
I Cowie	Nil
B Backhouse	Nil
J Sewell	Nil
T Hales	Nil
G Rundle	Nil

Building Regulations Advisory Committee

P Airey	\$108 full day; \$73 half day
I Buckley	Nil
M Gilovitz	Nil
G Glick	\$108 full day; \$73 half day
G Holmes	\$108 full day; \$73 half day
W Jolley	Nil
L Kruize	\$108 full day; \$73 half day
J Macey	Nil
M O'Doherty	Nil
S Roatch	Nil
R Torrance	\$108 full day; \$73 half day
G White	\$108 full day; \$73 half day

Control of Vehicles (Off Road Areas) Act Advisory Committee

David Mell	\$108 full day; \$73 half day
William Ryan	Nil
Jim Sharp	Nil
Jeff Sims	\$108 full day; \$73 half day
Margaret Smith	Nil
Andrew Stephenson	Nil
Stephen Wilke	\$108 full day; \$73 half day

Fremantle Cemetery Board

R Fardon	\$185 per meeting
K Chipper	\$123 per meeting
E Lovell	\$123 per meeting
R McKeig	\$123 per meeting
J Papaphotis	\$123 per meeting
M Wilson	\$123 per meeting
E Bryce	\$123 per meeting

Metropolitan Cemeteries Board

F Cavanough	\$7000pa
M Clark Murphy	\$3700pa
K Colbung	\$3700pa
B James	\$3700pa
J O'Dea Jnr	\$3700pa
R Wheatley	\$3700pa
F Morel	\$3700pa

With respect to the Disability Services Commission

- (1) * The Advisory Council of Disability Services
 * The Board of the Disability Services Commission

* The Board Sub-Committee on the Implementation of the Out-sourcing of Accommodation Services.

(2) See (1).

(3)(4) The Advisory Council for Disability Services

Dr Louisa Alessandri	\$12,200 (total for both the Advisory Council & Board roles)
Jenny AuYoung	\$ 2,500
Dr Jane Barratt	Nil
Mary Cliff	\$ 2,500
Ellen French	Nil
Maureen Jewell	\$2,500
Prof Richard Joske	\$2,500
Dr Warren Loudon	\$2,500
Joan McKenna-Kerr	\$2,500
Jim O'Brien	\$2,500
Jean Rickards	\$2,500
Eileen Taylor	\$2,500
Ron Widdison	\$2,500
Keith Wilson	\$2,500

The Board of Disability Services Commission

Barry McKinnon	\$65,050
Dr Louisa Alessandri	(see above)
Tracey Cross	\$4,800
Prof Ian Eggleton	nil
Debbie Karasinski	\$4,800
Kevin Karlson	\$4,800
Christine Kerr	\$4,800
Majorie Harper	\$4,800
Leonie Walker	\$4,800

The Board Sub-committee on the Implementation of the Out-sourcing of Accommodation Services

Barry McKinnon	covered by Board fees
Prof Ian Eggleton	Nil
Kevin Karlson	covered by Board fees
Maureen Jewell	Nil
Gordon Trewern	Nil
George McCullagh	\$625 per meeting
Haydn Lowe	covered by DSC salary
Dr Heather Brown	covered by DSC salary
David Hounscome	covered by DSC salary
Dale Beynon	covered by DSC salary

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - MEMBERSHIP

Statistics

827. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What boards, committees or the like in each portfolio under the Minister's control provide a sitting fee, or other payment, to board or committee members?
- (2) What is the name of each board and/or committee?
- (3) What are the names of the members of each board and/or committee?
- (4) How much is each member of the board and/or committee paid for their services?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) Board of Visitors to Bentley Hospital
Board of Visitors to Fremantle Hospital (Alma Street Centre)
Board of Visitors to Graylands Hospital
Board of Visitors to La Salle Hospital
Board of Visitors to Lemnos Hospital
Board of Visitors to Milgray House (Albany)
Board of Visitors to Mills Street Centre
Board of Visitors to Approved Psychiatric Hostels, Group 1
Board of Visitors to Approved Psychiatric Hostels, Group 2
Board of Visitors to Approved Psychiatric Hostels, Group 3

Chiropractors Registration Board
 Dental Board of Western Australia
 Food Advisory Committee
 Medical Board of Western Australia
 Nurses Board
 Occupational Therapists Registration Board
 Physiotherapists Registration Board
 Poisons Advisory Committee
 Psychologists Board of Western Australia
 Radiological Council
 Western Australian Alcohol & Drug Authority Board
 Western Australian Health Promotion Foundation (Healthway Board)

No hospital boards pay sitting fees to their members. They may, however, decide individually whether to reimburse costs; for instance, where long distance travel is concerned, fuel and accommodation costs are reimbursed. Registration fees for workshops attended may also be paid.

(2) Answer as for question (1).

(3) Board/Council/Committee

Boards of Visitors to Approved (Psychiatric) Hospitals -

Bentley Hospital (Mills Street Centre) -
 Sheila Amsden
 Margot Bray
 John See
 Dr James Leavesley
 Dr Edgar Richard Reid

Fremantle Hospital (Alma Street Centre) -
 Karen Farley
 Dr Martin Sawday
 Dr Maurice Samuels
 Bronwyn Stewart
 Deborah McGeoch

Graylands Hospital -
 John Casson
 Dr Martin Sawday
 Jean Ellis
 Anthony Fowke
 Dr John Rooney

Lemnos Hospital -
 Peter Marks
 Dr Edgar Richard Reid
 Dr Martin Sawday
 Noreen Paust
 John See

La Salle Hospital -
 Corinne Griffin
 John Casson
 Jean Ellis
 Dr Flora Franzinelli
 John See
 Dr John Rooney

Milgray House (Albany) -
 Bonnie Smith
 Dr Joe Lubich
 Dr Darcy Smith
 Barbara Atkinson
 Ros Sawyer

Boards of Visitors to Approved Psychiatric Hostels, Groups 1, 2 and 3 -

Group 1
 Maureen Grierson
 Charles Rothwell
 Jill Bennett
 Megan Byrne
 Ian Handcock

Group 2
Sandra Brown
Kevin Hogg
June O'Connor
Dulcie Naylor
John Little

Group 3
Kevin Guhl
Beryl Luscombe
Helen Harding
William Ryan
Phil Dawson

Other Boards and Committees -

Chiropractors Registration Board
Chairperson's position vacant
Robert Scott
Stephen Farrell
Kenneth Spencer
Bevan Goodreid

Dental Board of Western Australia
Les Waldon
Bruce Barblett
F. Davis
John Owen
Mark Cornell
Dr Boyd
David Neesham

Food Advisory Committee
Dr Paul Psaila-Savona
Dr John Hosking
Kim Leighton
Dr Timothy Inglis
Cathy Campbell
Philip Walsh

Medical Board of Western Australia
Dr Con Michael
Dr Lewis Blake
Professor James Paterson
Hon Margaret McAleer
Dr Bryant Stokes
Dr Mary Surveyor
Dr Michael McCall
Dr Pam Quatermass
Eric Heenan, QC
Professor Geoff Riley

Nurses Board
Mary Jo Kroeber
Susanne Williams
Mary Murphy
Rosemarie Anne Skuthorp
Sylvia Ada Nelson
Eugenie Jelly
Pamela Anne Roberts
Roy Dobson
Lorraine Haw
Denis Vincent
Bronwyn Jones

Occupational Therapists Registration Board
Helen Morton
Anne Passmore
Margaret Duckworth
Sally Wojnar-Horton
Kerry Jones

Physiotherapists Registration Board
Professor Joan Cole
Dr Margaret Gibson

Dr Rodney Moore
Mark Wiklund

Poisons Advisory Committee
Dr Vivienne Dawes
Dr Paul Psaila-Savona
Dr Preston Suijendorp
Dr Donald Nickels
Dr John Hosking
David Gray
Ian Hamilton
Dr Brian Dare
Ian Crawford
Dr Simon Dimmitt
Dr Kenneth Ilett
Dr Donald Bott

Psychologists Board of Western Australia
Alison Bevan
Dr John Hogben
Dr Anthony Mander
Lynette Clayton
Stephen Crooks

Radiological Council
Dr Jim McNulty
Dr Richard Fox
Dr Nick Costa
Dr Brian O'Connor
Dr Ken Brownlie
Dr Harvey Turner

Western Australian Alcohol & Drug Authority Board
Dr Jim McNulty
Marian Kickett
Professor David Hawks

- (4) The following sitting fees are payable, although in some instances, for a variety of reasons, the fees are not paid to the relevant member. Some boards and committees reimburse costs, eg for travel.

Board/Council/Committee	Sitting Fees
Boards of Visitors to Approved Hospitals Bentley Hospital Graylands Hospital Lemnos Hospital Fremantle Hospital (Alma Street Centre) La Salle Hospital Mills Street Centre Hospital Milgray House (Albany)	Chairperson: \$97 per half day meeting Members: \$73 per half day meeting
Boards of Visitors to Approved Psychiatric Hostels Group 1 Group 2 Group 3	Chairperson: \$97 per half day meeting Members: \$73 per half day meeting
Chiropractors Registration Board	Chairperson: \$80 per half day meeting Members: \$60 per half day meeting
Dental Prosthetists Advisory Committee	Chairperson: \$130 per half day meeting Member: \$86 per half day meeting
Dental Charges Committee	Chairperson: \$130 per half day meeting Members: \$86 per half day meeting
Dental Board of Western Australia	Chairperson: \$196 full day, \$131 half day Members: \$131 full day; \$86 half day
Food Advisory Committee	Chairperson: Nil (ex officio department) Members: \$108 full day; \$73 half day
Medical Board of Western Australia	Chairperson: \$97 per half day meeting Members: \$73 per half day meeting

Nurses Board	Chairperson: \$108 full day; \$73 half day Members: Nil
Occupational Therapists Registration Board	Chairperson: \$130 per half day meeting Members: \$86 per half day meeting
Physiotherapists Registration Board	Chairperson: \$130 per half day meeting Members: \$86 per half day meeting
Poisons Advisory Committee	Chairperson: \$97 per half day meeting Members: \$73 per half day meeting
Psychologists Board of Western Australia	Chairperson: \$145 full day; \$97 half day Members: \$108 full day; \$73 per half day meeting
Radiological Council	Chairperson: \$7 000 per annum Members: \$186 per day; \$123 half day
Reproductive Technology Council	Chairperson: \$108 full day; \$97 half day Members: \$108 full day; \$73 half day
Western Australian Alcohol & Drug Authority Board	Chairperson: \$3 600 per annum Members: \$108 full day; \$73 half day
Western Australian Health Promotion Foundation (Healthway Board)	Chairperson: \$10 000 per annum Members: \$5 300 per annum

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - MEMBERSHIP

Statistics

829. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Works; Services; Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs; Youth:
- (1) What boards, committees or the like in each portfolio under the Minister's control provide a sitting fee, or other payment, to board or committee members?
 - (2) What is the name of each board and/or committee?
 - (3) What are the names of the members of each board and/or committee?
 - (4) How much is each member of the board and/or committee paid for their services?

Mr BOARD replied:

DEPARTMENT OF CONTRACT AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

- (1)-(2) The Fremantle Prison Trust and the Department of Contract and Management Services Building Tenders Committee.

- (3) The current membership of the Fremantle Prison Trust follows:

Ms M Wallace (Chair), Mr H Farrar, Mr P Griffiths, Mr N Harris, Mr R Davidson, Ms E Harvey, Mr G Sherwin, Mr S Carrick, Mr C Nelthorpe.

The current membership of the Department of Contract and Management Services Building Tenders Committee follows:

Mr A Taylor (Chair), Mr R Adolphe, Mr J Wilson, Dr F Pitman, Mr R Hrabar, Mr S Harvey, Mr G Postmus, Mr R Looker, Mr A McGregor, Mr M Diaz.

- (4) The chairperson of the Fremantle Prison Trust, Ms Marlie Wallace, receives \$4,500.00 per annum plus \$600.00 for expenses.

Trust members receive \$73.00 per Trust meeting attended with the exception of State Government representatives who do not receive remuneration.

Mr John Wilson of the Department of Contract and Management Services Building Tenders Committee receives \$131.00 per meeting attended. Other members of the committee are State Government Representatives and therefore do not receive remuneration.

STATE SUPPLY COMMISSION

(1)-(2) State Supply Commission

(3) The names of current members of the State Supply Commission are as follows:-

Mr Craig Lawrence	Chairman
Ms Michele Dolan	
Mr Garry Duffield	(Ex Officio)
Mr Ian Hill	
Mr Keith Lingard	
Mr Stephen Moore	
Dr Paul Schapper	
Mr Ross Drabble	(Substitute Member)

(4) The payment for each current member of the State Supply Commission is as follows:-

Mr Craig Lawrence	Chairman	\$40,000 per annum
Ms Michele Dolan	Member	\$473.00 per half day session
		\$108.00 per full day session
Mr Keith Lingard	Member	\$108.00 per full day session
Mr Stephen Moore	Member	\$108.00 per full day session
Dr Paul Schapper	Member	Nil.
Mr Ian Hill	Member	Nil.
Mr Ross Drabble	Substitute Member	Nil.
Mr Garry Duffield	Ex-Officio Member	Nil.

OFFICE OF YOUTH AFFAIRS

(1) The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal is currently determining the appropriate level of sitting fee for members of the Youth Minister's Advisory Council.

(2)-(3) The names of current members of the Youth Minister's Advisory Council are as follows:-

Mr Ray Della-Polina	Chairman
Ms Ruth Armstrong	
Mr Peter Collier	
Mr Mel Fialho	
Ms Natalee Fuhrmann	
Ms Anne Griffiths	
Assistant Commissioner Mel Hay	
Ms Kathryn Heaton	
Mr Jonathan Huston	
Ms Kate Reynolds	
Professor Steven Schwartz	
Dr Howard Sercombe	
Mr Sven Silburn	
Mr Jason Walkerton	
Ms Gina Williams	
Ms Cheryl Vardon	
Mr Mike Daube	

(4) Refer (1) above.

OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS

(1) Nil.

(2)-(4) Not applicable.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - MEMBERSHIP

Statistics

830. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) What boards, committees or the like in each portfolio under the Minister's control provide a sitting fee, or other payment, to board or committee members?
- (2) What is the name of each board and/or committee?
- (3) What are the names of the members of each board and/or committee?
- (4) How much is each member of the board and/or committee paid for their services?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following response -

I refer the member to my answer to question 222.

NB: The vacant position on the board of the Racecourse Development Trust has now been filled by Mr Ian Loxton who was appointed on 28 April 1997 for the period until 31 July 1997.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - MEMBERSHIP

Statistics

832. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) What boards, committees or the like in each portfolio under the Minister's control provide a sitting fee, or other payment, to board or committee members?
- (2) What is the name of each board and/or committee?
- (3) What are the names of the members of each board and/or committee?
- (4) How much is each member of the board and/or committee paid for their services?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following reply.

I refer the member to my response to question 363 of 1997.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - MEMBERSHIP

Statistics

834. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) What boards, committees or the like in each portfolio under the Attorney General's control provide a sitting fee, or other payment, to board or committee members?
- (2) What is the name of each board and/or committee?
- (3) What are the names of the members of each board and/or committee?
- (4) How much is each member of the board and/or committee paid for their services?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

(1)-(4) [See paper No 446.]

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - MEMBERSHIP

Statistics

836. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) What boards, committees or the like in each portfolio under the Minister's control provide a sitting fee, or other payment, to board or committee members?
- (2) What is the name of each board and/or committee?
- (3) What are the names of the members of each board and/or committee?
- (4) How much is each member of the board and/or committee paid for their services?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply -

(1)-(4) See paper No 447.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Expenditure

842. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

(1) How much did each department and agency under the Minister's control spend on -

- (a) television advertising;
- (b) radio advertising; and
- (c) newspaper advertising,

between 1 July 1996 and 30 March 1997?

(2) How much does each department and agency under the Minister's control plan to spend on -

- (a) television advertising;
- (b) radio advertising; and
- (c) newspaper advertising,

between 1 April 1997 and 30 June 1997?

Mr HOUSE replied:

(1)-(2) The information sought by the member will require considerable investigation and perusal of agency files. I am not prepared to allocate the resources that would be needed, but would be happy to look at any specific case that the member might wish to put forward.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Expenditure

850. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

(1) How much did each department and agency under the Minister's control spend on -

- (a) television advertising;
- (b) radio advertising; and
- (c) newspaper advertising,

between 1 July 1996 and 30 March 1997?

(2) How much does each department and agency under the Minister's control plan to spend on -

- (a) television advertising;
- (b) radio advertising; and
- (c) newspaper advertising,

between 1 April 1997 and 30 June 1997?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following response -

State Revenue Department:

(1) (a)-(b) Nil.
(c) \$3 404

(2) (a)-(b) Nil.
(c) \$540

State Government Insurance Commission:

(1) (a) \$49 414
(b) Nil
(c) \$6 679

(2) (a) \$20 810
(b) Nil
(c) \$4 033

Valuer General's Office:

- (1) (a) \$15 775
(b) Nil
(c) \$6 794.28
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil
(c) \$2 900

NB: Television advertising is in relation to the Real Estate Show under provisions of Net Appropriation.

Government Employees Superannuation Board:

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil
(c) \$6 150.18
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil
(c) \$5 200

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Expenditure

852. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) How much did each department and agency under the Minister's control spend on -
 - (a) television advertising;
 - (b) radio advertising; and
 - (c) newspaper advertising,
 between 1 July 1996 and 30 March 1997?
- (2) How much does each department and agency under the Minister's control plan to spend on -
 - (a) television advertising;
 - (b) radio advertising; and
 - (c) newspaper advertising,
 between 1 April 1997 and 30 June 1997?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following response:

Office of Racing, Gaming & Liquor
(includes Betting Control Board and Gaming Commission)

- (1) (a) Nil
(b) Nil
(c) \$10,826
- (2) (a) Nil
(b) Nil
(c) \$2,720

Totalisator Agency Board

- (1) (a) \$778,267
(b) \$27,456
(c) \$343,796
- (2) (a) \$8,385
(b) \$22,246
(c) \$39,723

Burswood Park Board

- (1) (a) \$35,000
(b) Nil
(c) \$7,380
- (2) (a) Nil
(b) Nil
(c) \$100

W A Greyhound Racing Association

- | | | |
|-----|-----|-----------|
| (1) | (a) | \$100,573 |
| | (b) | \$109,561 |
| | (c) | \$69,695 |
| (2) | (a) | Nil |
| | (b) | \$20,510 |
| | (c) | \$8,539 |

Lotteries Commission

- | | | |
|-----|-----|-------------|
| (1) | (a) | \$2,363,197 |
| | (b) | \$200,055 |
| | (c) | \$852,521 |
| (2) | (a) | \$606,786 |
| | (b) | \$58,446 |
| | (c) | \$286,144 |

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Expenditure

863. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) How much did each department and agency under the Minister's control spend on advertising in the 1995-96 financial year?
- (2) How much did each department and agency under the Minister's control spend on -
- | | |
|-----|-------------------------|
| (a) | television advertising; |
| (b) | radio advertising; and |
| (c) | newspaper advertising, |
- in the 1995-96 financial year?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1)-(2) The information sought by the member will require considerable investigation and perusal of agency files. I am not prepared to allocate the resources that would be needed, but would be happy to look at any specific case that the member might wish to put forward.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Allocation

884. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) How much has each department and agency under the Minister's control allocated to advertising in the 1997-98 financial year?
- (2) What is the purpose of the advertising?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1)-(2) The information sought by the member will require considerable investigation and perusal of agency files. I am not prepared to allocate the resources that would be needed, but would be happy to look at any specific case that the member might wish to put forward.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - POLLING AND MARKET RESEARCH

Statistics

910. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

- (1) How much has been allocated by each department and agency under the Minister's control for -
- | | |
|-----|-------------------------|
| (a) | public opinion polling; |
| (b) | market research; |
| (c) | customer research; and |

(d) stakeholder research,
in the 1997-98 financial year?

- (2) What is the precise nature of the polling and/or research that will be undertaken by each department and agency?

Dr HAMES replied:

Government Employees' Housing Authority:

- (1) The Government Employees' Housing Authority has allocated \$10,000 for customer research in 1997-98. No amounts have been allocated to public opinion polling, market research or stakeholder research.
- (2) The customer research being undertaken is to determine customer satisfaction with new accommodation provided in the previous financial year.

Homeswest:

- (1) (a) Nil
(b)-(c) \$91,300.00
(d) Nil
- (2) (a) National Benchmarking Study/Post Occupancy Evaluations. This is a nationwide customer satisfaction survey conducted jointly by Homeswest, Commonwealth and other States/Territories among public rental tenants.
- (b) Customer Satisfaction Research among other Homeswest client groups to gather information on how they perceive the service that Homeswest provides.
- (c) Research to determine suitability of possible land marketing initiatives.

Note: Homeswest, as a partner in Ellenbrook Management Pty Ltd, will participate in market research for this development, the cost of which is paid by Ellenbrook Management Pty Ltd.

Rural Housing Authority:

- (1) There has been no allocation for such purposes by either the Rural Housing Authority or the Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing Authority.
- (2) Not Applicable.

Water Corporation:

- (1) (a) Nil
(b) \$300,000
(c) \$181,000
(d) Nil
- (2) Determine needs of customers in the various market segments and the effectiveness in meeting those needs.
- Ongoing customer contact satisfaction surveys.
- Regular quarterly surveys of overall customer satisfaction and environmental performance.
- Evaluation of effectiveness of Waterwise Program.
- Scientific survey of customer water use to better plan for future water needs.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the sewer conversion marketing strategy associated with the Infill Sewerage Program.
- Monitor the quality and customer satisfaction following construction activities associated with Infill Sewerage Program.

Office of Water Regulation:

- (1) (a)-(d) The Office of Water Regulation has allocated a total of \$72,000 to communications programs in 1997/98. It has not yet attempted to break this down further in respect of specific items such as public opinion polling, market research, customer research or stakeholder research.

- (2) It is not known as yet exactly what polling and/or research will be undertaken by this Office in 1997/98.

Water and Rivers Commission and Swan River Trust:

- (1) (a) Nil
(b) \$35,000
(c)-(d) \$120,000
- (2) Surveys, workshops on catchment management, ground water, rivers and estuaries to catchment and farmer groups to combat land degradation; especially salinity, waterlogging and eutrophication.

Aboriginal Affairs:

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

Water and Rivers Commission:

- (1) (a) Nil
(b) \$35,000.00
(c)-(d) \$120,000.00
- (2) Surveys, workshops on catchment management, ground water, rivers and estuaries to catchment and farmer groups to combat land degradation; especially salinity, waterlogging and eutrophication.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - POLLING AND MARKET RESEARCH

Statistics

911. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Local Government; Disability Services:

- (1) How much has been allocated by each department and agency under the Minister's control for -
(a) public opinion polling;
(b) market research;
(c) customer research; and
(d) stakeholder research,
in the 1997-98 financial year?
- (2) What is the precise nature of the polling and/or research that will be undertaken by each department and agency?

Mr OMODEI replied:

Department of Local Government:

- (1) (a)-(d) Nil.
(2) Not applicable.

Disability Services Commission:

- (1) (a) Nil.
(b) \$15 000
(c) \$12 000
(d) Nil.
- (2) (a) Not applicable.
(b) Survey of community attitudes toward people with disabilities.
(c) Consumer satisfaction survey.
(d) Not applicable.

Fremantle Cemetery Board:

- (1) (a) Nil.
(b) \$5 000
(c) \$2 000
(d) Nil.

- (2) (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Survey of community attitude to burials, cremations and crypts.
- (c) Visitor survey.
- (d) Not applicable.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council:

- (1) (a)-(d) Nil.
- (2) Not applicable.

Metropolitan Cemeteries Board:

- (1) (a)-(d) Nil.
- (2) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - NUMBER AND DETAILS

924. Mr BROWN to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

- (1) With the exception of employment contracts, how many contracts for services, involving a total payment of \$40 000 or more, has each department and agency under the Deputy Premier's control entered into between 1 September 1996 and 31 March 1997?
- (2) What is -
 - (a) the name of each contractor;
 - (b) the amount of the contract;
 - (c) the purpose of the contract;
 - (d) the date on which the contract was entered into; and
 - (e) the date on which the contract is scheduled for completion?

Mr COWAN replied:

Department of Commerce and Trade

- (1) 2
- (2) (a) CMPS&F Pty Ltd
- (b) \$45 932
- (c) Preparation of a feasibility report on a marine service industrial estate in the Dampier Region
- (d) 21 October 1996
- (e) 20 January 1997
- (a) Donovan Research Pty Ltd
- (b) \$58 000
- (c) Export Impediments Study
- (d) 12 November 1996
- (e) No scheduled date for completion

Small Business Development Corporation

- (1) None
- (2) Not applicable

International Centre for Application of Solar Energy (CASE)

- (1) 3
- (2) (a) Synergy Ltd
- (b) \$134 000
- (c) Provision of renewable energy systems for two sites in Sarawak.
- (d) Orders issued October 1996
- (e) Completed February 1997
- (a) Managed Information Technology Systems
- (b) \$47 000
- (c) Provision of SCADA system of monitoring remote sites.
- (d) November 1996
- (e) May 1997

- (a) Power Search
- (b) \$513 000
- (c) Provision of renewable energy systems for four sites in Thailand.
- (d) January 1997
- (e) June 1997

Technology Industry Advisory Council (TIAC)

- (1) None
- (2) Not applicable

Gascoyne Development Commission

- (1) None
- (2) Not applicable

Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission

- (1) None
- (2) Not applicable

Great Southern Development Commission

- (1) None
- (2) Not applicable

Kimberley Development Commission

- (1) None
- (2) Not applicable

Mid West Development Commission

- (1) None
- (2) Not applicable

Peel Development Commission

- (1) None
- (2) Not applicable

Pilbara Development Commission

- (1) One
- (2)
 - (a) Woodhead Firth Lee
 - (b) \$320 000
 - (c) The consultant shall provide client, project management and control, establishment of project brief, design, documentation and construction contract administration services for the Karijini Interpretive Centre.
 - (d) 26 February 1997
 - (e) April 1998

South West Development Commission

- (1) None
- (2) Not applicable

Wheatbelt Development Commission

- (1) None

- (2) Not applicable

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - NUMBER AND DETAILS

926. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) With the exception of employment contracts, how many contracts for services, involving a total payment of \$40 000 or more, has each department and agency under the Minister's control entered into between 1 September 1996 and 31 March 1997?
- (2) What is -
- (a) the name of each contractor;
 - (b) the amount of the contract;
 - (c) the purpose of the contract;
 - (d) the date on which the contract was entered into; and
 - (e) the date on which the contract is scheduled for completion?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1)-(2) Government agencies routinely contract external providers to undertake a range of services in support of the delivery of the programs. Given the large number of contractual arrangements in place at any time the details sought are not readily available. I am not prepared to direct considerable resources to obtain this information. However, if the member has a specific query I will have the matter investigated.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - NUMBER AND DETAILS

929. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labour Relations; Planning; Heritage:

- (1) With the exception of employment contracts, how many contracts for services, involving a total payment of \$40 000 or more, has each department and agency under the Minister's control entered into between 1 September 1996 and 31 March 1997?
- (2) What is -
- (a) the name of each contractor;
 - (b) the amount of the contract;
 - (c) the purpose of the contract;
 - (d) the date on which the contract was entered into; and
 - (e) the date on which the contract is scheduled for completion?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1)-(2) Government agencies routinely contract external providers to undertake a range of services in support of the delivery of the programs. Given the large number of contractual arrangements in place at any time the details sought are not readily available. I am not prepared to direct considerable resources to obtain this information. However, if the member has a specific query I will have the matter investigated.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - NUMBER AND DETAILS

930. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) With the exception of employment contracts, how many contracts for services, involving a total payment of \$40 000 or more, has each department and agency under the Minister's control entered into between 1 September 1996 and 31 March 1997?
- (2) What is -
- (a) the name of each contractor;
 - (b) the amount of the contract;
 - (c) the purpose of the contract;
 - (d) the date on which the contract was entered into; and
 - (e) the date on which the contract is scheduled for completion?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1)-(2) Government agencies routinely contract external providers to undertake a range of services in support of the delivery of their programs. Given the large number of contractual arrangements in place at any time the details sought are not readily available. I am not prepared to direct considerable resources to obtain this information. However, if the member has a specific query I will have the matter investigated.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - NUMBER AND DETAILS

932. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Local Government; Disability Services:

- (1) With the exception of employment contracts, how many contracts for services, involving a total payment of \$40 000 or more, has each department and agency under the Minister's control entered into between 1 September 1996 and 31 March 1997?
- (2) What is -
- (a) the name of each contractor;
 - (b) the amount of the contract;
 - (c) the purpose of the contract;
 - (d) the date on which the contract was entered into; and
 - (e) the date on which the contract is scheduled for completion?

Mr OMODEI replied:

Disability Services Commission:

- (1) 3
- (2)
- | | | | |
|-----|---|--|--|
| (a) | Marsh & McLennan | Rocky Bay/Cerebral Palsy Association | First Pacific Davies/Smith & Tucker/Knight Frank |
| (b) | \$117,500pa | \$264,000pa | \$49,000 |
| (c) | Occupational Health & Safety Workers Compensation Claims Management | Outsourcing of therapy services in Peel area | Disposal of DSC real estate |
| (d) | 25 September 1996 | 28 January 1997 | 1 November 1996 |
| (e) | 24 September 1999 | 28 January 2002 | 30 November 1999 |

Department of Local Government:

- (1)-(2) Nil

Keep Australia Beautiful Council:

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

Metropolitan Cemeteries Board:

- (1) 2.
- (2)
- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| (a) | Goldfields Contracting | Loxam Developments |
| (b) | \$198,631 | \$45,000 |
| (c) | Roadworks - Pinnaroo Valley Memorial Park | Chapel maintenance - Karrakatta Cemetery |
| (d) | 6 February 1997 | 21 February 1997 |
| (e) | 27 March 1997 | 24 March 1997 |

Fremantle Cemetery Board:

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

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - NUMBER AND DETAILS

933. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Health:

- (1) With the exception of employment contracts, how many contracts for services, involving a total payment of \$40 000 or more, has each department and agency under the Minister's control entered into between 1 September 1996 and 31 March 1997?
- (2) What is -
 - (a) the name of each contractor;
 - (b) the amount of the contract;
 - (c) the purpose of the contract;
 - (d) the date on which the contract was entered into; and
 - (e) the date on which the contract is scheduled for completion?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1)-(2) Government agencies routinely contract external providers to undertake a range of services in support of the delivery of the programs. Given the large number of contractual arrangements in place at any time the details sought are not readily available. I am not prepared to direct considerable resources to obtain this information. However, if the member has a specific query I will have the matter investigated.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - NUMBER AND DETAILS

935. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Works; Services; Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs; Youth:

- (1) With the exception of employment contracts, how many contracts for services, involving a total payment of \$40 000 or more, has each department and agency under the Minister's control entered into between 1 September 1996 and 31 March 1997?
- (2) What is -
 - (a) the name of each contractor;
 - (b) the amount of the contract;
 - (c) the purpose of the contract;
 - (d) the date on which the contract was entered into; and
 - (e) the date on which the contract is scheduled for completion?

Mr BOARD replied:

STATE SUPPLY COMMISSION

- (1) One.
- (2)
 - (a) Palladium Group Pty Ltd.
 - (b) \$41,330.00
 - (c) To provide consultancy services for developing the information dissemination facilities of the State Supply Commission.
 - (d) 19 November 1996.
 - (e) 31 May 1997.

DEPARTMENT OF CONTRACT AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

- (1)-(2) The Department of Contract and Management Services lets numerous contracts on behalf of government agencies which do not have the delegated authority to do so on their own. The Government supports in principle the Commission on Government Recommendation 11 concerning the future Public Disclosure of Contract Information. In terms of the information requested, it would require an extraordinary amount of resources which I do not have and therefore cannot allocate to that task. In the future, we hope to have such information available.

OFFICE OF YOUTH AFFAIRS

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

OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS

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

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - NUMBER AND DETAILS

938. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) With the exception of employment contracts, how many contracts for services, involving a total payment of \$40 000 or more, has each department and agency under the Minister's control entered into between 1 September 1996 and 31 March 1997?
- (2) What is -
 - (a) the name of each contractor;
 - (b) the amount of the contract;
 - (c) the purpose of the contract;
 - (d) the date on which the contract was entered into; and
 - (e) the date on which the contract is scheduled for completion?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following response -

ArtsWA

- (1) 1
- (2)
 - (a) Quirk Corporate Cleaning
 - (b) \$53,489
 - (c) Cleaning of and Gardening in Cultural Centre
 - (d) 1/3/97
 - (e) 28/2/98

Library and Information Service of WA

- (1) Two
- (2)
 - (a) ComsWest Pty Ltd
 - (b) \$316,692 per annum
 - (c) Desktop PC support and associated services for administrative and public access equipment.
 - (d) 11 October 1996
 - (e) 11 October 1999 or on three months' notice.
- (a) Security Locker Service
 - (b) \$59,292 per annum
 - (c) provision of lockers for public use
 - (d) 10 January 1997
 - (e) 28 February 2002

Art Gallery of Western Australia

- (1)-(2) Not applicable.

Perth Theatre Trust

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

Western Australian Museum

- (1) One
- (2)
 - (a) Winthrop Technology
 - (b) \$110,000

- (c) Management and Technical support of Information Technology for the Western Australian Museum.
- (d) 10 September 1996
- (e) 9 September 1997

Screen West

- (1) Nil
- (2) (a)-(e) Nil

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - NUMBER AND DETAILS

939. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) With the exception of employment contracts, how many contracts for services, involving a total payment of \$40 000 or more, has each department and agency under the Minister's control entered into between 1 September 1996 and 31 March 1997?
- (2) What is -
 - (a) the name of each contractor;
 - (b) the amount of the contract;
 - (c) the purpose of the contract;
 - (d) the date on which the contract was entered into; and
 - (e) the date on which the contract is scheduled for completion?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(2) As the member would be aware, many of the activities previously carried out by some agencies within the Transport Ministry, which in the main were not core businesses for the agencies, have been outsourced. Accordingly, contractors are used to provide many services. Therefore, provision of the information requested would require considerable research which would divert staff away from their normal duties and I am not prepared to allocate the State's resources to provide a response. If the member has a specific inquiry about a particular contract, I will endeavour to provide a reply.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - NUMBER AND DETAILS

940. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) With the exception of employment contracts, how many contracts for services, involving a total payment of \$40 000 or more, has each department and agency under the Attorney General's control entered into between 1 September 1996 and 31 March 1997?
- (2) What is -
 - (a) the name of each contractor;
 - (b) the amount of the contract;
 - (c) the purpose of the contract;
 - (d) the date on which the contract was entered into; and
 - (e) the date on which the contract is scheduled for completion?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- (1) 19.
- (2) (a)-(e) See paper No 448.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - NUMBER AND DETAILS

942. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) With the exception of employment contracts, how many contracts for services, involving a total payment of \$40 000 or more, has each department and agency under the Minister's control entered into between 1 September 1996 and 31 March 1997?
- (2) What is -

- (a) the name of each contractor;
- (b) the amount of the contract;
- (c) the purpose of the contract;
- (d) the date on which the contract was entered into; and
- (e) the date on which the contract is scheduled for completion?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply -

- (1) 19.
- (2) (a)-(e) See paper No 449.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CRITICAL COMMENT

Auditor General

954. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) Since 1 July 1995 has any department or agency under the Minister's control received a critical comment, letter or direction from the Auditor General?
- (2) If so -
 - (a) what department or agency;
 - (b) when did the Auditor General make the critical comment;
 - (c) what were the precise circumstances that gave rise to the critical comment;
 - (d) how did the circumstances come about; and
 - (e) who was responsible?
- (3) When did the matter first come to the Minister's attention?
- (4) Did the Minister make the Parliament aware of the matter when it came to his attention?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1)-(5) Government departments and agencies periodically receive reports, comments and opinions from the Auditor General. All chief executive officers should be aware of matters raised by the Auditor General in relation to their agencies and take appropriate action in accordance with their statutory obligations under the Public Sector Management Act and the Financial Administration and Audit Act. The Auditor General regularly submits reports to Parliament and the opinion of the Auditor General is required to be included in the annual reports of all government agencies when they are tabled. Should the member care to raise any specific matters in relation to the Auditor General and the agencies under my portfolio, I would be happy to have them investigated.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CRITICAL COMMENT

Auditor General

956. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Family and Children's Services; Seniors; Women's Interests:

- (1) Since 1 July 1995 has any department or agency under the Minister's control received a critical comment, letter or direction from the Auditor General?
- (2) If so -
 - (a) what department or agency;
 - (b) when did the Auditor General make the critical comment;
 - (c) what were the precise circumstances that gave rise to the critical comment;
 - (d) how did the circumstances come about; and
 - (e) who was responsible?

- (3) When did the matter first come to the Minister's attention?
- (4) Did the Minister make the Parliament aware of the matter when it came to his attention?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) Yes.

Women's Policy Development Office

- (2) (b)-(e) Qualified audit opinion for Performance Indicators in the 1995/1996 Annual Report dated 23 September 1996.
- (3) September 1996.
- (4) Annual Report was tabled in Parliament.
- (5) Not applicable.

Family and Children's Services

- (2) (b) 27 September 1996.
- (c) The Auditor General gave a qualified Audit Opinion in respect of the department's performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 1996. The opinion was qualified because the information upon which a number of key effectiveness indicators was based was not yet available and therefore the department was not able to report on its performance in some areas. As a result, some effectiveness and efficiency indicators for the Protection and Care of Children Program were not considered appropriate at this stage. The Auditor General also commented that the performance indicators for the department were relevant and that the work of the officers involved should be highly commended.
- (d) The performance indicators had recently been developed and some of the information upon which a number of key effectiveness indicators were based was not available.
- (e) The establishment of suitable performance indicators and their support systems was in the developmental stage.
- (3) Advised by the Auditor General's letter of 27 September 1996.
- (4) No - The Auditor General reported the issue to Parliament in his review of the department's performance indicators, in a letter dated 27 September 1996.
- (5) See answer to (4).

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CRITICAL COMMENT

Auditor General

957. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labour Relations; Planning; Heritage:

- (1) Since 1 July 1995 has any department or agency under the Minister's control received a critical comment, letter or direction from the Auditor General?
- (2) If so -
 - (a) what department or agency;
 - (b) when did the Auditor General make the critical comment;
 - (c) what were the precise circumstances that gave rise to the critical comment;
 - (d) how did the circumstances come about; and
 - (e) who was responsible?
- (3) When did the matter first come to the Minister's attention?
- (4) Did the Minister make the Parliament aware of the matter when it came to his attention?

(5) If not, why not?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1)-(5) Government departments and agencies periodically receive reports, comments and opinions from the Auditor General. All chief executive officers should be aware of matters raised by the Auditor General in relation to their agencies and take appropriate action in accordance with their statutory obligations under the Public Sector Management Act and the Financial Administration and Audit Act. The Auditor General regularly submits reports to Parliament and the opinion of the Auditor General is required to be included in the annual reports of all government agencies when they are tabled. Should the member care to raise any specific matters in relation to the Auditor General and the agencies under my portfolio, I would be happy to have them investigated.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CRITICAL COMMENT

Auditor General

958. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) Since 1 July 1995 has any department or agency under the Minister's control received a critical comment, letter or direction from the Auditor General?
- (2) If so -
- (a) what department or agency;
 - (b) when did the Auditor General make the critical comment;
 - (c) what were the precise circumstances that gave rise to the critical comment;
 - (d) how did the circumstances come about; and
 - (e) who was responsible?
- (3) When did the matter first come to the Minister's attention?
- (4) Did the Minister make the Parliament aware of the matter when it came to his attention?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr SHAVE replied:

Government departments and agencies periodically receive reports, comments and opinions from the Auditor General. All chief executive officers should be aware of matters raised by the Auditor General in relation to their agencies and take appropriate action in accordance with their statutory obligations under the Public Sector Management Act and the Financial Administration and Audit Act. The Auditor General regularly submits reports to Parliament and the opinion of the Auditor General is required to be included in the annual reports of all government agencies when they are tabled. Should the member care to raise any specific matters in relation to the Auditor General and the agencies under my portfolio, I would be happy to have them investigated.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CRITICAL COMMENT

Auditor General

960. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Local Government; Disability Services:

- (1) Since 1 July 1995 has any department or agency under the Minister's control received a critical comment, letter or direction from the Auditor General?
- (2) If so -
- (a) what department or agency;
 - (b) when did the Auditor General make the critical comment;
 - (c) what were the precise circumstances that gave rise to the critical comment;
 - (d) how did the circumstances come about; and
 - (e) who was responsible?
- (3) When did the matter first come to the Minister's attention?
- (4) Did the Minister make the Parliament aware of the matter when it came to his attention?

(5) If not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

Disability Services Commission

(1) Yes.

(2) (a) Disability Services Commission.

(b) 11 October 1996.

(c) Assessment of performance indicators by the Auditor General for the Individual and Family Support Program.

(d) The Auditor General offered the opinion that the performance indicators for the Individual and Family Support Program were not considered to be key measures of effectiveness.

(e) The Principal Accounting Officer.

(3) October 1996.

(4) Yes, through the distribution of the printed Annual Report to members of Parliament, which includes the opinion of the Auditor General. The Auditor General also reports directly to Parliament under section 95 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.

(5) Not applicable.

Department of Local Government

(1) No.

(2)-(5) Not applicable.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council

(1) No.

(2)-(5) Not applicable.

Fremantle Cemetery Board

(1) No.

(2)-(5) Not applicable.

Metropolitan Cemeteries Board

(1) No.

(2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CRITICAL COMMENT

Auditor General

961. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Health:

(1) Since 1 July 1995 has any department or agency under the Minister's control received a critical comment, letter or direction from the Auditor General?

(2) If so -

(a) what department or agency;

(b) when did the Auditor General make the critical comment;

(c) what were the precise circumstances that gave rise to the critical comment;

(d) how did the circumstances come about; and

(e) who was responsible?

(3) When did the matter first come to the Minister's attention?

- (4) Did the Minister make the Parliament aware of the matter when it came to his attention?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1)-(5) Government departments and agencies periodically receive reports, comments and opinions from the Auditor General. All chief executive officers should be aware of matters raised by the Auditor General in relation to their agencies and take appropriate action in accordance with their statutory obligations under the Public Sector Management Act and the Financial Administration and Audit Act. The Auditor General regularly submits reports to Parliament and the opinion of the Auditor General is required to be included in the annual reports of all government agencies when they are tabled. Should the member care to raise any specific matters in relation to the Auditor General and the agencies under my portfolio, I would be happy to have them investigated.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CRITICAL COMMENT

Auditor General

963. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Works; Services; Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs; Youth:

- (1) Since 1 July 1995 has any department or agency under the Minister's control received a critical comment, letter or direction from the Auditor General?
- (2) If so -
- (a) what department or agency;
 - (b) when did the Auditor General make the critical comment;
 - (c) what were the precise circumstances that gave rise to the critical comment;
 - (d) how did the circumstances come about; and
 - (e) who was responsible?
- (3) When did the matter first come to the Minister's attention?
- (4) Did the Minister make the Parliament aware of the matter when it came to his attention?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr BOARD replied:

DEPARTMENT OF CONTRACT AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

- (1) Yes.
- (2)
- (a) The Department of State Services.
 - (b) 17 July 1996.
 - (c) The Department of State Services was unable to reconcile its property records to property on hand.
 - (d) The transfer of several departmental functions during the year resulted in transfers and disposals of significant amounts of public property. The changes to the department meant that control over the transfer and recording of public property was difficult to maintain.
 - (e) Under the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985, the responsibility rests with the Executive Director.
- (3) 11 September 1996.
- (4) The opinion of the Auditor General was included in the Department of State Services' Annual Report 1996.
- (5) Not applicable.

OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS

- (1) Yes.
- (2)
- (a) Office of Multicultural Interests

- (b) September 1995 (1994/95 annual audit) and September 1996 (1995/96 annual audit)
- (c)-(d) For 1994/95 and 1995/96 the Auditor General provided an assessment on the performance indicators.
- (e) Accountable Officer of the Office of Multicultural Interests.
- (3) September 1995 (1994/95 annual audit) and September 1996 (1995/96 annual audit).
- (4) The Auditor General's qualified audit opinion on Performance Indicators was included in the Office of Multicultural Interests' 1994/95 and 1995/96 Annual Reports.
- (5) Not applicable.

OFFICE OF YOUTH AFFAIRS

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

STATE SUPPLY COMMISSION

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CRITICAL COMMENT

Auditor General

966. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Since 1 July 1995 has any department or agency under the Minister's control received a critical comment, letter or direction from the Auditor General?
- (2) If so -
 - (a) what department or agency;
 - (b) when did the Auditor General make the critical comment;
 - (c) what were the precise circumstances that gave rise to the critical comment;
 - (d) how did the circumstances come about; and
 - (e) who was responsible?
- (3) When did the matter first come to the Minister's attention?
- (4) Did the Minister make the Parliament aware of the matter when it came to his attention?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following reply -

Arts WA -

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Library and Information Service of WA -

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Art Gallery of Western Australia -

- (1) Since 1 July 1995 the Art Gallery has not received any critical comments, letters or directions from the Auditor General. In the normal course of an audit memos are exchanged seeking clarification on certain

items, but these do not constitute a critical comment. On 9 April 1997 the Auditor General tabled a performance examinations report "On Display: Public Exhibition at the Perth Zoo, Art Gallery and Museum". This report contains a number of recommendations for improvements in all three institutions.

(2)-(5) Not applicable.

Perth Theatre Trust -

(1) No.

(2)-(5) Not applicable.

Western Australian Museum -

(1) No.

(2)-(5) Not applicable.

Screen West -

(1) No.

(2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CRITICAL COMMENT

Auditor General

968. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

(1) Since 1 July 1995 has any department or agency under the Attorney General's control received a critical comment, letter or direction from the Auditor General?

(2) If so -

(a) what department or agency;

(b) when did the Auditor General make the critical comment;

(c) what were the precise circumstances that gave rise to the critical comment;

(d) how did the circumstances come about; and

(e) who was responsible?

(3) When did the matter first come to the Attorney General's attention?

(4) Did the Attorney General make the Parliament aware of the matter when it came to his attention?

(5) If not, why not?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

(1) Yes.

(2) (a) Ministry of Justice.

(b) October 24, 1995 and November 13, 1996.

(c) The performance indicators of the Ministry require further development. In 1995 an audit assessment was issued, and in 1996 an audit qualification was issued by the Auditor General.

(d) The objectives of some programs within the Ministry are not outcome focused, and some data are unavailable, making the measurement of performance in some programs difficult.

(e) Ministry of Justice.

(3) When the audit opinion was issued, October 24, 1995 and November 13, 1996.

(4) Yes.

- (5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CRITICAL COMMENT

Auditor General

970. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Since 1 July 1995 has any department or agency under the Minister's control received a critical comment, letter or direction from the Auditor General?
- (2) If so -
 - (a) what department or agency;
 - (b) when did the Auditor General make the critical comment;
 - (c) what were the precise circumstances that gave rise to the critical comment;
 - (d) how did the circumstances come about; and
 - (e) who was responsible?
- (3) When did the matter first come to the Minister's attention?
- (4) Did the Minister make the Parliament aware of the matter when it came to his attention?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes.
- (2)
 - (a) Ministry of Justice.
 - (b) October 24, 1995 and November 13, 1996.
 - (c) The performance indicators of the Ministry require further development. In 1995 an audit assessment was issued, and in 1996 an audit qualification was issued by the Auditor General.
 - (d) The objectives of some programs within the Ministry are not outcome focused, and some data is unavailable, making the measurement of performance in some programs difficult.
 - (e) Ministry of Justice.
- (3) When the audit opinion was issued, October 24, 1995 and November 13, 1996.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Not applicable.

CAPITAL AND CORPORAL PUNISHMENT - REFERENDUM

977. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) Prior to the 1996 State election, did the Premier float the idea of a referendum being conducted on -
 - (a) capital punishment;
 - (b) corporal punishment,with the State election?
- (2) What was the reason or reasons the Premier decided not to conduct a referendum on these two issues?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) A decision to hold a referendum would only have been if the Government was convinced that there was sufficient public support for such an action.

GOVERNMENT VEHICLES - LEASING

Payments

990. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control which leases motor vehicles, does the lease provide for any payments other than the monthly payment?
- (2) What payment does each department and agency have to make for each vehicle other than the monthly payment?
- (3) What is the total cost of those payments for each department and agency?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1)-(2) The information sought by the member will require considerable investigation and perusal of agency files. I am not prepared to allocate the resources that would be needed, but would be happy to look at any specific case that the member might wish to put forward.

GOVERNMENT VEHICLES - LEASING

Payments

991. Mr BROWN to the Minister for the Environment; Employment and Training:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control which leases motor vehicles, does the lease provide for any payments other than the monthly payment?
- (2) What payment does each department and agency have to make for each vehicle other than the monthly payment?
- (3) What is the total cost of those payments for each department and agency?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

Kings Park Board

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Motor vehicle operational charges including registration fees, fuel, vehicle management fees and maintenance and repairs
- (3) Current monthly motor operational charges are \$4,466.60

Perth Zoo

- (1) No.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Western Australian Department of Training:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Department of Environmental Protection:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Conservation and Land Management

- (1) No.

(2)-(3) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT VEHICLES - LEASING

Payments

992. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Family and Children's Services; Seniors; Women's Interests:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control which leases motor vehicles, does the lease provide for any payments other than the monthly payment?
- (2) What payment does each department and agency have to make for each vehicle other than the monthly payment?
- (3) What is the total cost of those payments for each department and agency?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| (1) | Family and Children's Services | - | No |
| | Office of Seniors Interests | - | No |
| | Women's Policy Development Office | - | Yes. |
| (2) | Family and Children's Services | - | Operating costs and Insurance |
| | Office of Seniors Interests | - | Not applicable |
| | Women's Policy Development Office | - | Lease Plan monthly payments including fuel, Maintenance, registration and fees. |
| (3) | Family and Children's Services | - | cost for March 1997 was \$166,288.64 |
| | Office of Seniors Interests | - | Not applicable |
| | Women's Policy Development Office | - | \$1,509.91 per month. |

GOVERNMENT VEHICLES - LEASING

Payments

993. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labour Relations; Planning; Heritage:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control which leases motor vehicles, does the lease provide for any payments other than the monthly payment?
- (2) What payment does each department and agency have to make for each vehicle other than the monthly payment?
- (3) What is the total cost of those payments for each department and agency?

Mr KIERATH replied:

Department of Productivity and Labour Relations

- (1) No
- (2)
 - (a) Fleet Management costs paid to LeasePlan Australia
 - (b) Insurance
 - (c) Fringe Benefits Tax
 - (d) Sales Tax on the purchase of some private plated vehicles
- (3) The year to date (1/7/96 - 30/4/97) total cost of the payments is:

(a)	Fleet management, includes fuel and maintenance	\$52,356
(b)	Insurance (20 vehicles paid for full year)	\$16,000
(c)	Fringe Benefits Tax	\$88,998
(d)	Sales Tax (paid on purchase of two private plated vehicles)	\$11,123

Commissioner of Workplace Agreements

- (1) No
- (2)
 - (a) Fleet Management costs paid to LeasePlan Australia
 - (b) Insurance
 - (c) Fringe Benefits Tax
 - (d) Sales Tax on the purchase of some private plated vehicles

(3) The year to date (1/7/96 - 30/4/97) total cost of the payments is:

(a)	Fleet management, includes fuel and maintenance	\$19,942
(b)	Insurance	\$753
(c)	Fringe Benefits Tax	\$5,331
(d)	Sales Tax on private plated vehicles	\$6,385

Department of the Registrar, WA Industrial Relations Commission

(1) No

(2) (a) Fleet Management costs paid to LeasePlan Australia
 (b) Insurance
 (c) Fringe Benefits Tax
 (d) Sales Tax on the purchase of some private plated vehicles

(3) The year to date (1/7/96 - 30/4/97) total cost of the payments is:

(a)	Fleet management, includes fuel and maintenance	\$26,228
(b)	Insurance - 7 vehicles	\$8,100
(c)	Fringe Benefits Tax	\$33,669
(d)	Sales Tax	\$23,577

WorkSafe Western Australia

(1) No

(2) (a) Fleet Management costs paid to LeasePlan Australia
 (b) Insurance
 (c) Fringe Benefits Tax
 (d) Sales Tax on the purchase of some private plated vehicles

(3) The year to date (1/7/96 - 30/4/97) total cost of the payments is:

(a)	Fleet management, includes fuel and maintenance	\$177,636
(b)	Insurance (88 vehicles paid for the full year)	\$38,000
(c)	Fringe Benefits Tax	\$59,983
(d)	Sales Tax (paid on purchase of five private plated vehicles)	\$27,509

Ministry for Planning

(1) No

(2) (a) Fleet Management costs paid to LeasePlan Australia
 (b) Insurance
 (c) Fringe Benefits Tax
 (d) Sales Tax on the purchase of some private plated vehicles

(3) The year to date (1/7/96 - 30/4/97) total cost of the payments is:

(a)	Fleet management, includes fuel and maintenance	\$172,019
(b)	Insurance (55 vehicles paid for the full year)	\$50,875
(c)	Fringe Benefits Tax	\$247,469
(d)	Sales Tax (invoice not received)	

East Perth Redevelopment Authority

(1) No

(2) (a) Fleet Management costs paid to LeasePlan Australia
 (b) Insurance
 (c) Fringe Benefits Tax
 (d) Sales Tax on the purchase of some private plated vehicles

(3) The year to date (22/11/96 - 30/4/97) total cost of the payments is:

(a)	Fleet management, includes fuel and maintenance	\$3,231
(b)	Insurance (2 vehicles paid for the full year)	\$2,948
(c)	Fringe Benefits Tax (2 vehicles paid for the full year)	\$9,626
(d)	Sales Tax (paid on purchase of two private plated vehicles)	\$12,348

Subiaco Redevelopment Authority

- (1) No
- (2) (a) Fleet Management costs paid to LeasePlan Australia
 (b) Insurance
 (c) Fringe Benefits Tax
 (d) Sales Tax on the purchase of some private plated vehicles
- (3) The year to date (22/11/96 - 30/4/97) total cost of the payments is:
- | | |
|---|---------|
| (a) Fleet management, includes fuel and maintenance | \$1,550 |
| (b) Insurance | \$714 |
| (c) Fringe Benefits Tax | \$4,460 |

Heritage Council of Western Australia

- (1) No
- (2) (a) Fleet Management costs paid to LeasePlan Australia
 (b) Insurance
 (c) Fringe Benefits Tax
- (3) The year to date (1/7/96 - 30/4/97) total cost of the payments is:
- | | |
|---|---------|
| (a) Fleet management, includes fuel and maintenance | \$5,428 |
| (b) Insurance (2 vehicles paid for the full year) | \$2,465 |
| (c) Fringe Benefits Tax | \$1,705 |

GOVERNMENT VEHICLES - LEASING

Payments

994. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control which leases motor vehicles, does the lease provide for any payments other than the monthly payment?
- (2) What payment does each department and agency have to make for each vehicle other than the monthly payment?
- (3) What is the total cost of those payments for each department and agency?

Mr SHAVE replied:

LandCorp

- (1) No.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Ministry of Fair Trading

- (1) No.
- (2) Payment to Lease/Plan for Fleet Management and vehicle operating costs include registration, maintenance/repairs, fuel, FBT reporting. Payments were also made to SGIC for insurance of the vehicles and to the Commonwealth Government for fringe benefits taxation on vehicles.
- (3) Approximately \$147,880 per annum.

Department of Land Administration

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Refurbishment costs at vehicle changeover.
- (3) Varies depending on vehicle condition at time of changeover.

Western Australian Electoral Commission

- (1) No.

(2)-(3) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT VEHICLES - LEASING

Payments

996. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Local Government; Disability Services:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control which leases motor vehicles, does the lease provide for any payments other than the monthly payment?
- (2) What payment does each department and agency have to make for each vehicle other than the monthly payment?
- (3) What is the total cost of those payments for each department and agency?

Mr OMODEI replied:

Department of Local Government:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Fremantle Cemetery Board

- (1) No.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Metropolitan Cemeteries Board

- (1) No.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Disability Services Commission

- (1) No.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT VEHICLES - LEASING

Payments

997. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Health:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control which leases motor vehicles, does the lease provide for any payments other than the monthly payment?
- (2) What payment does each department and agency have to make for each vehicle other than the monthly payment?
- (3) What is the total cost of those payments for each department and agency?

Mr PRINCE replied:

Health Department of Western Australia

- (1) No.
- (2) In addition to the lease payment, the following fleet management and vehicle operating costs are paid to the Fleet Manager:
 - Fleet management fee;
 - Vehicle usage fee (covers routine maintenance);
 - Fuel;

Repairs (not covered by warranty or insurance);
Registration;
Fringe Benefit Tax (where applicable).

Vehicle insurance is arranged separately through SGIC.

- (3) The total annual cost of fleet management, insurance and vehicle operating costs is approximately \$3.8m.

Alcohol and Drug Authority

- (1) No.

- (2) Fleet Management:

Routine maintenance;
Fuel and oil;
Repairs not covered by warranty or insurance;
Registration;
Replacement tyres;
Vehicle transport costs;
Minor repairs before resale.

Vehicle insurance arranged separately through SGIC.

- (3) Total costs of item (2) above is approximately \$98 000.

GOVERNMENT VEHICLES - LEASING

Payments

999. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Works; Services; Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs; Youth:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control which leases motor vehicles, does the lease provide for any payments other than the monthly payment?
- (2) What payment does each department and agency have to make for each vehicle other than the monthly payment?
- (3) What is the total cost of those payments for each department and agency?

Mr BOARD replied:

DEPARTMENT OF CONTRACT AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES advised that:-

- (1) Other than the monthly rental payments required under the lease contract, departments or agencies make no standard monthly payments. However, the State Supply Commission meets the aggregated monthly impost of FID, GDT and stamp duty incurred on behalf of all agencies participating in leasing arrangements with Matrix Finance Group.
- (2) Additionally, payments are made on a monthly basis to respective Fleet Managers for fleet services including fuel, maintenance, management and reporting. Where liability is determined, Fringe Benefit Tax is payable by agencies to the Australian Taxation Office. Insurance premiums are an annual expense paid direct to SGIC by each agency.
- (3) The total cost of these payments is:

Department of Contract and Management Services

Fleet management fees	\$306,217 p.a.
Insurance premiums	\$107,132 p.a.
Fringe Benefits Tax	\$557,300 p.a.

State Supply Commission

Fleet management fees	\$12,928 p.a.
Insurance premiums	\$4,989 p.a.
Fringe Benefits Tax	\$37,314 p.a.

The following figures denote the total payments by the State Supply Commission for all vehicles covered under the Matrix funding arrangements:

FID and GDT	\$18,500 p.a.
Stamp Duty	\$200,000 p.a.

OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS

- (1) Other than the monthly rental payments required under the lease contract, the Office of Multicultural Interests makes no standard monthly payments.
- (2) In addition, payments are made on a monthly basis to the Office's Fleet Manager for fleet services including fuel, maintenance, management and reporting. Where liability is determined, Fringe Benefits Tax is payable to the Australian Taxation Office. Insurance premiums are paid direct to SGIC.
- (3) The total cost of these payments is:

Fleet management fees	\$1,200 p.a.
Insurance premiums	\$1,276 p.a.
Fringe Benefits Tax	\$11,788 p.a.

OFFICE OF YOUTH AFFAIRS

- (1) No.
- (2) Vehicle management fee including fuel, maintenance, management and reporting services; Fringe Benefits Tax and Insurance.
- (3)

Fleet management fees	\$7,530 p.a.
Insurance premiums	\$2,880 p.a.
Fringe Benefits Tax	\$14,400 p.a.

GOVERNMENT VEHICLES - LEASING

Payments

1002. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control which leases motor vehicles, does the lease provide for any payments other than the monthly payment?
- (2) What payment does each department and agency have to make for each vehicle other than the monthly payment?
- (3) What is the total cost of those payments for each department and agency?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following reply -

ArtsWA

- (1) No
- (2) Running Costs
- (3) \$749.34 per month

Library and Information Service of WA

- (1) Yes
- (2) Two monthly payments are made for the lease of vehicles. One is for actual provision of hire of vehicles and the other relates to the operation of vehicles (fleet management charges under contract).
- (3) \$2,194.36 per month.

Art Gallery of Western Australia

- (1) Yes
- (2) Payment is made for management of the Art Gallery's fleet. The management costs include FBT reporting, repairs, fuel, registration, Automobile Association and administrative services. These payments are in accordance with the State Government's Policy on outsourcing the financing and management of the State's passenger and light commercial vehicles to private sector organisations under fully maintained operating leases.

- (3) The total cost of these payments for 4 vehicles at the Art Gallery is \$744.51 per month.

Perth Theatre Trust

- (1)-(3) Nil

Western Australian Museum

- (1) Yes
(2) Insurance cost on 12 vehicles under lease
(3) \$10,791

Screen West

- (1) No
(2) Insurance rego, repair and maintenance RAC
(3) Assumed 96/97 \$3166.00

GOVERNMENT VEHICLES - LEASING

Payments

1004. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Attorney General's control which leases motor vehicles, does the lease provide for any payments other than the monthly payment?
(2) What payment does each department and agency have to make for each vehicle other than the monthly payment?
(3) What is the total cost of those payments for each department and agency?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes, as described in (2).
(2) Operational cost of motor vehicle - interest costs, registration fee, maintenance/repairs, fuel, management fee, FBT reporting, accessories.
(3) Average cost approximately \$135 000 per month.

GOVERNMENT VEHICLES - LEASING

Payments

1006. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control which leases motor vehicles, does the lease provide for any payments other than the monthly payment?
(2) What payment does each department and agency have to make for each vehicle other than the monthly payment?
(3) What is the total cost of those payments for each department and agency?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes, as described in (2).
(2) Operational cost of motor vehicle - interest costs, registration fee, maintenance/repairs, fuel, management fee, FBT reporting, accessories.
(3) Average cost approximately \$135 000 per month.

TRANSPORT - BUS

Wheelchair Access

1019. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

What plans does the Government have to make Transperth buses more accessible to people in wheelchairs?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

In March 1996 I launched an "Action Plan for Accessible Public Transport for People with Disabilities in Perth". Among a wide range of initiatives I announced that all new buses procured for use in the Transperth system would be low floor accessible buses. The Central Area Transit System was introduced in August and September 1996 to replace the outmoded Transperth City Clipper buses. One of the main features of the CATS vehicles is their ultra low floor design which provides access for people using wheelchairs, as well as mothers with prams and seniors who found steps on the previous Clippers hard to manage. Last month the tender for new buses was let and included a low floor design as an essential feature. I anticipate that as a result of the tender process 133 new low floor buses will be in service in the Transperth system by the end of 1999. The member will also be pleased to know that the new ferry the Government has commissioned for the Transperth Ferry Service will be accessible and the five new rail car sets which are being purchased to augment the current suburban train fleet will also have additional access features. As he can see the Government has made a strong commitment to improved access for people in our community with disabilities and is following up this commitment with action.

SCHOOLS - DRUG EDUCATION PROJECT

Effectiveness

1036. Mr RIPPER to the Premier:

- (1) Will the effectiveness of the school drug education project be evaluated in 1997-98?
- (2) If yes, how?
- (3) In how many schools will teachers undertake professional development in 1997-98 to implement this project?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The following levels of monitoring and evaluation will be applied to the Schools Drug Education Project:
 - uptake of project activities (curriculum, teacher training, drug policies, parent and community participation)
 - change in the amount of drug education provided by schools
 - impact of drug education on students' knowledge, attitudes and behaviour
 - change in the number of schools with drug policies.

Additionally, the project evaluation will also include monitoring the levels of drug use by secondary students over time from surveys conducted by other organisations. It needs to be recognised of course that the level of drug use will be a function of multiple factors.

- (3) While applications are still being processed, it is anticipated that in 1997 up to thirty schools will participate in the intensive school development program and up to seventy schools will participate in the teacher training that forms the basis of local networks that then themselves provide training in their region. In 1998, a further thirty schools will be invited to join the intensive training program and ninety schools will join the training network approach.

WATER RESOURCES - LEEDERVILLE BASIN AQUIFER

Effect of Northbridge Tunnel

1037. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Does the Water Corporation draw water from the Leederville basin aquifer?

- (2) Will the Northbridge tunnel have any effect on the behaviour of this aquifer?
- (3) How many pumps does the Corporation operate to draw water from the aquifer?
- (4) Will any change in the behaviour of the aquifer require replacement or modification of any or all of these pumps?
- (5) What is the replacement value of one of these pumps?
- (6) What is the extent of the risk that the aquifer will be polluted by the construction or operation of the Northbridge tunnel?
- (7) What dewatering operations -
 - (a) have taken place;
 - (b) are planned,during the construction and operation of the Northbridge tunnel?
- (8) What is the quality of this water?
- (9) How is it being disposed?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. To the best of my knowledge and the advice from my departments it is my understanding there is no interconnection between the Leederville Aquifer and the shallow ground water aquifer through which the Northbridge Tunnel is being constructed. The Water Corporation does not use the latter aquifer for public water supply.
- (3) 23 - at various locations between Pinjar in the North and Jandakot in the South.
- (4) No replacement or modifications are anticipated.
- (5) The replacement value of individual Leederville Aquifer pumping equipment is of the order of \$40,000-50,000 depending on specific circumstances.
- (6) Nil, to the best of my knowledge and the advice from my departments.
- (7)
 - (a) Hamilton Interchange Dewatering Operation at the western entrance near the Aberdeen Freeway interchange.
 - (b) The next dewatering stage will commence at the corner of Lord and Parry Streets, East Perth (eastern entrance).
- (8) Water quality shows elevated iron and zinc concentrations in some areas at the western section.
- (9) Dewatering at the western section is initially discharged to temporary treatment basins, prior to release to the Hamilton Interchange compensating basins which then overflow to the Mounts Bay main drain and into the Swan River.

MARINAS - ROCKINGHAM

Study

1039. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has funding of \$100 000 been approved to examine a marina project in Rockingham?
- (2) If so, when will this study commence?
- (3) Does there need to be any other approvals before this study can commence?
- (4) Who will carry out the study?
- (5) Has the Point Peron area been selected as a possible site?
- (6) What is the Government's intention in relation to the RSL Hall and camp at Point Peron?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1) Budget funding has been provided in 1997-98 in the Department of Transport's capital works program.
- (2)-(3) Government approval is required prior to study commencing.
- (4) Subject to approval LandCorp will project manage the feasibility study.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) This issue will be addressed as part of the project planning.

LAND - PARKSIDE MEWS

Ground Subsidence

1044. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Has the Department of Land Administration investigated the matter of ground subsidence at Parkside Mews, Ashford Avenue, Rockingham?
- (2) If yes, what was the outcome of those investigations?
- (3) Has the department found any fault with any of the parties involved in constructing Parkside Mews in relation to this subsidence?
- (4) Is the Government prepared to assist with the cost of re-instating the walls of Parkside Mews?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) This is not applicable to the Department of Land Administration. However, the Building Disputes Committee (Ministry of Fair Trading) issued an order against the builder, Woodlands Constructions Pty Ltd on 31 January 1996. The order was to pay the sum of \$37 792 to the owners of the strata plan being compensation for defective work, legal costs and expert reports. However it is understood that Woodlands Constructions Pty Ltd is no longer trading and has no assets.
- (4) No. Crown land was not involved. Parkside Mews is freehold and created from a private subdivision.

COMMERCE AND TRADE - EXPORTS

Live Sheep

1046. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister for Primary Industry:

- (1) Does the Government plan to ban the export of live sheep?
- (2) Does the Government plan to move live sheep export away from Fremantle harbour?
- (3) If yes, where to?
- (4) Does the Government plan to move any live sheep export activities to the Kwinana or Rockingham industrial areas?
- (5) If yes, where in the industrial area?
- (6) If the Government is planning or proposing to move live sheep exports to the Kwinana or Rockingham industrial area, when would this take place?
- (7) Will the Government rule out ever moving live sheep export to Rockingham or Kwinana?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1) Export controls are a commonwealth responsibility; the State Government supports the live sheep export trade.

(2)-(6) The Minister for Transport and myself initiated a review into alternative ports for live sheep exports in 1994-95. Subsequently, the Fremantle Port Authority investigated the feasibility of various options for loading sheep at Kwinana-Cockburn Sound, including the construction of a multipurpose loading facility. As the commercial viability has not been established the port authority has decided not to proceed with the proposal at this time.

(7) No.

GOVERNMENT MEDIA OFFICE - EMPLOYEES

1058. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

- (1) How many FTEs have been budgeted for to be employed by the Government Media Office in 1997-98?
- (2) What amount has the Government budgeted to spend on wages for these employees in the 1997-98 financial year?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Nineteen not including the Corporate Service FTE allocation.
- (2) \$679 000.

MINISTER OF THE CROWN - PRESS SECRETARIES

1059. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

- (1) How many FTEs are currently employed as ministerial press secretaries?
- (2) How many FTE ministerial press secretaries has the Government budgeted for in the 1997-98 financial year?
- (3) What amount has the Government budgeted to spend on wages for these FTE ministerial press secretaries in the 1997-98 financial year?
- (4) How much does the Government expect to spend in wages for staff employed in the Leader of the Opposition's office during the 1997-98 financial year?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) Seventeen.
- (3) \$989 600.
- (4) \$712 000.

ROADS - ROAD SAFETY

Accidents

1071. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Further to question on notice No. 491 of 1997 why is the Minister not able to provide information on the number of people killed on our roads in 1996 who were involved in the course of their work or employment at the time of their fatal accident?
- (2) What steps are necessary to ensure that this information is available?
- (3) Will the Minister ensure that the necessary steps are taken to provide this information?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1) This information is not recorded on the Main Roads' crash database.
- (2)-(3) If the member indicates the advantage in having this information recorded as part of the crash database I will be pleased to consider his request.

STATE BUDGET - PAPER No 2

Output Methodology

1090. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware that the Budget Paper No. 2, Volume 1, refers to an output methodology used by Treasury to review output/outcome information submitted by agencies?
- (2) What was the methodology used by Treasury for this purpose?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The output based management methodology utilised in the last budget involves agencies:
 - identifying, reporting and measuring the full cost of their goods and services produced for external users, i.e. their outputs; and
 - demonstrating the linkages between their outputs and the achievement of outcomes desired by government for the community.

This was the first stage of the phased implementation of output based management for Consolidated Fund agencies which will be completed in the 1998/99 budget.

The primary objective of output based management is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of resource allocation which will result in the delivery of quality services to the community at the lowest cost.

Further information on output based management is contained in the publications "Output Based Management – An Overview" and "Output Based Management – Guidelines to Assist Agencies" issued by Treasury in July 1996.

STATE BUDGET - INCOME

Sale of Gas Pipeline

1091. Mr BROWN to the Treasurer:

- (1) Do the Budget papers, particularly the Estimates of Consolidated Revenue, make provision for the expected income from the sale or partial sale of the gas pipeline?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) It is not considered appropriate to disclose the expected return to be derived from the sale of a major asset such as the pipeline prior to the commencement of negotiations with prospective purchasers. The same approach was adopted for the sale of BankWest.

ROADS - FIX THE ROADS CAMPAIGN

1093. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Further to question on notice 157 of 1997, was the amount of \$197 547 allocated and/or spent on the "Fix the Roads" campaign in the 1995-96 financial year spent before the Federal election in March 1996?
- (2) Of the \$300 000 allocated to the "Fix the Roads" campaign in the 1996-97 financial year, how much is being spent?
- (3) What has the money been spent on?
- (4) Of the \$200 000 proposed to be allocated in the 1997-98 financial year to the "Fix the Roads" campaign, what is that money proposed to be spent on?
- (5) Will any of the money allocated in the 1996-97 or 1997-98 financial years be spent on television advertising demonstrating how the Federal Government has further cut back on road funding?
- (6) If not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1) In question on notice 157 the member asked for expenditure while the Federal Labor Government was in power. This was \$197 547 for 1995/96. In the same financial year a further \$82 610 was spent on the campaign after the Federal election.
- (2) Final expenditure for the current financial year will depend on decisions by the independent campaign committee.
- (3) Advertising, brochures, bumper stickers, information booths, video production, research, campaign support.
- (4) Advertising, information booths, campaign promotional material and campaign support.
- (5)-(6) Television advertising is one option available to the independent committee to decide on. The campaign is currently seeking a more positive outcome by drawing attention to the overall lack of road infrastructure investment by the Federal Government.

TRANSPORT - CONCESSIONAL FARES

Change - Comments by Minister for Finance

1094. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware of comments made by the Minister for Finance on ABC television on Sunday, 20 April 1997, concerning the changes the Government has made to public transport fares and concessions?
- (2) Given that a number of pensioners were offended by the Minister's comments, does the Premier intend to rebuke the Minister for what he said?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Do the comments of the Minister for Finance conform with Government policy?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)-(3) The comments presented on the news clip in question were part of a more comprehensive explanation by the Minister for Finance of the reasons why it was necessary to introduce some increases in charges this year.

As an honorary life member of the Australian Pensioners' League, the Minister is well aware of the needs of pensioners.

The Minister is also well aware that most pensioners have a wide range of interests and want to see the Government provide many services which have more effect on their families than on themselves, including such things as free schools for their grandchildren which the Minister referred to in the news item the member quotes.

He is always mindful of the need for sound financial management because he, and all other members of the Government, are painfully aware that the years of Labor's mismanagement, accumulation of debt and almost criminal waste of money, seriously affected the quality of a whole range of government services in this State.

- (4) Taken in their full context and properly understood, the Minister's comments are consistent with the Government's policy of sound financial management for the benefit of the entire community, with particular emphasis on families, people with disabilities and pensioners.

RAILWAYS - MANDURAH-PERTH

Passenger Service

1108. Mr THOMAS to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Did the Minister state in the Legislative Assembly on 6 March 1997 that the Government has a timetable to construct a passenger rail service to Mandurah but that the Minister did not know what that timetable was?

- (2) What year does the Government expect a passenger rail service will be extended to -
- (a) Cockburn;
 - (b) Rockingham; and
 - (c) Mandurah?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(2) The Government is committed to extending the urban rail system to Jandakot via Kenwick by the year 2005. Extension beyond Jandakot will be considered in light of the results of a master plan which will be undertaken for the entire railway to Mandurah. The master plan will commence in June this year and should be substantially completed by the end of 1998.

ROADS - MALIBU ROAD-READ STREET INTERSECTION, ROCKINGHAM

1113. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does the State Government have any plans to upgrade the Malibu Road and Read Street intersection in Rockingham?
- (2) Will the Government be installing traffic lights on this corner?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Alternatively, will the Government install a roundabout on this corner?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1) These are local roads under the care and control of the City of Rockingham.
- (2) Main Roads will not be providing traffic signals at this stage.
- (3)-(5) The priority for signals at this intersection is low but I am told that the City of Rockingham is considering a roundabout.

ROADS - PURKIN STREET-SAFETY BAY ROAD INTERSECTION

1114. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does the State Government have any plans to upgrade the Purkin Street and Safety Bay Road intersection?
- (2) Will the Government be installing a roundabout on this corner?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(3) Both are local government roads controlled by the City of Rockingham. Any modifications would need to be considered by Council.

NORTHBRIDGE TUNNEL - EXPENDITURE

1115. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

Is current and projected expenditure on the building of the Northbridge tunnel in accordance with the original budget projections for the project?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

Yes. The original estimate was \$335m in 1994 dollars and included \$35m for land. The revised estimate is \$352m arising from cost rises of \$4.8m between 1995 and 1997 and scope changes and overheads of \$8.5m. The cost of land is expected to increase by \$3.7m. The revised cost represents an increase of 5 per cent.

PUBLIC SERVICE - EMPLOYEES

Women - Senior Levels

1117. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Public Sector Management:

- (1) What percentage of positions in the senior executive service are held by women?
- (2) What was the percentage in 1993?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) 13 per cent - June 1996.
- (2) 9 per cent - June 1993.

JOONDALUP CINEMA COMPLEX - COST

Tunnel Construction

1123. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) I refer to the Government's decision to go into the picture theatre business at Joondalup and ask, how much will the complex cost?
- (2) Is it correct that the complex will include a \$3m tunnel?
- (3) If so, what purpose will the tunnel serve?
- (4) Is it correct, as stated by the Minister for Lands in the Legislative Assembly on 7 May 1997, that it will be a joint venture ownership by Armstrong Jones and a State Government agency, LandCorp?
- (5) Will the joint venture agreement be brought to the Parliament for scrutiny and ratification, as demanded by him of the previous Labor Government when he was in opposition?
- (6) If no to question (5), why not?
- (7) Is this venture to be subjected to the recently amended State Trading Concerns Act 1916?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) An estimated \$15m.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The tunnel will serve to bridge the Joondalup/Currambine railway line which has been placed in an excavated trench and in doing so will connect the retail precinct and the western business precinct to the Central Business District. The construction of the tunnel will allow for a six-plex cinema complex to be built on top of the railway reserve and allow for future expansion to a twelve-plex complex.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) I am arranging for a copy of the Joint Venture Agreement between Armstrong Jones and LandCorp to be tabled.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) The Joint Venture Agreement and the development of the Joondalup Lakeside complex is consistent with the functions and powers conferred by the Western Australian Land Authority Act.

JOONDALUP CINEMA COMPLEX - CONCESSIONS

Disabled Card Holders

1125. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Disability Services:

- (1) I refer to the Government's decision to go into the picture theatre business at Joondalup as a joint venture owner with Armstrong Jones and ask, will the holders of any Government concession cards for disabled people be eligible for concessions at the new Government-owned theatres?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1) I understand that the picture theatre business referred to is the cinema complex which will form part of the Lakeside Shopping Centre in Joondalup. The cinema complex will be operated by the Greater Union cinema operators. As such, the pricing policies of that company will apply. I have been advised that it is the current policy of Greater Union to provide discounts to individuals in receipt of a range of government concession cards including those related to disabilities.
- (2) Not applicable.

LIQUOR LICENSING ACT - AMENDMENT

Market Share Quotas

1126. Mr PENDAL to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware of the Government's plans to amend the Liquor Licensing Act 1988 to impose a 10 per cent maximum quota on liquor store licences?
- (2) Can the Premier name other industries in Western Australia where quotas or maximum holdings are to be imposed by the Government?
- (3) What is the Government's policy on the introduction of market-share quotas?
- (4) What is Liberal Party policy on the introduction of market-share quotas?
- (5) Does the Government intend to introduce market-share quotas in -
 - (a) the hardware sector;
 - (b) the fast-food industry;
 - (c) the hotel industry;
 - (d) any other industry?
- (6) If so, have any discussions been initiated with companies like Bunnings, or McDonalds to limit their share of their respective markets?
- (7) At whose request or instigation has it been decided to impose market-share quotas in the liquor store industry?
- (8) Has the National Competition Council, formerly the Trade Practices Commission, sought the introduction for such market-share quotas, and if so, for what reason?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(8) Based on the Minister for Racing and Gaming's June 1995 report to Parliament on the review of the Liquor Licensing Act 1988, I am aware that the Minister is considering amending the Act to impose a limit of 10 per cent on the number of licences that a licensee may hold in a licence category. The Minister is yet to submit the Bill to Cabinet for consideration.

EXHIBITIONS - INSURANCE COSTS

Indemnity Scheme

1137. Ms McHALE to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware of the Auditor General's report "On Display" which examined exhibition practices of the Western Australian Zoo, Art Gallery and Museum?
- (2) Is the Premier aware that the report recommended that the Government should consider establishing an indemnity scheme to cover visiting exhibitions to Western Australia to ensure that insurance costs do not prevent access to Western Australia of significant international exhibitions?
- (3) Has the Premier, or Treasurer, endorsed this recommendation?
- (4) If no to question (3) above, when will the recommendation be endorsed?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) No.
- (4) The proposal for an indemnity insurance scheme is presently under consideration. An announcement will be made as soon as a decision is reached.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Investment and Financial Statements

1154. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Labour Relations; Planning; Heritage:

- (1) Will the Minister list each Government department or agency under his control which is involved in any commercial or business venture by way of invested capital, or partnerships with the private sector on which the department/agency seeks a return?
- (2) Will the Minister indicate the level of investment in each case?
- (3) Will the Minister indicate whether such departments/agencies table their financial statements in Parliament?
- (4) If they do not, will the Minister arrange for such tabling?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) I am not aware of any government department or agency under the portfolios of Labour Relations, Planning or Heritage being involved in any commercial or business venture of the nature described by the member for South Perth.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Investment and Financial Statements

1157. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Local Government; Disability Services:

- (1) Will the Minister list each Government department or agency under his control which is involved in any commercial or business venture by way of invested capital, or partnerships with the private sector on which the department/agency seeks a return?
- (2) Will the Minister indicate the level of investment in each case?
- (3) Will the Minister indicate whether such departments/agencies table their financial statements in Parliament?
- (4) If they do not, will the Minister arrange for such tabling?

Mr OMODEI replied:

Department of Local Government:

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

Disability Services Commission

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

Fremantle Cemetery Board

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

Metropolitan Cemeteries Board

- (1) Nil.

(2)-(4) Not applicable.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council

(1) Nil.

(2)-(4) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Investment and Financial Statements

1158. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will the Minister list each Government department or agency under his control which is involved in any commercial or business venture by way of invested capital, or partnerships with the private sector on which the department/agency seeks a return?
- (2) Will the Minister indicate the level of investment in each case?
- (3) Will the Minister indicate whether such departments/agencies table their financial statements in Parliament?
- (4) If they do not, will the Minister arrange for such tabling?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) I am not aware of any commercial or business ventures within the Health Department or agencies under my control where capital funds are invested for the purposes of seeking a return. There are however numerous instances where the private sector is given access - usually on commercial terms - to the public sector infrastructure in order to carry out commercial activities. In some instances this includes private capital being used within the public sector infrastructure, for example, medical practices, radiology and kiosks. Various cash amounts - particularly those held in trust - are invested in accordance with the Financial Administration and Audit Act for return to the individual institution. These are routinely audited by the Auditor General.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Investment and Financial Statements

1159. Mr PENDAL to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

- (1) Will the Minister list each Government department or agency under his control which is involved in any commercial or business venture by way of invested capital, or partnerships with the private sector on which the department/agency seeks a return?
- (2) Will the Minister indicate the level of investment in each case?
- (3) Will the Minister indicate whether such departments/agencies table their financial statements in Parliament?
- (4) If they do not, will the Minister arrange for such tabling?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following response -

Government Employees Superannuation Board:

- (1) The GESB is involved in partnerships via joint ventures, with adjoining land owners at Central Park for the purpose of operating a short term car park and the tenant car park and managing the park.
- (2) The GESB has not invested in the joint ventures, as they represent agreements for operating/management purposes only.
- (3) The GESB's financial statements are tabled in Parliament.
- (4) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Investment and Financial Statements

1160. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Works; Services; Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs; Youth:

- (1) Will the Minister list each Government department or agency under his control which is involved in any commercial or business venture by way of invested capital, or partnerships with the private sector on which the department/agency seeks a return?
- (2) Will the Minister indicate the level of investment in each case?
- (3) Will the Minister indicate whether such departments/agencies table their financial statements in Parliament?
- (4) If they do not, will the Minister arrange for such tabling?

Mr BOARD replied:

State Supply Commission

- (1) The State Supply Commission is not involved in any commercial or business venture by way of invested capital or partnership with the private sector on which it seeks a return.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

Department of Contract and Management Services

- (1) The Department of Contract and Management Services is not involved in any commercial or business venture by way of invested capital or partnership with the private sector on which it seeks a return.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

Office of Youth Affairs

- (1) The Office of Youth Affairs is not involved in any commercial or business venture by way of invested capital or partnership with the private sector on which it seeks a return.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

Office of Multicultural Interests

- (1) The Office of Multicultural Interests is not involved in any commercial or business venture by way of invested capital or partnership with the private sector on which it seeks a return.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Investment and Financial Statements

1161. Mr PENDAL to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Will the Minister list each Government department or agency under his control which is involved in any commercial or business venture by way of invested capital, or partnerships with the private sector on which the department/agency seeks a return?
- (2) Will the Minister indicate the level of investment in each case?
- (3) Will the Minister indicate whether such departments/agencies table their financial statements in Parliament?
- (4) If they do not, will the Minister arrange for such tabling?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following reply -

Office of Racing, Gaming and Liquor:

- (1) Totalisator Agency Board holds 33 per cent of issued capital of Fairplay Newspaper and Printing Works Pty Ltd.
- (2) The original cash investment was \$35 248 and the current book value of the investment is \$555 000.

- (3) Annual report tabled in Parliament.
- (4) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Investment and Financial Statements

1163. Mr PENDAL to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Will the Minister list each Government department or agency under his control which is involved in any commercial or business venture by way of invested capital, or partnerships with the private sector on which the department/agency seeks a return?
- (2) Will the Minister indicate the level of investment in each case?
- (3) Will the Minister indicate whether such departments/agencies table their financial statements in Parliament?
- (4) If they do not, will the Minister arrange for such tabling?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following reply -

- (1) Neither the Department for the Arts nor any authority within the Arts portfolio is involved in any commercial or business venture by way of invested capital, or partnerships with the private sector on which the department/agency seeks a return.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - MINIMUM WAGE

Pizza Delivery Drivers

1170. Mr KOBELKE to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Premier established the facts of the matter of pizza delivery drivers being paid as little as \$13 for three and a half hours' work, as I raised with him in question without notice on Tuesday, 6 May 1997 and as was carried on ABC Radio on Peter Kennedy's program on Friday, 2 May 1997?
- (2) Is it true that under this Government's industrial relations system pizza delivery drivers can be paid as little as \$13 for three and a half hours' work?
- (3) Does the current industrial relations system in Western Australia allow employers to require pizza drivers to provide their own uniform and float as a condition of employment?
- (4) Is a \$13 payment for three and a half hours' work consistent with Government policy in Western Australia in 1997?
- (5) If not, what action is to be taken by the Government in order to protect young Western Australians from such exploitation?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) It has been confirmed that Pizza Haven is respondent to a federal award which provides a piece rate for pizza delivery drivers.
- (2) No. Employees covered by the Minimum Conditions of Employment Act are entitled to receive a minimum wage. For a 17 year old employee the minimum hourly rate is \$4.98 (\$17.43 for three and a half hours' work).
- (3) There are a range of options under which pizza delivery drivers may be engaged. It is difficult to respond without more details.
- (4) No. The Government's view on minimum wage rates is expressed in the Minimum Conditions of Employment Act.
- (5) The Department of Productivity and Labour Relations is currently conducting an education campaign in the fast food industry regarding the engagement of young people. The Department also provides an extensive range of information services about choices, rights and obligations in the current industrial system. These

include the WAGELINE telephone advisory service, printed material, presentations to schools, colleges and various community groups, information kits and an Internet web page.

LAND - MINIM COVE

Octennial Holdings - Payments

1172. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) How much has the co-developer Octennial Holdings paid towards the works at Minim Cove, Mosman Park?
- (2) If nil payment, what interest charges will be raised to assist the Government developer in the 20 months' holding time so far?
- (3) If payments in (1) above have not been made, when will those payments be made?
- (4) Is the quotation in *The West Australian* in September 1995 by Tristan Stein stating that "it was envisaged the blocks would be sold in stages with Octennial's 4 ha share the first to be developed" correct?
- (5) Did LandCorp place a bank draft as security to Octennial Holdings as stated in the development agreement between Octennial Holdings and LandCorp regarding the Minim Cove development tabled in Parliament?
- (6) If so, for how much and with which financial institution?
- (7) Did Octennial Holdings place a bank draft as security to LandCorp as stated in the Development Agreement between Octennial Holdings and LandCorp regarding the Minim Cove development tabled in Parliament?
- (8) If so, for how much and with which financial institution?
- (9) What are the anticipated costs of monitoring as suggested by the committee into the extension to the containment cell at Mosman Park and what securities are LandCorp and Octennial Holdings placing for that testing?
- (10) Will Mosman Park Town Council be receiving the \$500 000 agreed in lieu of public open space at Minim Cove, Mosman Park now that current planning is likely to include the necessary public open space?
- (11) If payments in lieu of public open space are not to be made to Mosman Park Town Council, what payment will Octennial Holdings make to LandCorp as LandCorp will then be providing virtually all the public open space as well as the containment cell area?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) Octennial Holdings will pay the proportion, calculated by volume, which the quantity of contaminated soil obtained from its land and placed in the cell bears to the total quantity, calculated by volume, of contaminated soil obtained from the Octennial land and the LandCorp land placed in the cell.
- (2) LandCorp will apply a commercial based interest rate.
- (3) At the completion of the clean up, final volumes will be confirmed by survey and payments made.
- (4) The timing of release of land blocks is still subject to decisions to be made by either party given the market conditions at the time.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) \$237,500 with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.
- (7) Yes.
- (8) \$256,500 with BankWest.
- (9) LandCorp has not been advised of the Committee's suggestions relating to the extension of the containment cell. However \$80,000 has been identified for establishing monitoring bores, testing and maintenance for the existing cell.
- (10) The developers have been requested by the Ministry for Planning to meet the 10 per cent Point of Sale commitment by provision of land. Payment of cash in lieu of open space would no longer apply in this circumstance.

- (11) The subdivision design provides for Octennial Holdings to meet its 10 per cent contribution for Point of Sale by provision of land.

ROADS - GREAT EASTERN HIGHWAY

Widening

1177. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

What efforts are being made to save the Moreton Bay fig trees bordering Hardey Park, Belmont, which are threatened by the proposed widening of Great Eastern Highway?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

Main Roads has engaged an arboricultural consultant to recommend options in relation to the trees affected by the proposed widening of Great Eastern Highway. The consultant has recommended that a Moreton Bay Fig be relocated because of its aesthetic quality and amenity value to the street scene. The tree, which is about 115 years old with a remaining life of about 50 years, is in good condition and is considered likely to survive being transplanted. Relocation of the tree would link to other streetscape enhancement projects currently being implemented and add to the visual attraction of the entrance to the city from Perth Airport. The other two trees in the area, a Moreton Bay Fig and Port Jackson Fig, were considered by the consultant not to be worthy of relocation because of their reduced life span and poor structural condition.

In view of likely public interest in the matter, Main Roads has issued an information sheet to residents in the area seeking their views on options of relocation or other improvements to the streetscape. A decision on the future of the trees will not be made until feedback on the proposal has been assessed.

RACING - WA GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

Staff

1182. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) What is the total number of staff employed by the Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association?
- (2) What was the number of staff employed by the Association in the year before Mr Ken Norquay became General Manager?
- (3) How many of the present staff are involved with administration?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following response -

- (1) 279 (Permanent/part time 47, Casual 232).
- (2) 274 (Permanent/Part time 35, Casual 239).
- (3) 35.

RACING - WA GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

American Trip

1183. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) What was the purpose of a trip to America taken by officials of the Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association within the past 12 months?
- (2) What was the total cost?
- (3) Who went on the trip?
- (4) What was the outcome?
- (5) Has a report been prepared?
- (6) Has the report been presented to WAGRA?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following response -

- (1) To attend:
 - (a) the Annual Conference of the World Greyhound Racing Federation in Tucson, Arizona, as nominated delegates representing the Australian and New Zealand Greyhound Association. The General Manager of the WA Greyhound Racing Association addressed the conference.
 - (b) Annual Symposium on racing convened in Tucson and hosted by the University of Arizona.
- (2) Total cost to WAGRA was \$17,732 for travel and accommodation for the General Manager of WAGRA, and for 50 per cent of travel and accommodation for a member of the Committee of WAGRA.
- (3) Mr Ted Karasek, Chairman WAGRA Committee
Mr Clive Nelthorpe, Member WAGRA Committee
Mr Ken Norquay, General Manager WAGRA

(N.B. Mr Karasek personally met all of his expenses for travel and accommodation).
- (4) World Greyhound Racing Federation: WAGRA was one of eight world delegates whose representatives reported on the status of greyhound racing in the various countries where the sport is held. The USA and UK, in particular, have a structure in place on greyhound welfare issues and the Australian contingent would learn and benefit from the immense knowledge and experience on greyhound adoption (for greyhounds who do not race, or have retired) and similar programs currently operating successfully in those countries. Related business activities, achieving media awareness, marketing, hospitality, simulcasting of the racing product and gaming and wagering trends overseas will benefit the future direction of the industry. This knowledge will assist in the successful progression of greyhound racing in Western Australia.

Arizona Racing Symposium: This Annual Conference brought together over 400 delegates from all over the world with the comprehensive list of agenda items of interest to WAGRA's aims and objectives. "Marketing a Better Product", "Diversifying the Role of racetracks", "Competition Facing Racing", Tracks - responsibility and maintenance, mixing gaming and wagering, the Internet gaming, interactive wagering, pay television, and an exhibition of the latest technology in electronic timing, photo-finish equipment, computerised video technology for punters, betting and wagering and on-line terminals, form guide information and understanding the roles of other international racing organisations for maximising profits, enhancing customer service and meeting industry needs.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) The contents of the report were considered by the WAGRA Committee at its meeting scheduled for 28 May 1997.

RACING - WA GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

Members

1184. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) What was the total on-course tote turnover at both the Cannington and Mandurah Greyhound racing tracks on a monthly basis for the past five years?
- (2) How many financial members does the Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association have?
- (3) How many did it have in 1993?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following response -

- (1) The WA Greyhound Racing Association has provided the figures shown below for the five years ending 31 July 1996.
- (2) 140.
- (3) 169.

ON-COURSE TOTE TURNOVER

<u>MONTH ENDING</u>	<u>CANNINGTON TURNOVER</u>	<u>MANDURAH TURNOVER</u>
31.08.91	508,289	154,974
30.09.91	386,021	130,658
31.10.91	389,225	128,935
30.11.91	454,948	153,558
31.12.91	470,187	127,097
31.01.92	410,111	166,809
29.02.92	429,664	132,668
31.03.92	377,272	153,377
30.04.92	457,657	131,390
31.05.92	435,668	144,904
30.06.92	352,605	158,581
31.07.92	431,030	177,269
31.08.92	456,818	158,179
30.09.92	368,879	155,298
31.10.92	482,457	198,289
30.11.92	414,239	172,701
31.12.92	500,180	132,918
31.01.93	524,730	204,647
28.02.93	443,865	161,143
31.03.93	450,547	162,420
30.04.93	504,865	161,397
31.05.93	455,839	151,604
30.06.93	417,546	145,547
31.07.93	508,465	172,181
31.08.93	396,917	161,092
30.09.93	415,342	150,567
31.10.93	461,415	166,360
30.11.93	454,625	179,001
31.12.93	414,479	191,796
31.01.94	553,073	203,143
28.02.94	445,597	191,423
31.03.94	498,688	173,210
30.04.94	556,074	175,493
31.05.94	459,500	152,276
30.06.94	531,595	140,906
31.07.94	456,546	189,107
31.08.94	424,044	190,853
30.09.94	423,686	194,307
31.10.94	439,765	192,157
30.11.94	459,881	177,919
31.12.94	462,794	179,445
31.01.95	436,648	207,921
28.02.95	437,963	158,556
31.03.95	372,930	204,765
30.04.95	440,799	172,844
31.05.95	433,305	167,538
30.06.95	383,293	168,965
31.07.95	417,393	189,119
31.08.95	418,658	162,755
30.09.95	406,331	194,619
31.10.95	411,577	228,858
30.11.95	498,233	211,177
31.12.95	520,271	230,253
31.01.96	489,413	291,273
29.02.96	531,572	239,844
31.03.96	541,572	230,040
30.04.96	483,428	226,211
31.05.96	447,178	217,392
30.06.96	480,679	169,959
31.07.96	420,796	212,848
	27,057,167	10,630,536

RACING - GREYHOUND

Number Imported

1185. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

How many greyhounds valued at between \$10 000 and \$20 000 are being brought into Western Australia to race today compared to five years ago?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following response -

This information is not available as it is not a requirement to advise the WA Greyhound Racing Association, the registering authority, of amounts paid at the time of ownership transfer.

RACING - TROTTING

ABC Regional Radio's Trotting Show

1186. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Is the Government aware of concerns within the trotting industry about the dropping of ABC Regional Radio's Trotting Show at the end of this year?
- (2) What plans does the Government have, if any, to establish a radio transmitter in the south-west to take the place of the ABC's Regional Radio Trotting Show which is being dropped at the end of this year?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following response -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The TAB has plans to establish transmitters at Mandurah and Busselton to provide Racing Radio services to the south west.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION - COMPENSATION (INDUSTRIAL DISEASES) FUND

Changes

1188. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Have any changes been made to the Compensation (Industrial Diseases) Fund since 2 September 1995?
- (2) If so -
 - (a) what changes have been made;
 - (b) on what date were the changes made;
 - (c) when were the changes announced;
 - (d) by whom were the changes announced;
 - (e) where were the changes announced;
 - (f) who authorised the changes?

- (3) If not, why not?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

PLANNING - EAST PERTH POWER STATION

Government's Plans

1192. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) What plans does the Government have for the old East Perth Power Station?
- (2) Do those plans, if any, include maintenance and presentation?

(3) If not, why not?

Mr KIERATH replied:

(1)-(2) The Government is currently considering various options to redevelop the East Perth Power Station.

(3) Not applicable.

LAND - LANDCORP

Golden Bay - Land Purchase

1234. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Is it correct that LandCorp has purchased a parcel of land at Golden Bay from the Hoffman/Bombara group for \$17m?
- (2) Why was the purchase made, given industry assertions that there is already an adequate lot supply in the South West Corridor and given the high level of competition already in existence in the area?
- (3) Does the Minister accept industry claims that the purchase will in fact serve to inflate the price to the end purchaser by setting a new benchmark for broadacre prices?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) The 161.3 ha of land at Golden Bay was purchased for \$17.25m on the basis of private valuation advice and feasibility assessment.
- (2) The landholding had been on the market for over one year. This parcel was acquired consistent with the LandCorp mandate to provide residential land. LandCorp has no other holdings in the southern end of the south west sector other than a small joint venture at Port Kennedy.
- (3) No. The asking price for the land was \$25m. It is understood that an earlier offer of in excess of \$20m by a private buyer fell over. Broadhectare prices are established through a very competitive marketplace.

SMALL BUSINESS - DIFFICULTIES

Minister's Comments

1243. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared on pages 1 and 3 of the 17-30 April 1997 edition of *Business News* which featured an interview with the Minister?
- (2) Is the Minister aware the article quoted him as saying that small business is having a hard time at the moment because the economy is flat?
- (3) Was the Minister correctly quoted?
- (4) If not, what did the Minister say to the newspaper?
- (5) Is the Minister also aware the article quoted the Minister as blaming the Federal Government's conservative approach for flatness in the economy?
- (6) Was the Minister correctly quoted?
- (7) If not, what did the Minister say?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1)-(3) Yes.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Yes, I was quoted correctly as saying Federal Government spending cuts have not helped the economy. My point was that Federal Government spending cuts have contributed to current economic "flatness". Another contributing factor, of particular concern to the retail sector, is the reported slump in consumer confidence. Recent interest rate cuts may reverse this trend and see a return of consumer confidence and flow-on benefits to small retailers.

- (7) Not applicable.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS

Terms

1244. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared in the 17-30 April 1997 edition of *Business News* under the heading of "Wallis Report Explodes Myths" which reported deregulation and workplace agreements are causing bigger gaps between the rich and the poor?
- (2) Given this comment by a business news writer, does everybody who enters into a workplace agreement receive wage and employment conditions equivalent to, or better than the award (if any) that would apply if the workplace agreement was not in place?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) Yes, but the statistical trends identified in workplace agreements do not support the view reported.
- (2) The workplace agreements system provides for factors other than just award matters to be considered when people genuinely want agreements registered. Notwithstanding this, statistical trends indicate that the vast majority of employee parties to agreements receive overall wage and employment outcomes superior to those available under the award system.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - MINIMUM WAGE

Increase

1263. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Did the Acting Minister for Labour Relations issue a media statement on 22 April 1997 saying the decision of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission to create a \$10 per week safety net adjustment represents a fair and reasonable approach to wage fixation?
- (2) Does the Government intend to support the \$10 safety net adjustment being applied to Western Australian awards?
- (3) Does the Government intend to support increasing the State minimum wage to the amount specified by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) The Acting Minister for Labour Relations issued a media statement on 22 April 1997 saying the decision of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission to grant a \$10 per week safety net adjustment represents a fair and responsible approach to wage fixation.
- (2)-(3) The Government has not made a decision at this time.
- (4) Not applicable.

SMALL BUSINESS - FEDERAL BUDGET

Submission by Minister

1264. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Small Business:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared in the 15 - 28 May 1997 edition of *Business News* which quoted the President of the Combined Business Association of WA saying that small business had been the loser in the 1997-98 Federal Budget?
- (2) Have any of the departments or agencies under the Minister's control examined the degree to which small business is affected by the Budget decisions?
- (3) If so, is that analysis publicly available?
- (4) If not, why not?

- (5) Arising from the comments made by the Combined Business Association of WA, does the Minister intend to make any representations to the Federal Government on changes that should be made to assist small business in the State?
- (6) If so, when will such representations be made?
- (7) What will be the nature of the submission the Minister intends to make to his Federal colleagues?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. The Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) has identified the likely impact of the Federal Budget on small business.
- (3) The information prepared by SBDC was summarised in a press release and is readily available from the SBDC.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) I will not be making representation to the Federal Government on changes to the Federal Budget, but I will be taking the opportunity to raise key small business concerns at the forthcoming Small Business Summit in Melbourne on June 26-27.
- (6)-(7) Not applicable.

SMALL BUSINESS - FRANCHISING

Administration

1265. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Small Business:

- (1) What steps is the Minister/Government taking to resolve the problem of the responsibility for administering the franchising code of practice now that the Franchising Code Council is in voluntary administration?
- (2) Has the Government considered any alternative arrangements or the introduction of legislation?
- (3) What is being considered?
- (4) When will the Minister/Government move to resolve the problem?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) Resolving the issue of the responsibility for administering the franchising code of practice rests with the Federal Minister for Small Business, Hon Geoff Prosser, MP. I understand the Federal Minister will shortly be announcing his recommended alternative arrangements to the Franchising Code Council. The issue is also on the agenda for discussion at the forthcoming National Small Business Summit to be held in Melbourne on 26-27 June. The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Fair Trading released its report on Monday 26 May. Among its recommendations was that the Commonwealth enact specific franchising legislation providing for compulsory registration of franchisers and compliance with codes of practice. The Federal Minister has indicated he will be responding to the Committee's report within the next three months.
- (2) The Franchise Code of Practice is a national issue and alternative arrangements or the introduction of legislation have not been considered at the State level.
- (3) I am not yet aware of what is being considered by the Federal Government.
- (4) State Ministers will be meeting with the Federal Minister at the National Small Business Summit to discuss this issue.

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD - SALE

Report

1267. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Has the Government given any consideration to selling the Totalisator Agency Board?
- (2) If so, has the Government commissioned a report on this possibility?

(3) If so, who is preparing the report?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following response -

(1) No.

(2)-(3) Not applicable.

SCHOOLS - HIGH

Como Senior - Science and Technology Programs

1287. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

(1) I refer to the release of the State Government's first science and technology policy and ask, is the Minister aware of the Como Senior High School's interest in upgrading its existing facilities to accommodate modern teaching delivery that reflects use of technology in learning?

(2) Is the Minister aware also that the Como Senior High School is within a short distance of the Bentley Technology Park?

(3) In view of the above, will the Minister's department and officers, including those involved with the implementation of the new science and technology policy, meet with the Como Senior High School and the Local Member to explore possible collaboration in the future?

(4) If yes to (3) above, would the Minister indicate whether his department would meet with the Education Department to determine whether Como Senior High School can develop industry-accredited programs that would enhance science and technology learning at the school?

(5) Has a site yet been chosen for the proposed biodiversity institute outlined in the policy?

Mr COWAN replied:

(1) No, although the Technology and Industry Advisory Council is aware that discussions have occurred between the Como Senior High School and the Technology Precinct Taskforce with respect to the upgrading of its facilities.

(2) Yes.

(3)-(4) The sections of the policy dealing with secondary education were developed by the relevant Education Department officers and endorsed by the Minister for Education who has carriage of the implementation of these initiatives. I will explore the member's suggestion with the Minister for Education.

(5) No.

SEWERAGE - POINT PERON

Second Outfall

1290. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister for Water Resources:

(1) Does the Government have any intention of constructing a second Point Peron outfall?

(2) If so, when?

(3) When is the Government planning to upgrade the treatment of the effluent through the Point Peron outfall to tertiary or secondary treatment?

(4) If so, what level of treatment?

(5) What will be the cost of such an upgrade?

Dr HAMES replied:

(1) No.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) Negotiations with the Department of Environmental Protection and preparation of a concept design are under way with the aim of completing the project by the year 2002.

- (4) The exact level of treatment required will be known at the end of the concept design, and will include amplification of existing facilities and enhanced treatment to remove nitrogen, solids and bacteria.
- (5) Detailed costings are being prepared as part of the concept design. The current estimated cost of the total project, including plant amplification, is approximately \$100m.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS

Number Lodged

1302. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) What is the number of parties who have lodged agreements with the Commissioner of Workplace Agreements since 1 July 1996?
- (2) How many of these lodged agreements have been refused registration for the same period?
- (3) What is the date from 1 July 1996 that these figures apply up to?
- (4) What are the reasons for the refusal for registration in the above cases and what are the numbers and percentages belonging to each category of refusal?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) 33 828.
- (2) 1 192.
- (3) 29 May, 1997.
- (4) (a) For the period 1 July, 1996 to 29 May, 1997 the total number of refusals was 1 192. However, the Commissioner of Workplace Agreements is not able to provide the reasons for refusal from the database for this period.
- (b) For the period 1 January, 1997 to 29 May, 1997 the total number of refusals was 406 with reasons as follows:
 - 110 The Commissioner or his Delegate was not satisfied that the agreement complied with the Act (Section 30(a) of the Workplace Agreements Act 1993);
 - 118 The Commissioner or his Delegate was not satisfied that a party or parties to the agreement appeared to understand his or her rights and obligations under the agreement (Section 30(b) of the Workplace Agreements Act 1993);
 - 4 The Commissioner or his Delegate was not satisfied that a party or parties to the agreement was not persuaded by threats or intimidation to enter into the agreement (Section 30(c) of the Workplace Agreements Act 1993);
 - 232 The Commissioner or his Delegate was not satisfied that the Employee and/or the Employer genuinely wished to have the agreement registered (Section 30(d) of the Workplace Agreements Act 1993).

The total of the above four categories equals 464 and is greater than the total refusals as on some occasions more than one reason has been given for the refusal of the agreement. As a consequence it is not possible to provide percentages for each of the four reasons.

LABOUR RELATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL - ADVERTISING

Cost

1303. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) What is the estimated total cost of the Government's advertising and public relations campaign from 1 January to 15 May 1997 in support of its industrial relations legislation and how much of this cost is attributed to -
 - (a) newspaper advertising;

- (b) television advertising;
 - (c) radio advertising; and
 - (d) production or consultants' contracts?
- (2) What is the anticipated total cost of the Government's advertising and public relations campaigns since 15 May 1997 in support of its industrial relations legislation and how much of that relates to -
- (a) newspaper advertising;
 - (b) television advertising;
 - (c) radio advertising;
 - (d) production or consultants, contracts; and
 - (e) the use of the Internet?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) Approximately \$119 467.
 - (a) Approximately \$66 821.
 - (b) Approximately \$31 513.
 - (c) Nil.
 - (d) Approximately \$21 133.
- (2) Approximately \$263 407.
 - (a) Approximately \$84 145.
 - (b) Approximately \$116 690.
 - (c) Approximately \$42 072.
 - (d) Approximately \$20 500.
 - (e) Nil.

Please note that these figures are estimates. Some costs may be carried over to the 1997-98 financial year.

HEALTH - CHIROPRACTORS

Practise in Public Health

1304. Mr McGINTY to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the chiropractic profession precluded from practising within public health care in Western Australia?
- (2) If yes, could the Minister please state what other Western Australian registered health care providers are totally precluded in Western Australia?
- (3) What criteria has the Minister used to justify his decision to preclude the entire chiropractic profession from public health care in Western Australia?
- (4) Do public patients have disorders for which chiropractic is the management of choice?
- (5) If yes, prior to precluding the entire chiropractic profession did the Government assess the impact upon public patients who need but are denied chiropractic care within Western Australian public health care facilities?
- (6) Does the Government provide public patients with what the Government regards as an equivalent service to chiropractic?
- (7) If yes to (1) above, what equivalent qualification do those approved providers have in chiropractic?
- (8) Are members of the medical profession, other than orthopaedic practitioners, permitted to provide spinal manipulation within Western Australian public health care facilities?

- (9) If yes, what distinct qualifications do they need to do this?
- (10) Does denying Western Australia's entire chiropractic profession the liberty to compete with others who provide spinal manipulation within Western Australian sponsored public health care facilities -
 - (a) contravene the National Competition Policy;
 - (b) constitute "unfair trading"?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) It is not possible for the Government to subsidise the full range of health services. As such, a number of health services offered by health professionals, such as chiropractors, are only available in the private sector. The role of the Government with respect to the chiropractic profession is to provide a system of registration and regulation to facilitate the smooth operation of the profession in the private sector.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.
- (4) There are conditions that both public and private patients have which respond temporarily or permanently to manipulative treatment. This treatment is equally given by manipulative physiotherapists as well as chiropractors. Manipulative physiotherapists are therapists who have had primary physiotherapy training followed by training in manipulative physiotherapy.
- (5) It is extremely uncommon for inpatients in health care facilities to require manipulative therapy. The vast majority of patients requiring this type of treatment are outpatients who have the choice of chiropractic or manipulative physiotherapy treatment in the community.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) Medical practitioners who have had training in spinal manipulation as required by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Fellowship in Orthopaedics, and physiotherapists trained in manipulative therapy.
- (8) To my knowledge, no.
- (9) Not applicable.
- (10) The issues of national competition policy and unfair trading will be addressed by the Health Department when it reviews health related policies and legislation. A National Competition Policy Reform unit has been established within the Health Department to undertake the review.

RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT - WA CHIP AND PULP CO PTY LTD

Agreement

2555. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) With reference to the agreement between the WA Chip and Pulp Co Pty Ltd and the State of Western Australia, when does the agreement expire?
- (2) Has WACAP applied to renew the agreement?
- (3) If yes to (2), when and under what terms?
- (4) What process has or will the Government put in place to decide whether or not to renew the agreement?
- (5) If this has not been determined, when will it be determined?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) On the expiry of the wood supply contract which is 31 December 1997.
- (2) WACAP has requested a three month extension.
- (3) On the existing terms.
- (4) CALM and DRD are assessing an independent report on wood processing.
- (5) During 1997.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

POLICE - DRUG SQUAD

Investigations

387. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

Given that one in four drug squad officers are currently under investigation, does the Minister stand by his comment in this place on 13 March that there is no endemic corruption within the Western Australia Police Service? Does he also stand by his claim in last month's Estimates Committee hearing that there were not widespread problems in the Police Service resulting from its involvement in drug law enforcement?

Mr DAY replied:

I have never denied that there may be some problems relating to corruption or other matters in the WA Police Service. When matters relating to those issues come to light, it is appropriate that they be thoroughly investigated by the appropriate bodies. In 1996, this Parliament enacted legislation to establish the Anti-Corruption Commission. It had the general support of the Opposition. The processes laid down in that Act are now being followed. The Anti-Corruption Commission has extensive powers to investigate these matters, to appoint a special investigator if it considers it necessary - that special investigator would have all the powers of a royal commission - or to recommend that a royal commission be established. I fully support that.

POLICE - CORRUPTION

Mr Ayton's Comments

388. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

Last week, former Deputy Commissioner of Police Les Ayton claimed on the front page of *The West Australian* that corrupt officers he had identified before he retired were still in the job. What action has the Minister taken to ascertain the number and identities of the officers to whom Mr Ayton was referring?

Mr DAY replied:

It will not surprise the member for Midland to know that, over the past week, I have had extensive discussions about this matter with the Commissioner of Police. The Anti-Corruption Commission has been established to deal with allegations such as those made by Mr Ayton. I advise everybody to take their allegations and concerns to the Anti-Corruption Commission, to the Ombudsman, or to the internal investigations unit of the Police Service. Anybody who has concerns should contact the Anti-Corruption Commission on 9221-3622.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - DISPUTES

State School Teachers Union

389. Mr MASTERS to the Minister for Labour Relations:

I have given some notice of the question.

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared in the *Busselton-Margaret Times* concerning the current industrial relations reforms? In it the writer claims that, even if 100 per cent of State School Teachers Union members support the industrial action, the Minister has the right to stop any such action.
- (2) Is this provision included in the new Act?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1)-(2) The simple answer is no. The legislation quite clearly states that the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission controls secret ballots. That is the independent umpire that the Australian Labor Party said we would abolish, but we have not. It seems that the teachers' union is worried that the IRC may regard teaching as an essential service. Most members in this House would agree that most parents think their children's education is essential.

Another interesting fact is that when the union argues against budget cuts, it says education is essential and should be exempted from such cuts. The article claims the union would have its right of entry restricted severely. Members know that is not true. It will be able to service its members in the same way as it has

in the past. There is no change in that area; however, it will not have access to people who have made the decision not to join the union.

The article claims that political campaigning will be illegal. That is a gross deception of the situation. Members who followed the debate on the legislation know that the organisation must obtain permission to collect political donations, and keep those funds separate. A person can still contribute to any political party. Therefore, it is not a freedom of speech issue for unions, but a freedom of expenditure issue for the workers involved.

This is another example of the deliberate misinformation campaign this Government has had to tolerate. It is one of the reasons that the Government is trying to inform the public of the facts. Members will understand that while the Australian Labor Party and the union movement are spreading misinformation, the Government must make the information available. It is like 1993 revisited: Most people realise there are two sides to the story - the ALP version and the truth.

UNIONS - STATE SCHOOL TEACHERS UNION

Minister's Power

390. Mr MASTERS to the Minister for Labour Relations:

Given that answer, is the Minister aware of any other examples in the article which are at odds with what is actually in the legislation?

Mr KIERATH replied:

I thank the member for the supplementary question. The article states that any form of industrial action must be preceded by a secret ballot. Some exemptions are in the legislation. Many teachers said they could not take action on occupational health and safety issues. Of course the union is aware that section 97A(3)(c) specifically excludes that and allows people to take up safety issues at work. The biggest lie in the article is that the Minister has the power to place State School Teachers Union members in another union and that union members will have no say. That is a disgraceful statement. As Minister I will not have any say in what union teachers will join. I do not have the power to appoint a union for state coverage: The Full Bench of the State Industrial Relations Commission has that power. It is another example of the misinformation and disinformation that is circulating in the community. My concern is that these comments are coming from a profession that claims to be teaching our children. With analytical skills like that, some of our children are in grave danger.

BUILDING INDUSTRY - ARCHITECTS

Tendering Process

391. Mr BLOFFWITCH to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that small architectural firms in my electorate have expressed concern that under the current tendering process they do not have the opportunity to compete for design contracts?
- (2) If yes, what action does he propose to take?

Mr BOARD replied:

- (1)-(2) I am aware of the concern expressed by some small architectural firms. Architects play an incredibly important role in the development of design for public buildings. Their role is more important now than previously because of the cost and environmental considerations that must be brought into play. The system which is in place is commonly called a two envelope system of procurement by architects. This system has been operating on a trial basis for 18 months. The first envelope is selecting a consultancy from the design it puts forward. The second envelope is the bidding process. This system has been criticised by a number of architectural firms, particularly small firms, which feel they cannot compete under that system. Architects and members from other sections of the construction industry have representation on the Building and Construction Advisory Council, which I chair and which meets once a month. As a result of that representation we are moving to a quality based system that will put a greater emphasis on the design aspect of bidding for tenders than the price.

Although price will play an important role, the quality of the design is even more important. The policy will provide some of the smaller firms with the opportunity to compete. We are also reviewing the regional preference program, which provides that firms in regional areas receive a 10 per cent discount on tendering.

That has not been applied well across government. I am reviewing that as well. As a result of those three factors architects in regional areas will get a pretty fair shake.

POLICE - ROYAL COMMISSIONS

New South Wales and Queensland Police Forces

392. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

Does the Premier's claim that the royal commissions into the New South Wales and Queensland Police Forces have been unproductive represent government policy or does the Minister support the view of the Anti-Corruption Commission's chief investigator, Graeme Charlwood, that the New South Wales royal commission has been effective?

The SPEAKER: Order! The second part of the member's question asks for an opinion. I will rule that out of order, and allow the first part.

Mr DAY replied:

As I have indicated previously, a royal commission is a lengthy and cumbersome process. It is also an extremely expensive process. The Wood Royal Commission into the New South Wales Police Service cost \$60m.

Dr Gallop interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Leader of the Opposition, I am trying to listen to the Minister for Police and I am having great difficulty.

Mr DAY: Royal commissions, particularly those into police services, are extremely expensive exercises. The Wood royal commission cost between \$60m and \$70m. It made a large number of recommendations, in particular about transforming the structure of the New South Wales Police Service. The essential point is that many of those changes either have been made in Western Australia already or are in the process of being made.

Dr Gallop: Have you heard of the word justice?

Mr DAY: Yes, I have.

Dr Gallop: The Minister should look it up in the dictionary, because he obviously does not know what it means.

Mr DAY: The word justice is very pertinent to this matter. It is important that these allegations are thoroughly and properly inquired into, and where there are concerns or allegations of criminal behaviour and evidence to substantiate those allegations, charges should be laid. Anybody who has been involved in criminal behaviour, whether police officers or otherwise, must answer to those charges in a court of law. That is not the most likely result of going down the path of a royal commission.

POLICE - ROYAL COMMISSIONS

New South Wales and Queensland Police Forces

393. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

Which view represents government policy on the effectiveness of the royal commissions into the New South Wales and Queensland Police Services? Is it the Premier's view that they are unproductive or Graham Charlwood's view that they are effective?

Mr DAY replied:

It is up to the Premier to answer questions about what he may have said.

Several members interjected.

Mr DAY: I have no doubt that the Premier was referring to the likely productiveness of a royal commission into the Western Australia Police Service in regard to the substantial reformation of the structure of the Police Service. As I said, the recommendations in New South Wales largely related to what has been achieved already in Western Australia under the relatively new Commissioner of Police or is being achieved at the moment. It is important to gather evidence so that anyone who has been involved in criminal activities must answer those charges in a court of law.

HOMESWEST - LETTER TO MR AND MRS WALLAM

394. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the letter received by Mr and Mrs Ken Wallam of Harvey from the chairman of Homeswest congratulating the couple on the fact that their Homeswest property was obviously being extremely well maintained?
- (2) Is he aware that Mr and Mrs Wallam are so proud of the letter that they intend to frame it and hang it on the wall of their home?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) I am aware that Mr and Mrs Wallam are extremely proud to have received that letter from the board of commissioners of Homeswest. Mr and Mrs Wallam are an Aboriginal couple living in Harvey. I was extremely proud that the commission has sent such a letter. The letter reads, in part -

Homeswest's Board of Commissioners recently toured the South West of the State and in the process looked at many properties throughout the various towns which we visited. During our tour of your town the local Accommodation Manager pointed out your property, which was obviously being extremely well maintained, and this was a most pleasing sight for Commissioners. You can be extremely proud of the work you have done on your Homeswest property and I certainly commend you for your efforts . . .

Please accept the sincere thanks of the Homeswest Board of Commissioners and senior officers for your excellent work which is most appreciated by all.

That letter reflects extremely well on a large number of Homeswest tenants who look after their properties very well.

- (2) Mr and Mrs Wallam intend to frame and hang the letter in their home. I have been informed also that currently they are proceeding to purchase their home under the right to buy scheme introduced by this Government.

POLICE - CORRUPTION

*Allegations***395. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:**

- (1) Can the Minister advise the House of the progress of the joint Western Australian-Federal Police investigation of 70 substantial corruption allegations raised by former detective Frank Scott?
- (2) In particular, when is the task force expected to report to Commissioner Falconer and will that report be made public?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1)-(2) That is not a subject on which I have information.

Dr Gallop: You don't have information on anything! You are a "do nothing" Minister!

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr DAY: It is not the role of the Minister for Police to seek information about operational activities.

Several members interjected.

Mr DAY: That is not a subject on which I have information at the moment.

Dr Gallop: The Commissioner of Police needs extra pay, because he is doing your job as well as his own!

The SPEAKER: Order!

POLICE - SERVICE

*Mr Robertson - Appointment***396. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:**

I refer to the appointment of Bill Robertson, a former Victorian police officer who retired last year, as a consultant to the WA Police Service.

- (1) Is it true that Mr Robertson will be paid \$180 000 for a one year contract or consultancy to implement a new human resources strategy?
- (2) Is it true that Mr Robertson has been working for the WA Police Service for up to six months reviewing human resources and that he recommended the creation of the job to which he has been appointed?
- (3) If so, was the review performed by Mr Robertson advertised or put out to tender?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1)-(3) I am aware of the reports that Mr Bill Robertson would be paid the amount suggested by the member for Midland. However, the proposal is that he be employed as a consultant to the WA Police Service on a rate of \$600 a day - which does not necessarily equate to the amount of money referred to by the member for Midland. Obviously it depends on the amount of time for which he is contracted. As part of those arrangements he would not be paid for any other expenses, including removal to Western Australia or accommodation. I am aware that approval of the State Supply Commission is being sought to meet those arrangements.

Mrs Roberts: What about his previous work?

Mr DAY: I understand that Mr Robertson previously has accepted a consultancy and undertaken a review of human resources matters for the WA Police Service. That does not mean that he will be duplicating the work he has already undertaken.

POLICE - SERVICE

Mr Robertson - Appointment

397. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Did that earlier work go out for tender?
- (2) How much taxpayers' money has already been paid to Mr Robertson?
- (3) For what period was the money paid, and for what purpose?

Mr DAY replied:

As I indicated in my previous answer, that matter has been referred to the State Supply Commission seeking its approval for exemption from the tender process on the basis that Mr Robertson has skills and experience which are presently relevant to the WA Police Service.

HEALTH - NATIONAL COORDINATED CARE TRIAL

398. MRS HODSON-THOMAS to the Minister for Health:

Will the Minister please advise the House of developments with the national coordinated care trial announced earlier this year?

Mr PRINCE replied:

Some time ago the Council of Attorneys General sponsored the concept of coordinated care trials in Australia. It has taken a long time for that concept to translate into action. Twelve trials are to be conducted around Australia, four of which are to be in Western Australia. About an hour ago I was pleased to launch the first of those involving the Perth Aboriginal Medical Service. For the benefit of members who are not as aware as I am, coordinated care arises out of an agreement entered into between the State and the Health Department, which I represent; the Aboriginal Controlled Health Services, represented by Ted Wilkes, who chairs the group; the Office of Aboriginal Health; and the Commonwealth.

The object of the exercise is to identify gaps in health delivery service by reviewing the totality of delivery service from the client customer or patient upwards rather than the service provider, which has been the traditional method. I have been critical of Dr Wooldridge, the federal Minister, on a number of occasions particularly over issues such as provider numbers. However, I am delighted today to hand out compliments. He has strongly advocated coordinated care trials, especially in Aboriginal health. We all know, and I am sure the public knows, how poor are the life expectancy, morbidity and mortality statistics of Aboriginal people. This trial starts now. There is \$2.3m -

Mr Bridge interjected.

Mr PRINCE: The trial will provide funding to the Perth Aboriginal Medical Service to work in conjunction with other agencies and, with the cooperation of individuals who sign up to be part of the trial, it will track them over two years to monitor their access to care. This will be directed to a group of people who have special problems, such as children under the age of five and people with chronic illnesses and long-lasting difficulties. Ultimately, when the results of all trials in Australia are examined, we will be able to design and produce greatly improved service delivery models which will operate better not only for Aboriginal people but also everyone throughout society. It is a project well worthy of support and one that should be watched with interest.

POLICE - MR MATTHEW GEE

Arson Charges

399. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the case of Matthew Gee who was falsely charged with arson and with impersonating a volunteer firefighter when, according to the Acting Director of Public Prosecutions, there was no evidence to warrant either charge.

- (1) What action is being taken to determine how this happened and to ensure it will not happen again?
- (2) Will the Minister apologise to Mr Gee for the trauma he endured?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1)-(2) I was advised recently by Deputy Commissioner Bruce Brennan that police laid the charges in this case because the investigative officers believed that based on the evidence they had gathered, there was a prima facie case to be heard in court. Mr Brennan advised me that as a matter of course the issue had to proceed to the courtroom for the charges to be officially dropped by the Director of Public Prosecutions. I am advised by the Police Service that the defence solicitor accepted the hand-up brief from the arson squad and elected not to have a preliminary hearing, but to go straight to trial.

The police are involved in assessing and producing thousands of briefs that are submitted at all levels of the judicial system. The DPP and police work together very successfully 99.9 per cent of the time. This is one instance in which they do not agree. As an independent agency, it is the right of the DPP to disagree.

POLICE - ACADEMY

Location

400. Mr BAKER to the Minister for Police:

- (1) What criteria will be used to determine the location of the Western Australia Police Service's new police academy?
- (2) When will the Minister formally call for expressions of interest on the location of the academy?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1)-(2) This Government has an extensive program of capital works for the Police Service to remedy the negligent situation the coalition found when it came to government, when police did not have the facilities to do their job properly. They did not even have petrol to run their vehicles adequately. This Government has made a commitment to the Police Service that a new police academy will be constructed in this term of government. It has been stated that it will be collocated with a tertiary education institution. No decision has been made on where it will be located, but expressions of interest were called for in last weekend's Press. As soon as those assessments are completed, a decision will be announced.

POLICE - ROYAL COMMISSIONS

New South Wales and Queensland Police Forces

401. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's claim that royal commissions into the New South Wales and Queensland police forces were unproductive.

- (1) Is the Premier aware that the Wood royal commission led to the dismissal, retirement or resignation of 92 New South Wales police officers, including former commissioner Tony Lauer, and that the internal investigations unit expressed shock at the widespread corruption exposed?

- (2) Is the Premier aware that the Fitzgerald royal commission resulted in 139 charges being laid, the gaoling of former commissioner Terry Lewis for 14 years, and the exposure of prostitution and gambling in Fortitude Valley, and concluded that the Queensland police force was riddled with misconduct and inefficiency and contempt for the justice system?
- (3) Does the Premier still claim those royal commissions were unproductive?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(3) The Leader of the Opposition should have listened to all the comments I made in response to questions that were asked. Both of those royal commissions were productive and they came up with a number of recommendations. I listened to Mr Hatton, a former Independent member, outline on radio the other day the key recommendations of the Wood royal commission. Interestingly, every point he mentioned was an initiative that either had been implemented or was being implemented in Western Australia. He made two main recommendations to the Wood royal commission. The first was that an independent body be set up to investigate complaints.

Dr Gallop: In the beginning there was a royal commission.

Mr COURT: Does the Leader of the Opposition want me to answer the question?

Second, Mr Hatton recommended major changes to the way the Police Service was structured. His recommendation follows just about word for word the structural changes that have been implemented in the Western Australia Police Service. When the interim report of the Wood royal commission was released, it mentioned that a police corruption commission should be established. In the end the Police Integrity Commission was established, about which the interim report made the point that

The principal function of the PCC should be the detection and investigation of serious police corruption. It should not be of the genus of a standing Royal Commission, whose primary function is to establish the facts of a matter under review through the exercise of inquisitorial powers. For bodies of the nature of standing Royal Commissions, 'securing convictions is a secondary aim'. A key function of the PCC must be to assemble admissible evidence when investigations reveal criminal conduct, and to furnish such evidence to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Members opposite supported the establishment in Western Australia of the equivalent of that body, the main aim of which should be to obtain admissible evidence to secure successful prosecutions.

DISABILITY SERVICES - MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Meeting

402. Mr MARSHALL to the Minister for Disability Services:

Will the Minister outline the results of the recent meeting of the Ministerial Council on Disability Services?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The recent meeting of the Ministerial Council on Disability Services in Canberra mainly discussed the Commonwealth-State Disability Agreement. Currently, we have a five year agreement which expires at the end of May, so it will be necessary to sign a new agreement. The commonwealth Minister has a preference for a five year agreement for all States. The meeting discussed at length the Commonwealth's commitment of \$54m over 10 years for accommodation, and the flexibility in the allocation of those funds is a matter of great interest to some non-government agencies across the nation.

The meeting also discussed the carers' incentives brought down in the commonwealth Budget. The feeling of Ministers across the country was that a one year agreement should be signed pending further discussion on significant growth in allocations to address unmet need for people with disabilities. That support for a one year agreement was contrary to the Commonwealth's stand, but the federal Minister has agreed to consider a one year agreement.

It would be ideal for WA - which has been at the forefront on these matters - to adopt a one year agreement as it would give us increased funding of some \$400 000; therefore, growth could be expected in the allocation to the Disability Services budget. Further, adopting a one year plan would enable discussions to take place with the Commonwealth on the possibility of establishing an agreement similar to the Western Australian five year business plan in this area. It is my preference to have a five or 10 year plan to consider unmet needs for people with disabilities across the nation.

Reports by Professor Yateman indicate that a bare minimum of \$350m is required to accommodate unmet need in Australia for people with disabilities. My idea, which is supported by other Ministers across the country, is that the five year agreement should involve a plan to provide significant funding to address unmet needs for people with disabilities. We are quite confident about reaching agreement on this matter as the federal Minister has been receptive to the States' concerns. We will be in a good position next year to sign an agreement to meet this significant unmet need across the country.

POLICE - CORRUPTION

Mr Peter Kyle's Allegations - Report

403. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Has the Minister read the 459-page police report on Peter Kyle's allegations that police were soft on investigating corruption complaints?
- (2) Does the report clear the police?
- (3) Will the Minister arrange for the report to be tabled in this place or released for public scrutiny?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3)-(4) I will seek advice on whether it is appropriate information to make public.

SCHOOLS - CLARKSON COMMUNITY HIGH

Cadet Unit

404. Mr MacLEAN to the Minister for Youth:

After attending the Clarkson Community High School passing out parade of the school-based cadet unit on Saturday, will the Minister inform the House of the unit's success?

Mr BOARD replied:

I was extremely pleased to attend the parade at the brand new Clarkson Community High School. Virtually one-third of the school's population has joined the emergency services cadets. When that school was being developed some concern was expressed about vandalism at the school, but -

Ms MacTiernan: We know what you have done for police numbers in the area!

Mr BOARD: - Saturday's parade illustrated that the school children have got right behind the emergency services cadets, of which the member for Armadale would be very proud. Thirty-five schools in Western Australia have taken up the cadet program, and it is envisaged that it will operate in 50 schools by this time next year. Our vision is to have a cadet program in every independent or state school in this State which chooses to adopt the program. Also, we are widening the cadet structure and looking at other types of cadet programs. The program is progressing very well, and I thank the member for Wanneroo for his support for the Clarkson unit.

The SPEAKER: Order! With supplementary questions, we had 18 questions in 36 minutes today.